

# Immigrant Woman's Self-Discovery in Bharathi Mukherjee's Desirable Daughters

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## Abstract

Bharati Mukherjee (1940–2017) was an influential Indian-American author and academic, who significantly contributed to diasporic literature. She was born in Kolkata, India, her works including *Jasmine* and *The Middleman and Other Stories* reflect her exploration of cultural identity, immigration, and the evolving roles of women. Her novel *Desirable Daughter* (2002) addresses the immigrant concept of South Asians into the United States of America. The clash of traditional and the Western lifestyle of two different places is brought out perceptively in the story. This novel highlights the conflict between tradition and modern culture of diaspora. She has enlightened diasporic issues in her novel. The protagonist of the novel, Thara is an Indian immigrant who faces difficulty in America for acculturation. The sore of separation makes disorientation of Thara who immigrated to an alien land and finally, she discovers her terms in Indian tradition and rituals.

## Keywords

Diasporic literature, women's self-discovery, cross culture conflict, cultural identity, gender roles, societal expectations, immigrant experience, homecoming, tradition and modernity.

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The word “Immigrant” which means Permanent Residency. The persons who moved from their native and permanently work in foreign countries. The writer describes the novel based on class, gender, multiple identities, caste, nationality, and inequality, which people face difficult challenges in foreign countries.

This novel is entitled “Desirable Daughters” and the author of this novel is Bharathi Mukherjee the novel was released in 2002 Indian American writer, The novel is like a myth of the old days and the first name is Tara Lata, she is living in Bengali village and her family tradition was doing child marriage in small ages of her. Tara Latha's family arranged marriage for her and while it the going to happen the husband of Para was bitten by a snake and died both Para family and aunties' husband's family were devoted to the snake Gour after all the religious prayer happened they couldn't save Tara Latha husband died before the marriage after his father asking for dowry from Tara Latha father but her father refused to accept and Tara Lata's tradition says that we have to worship the mountain as the name Nirvana after all this Tara Latha's family was waiting years the society was talking back story of them badly after this her father makes a big decision that made her to marry a tree and this is the back story of this novel.

Now we see the main part of this novel about the Three sisters, the protagonist of the novel is Tara Bhattacharjee a pure Brahmin family and her family respected the great family in the area. Tara Bhattacharjee got married and later she divorced her husband, who was the richest man in India. They have a teenage boy Rabi. She had a relationship with a

white Hungarian Buddhist yoga instructor and his name was Andy. Tara was happy with Andy because he obeyed her gave respect to Tara and loved them more. We know about Brahmin culture well-disciplined and prestigious in all aspects. But Tara was not like that she chose her life in her way after her divorce, she was different from both sisters like her older sister Paravati, she also chose her life by herself but she followed her traditions and rituals in India. Her last sister Padma lived in America but on the other side of New Jersey and her job was doing designer sarees.

Tara went to America with his boyfriend Andy with her son Rabi when he settled in America but she did not convert into an American citizen because she loved only the Indian way of living. One day afternoon the stranger who sat in her couch in her living room, Christopher Dey who was the son of Padma her sister the father was who different status caste juvenile pregnancy which was sinful in the Brahmin caste. Tara did not accept this because they were brought up in a strict Brahmin family, and she made an effort to find out about Christopher Dey. The recollection of her childhood days when she grew up in Calcutta, the three sisters wore voguish dresses and ate Canapes, studied at the convent to learn fluent English to speak, confident, dignified. Meantime, Tara's boyfriend broke up with her and left the apartment which they shared. Finally, she found that Christopher was a fraud and deceit. At last, Tara decided back to her native India with her son Rabi, while travelling in the middle some echoes of imagery flashed to Tara's conception which kerosene lamps strongest match the opening scene whose description of the tale Tree Bride experiences a devotional spiritual consequence.

“A divorcee Indian women relate every conceit about, wicked fancy woman with a secure net of staple Slavish belonging”

Immigration is a big issue in Bharathi Mukherjee's novels. Immigrant holds a high place of diasporic in literature. Immigrants who come from a native and live in other countries face different problems, inequality, and adjusting the society for economic, which will challenge the environmental changes in foreign countries. It explores the woman who immigrant to America, she finds the importance of her tradition and culture and is nostalgic for the past.

No one can, no one now. The way of the ancients liberated has closed. And all the other way, easy and ample, goes nothing. I am solitary to find my path.

They interpret it as a rainbow in family and different political opinions. The diversity, all the women have to share of their immigration experience. They spot different English dialects, which have different accents, to bring new women insight. Identity is a huge part of diasporic literature. It deals with various things which exist in memory, and loneliness. The protagonist of the novel is the quest for identity which meets the point of the past and strives by writers. She has cultural confine and multi-cultural diversity. Though recollection makes flash back which reduces far distance between to alien land and native land. The memory of Tara compares with her present situation. It creates some psychological problems, which he suffers in a new place and culture. In the contemporary world, the network of transcultural which flows the people no longer sense. The diasporic people, who immigrants feel sometimes isolated themselves absence of language which spoke in a new land. It creates an inability to adapt to the new environment and made difficult to adapt to the new locality. The universe is divided into two which are Who Stay and Who Quit. It presents the different cultures of Western and traditional paths social practices and beliefs. The identity problem of females is Hindu Brahmin culture or Modern American. A failure of Tara attaining stable consciousness which stable identity formed in clerical society. It concludes with the arguments and inquiry into Tara's setback in making a female identity in Indian or American society. Tara still believes herself she will create a new life which she can fulfil. She realizes that it no longer exists and wants no path of way like Calcutta now to her. The experience of diaspora is defined, as purity of essence, but it is recognition of diversity which lives through the different hybrid of concepts. Those which constantly reproduce transformation and new differences. This thesis establishes the identity of individuals and how society generates some restrictions for women. Tara's route starts in America but ends in India lastly Tara retreats to her parent's home for her solace.

• Uprising sound which makes a lot of Pleasure, but in Calcutta which was nothing to rise against. Where will you get it? Where, the paradise's name, can anyone alone live in

Calcutta...?

• I decided where I wanted to stay. It's not enough for me to expatriate a person from India in Canada.

## References

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