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### **Cross Cultural Perspective in Bharti Mukherjee's *Jasmine***

Female migration is a major demographic process that has been an integral and salient feature of human history. Its study is not limited to anthropology or sociology only. In 20<sup>th</sup> century literature written in English, it is the principal theme by major female novelists of Indian Diaspora. Her novel *Jasmine* published in 1989, unravels the complicated layers of cross – cultural reality through a series of adventures which her heroine Jasmine undertakes during her odyssey from Punjab to California via Florida, New York and Iowa. The journey leads Jasmine to many transformations – Jyoti, Jasmine, Jase and Jane. At every step Jasmine revolts against her fate and path drawn for her. She is a rebel who protests against rigours of Indian conservative attitude though not against Indian culture per se but against its retentiveness. The novel portrays author's past and present, between India of the narrator's early life and America of her present one. Bharti in the novel not only depicts cross –cultural existence, cultural shock and cultural encounter which leads to the identity crisis but also explores immigrant sensibility and flexible identity besides taking into cognizance alternate realities. The paper is an attempt to depict the cross –cultural perspective and the transitional dilemma of Jasmine who tries to outgrow inherited values to accept Western ethos.