Chapter 4

QUEST FOR IDENTITY AND CROSS CULTURAL GENETICS: A STUDY OF BHARATI MUKHERJEE’S JASMINE
The study of Bharati Mukherjee’s novels in the context of cross-cultural relations is a most challenging task. In the post-Independence period, the Commonwealth literature in India has been developed in various perspectives. The contribution of women writers is also an important phenomenon in this regard. The world of women writing has experienced the new waves of thinking and innovative morphology of the women writing. As Beena Agarwal admits, “Cumulative efforts of the women world writers prepared a new idiom of exile and empathy and expanded the horizons both of the feminist fiction and the Immigrant narrative” (4). The Indian women writers in English have contributed a great deal in reflecting cross-cultural relation. They have depicted cross-cultural relations on the background of dynamic society of multicultural American society. Mukhejee has presented the world of Indian women immigrants with their plights and dilemmas in the alien land. “Racial inferiority and the anguish of gender discrimination prepare the fabric of discrimination” (Agarwal4).

Mukherjee has written the women centric novel of diasporic consciousness. The women characters are caught in the dilemma of the Eastern and the Western ethics. The novel is an “artful and arresting breath taking makes with inspiring brilliance the symptoms of a new Third Word” (Angeles 241). The process of acculturation is rigid against the backdrop of forces of patriarchy and racial prejudices of western world. The world of woman is contrast to male, feminine sensibility is
related with various issues of women. “The entire canvass of feminine experiences including the issues of motherhood, female sexuality, dynamics of marital harmony get coupled with the poetics of exile and aloofness” (Agarwal4).


Indian woman is more conscious about the moral values and ethics of human life as Indian culture is the most orthodox on the ground of morality and feminine world. Indian woman immigrant is different than other racial woman. Foremost woman is mild and delicate when she struggles with such diplomatic and delicate issues that time she has to face many problems.

The novelistackled from various viewpoints in the process of Americanization. When Indian came in contact with the Western culture, they have not only studied but enriched western cultures. The study of important novels written by the women writers aptly testifies the cross cultural relations. When Jasmine is suddenly widowed at seventeen, she seems faced to a life of quiet isolation in the small Indian village where she was born. But the force of Jasmine’s desires propels her explosively into a larger, more dangerous and ultimately more life giving world. In just a few years, Jasmine becomes Jane Ripplemeyer, happily pregnant by a middle aged Iowa banker and the adoptive mother of Vietnamese refugee. The attraction towards Indian culture is an important phenomenon. However, they feel completely uprooted in the foreign land. The social and cultural alienation has been made an important three way contribution. Mukherjee’s novels have depicted the feelings of immigrants’ effectively. They have also developed the cross-cultural relations on the spectrum of family, social and cultural life also.

On one side, the immigrants feel isolated in the foreign land. However, they get adjusted with the system but many a times they are insulted and feeling of malice and hatred also can be witnessed in their body language as well as soft skills. A very close, effective and brilliant expression has been made by the author. A very careful and critical study of all these aspects has been covered in this chapter. It is true that “Mukherjee’s moral and metaphysical commitments, it is all the more remarkable that
she should come to see herself as an immigrant American rather than an expatriated Indian” (Sharma 18). Her characters, themes as well as dialogues also reveal these aspects.

The novel is a unique contribution made by her in this regard. Every literary work is a product of the time and circumstances prevailing around the author. Her rich social and cultural experiences have been neatly and efficiently explained in the novel. It has been pointed the author that “Language gives me my identity; I am the writer I am because I write in North American English about immigrants in the new world” (Sharma 18). The study of her novel has been conducted in this work in the field of cross-cultural relations.

The immigrants have absorbed the social milieu and cultural ethos of the period and they have tried to reveal the way of dynamic sufferings. To study Mukherjee’s novel in these frame works is an exigent chore which has been discussed in this chapter. The purpose of eclectic phenomenon is to understand the contribution of her to the English literature. The present novel is a good example of this process.

Mukherjee has tried to depict immigrants’ life in a sensible way. Jasmine’s cumulative moral consciousness of self-identity has given strength to tackle with intricacy of cultural plurality. She speculates through the series of adventures from a state of Punjab to California via Florida, New York and Iowa. She finds herself in the changing scenario of different cultural surroundings preserves her identity as Indian woman who confiscates the strength of will for the reaffirmation of her life circumstances. Her life revolves around the self will to live life amid the luxurious of American culture. She forms her way through the thorny and difficulty path of heterogenous life conditions as BeenaAgarwal puts:

To assert her identity and voice, instead of turning back, she develops the poetics of assimilation. Amid the obscurities of American society, she makes spaces with her firm faith in Indian religious values. The odyssey of the life of Jasmine seems to be a process of the synthesis of progressive ideals of west and the native values governing the life of Indian immigrants (6).

Jasmine has faced plight in life as:
Life times experience are crammed into a few years in the life of its young female protagonist as jasmine is put through the most grueling confrontations with death (of her husband Prakash), murder (of Half Face), assault and crippling (Bud) and suicide (of her neighbor Darrel). She is for a while the mother of a seventeen-year-old Du (an immigrant like herself); she is expecting the child of a crippled man whom she leaves for the man she thinks she actually loves (Taylor). The picaresque, surrealistic, no-holds-barred ethos obviously has a message beneath the action: that change and adaptability are the key to survival, and that the successful immigrant has the instinct...(58).

Thus, cross-cultural relationship is an epic-center of this study which has been unfolded in this chapter.

Mukherjee was born in an upper-middle class Hindu Brahmin family in Calcutta, India. The second of three daughters of Sudhir Lal, a chemist, and Bina (Banerjee) Mukherjee, she lived with forty or fifty relatives until the age of eight. Born into an extraordinarily close-knit and intelligent family, Mukherjee and her sisters were always given ample academic opportunities, and thus have all pursued academic endeavors in their careers and have had the opportunity to receive excellent schooling. In 1947, her father was given a job in England and he brought his family to live there until 1951, which gave her an opportunity to develop and perfect her English language skills.

Even the plot follows the titular character in the process of becoming an empowered individual more than that of becoming an American. The state of exile, a sense of loss, the pain of separation and disorientation makes “Jasmine” a quest for identity in an alien land. Jasmine, the protagonist of the novel, undergoes several transformations during her journey of life in America, from Jyoti to Jasmine to Jane, and often experiences a deep sense of estrangement resulting in a fluid state of identity. This journey becomes a tale of moral courage, a search for self-awareness and self-assertion. (Arasi68).
Mukherjee obtained BA with honors from the University of Calcutta in 1959. She and her family then moved to Baroda, India, where she studied for her Master's Degree in English and Ancient Indian Culture, which she acquired in 1961. Having planned to be a writer since childhood, she went to the University of Iowa in 1961 to attend the prestigious Writer's Workshop. She planned to study there to earn her Masters of Fine Arts, then return to India to marry a bridegroom of her father's choosing in her class and caste.

