CHAPTER SEVEN
Conclusions

7.1 Cross-cultural Relations

Culture is a comprehensive term, cross-cultural relations mean the relations between two individuals or groups that belong to different cultures on account of migration for studies, business, communication tourism, work and for other purposes. The number of interactions of people belonging to different cultures has increased. The cross-cultural relations depend on the recognition of uncertainty and unfamiliarity of such interactions with others that belong to another cultural set-up. In case of the mirroring of multiple cultures, the most appropriate illustrations are to be found in what is branded as diasporic literature. The diasporic writers like Bharati Mukherjee present the turn of events in the lives of the characters who are often immigrants from the homeland to the adapted land. The stages of adapt and adopt are noticed on which the journey of the protagonist is from the centre to the periphery and then again from the periphery to the centre. The sense of alienation, the phase of adaptation, the stage of reconciliation, the process of assimilation and the destination of acculturation are the progressive steps which enable the cross-cultural shift possible. The present study intends to present the cross-cultural relations in the five selected novels of Bharati Mukherjee.

The cross-cultural relations are studied in the selected five novels of Bharati Mukherjee. The reflection of cross-cultural experiences is noticed in these novels found in these five novels.

*The Tiger’s Daughter* presents the reflection of the Indian culture through the protagonist’s career as presented in the novel. The family background and the rise of the Bengal Tiger Tara’s father reflect the culture of the Orient. Tara’s visit as the result of her longing for home brings out what she experienced in the past before going to America and the changes that have taken place during the period
from her departure to her return home. The group at Catheli Continental Hotel acts as the chorus of commentators on the events of the past and members of her family, the set of her friends and others reflect the past and present encounters with the Indian setting and the culture of the East.

_Wife_ is the next novel in which the protagonist is the young wife whose dreams of life after marriage are presented to reflect the culture; interaction before her marriage and before her departure to America after her marriage. Her arrival in America puts her in a position which is reflection of the cross-cultural encounter. Dimple Dasgupta’s life before marriage is an indication of the cultural set-up in which an Indian girl is required to spend her childhood and youth. The cultural background of the middle class Indians in Kolkatta is presented to reflect the culture of the Orient which differs from the culture in the West.

_Jasmine_ narrates the various transformations Jyoti from Hasnapur has to undergo. Her early life in Hasnapur and her marriage that prepares her to carry out her husband’s dream reflect the cultural set up of the country in which she was born, brought up and got married. She is required to face the cross-cultural encounters. Her life before her marriage is that of an Indian girl who lived in a small place in the Indian countryside. The fortune teller’s prediction sets the action rolling. The reflection of the changes in the life of the protagonist has the protagonist’s experiences of cross-cultural relations.

_Leave It To Me_ is one of the first novels by the novelist in which the protagonist is in search of her bio-parents. The transformation from one encounter to another is presented in a flashback in the novel. The flashback brings out the relationship that was fostered between her bio-mom and her bio-dad. The reflection of the Indian background is noticed in the way her parents forget their relationship.

_Desirable Daughters_ narrates the lives of three sisters from an Indian family in Kolkatta but which was related to the Tree-Bride. The Indian way of life is projected through the recollections of the protagonists and her relations with her parents, her sisters and her husband. The reflection of the Oriental culture is found in these selected five novels by Bharati Mukherjee. The reflection of Indian culture
is one asset that is an integrating characteristic of the cross-cultural relations as noticed in these illustrative works by the novelist Bharati Mukherjee.

7.1.1 Mirroring of the West

In *The Tiger’s Daughter* the protagonist Tara goes to America for studies. Her experiences there are presented as she remembers them on her journey back home to her father, the Bengal Tiger’s residence in Kolkata. Her meeting with David Cartwright and her getting married to him and her experiences after that her constant remembering of the homeland and her return from America, from that experience of her life story which has mirrored the other cultural experiences. There are continuous shifts from the East to the West and also from the West to the East. Her visit to her parents’ house makes her restless. She has finally decided to go back to ‘her husband’ in the West. The cross-cultural encounters are thus presented through mirroring of the Western culture.

