PREFACE

Diaspora is relatively a new term used in the 21st century in connection with the study of those writers who went abroad either forcibly or willingly and produced a great deal of literature having specific sensibilities like nostalgia, alienation, troubles and travails, rootlessness, abolition of imperialism, concept of nation state, multiculturalism, reappraisal of the British Literature in new perspective, new global village etc. It is a multi-disciplinary area which covers literature, sociology, history, geography, culture and so on. ‘Diaspora’ is gaining popularity at present which is the movement of people from any nation or a group of people away from their own country. They migrate from their own country for seeking opportunities “for work, research and freedom” from a colonial state to a free country which necessarily make them “an ambassador and a refugee” in the alien land. It creates a way of thinking about ‘cultural identity’ which means as “one shared culture, a sort of collective ‘one true self’, hiding inside the many other more superficial or artificially imposed ‘selves’ which people with a shared history and ancestry hold in common.” Their cultural identities reflect “the common historical experiences and shared cultural codes which provide us as “one people” or the sense of “oneness”, as observed by Stuart Hall in his ‘Cultural Identity and Diaspora’. These migrants project a world of geographical and cultural dislocation and creates the poetics of
exile, displacement, rootlessness, homelessness, nostalgia, past and memory which cultivates a conflict of culture – biculturalism and multiculturalism. They become as ‘the marginalized people’ in the alien land and build the Third World or ‘the otherness’ which is a result of diasporic consciousness.

The short story has come to be the most favourite literary form in the modern age. In the last few decades the short story has moved from the individual to the social, from relatively simple narrative point of view to a more complex and more significantly from the obvious to the subtle. The novel and the short story share most of the same elements and techniques of fiction, but the short story reveals character, usually by means of a single central and representative incident, whereas the novel traces the span of time. The short story deals with a fragment of life. Unlike the novel it does not attempt to exhibit life in all its variety and complexity. Thus the short story is not the novel on a reduced scale. The thesis intends to analyse the diasporic sensibility in the works of some contemporary short story writers in Indian writing in English. The thesis will concern with some women writers of India who have settled abroad and are doing well in the field of short story writing.

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