

A VOICE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RACISM IN ALICE WALKER'S THE COLOR PURPLE

Veeramankai Stalina Yoharatnam

University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

African- American writers try to record their own experiences in their writings which they felt are different from the white people's experiences. Alice Walker is a distinguished and eminent African-American woman novelist, short-story writer, poet, essayist, and activist who was born on February 9, 1944, in Eatonton, Georgia. She works hard tirelessly to bring a change in the African-American society. Walker won the *Pulitzer Prize* and the *American Book Award* for her novel *The Color Purple*. Alice Walker analyses the problems of women, sufferings, domestic violence, socio-economic problems, colour prejudices and racism in Afro-American society, particularly in the rural areas. She analyzes the double oppression of black women who are oppressed, dominated and discriminated in many ways all over the world. *The Color Purple* is an epistolary tale structured through a series of letters narrated through the voice of Celie. The protagonist Celie in the novel undergoes sufferings, trauma, mental agony, oppression and sexual abuse from her childhood into adulthood. She is a poor, uneducated, sympathetic oppressed black girl who bears her trauma and sufferings patiently. She narrates about the misery of childhood incest, sexual abuse and loneliness through her letters to God. Her resilience is truly remarkable, marvelous and a tribute to humanity. After being continually abused by her stepfather. The main objective of this research is to describe and analyze the domestic violence and racism in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. Analytical and descriptive methods will be used in this research. Data is collected from texts, books, magazines, journals, and articles written by scholars and critics. This research will help the students to enhance their knowledge and skills in research field.

Keywords: *Change; Society; Racism; Sufferings; Domestic violence*
