

Traversing time: Interrogating the idea of “Indian Muslims”: Home and Belongingness in M.S Sathyu’s *Garam Hawa* and Shyam Benegal’s *Mammo*

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Abstract

India in the latter half of the twentieth century, was not just a space of post-colonialism but also post-partition. This paper aims at probing the identity crisis of the “Indian Muslims” afflicted with psychological conflicts, compliance and coercion functioning as various “State Apparatuses” (Althusser 50). The term “Indian Muslims” will be interrogated through Gyanendra Pandey’s idea of “ideological hybrids” and Priya Kumar’s interpretation of “nationalism”, relating to the socio-political structures of that time. Displacement, alienation and suffering were oblivious of people’s class, gender, generation, and so was identity crisis. To elaborate on this argument, two critically acclaimed Hindi films *Garam Hawa* and *Mammo* shall be examined, which focus on the ideas of family, home and identity. Therefore, with the help of cinema, its “language” and representative politics, this paper shall reflect on how discrimination, dejection, and corruption plague the lives of many irrespective of their age, class and religion.

Keywords: Identity crisis, nationalism, alienation, homelessness, belongingness.