It is rightly pointed out by Shakuntala Bharvani: “In spite of every new guise, all that changes of Jasmine is merely exterior, there is no corresponding growth in depth and maturity” (200).

However, a lunch break on September 19, 1963, changed that plan, transferring Mukherjee into a split world, a transient with loyalties to two cultures. She impulsively married Clark Blaise, a Canadian writer, in a lawyer's office above a coffee shop after only two weeks of courtship. She received her M.F.A. that same year, then went on to earn her PhD in English and comparative literature from the University of Iowa in 1969.

In 1968, Mukherjee immigrated to Canada with her husband and became a naturalized citizen in 1972. Her fourteen years in Canada were some of the hardest of her life, as she found herself discriminated against and treated, as she says, as a member of the ‘visible minority.’ She has spoken in many interviews of her difficult life in Canada, a country that she sees as hostile to its immigrants and one that opposes the concept of cultural assimilation. Although those years were challenging, Mukherjee was able to write her first two novels, *The Tiger’s Daughter* (1971) and *Wife* (1975), while working up to professorial status at McGill University in Montreal. During those years, she has also collected many of the sentiments found in her first collection of short stories, *Darkness* (1985), a collection that in many sections reflects her mood of cultural separation while living in Canada.

Finally fed up with Canada, Mukherjee and her family moved to the United States in 1980, where she was sworn in as a permanent US resident. Continuing to write, in 1986 she was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant. After holding several posts at various colleges and universities, she ultimately settled in
1989 at the University of California-Berkeley. Because of the distinctly different experiences she has had throughout life, she has been described as a writer who has lived through several phases of life, first as a colonial, then National subject in India. She then led a life of exile as a post-colonial Indian in Canada. Finally, she shifted into a celebratory mode as an immigrant, then citizen, in the United States. She now fuses her several lives and backgrounds together with the intention of creating a ‘new immigrant’ literature.

Known for her playful and developed language, Mukherjee rejects the concept of minimalism. Rather, she considers her work a celebration of her emotions, and herself a writer of the Indian Diaspora who cherishes the ‘melting pot’ of America. Her main theme throughout her writing discusses the condition of Asian immigrants in North America, with particular attention to the changes taking place in South Asian women in a new world. While the characters in all her works are aware of the brutalities and violence that surround them and are often victimised by various forms of social oppression, she generally draws them as survivors. Mukherjee has oft been praised for her understated prose style and her ironic plot developments and witty observations. As a writer, she has an eye with which to view the world, and her characters share that quality. Although, she is often racially categorised by her thematic focus and cultural origin, she has often said that she strongly opposes the use of hyphenation when discussing her origin, in order to ‘avoid otherization.’ Rather, she prefers to refer to herself as an American of Bengali-Indian origin.

The novel is generally received enthusiastically, but there is some criticism that it was too short and its plot too contrived to be a really successful work of fiction. It is a novel that stems from an earlier short story from *The Middleman and Other Stories* and was expanded to a story of a young widow who uproots herself from her life in India and re-roots herself in search of a new life and the image of America. It is a story of dislocation and relocation as the title character continually sheds lives to move into other roles, moving further westward while constantly fleeing pieces of her past. In it, Mukherjee rejoices in the idea of assimilation and makes it clear that Jasmine needs to travel to America to make something significant of her life, because in the third world she faced only despair and loss. The author has hoped that people
would read in the story is not only Jasmine's story and change, but also the story of a changing America.

Bharati Mukherji’s novel *Jasmine* deals with intense gender portrayal in diasporic situation. Jasmine is a story of a naïve young Punjabi girl who could have lived like many Punjabi women “content” and “happy” with common lifestyle, she could have also lived a subdued life of suffering and widowhood after her husband’s death, on the contrary Jasmine always desired for challenges she had dreams to emigrate to America the dreams which were instilled by her husband Prakash. After Prakash’s death Jasmine migrates illegally to America in order to fulfill her deceased husband’s dreams. In America, first she becomes victim of rape but she gets even by killing him as goddess ‘kali’. The trauma of violence and displacement transforms her totally and changes her identity from a docile Indian girl Jasmine into Jane Ripple Mayer, a paradoxical identity in the American world. Her portrayal is one of self-assertion and transformation in a complex alien world from Jasmine to Jase. Bharati Mukherje’s other writings, *Wife*. Dimple, the protagonist of the *Wife*, on the other hand, is another transformed woman who changes her identity from the dutiful Indian housewife to a killer of her husband - a negative transformation. Migration casts a cruel shadow upon her character and finally her expectations fall short. The racist views towards the third world aggravates her situation when she tries to imitate the western culture and she fails in her attempts and ultimately ends up being a ‘nowhere woman.’ Bharati Mukherjee’s ‘Darkness’ portrays pragmatic problems of racial discrimination, homeless, loss of identity, cultural differences, including language issues of Indian immigrant life. The collection of twelve short stories exhibit a clear picture concerning the Indian immigrantshave in all shades of struggling to adjusting to life in Canada and the United States (Swamy 212).
While Mukherjee has been received favorably by many critics and academics, she has also faced a good deal of criticism, particularly from East Indian scholars and critics. It has been said that she often represents India in her fiction as a land without hope or a future. She has also been criticized for a tendency to overlook unavoidable barriers of caste, education, gender, race and history in her tales of survivors, giving her characters more opportunities than their social circumstances would realistically allow.

Mukherjee is currently a distinguished Professor of English at the University of California-Berkeley. Her husband, with whom she shares a ‘literary marriage,’ teaches at the University of Iowa and they have two sons together, Bart Anand and Bernard Sudhir. She has established herself as a powerful member of the American literary scene, one whose most memorable works reflect her pride in her Indian heritage, but also her celebration of embracing America. And so we are given a writer whose voice tells the tales of her own experiences to demonstrate the changing shape of American society.

As an expatriate writer her protagonist in the novel, Jasmine is an Indian immigrant. Jasmine’s character is the incarnation of the writer’s Americanness. The protagonist Jasmine faces morbid situation in an alien land and undergoes the experiences of expatriates in an alien land of new culture and ethics.

