



The Development And Impact Of Diasporic Indian Women Authors In English

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ABSTRACT :

This study focuses on individuals of Indian descent in a remote place. Numerous Indians emigrated to foreign countries both before to and after independence. These people emigrated from their homeland to reside as immigrants in other countries in pursuit of improved work, enhanced quality of life, more opportunities, higher wages, and superior education. Such people must acclimate to two distinct cultures: the one they originated from in India and the one they encounter in these other places. A significant number of these immigrants want to articulate their national identity by documenting their memories, relationships, nature, culture, and traditions, so conveying their thoughts and experiences as members of the Indian diaspora. The emergence of Indian women writers in the literary arena signifies a notable progression in Indian English literature. These female writers have also made contributions to several genres, including theater, poetry, and short stories, in both English and regional languages like as Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Punjabi, Tamil, and Kannada. Over the last twenty years, Indian women's writing in English has thrived both domestically and internationally. Diasporic Indian English literature significantly portrays the Indian diaspora across several situations. The present article focuses on the literary contributions of Indian women diasporic writers who advance India's enduring development via their works, motivating the subsequent generation of Indians to pursue literature and enhance the nation's prestige and reputation.

Keywords: Indian women, Immigrants, Universal, Diasporic, Cultures.

1. INTRODUCTION

The word "diaspora" is a hypernym encompassing notions such as exile, migration, and shelter. Living in a diaspora illuminates the difficulties of integrating into a new society while maintaining one's own cultural identity. Three essential components constitute diaspora: spatial dispersion, inclination towards a "homeland," and the maintenance of borders. The term "diaspora" derives from the Greek word

"diaspora," which translates to "to scatter" or "to sow." Individuals who leave their own countries to inhabit other parts of the world for various reasons are termed immigrants. The outcome is that individuals migrate from their homeland to diverse regions globally, carrying their culture with them wherever they reside. The Indian Diaspora denotes those who have departed from the Republic of India to establish permanent residence in another country, significantly contributing to the global prominence and reputation of India. The phrase "Indian Diaspora" denotes both non-resident Indians (NRIs) and individuals of Indian ancestry (PIOs). The Government of India recognizes the significance of the Indian Diaspora due to the financial, economic, and global advantages it has conferred upon the country. Over the last two decades, writers from the Indian diaspora have led the discourse by creating a unique niche and making substantial contributions to both India and the global community. Writing is one of the most exquisite forms of creative expression. The literature of the diaspora is crucial in reinforcing the ties between nations. Authors from the Indian Diaspora express their affection and fervor for their homeland via their writings. The internet is the most efficient medium of communication, connecting people and nations alike. Although these diasporic writers reside in different countries, they have successfully preserved their emotional, cultural, and spiritual ties to their country of origin. Innovative women writers have often succeeded in articulating the social and cultural realities of the Indian Diaspora. In their distant location, female writers of the Indian Diaspora have meticulously chronicled their endeavors to maintain culture and identity via their artistic works. Authors such Anita Desai, Kamla Markandaya, Bharti Mukherjee, Chitra Banerjee, Sunetra Gupta, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Kiran Desai have portrayed the identities of men and women within the Indian diaspora in their literary works. Each of these writers has a unique perspective, which intricately interlaces to provide a rich tapestry of narratives that enhance our understanding of India and the world at large.

Indian women writers writing in English have made the most significant contribution to English literature. Numerous unique forms of Indian literature have thrived considerably. Due to their innovative writing approaches, they gained recognition not only in India but also worldwide. Their versatility has enabled them to achieve significant accomplishments.

2. CHRONOLOGY OF INDIAN DIASPORA WOMEN WRITERS

2.1 Meena Alexander [17 February 1951-21 November 2018]



Meena Alexander served as a poet, scholar, and writer who was of Indian American descent. He was born in Allahabad, India, although he spent his childhood in Kerala and Sudan. Her parents relocated to Sudan when she was five years old, and she was there with them. In later years, she made her home and place of employment in New York City, where she had a renowned position as an English professor at Hunter College. An prominent Indian diasporic writer, she made substantial contributions to the area of literature, notably in the arena of Indian English writing. Her work was particularly influential in the field of Indian English writing. *Manhattan Music*, which she published in 1997, is a book that takes place in both India and Manhattan. In that work, she has used a delicate writing style to convey the lives of immigrants, the identity problem, racial intolerance, international affairs, and marriages. Alexander's work encompasses a wide range of literary forms, such as poetry, memoir, and essays, and it often investigates topics such as identity, displacement, and cultural hybridity. The challenges of living between distinct cultural and linguistic worlds are reflected in her work, which is a reflection of her experiences as a migrant.

