



EXPLORING INNOVATIONS IN GLOBAL FAMILY AND COMMUNITY THROUGH INDIAN ENGLISH NARRATIVES

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the role of Indian English narratives in exploring and advocating innovations in global family and community health. As health challenges increasingly transcend national borders, ranging from pandemics and mental health crises to maternal care and social inequality. Literature emerges as a powerful medium for the complex issues by Indian English writers like: Arun Dhakh Roy, Auntav Ghosh, Jhumpa Lahiri and Rohinton Mistry portray experiences shaped by public health realities imagining transformative responses in resilience and community. The study examines how fiction socially engaged in narratives contributes to a broader understanding of health systems, family Dynamics and criminal care and mental well bringing and social reform in constrained settings.

KEYWORDS: Indian English literature, literacy narratives, Global health, Family and Community health.

It is a known fact that in a rapidly globalizing world, the concepts of family and community are undergoing significant transformation. Among Indian English writers—many of whom engage with themes of migration, cultural displacement, and identity—play a critical role in capturing these changes. These writers' narratives often bridge the local and the global, creating innovative portrayals of familial and communal life that challenge traditional boundaries and reflect contemporary realities. It has been long recognized that Indian English literature's capacity to portray complex social structures and for example, Raj Bahadur Yadav (2021) emphasizes the symbolic role of children in reflecting familial and societal shifts. Jhumpa Lahiri's Interpreter of Maladies is often cited for its nuanced portrayal of diaspora families navigating between cultures. Similarly, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's The Mistress of Spices and Aruni Kashyap's The House with a Thousand Stories explore the fluidity of community, home, and belonging in changing socio-political contexts. In Indian English narratives, family and community are often seen not as static institutions, but as evolving constructs. Mainly three conceptual dimensions are frequently explored where Characters often experience a reconfiguration of familial ties in foreign lands. In case of Hybridity and Identity: Cultural syncretism affects generational values and relationships. In case of Agency and Gender: Female voices in Indian English fiction often challenge patriarchal norms within family and community.

In one of the famous writers, Lahiri's stories highlight emotional distance within diaspora families. The globalized space becomes one where generational ties strain under the weight of individualism and assimilation. Yet, innovation arises in the form of new kinds of emotional intimacy—built across letters, silence, or shared memory. Another writer, Divakaruni reimagines mythological and contemporary Indian women who assert autonomy within traditionally male-dominated family and community setups. Her protagonists navigate dual worlds—rooted in Indian tradition yet informed by Western feminist ideals—thereby crafting a hybrid model of familial relationships. Set in conflict-ridden Assam, Kashyap's narrative disrupts the romanticized idea of rural community. His characters are caught in political, familial, and emotional crises, presenting a raw portrayal of community resilience and disintegration. So, Innovation is visible in how familial loyalty adapts to survive trauma and change.

To identify one significant innovation in these narratives is the inversion of traditional authority structures within families. For instance, elder family members—who traditionally wield decision-making power—are often depicted as grappling with loss of relevance in the face of migration or modernization. This reversal allows younger generations, especially daughters or daughters-in-law, to emerge as emotional and moral anchors. In Arranged Marriage, Divakaruni's protagonists frequently subvert oppressive systems, not through rebellion but

through quiet resilience and emotional intelligence, thus reimagining the family as a more egalitarian space. To examine, another important innovation lies in the portrayal of intergenerational dialogue and silence. In works like *Unaccustomed Earth*, Lahiri uses silence and distance as narrative tools that express the failure of communication between generations raised in different cultural milieus. Yet, this silence becomes a narrative device through which characters reflect, empathize, and gradually redefine their roles. The idea of ‘home’ becomes a shifting symbol—rooted not in geography but in shared understanding and emotional reconciliation, even across oceans.

Lastly, Indian English fiction innovates by integrating community with memory and storytelling, especially in postcolonial or conflict-prone contexts. In Aruni Kashyap’s work, the community remembers not only through ritual or oral tradition but also through trauma. The house, the village, or even shared meals become repositories of cultural continuity and rupture. This nuanced layering of community—both as nurturer and witness to pain—allows readers to understand how collective identities are preserved, reinterpreted, and sometimes resisted. In such narratives, the community becomes a dynamic archive, shaped by storytelling itself.

These authors redefine family not merely as a blood relation, but as a chosen space of emotional investment, negotiation, and survival. In many Indian narratives, most of Community, too, is portrayed as fluid and borderless—extending across continents, ideologies, and shared memories. Indian English narratives introduce fragmented yet connected family models, Re-imagined kinship based on empathy, not heritage, Community as collective trauma and healing, Women-centered redefinition of home and belonging. The Indian English narrative offers a crucial lens for international scholars and policymakers interested in cultural diplomacy, global citizenship, and social cohesion. As the world witnesses increasing displacement—be it through migration, war, or climate change—these stories offer blueprints for resilience and coexistence.

CONCLUSION

Indian English literature innovatively charts the transformation of global family and community. Through multi-generational, diasporic, and gendered perspectives, these narratives foster empathy, challenge rigidity, and illuminate possibilities for inclusive global identities. In doing so, they expand the imaginative horizons of family and community in a transnational age.

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