3.2.1 Number of papers published per teacher in the Journals notified on UGC website during the year

1. Anindita Chattopadhyay. Symbol of Power or Victim of Patriarchy? Revisiting the female characters from Indian mythology and epics with special reference to "Panch Kanya". 2021. Intellectual Resonance, DCAC Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies.

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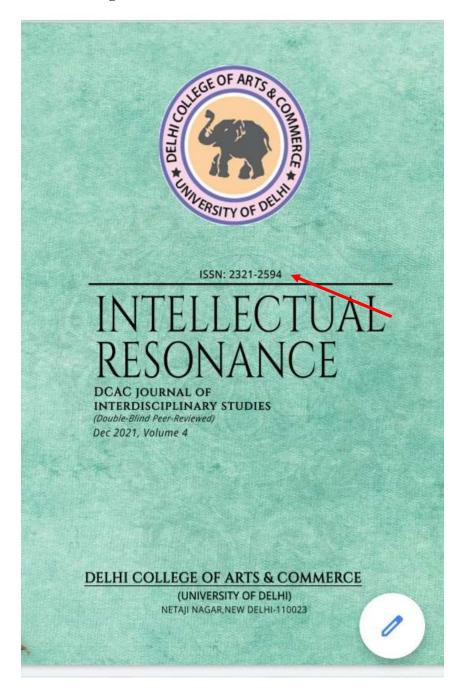


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SYMBOL OF POWER OR VICTIM OF PATRIARCHY? REVISITING THE FEMALE CHARACTERS FROM INDIAN MYTHOLOGY AND EPICS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO "PANCH KANYA"

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Abstract

Mythological stories are timeless and universal across all cultures. Interestingly, Mythology, since time immemorial, has played an important role in the construction of social norms and societal structure in India. Myths and legends, transmitted from generation to generation, on one hand, contributed to the continuity of culture, and on the other, became instruments of control by encouraging conformity to accepted social norms, often discouraging social deviance. Myth and legend have become a pervasive element in the consciousness of our society, often engendering proverbs and aphorisms. The grand narratives of Indian epics Ramayana and Mahabharatha are embedded in the collective consciousness of the Indians. The representation of women in Indian mythology is an interesting and equally important area of study because such representations are often used as a reference in our contemporary society; enforcing how women should behave in society. They also impact the social norms specially created towards women. These tales from epics form a popular part of entertainment in the world of films and television in India. A large number of stories in television and films are derived from popular mythological sources. Such adaptations are immensely popular among viewers.

It is also vital to study the manner in which women have been constructed in the cultural discourse at different times through mythological tales and how the representations have been affected by the changing times vis-a-vis with socio-historical contexts. It has also been observed that the misinterpretation of Indian mythology has tended to serve the purpose of patriarchy. Feminists