Dimple Dasgupta in *Wife* brings with her longing for married life in the parents’ house and then moves on to her in-law’s place in Kolkata. This Indian experience is soon changed by the prospects of searching new frontiers in America through job-hunting by her husband. Getting settled in America requires some period and the experiences during this difficult phase of adjustment enable Dimple to dare realities of life in another cultural context. It is noticed that the stages of alienation and reconciliation occur with the other cultural context. Dimple gets into the set of those who have been in America, almost settled. Dimple’s Americanization and her getting closer to the American among her visitors from the friendly group and other experiences transparently illustrate the mirroring of the cross-cultural encounters in the American set up.

*Jasmine* portrays the various transformations of Jyoti Prakash Vijh after she determinedly attempts to complete the dream of settling in the new world. Her encounter with Half-Face, her stay in the family of Wadheras, her job in New York, apartment of Taylors and her stay with Ripplemeyer are the phases of her career that have the constant setting of life in America. She struggles through the
different situations in her cross-cultural encounters that are inevitable for Indians to overcome the challenges thrown up by the other cultural background in a new land.

Leave It to Me showcases Debby’s story. She has been an American brought up in an American house; she was told about her being an adopted daughter and then began her search for her origins. The American protagonist action in America from the East to the West of the country and the issues of Americans in a peculiar modern situation highlight the fact that, the culture of the West is what is presented as the first cultural set up and Indian culture is the other set-up in this novel. Leave It to Me presents cross-cultural encounters of a different type.

Desirable Daughters are Padma, Parvati and Tara. Padma and Tara have settled in America. Padma has charted the course of her career on Indians reacting to the Indian culture, in particular after getting totally absorbed in American life. Tara has absorbed herself in American life-style. The depiction of American culture is primarily done and then though the Indian connection appears desirable, the reflection of Indian heritage is made to emphasize the attractions of the Western lifestyle. The mirroring of the West is thus a notable feature of Bharati Mukherjee’s novels.

7. 1. 2 Phases of Alienation

The Tiger’s Daughter presents the stage of alienation in Tara’s career; Tara is brought up in an Indian family. She has been quick, familiar with the traditional way of life in India though she grew up through her education in an English medium convent and her choice of India. In her stay outside India Tara felt like a fish out of water in the unfamiliar circumstances. She experienced aloofness, a sense of being isolated, a sense of being a stranger, and alien in the surroundings where she was placed. This sense of alienation compelled her to visit India. She desired to get into the familiar atmosphere in order to find her peace of mind.
Dimple in *Wife* has entertained dreams of life after marriage. She arrived in America with her husband. Her initial experiences in America made her feel a total stranger in the new set-up in America. She realized that her past and traditional way of life back home could not be of any help. She felt estranged, alienated and totally lost. She remembered the past; she could not keep herself separated from the situation in the home country. In America she still felt that she belonged to India and not America. This sense of unfamiliarity made her alienated from reality.

In *Jasmine*, Jyoti has migrated to America. Her stay with the family of Wadheras makes her feel a stranger. Her sense of alienation is the uppermost when she finds that Bud desires to accept her but that is not what is acceptable to others. Jasmine’s struggles of getting adjusted, accepted and absorbed in the life-style of the West are continuous. In these hardships, she is reminded of the traditional life-style in India. That revives the memories of the past and she gets fascinated to that. That makes her feel alienated.

*Leave It to Me* shares how the protagonist Debby is an American. She is totally one with her American background and the life-style has become fully hers. The turning point in her career is her knowledge of belonging elsewhere. That creates a sense of rootlessness in her. She feels a sort of void. She finds herself helpless and lost. She considers as if the ground has slipped and that she has no support. This emotional turmoil sends her on a quest. Her search for her origins brings the sense of alienation to her. There is the sudden antbrust of the sense of strangerness.

