

## **An Examination of the Growth and Influence of Diasporic Indian Women Writers in English**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*This study seeks to focus on individuals of Indian descent residing in a remote area. In the period preceding and following independence, a significant number of Indians sought opportunities in various foreign nations. These individuals departed from their homeland to reside as immigrants in foreign nations in pursuit of improved employment opportunities, enhanced quality of life, increased possibilities, superior salaries, and advanced education. Such individuals are required to navigate the complexities of two distinct cultures: the one they originated from in India and the one they encounter in these foreign nations. A considerable number of these immigrants aspire to articulate their national identity through the written word, drawing upon their personal recollections, social connections, natural surroundings, cultural practices, and various aspects of their lives, thereby conveying their sentiments and experiences as constituents of the Indian diaspora. The emergence of Indian women authors within the literary landscape signifies a noteworthy progression in the realm of Indian English literature. The contributions of these female authors extend beyond the realm of prose, encompassing diverse genres such as theater, poetry, and short stories, articulated not only in English but also in various regional languages including Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Punjabi, Tamil, and Kannada, among others. Over the last twenty years, the realm of Indian women's literature in English has experienced significant growth, both within India and on international platforms. Diasporic Indian English literature serves a significant function in illustrating the complexities of the Indian diaspora across diverse contexts. This article focuses on the contributions of Indian women diasporic authors whose literary endeavours play a significant role in India's enduring advancement, motivating the forthcoming generation of Indians to engage in the literary domain and elevate the nation's stature and acknowledgment on the global stage.*

**Keywords:** Examination, Influence, Diasporic, Indian Women, Writers in English.

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The hypernym "diaspora" may refer to exile, migration, and asylum. Living in a diaspora shows the difficulties of integrating a new culture while retaining one's own. Diaspora involves spatial dispersion, inclination to a "homeland," and boundary maintenance. "Diaspora" comes from the Greek word "diaspora," meaning "to scatter" or "to sow." Immigrants are people who leave their native countries for various reasons. After leaving their homeland, individuals spread their culture over the globe. Indian Diaspora refers to persons who have left India to live permanently in another country and helped promote the country's name and reputation to the globe. The phrase "Indian Diaspora" includes "NRIs" and "PIOs" of Indian heritage. The Indian Diaspora has provided India with financial, economic, and global advantages, therefore the government recognizes its significance. Authors from the Indian diaspora have led the debate for 20 years because they have found their niche and contributed to India and the world. Writing is a lovely art form. Diaspora literature is helpful and promotes national bonds. Indian Diaspora writers express their love and passion for their homeland. The internet is the best way to connect people and nations. Despite living abroad, these diasporic writers have maintained emotional, cultural, and spiritual ties to their homeland. Innovative women writers have expressed Indian Diaspora social and cultural realities multiple times. Indian Diaspora female writers have properly chronicled their struggles to retain culture and identity via their creative works in their new home. Anita Desai, Kamla Markandaya, Bharti Mukherjee, Chitra Banerjee, Sunetra Gupta, Jhumpa Lahiri, Kiran Desai, and others have written about Indian diaspora men and women. These writers bring unique perspectives to the table, creating a rich tapestry of stories that help us understand India and the world. English-language Indian women writers have made the greatest contribution to English literature. Many genres of Indian literature have thrived. They got famous in India and beyond for their creative writing. Their versatility has helped them achieve much.

## II. AUTHORS OF INDIAN DIASPORA IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

### 2.1 Meera Syal [27 June 1961]



Meera Syal was born in Wolverhampton, which is located in Staffordshire, United Kingdom. During her formative years, her parents relocated from Punjab, India to the United Kingdom. She had a cosmopolitan upbringing throughout her childhood. As a comedian, writer, dramatist, singer, journalist, and actor from England, she rose to notoriety in the entertainment industry. She rose to prominence in the 1980s as a result of her participation in the British comic sketch program "Goodness Gracious Me." She has a remarkable acting career on stage and in films, in addition to her work in television. Her career has been quite successful. She is a writer who has had her work published. The book "Anita and Me" (1996), which was her debut work, was made into a feature film and earned positive reviews from critics. From the perspective of a young British-Asian girl who is growing up in the 1960s, the novel examines topics such as racial tensions, problems of identity, and conflicts across cultures. One of the most well-known Asian personalities in the United Kingdom, she became. Not only has her work been able to delight audiences, but it has also been able to have a big influence in fighting preconceptions and promoting diversity and inclusiveness from the perspective of the British media. The success that she has achieved in India and the United Kingdom may be attributed to her skill, flexibility, and capacity to approach important societal problems with humor and empathy.

