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## **CROSS-CULTURAL DILEMMA OF DIMPLE IN BHARATI MUKHERJEE'S *WIFE***

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### **Abstract**

Bharati Mukherjee a famous writer known for her Indian and Western Culture. She in her novels brings out women oppression and the suffering of their fellow men and women. Their survival in the society, in order of seeking love, respect and understanding will lead them to autonomous selfhood. Freedom has become an integral part of the existences of Indian Women, who avoid buckling themselves under pressure. Bharati Mukherjee focuses to take challenges boldly against the traditional framework of society.

**Keywords:** Tradition, Cultural, Adaptation, Society, Experience.

Cross-Cultural Dilemma of Dimple in Bharati Mukherjee's *Wife* Bharati and her sisters (Mira and Ranu) were given ample academic opportunities and thus they too pursued academic endeavors in their careers and have had the opportunity to receive excellent schooling.

Violence is the keyword, a leitmotif in Mukherjee's fiction, and the psychic violence that she thinks is necessary for the transformation of character is often emphasized by an accompanying physical conflict of some sort. Dimple's frenzied killing of her husband is the result of her notion that if circumstances do require such a drastic action to win freedom, then it may be resorted to. As Mukherjee says:

“We’ve all been trained to please, trained to be adaptable as wives and that adaptability is working to the women’s advantage when we come over as immigrants. For an Indian woman to learn and drive, puts on pants, cash cheques, is a big leap. They are exhilarated by those changes” (Tandon 56).

The novel *Wife* is the simple tale of Amit and his wife Dimple, newly married Bengali immigrant to the USA. Her life in India and America is naturally a big disappointment to her. She never expected her life to be suppressive even after marriage.

“She hoped that marriage would offer her a different kind of life- an apartment in Chowringhee, her hair done by Chinese girls, trips to New Market for nylon saris” (W-3).

Her expectation after marriage was not matching; her husband does not know how to compliment his wife. The culture he is born, he withdraws his love and other emotional attachments from his wife in a recreation of the cultural aims. In *Wife* Mukherjee brings out the protagonist has to adopt two different cultures namely Indian culture and an alien American culture are resulting in patriarchic ideological society. Dimple is balancing her

between fear and fantasy and worrying often about her existence. She believes that her marriage in America with her husband and mother-in-law would be happy. She was in her family way and that she considered her new beginning.

She has to experience own and borrowed culture in life at America terribly. Her new adaption is difficult because her conventional upbringing in Calcutta she dreams of an ideal wife. Her leisure time enjoyment is watching television shows. Dimple falls an easy victim to the various magazines and television ads. She accepts them literally and as days passed in America, she spends time by helping Meena Sen in her household activities, watching television or newspapers. Often she hears only about murders, smugglings, etc. This brought her restlessness and frustration with her. Ina influence Dimple badly.

“Express yourself in your surroundings. Discover your grand passion and indulge it to excess. Then simply the rest, throw out be ruthless, that's the secret to happiness”(W - 87). The role of a woman is found hacked into the role of liberty and autonomy. This novel depicts the complications that come from being thrown between two aspects of surviving life with strength and courage.

The first jolt to Dimple is the mother-in-law insisting on calling her ‘Nandhini’ which means the ‘holy cow’. When Dimple comes to know that her husband is moving to America, she feels that this decision of her husband could giver freedom. The couple was excited to fly, but their reason to migrate was different. The main motto of Dimple is to be liberated from all custom and tradition. She starts dreaming about her new life of staying abroad.

Unknowingly she starts liking her words and the way of life she is leading. I lead her to fall in love with Mitt Glaster, an American. America’s barbarous acts of violence, sex and bloodshed threatens and blindly corrupts her. This leads her to murder her husband later. An Indian in the tradition of an America posed divorced for the snored. Mainly the Cinemas she watched were also about sex and violence. When the visits of Mitt Glaster and Ina become rare, Dimple starts to compare and feel isolated. The loveless relationship with her husband contributes to her miseries. Dimple is always in favor of making money going to parties, conducting parties and getting well settled in New York. Once, Vinod Kanna, a prosperous businessman, invites the couple for dinner. He also offers a job to Dimple but on her husband’s advice, she declines it because Amit doubts Kanna’s character.

She entertains a fear of violence in real life and suffers from insomnia at night.

“Stars, Dimple recalled having read somewhere implodes, she felt like a star, collapsing inwardly” (W-109).

The novel illustrates how these pervasive dynamics contribute to injustice and toxic interpersonal relationships. Dimple develops feelings for Milt, she tries nine different ways to commit suicide. Dimple seduces Milt and she kills Amit. *Wife* is similar to other novels; it deals with the difficulties of adjusting to a new culture. It is different because the main character refuses to adapt to the new culture of America and instead holds on to her Indian roots.

Dimple is experiencing every moment a cross-cultural dilemma. At the party of Ina, an immigrant Indian, she is shocked by looking the Hindus easily adopt the western food culture. In America, the immigrants always suffer from feelings of an outsider.

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