

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52657

Date: 07-07-2025

Title: Fiction from Below: Subversive Histories in Vikram Chandra' s Red Earth and Pouring Rain and P. Sachidanandan' s Govardhan' s Travels

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity	✓			
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: **Syed Mohammad**

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Abstract Review:

The abstract introduces the central objective of the paper with conceptual clarity, focusing on the representation and agency of gendered subjects within postcolonial texts. By anchoring the analysis in two specific works—*Red Earth and Pouring Rain* and *Govardhan's Travels*—the paper establishes a clear literary framework for discussion. The choice to highlight characters like Begum Sumroo and Umrao Jan—both historically marginalized figures—illustrates a pointed engagement with gender and subalternity.

The abstract clearly states that the paper explores how marginalization due to gender and societal structures enables a critical voice within these texts. This positioning highlights a nuanced reading that doesn't simply examine oppression but also focuses on resistance and voice. The keyword selection effectively reflects the core themes and will support its accessibility in academic indexing.

Introduction Review:

The introduction begins with a theoretical foundation rooted in Gayatri Spivak's *Can the Subaltern Speak?*, immediately situating the analysis within a broader postcolonial and feminist discourse. Spivak's critique of the epistemological limits imposed by Western theory on subaltern subjectivity is effectively articulated. The connection to the silencing of the gendered subject, especially through mechanisms like Hindu religious codes and British colonial law, is coherently integrated into the argument.

The citation of Bhuvaneshwari Bhaduri's suicide further strengthens the discussion by providing a poignant example of how subaltern agency is often overwritten by dominant narratives. This theoretical

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anchoring adds academic weight to the literary analysis that follows and frames the reading of the two texts as part of a larger intellectual and ideological conversation.

The prose is academic and clear, demonstrating a firm grasp of postcolonial feminist theory. The text provides both conceptual grounding and thematic direction for the paper, promising a critical and engaged analysis of literary representations of marginality and voice.

General Remarks:

The paper promises a theoretically engaged and textually grounded exploration of gendered subaltern agency within postcolonial Indian literature. The clarity of purpose, the relevance of selected texts, and the incorporation of critical theory (particularly Spivak) underscore the scholarly value of the work. The thematic focus on how the margins can become a site of speech and resistance contributes meaningfully to literary and gender studies in postcolonial contexts. The writing is conceptually rich and intellectually coherent, maintaining academic rigor throughout.