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Indian Diasporic Literature : A Study of Select Literary Texts

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Abstract: *It is a globally accepted fact that Diaspora writers set a trend since Independence. Diaspora literature, irrespective of language, style, literary form or technique, attracts readers across the borders. It may be stream of consciousness or magic realism, alienation or adaptability of a new land and culture. But, nostalgia is alike for all Diaspora writers. Notably, the works of Indian Diaspora cover all parts of the world. This paper focuses on a handful of Diaspora writers and their writings which are admired by readers.*

Keywords: *Diasporic sensibility, rootlessness, alienation, nation and identity, cultural assimilation, and disintegration.*

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Introduction:

The word 'diaspora' derives from the Greek term 'diaspeirin', Dias means 'across' and speirin means 'scatter'. Diaspora could be the voluntary or forced movement of peoples from their homelands into new regions. Having arrived in a new geographical and cultural context, they negotiate two cultures. This diasporic culture is necessarily mixed and is an amalgamation of two cultures. In words of Usha Bande "Transplantation connotes relocation and in its turn relocation presupposes the existence of location and dislocation therefrom". (Dwivedi 2011)

Thus, a Diaspora population looks back at location (homeland), passes through replication (the alien land) and results in dislocation (geographical as well as psychological). It has now become an umbrella term which incorporates expatriates, political refugees and ethnic and racial minorities. The Indian Diaspora emerged during the 19th and 20th centuries, as this period involved emigration of indentured labourers, traders, professionals, and students to French, British, Dutch, Dane and Portuguese Colonies in Asia, Africa, Caribbean, and Far Eastern countries. Dislocation and discrimination based on culture, religion and language often result in the creation of fractured identity. The broken psyche of immigrants sheds off its psychosis into writing. The migrant writers with their multicultural ethos and profound understanding of socio cultural realities transform their experiences into writing. The very fact of creation is a deliberate effort to form a recognised cultural identity and diasporic literature arises under these circumstances.