The novel tells the story of Jasmine who migrates from India to the U.S. to escape the oppression of tradition. Born into a traditional Hindu family that survives Partition violence and flees Pakistan into India, Jasmine has to fight for her early education since her family (with the exception of her mother) argues against it as she is a girl. She marries a “modern” man, Prakash, who, however, does not tolerate her plan to earn some extra money by selling goods from door to door. Prakash’s dream is to come to Tampa, Florida to gain an education but he is killed by a Sikh fundamentalist named Sukhwinder one day before his departure. Playing the role of a dutiful wife, Jasmine decides to complete Prakash’s journey by coming to the U.S. and by cremating herself on the pyre of his suit, but when she finally reaches the shore of Florida with forged travel documents, she is violated by her smuggler,
Half-Face; this changes her forever. She kills her violator then and there, but instead of cremating herself afterwards, she decides to move on and arrives at the house of Ms. Lillian Gordon, a lady who helps and shelters illegal immigrants. Having spent a few days with her while her tongue heals (she had cut it when performing Kali, the goddess of death, on Half-Face), she comes to Flushing, New York, where she first works as a domestic helper to the Vadheras and then as a day-care provider to Taylor and Wylie’s adopted daughter, Duff. After the encounter with Sukhwinder, her husband’s murderer, in New York, she decides to move to Iowa where she meets Bud Ripplemeyer, a banker and stays with him for many years before heading out once again to California with Duff and Taylor, who is recently divorced (Katawal 3-4).

It depicts self-exile through the narrative consciousness of Jane who is in living relationship with Bud Ripplemare in Iowa. The first metamorphosis of her character from Jyoti to Jasmine is due to her husband Prakash, a modern man. Prakash has given her new identity from Jyoti a rustic village girl to Jasmine and fills a self-confidence, self-assertion and self-reliance in her personality.

An astrologer has declared her widowhood and exile at very early in her life but Jasmine is born rebellion, has denied forecast. Her battle was with her fate. The astrologer has predicted her fate and nobody could save her from such forecasting of widowhood and exile. Although she has dared to marry Prakash in registry office marriage certificate does not get respective acceptance in Indian culture. Marriage with traditions and rituals has its purity in the eyes of Indian society, social norms and culture has its own importance. Her marriage with Prakash was not accepted by her father and mother.

As Shobha Shinde observes:

Her journey through life led Jasmine through many transformations Jyoti, Jane. Through large geographical locals like Punjab, Florida, New York, Iowa and Finally towards California. At every stage of life Jasmine revolted against her fate and the path drawn for her (47).
Jasmine is from rural background but her fate takes her to the Western world where she struggles with her fate. She is from Third World immigrants. She migrates to America to complete her assignments of life. But her journey was not simple and smooth; it is full of obstacles and barriers. She has global and cosmic vision for living life in America. The author depicts the process of Americanization of woman by her own experience with trauma and triumph in her effort to get her new identity in host land.

In other words, she is an accurate feminist-Modern Woman who struggle every confront in life to ascertain herself in the civilization. Jasmine comprehends that the true individuality of a person does not lie in being an Indian or an American but it lies in the inner strength of the person to be at concord with her. Jasmine, commencement from her birth till the evacuation to the USA passes numerous circumstances and crosses from one country to another which exposes that her inner self is reborn numerous times till she attains a higher level (Hooda 446).

Her personality is cosmopolitan. Her global power of mentality ad optimistic assimilation leads to different type of nostalgia on her part. Although at some weak moment she becomes sentimental for homeland but again she makes herself consolidate with the desire and dream of new life and identity.

She transforms herself, and decides to never mourn over her birthplace, homeland. That is delineated by the novelist in novel:

I remembered Kate’s book of photographs of migrant workers the Lillian the proud mother had shown off to me back in Fowlerskey that book had brought back such sharp memories of Hasnapur that I’d cried. It was how only a few months later but I didn’t think I could cry over Hasnapur, ever again (160).

Identity quest is the crucial theme of this novel. That incarnation is well depicted by the author. The desire to acquire new personality is inculcated and manipulated in her life that helps her to acquire new personality therefore she could controlled her emotions and longingness for her homeland “I rip myself free of the past”(208). Her
transformation is under her control. She has managed the intensity of her emotions for homeland and soil.

I changed because I wanted to bunker oneself inside nostalgia to sheathe the heart in a bullet Pro. Vest was to be a coward on Claremont Avenue in the Haysees big clean, brightly lit apartment. I bloomed from a different alien with forged documents into adventurous Jase (186).

Jasmine wept when she has seen the photograph of immigrants. That weeping is the loss of homeland and identity, though she has controlled but inwardly she has become weak and emotional to feel alien and away from home soil. That is delineated by the author, “Memory usually forces a person to cry over the loss of the object of desire such as familial bonds, friends and homeland” (228).

Jasmine is the brave woman character as she knew her fate, she has defended it with courage, as she was true worrier. It is the human nature to longs for home even birds and animals in the evening return to their homes with longingness. So she becomes emotional for India. Sumita Roy’s assessment seems more to the point as: “her (Jasmine’s) search for self-recognition takes her in social and spiritual directions... till she arrives at a time when she can view the future ‘greedy with wants and reckless from hope’ (203). Life of Jasmine in Hasnapur was traditional with rural orthodox social Indian ethos. Village girls are innocent and devoted towards husband and family. They are domestic and caring nature. That is depicted by the author in the novel: “Big city men prefer us village girls because we are brought up to be caring and have no minds of our own. Village girls are like cattle whichever way you lead them that is the way they will go” (46).

Though living in village Jyoti is cultural and ambitious girl. Jyoti has been changed by her husband. He has changed her attitude, mind, ideology, principles, looks towards life etc. and has created positive healthy approach to become new city woman. Her marriage with Prakash is a renaissance in her life. Prakash is modern and against orthodox Indian traditions. Their marriage with Jyoti a kind of revolution. This marriage was without dowry and registered marriage. Prakash has illuminated her life.

But the fate was against the golden morning of her life, as on the eve of their departure to America, Prakash was killed by terrorist. Instead of shedding tears and
leads life as widow, she decides to go to the campus of University in America where Prakash wants to pursue his further studies. She has reached America on forged documents and passport. Since her birth Jasmine was modern and rebellious, strong. She could face the odd life situations i.e. diaspora. All the incident and incarnation of her character is the changed form of her personality. The central theme of the novel is cosmopolitanism. The author has subsumed the global life and new way of adaptation in her creative writings.

Jasmine determines to go to America and commits sati in the campus of her husband’s would be university. She intends to burn herself with her husband’s brand new suit and with sari of traditional widow in India.

The protagonist Jasmine repositions her stars in the adopted country by deciding to remain as a care-giver to Duff in which she gets her peace of mind. At every step of her life, Jasmine is a winner, she does not allow her troubles and struggles to obstruct her progress in life and she is also finding a place for herself in the society. In other words, though she appears to be abnormal in her behaviour, it is the only way she finds in which survival can be achieved. Throughout the novel, Jasmine experiences enormous situations which bring out the violence and mental trauma in her. She not only faces physical violence, but also faces mental violence that forces her to be born as a different person in various phases of her life. The progression of Jasmine from one stage of evolution to the other stage of life is portrayed as a courageous character. Women’s life and the choices they make are ultimately shaped by their changing circumstances. Jasmine experiences a variety of journey from the world of Rural Indian Punjabi woman to that of America’s Mid-West. In other words, she is a true feminist-Modern Woman who fights every challenge in life to establish herself in the society. Jasmine realizes that the true identity of a person does not lie in being an Indian or an American but it lies in the inner spirit of the person to be at peace with herself. Jasmine, beginning from her birth till the emigration to the USA passes several situations and crosses from one country to another which reveals that
her inner self is reborn several times till she achieves a higher level  
(Rajeswari and Rajarajan 130).

