

Abstract

The primary focus of this doctoral thesis has been to trace the roots of the caste system, contextualise gender position, and understand the issues around Nepali identity with the help of Nepali literature. It has further looked at the issue of identity and tried to interrogate the need for a home. It is studied with the help of Nepali literature written in English and Nepali, overlooking the national boundaries.

The thesis aims to understand and interrogate the theories around the identity of Nepalis who are called Indian Nepali, Gorkhalis, etc. It has tried to understand if this fight for one's identity has been fructified through the help of two contemporary novels written by Indian Nepali authors Chuden Kabimo and Lekhnath Chhetri. By positioning the Nepali identity, it has further tried to understand the functionality of the caste system in Nepali society which is a multi-ethnic society. Through theoretical understanding of Muluki Ain, it has read the presence and evolvement of the caste system and its practices in Nepali society through the works of Prajwal Parajuly, Chuden Kabimo and Bhupeen. Along with understanding the caste, it becomes imperative to understand the gender position of Nepali women, for which various texts written in Nepali are used by Rudraraj Pandey, Hridaya Chandra Singh and Liladhwaj Thapa. With the help of these texts, the thesis has tried to understand the socio-cultural practices and the position of women in society.

The thesis has been an honest attempt at understanding the notion behind Nepali, Nepali women, the identity of Nepalis and their fight for the homeland to understand if there has been any progress towards the same.