

**THEME OF ALIENATION AND THE DISPLACEMENT
IN THE WORKS OF BHARATI MUKHERJEE'S
WIFE AND DESIRABLE DAUGHTERS**

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Abstract

Alienation recognizes a sociological ill which make a problematic isolation between self and others who belong together. Alienation is the major matter of present human situation which dealt with many angles who loses their identity and the human beings were displaced from their own society which weakens their power. Indian writing in English support the themes of diaspora, loneliness, displacement, alienation caste and identity crisis. Many Indian Writers bring around the problems of identity and dislocation of migrants. Indianans is constructed to every mind of the Indians .They create a sense of rootedness and this creates a part of their identity. Alienation emerges as an existential dilemma both in intrinsic and extrinsic terms. They faced a conviction of isolation, randomness and meaningless existence of life. Bharati Mukherjee is an Indian born novelist has depicted the experiences and the sufferings faced by the Indian Immigrants in United States. She has expressed the shifting tensions and complexities of an immigrant in an alien land in her novels. This paper depicts the theme of Alienation and the displacement of the people from different point of views by the works of Bharati Mukherjee's "wife " and "Desirable Daughters".

Keywords: Alienation, Displacement, Loneliness, Identity Crisis.

Introduction

Bharti Mukherjee was born on 27th July 1940 in Calcutta, India, She belong to an upper middle class Hindu Brahmin family. She was the second daughter of SudhirLaland Bina Banerjee. She exploded many difficulties when she became a writer. She felt that she needs a great sacrifice to lead a life in Canada of Indian origin. In 1980, she migrated to United States – with her family as a U.S. resident and she started to do her work at the University of California, She got relief after she settled in America.BharatiMukerjee has portrayed the experiences and the sufferings faced by the Indian Immigrants in United States. Her writings given a worldwide recognition.She depicts the theme of Alienation and displacement of the people through her work "Wife" and "Desirable Daughters". Alienation dealt with in the individual existence in literature. They faced a firmness of leading a life of isolation, randomness and meaningless life. .Now in this present situation it is really hard to find out the real identity of the people because of immigration. Due to physical and psychological changes occurred they forget their native cultures and they create a

new identity in foreign countries. Migrated women they were apart from their family, culture and relatives and friends.

The paper aims to explore their sense of alienation in USA where life as an immigrant was not bearable, forcing them to form an effort towards the process of economic, social and cultural adjustment. These immigrant writers reflect and their attachment to their motherland and on the other hand, their feeling of alienation and rootlessness. Every immigrant experiences injustice, inequality, discrimination, biases, prejudices and a threat to cultural identity in the unfamiliar country. Nowadays facing everything with the social, economic, political, psychological and environmental charges is also a challenge. The abrupt change in the lifestyle, culture, status, society causes emotional and psychological problems. Making adjustments according to the changing scenario of their lives is a challenge. The Indian Diaspora focuses on the varied aspects of life abroad. The Indian women Diaspora writers have created a niche for themselves in the literary world. Writers like Bharat Mukherjee, Jhumpa Lahiri and many others have taken great pains to focus on the world of immigrants.

Bharati Mukherjee gave a feminist outlook; create an image of an oppressed woman due to displacement and alienation. Displacement not only leads to separate from all traditional needs but it also leads to alienation and rebirth in a new country, new culture, new society and new adjustments in an alien land. The protagonist of the novels “Wife” and “Desirable Daughters” came abroad leaving all their family, culture friends and relatives, look back to their native place with pain and nostalgia. Bharati discussed the problems and experiences faced by the Indian immigrants in United States or the Western world. The novelist depicts how the immigrants try to adapt to western society and how they feel rootless.

Bharati Mukherjee’s second novel *Wife* is the psychological study of Dimple Das Gupta, a middle class Bengali woman and she got married and accompanies her husband to New York from Calcutta. The novel takes place in Calcutta and in America and develops in Manhattan where Amit and Dimple are subletting an apartment. Here Bharati Mukherjee focuses on cultural displacement and dislocation causes new identities. Through the protagonist the novelist expresses and highlights the challenges made on multicultural society of an immigrant. Dimple, the heroine of the novel emigrates from her native land India and she went to the United States and suffers a lot under the pain caused by a different society. She separates herself from others. She cannot mingle with their culture and so she spends her most of the time in watching TV and sleeping. She did not feel happy even she become pregnant and after she knows about her pregnancy she decided to abort her and she succeeded in abort her child by skipping. As she thinks that her child will be the reminder of the past, she began to think about her India and the old world. In that environment she got worried of dislocation and alienation. This causes her sick and so she becomes a patient of insomnia and her husband, Amit does not take it seriously. He never shows any care of her health. This makes her more frustrated and out of her fearless and personal instability she ultimately murders her husband and eventually commits suicide.

