

Cultural Construct and Gender Identity: A Study of Tradition and Modernity in Girish Karnad's Plays



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Abstract :

This study explores the intricate interplay between cultural constructs and gender identity within the plays of renowned Indian playwright Girish Karnad. By examining works such as *Yayati*, *Hayavadana*, and *Naga-Mandala*, the research delves into how Karnad's narratives navigate the tensions between tradition and modernity. The analysis highlights Karnad's use of myth, folklore, and history to critique and reinterpret traditional gender roles, revealing the complexities and contradictions inherent in cultural perceptions of gender. Through a

close reading of his plays, this study demonstrates how Karnad challenges patriarchal norms and advocates for a more fluid and inclusive understanding of gender identity. The research underscores the relevance of Karnad's work in contemporary discussions on gender, offering insights into the ongoing dialogue between cultural heritage and progressive values. By situating Karnad's plays within broader socio-cultural contexts, this study contributes to the discourse on the evolution of gender constructs in modern Indian literature.



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