

RESONANCES OF DALITS IN LITERATURE

Dr. Reshmi S



29

LOSS OF CHILDHOOD AND EARLY MATURITY AMONG DALIT CHILDREN: A STUDY BASED ON THE WORKS OF S. THENMOZHI & BAMA

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Abstract

The intervention of caste and the loss of childhood are harsh realities that Dalit children must face. They frequently lose their innocence at a young age and are forced into early maturity because of prejudice from other social groups. This paper examines the issues of lost youth and early maturity among Dalit children as reflected in the works of notable Dalit writers S. Thenmozhi and Bama. The study examines S. Thenmozhi's 'Urn,' 'Refusal to Return' and 'Paychi Tree', as well as Bama's 'The Scent of Mother', 'Events', and 'Karukku', to see how these authors confront the burdens that Dalit children face. These books highlight how caste-based prejudice create a havoc in the natural flow of childhood and forces Dalit children into a reality. S. Thenmozhi's works *Urn* and *Paychi Tree* portray children dealing with trauma and survival issues, rather than a moment of joyful discovery. In *Refusal to Return*, the weight of socio-economic expectations and the burden of caste identification limit the prospects of a normal upbringing. Bama's *Karukku* and *The Scent of Mother* and *Karukku*, provide a portrayal of early maturity, demonstrating how Dalit children's daily lives are shaped by both familial and cultural expectations. This