*Desirable Daughters* too portrays the occurrence of the sudden sense of strangeness in the life of Tara. Her marriage, her life in the Silicon Valley comes to end with her obtaining a divorce. She continues to lead the life of a single American mother with her son and her Hungarian live-in-partner. The visit by a stranger who poses to be Padma and Dr. Dey’s son has disturbed the apparent smooth life of hers. She begins to probe into the past. Her sense of alienation becomes acute with a desire to find out her roots.
7. 1. 3 Phases of Assimilation

The Tiger’s Daughter Tara has returned home to India. Her sense of alienation brought her to the home land, the land of her parents. Her visit has of course brought with it a sense of disillusionment. What she imagined of the home situation did not match with the actual conditions of changed life-style in India. Her frustrating experience made her think, of her own situation even in the homeland, “Tara realized that her home” was now in America, with her husband, with David whom she loved. This makes her decide to return to America. Her decision to return presents the phase of assimilation in the cultural context. This distinction between the “One” and the “other” culture has now faded. The “others” culture has become so agreeable to her that she desires to be observed to be assimilated in the “elite” culture of the West.

In Wife Dimple Dasgupta of her maiden days has become the wife of the engineer Amit Basu. She desires to settle in America quite comfortably with her husband. Initially Dimple is lost in the sense of isolation, separation and alienation. She begins to merge with the “imaginary world” presented through the world of images on the TV shows. Her contacts with her set of friends of Indians and Americans made her accept the world around. She desires to get absorbed, to get assimilated in the world to which she has come. The other has become an agreeable situation for Dimple and she has become “one with the set-up”.

Jasmine has successfully got herself assimilated into the target culture of the West America with Taylor family in the metropolitan America and with Ripplemeyers in the ‘farm-lands’ of the countryside. Jasmine has make herself at ‘home’. She nursed Bud with care. Mother Ripplemeyer totally accepted her and even Bud’s divorced wife approved of Jasmine’s care-taking. The same is the case in the family of Taylors. Her adoptability to any situation, her trust in humanity makes her sincerely loyal to moral standards and has made Jasmine a true American Indian.

Leave It to Me presents how Debby comes face- to- face with her bio-parents. The old scores are yet to be settled between her bio-dad and her bio-mom. Debby is
therefore left to be herself. She has realized this finally of her own situation. She is already a part and parcel of the ‘native’ American situation. She has all the characteristic features of an American with her temperament, her up-bringing, her life-style. She has already lived in every situation of American life in the best and not so best circumstances. Her assimilation into America is natural.

Padma as well as Tara the eldest and the youngest of the Desirable Daughters have become naturalized Americans. Their up-bringing and their education have made them eligible to become one of the set of the people belonging to the West. Their views and activities have been progressive and it was easy for them to get settled in America. Their assimilation with American way of life is total and they are completely merged with the culture of the West. Tara is made conscious of her “Indian heritage” after the visit by a stranger who poses to be her sister’s son. Tara’s absorption in America makes her stand out as a single American Indian mother.

7.2 Conclusions of the Present Study

I: Bharati Mukherjee claims to be the mainstream American novelist of Indian origin. She has presented the multi-cultural scenario as her protagonists Tara, Dimple, Jasmine, Debby and Desirable Daughter-Tara belong to different cultural settings. They pass through different cross-cultural situations and weave a pattern of various cross-cultural relations.

The conclusions of the present study state the need to find if the hypotheses of the study have been duly verified and validated in the course of the study.

It is to be verified if the presentations of situations that reflect the cultural diversity have been made in the five selected novels by Bharati Mukherjee.

Tara visits her homeland India because she experienced homesickness in America. The situations of cultural diversity are presented in the novel. In The Tiger’s Daughter, there are situations that Tara comes across after her arrival in India, on her train journey from Bombay to Howra on her visits to the hotel to meet the
group of her friends, the excursion and others which present in various ways the
cultural life in India. Tara remembers the years she spent in America. In India too,
Tara gets homesick to go back to David. The situations reflect the diversity of
cultures in the West in America and in the East in India.

Dimple Dasgupta becomes Dimple Amit Basu and her life in India as a young
college-going girl and as a young married woman is presented in the first phase of
her role as ‘Wife’. These situations reflect Indian culture. Dimple and Amit come
to America, both the husband and wife have to undergo experiences that are
peculiar to the American set-up. Amit gets a job and after shifting in an apartment.
Dimple faces situations which are cross-cultural encounters. The presentation of
culturally diverse situation is noticed in the novel Wife.

