

Echoes of the Hill

A Celebration Of Tribal Culture And Heritage



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Dr. Vennila V is the Head of the Department of English, Faculty of Science and Humanities (FSH), SRM Institute of Science and Technology. She has been an integral part of the institution since 2012, contributing extensively through teaching, research, and academic leadership. A Ph.D. holder (2014) and UGC-NET qualified scholar in Linguistics, she specializes in Linguistics and English Language Teaching (ELT).

She has published more than 20 research papers in reputed journals and continues to guide research scholars in emerging areas of language and literature. Her academic initiatives include curriculum enhancement, multidisciplinary course integration, and promoting innovative pedagogical practices aligned with NEP 2020. Through her dedicated service and scholarly excellence, she continues to enrich the field of English Studies and inspire future educators



Dr. Sharon Samson, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Faculty of Science and Humanities, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur. Dr. Sharon is a passionate educator and social worker with a rich blend of academic expertise and practical engagement. She holds a doctorate in English, specialised in English Language Teaching.

She has co-edited three book chapters, one of which focuses in tribal folklore, ancestral echoes and the essence of tribal tradition. Dr. Sharon is a seasoned resource person and panelist at national and international conferences and also has valuable field experiences with some of the Nilgiri tribes contributing to this book chapter as one of the Editors.



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She has published widely in Scopus-indexed journals and her scholarship consistently explores intersections of identity, culture, and resistance. She has guided PhD scholars, supervised several postgraduate research projects, and actively contributes to academia as an editor for reputed journals. She has also organized national and international seminars and recently expanded her academic profile through patents in language-learning technologies.



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Deconstructing the Mahabharata: Ekalavya, Land, and Tribal Resistance in *Roll of Dice*

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Abstract

The paper explores Anand Neelakantan's *The Roll of the Dice* as a tribal-centered reinterpretation of the *Mahabharata*, one that reconfigures the epic through Adivasi memory, ecological ethics, and lived experience. Drawing on the theoretical insights of Linda Hutcheon and Ania Loomba, rewriting is conceptualized here as an intentional political act that interrogates dominant historiographies and makes space for marginalized voices erased in Brahmanical and elite narratives. Neelakantan's retelling intervenes in the epic tradition by foregrounding tribal epistemologies, oral knowledge systems, and subaltern subjectivity, thereby challenging the normative authority of classical texts. Through the dehumanization of figures such as Ekalavya and the portrayal of the forest as a sovereign cultural world, the novel constructs an Adivasi counter-history that critiques caste power, reclaims indigenous worldviews, and reframes the *Mahabharata* as a site of resistance.

Keywords: Adivasi studies, tribal epistemology, subalternity, Indigenous land ethics.