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**CULTURAL CONFLICT AND SOCIAL REALISM IN THE FICTION OF  
KIRAN DESAI AND ARVIND ADIGA**

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**Abstract :**

*'indian english literature' has come out of its own confines and emerged as a significant part of world literature in english. Kiran desai is one of the most acclaimed indian writers of her generation. Her first novel, hullabaloo in the guava orchard and the second novel 'the inheritance of loss' depict cultural conflict, arvind adiga also tries to depict cultural conflict through his novels like 'the white tiger; 'between the assassination' last man in tower (2011) and 'selection day'.*

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**Ration of study :** no much comparative work has been done on the exploring cultural conflict in the works of kiran desai and arvind adiga.

**Objectivesy of the study :** to explore cultural conflicts in the works of two celebrated writers namely kiran desai and arvind adiga.

**Hypothesis :** the study of cultural conflict in the fiction of kiran desai and arvind adiga will be done in this research paper.

**Methodology :** the primary sources and all the available secondary sources are analyzed to explore cultural conflict in the works of kiran desai & arvind adiga.

**Introduction :**

Indian writing in english is a new way of writing, the literature is of indian people and from indian root. It is a picture of contemporary indian society. In a competition to innovate, a new age of young fascinating writers is rapidly growing in india's literary horizon and the name of arvind adiga is a young indian writer who was born in chennai in 1974. He started his career as journalist and also worked as correspondent in india for time magazine, he won britain's most prestigious award. The man Booker prize 2008. For his debut novel 'the white tiger'. Adiga is the fourth india born author to win Booker prize after Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai. Adiga in his novels made a living depiction of changes in the indian society in this age of globalization. He wrote about simplicity and complexity of common man of india. Through his writings adiga suggests the proper treatment of evil, which still exists in our contemporary indian society. It is the truth that people grant their significance to the social troubles rather than solutions. Community issues and problems

are not prominent but the right treatment for these kinds of issues is prominent, because the treatment of social harms is not to forget but to face and finish otherwise these social issues will become unbearable and apart from that "prevention is better than cure." awareness is the most significant remedy for such social problems. We find social realism and impact of cultural variations in his novels. Kiran Desai is the voice of younger generation of indian english writers who explores the technique of magic realism, india has always been depicted as a mystic's land of strange magic charms, intricate religious rituals, spicy, cuisine and a land where spiritual leaders proliferate. Kiran Desai puts all these ingredients into the cauldron of her first novel 'hullabaloo in the guava orchard' and produces a recipe that not only is delectable to the indian readers but also to the western literary audience. 'The inheritance of loss' throws light on the split personalities of the diasporas who are pulled forward and backward by the adopted culture and then by native culture. What they become in the process is a disillusioned lot. We see social and magical realism, as well as multiculturalism in the novels of Kiran Desai.

**Social realism :**

the indian novel in english began as a novel of social realism but not as romance or historical romance. The rise of the novel in india was not purely a literary phenomenon. It was a social phenomenon rather than a mere fulfilment of a social need or desire. Realism in literature is a manner and method of picturing life. As it really is (that is untouched by idealism or romanticism). As a manner of writing realism relies on the use of specific details to interpret life faithfully and objectively. In 'social realism'

writers faithfully present people's attitudes and behavior in their relationship with others in given situations. They also describe the ways of life of the people of all social classes in the society. However, the incidents depicted in their works are neither made beautiful with the writers' imagination nor they are described with exaggeration. The writers explain all the trials and tribulations of the neglected and discriminated people in the society with the naked reality. Arvind adiga's novels cover almost every aspect of contemporary indian society. He in his novels made a living depiction of changes in indian society in this age of globalization. His characterization of people from every walk of life makes him a great writer that of charles dickens 'and r. K. Narayan. He wrote about simplicity and complexity of common man in india. He in his novels reflects his deeper concern on social taboos which exists in contemporary indian society.

He represents the darkness and bitter truths of modern society in his novels. "the white tiger" provides a darkly humorous perspective of india's class struggle in a globalized world as told through a retrospective narration from balram halwai, a village boy and protagonist of the novel. The novel is based on the disparities of two world; the world of poor and underprivileged who cannot even fulfil their minimum requirements, which author refers to 'darkness' in the novel and another is the 'lighter world' of zamindars, politicians, businessmen etc. Who shamelessly exploit the poor people making them even more poor and grows their own luxurious life. Arvind adiga's second novel 'last man in tower' focuses on ongoing real estate issue in mumbai, particularly a struggle between the changes of the past and the present. The novelist has used literature as a crucial tool to understand the economic and cultural condition of the society. His characters revolve across race, gender and class through which reader conventionally understands the social deference.

