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# WOMEN IN VARIOUS FIELDS IN INDIA



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	<i>Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Philosophy Of Social Justice On Indian Society</i>	<i>Dr. Bhatkar and Shankarrao Bhatkar</i>	98
10	<i>A Study On Child Worker In Karnataka</i>	Mr. Yuvaraj A Kattimani	114
11	<i>Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Contribution To Social Transformation</i>	<i>Dr. Suresh Manikrao Mule</i>	123
12	<i>Presentation Of Women In Literature</i>	<i>Dr. Shivanand Shankar</i>	128
13	<i>Dr. Ambedkar's Advocay For Dalit Rights In India-With Special Reference To Round Table Conferences</i>	<i>DR. Pradeep. B. Kadun.</i>	133
14	<i>Cross-Cultural Impact Of The English Language</i>	<i>Dr. Sharanabasappa Subhaschandra Madival</i>	145
15	<i>Women's Mental Health In India: Issues And Challenges</i>	<i>Dr. Santosh Pandurang</i>	51
16	ದಲಿತ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಪ್ರಜ್ಞೆ	ಡಾ.ಸಂತೋಷಕುಮಾರ ಎಸ್.ಕಂಬಾರ	164
17	ಬೌದ್ಧ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ನೂತನ ಶೋಧಗಳು	ಪೀರಪ್ಪಾ. ಐ. ಸಜ್ಜನ	168
18	ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆದು ಬಂದ ಸ್ತ್ರೀವಾದಿ ವಿಮರ್ಶೆ	ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ ಎಸ್.ಸಿಂಗಿ	175
	<i>Sri Aurobindo's 'Savitri' as an Epic</i>	Mr. Maniyar Abdul kadar Rafik	179



## Sri Aurobindo's 'Savitri' as an Epic

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Savitri is an epic poem. It is in blank verse. It is called Aurobindo's masterpiece. It is based upon the story of the Mahabharata. Here Ghosh expresses his mystic experiences. It is a means of ascension. Its richness of imagery, beauty of expression, and sheer number of memorable line remind us of Shakespeare. But in terms of depth and width of spiritual experience it has no equal in the English language. Savitri is the most valuable texts ever composed. Sri Aurobindo tried to lift the level of the poem higher and higher and that's why Savitri was published only after he left his physical body. It was complete in fifty years. In it Aurobindo displays flawless command over blank verse. It can be ranked as the greatest epic in English language after Milton's Paradise Lost. It is a great epic which ushers in a new age in poetic creation. It has an Indian legendary background. The story of Satyavan and Savitri occurs in the Vana Parva of the Mahabharata (Cantos 291-297). Sri Aurobindo turns it into a symbol of the quest of humanity for the crown of immortality. It is in this poem that seven cantos, making a total of about 700 lines in original Sanskrit.

An epic has been defined as a long narrative poem dealing with the war-life adventures of some national hero. His exploits being of great significance for his country. It has well marked story-interest and unity of structure. It brings into its fold the various aspects of the life of the nation. And reflects the very spirit of the times in which it is written. Its action is cosmic as it sometimes moves on from this earth to the world above. And sometimes goes down to the world below. Supernatural beings, angels, gods and goddesses, are shown as taking active interest in the fate of the hero, and also taking sides in the wars and battles that might be going on. The narrative is conducted throughout in a sublime, dignified and elevated language, as befits the lofty action of the epic.

Savitri is the most comprehensive, integrated, beautiful and perfect cosmic poem ever composed. Its range is vast - earth to heaven. It illumines every important concern of man. The theme is not merely Satyavan's death; rather it is the suffering, misery and death. Death of Satyavan means defeat of Truth and invasion of darkness. But Savitri armed by the power of her love, struggles with Death and secures her husband. The Mother says that '...everything is there: mysticism, occultism, philosophy, the history of man,