Preface

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul is one of the acclaimed literary figures of the modern times. His popularity reached its zenith when he received the Nobel Prize for literature. His contribution to the genre of travel writings has a significant place in literature.

V.S. Naipaul is the lone Indian writer who explored the field of travel writings successfully. His travelogues, explore the different culture of lands visited by him. He was born in Trinidad; lived the life of a displaced community; faced the uncertainties of life in London. His homesickness displaced colonial status, as outsider at times, finds expression in his works. This multicultural background echoes throughout his travel works. The multiculturalism effect on his life not only came from his birth, parentage or background, but also from his travels. He travelled not only for self understanding or to achieve knowledge, but it made unsuspected demands on him as a man and a writer. His writing is a process of identity recovery going through a series of transformation. He denies his Caribbean homeland, adopts a stage of mimicry in England, searches for his cultural roots in India, and finally reconstructs his identity, though possessing a multicultural background. This is his uniqueness.

The travelogues of Naipaul that have been analyzed in detail for research are The Middle Passage, An Area of Darkness, India: A Wounded Civilization, Among the Believers, A Turn in the South, Finding the Centre, India : A Million Mutinies Now and Beyond Belief. The MLA Handbook for writers of Research Paper (Seventh edition) has been referred for documentation, format and reference.
This thesis, Multiculturalism in the Travelogues of V.S. Naipaul has the following chapterisation:

Chapter – I. Introduction

This chapter presents the introduction to Travel Literature. It also includes origin, development and history of Travel Literature. It also deals with the Travel writers on India and the Third World nations including the travel writings of V.S. Naipaul. It also includes the biographical sketch of the author and a brief survey of his works.

Chapter – II. Diasporic and Expatriate Sensibility

This chapter explores the Diasporic and Expatriate sensibility in general and the relevance of these terms in the Travelogues of V.S. Naipaul.

Chapter – III. Multiculturalism and Naipaul’s Attitudinal Revelations

This chapter deals with ‘Multiculturalism’ in general and its reflections in V.S. Naipaul’s travelogues. It illustrates Naipaul’s impressions of colonial society in the West Indies and South America through The Middle Passage and his observations of Indian society and culture in a changing perspective through his Indian Trilogy: An Area of Darkness, India: A Wounded Civilization and India: A Million Mutinies Now. The chapter critically evaluates Naipaul’s travelogues The Return of Eva Peron, A Turn in the South based on his journey through Argentina, Trinidad, Congo and Deep South of America. The chapter also explores author’s visions through his latest travelogues Among the Believers: An Islamic Journey and its sequel Beyond Belief on the theme of Islamic conversion in Iran, Pakistan, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Chapter IV: Style and Narrative Technique

This chapter deals with the style and narrative technique of V.S. Naipaul. An attempt is made to throw light on his anecdotal, descriptive, logical and conversational style through his travelogues.
Chapter V. Conclusion

In this concluding chapter, elaborating the results of the findings a summarization of all the previous chapters has been done.