2.1.1 Her major works :

| Works | Years | Works | Year |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|------|
| The Bird's Bright Ring - poem | 1976 | House of a Thousand Doors- coll. | 1988 |
| I Root My Name - poem | 1977 | River and Bridge - collections | 1996 |
| Without Place - poem | 1977 | Illiterate Heart - collections | 2002 |
| In the Middle Earth - poem | 1977 | Raw Silk - collections | 2004 |
| The Storm - poem | 1989 | Nampally Road - collections | 1991 |
| Poetics of Dislocation - poem | 2009 | Manhattan Music- collections | 1996 |
| Jerusalem - Poem | 2012 | Fault Lines - memoir | 1993 |
| Stone Roots - collections | 1981 | WaThiong'o, Ngugi - memoir | 2003 |

2.1.2 Her awards & Honors:

1993: Fault Lines, her memoir, was chosen by [Publishers Weekly](#) as one of the Best Books . 2002: The [PEN Open Book Award](#)

2002: The Imbongi Yesizwe Poetry International Award.

2009: Distinguished Achievement Award from the South Asian Literary Association for contributions to [American literature](#).

2016: Word Masala award from the Word Masala Foundation.

2.2 Manjula Padmanabhan [June23,1953]



Manjula Padmanabhan an author of children's books, as well as a playwright, artist, cartoonist, journalist, and creator of comic strips, who hails from India. The topics of gender, international, and scientific inequality are investigated in her publications. An Indian diplomat gave birth to Padmanabhan in the year 1953 in the city of Delhi. During her childhood, she was raised in Pakistan, Thailand, and Sweden. She is responsible for the artwork of twenty-two different children's books. Daily editions of her comics were published in The Pioneer (New Delhi, 1991–1997), while weekly editions were published in The Sunday Observer (Bombay, 1982–1986). Etchings and lithographs were the primary components of her most recent show, which took place in London in the month of December 3, 2003.

2.2.1 Her major works :

| Works | Year | Works | Year |
|--------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|
| Lights Out - play | 1983 | Unprincess! - Illustration | 2005 |
| Sextet - play | 1996 | Escape - Illustration | 2008 |
| The Artist's Model- play | 1995 | Three Virgins and Other Stories | 2013 |
| Harvest. London - play | 1997 | Island of Lost Girls - Illustration | 2015 |
| A Visit to the City Market New Delhi | 1986 | Suki Yaki. - comic strip | 2015 |
| Hot death, cold soup- Illustration | 1996 | The other woman - story | 2012 |
| This is Suki! New Delhi- Illus. | 2000 | The Rehearsal - story | 2019 |
| Mouse Attack - Illus. | 2003 | Getting There - Autobiography | 2002 |
| Mouse Invadors - Illus. | 2004 | | |
| Double talk - Illus. | 2005 | | |

2.2.2 Awards & Honors :

Manjula Padmanabhan was awarded with Onassis award for her play “Harvest”

2.3 Chitra Benerjee Divakaruni



Author Chitra Benerjee Divakaruni was born in Kolkata on July 29, 1956. She is known for her versatility as a writer. Her works of fiction, poetry, and children's literature have garnered her distinction as an Indian-American author recognized for her literary contributions. She often focuses on the stories of those who immigrated from South Asia. In her work, Divakaruni often investigates topics such as Indian culture, immigration, the lives of women, and the junction between tradition and modernity. The poetic writing, fascinating characters, and complex narrative that she incorporates into her books have garnered a lot of widespread appreciation. The book "The Mistress of Spices" that she wrote was one of the works that was considered for the Orange Prize. Her works often explore topics like as love, grief, and identity, which are a reflection of her personal experiences as an immigrant and a woman of Indian descent. She has had her work published in more than fifty different anthologies. A wide variety of languages, such as Dutch, Hebrew, Hindi, and Japanese, have been used in the composition of her works. Readers from all around the globe have responded positively to her writing, and her works continue to be praised for the way in which they investigate the human experience from the perspective of many cultures and generations.