But after the horrible nerve shocking incident in her life in the very first eve in the USA. She shattered and again recollected. She captured by a white lusty greedy sea captain who demands to pay for her illegal voyage on forge documents to the alien land. His demand was horrible. He brutally raped her in a motel in Florida.

As tarnished, she decides to burn, finish her, thinks about suicide. After tolerating that hideous crime of half face she determined to finish her life but she thought if she died now she has not get punishment. She decides to give pain and trouble to herself by living life. Kills daily herself, she has collected herself with all potentials within her. Half face sullies her purity, she takes attributes of kali ‘death incarnate as slicing her tongue and has murdered lusty animal’ She incarnate herself Durga and Kali, has killed half face. Lilian Gordon gives her shelter and new name Jazzy. Lilian Gordon’s sympathetic daughter guides her to the home in Mahattan with a couple Taylor and Wyli.

As the process of Americanization became speedy as within two years her personality has been completely changed. As Indians are more adoptive than any other immigrants. Life of Jasmine in America is the efforts to cope with American life style and culture. This process of adaptation needs the sacrifices of many things.

On this basis, it can be argued that Mukherjee has ably tried to reveal the emotions of immigrants through her novel. She presents her characters and theme in the background of post-colonial period. She is a mostly successful in describing the problems of immigrants on the backdrop of the Western cultural environment. The narration flow is well maintained and the language is very much touching. The author has reflected all these experiences in the fiction Jasmine. She has rightly pointed the immigrants psyche effectively. She has reflected her vision, immigrants’ issues through her story.

The immigrants when they stay in outside world, they feel much about their loneliness and isolation. The cultural environment is different and they feel more attracted towards their own values and ideals. The character of Jasmine amply testifies the same.
Mukherjee has tried to reveal the complex feelings of immigrants through her novel like Jasmine. The search of new world is quest of her character. The work has several dimensions social, cultural and psychological. The writer has reflected all her experiences through her characters. The able treatment given by the author in Jasmine truly reflects her sincerity and objectivity as well as nostalgia towards home land seems an important feature of the novels. This is a true manifestation of the novelist’s efforts in reflecting feelings of immigrants on right lines. All these feelings can be very well observed in her brilliant fiction Jasmine.

Immigrants become homesick for homeland. Living on alien land is the legend of broken identities, discarded life through of thorny path. It has not significant destination so this journey is sustaining in immigrant’s life. Character of Jasmine is with universal thinking and global vision that is the important quality of immigrant citizen as. Her attitude is cosmic and global. She is modern by birth and revolutionary mentality. So naturally her longing for western culture and life is positive.

The psychological problems of Jasmine are related with identity crisis and metamorphosis of personality. As the author herself is the immigrant so she is conscious about facts. Jasmine has defeated her problems and overcome grief of loss of culture with positive approach. As she has accepted new culture in USA with the bitter memories and trauma of exile. Life of Jasmine is full of obstacle and problems that she has faced alone on the alien land to get concrete identity in America. As she was living life under the dark shadow of her forecast widowhood and exile, she wants to save herself from the ill fate, it was a violence in her mind and heart. Her life in America was a kind of war with fate.

Psycologically, Jasmine is a strong but that she has faced is very horrible psychological stress. Therefore, she has become suffocated herself under burden. It leads to psychological pressure and pain. Jasmine faces many troubles with adventure on unknown land. Her life becomes more complex and problematic since her birth as forecasting, exile, registered marriage with Prakash and arrival in America. The author has reflected all these nerve shattering issues through her literary mind.

Jasmine lives her life with haunting childhood memories and dark shadow of forecast. She resists orthodox Indian social system with rebellious adventure but
inwardly she fears the forecast of exile and widowhood and tries to adopt new culture. “Foretold my widowhood and exile” (3). She had tackled the utter gloomy situation during her exile in America. The series of incidents break her inner strength, living relationship with Bud an old banker, she became pregnant without marriage. Raped by Half Face on the first eve in America, relationship with Tyalor, all these things she considers as stench in her life it means inwardly she is true Indian that is depicted with metaphorically:

Suddenly my fingers scraped the soft waterlogged carcass of a small dog. The body was rotten, the eyes had been eaten. The moment I touched it the body broke in two, as thought it, the water had been its glue. A stench leaked out of the broken body and then both pieces quickly sank that stench stays with me (5).

This unravels the mental and psychological trauma of protagonist. Human emotions are always appended with psychology, she feels that stench in her life, it always within her mind and heart. “Every time I lift a glass of water to my lips, fleetingly. I smell it. I know what I don’t want to become (5).

Migration and pain is correlated and inseparable facts. It is the process of assimilation on the part of immigrants. Problems of migration rooted in the human psychology. Immigrants’ problems are related with psychological displacement with spiritual agony as one has to give the sacrifices of culture, rituals, traditions and even religion also. But Jasmine has positive look towards adopted culture and self-realization.

Jasmine’s self-invention has positive and optimistic view to change fate. Her assimilation is with self-will and self-aspiration for creating new adoptive personality. As T. Padma comments, “Jasmine has early acquaintance with the heart-wrenching agony of people uprooted from their homesteads” (163). Her life is the quest of identity due to dislocation for her personal aspirations. Her life in alien land begins with hideous crime of half face. She has tackled these psychological conditions with innerpotential, global ideology of Jasmine. It is like those people who migrates from homeland to other part of globe and dissolve their indigenous self-regional, cultural
identity and national boundaries. Female is more emotional as compared to male so psychological situation of woman is quiet indigenous.

Incarnation of Jasmine as Jane and Jase or Jazzy is the changing phases of psychology of the woman immigrant. Jase become more complicated and undergoes the state of Americanness as she expresses her views at the last concluding part of novel. “I am caught between the promise of America and old world dutifulness” (240). Metamorphosis of any character is painful and exotic process with psychological trauma. This novel depicts Jasmine’s tale of survival. It seems that for adaptation she sacrificed her values and principles of ethnicity. “There are no harmless, compassionate ways to remark oneself” (29). It seems that there is no harmless way to remake or gain identity on the alien land. Transformation is the process it needs pain of loss of inheritance and our genetic identity i.e. ethnicity

Jasmine as the immigrant has a vision of certain principles of life. She has adopted American culture and life. Her migration to America is a kind of tribute to her late husband Prakash to fulfill his dreams. She used to live rustic village life. Through the narration it is cleared that condition of women in India is critical and transnational. Foreign women are different and more liberal that Indian women. “She is seventy six and sprightly in a younkers pantsuit, white hair squeezed into curls by Madame Cheo who trained in Ottumwa” (15).