In Jasmine, the protagonist migrates to America. Before her departure to America,
she goes through the situations which have Indian background. The village life, the
family life and the married life are the stages of her life which reflect the Eastern-
Indian culture. After reaching America, Jasmine has to move from one place to
another. All the places where she is required to stay expose her to the situations
which peculiarly bring her into contact with American culture. The situation of
cultural diversity is presented in the novel Jasmine.

Debby is the American protagonist of Leave It to Me. Most of her experiences
which are presented are American. The presentation of cultural diversity is found
when her bio-parents figure in certain situations of their life in the past, especially
life in India. The presentation of situation of cultural diversity is found in such
circumstances in the novel-Leave It to Me.

Desirable Daughters have spent their early lives in India. Their later career is
spent in America, in the cases of the eldest and the youngest daughters. The
presentation of situations of cultural diversity is there in the novel.

The situations of cultural diversity are presented in these five selected novels by
Bharati Mukherjee. The illustrations are found in these novels. It is therefore
validated and the validated Hypothesis is re-stated: Bharati Mukherjee presents the
situations that reflect the cultural diversity in her five selected novels. The validation of the first hypothesis is a part of the conclusions of the present study.

II. The cross-cultural relations are presented in the novels by Bharati Mukherjee. There is the reflection of the cultural clash in these encounters presented in her novels. The protagonist in her novels experiences a sense of rootlessness. The second hypothesis maintains that these three features are present in the five selected novels. In order to verify and validate the hypothesis it is essential to find out the presence of these three features in the illustrative novels.

*The Tiger’s Daughter* has Tara as the protagonist who is the Bengal Tiger’s daughter and an American David Cartwright’s wife. It is noticed that the relations from the culture of the East India and the culture of West America are presented in her career. She is homesick in America but when she comes to India she is now homesick for the land to which she is migrated. This situation poses a cultural clash as Tara has become restless when she thought she would find comfort and solace in India. This state of restlessness makes Tara feel that she is undergoing an experience of rootlessness. The features of cross-cultural encounters, the cultural clash and the sense of rootlessness are present in the novel *The Tiger’s Daughter*.

The protagonist of the novel *wife* is Dimple. She dreams of married life as gateway to comforts and happiness. Her life in India was a confined one and she feels she will be liberated in America. The cross-cultural encounters are faced by Dimple both in Kolkatta and in America. In America too, Dimple is caught between the claims of Indianness and the strong fascinating forces of Americanism. This emotional turmoil makes her dangle between the real and the imaginary worlds and she feels a sense of helplessness, rootlessness that leads to a violent action on her part.

*Jasmine* is the story of a woman who has migrated to America on her own to complete her husband’s dream. Jasmine is Jyoti of Prakash Vijh. From Punjab in India to the corners of America from East to West she has come across different cross-cultural situations, she has faced the cross-cultural encounters with her grit and determination. She becomes aware of the differences between the two cultural
sets-Indian and American. The cultural clash is faced by her and she has freed herself to opt for the Americans as partners in life. The sense of rootlessness was felt by her during the initial stages of her life in America but now she is ready to embrace life with open eyes.

In *Leave It To Me* the protagonist Debby considered herself a real American but then she comes across the cross-cultural encounters as she started searching for her roots. The clash between the culture of the Orient in India and the culture of the West in America is experienced by her on her Pilgrimage to find her origins. There were moments when the sense of rootlessness overpowered Debby. The cross-cultural encounters, the cultural class and the sense of rootlessness are the three features present in the novel.

*Desirable Daughters* have been the daughters from an Indian family. Their education abroad and their migration from India have made them experience different cross-cultural encounters. In their steady Americanization, Padma and Tara, due to the haunting from the past undergo the experience of cultural clash and feel the rootlessness of their existence, during the specific phase.

The three features of cross-cultural encounters facing the cultural clash and the sense of rootlessness are present in the five novels and that supports the verification and the validation of the second hypothesis: Bharati Mukherjee presents the cross-cultural relations to reflect the cultural clash and a sense of rootlessness experienced by Indian immigrants in her novels.

