

**LONGINGNESS OF THE SELF IDENTIFICATION AND
HOMELESSNESS IN THE NOVEL WIFE - BHARATHI MUKHERJEE**

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Bharathi Mukherjee age of three, her contribution to the cause of feminism has been to build a professional career based on words in the form of lectures, essays and fiction. Bharathi Mukherjee has written more novels. 'Jasmine', 'Wife' 'Holder of the world' are the familiar novels by Bharathi Mukherjee. It discusses their longingness of the self identification and homelessness. In recent years has gained significant recognition because she voices identification experience, particularly that of the south Asian Diasporas in North America. She emphasizes the problems with cultural identity that immigrant face. She insisted the need for immigrants to choose their home by constantly, negotiating their relationship with the old homeland and she got success of writing of the immigrant experience.

Bharathi Mukherjee's 'Holder of world,' 'Wife', 'Jasmine', discusses the suffering at home in homelessness. These three has its unique appeal of explaining the immigrant experience, her loneliness and fear. Her woman characters are tantalized by the possibility of passion, which they mistake for love and self-expression, in America which appears to be a free land, a veritable dream-land for all Indian girls. The new immigrant has to deal with people essentially different from herself. She has to learn and understand alien languages. She has to face unaccustomed problems. Bharathi Mukherjee creates the new voice and vision of the immigrant woman defining her to change the world around her.

The major themes reflected in her works are issues related to women, their self-actualization psychological transformation, problem of identity issues of gender and culture and most important problems and challenges faced by the Indian Communities especially by women in foreign countries. Ruthlessness and unreal existence are the main concerns of this expatriate novelist who has set out to make a deliberate distortion of Indian womanhood.

Her second novel 'Wife (1975) presents the alienated life in immigration resulting in neurotic behaviour and her journey from marriage to murder. Through this immigration the women how she gets psychological strains and how it causes abnormal behaviour is discussed in this paper. The character Dimple Bass, who wants to relate her Indian Traditional values with modern American Culture. As a young girl Dimple Basu is expecting a handsome husband and he is the person who provided everything in her life. The desire of Dimple Basu is described in the very first page itself.

"Dimple wanted a different life an apartment in Chowringhee, her hair done by Chinese girls, trips to New Market for nylon sarees. So she placed her faith in neurosurgeons and architects."

She married Amit Basu, a consultant Engineer. After marriage Dimple tried to satisfy every member in the family. Her husband Amit and her mother-in-law were changed the name of her and she also accepted her new identity when she came to know the news of her husband decided to go to America. She feels very happy and accepted. She thought that she could get liberty and freedom there. Dimple thought she would be liberated from all customs and traditions. She did not know that the problems to be faced by her in future. In order to fulfill her dream she aborted her child and she is not decided to

serve her old mother-in-law. Dimple understands that marriage and family are very central Indian life and to fulfill her dreams she has to continue her confirmative role.

In the mean time of her pregnancy Dimple's act a killing a mouse clearly reflects her mental disorder. Mukherjee writes, "and in outburst of hatred, her body shuddering her wrist taut with fury, she smashed the top of a small gray head".(35)

In one way she was killing herself because the mouse is also to be pregnant as herself. On the other hand it is a symbolic representation of attempting suicide herself because with the end of the mice. She finds great relief from internal tension that disturbs her day and night. Dimple is different woman discards the greatest gift of motherhood.

"She began to think of the baby as unfinished business. It cluttered up the preparation for going abroad. She did not want to carry any relics from her old life."(42)

During her pregnancy, her abnormal thoughts and act of self-abortion once again made readers about her frustration and made the readers to be confused. When she reaches America she becomes fascinated and attracted by each and everything: the language, culture, society, even the apartment where they are living. But in few days she realises the cloud arises and confusion rules her, she said.

"She was caught in the crossfire of an American Communalism she couldn't understand. She felt she'd come very close to getting killed on her third morning in America (66)".

It was the place all her dreams are shattered and she is unable to analyse her own existence. This is the stage of her psychological transformation and her personality turns into disequilibrium.

Here, Dimple faced cultural encounter between India and America. She is not ready to decide which culture she has to choose. Dimple suffers from "a subterranean streak of violence. She is uprooted from her family and her familiar world is projected into a social vacuum where the media become, her surrogate community, her global village."

When Amit is not able to find a job in America, Dimple wants to commit suicide in different ways. She suffered from interpersonal crisis, failure and self devaluation, inner conflict, loss of meaning and hope, She thrown herself headlong into the depths of despair. She tries to learn western culture, thoughts, activities, dresses but fails. After Amit Basu gets a job, She is left alone in the home all the day and from here her dilemma starts. Under these circumstances when Amit rejects her proposal for a job, she has to sit at home without any constructive work. She has to depend Amit for Economic and her emotional support leads her isolation. She starts watching TV serial crime stories. That made her to violent dreams and suicidal dreams. Her abnormal and aggressive behaviour is not noticed by Amit. Because of his work pressure he did not pay the attention towards her emotional and mental needs. Amit is busy in his daily duties. Dimple is not willing to share her emotional feelings with Amit. Dimple's boredom and carelessness made her to kill Amit and leads her to be so violent.

"Her own body seemed curiously alien to her, filled with hate, an insane desire to hurt, yet weightless, almost airborne. She dug her chin deep into the depression, so deep that she squirmed in sleep with viciousness she thought inappropriate to her wifely status."(117)

Dimple-Amit relationship, Bharathi Mukherjee has tried to raise the problem of compassion which involves the feeling of sympathy with and understanding of, another person's feelings, middle class Indian as not only economically and socially dependent on their husbands but their emotional and psychological needs get satisfied in their husbands company. Dimple's increasing desires and inactive life bring her closer to Ina Mullic who is a vulgar and selfish woman. Dimple learns new culture from Ina but later she wants to get rid of Ina. From the friendship only she learnt the relationship of Milt with this we can judge the immaturity of age and incomplete education of Dimple. She was very much interested to get new objects and without understanding the reality of life.

The four important wishes that arise in our mind, security, new experience, response and recognition without taking any positive efforts she wants them together. As a woman, wife and immigrant she lacks to establish the important role for herself. Here incapability of facing and fighting with her psychological problems compels her to act in such a manner.

Mukherjee portrays the extreme case of women and Dimple's final act of violence is unconvincing on a realistic level, yet really is an attempt at trying out a mode other than realistic. The life and breath of the novel is found essentially in the tension and balance between the personal and the social, but not certainly is estrangement from society and dissociation from reality.

What comes out from this story with its proliferation of senseless acts of violence is a terrifying and pessimistic vision which denies females the will to prevail to love and to endure. Just as Dimple has symbolically returned to the inorganic state of existence by the silent operation of thanatos the narrative too has come to a final dissolution as a result of its internal necessities. The ending in this sense does not appear to be contrived. It is quite in the logic of the narrative to come to this end with a final explosive release of the pent-up-tension an experience which is anticipated and pleasantly felt by sensitive reader.