

From Internalization to Resistance of Cultural Stigmatization of Disability and Queer Sexuality in Malini Chib's *One Little Finger* and Shonali Bose's *Margarita with a Straw*

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Abstract

Malini Chib's autobiography, *One Little Finger* (2010) and Shonali Bose's film, *Margarita with a Straw* (2014), integrate the categories of disability and sexuality that are traditionally perceived to be mutually exclusive. The selected works present a critique of the cultural tendency to ascribe stigma to disability and queerness, and also provide a subversive narrative through a reversal of the gaze. Borrowing theoretical insights from Erving Goffman, Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, Robert McRuer, Judith Butler, among few other theorists, this paper endeavors to examine the representation and articulation of the cultural stigmatization of disability and queer sexuality in *One Little Finger* and its film adaptation with a queer twist, *Margarita with a Straw*. Chib's autobiography along with her defiant personality, amidst a multitude of adversities, faced on account of her disability, served as an inspiration for Bose's film. Further, the film is also layered with the added complexity of queer identities claimed by two central characters in the film, Laila and Khanum who also happen to be disabled. This paper also aims to discuss how disabled people combat and respond to stigma, experienced in their everyday lives, through a critical analysis of the selected works. By combining the methodology of close reading with the framework of stigma theory, feminist disability studies and queer theory, this paper endeavors to contribute to the existing literature in the area.

Keywords : Stigma, Disability, Sexual Desire, Queer Women