

Professor Misir Presents Book



Professor Prem Misir with Indian High Commissioner to Fiji, Shri Vishvas Sapkal, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Mauritius, Her Excellency, Mrs. Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun and Minister of State for Education His Excellency, Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Registrar, Mr. Kamlesh Arya, Dr. Ajantha Perera and other attendees at the book presentation ceremony.

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 Misir presented his book to an audience of over 80 academics, students and members of the India High Commission on Friday, February 23, 2018.

The book titled **“The Subaltern Indian Woman: Domination and Social Degradation”** 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.

Speaking at the presentation, the Professor Misir stressed on the last chapter of the book depicting the violence against women post the indentureship period.

He explained that despite the change in times, women underwent violence at the hands of their loved ones. He added that this could be due to various reasons including the bias Colonial historiography, Indian patriarchal system, caste and so on.

Describing the civilization method and history of indentureship, Professor Misir explained that the Western Elites presented Indian women as immoral and sustained a negative image of them. They said that these women need to be civilized. He further stated that this was the bias of the colonial historiography against Indian women.

In addition, the Vice-Chancellor spoke about the way India played a role in ending indentureship in the 19 colonies of the British rule.

“India, through national movement by women, against popular notion of being passive, raised their voices and moved towards putting an end to the humiliating movement of indentureship. Hence, women were not passive creatures; they resisted,” he stated.

Dr. Ganesh Chand, Chairman of the Global Girit Institute, stated that Professor Misir, being an expatriate had published a book on Indian Indentureship and by doing so had challenged academics in Fiji to research and write more about Indian Indentured women.

Dr. Premila Devi, Director of the Lautoka Campus of The University of the South Pacific, stated that the book was a welcome addition to the literature on indentured Indian women, and their social being in Girit nations from 1834 to 1917. She urged anyone interested in indenture, social and political transformation, colonial studies, and gender studies to read the book as it provides a unique perspective.

The Indian High Commissioner to Fiji, Shri Vishvas Sapkal, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Mauritius, Her Excellency, Mrs. Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun and Minister of State for Education His Excellency, Dr. Satya Pal Singh also attended the book presentation ceremony.