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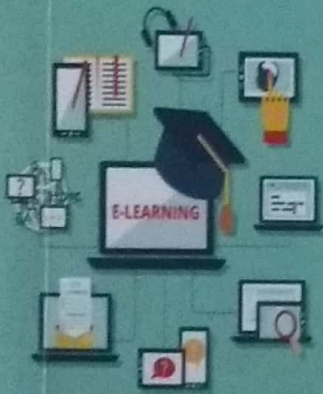
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**EMERGING TRENDS IN  
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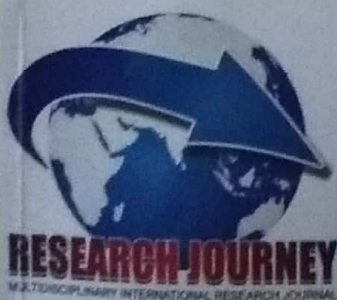
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## The Theme of Nationalism and Racial Discrimination in Such a Long Journey

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### Abstract:

India is the terrestrial of - Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism, Jainism, Christianity, Judaism and Zoroastrianism. The Constitution of India has accepted the right of freedom of religion and people try to maintain the same through implementing their religion and at the same time they have become secular due to this practice. Rohinton Mistry has blended the communal issues with the personal issues of the protagonist in *Such a Long Journey*. His writings explore the Indians history, Politics, economy, conspiracy against the minority community in India, life style and culture during 1970's, 1980's, and 1990's. Through the writings, he has presented the anxiety felt by himself and his community due to the transformation taken place in in pre-and post-independence India.

### Introduction:

India is the terrestrial of - Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism, Jainism, Christianity, Judaism and Zoroastrianism. Religious faith and thinking are very important fundamentals in the life of human beings. Zoroastrianism put emphasis on purity of thoughts and purity of minds while the base of Christianity is sacrifice, faith and love. All religions philosophy helps man to recognize himself through the service to society. "Arnold Toynbee, Aldoux Hixley and T.S. Eliot have also written about the close links between Buddhism, Christianity and Judaism." Buddhism instills the values of love, kindness, sympathy, brotherhood and humanism. Religion instills us that all the religions have existed on the same earth and human heart struggles for the same ideals of peace, human happiness and tolerance.

### Nationalism and Racial Discrimination:

The Constitution of India has accepted the right of freedom of religion and people try to maintain the same through implementing their religion and at the same time they have become secular due to this practice. But after the Independence of India, politician are misusing the religion as per their requirement to gain the political power that is leading India in the wrong direction which is very harmful for the hard earned democracy. Due to this, we notice religious riots, suppression of the minorities, Partition and Terrorism etc. are the results of power politics. So there are many communal conflict taking place in India. The Indian religious philosophy has given stress on values such as traditional Indian values which consist mutual broadmindedness, integration, housings, divine values and ethical duties.

Rohinton Mistry has blended the communal issues with the personal issues of the protagonist in *Such a Long Journey*. Though he is living in Canada still he writes about the condition of his Parsi community in the post independent- India. In his all the novels, his characters feel marginalized with clear sense of the loss of status and their historical moment that makes one think of Mistry's non- Indian sensibility.





Oxford English dictionary has defined Nationalism as "Identification with one's own nation and support for its interests, especially to the exclusion or detriment of the interests of other nations."

The growth of nationalism in India has been conventionally clarified in terms of Indian answer to the inducement produced by the British Raj through the formation of new institutions, new opportunities, etc. Since its Birth, Indian English Literature has been used as a means of the expression of the nation's personality- Political, Historical, cultural and emotional. It has enunciated the aspirations and frustrations of the Indian people. The novelists, the poets, the non-fictional prose writers, and to a certain extent, the dramatists have succeeded in depicting the Indian Social reality imaginatively, permeating it with universal import.

