

**REFLECTING SELF AND EXISTENTIAL CONCERNS
IN SUJIT SARAF'S *HARI LAL & SONS***

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Received: 06 Dec 2018

Accepted: 17 Dec 2018

Published: 27 Dec 2018

ABSTRACT

India has been a rich source of culture, heritage, religion, myths, legends, literature and of course rich history. The advance researches are made in various areas of different culture, languages, castes, religion etc. But taking its unity in diversity, the assertion is made upon the literary roots which go back to the rich tribal or 'Adivasi' literature of India. In the ancient times, an era which was bereft of tangible literature was primarily oral literature which would tell its history in various forms like songs, stories, narratives, episodic verses. It rendered its assertion and identity. Hence, it is noteworthy to point out that the several communities dealing with this literature may be socially and economically deprived of all rights and assertion. The paper explores the diasporic dimensions in the novel entitled, Hari Lal & Sons by Sujit Saraf. The contrast between the barrenness of home and the richness of Bengal is very evocative and not only refers to both the fertile land and ample rains but also to the economic opportunity. In Saraf's book, the character recalls a Marwari proverb about Calcutta, 'Rice like silver, pulses like gold, could heaven be better?' The famine as the push factor for migration was accompanied by the pull factor, the success of earlier Marwaris who came east, among them the Birlas. The novel spans about 72 years and in this period it witnesses the changes that are occurring in British India. Hari Lal & Sons sticks to a personalized account of the protagonist's life, the diasporic 'scattering' is transformed into 'gathering' by Homi Bhabha. "Gathering of exiles and émigrés and refugees; gathering on the edge of 'foreign' cultures; gathering at the frontiers; gathering in the ghettos or cafes of city centers Also the gathering of people in the diaspora: indentured, migrant ..." (Bhabha 198-199).

KEYWORDS: *Diapora, Identity, Cultural Loss, Revealing Self*