



Voices of Resistance: Subaltern Identity and Contestation in Kallol Literature Beyond the Bhadrlok Hegemony

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Abstract:

This study critically examines *Kallol* magazine (1923–1929) as a platform for subaltern articulation, challenging the hegemonic narratives perpetuated by the Bhadrlok elite in colonial Bengal. Rooted in Antonio Gramsci's concept of subalternity and enriched by postcolonial feminist discourse, the research underscores *Kallol*'s role in reframing subaltern identities from passive subjects of marginalisation to active agents of resistance. By foregrounding the lived experiences of marginalised groups working-class labourers, slum dwellers, and urban poor- *Kallol* literature disrupts the homogenising nationalist discourse that silenced alternative voices. Through a critical analysis of urban spaces such as factories, slums, and middle-class neighbourhoods, the study reveals how these settings became aesthetic devices to critique colonial oppression, economic exploitation, and the ideological failures of modernity and nationalism. The narratives serve as counter-discourses, asserting the subaltern's right to self-representation and interrogating exclusionary practices within nationalist frameworks. Drawing on the intersections of caste, class, gender, and space, the research highlights the complexities of subaltern identities, demonstrating how *Kallol* literature resisted the commodification of marginality by reclaiming authentic narratives of despair, resistance, and identity. This exploration not only deconstructs the ideological supremacy of the Bhadrlok but also positions *Kallol* as a critical site for understanding subalternity's evolving role in identity politics and cultural resistance. The findings contribute to broader debates on representation, intersectionality, and the reclamation of fragmented voices in postcolonial literary studies.

Keywords: Subalternity, Bhadrlok, Resistance, Intersectionality, Colonial Bengal.