Nationalism has become an important term related to politics of human relation. It is a broaden concept in the formation of the country. The term Nationalism is existed now and not in the past. It is related with sentiments. The traces of nationalism can be seen in the writings of Rohinton Mistry's. To understand Mistry's Nationalism, we peep to go into his writings and the period in which he lived. Though left India in 1975 and settled in Toronto, Canada Still he sets all his novels in the city of Bombay where his ancestors lived. His writings explore the Indians' history, Politics, economy, conspiracy against the minority community in India, life style and culture during 1970's, 1980's, and 1990's. His writings presents the anxiety felt by the writer himself and his community due to the transformation taken place in in pre- and post-independence India. It has implicated or reflected by Mistry's point of in the form of narration. So, the narrators in the fiction delineated his personality. It is the dominant theme of Mistry's writings. A.K. Singh (1996:32) remarks that Such a Long "centralizes his community as protagonist" He further adds, "There is constant dialogical interaction between stories about the past and present of the Parsi Community, comments on its present and anticipates the flow of events to follow through his characters"

*Such a Long Journey* presents the facts when the war was fought between Bangladesh and India in 1970s. So the novel is nothing but a historical record of actual things happened in India. When we go through the novels, we come to know that he has expressed his concerns for the Indians as well as for his community. His nationalism is visibly noticeable in his writings. The term nationalism is the result of colonialism. Colonialism influenced the lives of Parsis during British raj and became associated with the British Raj as well as English language. So, the Parsis as Dadabhai Nauroji and Pheroza Shah Mehta involved themselves in the Nationalist Movement. The migrant authors of Indian origin in Canada, they offered their own experience in their writings. Many Indian Diasporic writers presented reality of life through the medium of literature as they felt in India.

*Such a long Journey* is one of the famous novels of Rohinton Mistry. Mistry's concept of Nationalism is clearly seen in his novel in the form of fragmentation and dissolution. Here, the writer is extremely aware of the breaking of walls. There was a fence in a Parsi community from the outside world or political boundaries. It has been drawn between India and Pakistan or India or China. So, the nationalism is perceived as evident in the partition of India and Later the partition of Pakistan into another nation as Bangladesh. The novel is not only a fiction of about the life of Parsis in India but also all the major characters Gustad Noble, and his family Dinshawji and Major Jimmy Billimoria are Parsis. The Parsis





Community is shaped in the perception of writer as a marginal group. It is design within the Indian mindset significantly the novel sets two spatial scales in the first few lines of the novel, as follows.

Gustad agonizes while doing his works. Rohinton Mistry exemplifies the economic deficiency through the character of Gustad. Protagonist's suffering is nothing but the suffering of his community had to undergo in the 1970s. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, made nationalization of banks which made terrific impact on the Parsi community in India. As we come to know that, Parsis were the masters of banking sector, Gustad Noble was working as assistant in a bank. So the nationalism had depressed them from their profession. Mistry seems more associated with nationality and nationhood. Gustad's own experience throws light on Indian politics, economy and society. As an immigrant, Mistry presents the problematic concept of nationality and nationhood in *Such a Long Journey*. The novel is also a historical record of post-independence India beginning from the Indo-China war to the Bangladesh war. Hence the basis of the novel talks about nationhood and nationality.

Mistry has also highlighted the threat set by the Shiv Sena party as their slogan was "Maharashtra for Maharashtrians". Gustad, is an emotional character feels that the people from Zopadpatti and slum areas in Bombay are afraid of the threat given by the Shiv Sena party. As it wanted to banish them from Bombay, Maharashtra. It was happening in Bombay about Parsi Community and their family. *Such a Long Journey* portrays the Indian culture and Parsi family life as he experienced in his life. The action takes place in 1971 in Bombay when the war was broken out between India and Pakistan which troubled the life of Gustad Noble.

Gustad says, "I don't understand this world anymore.....what a world of world of wickedness it has become" (142), the speckled understandings of life relief Gustad to come to a conclusion like, 'Luck is the spite of the Gods and Godness' (338). Nationalism can be seen in the saying of Gustad when he says "Men tore Shirts and jackets of their backs, yanked shoes of their feet, belt of their waists, and flung them into the Lorries. What a time it was, and it brought tears of joy and pride into the eyes of everyone to see such solidarity, such generosity." (10) When we go through the novel, we come to know that this not only the interpretation of Gustad about India but also this is the interpretation of Parsi community about the colonial period, the past, and the present, the decolonized India.

The existential crisis which they confront in their personal, social and national life constitute the central concern of the novel.

#### Conclusion:

The themes of nationalism and racial discrimination are persistent in Rohinton Mistry's writings. He talks about transformation taking places in India from 1970 to 1990. Mistry's works present the anxiety over social, political and economic transformation taking place in India. Mistry has presented the aspect of national history in his writings as well as the fate of Parsi community in pre and post-independence India. With his first novel, *Such a Long Journey*, Mistry incorporates national politics and implies it in the main plot of the novel.





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