

Resilience and Resistance: Examining Gender-Based Violence in Siddhartha Gigoo's *The Garden of Solitude*

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In: *Book of Abstract REVA University*. edited by DR. C Chamundeshwari Associate Professor, Dept of English, REVA University, Bengaluru, India. ISBN 978-93-341-7423-6.

This paper examines Siddhartha Gigoo's *The Garden of Solitude* through the lens of gender-based violence, emphasizing the resilience and resistance displayed by female characters within the Kashmiri conflict. Set against the forced displacement of the Kashmiri Pandit community, Gigoo's narrative provides a nuanced depiction of women's experiences amid political turmoil. This study utilizes a feminist framework to explore how the story presents women as both subjects of systemic violence and agents of resilience, maintaining cultural identity despite patriarchal and conflict-driven oppression. The research highlights how patriarchal structures compound the impact of conflict-related violence on women, who respond with quiet acts of defiance and resilience, preserving agency amid disruption. This paper argues that *The Garden of Solitude* challenges victim-centered portrayals by illustrating the complex dimensions of women's endurance. Through their navigation of violence and displacement, the female characters redefine survival, contributing to a deeper understanding of the intersection between gender, conflict, and resilience in literature.

Keywords: Resilience, Resistance, Kashmiri Conflict, Patriarchy, Displacement, Cultural Identity

"Navigating Identity and Cultural Discourse in *The Mistress of Spices*" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni".

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