Indian woman lives life with orthodox cultural impact and rituals. Patriarchal social system has influenced the life of woman from birth to death as childhood lives under the shadow of father, young phase of life under the protection of husband and old age lives under the supervision of son. When Jasmine came to America, she has observed American woman. She realizes paradoxical situation between the lives of Indian and American woman.

In Hasnapur a woman may old at twenty two” (15). Jasmine lives with Bud in Baden. He was indifferent to Asia and India. He didn’t know about Asia. It is show by the author. “Asia he’d through of only a soya-bean market” (14). But Jasmine has changed him in an emotional human being. She has changed her personality of Bud “As a transformed him made him reckless and emotional (14).
According to the analysis of human psychology, European people are optimistic and commercial. Eastern people are emotional. It reveals the East-West conflict and genetic emotional difference about human values and principles.

It is quiet new for Asian people the concept of Day Mummy. As European mothers go for teaching, working or any other responsibility that time their children are raised with care and affections by such day mummies. These concepts are depicted in this novel to show the American culture. It seems two clashes of culture, principles, ideologies and life. Indian cultural scenario is different from American way of life. As Jasmine has been living in Iowa with Bud, foreigner but her cooking is with Indian food items.

When Jasmine was in Iowa, she used to cook Indian herbs and vegetables. As, she insists to plant these vegetables. Culture and language is indigenous identity of human being. Therefore, loss of culture is equal to the loss of identity and self-respect. In India, relations has also its unique colour as mothers-in-law are selfish and tyrant but American mothers-in-law are different so it seems that this is a genetic difference between India and America.

American life and Indian life analysis is the study of two contrast life mode. “There are no grandchildren…” (147). Materialistic impact of America on the senior citizens who went to America with their children has been depicted.

Mukherjee has tried to reveal the complex psychological problems of the immigrants. She has treated the theme and characters on its root grass level. The immigrants psyche has been properly tackled by her. She has tried to resolve these problems effectively through her narrations. The immigrants, when they are thousands of miles away from their homeland they feel isolated and alienated. The novel is a fact based on experiences of leaving in American way of life. The different dimensions of adjustments have been explained by the writer. She has tried to reveal all these aspects in her novel. The interplay of their tensions and internal struggle that occurs in their minds has been rightly reflected by the writer. She has been successful in depicting the various complex psychological issues and feelings on the canvass of the study. All these aspects can be very well studied in this novel. There are many instances which reveal the psyche of immigrants in an effective manner. Her shaken
state of mind has been well illustrated in this novel. The careful and critical review of all these aspects can be very well explained in this work. The discourse analysis is made in this respect can be very right on various issues of immigrants’ life in a systematic manner. Thus this novel is a unique reflection of the author’s psychological treatment of the various problems tackled by the writer in the form of Jasmine character.

Mukherjee has explained characters of diasporic psyche. It has been pointed that “The Indians have managed to develop distinct identities, ways of life and thought wherever they have settled” (Shailaja 11). In her novels, having migrated to North America after having been born and educated in Calcutta herself, her special interest in the fractured lives of exiles and immigrants caught up in the painful and yet exhilarating experience of cross cultural metamorphosis appears clearly in her early novels and Jasmine also.

There is a need to study human relationship reflected by Mukherjee in her novel which has ably tackled emotions of immigrants. She has rightly tackled the human relations among the various characters.

Jasmine’s love with Taylor is reflected effectively by Mukherjee. In the novel the following passage is very significant which illustrates this human feeling:

What crazy connections (Du) makes-Taylor and Mr. T. I want to tell him something he may never have learned. Don’t get too close to Mr. T. Mr. T is the enemy. The whole A-team, they are the assholes. America keeps sending these ambiguous messages(210).

This narrates interesting feeling of Jasmine.

It has been further mentioned in the novel that frontiers are bearing out the old adage of Indian villagers who say that “When a clay pitcher breaks, you see that the air inside it is the same as outside” (15). These are philosophical statements made by Mukherjee to reveal her feelings and Indian philosophy.

Feeling of motherhood is a human feeling, which is reflected by Mukherjee. Every time Jasmine told Prakash that she wanted to get pregnant, they would have
arguments. He would dismiss this as ‘feudal compliance’ on Jasmine’s part, while she tried to fight back about ‘hi-tech’ not being able to solve a woman’s need to be a mother. This sentence touches the reader in flow the narration. Subsequently not only did she grow much attached to little Duff, but also genuinely loved the young Vietnamese boy Du Then in Elsa Country, Iowa, recognizing in him ‘the son Prakash and I might have had’” (155). These statements revealed relationship and they also express about changing cantors in the Jasmine’s life. Thus human relationship is epicenter of this classic novel.

A careful study of the novel can help to reveal human relationship. There are examples which illustrate about perception of self in this novel. The changes in the moods of Jasmine have been very well illustrated by the writer. Thus, all these aspects can be noted as part of the study of human relations. Thus, depicting human relations was a challenging task and Mukherjee has been successful in revealing these human relations in the novel. E.S. Nelson has pointed that “Jasmine’s journey of self-discovery, taking her from a feudal condition to her migrancy and exile in the west, is marked by violence” (66). Mukherjee has painted this journey of Jasmine with human touch. Thus human relationship is a significant phenomenon in the novel. She has ably drawn various characters in a right manner to evolve social environment in a neat way.

Jasmine strives to insert roots in the alien land. The struggle of Jasmine starts with her birth. Her identity crisis and oppressed life begins with her birth. She depicts a kind cruelty as: “My mother has a sniper. She wanted to spare me. The pain of dowry less bride” (40). She took birth after fifteen years partition riots in Hasnapur in JalandhaidistrictPunjab. As fifth female child, her mother wanted to give me best life and spare from the wrath of patriarchy and orthodox Indian social system. Her name is leads towards knowledge and light but already she is brave and rebellious nature and modern. That is depicted by the author “I survived the sniping. My grandmother may have named me Jyoti, Light but in surviving I was already Jane, a fighter and adapter” (40).

Her identity is the amalgamation of cultural assimilation and her modern thinking. Her hybridity status is the result of dreams of America and modern life of Jase or Jane but inwardly she is Indian. The metamorphosis is held with violence. As
Brinda Bose comments, “Violence is a keyword, a leitmotif in Mukherjee’s fiction, and the ‘psychic violence’ that she thinks is necessary for the transformation of character is often emphasized by an accompanying physical conflict of some sort” (52). Her original Goddess sati identity gets perish in the brightness, glitter and materialism of American life. She is the opponent of orthodox, Indian culture and some social norms.

That manifests her emotional thinking of an Indian woman. The life which she doesn’t expect but fate forward her to live life. It seems that she doesn’t want to live the life of Jane and Jase but fate forces her to live that life so it is the psychological burst of Indian woman immigrants. One could become modern by thought but not heart her identity has been changed as per the need of life. Transformation of identity is her survival mode of life in the alien land. It is a one kind of adaptation to survive the process of Americanization of adaptation is related with identity crisis and metamorphosis with psychological pain. But she never looks past.

