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**THE TRIPLE MARGINALIZATION OF DALIT WOMEN WITH
REFERENCE TO BAMA’S KARUKKU**

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ABSTRACT

“To awaken the people; it is the women who must be awakened, once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves.”

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

India, an example of ‘Unity in Diversity’, is famous for its cultural variedness where people of different languages, cultures, religions and castes live together in ‘so-called’ harmony but also has been a quiet observer to the violence of women irrespective of their social status. Women in India are regarded as an incarnation of ‘Shakti’ ever since times immemorial. They are adored as Goddesses, revered as epitome of strength. But in actuality, they are measured as the weaker part of the society. If this is the situation of women in general, what would be the condition of dalit women who are the oppressed among the ‘oppressed’. Dalit community is that part of society in which the people are considered as untouchables and are marginalized by the upper castes people. All the time, dalits are on the downgraded ‘other’ side of the Indian culture. So when they started articulation after centuries of silence, about themselves, there comes a literature depicting affirmation of human rights, self-pride, revolution against social discrimination, chronicles of individual and collective anguish, and hopes and desires for a new society free from discrimination. Female writers also have come up into the open enunciating their experiences, miseries, humiliations and manipulation in all walks of their lives after taking insight from the male writers in expressing the life of the subjugated and the incredible reaction they received from the thinkers for their upraised voices. Bama is one amongst them. This paper focuses on Bama’s novel, Karukku, in which she discusses the triple marginalization of women in the Paraiyar community, the lowest of the lowest section in the society, at the hands of caste, religion and gender. She wants dalit women to awake and rise for their rights.

KEYWORDS: *Marginalization, Dalit, Women, Bama, oppressed.*

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