

## Problematizing Gender: Strategies of domination in Sharmila Seyyid's *Ummath*

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**Rincy Saji**

*Ph.D. Scholar, School of Letters, Mahatma Gandhi University (Kerala)*  
(rin4.rins@gmail.com)

**Abstract :**

This paper sets out to analyse the various mechanisms of female oppression in an intersecting system of organization emanating from power structures. Narrating the lives of three women across Sri Lanka's ethnic and geographical lines, Sharmila Seyyid's semi-autobiographical novel *Ummath: A Novel of Community and Conflict* (2018), emphasizes the dual representation of gender oppression after the ethnic conflict. The novel also draws attention to Islamic fundamentalism. Engaging with the theoretical aspect of Patricia Hills Collins' matrix of domination that urges to integrate the variables of race, gender, and class as interlocking systems of oppression, this paper analyses the terrain of injustice and violence unleashed on Sri Lankan women through these variables of social classification. Furthermore, this study expands Collins' concept of the matrix of dimension by adding the variables of ethnicity and religion to analyse the gender dynamics in post-civil war Sri Lankan society.

**Keywords:** Sri Lankan civil war, ethnicity, gender, religion, matrix of domination, representation