Life of Jasmine is the myth of the acquisition of new way of life and search of identity to cope with modernity, as to survive in American society. As Salima Nanda comments, “Thus the unifying theme the protagonist’s adaptation to circumstances and her transformation from passive acceptance of fate in the past to modern cross-cultural conquest of future” (205).

Adoption is the solution to acquire new life on the alien land. Quest of identity is the most crucial problem before immigrant as they born in one land; they have separated from inherited culture. The situation of immigrants is like pendulum in their life as they are nowhere but Jasmine is willing to acquire American culture, wants to become modern. Rootlessness is a feeling reflected by Indian women writers, when they tackle various problems of immigrants. Consequently, Mukherjee’s this literary piece is also a typical reflection of Indian Diaspora.

Jasmine is a typical character to illustrate this process. Apart from this, the novelist presents several experiences. Erica Plouffe Lazure observes:

Mukherjee is perhaps the first Asian American writer to exhibit a full awareness of the global context of contemporary Asian immigration: she deconstructs cultural clichés, looks beyond the push-pull between
two nations to acknowledge the reality of the world economic system, and sets her tales against a background of intertwined, transnational economic activities and mass uprooting caused by proxy wars in the Third World” (90).

Her observations and comments through her characters ably revealed the feeling of rootlessness effectively. She has touched different dimensions very carefully and very systematically in the new angle.

Erica PlouffeLazure has observed that “The narrative participates in the problematic discourse of narrations of ‘Americanness,’ validating the hegemonic discourse of immigration to the US as a movement from oppression to liberation. Mukherjee’s characterization of other US ethnic communities reveals that this text does not participate in any formation of Asian ethnic community that does not recuperate the nation. Her stereotyping of a minority community from India, the Sikhs, reveals a disinterest in participating in the formation of a progressive politics in both India and the US, for it ignores immigration history as well as colonial history” (Lazure 96).

Jasmine is not isolated character but she is becoming one with American self and identity, turning this rootlessness into social assimilation. As an immigrant she has adjusted with American life style and she has set forth an ideal example before the other immigrants.

Jasmine has accepted the American way of life. The protagonist is “the mouthpiece of the novelist who, as a representative of the modern female world, does not want to be confined to the boundary of Indian space and time and aspires to go abroad for a new way of life. Jasmine got satisfaction and self-realization in America—the only land on earth that given one ample opportunity to work at making a dream a reality” (Pandey123-124). It shows the problems of next generation and she favors a policy of making assimilated with the local culture.

Mukherjee’s characters arise from nowhere land and they have revealed optimistic future of the next generation. The immigrants in foreign countries have to face many problems due to racial social behavior. The whole society is full of racial
prejudices and they hate outsiders by feeling of malice and hatred. Jasmine has suffered a lot in the system and since she has abilities to face circumstances. In one stage she was feeling loneliness and in the second stage she has been very well socialized due to the adjustment she has made with the prevailing environment.

Mukherjee’s civil rights and human rights consciousness is reflected through Jasmine’s character. In the novel, Jasmine’s dialogues amply testify this. She has expressed that “I felt dead in their company, my long hair and school girl cloths. I wanted to scream feudalism. I am a widow in the war of feudalism” (97).

Thus, Jasmine is against racism and feudal ideas. She is fighting against loneliness in a bold manner. Jasmine’s rise as bold progressive woman, who is fighting against racism and other social evils, can be recorded as a success of the novelist.

It is interesting how Jasmine fights with loneliness. She was in crisis and was fighting against loneliness. Thus fight against racism is an important factor of Jasmine’s character at one hand and her struggle against loneliness on the other hand.

Jasmine is a typical character. Her life was full of miseries and sorrow. He as an immigrants’ stayed in the foreign land and adjusted with the social and cultural system. The study of the social and cultural life face by Jasmine is rightly reflected by Mukherjee. The immigrants’ characters have been evolved as a symbol of cohesion and adjustment. Instead of confusing with the various systems she has adjusted with the system by molding herself.

Thus, the self the other and various types of frontiers undergo a far reaching metamorphosis as the Jasmine to the self-conscious Jase. Mukherjee has succeeded in developing Jasmine’s character in an interesting manner, which can be described as her crusade against social evils. Thus, Jasmine is revolting against the system, both in India and America. The metamorphosis of Jasmine’s character is truly reflected through this analysis. The metamorphosis of immigrants’ character is reflected through character like Vadhera. Thus Vadhera is a typical example which reveals metamorphosis of characters of immigrants, who try to become one with American. Therefore the novelist is successful in implanting various characters to reveal metamorphosis of immigrants on the foreign land.
The novel is a unique example of cross-cultural relationship. It is based on interaction of both the Eastern and the Western cultures. The exchange of ideas and values depicted in this novel is significant for better understanding of the both the cultures. Rudyard Kipling had observed that the East and the West are two different cultures and they will never meet each other. However, this has been reflected by current trends. The contemporary issues in the process of Immigrations’ life have reflected that the two different cultures have met each other and they have enriched their life style and cultures. Through Jane with deserted, yet he married the foreign and stabilized her life. The last part of the novel has reflected that, “Then there is nothing I can do. Time will tell if I am a tornado, rubble maker, arising from nowhere and disappearing into a cloud. I am out of the door and in the potholed and rutted driveway, scrambling ahead of Taylor, greedy with wants and reckless from hope” (241). Consequently, this work is a best example of cross cultural relationship.

It has been further observed by Indira Nityanandam that the expatriate faces another difficult situation when he decides to visit home. “We would not behave like expatriates” (259) decide Jean and Barry before they go home on a visit. It is true that “The cultural transplantation is the reality of today’s postcolonial literary tradition. She herself admits the two ways of understanding culture” (91). Therefore, the novel provides cross-cultural understanding. CheenaPuri observes:

In Jasmine, Mukherjee tries to unravel the complicated layers of cross cultural confrontations through a series of adventures which the protagonist undertakes during her odyssey from Punjab to California via Florida, New York and Iowa (2).

Jasmine seeks her identity in the alien land in morbid situation of myriad complex conditions of diasporic life on the margin of American society. Mukherjee’s writing depicts the changing scenario of post-colonial immigrant’s life and plea of migration.

Being an immigrant, unknown caught between two cultures, to find safe place and concrete identity of her own, Jasmine searching her identity. The author has autobiographical experiences as an immigrant which has been asserted in her literary arena.
Jasmine interprets the predicaments of a lonely woman who is an immigrant in USA. Here Author depicted humiliation and cultural problems. Through the life of Jasmine who is Indian born in a rural village Hasnapur in Punjab. Timothy Ruppel argues, “the narrative structure [of Jasmine] is that of a journey and passage, a liminal state, which places the third world inside the first world. In the process, the narrator must continually remake herself to avoid the threat posed by enforced identity” (184).

