

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Deepa Mehta's *Water*: A Critique on Hindu Widow System

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Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled Deepa Mehta's *Water: A Critique on Hindu Widow*
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Abstract

The present research in Deepa Mehta's Film *Water* aims to study the plight of Hindu widows in India. Widows are compelled to adopt the widow system as the system is regarded as a tradition of the society. The eight year old protagonist Chuyia is sent to a bidhuwa ashram in Benaras because of her widowhood. The exploitation of child in the grip of patriarchal culture of widowhood, and the denial of Chuyia to accept her widowhood is presented in the film. Kalyani, the second young widow in the ashram, revolts against such inhuman culture and decides to get married. But her decision is not accepted by the society. She is forced to act as a 'prostitute' in the house of bourgeois. Chuyia is also sexually exploited by bourgeois. Kalyani ends her miserable life of widowhood through her suicide by drowning into the sea. And the traumatised Chuyia is given under the care of Gandhi.

CONTENTS

Page No.

Letter of Approval

Acknowledgements

Abstract

Chapter I. Hindu Widow System and Deepa Mehta's *Water* 1-9

Chapter II. Feminism; A Tool to Redefine Women Identity 10-27

 II. I. Tradition, Culture and Third World Feminism 14

Chapter III. Deepa Mehta's *Water*: A Critique on Hindu

 Widow System 28-49

Chapter IV. Conclusion 50-51

Works Cited