

**Representation of Women Space
(Vol.III)**

Edited by
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Widow's Sexuality: Conflict Between Narratives in Indian Cinema

Piyali Halder

Introduction:

"A woman is regarded primarily as a vessel of reproduction; her 'social death' also signals her 'sexual death'" (Mukherjee, 2008, p. 36).

Following the statement of Prof. Tutun Mukherjee, the quotation identifies the hegemonic rule which considers practicing sexuality is permissible only in the marital relationship. Being 'outsider' widows are not allowed to practice sexual activities. Here the term 'sexuality' has been used to define sexual desire and/or sexual act, not sexual orientation. As per the quotation, the term 'sexual death' ascribes on the woman after the death of her husband. It means when she becomes widow, she 'ceases' as a person and passes into a state of 'social death'; side by side it plunders her sexual life. After the death of her husband, the woman is pushed down to the edge of the functioning social unit of the family and pushed away from sexual practices. Besides all these restrictions, there were some scopes which connect widows to sexuality. One of the scopes, there was a belief in Hinduism