



RECHERCHE

A DIGEST OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATIONS
(PEER REVIEWED)



R D

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Nadakkavu, Kozhikode, Kerala, 673011

www.insightpublica.com

e-mail: insightpublica@gmail.com

Title: **Recherche- A Digest of Multidisciplinary Explorations**

(English)

Chief Editor : **Dr. Sr. Jaseena Joseph**

Editors: **Dr. Priyadarsini P., Dr. Sangeetha G. Kaimal**

Cover Design: Dr. Priyadarsini P.

Year of Publication: June 2021

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Printed and Published by

InsightinPublica Printers & Publishers Pvt. Ltd.

ISBN 978-93-91343-03-3

₹ 529

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A DIGEST OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATIONS
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Gendered Spaces and The Woman Question

Surya K¹

Societal spaces tend to be hierarchically demarcated on the basis of existing cultural codes and conventions which are regulated by dominant power structures. Ideological meanings and values are disseminated with the stated aim of establishing/consolidating hegemonic belief systems that become detrimental to the interests of particular groups and identities. The 'female' space, for instance, has been culturally conceived in relation to gendered perceptions that are homogenised and normalised. Doreen Massey observes that from "the symbolic meaning of spaces/places and the clearly gendered messages which they transmit, to straightforward exclusion by violence, spaces and places are not only themselves gendered but, in their being so, they both reflect and affect the ways in which gender is constructed and understood" (179). Gendered spaces which are thus culturally constructed often play a crucial role in the evolution of discourses of control and subordination that in turn serve to position the woman as inherently weak and almost invisible. The spatial attributes of gender relations have largely been defined in terms of a neat dichotomisation of the private and public spheres of life. Such a pattern of binary thinking has also been instrumental in maintaining a

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