2.3.1 Her major works:

| Works | Year | Works | Year |
|---|------|--|------|
| Arranged Marriage - fiction | 1995 | <u>The Mirror of Fire and Dreaming-story</u> | 2005 |
| <u>The Mistress of Spices</u> - fiction | 1997 | Shadowland - story | 2009 |
| <u>Sister of My Heart</u> - fiction | 1999 | Grandma and the Great Gourd - story | 2013 |
| The Unknown Errors of our Lives | 2001 | The Reason for Nasturtiums- poetry | 1990 |
| The Vine of Desire - fiction | 2002 | Black Candle - poetry | 1991 |
| Queen of Dreams - fiction | 2004 | Leaving Yuba City, St. Louis- poetry | 1997 |
| The Lives of Strangers - fiction | 2007 | Multitude: Cross Cultural Readings for Writers - Anthology | 1993 |
| The Last Queen - fiction | 2021 | We Too Sing America - Anthology | 1997 |
| <u>Neela</u> - story | 2002 | California Uncovered: Stories for the 21st Century - Anthology | 2004 |
| Independence: A Novel - fiction | 2022 | The Palace of Illusions | 2008 |
| The Conch Bearer - story | 2003 | Before We Visit the Goddess | 2016 |

2.3.2 Awards & Honors

1996: [American Book Award](#) (Arranged Marriage)

1996: [PEN Josephine Miles Literary Award](#) (Arranged Marriage)

Bay Area Book Reviewers' Award (Arranged Marriage)

1997: [Pushcart Prize](#) (Leaving Yuba City: New and Selected Poems)

2003: Pushcart Prize (The Lives of Strangers)^[21]

2007: Distinguished Writer Award from the South Asian Literary Association

2.4 Anita Rau Badami [24 Sep. 1961]



The renowned Canadian author Anita Rau Badami, who is of Indian heritage, was born in Rourkela, which is located in the state of Odisha. Four languages—English, Hindi, Bangla, and Kannada—were her native tongues while she was growing up. In her writings, she addresses the issues that are prevalent in Indian family life as well as the cultural divide that emerges when Indians begin to reside in western nations. Both Sophia Polytechnic in Bombay and the University of Madras were her educational institutions of choice. Her move to Canada took place in 1991, and she eventually made her home in Vancouver, British Columbia. Her background as a multicultural individual and her experiences as an immigrant have had a big impact on her work. During the year 2016, "The Hero's Walk" was selected as one of the five books that were finalists for the Canada Reads competition. Her writings have struck a chord with readers all around the globe, and she is widely considered as a highly acclaimed author. Her books provide profound insights into the human condition and the challenges that people in various nations face in their daily lives.

2.4.1 Her major works:

| Works | Publication | Year |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------|
| Tamarind Mem | Penguin Canada | 1997 |
| The Hero's Walk | Knopf Canada | 2001 |
| Can You Hear the Nightbird Call? | Penguin Books India | 2006 |
| Tell it to the Trees | Knopf Canada | 2011 |

2.4.2 Awards & Honors

2000: The Marian Engel Award for a woman writer in mid-career

2000: The regional Best Book Commonwealth Writers' Prize and Italy's Premio Berto Prize for International Literature

2001: The Washington Post Best Book of 2001,

2017: She was announced as chair of the 2017 [Scotiabank Giller Prize](#) jury

3. CONCLUSIONS

The female authors illuminated various aspects of diaspora, including Indian culture, alienation, assimilation, collective history and mythology, the formation of ethnic identities, nostalgia for the comforts of home, the aspiration to visit the imagined ancestral homeland, the preservation of religious beliefs, among other elements. Acculturation and integration are critical aspects for illustrating the experiences of the diaspora. In conclusion, it is reasonable to argue that diasporic Indian English literature is a significant genre that accurately reflects the experiences and perspectives of the Indian diaspora broadly. This conclusion may be derived with rationality. This achieves emotional solace for that specific diaspora and facilitates discussions on immigration from India. Nonetheless, feminist authors endeavored to illustrate female empowerment in a male-dominated world. Conversely, feminist writers endeavored to assert their power in a male-dominated environment using the most effective means at their disposal. Women had to overcome years of male dominance, taboos, and concepts that had deeply permeated the society. This was a difficult path to go since it required overcoming several obstacles. The diasporic female Indian writers adeptly engage readers of Indian English literature with compassion and sincerity, articulating the universal experience of migrating. This is due to their role as ambassadors of the Indian diaspora. Moreover, diasporic Indian literature written in English preserves connections between its creators with both India and the wider world. Through cultural exchange, representation and empowerment, economic impact, education and awareness, and transnational collaboration, diasporic female English writers facilitate India's sustainable development. This is achieved via many methods. Ultimately, these endeavors has the potential to create a more sustainable and inclusive society at both national and international levels. They possess the capacity to construct narratives, contest stereotypes, motivate social transformation, and foster comprehension among varied people.

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