

Emigrant Experiences and Cultural Conflict in the Works of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

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Abstract: *The literature of diaspora has emerged as an important field of study in contemporary literary discourse, reflecting the experiences of individuals who migrate from their homeland to foreign countries. Among the prominent writers of Indian diaspora literature is Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, whose fiction vividly portrays the emotional, psychological, and cultural challenges faced by immigrants. Divakaruni's works explore themes of displacement, identity crisis, nostalgia, gender roles, and cultural negotiation. This research paper examines the representation of emigrant experiences and cultural conflict in selected works of Divakaruni, including Arranged Marriage, The Mistress of Spices, Queen of Dreams, and The Vine of Desire. The study investigates how her characters navigate the tensions between traditional Indian values and the expectations of Western society. Through detailed textual analysis, the paper highlights the complexities of cultural hybridity and the formation of new identities in diasporic contexts. Divakaruni's narratives reveal the emotional struggles of immigrant women who attempt to reconcile their past with their present while maintaining a sense of belonging. Ultimately, the paper argues that Divakaruni's works contribute significantly to diasporic literature by portraying the nuanced realities of immigrant life and emphasizing the importance of cultural memory and identity.*

Keywords: Diaspora, immigration, cultural conflict, identity crisis, Indian diaspora literature, cultural hybridity, displacement, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.

