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महाराष्ट्र राज्य साहित्य आणि संस्कृती मंडळाने या नियतकालिकेच्या प्रकाशनार्थ अनुदान दिले आहे. या नियतकालिकेतील लेखकांच्या विचारांशी मंडळ व शासन सहमत असेलच असे नाही.



9. **Art, Culture, Literature and Cinema for World Peace and Progress**
- Ms. Gaikwad Vanita Tatyaba ----- 46
10. **Contribution of Literature in World Peace and Progress**
- Dr. Abul Hasib Siddiqui ----- 51
11. **Sports and Physical Education for Peace: A Comprehensive Analysis**
- Dr. Akram Badshaha Mujawar ----- 53
12. **Moving Minds with Moving Images: Peace Education through
World Cinema**
- Dr. Anand Uddhav Hipparkar ----- 57
13. **Proclamation of Human Values in Robert Frost's Poetry**
- Dr. Ravindra A. Kulkarni ----- 61
14. **One World Family-The Clarion call of the Art of Living**
- Ms. Zeenat B. Merchant ----- 66
- ✓ 15. **Local Communities, Nationalism, Peace and Progress in the
context of Louise Erdrich's 'Love Medicine'**
- Dr. Shinde Santosh Laxman ----- 70
16. **Literature and Cinema as a Foundation of Revolution**
- Dr. Nisha Bhagwat Gosavi ----- 74
17. **An Analysis of Refugee Conundrum in South Asia from The Lenses of
Regional Peace and Progress**
- Sagar Gopal Rathod ----- 77



Local Communities, Nationalism, Peace and Progress the context of Louise Erdrich's 'Love Medicine'

Dr. Shinde Santosh Laxman

Dr. Patangrao Kadam Mahavidyalaya,

Ramanandnagar (Burli)

Email Id - santoshlshinde111@gmail.com

Mob no. - 9604895239

Abstract:

This paper is an attempt to explore quest for ethnic identity in Louise Erdrich's famous novel entitled *Love Medicine* (1984). She redefines notions of cultural, social aspects as well as its importance to identity in her novels. Louise Erdrich is recognized as the heir to American Indian literature. She deals with identity within the context of colonization and evolving hybridization of distinct groups or peoples. *The Love Medicine* is a seminal text of Erdrich's writing. It presents a variety of notions of home, cultural and social aspects. All the character's ethnic identity differ, yet they all have one profound resemblance. They compete, intercede, backtrack, overlap, tangle, mix, and add and subtract elements that make their homes and place. This research paper also represents the concept of diaspora in the context of society.

Keywords: Local Communities, Nationalism and Peace and Progress, cultural, social and interrelations in families, Native American literature, Ethnic identity, dispersion, dissemination, migration, displacement, scattering, the meaning of Indian Diasporas.

Introduction:

The disciplines like Anthropology and Sociology have facing a problem of defining a new identity created out of the phenomenon of globalization that promotes the hybridization and generates a process of acculturation. The novels

that were always categorized under the 'native' as they reveals the problems of are now showing a new problems of identity at its core also challenges the very 'native'. Louise Erdrich, one of the Native American authors, has also presented a complex structure of narrative that reveals the characters face the problems in social and identification, due to their hybridization. Most of her characters are mix blooded, facing a problem to cope with the identity surrounding that cannot related to a specific land. As a result of these social facts the notion of 'home' becomes a flux that compiles variety but mend to an organic whole. These sociological notion of 'home' becomes a cultural compiles variety but mend to an organic whole.

Diaspora refers to a large group of people who share a cultural and regional origin but live away from their traditional homeland. They come about through immigration and movements of people. Professional communities of individuals no longer in their homeland also be considered Diaspora. For science Diasporas are communities of scientists who conduct research away from their homeland. Diasporas are communities of merchants, what's another word for Diaspora is dispersion, dissemination, migration,



displacement, scattering. The meaning of Indian Diasporas is the group of people who are currently living outside India (temporary or permanent) and those who can trace their origin to India.

Love Medicine is the first novel of Erdrich published in 1984. The novel made up of a disjointed, yet interconnected, short narrative. Each narrative told from perspective of different characters. It moves backward and forward in time through every decade between the 1930s and the present day. It told the stories of several families living on a North Dakota Ojibwa reservation. In fact, with the publication of *Love Medicine*, readers were introduced to the landscape and to the community of characters to which Erdrich would later return in much of her other fiction. In the course of her five North Dakota novels, Erdrich constructed a mythical world that has compared to William Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County. The innovative techniques used in the novel, which owed a great deal to the works of Faulkner.

In *Love Medicine*, she seems to be interested in genealogies and the legacies of generations, people dispossessed of their land and in the subsequent destinies of their children. Leslie Marmon Silko feels that *Love Medicine* is a realistic representation of the hardships of Native American life. He also accused Erdrich of being more concerned with postmodern technique than with the political struggles of Native peoples. *Love Medicine* is a collection of interrelated short stories. It focuses on the characters and speakers from four Anishinaabe families: the Kashpaws, the Lamartines, the Pillagers, and the Morrisseys. Erdrich represents the families in non-hierarchical terms by employing speakers of various ages and locates within the community. Furthermore, the fifty years span of the novel is related to the reader not chronologically, but instead in a cyclical manner.

