

# The Patriarchal Trap in Mitra Phukan's *The Collector's Wife*

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**Abstract:**

This essay seeks to explicate how an extramarital affair in Mitra Phukan's novel *The Collector's Wife* paradoxically manifests the protagonist's adherence to the prevailing patriarchal norms. If Rukmini's adultery transgresses social norms, society's pressure has compelled her to do so when her husband has failed to impregnate her. A scrutiny of this apparent contradiction would expose an intricate cultural politics that diminishes Rukmini's dignity for not procreating as is customarily demanded from married ladies. Thus, Rukmini engages in an illicit relationship to become pregnant and maintain her self-respect, endorsing patriarchy in the process.

**Keywords :** Mitra Phukan, Patriarchy, Pregnancy, Extramarital affair, Dignity