**III.** Bharati Mukherjee strongly desires to appreciate the maintaining of cross-cultural relations. This according to her will ensure social health in a positive outlook in these circumstances. The relations across cultural frontiers need to be maintained and need to be promoted, encouraged and strengthened. In a multi-cultural set-up in countries like India and America, this needs to be appreciated. The appreciation of cross-cultural relations, multi-cultural experiences and cultural encounter is necessary to maintain them. The appreciation of maintaining the cross-cultural relations leads to the healthy state of affairs in a multi-cultural society. In addition to the appreciation of this stand-point it is essential to use a
positive outlook in such matters. In a bowl of salad, each ingredient has a separate existence but brings out a distinctive taste and flavour. It is desirable that the same situation should exist in a multi-cultural set-up. The novelist has attained this in her novels and the same needs to be examined to validate the third hypothesis.

Tara David Cartwright makes a comparative analysis of her own situation in the cross-cultural encounters. She comes across in America and in India. Her attitude positively assesses the merits of the situations prevailing in India as well as in America.

She desires that the cross-cultural encounters should not lead to violence or corruption. She found the situation in India to be explosive. She has made up her mind to make her husband’s country her real home. This will lead to the restoration of social health in a country like America which has a multi-cultural set-up.

In *Wife*, Dimple Amit Basu gets adjusted to the situation around. She goes on well with others. She shares the kitchen with them; she can get on well with the American friends too. Her positive attitude to the situation makes her face the situation squarely. She has determined herself to make the country to which she is migrated as her own country. This social health will be maintained through such attitudes. In Dimple’s case however, the real and the imagined get mixed up, as the novelist has presented the situation to be get merged with TV world.

*Jasmine* has made her decision to get herself into the life in America-with Taylor; she has accepted the multi-cultural environment and has got duly adjusted to it. Her accommodation with the world around reflects the positive attitude that she has adopted towards shaping her own life. It is better to maintain a healthy relationship rather than to continue with “sick” mentality and negative approaches.

Debby belongs to America. The sudden exposure brings her to face the cross-cultural encounters. She positively and squarely faces the situation. She is determined to know what her roots are. She jumps into a different situation leaving behind the comforts of stability in her American family. She prefers to maintain ‘social health’ in a multi-cultural set-up.
Tara in *Desirable Daughter* is shaken up by the sudden intrusion in her ‘settled’ life. She faces the situation in a responsible manner and exposes the ‘terrorist’ face behind the exposure.

These facts show that the third hypothesis with the supportive evidence gets verified and validated. It is restated below: Bharati Mukherjee desires to adopt a positive outlook on appreciating and maintaining cross-cultural relations for ensuring social health in a multi-cultural set-up.

**IV.** The need to enhance cross-cultural relations is highlighted by Bharati Mukherjee in her novels. It is brought out that the need to enhance cross-cultural relations will be met through mutual understanding and reciprocal respect. This approach of understanding and respect has been advocated by Bharati Mukherjee.

In *The Tiger’s Daughter* Tara has realized the need to enhance, to broaden and to strengthen cross-cultural relations. She has understood her status as an individual and has found as wife what she is required to do. Tara understood that her husband David has displayed appropriate understanding and has shown reciprocal respect towards Tara as an individual and Tara as his wife. Proper understanding and due respect is shown to her with a sense of deep affection by her father the Bengal Tiger. In her view, such an understanding with due respect is needed to establish strong cross-cultural relationships among individuals and various groups in a multi-cultural set-up. She has found that her other relatives, her friends at the Hotel and the other acquaintances have not displayed the same understanding. Bharati Mukherjee has acted as an advocate of the values of understanding and respect towards individuals.

