

THE COMMUNAL ‘WE’: BABY KAMBLE’S AUTOBIOGRAPHY AS ETHNOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

*Dalit women’s autobiographies are not merely personal narratives but collective testimonies that challenge dominant historiography. Baby Kamble’s *The Prisons We Broke* exemplifies this transformation, as her text moves beyond the individual “I” to articulate the communal “we.” This paper argues that Kamble’s autobiography functions as a manuscript of collective memory, documenting systemic oppression while preserving oral traditions and everyday experiences. By analysing Kamble’s narrative strategies, this study demonstrates how Dalit women’s life writing becomes a counter-history, reshaping both literary form and social consciousness.*

KEYWORDS: *Dalit Literature; Baby Kamble; Women’s Autobiography; Collective Memory; Oral Tradition; Counter-History; Subaltern Voices; Ethnography.*

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