Adiga's third novel 'selection day' shows that how much the indians are obsessed with the game of cricket. The character of mohan kumar, the ambitious father of the two cricketing boys and a chutney seller from a small village of karnatka who came to mumbai to make fortune and for him the cricketing ability of his son is a ticket to salvation. As we know, india is very religious country, besides these religions cricket is also appeared as a religion in india. Arvind adiga has aptly captured the reality of our indian society in a kaleidoscopic manner in his novel 'between the assassinations'. He has captured

the various malpractices that are rampant in our society such as corruption, child labour social discrimination on the grounds of caste; religion, class and gender through a story of 'everyman of every town' of the period of transition between the assassinations of indira gandhi and rajiv gandhi viz. 1984 to 1991. Iconoclast indian novelist arvind adiga's novels are the record of the sharp and glaring look at modern contemporary indian society. He exposes the ancient division between the rich and the poor, existing caste system, corruption in indian politics and the miraculous growth in india. What makes desai's fictions so fascinating is that the vast canvas of contemporary society in which the themes of alienation, cultural clashes, displacement of exile are presented in the broad perspective of globalization. The sensitive socio-political issues concerning hybridity, insurgency immigration, intercultural communication, identity crisis, loneliness, multiculturalism, poverty, racial discrimination, social realism and search for home also find within the ambit of her novels. Her first novel 'hallaballo in the guava orchard' (1998) has presented different perspectives of several current issues of modern civilization.

As a modern international expatriate indian novelist, kiran desai experienced displacement, dislocation and cultural clash. In her novels, she writes about the cultural hybridity of the post-colonial migrant and the deplorable condition of the individuals. Her novel 'the inheritance of loss' deals with her own situation of migrancy, expatriation and alienation from the mother country. Through the characters, she gives how her own dual indian-american upbringing which results in despair. Living between east and west and the introduction of western elements in a country creates a cultural clash. Kiran desai reflects india wonderfully in her novels.

#### **Cultural variation :**

cultural studies have played a pivotal role in understandings and evaluating the power dynamics of the social, political, economic and ethical world order by empirically engaging and focusing on the present-day culture, tracing its historical roots and explicating its attributes with reference to a particular text and its reception in society. the cultural plurality is not an imaginary one but it is the picture of multicultural social conditions. Now-a-days, the world has become a global village, and our culture becomes multicultural. The culture of india refers to the identity of culture, and religious beliefs, customs, traditions and languages, ceremonies,

and value system and way of life. Indian writing in english is a new way of uniting. is a creation of time beginning with the cultural change in indian society. The literature is of indian people and from indian roots. It is a picture of contemporary society. It is because of migration that culture has become multicultural. In the modern time, there are interactions between the two different cultures. Exchange theory is applied. arvind adiga's 'the white tiger' is also representation of family structure in indian contemporary society. Marriage system is one major element of the socio-cultural variation. Festivals are said to be one important part of the social and cultural variation. We not only celebrate the festivals but also understand the meaning beyond it.

Festivals teach the next generation and it is the identity of culture. 'the inheritance of loss' by kiran desai is a story of variations which leads to the cultural identities and cultural conflict present in the human civilization across the globe. She exhibits the social construction of human experience, interaction and social realities to reveal a social meaning out of it as an inter subjective process. Desai has exposed the pain of an immigrant and the unfairness of the world in which one side travels to be a servant and the other side travels to be treated like a king. 'hullabaloo in the guava orchard' deals with life story of sampath chawla, a young man and his suffering and struggle for his identify. Desai's every character is suffering for identify. Sampath's depiction in the novel shows the image of disappointment and dissatisfaction in his life due to his mental illness. He was not contented with his employment and ordinary life style. Therefore, he determined to create innovative world with new identify as a popular person, so he migrated to guava orchard and became a very famous holy man. His father mr. Chawla also helps mr. Sampath to start new life with the help of his progress. This shows that his aim is to make new identify by earning more money by new business. Mostly everyone in the novel aspires for a new identity

#### **Conclusion :**

Kiran desai depicts the overwhelming feeling of humiliation experienced by the people who reach america in search of a better future. Kiran desai being an indian might have experienced the same anxiety as a foreigner. Arvind adiga criticizes the unjust system prevailed due to caste system. Outdated customs and traditions, economic exploitation in the name of globalizations, privatization and liberalization. He depicts the contemporary

indian society with deeper insight. Kiran desai & arvind adiga portray india in their novels with the touch of social realism and depict the effects of culture variations in indian society.

India of light and india of darkens is a proper division of characterization in the novels of arvind adiga. Kiran desai gives a proper picture of migrated people of india and their humiliation while countering the new western culture, conflicts mainly arise because of the mingling of different characters from different countries as well as mingling of characters within the same community having different mindsets. Conflict is not negative in nature, it raises our consciousness and prompts us to find ways to accommodate and adjust in a multicultural world. We belong to a particular culture, though we should strive to accept cultural differences too.

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