*Wife* shows how Dimple received appropriate understanding and deep respect from by her friend the American “friend” Milt. Amit Basu, her husband did not have that level of understanding. He did not think it necessary to pay due respect to her as an individual or as a partner in life. Without understanding and respect, relationships do not grow and become mature enough to be fruitful. This leads and to what happens in *Wife*. 
Jasmine has received proper understanding and due respect from Mother Ripplemeyer, Bud Ripplemeyer and Taylor. She got some of it from her husband Prakash too. She is understood as an individual by these persons who come in her life at different stages. She too has shown proper understanding and due respect to both Bud and Taylor. Her decision to join Taylor is the result of the maturity of her understanding. The enhancement of relationship is possible only through these personal traits and Jasmine receives them abundantly.

Debby, in *Leave It to Me* is in search of her parents. She finds them out. She does not find them responsive as both of them are out to settle their own petty scores. Their lack of understanding and respect makes them ineligible to care for their “only child”- Debby, she has made herself. She is determined to come out to meet life face to face. The novelist has acted as the enhancement of relationships among individuals and groups in a multi-cultural set-up.

In *Desirable Daughters*, Tara realizes the significance of understanding and respect through her growth in stature as an individual in establishing herself with her husband Bish and her son Rabi. It is rather late for her to realize the importance of these virtues but that is a comfort for her “care” family.

The fourth hypothesis is supported by the illustrative evidence from the facts stated and that is how the hypothesis gets verified and validated. It is re-stated below: Bharati Mukherjee advocated mutual understanding and reciprocal respect to enhance cross-cultural relations as noticed in her five selected novels.

V. In the present study, *The Tiger’s Daughter, Wife, Jasmine, Leave It To Me* and *Desirable Daughters* by Bharati Mukherjee are the five selected novels selected by the researcher to support the validity of the five hypotheses of the present study. The presentation of cultural diversity, the reflection of cultural clash and rootlessness outlook in the appreciation of maintaining cross-cultural relations for social health in a multi-cultural set-up and advocating mutual understanding and reciprocal respect for the enhancement of cross-cultural relations are the four hypothetical statements verified and validated on the basis of the supporting illustrative evidence gleaned from the five selected novels. The fifth hypothesis
states the necessity of adopting a positive global view in promoting cross-cultural relations. It is necessary to find out the validity of the statement in the novels selected for analysis.

Tara in *The Tiger’s Daughter* comes to understand that the narrow community-oriented views will not suffice to maintain broad cross-cultural relations. It is essential to adapt a broad-based viewpoint. It is necessary to move beyond the frontiers of race, religion, class and nationality to understand the significance of cross-cultural relationships. It is essential to adapt a view that will embrace global proportions. The promotion of the positive global view is necessary to promote cross-cultural relations. The “home-sickness” that Tara experienced is an illustration of how “home” is where the heart of the individual lies as is the case with Tara.

Dimple in *Wife* moves from her Kolkata vision to a broader global vision. Her inner circle goes on becoming broader and broader. She has embraced the larger groups of mixed nationalities. She has encompassed the entire globe in which the social, religions and national frontiers get extended. Dimple has made her view broad enough to wrap up the globe. Dimple’s broad view has a stronger rational base and that is how she has crossed the narrow confines and has adopted a broad global view.

Jasmine’s viewpoint has become so global that she cares for the Vietnamese boy and also for Taylor’s adopted daughter. She nurses Bud tenderly in such a manner that Bud is willing to give her the due position in his life. It is Jasmine who decides what is going to be her next step. Her decision illustrates how an Indian woman has adopted her views to global proportions.

Debby in *Leave It to Me* was adopted by the American parents. Her search for her bio-parents broadens her intellectual as well as emotional horizon. She has realized that her search for the “roots” will not bring any comfort to her and so she has decided to adopt a global viewpoint. Tara in Desirable Daughters was proud to be an American but now she has come down to India. She will visit her
ancestral village of the Tree Bride. Her journey has encompassed the entire globe and her vision has become global.

The fifth hypothesis with the illustrative material from the five novels has been verified and validated.

Bharati Mukherjee desires the positive global view to be adopted in promoting cross-cultural relations as illustrated in her five selected novels.

