

## Defying Heteronormativity - Exploring Queerness in South Asia through Kari (2008)

This dissertation is about Queer theory in the novel Kari. Amruta Patil's Kari was published in 2008. This work is ground breaking, as it portrays the struggles of Indian Queer people as a graphic novel. Amruta Patil is India's first woman graphic novelist. She is also writer and painter has a free-wheeling visual style.

The objective of this dissertation is to unfold the struggle of the queer protagonist Kari, who lives in a heteronormative society. In fear of the society to announce their real identities. Homosexuality is still considered a taboo in Indian social setting in spite of the Indian constitution legalising homosexual relationships in 2018.

The first chapter deals with the introduction to Queer theory. It explicates the origin and subelement of the Queer theory and its definition and discusses the theme of the novel Kari. Then the aspect of my work.

The second chapter is the core chapter and deals with Gender and Sexual identity in the novel Kari. Kari the story of a young woman who lives in Mumbai working in an ad-agency as a co-copy writer. Ruth Kari's girlfriend. This relationship grows stronger but both Kari and Ruth didn't show their lesbian relationship in front of the society. They feared the society and they finally decide to commit suicide. We see Kari's inability to live with her lesbian identity and highlights the presence of a presence of a heteronormative society.

The third chapter deals with Indian societies view on Queer people. The novel portrays the drastic reality of what it means to be a homosexual in India. In India it was a common belief that homosexuality caused mental illness. The Supreme court of India partly revoked Article 377 in 2018, stating that the application of Section 377 to consensual ~~for~~ homosexual sex between adults was unconstitutional. Society has not yet openly consented to welcome homosexual practices. The same sex marriage are legal now but not yet socially appreciated.

Then the final chapter is conclusion. It summarises  
first two core chapters. This paper tries normalise  
the queer community in our society. People are  
quite to shun them from society for not striving  
to pursue a heteronormative life style. The multitude  
of reasons homophobic people give are a deal  
indication of their ~~bigoted~~ bigoted minds  
not willing to broaden their minds. ~~not~~ Its  
2022, and its high time we talk and discuss  
LGBTQIA+ rights in our house hold and  
communities.