

Readers for Dalit Studies

Sharmila Rege (contact serge@unipune.ernet.in)

The challenges posed in the last decade and more to the scholarship on caste have underlined the disjuncture between academic knowledge systems and social practices of caste. Looking at the long list of recently translated and published dalit testimonies, literature, poetry, biographies, issue based pamphlets, and one is tempted to think that a rupture of kinds may be taking place in our teaching and learning of dalit movements. Yet a survey of curricular and pedagogical practices continues to suggest the marginalization of dalit perspectives thus blurring the understanding of the relations between structural continuities and contemporary change in the social institution of caste. Critical pedagogies require that we engage with these challenges by interrogating our institutionalized disciplinary and curricular practices. Discussions on these and other conceptual and pedagogical challenges point to the urgent need of putting together teaching and learning materials that would promote political and interpretative engagement with the question of caste. The proposed readers one on 'Dalit Movements' and the other on 'Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on Brahmanical Patriarchy' is a step in this direction. The former will offer from the oeuvre of Ambedkar-a selection on the theme of brahmanical patriarchy with a detailed introductory essay. The latter on dalit movement seeks to bring together self-reflexive resources from the dalit movement, inviting readers to critically engage with voices from the movement to comprehend the different phases and diverse paths of the movement. The source material includes oral narratives, manifestos, poetry, plays, testimonies, pamphlets, booklets, speeches, posters, *jalsas*, and cassettes of *gayan* parties. A part of the resources collected during this project are being built into a digital archive for the CSSH.