

Emergence of Marathi Dalit Periodicals: A Brief Survey

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Abstract

In the pre-independence era, the transformation of Hindustan into Bharat had led to the revolution in society. The contribution of the periodicals in this revolutionary phase is noteworthy. Similarly, in Maharashtra, Dalit periodicals emerged to deal with the issues and challenges faced by the untouchables. This research paper aims to study the reasons behind the emergence of Dalit periodicals and also to examine the early phase of the Dalit periodicals. The paper also discusses the contribution made by various journalists to this movement. In order to systematize the study, the early phase of the Dalit periodicals is divided into two parts viz. 'Before 1920' and 'After 1920'. In the first part, journalists like Gopal Baba Walangkar, Shivram Janba Kamble and Kisan Fagu Bandsode are discussed. In the second part, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and his journalism is discussed.

Keywords: Dalit, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Hindu, Marathi periodicals, untouchables

British rule and influence of Western culture gave rise to the process of transformation of Hindustan into Bharat, which ultimately led to revolution in society. The emergence of periodicals can be said to be a part of this process. Initially the main objective of the periodicals was to educate the common man. Similarly, in Maharashtra, Marathi periodicals were dedicated to the welfare of people. As Brahmins ran most of these periodicals, there was no scope for the discussion of the issues and challenges of people belonging to other castes. This led to the emergence of Dalit periodicals, where Dalits began speaking for themselves.