“Desirable Daughters” is a story of immigrants and the notion of three sisters and the ways of their negotiating the multiple dislocations in three different corners. The three sisters are the daughters of Motilal Bhattacharjee belong to a traditional Bengali Brahmin family. The three of them were gone by taking their own course of voyage towards their destiny. They are a blend of traditional and modern outlook. Padma and Parvati have their own path of choices, the former was an immigrant of ethnic origin New Jersey, and the latter married of her own choice and settled in the posh locality of Bombay with many servants to look after her. Tara, the narrator of the novel, makes the readers deep into the complexity of the New World and she seems to

struggling with rootless. The fluidity of her identity not only tells the suffering of her own but also the fluidity of the immigrants who stayed there. She cannot forget her traditional life. She values her traditional life in what way she brought up brings pride in moving forward in life. Her image of her family values forms a wall of security around her. Bharati brings the conflict arising from native and foreign culture. She portrays the life led by the three daughters Tara, Padma and Parvati and how the Diasporas' women faced the situation. Tara's life as a daughter, wife, as a mother and as a woman is represented well by the author. Tara Lata was first married to a tree, as a measure to mitigate the malefic aspects of her horoscope. After marriage Tara migrates to America with her husband, Bishwapriya Chatterjee. When she reaches America she feels gap between tradition and freedom. She leads a life of traditional and she feels hard to lead a freedom life. She could not accommodate herself in the new system.

Bharati Mukherjee expresses the wishes, fancy and expectations of immigrant women who desire to lead a life of their native culture in abroad. The writer is related to diasporic situation of the lives of the Indians and Indians-Americans. It also talks the theme of cultural transformation. Bharati Mukherjee exposes how these female characters hold on their native cultures and also create their new identity in foreign cultures. But the fact is that, relationships, language, rituals and religion all help these characters to maintain their culture in new surroundings. Migrated women are isolated from their families, parents, home, culture, relatives, friends and the communities also in which they live. The life of such women creates a vacuum in their life. All the time they feel that they are missing something important in their lives and this feeling defines them.

In the novel "Wife" the writer Bharati Mukherjee focus cultural displacement. It shows how the Indian woman's migration to United States of America creates a depression in the mind of her and she feels she is homeless. The novel portrays the protagonist Dimple was isolated from all physical, social and psychological surrounding in American society and the immigrant Indian community. It core on Dimple's occurrence of cultural dislocation and loss of identity. It also describes the willing expatriates of Indians for economic security and to lead a comfortable life style. Dimple is unaware of her own desire and she is longing for freedom. She wants to be a wife but her desire is not fulfilled. She is ignorant that as a wife playing that role will not fulfill her desires for freedom. She brings out a picture of a woman who did not like to suffer from these restraints traditional and cultural directions which affect their freedom of life. The novel Wife stands apart as a unique fictional work

The desire of Dimple is exhibited that she wanted to lead a modern life even though she is not fair. Her dream is to marry a neurosurgeon and to lead a free, love and a desirable life. After a prolonged painful waiting which makes her disgust and despair, she is finally married to Amit Kumar Basu, a young engineer. She feels that the immigration to America will provide her an opportunity from the frustrating middle class life she led in Calcutta. But only disillusionment alone awaits in America for her. Dimple experiences immigration only as physical and psychological displacements results in a sense of alienation, a very deep loss of control over her mental instability and this make her kill her husband.

"Desirable Daughters" is a tale of immigrants of three daughters who negotiate the multiple dislocations in three views. The three daughters of Motilal Bhattacharya belong to Bengali Brahmin family. The novel open out the story of three sisters, who are settled in different countries, and are suffering to find out their own identities as they come to realize their marginal position as well as playing a substitute role in family and society. They take over their ways towards their destiny. They are mingled with tradition and modern. Padma, an immigrant

settled in New Jersey and the later Parvati settled in Bombay .Tara, the narrator bring a lot of confusion of the new world and identity is varied as she is an immigrant .She could find out the difference of home and exile . Mukherjee in her novel seized temporal and conceptual dynamics of immigrant sensibility lost in the space between home and location.The protagonist Tara needs a separate identity in the traditional society leads her to search from place to place, but wherever she goes she finds the existence of tradition and a fixed sense of identity as an Indian immigrant. Displacement refers to a separation but it leads to alienation and it gives rebirth in a new country, following new culture in the new society and new adjustments in an alien land. Tara, like Mukherjee's diaspora characters struggle hard to occupy a permanent place and they go on changing the places create a lot of ruptures.

. In “Desirable Daughters”, they seek an identity, an identity that changes constantly when cultural attachments are lost. She took more effort to follow both the identities as Indian and as American makes her the hybrid of new culture that again gives a false impression of her real identity. She has a quest for homeland and her quest to re-root herself in the company of her parents. In absence of adequate personal relations, she feels a lack of belongingness. She retains her national identity in following language, religion, faith, customs and traditions of her homeland.

CONCLUSION

Immigration and cultural alienation are global phenomenon in today's modern world. Bharati Mukherjee, like many other postmodern writers, has portrayed the problems and experiences faced by the Indian immigrants in the U.S. or the Western world. Mukherjee concentrate more on to female issues in Migration of people from their native country to a new country for their own comfortable life or they may want to get satisfactions and to achieve goals in life has become common. Nowadays they are willingly go and they try to identify themselves in their host country. Bharati Mukherjee has explored many facets of diasporas' consciousness and immigrant experience of dislocations, ruptures and relocation of the migrant women in her fictions. Mukherjee's novels and short stories express the same dislocations and the neurosis in their wandering impulse and their deliberate search for materially better life. They migrate to the West and consequently face tension of adaptation and assimilation. Bharati Mukherjee, who was an Indian born American novelist, has made a deep impression on the literary canvass. Their novels honestly depict the issues of their own cultural location in West Bengal in India. They were displaced from their land of origin to USA where they were “simultaneously invisible” as writers and “overexposed” as a racial minority and their final re-location to USA as naturalized citizens.

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