

# Review of: "Women's misogyny in modern culture, with a mythological allusion to Draupadi"

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**Potential competing interests:** The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

This article deals with a subject that is relevant to feminist studies. However, there are several problematic aspects in the argument's articulation and development and in the article's structure (or lack thereof), in the analysis and the writing.

First of all, the argument is unclear from the beginning. The author needs to spell out more clearly both the structure and the conceptual framework. Second, the author should try to better substantiate her claims (eg. "Women's status has undoubtedly improved since ancient times" where, how? for all women, everywhere? according to whom?; "and it gives its readers with a variety of theories to comprehend diverse actions practiced within the community", what community? not clear) and provide context for the reader to follow her line of reasoning. For example, the story of Draupadi in the Mahabharata is taken for granted. This makes the article a very laborious read for anyone who is not completely familiar with the epic. Also, some statements that seem central to the development of the overall argument rely on the author's opinions rather than on solid scholarly research or existing literature (eg. "In Hindu society, myth and mythological narratives are still relevant, but modernity is unearthing the roots of this culture and civilisation and educating our youngsters on the basis of othigess", – modernity here seems to have been given agency; "Former colonies want equal status for their beliefs in the age of political correctness.... Vishnu symbolizes all that is noble in Hinduism: discipline, detachment, obedience, selflessness, fidelity, justice, poise, and dignity in his iaatio as 'aa" - this passage is not clear and based on dubious academic bases) Third, the article's sections and even different paragraphs within sections are very disjointed. I would suggest that the author rethink the article's structure in order to develop a more coherent and engaging narrative. Fourth, the article needs in-depth proof-reading in order to get rid of inconsistencies, typos as well as grammar and syntax errors, repetitions and redundant expressions.

The **title** reads as if women were misogynist.

The **abstract** does not convey the paper's main argument and contains unclear statements: Also, sentences need contextualisation. Eg. "this is a burning era" (which era? not clear); "Because this epic is so huge and each character is so powerful" (the author has not mentioned which epic she's referring to); "Her capacity to triumph over adversity in a venerable manner distinguishes her from other women" (what does "venerable manner" actually mean?); "She is considered a feminist pioneer" (by whom?); "The subversion theory will be used to support the article's claim" (not clear what the article actually claims); "You'll find it more engaging and fascinating if you look at it from different writers'

perspectives" (what should the reader find engaging and fascinating?)

**Introduction** - Sentences are unclear (Eg. in what sense have women been "disproportionately represented in society, from the Mahabharata to postcolonial times"?). Also, the introduction does not provide a clear overview of what the article is about, how it develops and what the main argument will be.

The author says that "the suggested paper examines the heroic character's environment of gender oppression: Draupadi in Vyasa's Mahabharata and Droupadi in Mahasweta Devi's story Draupadi, which Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak has translated into English" - but the textual analysis promised by the author is very disjointed in the whole paper. The character of Droupadi is never mentioned again throughout the article and the two authors (Vyasa and Mahasweta Devi) are only tangentially acknowledged with no contextualisation of their writings. This makes it very difficult for the reader to figure out which of the two texts are actually the object of analysis in the different sections of the paper.

**Literature Review** - please, consider revising this section in order to provide a clearer and more structured overview of the literature. The section contains some references to feminist readings of the character of Draupadi, but does not provide a background for situating the paper in the existing scholarship. The author should consider reorganising and expanding this section in order to clarify the theoretical bases of her analysis.

**Discussion and Analysis** - it is not clear what this section does. It also jumps from a statement about the patriarchal tone of some translations of Vyasa's Mahabharata (please, consider also situating the different translations in the period in which they were produced, it is really hard to follow the line of reasoning without a clear periodisation of the various works mentioned), to a series of consideration about how patriarchal views shape the character of Panchaali (here the author forgets to inform the reader that Panchaali is another name of Draupadi. Throughout the paper, the reader is left to make the logical connections or to search for the information required to follow the author's line of reasoning).

**Within the patriarchal framework, Draupadi** - Here the article's argument should be stand out much more clearly in relation to the theoretical framework (subversion) mentioned earlier. The author seems to suggest that Draupadi enacts some forms of resistance by challenging patriarchal norms and subverting traditional practices in courts, but fails to inform the reader that she has now shifted to an analysis of Mahasweta Devi's "Draupadi". While the author's claims here are relevant, they remain unsubstantiated and vague because the section once again lacks structure. Also, the author should consider expanding her references to the literature (eg. "Draupadi's question is seen by Das" - how? please elaborate). In addition, the first sentence is unclear and the second one is totally disjointed from the previous one.

swayamvara - please define

**Conclusion** - "The chosen texts have had enormous financial success in contemporary Indian English literature, with millions of copies sold and the books being translated into regional languages" (please consider a new reference to the two texts analysed).