7.3 Implications of the Present Study

I. The present study has dealt with the cross-cultural relations in the contemporary times. The growth of diaspora and diasporic literature shows that substantial porulation has moved from one part of the globe to the other. The grounds for migration have been multiplied across decades. There has been the melting pot effect in the formation of the nation like United States of America. A country like India has a multi-cultural set-up as in a country like America. People belonging to different races, religions and different cultural groups have lived for centuries in a country like India. The country still has cultural affiliations that continue to bind the huge populations. The legends of Rama and Krishna, the stories of Ganesh and Hanuman and the wrath of Shiva and the miracles of Vishnu have nourished generations to give a cultural bonding. Rivers are worshipped, festivals are celebrated and customs are observed almost in a similar fashion with few local variations all over the country. Jeans and coke, burger and pop music, films and TV have combined the populations of the West. The impact of the West is noticed in the World bodies, the fields of science and technology, the means of transport and communication. The notion of the “round globe” is replaced by the “flat world”. The old dictum of “East is East and West is West” is forgotten. The bridging of East and West and also of South and North is being pursued. More and more interaction among groups of people with different cultural affiliations is taking place and will certainly continue to grow in the days to come.
This trend is growing and that brings in the vision of the global village. This situation has evaded the emergence of multi-culturalism. The demographic profiles of countries like America, United Kingdom, South Africa, India, West India and Malasia show how multi-cultural affiliations are present in the societies prevailing there. Greater tolerance is needed for the peaceful co-existence of the various cultural and ethnic groups. Bharati Mukherjee is alive to the emerging, situations. In her novels she has presented the multi-cultural set-up. She has presented situations in America and in India to present individual who have experienced cross-cultural encounters. The implication of her text is relevant to the contemporary and future times as her works provide a model lesson of how to accommodate in a multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-layered society. Tara’s realization of her role as an individual and a Wife, Dimple’s accommodating vision, Jasmine’s broad global view, Debby’s multi-cultural way of life and Tara’s expansive mind-set show how multi-culturalism and smarter in their shaping the environment. Multi-culturalism signifies the foremost implication of the present study.

**II.** The need for understanding is the need of the present hour and also the need of future. This is the second implication of the present study in its relevance to life. Tara in the *Tiger’s Daughter* improved her understanding, Dimple and Jasmine broadened their views, Debby and Tara have grown international from their initial Americanism to illustrate the significance of the need of understanding self and others with due insight. “Know, Thyself” is the watchword of the present times. “Knowledge of others” without understanding of the persons cannot come together and without coming together, no bonding is possible. Without understanding persons cannot come together and without coming together, no bonding is possible. What is needed today is bonding with everybody. The days of isolated islands have gone. Extending to global properties is necessary and for that understand yourself, so that understanding will take you to reach others.

**III.** The third implication of the present study is that in modern times, the need of reciprocal respect has become the uppermost. Each individual should be duly
recognized. Each individual needs to be considered a free person. The implication of liberty, equality and humanity are the same for each individual in the contemporary age. Bharati Mukherjee through her novels has emphasized the need of reciprocal respect that David-Tara, Dimple-Milt, Jasmine-Taylor, Debby and Tara-Bish-Rabi have shown in the five selected novels for illustrative analysis in the present study.

**IV.** The fourth implication of the present study of Bharati Mukherjee’s novels is that social health is significant as corruption has become rampant. Understanding and respect are essential for social health. The five novels by Bharati Mukherjee show that the best course is to prevent narrow-mindedness, self-centeredness, inhuman separation, sickness of mind and pervert mentality. The prevention of these symptoms of ill-health will usher in social health.

7. 4 Areas of Further Research

The present study has shown the possibilities of further research on the lines of the similar areas. The field of cultural studies has a vast potential. The cross-cultural studies can be pursued to bring out the immense possibilities of this research area. The application of the theories related to cultural studies can be made. Cross-cultural relations, cultural encounters and multi-culturalism can indicate multiple dimensions of research works in these areas, literary phenomenon that can yield many opportunities of carrying out various research studies. The analysis of cross-cultural elements in the writings of the diasporic writers can be made. The views on cultural relations expressed in the works of Raymond Williams and Edward Said can be used as the base for the analytical studies of the diasporic writing.