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“QUEST FOR IDENTITY IN THE SELECTED FICTION OF CHITRA BANERJEE DIVUKARUNI’S WORKS”.

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Abstract:

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is one of the leading writers of the modern era. She has wrote novels, short stories and poems. Most of novels deal with the really different experiences, especially of women in general. She foused on various themes like disporic women protagonists, living in two cultures, their delineation, isolation, exile, mental trauma, dispersion, dislocation at the level of diasporic consciousness particularly. Most of their novels and shorts shortires themes like- women, immigration, the South Asian experience, history, myth, magical realism and diversity. She writes for adults and children.

Their novels very famous among the novels, The Mistress of Spices and Sister of My Heart. Their short stories, Arranged Marriage, won an American Book Award. Gender issues find primary representation in the novels and short stories of Divakaruni. Her novels feature Indian- born women torn between old and new world values. Some of women characters change their identities many times to arrive at a final definition of their self-hood. So, they these women evolve different strategies to assert their individuality&cultural identity and act independently with a sense of freedom and conviction among these women. She emphasis more importance to the women characters.

KEYWORDS:

Disporic, Immigrant, Alienation, hybridty, ambivalence, transcultural, centrality.

INTRODUCTION:

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an award wining author and novelists. Her work is widely known as she has been published in the Magazines. Some of the Selected fiction like- Arranged Marriage: Stories. (1995), The Mistress of Spices (1997), Sister of My Heart (1999), and The Palace of Illusions (2008).

The first Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's Collection of short stories Arranged Marriage (1995) is a collection of short stories about women from India caught between two worlds. In the works Female protagonists nameless women in Arrange Marriage are delicately portrayed, credible characters. Divakaruni narrates the concerns of migrant women, depicting the harsh realities they face in leaving traditional India for a supposedly better life in the “liberal” West. In the Arranged Marriage contains detailed references to Indian clothing, food, festivals and religious practices. Some of the her characters bring these customs to the united States, asking

American Society recognize the traditions of diasporic communities and so enrich itself. In this Works establishes the theme of female itinerancy that *Mistress of Spices* collects the issues of the racism and assimilation into new societies. The main theorists of Diaspora are Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak and Homi Bhabha. These theorists are also the exponents of 'Colonialism and 'Postcolonialism'. But while colonialism refer to the political and historical aspects of country. The diasporic theory is more preoccupied with the question of centrality, hybridity, ambience, transculturation of the people. Diasporic writings is concerned with what Edward Said calls "not only of basic geographical distinction but also a whole sense of interests" (12).

Some of her novels she has explored the physical and psychological tensions and the tortures to which the immigrant women are subjected. She has described women as enthusiastically perpetuation and determining class, cultural and gender structure within the society, home and marriage life. *Quest for identity* is a major element in their novels we find in the delineation of her female characters. in their plays She deals with the lives of women both at home and abroad. So, when they visit abroad they come across some of the issues of gender issues. In most of their novels foreign land has not yet distorted their position much.

In this play some people struggle against this snag and carve their identity and escape the toil. Divakaruni's *Arranged Marriage* (1995), is a collected works of short stories. Some of the novels come across with conflicts arising out of love, chronicles the assimilation and rebellion that Indian born girls and women in America undergo as they balance old treasured beliefs and surprising new desires & All the things mentioned among in these novels. Most of their collection has eleven short stories, and majority of the stories deal with the immigrant experience & alienation along with the socio-cultural encounter that an Most of Indian experiences when he moves towards the west, which is an important theme in the mosaic of American Indian culture in their novels and short stories that are depicted in this novels. The author skillfully tells stories about immigrant Indians who are both modern as well as trapped by cultural transformation, who are struggling to shape out an identity of their own in an unknown land. Some of the book addresses many Social burning issues such as racism, interracial relationships, economic disparity, abortion, and divorce in their novels of their works of literature. The book is awarded the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Prize for Fiction, the Bay Area Book Reviewers Award for Fiction, and an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation In their works. Some of the women characters in the short stories are portrayed as the victims in the hands of men and society. They are suppressed in various ways. Some of the woman in the short story reflected. The Bats appears as a victim of a man who frequently comes home drunk & physically assaulted to the women. It is common practice we come cross in this novels. When he batters his wife so that she has marks and scars on her face as described by her daughter, in this writer represented truly issues among the writer. In this fiction come across "A couple of day's later mother had another mark on her face, even bigger and reddish-blue. these things available everywhere in the middle class family. It was on the side of her forehead and made her face look lopsided". In this story both the mother and daughter are the victims of men. It is truly reflected among male dominated society. These are silent sufferers in this drama of male oppression. They are physically and mentally suppressed. The women are physically weak and financially insecure this truly significant around the globe. It is a very common practice among society. They dare not fight for freedom and also they don't know how to survive without the support of the man. The women are either afraid of their father or husband. They do not want to go away from their homes because people will be spreading false propaganda on them. The Novelist pointed some of them incidents very meaningful among the society. In this play, characters portrayed among the middle class man Silver pavements, Golden Roof which is set in Chicago, depict situation the life of an Indian man who comes to America dreaming of becoming a millionaire but he ends up his life as a garage mechanic. He shows his frustration on his wife Pratima who tolerates her husband's abuses and frustration patiently, without protest and without saying a word as a traditional Indian wife. Most of time their narrator Jayanti visited to their relative near When her relative Jayanti has come to the United States, she stays with her aunt Pratima and

