

Weaving Resistance: Intersectionality, Identity, and Dalit Feminist Consciousness in Urmila Pawar's *The Weave of My Life*

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Abstract :

Urmila Pawar's *The Weave of My Life* (Aidan) occupies a significant position in contemporary Dalit autobiographical and feminist literature. The autobiography transforms an individual life narrative into a collective testimony of caste oppression, gender discrimination, economic deprivation, social exclusion, and resistance. This research paper critically examines Pawar's autobiography through the interconnected concepts of caste, gender, class, identity, education, and Dalit feminist consciousness. It argues that Pawar's experiences cannot be understood through the isolated category of either caste or gender because her social location as a Dalit woman exposes her to overlapping structures of marginalisation. The paper further explores education as an instrument of liberation, the role of Ambedkarite ideology in the formation of an assertive Dalit identity, economic and social struggles, patriarchal structures within domestic and public spaces, and the

participation of women in the Dalit movement. Particular attention is given to the metaphor of the aidan, or woven mat, which symbolises labour, memory, interconnectedness, resilience, and the collective experiences of Dalit women. The study also analyses Pawar's narrative authenticity, symbolism, multivocality, and integration of personal memory with collective history. It concludes that *The Weave of My Life* transcends conventional autobiography by functioning as a Dalit feminist testimony and a literary intervention against caste hierarchy and patriarchy. Pawar's narrative demonstrates that the struggle for Dalit emancipation remains incomplete without gender justice and that feminist liberation cannot be achieved without confronting caste inequality.

Keywords: Urmila Pawar, *The Weave of My Life*, Aidan, Dalit Feminism, Intersectionality, Caste, Gender, Identity, Ambedkarism, Autobiography