

# **Durga Mahavidyalaya, Raipur (C.G.)**

## **Department of English**

B.A. Semester III

Course Code: ENSE 01, (DSE)

**Course Title: New Literatures in English**

**Study Material on DIASPORA**

(Unit II, Section A)

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HoD

# Diaspora - Meaning

- ❖ The word 'Diaspora' is a Greek word meaning 'to disperse'.
- ❖ Refers to Jews externment from Palestine and dispersion beyond Israel after Babylonian conquests.
- ❖ A process of people migrating frequently from one place to another for various reasons.

# Diaspora - Definition

- ❖ Ashcroft Bill, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin in the book - *The Empires Writes Back* define as:

Diaspora is the voluntary or forcible movement of people from their homelands into new regions.

- ❖ Robin Cohen in his book – *Global Diaspora* writes:

Diaspora is referring to different communities of people who are living together in a ‘new country’ by often thinking of their homelands.

# Other Names

❖ Diasporic writings are also called –

- Expatriate Writings
- Immigrant Writings
- Exile Literature

# Categories:

## 1. Old Diaspora or Exclusive Diaspora

- ❖ Migration of labourers to various places and colonies forcibly from former colonies like India, Australia, Canada and transatlantic slave trade regions.
- ❖ The immigrants create imaginary homeland and narrow version of their land of belongingness. E.g. Little India in Canada.

## **2. New Diaspora/Capital Diaspora**

- ❖ Migration of highly skilled professional, workers and students to developed countries voluntarily for their personal good.
- ❖ Migration of Semi-skilled workers to Gulf countries again due to financial reason.
- ❖ The immigrants carry double consciousness as such migrated people remain in touch with their 'Homeland'.

# Diaspora – Symbolic Labels

- ❖ Includes several categories of people like:
  - ❖ Expatriates
  - ❖ Expellees
  - ❖ Alien residents
  - ❖ Political refugees
  - ❖ Racial minorities

# Causes of Diaspora

- ❖ New modes of mobility
- ❖ Amazing evolution of remote connectivity
- ❖ Invitation from cosmopolitan pockets
- ❖ Fertility of land of opportunities
- ❖ Play of identity politics

# Features of Diaspora

- ❖ Dispersal from native homeland.
- ❖ Partial assimilation in host country.
- ❖ Hyphenated status and identity.
- ❖ Constant experience of 'foreignness'.
- ❖ Constant fear of further 'Dislocation'.
- ❖ 'Doubleness' in identity formation.

# Effects of Diaspora

- ❖ New interest in 'Geo – Political' Locations.
- ❖ Fresh inter-relatedness of cultures.
- ❖ Much attention on Globalisation.
- ❖ Yearning for the Homeland.
- ❖ Longing for the past.

# Diasporic Literature: In short

- ❖ A rich and diverse genre.
- ❖ Includes themes such as –
  - ❖ Migration
  - ❖ Displacement
  - ❖ Cultural hybridity
  - ❖ Search for Identity
  - ❖ Urge of belongingness
- ❖ Created by authors who have migrated from their homeland to other country.

# **Diaspora – Born of**

- ❖ Colonization
- ❖ Slavery
- ❖ Mass Migration
- ❖ Globalization

# Diasporic Identity

- ❖ Heterogeneous
- ❖ Persistently changing
- ❖ Comprises of identities like-
  - a. Multiple
  - b. Mobile
  - c. Altering

# Various Diasporas

❖ African diaspora

❖ Indian diaspora

❖ Caribbean diaspora

❖ French diaspora

❖ Dutch diaspora

❖ Irish diaspora

and many more

# Major Indian Diasporic Writers

- ❖ V.S. Naipaul
- ❖ Salman Rushdie
- ❖ Amitav Ghosh
- ❖ Jhumpa Lahiri
- ❖ Bharati Mukherjee
- ❖ Kiran Desai
- ❖ Rohinton Mistry

**Thank You**