The novel *Love Medicine* opens in 1980, weaves its way back to the 1930's, and finally

returns to the early 1980's. Erdrich's narrative technique ultimately accomplishes a holistic temporal view of the Anishinaabe culture in which present occurrences cannot be isolated from the past. *Love Medicine* began a tetralogy that includes *The Beet Queen* (1986), *Tracks* (1988), and *The Bingo Palace* (1994), about the Indian families living on or near a North Dakota Chippewa reservation and the whites.

Cultural interpretations of the tetralogy attempt to relate Erdrich's work to her Anishinaabe heritage. Erdrich's portrayal of time is related to Native American ritual time as opposed to Euro-American linear chronology. Furthermore, the author's narrative structure centres on interrelationships rather than social hierarchy. The book explores 60 years in the lives of a small group of Chippewa /Ojibwa or Anishinaabe living on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota. *Love Medicine* won the 1984 National Book Critics Circle Award.

Ethnicity is an element of social relationship between agents who consider themselves as culturally unique from members of other groups with whom they interact. Thus, it can also be defined as a social identity. When cultural variations usually make a difference in interaction between members of groups, the social kinship has an ethnic attribute. Ethnicity comments on both sides of loss and gain in interaction, and to aspects of meaning in the creation of identity. Thus, it has a symbolic, political as well as an organizational aspect. Ethnic groups attend to have myths of common heritage or root. They always have ideologies encouraging their internal relationships. Ethnic identities and organizations may have highly variable importance in different societies, for different individuals and in different situations.

Ethnic identities and groups have come into existence in mutual contact rather than in isolation. Thus, ethnicity is constituted through social contact. The term ethnic group has come



to mean something like a group of people who are distinctive from other ethnic groups. Concerning the boundaries of the group, anthropologists make a list of a number of criteria to set the boundaries of cultural groups, such as language, political organization and territorial contiguity. Michael Merman claims since language, culture, political organization do not correlate completely. The units delimited by one criterion do not coincide with the units delimited by another. However, cultural difference between two groups is not the definite feature of ethnic identity. Two different groups may thoroughly have extensively different languages, religious beliefs but that does not essentially mean that there is an ethnic kinship between them.

For ethnicity, the groups must at least have the contact with each other. They must take seriously ideas of each other as being culturally distinctive from themselves. If these circumstances or requirements are not accomplished, there is not ethnicity. Glazer and Moynihan states, for ethnicity is essentially an aspect of a relationship, not a property of a group: on the contrary, some groups may seem culturally similar, yet there can be a socially highly relevant interethnic relationship between them. There may also be considerable cultural variation within a group without ethnicity. So that cultural differences are distinguished as being significant, and are brought about socially applicable or connected, do social relationships have an ethnic feature.

The term 'ethnic group' is much more common to the word called in the past tribes. The term ethnic group indicates interrelationship and contact. To argue of an ethnic group in complete isolation is as irrational as to speak of the sound from one hand clapping. By definition, ethnic groups remain more or less individually distinct and separate, but they are conscious of and in contact with the members of other ethnic groups. In addition, these groups or classifications are made through that exceedingly contact.

The identity of groups must be defined in relation to that which they are not. A person who is not a member of a particular group. Almost every human being belongs to a group, whether they live in Europe or America. The issue of home and place concerns the preservation of Native American cultural identity and location. Erdrich in her novel the traditional Native American metaphor of 'beading'. It reflects the relationship between cultures. It also shows the enduring strength of the Ojibwa. Her characters belong to different locations, suffering from various means several. The nomadic history of native people is both voluntary and involuntary.

Erdrich demonstrates the origins of cultural identity and religion that forever remain independent. Erdrich's writing, about the concept of home holds the life into over time. The interweaving, cross-cultural Native American existence. Erdrich is part of a group of Native American writers. She dreams of the future in contemporary reality and begins her representation in art. Erdrich's novels show the reservation as a place of self-destruction. The twists of home destroy lives. Erdrich's focus on individual growth, the weaving narrative for individual and communal cohabitation. The novel also shows the existence of the chaos of the past. Here, the notion of home includes more than that of simple local residence. The concept of home for Native people, community, past, present, and future. The creation of home may dispose the relationship between Native and Western cultures.

Louise Erdrich is Recognized as one of the most significant and versatile contemporary Native writers. She raises virtually all the important issues to perceive the human conditions. In her writing, she discusses events such as accidents of birth and death, falling in love, greed, liberality, psychology.



damage, alienation, joy, aging and dying. She also reflects the elements of the human condition co-exist within the symbolic or actual location i.e 'home.' The human condition and the place where the native people exist come nicely to fruition. The stories are the complex entangling of histories, families and themes. These are reflected into a richly diverse narrative. The search of home, place and identity is similarly involved at almost every step of her novels.

Conclusion :

The analysis of Louise Erdrich's *Love Medicine* one can draw certain conclusions in connection to her notion of home and ethnic identity which are under deconstruction in the light of the hybrid socio-cultural realities. This text describes the Mix blooded characters in the social platform. There is a study of the Problem of Identification and status in the society. The home of the people is more close and intimate

for them. The Problems of acculturation and socialization is more important for this study of research paper.

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