
Amitav Ghos's Novels Portraying Diasporic Awareness

Dr Naveen Kumar Singh
Associate Professor and Head, Dept of English
R C S College,Manjhaul

Amitav Ghosh was born in 1956 and grew up in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. His upbringing in different cultural and climatic situations and surroundings has led to the broadening of his outlook and perception regarding different peoples of the world. Cosmopolitan ethos of the city of Calcutta which happens to be his birth place further added his broad vision of the countries. Negation of the concept of boundary lines and unflinching faith in the basic goodness of man bring out the fascinating literary quality of Amitav Ghosh, particularly in the age of fragmentation in which there is a growing trend of searching out truth and reality in a sectarian and biased manner. Due to his holistic approach to life and its various problems, he has been able to carve a niche of glory for himself while lecturing at various universities across the world. He is known not only as an outstanding teacher but also as a writer of great substance and depth. He is internationally acclaimed as a bestseller writer. He is the recipient of a number of national and international literary awards and prizes. He was shortlisted for the Man Booker 2008 as well as the International Man Booker 2015. He is also recipient of a number of coveted literary awards and prizes such as Dan David Prize 2010, Tagore Literature Award, Sahitya Academy Award and Myanmar Literature Award 2012 and so on.

He knows many languages such as English, Bengali, Hindi, French, Arabic and Italian. He got prestigious place in diasporic literature. He gains his place as one of the finest literary writers in the contemporary world. He has engaged with creative writing about historical and political realities. He deals with modern man and observes and experiences vivid circumstances and learns from them. He depicts issues like change of condition, rootlessness multiculturalism, post-colonial Diaspora journey, migration of people etc. He brings out the theoretical approaches to globalization and migration. He represents migrant' s women and refugees which throws light on dominant ideologies of nation and citizen as well as relation between violence citizenship, displacement and capitalist policy.

Diaspora is defined as a group or groups of people dislocated from homeland. It can be understood as consequences of imperial dominance, the displacement of people through slavery, indenture and settlement. Diasporic Consciousness means a sense of loss, consciousness of being an outsider, yearning for home, burden of exile, dispossession and relocation. Consciousness

is the state of being aware of an external and internal object. In the modern times, it has been defined as sentience, awareness, subjectivity, and ability to experience or to feel. It is a state of being awakened and having a sense of selfhood.

The Indian Diaspora is one of the most important demographic dislocations of Modern Times and each day is growing and assuming the form of representative of a significant force in global culture. In the modern Indian diasporic fictions, we can locate the maladies and experiences of diaspora in their various tinges and symptoms and explain them with new potentials, new directions and new approaches of idea. Writers like Salman Rushdie, V.S. Naipaul, Amitav Ghosh, Bharti Mukherjee, Jhumpa Lahiri, Anita Desai and Chitra B. Divakaruni bulwark a credible place in this area. Their works replete with diasporic consciousness, which form identities, build strong communities and maintain religious, social and cultural practices. These writers often tread on new grounds, experiment and explore new themes and try to break taboos prevailing in their countries and develop new ideas. Their works reflect their attachment to the motherland and their feeling of alienation and rootlessness. These Indian authors have tried to detect the feelings of supplanting in all of their creative literature. Expatriate writings give voice to the traumatic experiences of the writers in a way they undergo a critical situation of the clash of two races and cultures. The feeling of nostalgia, a sense of loss and anxiety to reinvent home obsess them that find expression, consciously or unconsciously, in their creativity. Their writings reflect their nostalgia as they write about their existing home embracing their roots and their past that is homeland. Extremely sensitive about Indian cultural background, they connect to Indian history, culture and identity.

The multiple aspects of diasporic threads are reflected in almost all the novels of Ghosh. In *The Circle of Reason*, he presents the condition of people having lost home; displaced and migrated in search of bread and butter from one place to another. Man is deeply rooted with his tradition and rituals that's why he carries the burdens of his own culture and tradition wherever he goes. Everything changes with the passage of time, even rituals and rites of any culture get modified with the journey of time. The migrants have to face and cope up with the dual aspects in the form of his nostalgia for the past culture in the new surroundings and the issue of belongingness.