uncle. One day she persuades her aunt Pratima to go for a walk with her. Unfortunately some boys follow them and throw slush on their faces. In this play When both of them run away from the boy. There are many women characters in *Mistress of spices*. Divakaruni exhibit the concealed identity of women through the character of Ahuja's wife. The first character Ahuja's wife comes into Tilo's store. She is young and beautiful immigrant woman. Her name is Lalita. In this play Tilo wants to name her by her name but Lalita prefer to be called Ahuja's wife. Some of the characters Lalita's story is the same story of many of the women in India. She does not want to get married. It is only before three days to the wedding, she has seen her husband. He is completely dissimilar from the photo shown to her, which has taken years back. He has come from America. She does not like him but the wedding has been arranged to an old man. When She agrees to marry him for the sake of their parents. She is portrayed very pointing way. She is silent with tears, as she can't enlighten her desires to her parents. She finally accepts him as her husband. Lalita's life after her marriage is not fruitful & meaningful one. When Lalitha confesses to Tilo about her matrimonial life. She also tells that her husband is exceptionally possessive and harass her physically and watches her always. Lalita is an appropriate model of the oriental ethnicity, where a woman hides her possess identity willingly in order to pacify the male supremacy of the husband, by referring to her husband's wife. Lalita know sewing. She has been to a stitching school in Kanpur. Lalita requests to continue to do stitching in America, after her marriage to Ahuja. But she has been deprived of her longing, for the reason that of her husband's supremacy. He has a unyielding view that his woman should not take awake any profession. "Aren't I man enough man enough man enough" (16). She remained Ahuja's wife. This shows how women in general care for their family and how they are restricted by the society. She longs for a child but she does not conceive, "Child- longing, deepest desire, deeper than for wealth or lover or even death" (*The Mistress of Spices*, 16). When She goes for bodily check up and comes to know that the problem is not with her but with her husband. She dully tells this to her husband he gets enraged and assaults her physically. In the most of their work is meaningful Tilo knows that Ahuja's wife is a victim of cultural boredom and male supremacy.

. The theme of the arranged marriage and its impact on women who usually have very little say in their matrimonial destiny. In the stories carefully explain the concept of arranged marriages can victimize women. Sometime happy unions too is revealed by the relationship between Sumita and Somesh in the story "Clothes". In the arranged Marriage depicts theme like –richness, freshness and nuance. Indian contextual point of view Indian weddings are so different from Western ones. In this story clearly indicate the theme of the Indian women and their often-difficult lives as immigrants. The portrayal of males in Arranged Marriage is almost consistently negative. Some of novels highlights how complex is the problem of identity crisis that Indians try to cope with in a foreign land. Majority of the characters are new settlers in the alien land and at the beginning of their life in America, they find it extremely difficult to adapt to the American way of life, American culture and personal morals. In fact, it is a cultural shock to them but slowly they understand the realities of life and it becomes a question of survival for them. Women are still undergoing sufferings because of male chauvinism. To lead a comfortable life, adjustment is an indispensable way to everyone. When there is no adjustment there will be problems in the married lives of the people

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