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Research proposal on

Impact of immigration in the select works of chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

Thesis statement

It portrays her major novels such as *The Mistress of Spices*, *Sister of My Heart*, and *Queen of Dreams* deal with such women who constantly negotiate for a new space in the foreign land with their traditional roots in their native land. This paper attempts to assess the multitude of challenges that these women characters face, critically discusses their strategies of negotiating their space by judiciously assimilating with the new culture and recreating an identity for their own selves.

Research Questions

1. What is the biggest challenge in immigration?
2. How does immigration affect the home country?

Summary

Divakaruni's selected novels like *Sister of My Heart*, *Mistress of Spices*, *Queen of Dreams* its portray the problems faced by the Indian immigrants on the grounds of identity, racism, and acculturation.

She mainly shares her views on women searching for their identity. Divakaruni's characters reflect the predicament of being caught between two conflicting cultures the Indian and the American, two different approaches to life, the internal and the external, and how the immigrants try to assimilate and acculturate with their new identity and the new culture, coping with the new language, culture and environment.

Review of literature

It strongly depicts the multicultural conflict of the Indian immigrant women Sudha and Anju, determined to create an identity of their own in the postcolonial world. Born and brought up in a

very traditional family system, Anju's notion of a marital life is challenged as she lands up in her husband's home.

Research Tool : Theory

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's immigration Discourse Theory

According to Divakaruni that her novels are full of immigrant characters who strongly feel their Indian roots while staying as immigrants in America. Their lives are marked by a constant tussle between two contradictory cultures and lifestyles.

Chapterisation

Chapter 1 Introduction

As an Indian writer who had migrated to a foreign land she has an unparalleled insight into an immigrant's daily struggle to adapt to the new culture without sacrificing her own tradition and culture. However, the struggle gets tougher and more challenging as her immigrant women characters combat with racial discrimination outside and patriarchal values inside the house.

Chapter 2 cultural conflict in immigration

The diasporic issues of identity homelessness, alienation, struggle for assimilation, separation, racial issues are realistically dealt in her fictional works. One can witness the cultural identity crisis experienced by second generation in Divakaruni's novel *Queen of Dreams*. Indian and American, two different approaches to life, the internal and the external.

Chapter 3 summation

The most amazing part of her creation of her characters is the enthusiasm that she shows in them to assimilate with the western society even when racial discrimination constantly interrogates their identity. In spite of several diasporic dilemmas experienced by the characters, her characters like Rakhi, Anju and Sudha successfully assimilated the western culture and created their own identities in the new land.

Work cited

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. *The Mistress of Spices*. London: Black Swan, 1997. Print.

- - -. **Sister of My Heart.** London: Penguin, 1997. Print.

- - -. **Queen of Dreams.** New York: Anchor Books, 2004. Print.