

**The Representation of Women in Social and Ethnic Relations in The Context of Global
Ethnicity.**

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Women are doubly marginalized: both in the post-colonial scenario and in the gender biased society of today. Time and again, women have been dealt with nothing but challenges and struggles and yet, with turn of the century women have begun to rise up against the atrocities begin committed against them. Brandishing their education as their weapons, they have begun to tread into different areas in life that have been denied to them before.

In particular, the literary scene now sees a brand-new wave of representation of women by female writers. This enables a wide audience to get an almost authentic depiction of the issues and obstacles that women face every day in much greater depth and veracity, when compared to perspectives of women written by men. This representation becomes equally important when the context of immigrant women is taken into consideration and it is through this approach that the analysis of the representation of women in social and ethnic relations becomes possible.

This study, thus, takes up a prominent novelist, Bharati Mukherjee and her bildungsroman novel, *Jasmine*, as its crux into the exploration of the changing identity of an Indian woman, defeating all the odds countering her in America and her confrontation of the violations done to her against her will. It aims to assess cultural ethnicity in relation to Hindu

mythology while dismantling the notion of survival of the female protagonist after her transformation from an expatriate Indian to an immigrant American.

Renowned for her attempts at depicting the Asian American identity and the issues related to it realistically, Bharati Mukherjee's selected novel, *Jasmine*, also carries over her dedication to portray an accurate representation. The protagonist of the novel becomes an Objective Correlative for Mukherjee and for her idea of her assimilation of culture. The novel revolves around Jasmine, the main character of this story. It delves into her journey through various places, identities, names, and assimilation of culture. The novel also speaks about the uprooting and re-rooting of her cultural identity. The theme of death and rebirth also comes into action and establishes a link with Hindu mythology. In addition to the aforementioned ideas, themes discussing sexual assault and the trauma resulting from it is also discussed. Jasmine is violently raped by a Vietnamese veteran, Half Face. Mukherjee then grants Jasmine the power and wrath to rise like the Hindu goddess Kali, and exact her vengeance upon the man who violated her. In addition to these ideas, the autonomy of women is also discussed in the novel and their relationships with the different men – and women – in their life are also brought into light in the context of being uprooted from one country and navigating and re-establishing herself in another country.

Thus, this study is an attempt at dismantling the notion of representation of women in social and ethnic relations against the marginalized immigrant society while celebrating the liberated and empowered women of today. Serving as a testament to all the women who forge their own paths through blood, sweat and tears, this study serves to be an inspiration to many other women to be the makers of their own fate and rise above the challenges placed against them; to develop into a marvelous force to be reckoned with.