The narrator is Jasmine, who talks about her life. She has aspiration for American life and dream. She understands Du, Bud’s adopted son, Du is Vietnamese, he is an immigrant like Jasmine. She has idealistic notions for USA but having seen beggars. She gets shocked. The sight of beggars in New York was shocking for her. When she refused to give alms that time one of them cursed her. “You fucking bitch. Suck my fucking asshole, you fucking foreign bitch” (139). She becomes conscious about the realistic status of immigrant in USA.

Jasmine is equivocal about her present life in America and past life in India. The conflict between two ethnic group and contrast principles of life results into identity crisis, hybridity of culture and cultural conflict and inbetweenness of psychology. Edward Said has pointed the theory of immigrant sensibility through orientalism in his book *Orientalism*.

The process of transformation of Jane is longingness towards Americanization. Jasmine is in hurry to become American. Nagendra Kumar comments:

Jasmine’s fight to Iowa and her renaming as Jane is indicative of a slow but steady immersion into the main stream culture. Here we encounter a changed Jasmine one who had murdered Half Face for violating her chastity, now only willingly embraces the company of an American without marriage but also carrying his child in her womb (115).

Now, she becomes complete American as she learns how to live for herself. The suicide of Durrel and departure of Du from home in search of his family. It makes her restless, destabilizes her. Now she is caught between duty and feelings. She thinks about morality and present life. Now the situation becomes unique as her morality and duty for Bud and her love for Tylore. She has determined her mind and decides to
retire to Taylor. “I realize I have already stopped thinking of myself as Jane” (240). Here the conflict of her identities has been solved as she decides to go with Taylor; her love so now she has become American. Her final metamorphosis takes place.

Jasmine conflicts between homeland and adopted land as she loves India and wants to compromise with new America world that is negotiation and assimilation. She deals with identity crisis and cross cultural conflict on the background of Indian Diaspora. Search and identity of Jasmine is optimistic and positive. Although it has dark shade of experiences that she has taken in USA. The development in her positive approach and cosmic ideology, she learns how to live life. She has adopted the American life style and view as Jaswanti Dimri comments, “Jasmine has learnt to live not for her husband or children but for herself. But she has achieved a new identity only through and with the help of cultural past” (75).

The author tries to show how a female protagonist tackles the problems of all diasporic issues as loss of culture, assimilation of adopted culture. But this assimilation of culture is for self-respect and self-fixation in adopted land.

Identity crisis is an important phenomenon in Mukherjee’s novels in general and Jasmine in particular. However, Jyothi has to undergo many difficulties. Renamed as Jasmine she shares agony of Prakash and visits America as renamed Jasmine. Thus identity crisis of womanhood is backbone of the novel. In her interview with Time of India, about this process of identity crisis, Mukherjee points out, “We immigrants have fascinating tales to relate, many of us have lived in newly independent or emerging countries which are placed by civil or religious conflicts. When we uproot ourselves from these countries and come here whether by choice or out of necessity we suddenly must absorb 200 years of American history and learn to adapt to American society” (1). Hence the identity crisis in the immigrants’ life in diasporic society becomes inevitable. Mukherjee further pointed that “My aim is to expose Americans to the energetic voices of new settlers in this country (1) Jasmine is not exception to this. Brinda Bose has observed that “Ethnic women in America are clearly twice marginalized by virtues of their ethnicity and their gender” (47). Jasmine also fight two simultaneously battles against marginalization during her early expatriate experiences in America.
Jasmine seeks her identity in the alien land in morbid situations of myriad complex conditions of diasporic life on the margin of American society. Mukherjee’s writing depicts the changing scenario of post-colonial immigrants’ life and plea of migration. As they are coming from another world their very identifies are in question at the beginning. The movements of transformation are crucial though their exercise in its mainstream movement becomes a symbol of identity crisis.

The study of Jasmine’s struggle is immensely significant because she is reflecting her crisis though broken and twisted yet it reveals manifold aspects. Brinda Bose feels, “The identities that Mukherjee’s women eventually emerge with exemplify the characteristics of a whole new breed in this country the ethnic who is also American” (47). Jasmine after her identity crisis becomes one with American life. Again Brinda Bose has rightly observed that, “By grasping at the dream of a new life Jasmine feels compelled to sacrifice most of her original self, because both the ethnicity and the womanhood that she identified with have to be massively reworked” (59). As E.P. Lazure notes: “Mukherjee portrays the contours of the character's transited identity that are in constant negotiation and transformation because of the interaction between the past and the present” (10).

Thus identity crisis has been reflected in a typical new form of this novel. About Jasmine’s character an identity crisis in her psyche Brinda Bose says:

Mukherjee explains her perception of violently changing identities by calling upon the Hindu religious belief in reincarnation, which is an interesting if marginalized way of linking ethnicity with the new womanhood she celebrates in her work (59).

Thus, identity crisis in the immigrant women’s life is a key factor in Mukherjee’s novel.

It has been observed that, “Caught between the two cultures of the east and the west, the past and the present, Jasmine constantly shuffles in search of a concrete identity. She debates whether to act according to the desire for freedom which the American life offers her or to be dutiful” (Puri 3). Jasmine is a nice reflection of east west encounter. About this process it has been pointed that “The Indian consciousness in which she was raised, embodied by her grandmother, supports duty. The western
consciousness embodied by her Manhattan employers encourages desire” (Puri, 3). These two characters reflect east west encounter effectively.

Thus, Jasmine is shown as a symbol of Indian culture. Her own character is a very nice fusion of the East and the West culture. She has confronted the reality of American life. She herself puts, “We arrive so eager to learn, to participate, only to find the monuments are plastic, agreements are annulled. Nothing is forever, nothing is so terrible, or so wonderful that it would not disintegrate” (163).

Thus all these aspects clearly illustrate about the East-West encounter. Jasmine presents herself as a critic of American society, and exposes the inter reality of American life. In a diasporic society, interaction between local and outside culture is inevitable. It has been rightly observed that,

Jasmine’s voice is the dilemma of an uprooted creature seeking for belongingness in a place where relationships are plastic rather than lasting. Finally she settles in a live-in-relationship with a middle aged divorcee Bud, the banker. Later on they add Du a Vietnamese boy from the refugee camp who has survived eating worms and insects’ (Puri3).

Thus Jasmine is a driven from Punjab to America and she is cot in a tornado. In a diasporic society, survivals of immigrant become a critical issue and it is burning problem in the contemporary world. The attempt has also been made to consider the different types of social relations that could be possible between men and women. These differ a great deal as per socio-economic settings.

Mukherjee has depicted number of current burning problems of immigrants’ which are constantly changing. Thus this is the correct understanding of the author’s right understanding of facts in the socio-political milieu. The East-West encounter is thus a typical phenomenon reflected in the novel. It is one of the most suggestive themes.

