

## Polarization in Society and Its Impact on Literature

Human beings naturally hold strong beliefs, ideals, and perspectives shaped by factors such as politics, religion, philosophy, and personal values. Because of these differences, society often becomes divided. While some may argue that such divisions are purely social issues and do not affect literature, this assumption overlooks a fundamental truth: literature reflects society. Therefore, whatever issues exist within society inevitably influence literature as well.

One clear effect of societal division is the limitation placed on literary expression. There are literary works that cannot be fully expressed because they touch on topics considered taboo—whether religious, political, historical, philosophical, psychological, or moral in nature. As a result, writers may feel restricted in exploring certain themes, not because they lack ideas, but because of the fear of criticism, rejection, or even censorship.

It is also evident that people, particularly within communities, tend to remove or suppress content that they consider harmful, especially for children. While it is important to guide young readers and filter age-appropriate content, it is equally important to recognize that literature itself should not be blamed for what individuals learn or misinterpret. The responsibility of guiding interpretation and behavior lies with parents, teachers, and society—not with the literary work alone. Literature presents ideas, but it is human guidance that shapes understanding.

In many cases, attempts to censor or restrict literature may lead to the suppression of a writer's freedom of expression. Although such actions are often justified by moral or cultural concerns, they can also result in the loss of valuable perspectives. History has shown that many literary works have been banned or challenged in different places and time periods because they were deemed controversial or inappropriate. However, these same works often carry important insights and lessons that contribute to intellectual and cultural growth.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that individuals also have personal boundaries. Each person has their own set of beliefs and limits regarding what they are comfortable reading or engaging with. However, having personal boundaries does not necessarily mean imposing those limits on others. A more balanced approach is to allow freedom of expression while exercising personal choice—choosing what to consume without restricting what others can create or access.

In contemporary society, polarization has intensified, and majority opinions often dominate. In some cases, the standards set by governments, religious institutions, or dominant cultural groups influence what is considered acceptable in literature. While these institutions play important roles in maintaining order and values, it is equally important not to confine literature within rigid

boundaries. Literature thrives on diversity of thought, and limiting it may hinder its purpose as a reflection of human experience.

From a writer's perspective, this issue becomes even more personal. Writers may struggle to express sensitive topics due to fear of judgment from readers, society, or even their own families. However, as writers mature, many come to realize the importance of authenticity in storytelling. A responsible writer considers audience, context, and purpose, but does not entirely silence their voice. Literature should remain a space where ideas—both comfortable and uncomfortable—can be explored meaningfully.

Similarly, readers also play a role in this dynamic. Not all literary works will align with a reader's beliefs or preferences, and that is acceptable. Instead of calling for censorship, readers can choose what to engage with and what to avoid. This mutual respect between writers and readers supports a healthier literary environment.

In conclusion, the issue of societal polarization and its effect on literature has existed across all historical periods—from classical to contemporary times—and will likely continue into the future. As long as humans hold diverse beliefs and values, divisions will persist. However, rather than allowing these divisions to restrict literature, society should strive to balance freedom of expression with responsible consumption. Literature, after all, is not merely a product of rules and limitations; it is a living reflection of human thought, experience, and diversity.