Ghosh has beautifully woven the fact and fiction in *The Shadows Lines*. The novel deals with the searching of national identity, the need for independence, the partition of East Bengal, the freedom movement in Bengal, the communal riots 1963-64 in Calcutta and Dhaka and the world war II. He draws his personal experience and brings the collision of personal lives and public happenings with

locales shifting and merging between Calcutta, Dhaka and London. The message runs through the novel is the futility of creating nation states, the absurdity of drawing lines which arbitrarily divide people when their memories remain undivided. He depicts the various moods of migrants and the psychology of displaced people. The novel narrates the tragedy of partition, the plight, traumas and crisis faced by immigrants in the subcontinent in order to come home. He draws the idea of nationhood and diaspora as well as the relationship between individuals and different communities. He points out the unique characters through the migration of his protagonists from one region to another and his settlement to the place.

Ghosh presents how partition and riot affects the people life, culture, believes and development of country. He writes about the plight of the people in the subcontinent to bring out the impact of Western world. He paints the unique characters through his migration from one region to another and the settlement of that place. He explores the idea of nationhood and diasporic consciousness.

The Glass Palace explores the diasporic condition of migrants, their longing for the root culture, people, human relationships and love of the lost home. The novel spotlights the sense of dislocation experienced by the families and nations. It exhibits the agonies and anguishes of the diasporic people living in an alien land. The novel is a result of the colonial encounter of cultural, social and political lives of people of India, Bangladesh, Egypt and Burma. It delineates the characters who are the victims of immigration, displacement or dislocation, clash of cultures and rootlessness.

The Hungry Tide offers a perplexing and heartrending story of a family uprooted due to the complex sociological, political and historical factors beyond their comprehension and control, distressing sense of loss, exile and the quest for identity and homeland. He explores the diasporic condition of migrants, who are longing for the culture, people human relationships and love. It represents the agonies of the diasporic people who are living in an alien land.

Amitav Ghosh belongs to multicultural and multilingual background explores the various shades of migrant experiences and poignant tales of migrants in *Sea of Poppies*, the first book of Ibis trilogy. Displacement of the indentured people from their home countries resulted into the placement of seed into the foreign soils that gave crop of the diaspora. The dispersion of people from their homeland has strong desire to return to their homeland.

CONCLUSION

This research is rigorous insightful and comprehensive as well as strenuous scrutiny of the novels. Readers understand his unique works by his creativity and diasporic consciousness with the help of novels. An attempt has been made to explore Ghosh' s diasporic identity, cultural hybridity and consciousness regarding migrants who became the victims of displacement. Ghosh deals with the complexities of the formation of human culture. In the present human world of rigid national and cultural boundaries we notice that many people settled in different parts of the world had their ancestral origin in India and other third world countries. His works attempt to present the history of the movement of ordinary Indians to distant regions of the world. Diaspora is a movement of people from any nation or group away from their own country.

In nut shell, Ghosh' s fiction reveals recurrent patterns of the major themes like migration, displacement and search of identity. They are chiefly involving the subaltern class in the movements of individual migrants. He explores the vision of a borderless space where all divisions blur and disappear pre-dominates all the themes. Ghosh diligently researches each situation and location, emphasizing the diaspora in all his fictional works. He gives his readers the freedom to explore the truth of human being through their diasporic consciousness.

In the postcolonial world and among the postcolonial writers Amitav Ghosh remains as one of the most versatile and prominent writers. He is an eminent international writer with extraordinary set of mind and thoughts. His works either reflect postcolonial scenario or depict the pre-colonial and colonial themes. His novels are brim with interesting themes which reflect his craftsmanship of weaving the themes against the historical, geographical and social backdrops.

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