As a result, in the contemporary burning issues of racism, rootlessness of immigrants, Mukherjee has successfully drawn attention towards the problems of immigrants. She is successful in tackling these problems in a systematic manner. In
the diasporic literature, women writers have enriched to reveal the problems of Indian immigrants. The storyline reveals her rootlessness as well as refers of assimilation with American self. She has adopted the American life with great care.

It also reveals her efforts have been successful in transplanting the feelings of immigrants in a brilliant manner. Suddenly widowed Jasmine how faces the questions of life have been tackled by the novelist effectively. Jasmine shifts from small Indian village with great courage and she enters in the life giving America. Finally, she marries with Taylor and adopts Vietnamese refugee boy.

Jasmine’s life is like tornado, but she has powerfully adopted American way of life. The story depicts shifting counters of an Indian women and her embarrassment after she is transform with impact of American culture. She use and understands new cultural experiences of different worlds in the east and west which she lives. The tolerant approach of Mukherjee has unfolded transformation of Indian woman.

Mukherjee has opened her third eye to reflect problems of women to boldly fight with adverse circumstances. The reader engrosses with many burning issues and reader shocks with the pains and problems of immigrants. She throughout her novel has eloquently succeeded in depicting problems of Indian women in the outside world. The novel is just like impressionistic prose poem. It is successful in upholding the issues of immigrants at one hand and the assimilation of the immigrants with American life on the other hand.

Mukherjee has rightly mirrors the universe of Indian women, ups and downs in her life in a smooth way. The struggle, violence and further success has been tagged and presented as well as twisted by the author effectively. The triangles in the novel create curiosity and they touch readers’ heart. The complicated and intertwined issues further develop the theme to a climax and finally there is happy ending in the reconstructed life of Jasmine. Like Indian Durga, she defeats demon becomes a champion of justice.

Thus, the novel is successful in the reflection of identity crisis. As Hoppe suggests, “Jasmine’s postcolonial, ethnic characters are …carving out new spaces for themselves from amonga constellation of available cultural narratives, never remaining bound by any one, and always fluidly negotiating the boundaries of their
past, present, and futures” (154) to finally reach the unity under the head title of being American which brings her conformity.

Mukherjee has depicted the myth of struggle and identity through the life of Jasmine. Human life and personality is the product of its geography and soil, genetics of each ethnic group is different as what type of life it lives so the response and rejection of different people for certain things is depend upon its genetics. Jasmine is a fearless and adventurous young woman as from the birth she gets neglected and horrible life so naturally the strengths of tolerance adapted by her body actual the genetics of Indian women is very submissive and tolerate and survive many things to live life.

Mukherjee has developed Jasmine’s character on the basis of her close observations in her stay both in India and abroad. However,

… the juxtaposition of “the promise of America “and “old-world dutifulness” immediately places the west on the side of excitement and change, and betrays India’s reality to be an “older,” more stable one. In this “older “culture, duty and honour are valued but there are no promises held out to the individual, while America privileges individual desires over domestic and communal obligations(Aneja, 78).

As she lived in Calcutta and other parts of India, her observations of Indian society and culture have been depicted through her creative work Jasmine. As she has been staying in America as a Professor, in the University of California, at Berkeley, her close observations of American life has also been reflected in this novel. After depicting many ups and down in the Jasmine’s life the writer has entwined and ignited problems of diasporic society. Her able efforts lead to understanding of immigrants’ life.

This feeling has been depicted in Jasmine effectively. About the process of cordial existence Mukherjee has adopted a new strategy. The content, style and aesthetic sense of the novelist must be appreciated because though she has tackled the problems of immigrants, yet she has continued her creative sense like a fountain.
Her approach makes comfortable to understand pros and cons of immigrants’ life. The important aspects of character, theme was critically examined. The convince of the Western world on the people of the east and attention of the British imperialism in India is also tackled in the novel. The Western continents are at the center of attraction, third world has attracted towards foreign life and vision as it has glamour of glamour of opulence.

Jasmine is nothing but the heart beats of modernism that is the new face of changing social face of global society. She is a rebellious woman who has changed herself to survive and live on the new land. Her life in America was search of her inner self and who she is. At last, she has found herself and she recognized that she has been changed now she is new woman who want to live for herself. Her Indian identity has been now eluded it is the result of her sturdy personality that is sustain in the long thorny journey in America. She has subsumed the global culture and new way of life to live in America. It is the incarnation of new woman through the hardships of life. She has faces morbid conditions of life and undergoes the series of experiences. Her depiction of all situations with pragmatic evolution and the narrative consciousness. She has broken the cocoon of her life, actual that cocoon was full of rituals, traditions, at the starting of her life the astrologer told her future which was sordid and could not able to tolerate but as she has challenging personality she has tackled all problems with self-esteem but never forget India and Indian ethics in the western world. The sublimity of her character lies in the struggle of identity in the alien land.

This is a tale of buoyancy and revolution to arrive on America was her mission but after it became her fate and life. The author delineates the stipulation of woman in India, through the life of Jasmine she has presented an example if the chance of new vision has given to Indian woman she would change herself and others life also. Psychologically Jasmine is hefty but incidents in her life make her puny at some time, but she has prevail over to all difficulties with strong inner will she accepts new culture with constructive stance in USA. Consequently, Jasmine’s journey, from India to America, stands for her moving away from the pressures of her homeland. Each time she moves towards the west which is the symbol for her increasing American identity. As Yadav points:
Jyoti, Jasmine, Jane, Jase, each of her different identities, took place in a different space, i.e. India, Florida, and New York, Iowa. Such a character who embraces wanderings is attempting to destroy traditional ways of conceiving female identity. She is marginalized by both gender and race and changes herself according to her surroundings which are characterized by an ever-changing uncertainty just as Jasmine herself is. Her continuous movement and vagueness in which nothing was rooted anymore and everything was in motion, makes her a diasporic individual (4).

Although Jyoti wants to become Jasmine, still she is split into two just as her life is parted in two halves by her marriage with Prakash. Despite her eagerness for a more modern life, even she hesitates to go beyond patriarchal rules at first:

In contrast to the other men of the traditional culture, Prakash does not see marriage as the cultural sanctioning of patriarchal control and enforced obedience. He renames Jyotias Jasmine, a symbolic break with her feudal past. Yet this break causes Jyotis/Jasmine deep conflict. As a traditional woman she wants to get pregnant immediately to prove her worth and to validate her identity. Indeed, in this society, pregnancy is the only available identity” (Ruppel, 184).

She has worldwide revelation for global life and it is the manner to survive on the foreign land with self-bravery and self-decorum for peaceful and vigorous life on this beautiful earth that is perpetual source of life and bliss from the very initial stages of human life. Every human being is searching his identity, but it becomes nastiest when that identity has to search in the alien land, only personality like Jasmine becomes successful in such scenario of life.

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