CHAPTER 18

EAST ASIAN STUDIES

Doctoral Theses

1. AHUJA (Nishtha)
Understanding Indo-Japan Relations of 20th Century Through a Woman`s Perspective: A Case Study of Hariprabha Takeda.
Supervisors: Prof. Nabin Kumar Panda and Prof. Komatsu Yasuhiko
Th 28996

Abstract

This thesis examines Indo-Japan relations through the life and writings of Hariprabha Takeda, emphasizing a personal and gendered perspective rather than conventional political narratives. As the first Indian woman from the subcontinent to travel to Japan in 1912, her journey and her marriage to Oemon Takeda in 1907 in India marked a significant moment in early cross-cultural exchange. Her experiences provide a unique lens to understand social and cultural connections between India and Japan in the early twentieth century. A central source for this study is her 1912 diary, where she documented everyday aspects of Japanese life, including women's roles, education, clothing, and domestic practices. These observations offer valuable insights into gender norms, social structures, and evolving ideas of modernity in Japan. The thesis also explores her experiences during the Second World War, when she lived under conditions of fear, scarcity, and disruption. Her wartime writings reveal the impact of conflict on daily life, particularly for women and foreign residents. Additionally, the study analyzes her involvement in India-directed wartime propaganda, situating her within broader political processes while also highlighting the constraints she faced as a woman in such contexts. By treating everyday life as a critical historical source, the research demonstrates how themes like domesticity, appearance, and education reflect systems of social control and gender expectations. Drawing on historical analysis, oral history, newspapers, and fieldwork, the thesis argues that Hariprabha Takeda's life illuminates Indo-Japan relations in a nuanced way. Her writings highlight the importance of women's voices in constructing a more inclusive and human-centered history of Asia.

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Introduction 1. Tracing the Journey of Hariprabha and Oemon Takeda 2. Women's Voice in Hariprabha Takeda's Diary. 3. The Wartime Contribution of Hariprabha Takeda to Indo-Japan Relations. 4. A Case Study of Hariprabha and a European Woman Visitor to Japan. Conclusion. Bibliography. Appendices.

02. MEHRA (Ritu)
Rise of Hallyu as a Soft Power in India and the Role of Korean Government (2002-2024).
Supervisor: Dr. Ranjana Narasimhan
Th 28998

Abstract

The global rise of Hallyu has emerged as a significant cultural phenomenon, extending beyond entertainment to function as an effective instrument of soft power. This study examines the rise of Hallyu as a form of soft power in India, with a particular focus on the role of the South Korean government in promoting and institutionalizing this cultural influence. The research seeks to analyze how state policies, cultural diplomacy, and media dissemination have contributed to the growing popularity of Korean culture among Indian audiences, especially youth. Adopting a mixed-methods approach, the study integrates both qualitative and quantitative techniques. It includes an analysis of South Korean government policies and foreign policy frameworks related to soft power. The study also examines the growth of Korean food culture in India, and undertakes a comparative analysis of Korean and Indian entertainment industries. Secondary sources such as books, academic articles, and media reports further support the analysis. The findings indicate that the South Korean government has played a proactive and strategic role in promoting Hallyu through coordinated policies, cultural initiatives, and global outreach. The study reveals that Hallyu has significantly influenced the preferences, aspirations, and consumption patterns of Indian youth, despite the presence of a diverse and well-established domestic entertainment industry. Factors such as high production quality, innovative storytelling, digital accessibility, and cultural novelty contribute to its widespread appeal. Furthermore, the research highlights the economic implications of Hallyu's expansion in India, particularly in terms of increased tourism, the growing popularity of Korean cuisine, and rising consumption of Korean products. The study also identifies certain challenges and limitations in the dissemination of Hallyu within the Indian socio-cultural context. Overall, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of soft power dynamics by demonstrating how cultural phenomena, when supported by state policies, can significantly shape international perception and engagement. It offers valuable insights into the role of cultural diplomacy in contemporary international relations, particularly within the India–South Korea context.

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1. Introduction 2. Power and Rise of Hallyu as a Soft Power 3. Hallyu and Indian Entertainment Industry- A Case Study 4. Impact of Hallyu on Indian Youth and Society 5. Rise of Hallyu in India and its Impact on Korean Economy 6. Role of the Korean Government in the Development and Expansion of Hallyu 7. Conclusion. References Appendix: Questionnaire.