

Human Agency made the difference: Professor Misir

The Vice-Chancellor of The University of Fiji, Professor Prem Misir is the author of 10 books and has a good number of journal articles and other publications to his name.

Professor Prem Misir presented his new book titled “**The Subaltern Indian Woman: Domination and Social Degradation**” on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at the Girit Centre, Lautoka.

The book focuses on marginalized Indian indentured women, who constantly faced race, gender, caste, class oppression, and inequality on various European-owned overseas plantations in the Colonial Era.

The book is a welcome addition to Girit Literature focusing on the plight of Indian women in Colonial history surpassing the biases of colonial historiography against women.

Speaking about his inspiration to write the book, Professor Misir said that contradictory to the popular Western Elite Theory, Indian women were not mere passive creatures.

“Looking at renowned academic, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak’s work, “Can the **Subaltern** Speak?” the Western Elite while referring to women in the Third-World Countries would metaphorically remove their clothes. They were marginalized and treated as ‘Others’ and as passive creatures. But when a person’s survival is at stake, they align to human agency. The Indian women became powerful as a result of human agency and joined the fight against colonialism. There are many examples of this in literature including “Kunti’s Cry” ,” he said.

He stressed that human agency made the difference in this revolution.

The event was attended by several academics and students including renowned academic and Chairman of the Global Girit Institute, Dr. Ganesh Chand.

This book is a must read for all who seek a unique perspective into Girit history surpassing biases of colonial historiography.

Palgrave Macmillan, a prominent international academic and trade publishing company published the book.

Professor Misir’s books gained worldwide acclaim and received various positive reviews from academics.

Dr. Pramila Devi, Director of the Lautoka Campus of The University of the South Pacific said that “This book is a welcome addition to the literature on indentured Indian women, and their social being in Girit nations from 1834 to 1917 ... This is a must read for anyone interested in indenture, social and political transformation, colonial studies, and gender studies”.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, will launch the book on Friday, February 23, 2018 with the Minister of Education, High Commission of India at The University of Fiji Saweni Campus.