#### 2.1.1 Her major works :

Works	Year	Works	Year
One of Us	1983	Anita and Me - novel	1996
Tandoori Nights	1985	The House of Hidden Mothers	2015
Black Silk	1985	Goodness Gracious Me	1999
The Real McCoy	1991	Bombay Dreams	2002
The Oppressed Minorities Big Fun Show	1992	Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee	2005
My Sister Wife	1994	Uncle Santa	2010
Goodness Gracious Me	1998		

#### 2.1.2 Her awards & Honors:

1996 : Betty Trask Award

2003 : the Nazia Hassan Foundation award

## 2.2 Atima Shrivastva [1961]



Atima Shrivastava is a writer and director from India. She was born in Mumbai in 1961 where she now resides. During the time when she was eight years old, her family moved to London. There have been several films and short tales that she has directed for the first time. As a result of her efforts to the film and literature industries, she has been awarded several accolades. University of Singapore, University of Sofia (Bulgaria), University of Seoul, Korea, and Mumbai University have all provided her with opportunities to engage in writing residencies. She is also responsible for developing and teaching creative writing courses at colleges and universities all around Europe. Since the year 1985, she has been working in the film industry as both a director and an editor. Her publications have been reviewed by universities in Poland, Spain, and other countries. Shrivastava has worked extensively as a lecturer and curriculum director at institutions in both Britain and Europe. Her writings have been studied by universities in these nations. Her work has been recognized with numerous accolades and has attracted attention from all around the world, making a contribution to the general multifacetedness and depth of the English literary canon.

### 2.2.1 Her major works :

Works	Year	Works	Year
Transmission	1992	Looking for Maya.	2000
Dancing in the Dark	1992	Bombay Dreams	2002
Camden Story	1995	Perfect Match	2003
The Legendary Vindaloo	1999	It takes a girl	2013
Goodness Gracious Me (1999)	1999	Dark Waters	2013

### 2.2.2 Awards & Honors :

1994: The Bridgeport Short Story Prize  
1998 & 2000: [twice] Arts Council Writers' Awards, for her book *Looking for Maya*  
2000: The Hawthornden Fellowship  
2000: The Media Personality  
2003: The Nazia Hassan Foundation Award  
2015: Commander of the Order of the British Empire  
2017: elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

### 2.3 Shauna Singh Baldwin [1962]



Writer and novelist Shauna Singh Baldwin was born in 1962 and is of Indian origin. She is of Canadian-American descent. Her birthplace was Montreal, Canada, but she spent her childhood in India. She graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree from Marquette University. The book "What the Body Remembers," which was her first work, has been translated into eleven other languages. She is visualizing India from a distant location in Canada, and writing about India via fiction is a matter of education and self-exploration for her about India. In the past, she has achieved success in the fields of website design and independent radio production. Poetry, short stories, and essays written by her have been published in literary periodicals in India, Canada, and the United States of America. Currently, she calls the city of Milwaukee in Wisconsin her home. As a specialist in the field of information technology, she has won several awards. In addition to consulting and training, her professional experience includes project management, business analysis, technical writing, and training.

#### 2.3.1 Her major works:

Works	Year	Works	Year
A Foreign Visitor's Survival Guide to America	1992	We Are Not in Pakistan: stories	2007
English Lessons and Other Stories	1996	<u>We Are So Different Now</u>	2009
What the Body Remembers: a novel	2000	The Selector of Souls: a novel	2012
The Tiger Claw: a novel (2004	2007	Reluctant Rebellions: New and Selected Non-Fiction	2016

#### 2.3.2 Awards & Honors

1996 Friends of American Writers Award

1999 Commonwealth Book Prize Best First Book

2000 Commonwealth Book Prize Best Book–Canada and Caribbean Region 2000 Commonwealth Book Prize Best Book

2012 Anne Powers Fiction Prize

2014: The Giller Prize

2018: South Asian Literature Association Distinguished Writer Prize.

### III. CONCLUSIONS

The female authors illuminated various facets of diaspora, including Indian culture, feelings of alienation, processes of assimilation, collective history and mythology, the formation of ethnic identities, a yearning for the familiar comforts of home, the aspiration to visit an envisioned ancestral homeland, the preservation of religious beliefs, among other elements. In order to elucidate the experiences of the diaspora, the

concepts of acculturation and integration emerge as critical dimensions. In conclusion, one can confidently state that diasporic Indian English literature represents a significant genre that accurately reflects the experiences and perspectives of the Indian diaspora in a comprehensive manner. This conclusion can be derived through rational deliberation. The emotional solace it provides to that specific diaspora and the opportunity it creates for discussions surrounding immigration from India are both effectively achieved through this. Nonetheless, the feminist authors endeavored to illustrate the strength of women within a patriarchal society. Conversely, feminist authors endeavored to assert their authority within a predominantly male-dominated environment using the most effective means available to them. Women faced the challenge of transcending decades of male dominance, societal taboos, and deeply ingrained cultural notions. This journey proved to be quite arduous, necessitating the transcendence of various obstacles. The diasporic female Indian authors adeptly engage with readers of Indian English literature, employing a compassionate and straightforward approach that encapsulates the universal experience of immigration. This is due to their role as representatives of the Indian diaspora. Moreover, diasporic Indian literature composed in English forges connections between its creators and India, alongside the broader world. Through cultural interchange, representation and empowerment, economic impact, education and awareness, and cross-border collaboration, female English authors from the diaspora play a significant role in advancing India's sustainable development. This is achieved through a multitude of methods. Ultimately, their creations possess the potential to foster a society that is more sustainable and inclusive, both nationally and internationally. They possess the capacity to construct narratives, interrogate stereotypes, motivate social transformation, and foster comprehension among varied communities.

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