

(BIOGRAPHY)

**KAUSALYA BAISANTRY: A POWERFUL
VOICE OF DALIT FEMINIST**

Indian literature has long reflected social hierarchies, but for centuries the voice of Dalit women remained unheard or ignored. Among the writer who broke the silence, Kausalya Baisantry occupies a significant place. She emerged as a powerful Dalit feminist writer whose life and works expose the harsh realities of castes account of the and gender oppression in Indian society. Through her autobiography Dohra Abhishap (Double Curse), Baisantry present an honest and courageous account of the struggles faced by Dalit women, making her contribution invaluable to Dalit literature and feminist discourse.

Kausalya Baisantry (1926-2011) was born in a Dalit family in a deeply caste-ridden society. From an early age she experienced social discrimination that shaped her worldview and identity. Her childhood was marked by poverty, exclusion and humiliation which were not occasional incidents but part of everyday life. Being born in lower caste meant limited access to education. Unlike upper-caste children, Dalit children were often made to feel inferior and Baisantry's early life reflects this painful reality. These experiences left a deep impression on her mind and later became the central theme of her writing.

Education which is often seen as a path to liberation was not easily accessible to Kausalya Baisantry. As a Dalit woman, she faced double discrimination - first because of her caste and second because of her gender. Despite form these obstacles she continued her education. However her struggle did not end here, she also had to confront patriarchal restriction that limited women's freedom and choices. This intersection of caste and gender created a "double burden" that defined much of her life.

Baisantry's autobiography *Dohra Abhishap* is a landmark text in Dalit feminist writing. The title reflects the double curse of being both Dalit and female. Despite for many male autobiography who mainly focus on caste, Baisantry brings attention to the specific struggle of Dalit women, including domestic oppression, emotional neglect, and social silencing. Several key themes emerge in her writing. Caste discrimination remain central, as she documents everyday practices of exclusion and humiliation. The concept of double marginalization clearly distinguished her work from mainstream feminist writing, which often ignores caste. Kausalya Baisantry's contribution is crucial because it expands the scope of Indian literature and feminism. She challenges domination narratives that overlook Dalit women's voice and insists on a more inclusive understanding of social justice. Her work remain relevant today, reminding readers that true equality cannot be achieved without addressing both caste and gender oppression.

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