

# Portrayal of Marginalized Communities in Indian English Short Stories: A Critical Exploration

## **Introduction :**

Literature is not merely about what is written; it's who gets to write, the who is written about, and the how their stories are told. Indian English short stories have become the places (increasingly, places) for the whispers, the speaking, the shouting — the asking for their due. This research is an attempt to understand how these communities are presented in Indian English short stories and what such portraiture says about society, power, and resistance. India's socio cultural fabric is enmeshed in a complicated web of caste, class, gender, religion and ethnicity.

## **Objectives of the Study :**

To examine the use of narrative techniques, character creation and to discuss subject matter in representing marginality.

To assess if such representations confirm or undermine stereotypes and standard narratives of socio-political beliefs.

To know about the function of Indian English literature in creating an inclusive and socially critical society.

## **Research Questions :**

1. What is the construction and representation of marginalized identities in the Indian English short story?
2. How do these stories resist or conform to the norm of mainstream literature and to the structure of society?
3. Do the narratives get penned by themselves, members of marginalized communities, or are they just second hand representations?

### **Scope of the Study :**

The study will be mainly subscribed on the Indian English short stories written from the post-independence era to the contemporary period. Among the authors who will be considered are Mulk Raj Anand, Mahasweta Devi (in translation), Meena Kandasamy etc. The research will explore stories that involve- direct engagement with caste, tribal, religious, gender, and class-based marginalization.

### **Conclusion :**

This research is not just a literary literary analysis it is a sunspot on silences that literature can both build and destroy. Analyzing the representation of marginalized communities in Indian English short stories, this work will try to re-imagine literary spaces as spaces of justice, dignity and rebellion. Sometimes, a short story is not a story, but a mirror, or a megaphone or a matchstick.

