

# SOCIAL REALISM IN THE SELECTED NOVELS OF PALANIMUTHU SIVAKAMI

Research Scholar: MAHESWARAN S  
Mphil Scholar,  
Department of English  
Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research,  
Chennai, India.

Research Supervisor: N.Shamini.  
Assistant Professor, English,  
Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research,  
Chennai, India.

## ABSTRACT

*Sivakami who had been one of the senior most Administrative Officers in the state of Tamil Nadu, was born in the year 1957 and grew up in Perambalur. A Dalit woman IAS officer, Sivakami started her journey from Tamil Nadu to Tokyo to serve as Regional Director of the Indian Tourist office. Sivakami travelled to foreign countries on government mission and brought back varied experiences. The position she held, gave her opportunities to meet Dalit men and women and these meetings helped her to know the stark reality and hence these social issues become Sivakami's primary concern and avocation. Since she believes that education can do much to eliminate discrimination, she motivates the parents living in small villages to provide education to their children.*

*Even when she was at school Sivakami started writing and she willingly joined the essay competitions and the teachers encouraged her to write for the Christian magazine, which had a very local circulation. When she joined college, she started getting exposed to foreign writers. She usually read Russian books because they used to be sold for one or two rupees. That's how she acquired a liking for fiction.*

**Key words:** Social realities, downcast, pessimism, empowerment, dalit, social inequality, struggles for assertion, polygamous, caste discrimination, poverty, and untouchability .

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## INTRODUCTION:

Sivakami participated in an intercollegiate short story writing competition and won a prize at the state level. The story was published in a magazine called Dinamani Kadir, and she received many letters of appreciation. As the story was about a shepherd boy and his daily timetable, they started asking her, are you a shepherd yourself? What is your solution to his problems? This triggered a lot of questions about what literature is, what she was writing about and so on. That made her think a lot and that alliterated her spontaneous writing.

Although Sivakami continued to write, she did not publish her works. However, she concentrated on academics and she got a gold medal in her MA History. Then she got through her IAS exams. However, she felt that was not her goal.

“She said in an interview “I thought it is socially well-laced, and paying well, so why not? I got through. Only after that I started wondering, have I had truly become what I want to become? All the while, I had been thinking of myself as a writer. Reading and writing gives me a lot of pleasure. So then I started writing again, short stories.”

describes the history of Dalits, and how Dalit literature struggles for assertion of social and economic changes. Atlast Palanimuthu Sivakami's history and why did she chose the career as novelist, she thought that her writings made her to express her anger, frustration and disenchantment.

shows how the people of a village, who belongs to different castes lead their life. Gowri, who is very much irritated about the polygamous relationship of Kathamuthu. Through the character of Gowri, Sivakami gives voice to voiceless Dalit women Thangam who is silently bearing her pain. Dalit women Thangam denied her rights. Dalit woman Thangam were exploited verbally and physically.

sums up how Anandhayi managed her family; even though Periyannan has not care them. Periyannan has illegal relationship with Lakshmi, he has brought Lakshmi to his house. Periyannan has tortured Lakshmi and beats her every day. The ferocious Lakshmi and the silent Anandhayi both are powerless; men tame these women and silence them.

Sivakami portrays modern, educated and career-oriented middle class woman a quite sensitive changing time and situations through her character Saro. The novel talks about the dilemma and the need for expression of women's free spirit.

The study entitled *From Limits to Liminal Spaces: A Study of Select Works of new line Sivakami and Imayam* is divided into a few chapters including introduction and conclusion.

Chapter new line one gives an overview of Dalit literature dealing with the oppressed class of people under Indian caste new line system mentioning about Bama who wrote the first modern Dalit fiction and other contemporary Dalit new line writers. Sivakami's and Imayam's, works are not stories of the individuals and their tragedies but new line stories of the Dalits struggle and their relationship with the authorities through which they produced a new line political reaction.

*Silence of the Sidelines* discusses how patriarchy makes itself evident in new line various forms of discriminations, inequalities, hierarchies, inferior status and position of women in new line society. Gender oppression is often linked with oppressions based on caste, class, community, tribe new line and religion in Indian society and in such a society the patriarch is the principal oppressor.

New line three *Voice of the Voiceless* discusses how Dalit literature is a protest literature. The Dalits have new line broken the silence and have made their voices heard through literature. Dalit literature is a literature new line written to bring about a change in the society. The chapter *Braving the Barriers* deals with the new line empowerment of Dalits. Though caste discrimination is a menace which is plaguing the society even today, new line there are certain ways through which the Dalits can be empowered. Empowerment is possible through their new line education and unity. The final chapter concludes by saying how the Dalit writers Sivakami and new line Imayam indicate the inevitability of accepting and welcoming change in the lives of Dalits and also in new line the society. It is time that the Dalits realized this with their hopes and dreams in their eyes and heart. New line All they have to do is to step forward without fear, welcoming the change of getting their dream new line fulfilled and their becoming empowered.

### **Conclusion:**

Conclusion reveals that the protagonists of the *Grip of change*, the *taming of Women* and *Cross Section* share the common bondage of oppression despite their different socio-cultural backgrounds. The novelists has selected to deal with women in different roles- daughter, wife, mother and an individual in a society conditioned by the rigid codes laid down by men. Sivakami's efforts to voice the voiceless and unjustified justice make it a worthy of research

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