

Indian-American Diaspora – A Study

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Abstract

Indians can be found in every corner of the globe. India is the third largest source of immigrants after China and the United Kingdom. Indian Americans reserved 1.2 percent of the United States population. India is the second major Asian ethnic community in America. The migration of Indians continues to the US. The Diaspora community is an important link between the two countries. Indian Diaspora literature works as a mirror of the community. Indian-origin authors note down the experiences of the inner and outer sides of the community through writing art. This paper studies the Indian-American with a focus on Indian diaspora literature.

Keywords: Indian, American, Diaspora, ethno community, authors, literature.

Introduction

Diaspora means to scatter, cross the national borders and shift to a new territory. ‘Diaspora’ term comes from the Greek Word diaspeirein which is the combination of dia means to across and the speirein means to scatter. It means to disperse across a border. Dislocation, global migration, displacement, and immigration all come in terms of Diaspora. In the Indian diaspora, these people known as Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI), and Person of Indian Origin (PIOs) categories are based on their immigration. In 2018 report from the Minister of External Affairs claimed there are PIOs number is 31.80 lakh and NRIs 12.80 lacks Indians living in America.

Indian Diaspora denotes the Indian-origin group living in the outside nation. Global migration required governmentally approved documentation like passports, visas, permits, and more. According to the National Portal of India, the Indian diaspora word is used for the globally migrated people of the Indian nation. Further stated that it helps Financial, Political, Cultural, and social growth in both the country. Indian Diaspora contributes to many respected fields and enhances the new various fields.

In the United States, Indians are referred to as Indo-Americans and Asian Indians. United States Census Bureau states that 45 lacks Asian Indians reside in the USA in 2021. This number proves Indian diaspora is the largest growing ethnic community out there.

Indian Diasporas community is obsessed with these two terms "homeland" and "hostland." Both "home" and "host" have a nostalgic quality and cultural variety. Indians have a strong attachment to their ancestral homeland. India has a variety of people, religions, and cultures. The literary world has greatly benefited from the work of Indian authors who reside in the United States. They have a significant role in the Indian diaspora. The cultural diversity of India gives the diasporic community a unique identity out there. Acculturation results from their movement. The history, nostalgia, vitality, and beliefs of the diaspora writers have been mentioned in the text. The literature of the diaspora has several well-known authors, including Amulya Malladi, Bharti Mukherjee, Amitabh Ghosh, Sunetra Gupta, Anita Nair, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Amulya Malladi, Shauna Singh Baldwin, Meena Alexander, Anjana Appachanna, Jumpa Lahiri, and so on who glorify the diaspora literature.

Indo-American Authors Prominent contribution

Meena Alexander is a poet, writer, and Indian-American scholar. *The Nampally Road* (1991) is a semi-autobiographical novel dealing with India's post-independence era. Alexander portrayed the worst-case political scenario, with Indira Gandhi declaring an emergency in India. The Protagonist Meera Kanadicle struggles with adjustment and the struggle of self-search.

Amulya Malladi is an Indian-born American writer. She has portrayed many Indian cities in her works. *The Mango Season* is published in 2003. She has depicted the cultural diversity and generation gap in her novel. After spending seven years in America, the protagonist struggles to fit in India again. The influence of western culture on India, the identity crisis, and Multiculturalism is the main themes of this work. Another work *Serving the Crazy Curry* (2004) deals with the issue of Indian migration to America. Devi's struggle for acceptance by her family and herself. Malladi portrayed the Indian mouthwatering recipes of Indian cuisines, women's struggles, and marriage pressures in this work.

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni has written *Before We Visit the Goddess* (2016). It is based on the three generations of Indian women's psyche and cultural experiences. Divakaruni artistically blends Indian myth and oriental magic with immigration experiences. *The Mistress of Spices* (1997) is the story of an Indian Immigrant American Tilo who shows the healing power of Indian spices to Oakland, California people. The struggle of Indian women to come out from the shadow of patriarchal society. Banerjee depicts how people of diverse cultures come together and set new transcending cultural boundaries. Cultural conflicts, Indian customs, transcultural scenarios, and a globalized vision of the world are portrayed in this novel.

American author Anjana Appachana received the renowned O'Henry Festival Prize for her outstanding work. She is well known for the 1998 release of the feminism-themed book "Listening Now." She presented the issues faced by three distinct generations of women. She made the image depicting a traditional Indian mother. In the story, society is divided in two, with one group upholding modern morality and the other group upholding the enduring customs that our ancestors established.

Jumpa Lahir is a prominent American author, of novels, essays, and short story writing. In "The Namesake" (2003), Lahir marks the cultural clash, captures conflicts, and connects two generations. It portrays the intergenerational existential familiarities and conflicts of fitting in among the Bengali Indian white-collar people in America. "The Lowland" (2013) weaves together a variety of time spaces, exposing character changes and emotional swings abruptly, capturing psychological conditions and lived experiences in real-time. She used simple language and Indian-migrated characters who have the value of their origin and culture.

2021 Published books

The elements portrayed in Jumppa Lahiri's latest novel, "Whereabouts" (2021), are both geographical and emotional. Shaheen Chisti has written, "The Grand Daughter Project" (2021), in which three powerful women share their stories. It is based on the tragedies of the world and women's suffering. American Indian novelist Sanjana Sathian has written about Indian heritage in her book "Gold Diggers" (2021). This novel contains magic realism, melodrama, mythology, and identity clashes between India and America. "American Betiya" (2021) is written by new diasporic writer Anuradha D. Rajkumar. The novels are full of cross-cultural connections, struggles, and relationship complications. Another author from Nawaaz Ahmed's work "Radiant Fugitives" (2021) is represented by the monologue of a Muslim boy, Ishraaq. He depicted three generations of Muslim Indian families. "Sita: Now You Can Know Me" (2021) is written by the Indian American-born Sini Panicker. She tells the story of Sita's life from the Ramayana.

Conclusion

The powerful diaspora serves as a link between the two countries of America and India. Indian Diaspora literature glorifies the Indian country outside the nation. Indians have many reasons for moving, including jobs, education, health, and many other fields. Internal connectivity and diaspora community success in the particular field influenced the Indians, and they started giving a shot to the American Dream. This contemporary diaspora writer used different techniques like alienation, stream of consciousness, immigration, acculturation, alienation, adaptation, and so on to enhance the readers' interest in the Indian diaspora. The Indo-American Diaspora is growing by the day. It gives a strong message to other ethnic communities.

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