

## **Cultural, political and social concerns in Nampally Road**

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### **Abstract**

Many Indians move to other geographical lands for voluntary and involuntary reasons. They feel alienation, dislocation, identity crisis, longing for home, and cultural crisis. Diaspora is about writers who are constantly caught up in the dilemma of their homeland's memories. Meena Alexander is a well-known Indian diaspora writer. She was born in Allahabad and was raised in both India and Sudan. Meena Alexander was an Indian American poet, storyteller, fiction writer, and scholar. She has written numerous works of literature. Alexander's works are heavily influenced by nostalgia, exile, self-discovery, feminism, and social and political issues. She has addressed social and governance issues. Alexander's first work is Nampally Road. The Nampally Road represents the cultural conflict, identity crisis, and Indian political environment of the 19th century. It has contained an autobiographical component that gives the reader an idea about the writer's attachment to Indian society and culture. This paper discloses the social, cultural, and political changes that happened in the post-emergency era of India at Nampally Road.

**Keywords:** cultural, political, social, nostalgia, Nampally Road, India, diaspora.

## **Introduction**

The Nampally Road is the first best work written by Meena Alexander in 1992. The best work reflects the writer's nostalgia for her country. The cultural, political, and social problems of the immediate post-independence period are portrayed in it. It focuses on women's problems and the political party's superiority over common people. In Nampally Road, she provided a personal and critical political account of Indian people's lives. Mira Kanadical, the protagonist, tries to create her own identity. She has a Ph.D. in Wordsworth from Nottingham University in England. She decided to come back to India and started working as a lecturer of English at Sona Nivas College, Hyderabad. Dr. Durgabai is the mother of Mira's friend Siddhartha, whom Alexander refers to as "Little Mother" throughout the novel. Limca Gowda represents the political situation in India. Mira's companion and colleague, Ramu, assists her in understanding Indian culture.

## **Cultural-political and social concerns**

Meena Alexander exposes the dilemma of Indians after independence. She comes from a Christian family and was raised and educated in Sudan and England. Mira's and Meena's lives share many similarities. It has autobiographical content. The thoughts of Alexander about politics, women's problems, alienation, and social crises are depicted in the work. Mira is a 25-year-old India-born young lady. She has found many difficulties set in Indian culture as well as English culture during his study and job phases. She adjusts to lots of things in England, like how people always eat holding a fork in their left hand while she has the habit of eating with her right hand. Later, she accepted the English people's etiquette. In India, eating with the right hand instead of the left is customary. The left hand is only used for dirty work in Hindu culture. After moving to Hyderabad, she mistakenly started eating with her left hand, which made her embrace in front of many Indian people.

Limca Gowda was an ambitious man and wished to turn himself into an absolute ruler... the notion of unquestioned power vested in a single man pleased him enormously. Sometimes, at night, he dreamed that he was the old Nizam of Hyderabad, returned in new flesh to claim his kingdom... His party which had been voted in four years ago, now ruled with an iron hand. Dissent was strongly discouraged (4-5).

Limca Gowda is the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh. He is an oppressive ruler and belongs to the cruel party. The condition is pathetic. He imposed a heavy tax on orange vendors, and the sellers started protesting against it. They were brutally beaten by Limca's newly created special police force, named Every Ready Man. This special police team worked to cover Gowda's illegal work. Mira and Ramu witnessed the dictatorship of political power. Dr. Durgabai recalled one incident in which a village boy was attacked by a leopard and received no treatment for a week. So his father carried him for 50 miles on foot and came to Hyderabad with his dying son. But it was too late. Durgabai tried, but she couldn't save the child's life. This shows the brutal condition of the post-independence era. The Indians were exploited by such a political party. The injustice was broadly spread in Hyderabad. The condition of the poor class was pitiful under the rule of Gowda. The people of the village were not getting basic facilities like transportation, hospitals, and schools.

The politician's dictatorship was not only limited to Hyderabad but also spread throughout India. Prime Minister Lady has declared a state of emergency in the country. The Limca Gowda government had cordial relations with the Delhi government. She frequently called him there for discussion and favors. Another incident gives the impression of a political figure's dictatorship. Limca Gowda started the business in the name of his son, Low. The company made a coloured soda under the trade name "Limca soda." The ingredients used to make soda were neither purified nor filtered. The chief minister promoted the brand of soda. There is one incident where all the Hyderabadis consumed soda at a wedding and suffered from abdominal pain and vomiting. The police did not take any action against the Limca Soda Company. This shows the superiority of political power over a government.

A young woman had come in from the mountain with her husband.. It was late at night... they fell prey to a horde of drunken policemen. Rameeza was gang raped. Her Husband had his brains beaten out. His body was recovered from a well behind the police station. Swollen, the eyes puffed out, it was identified..... (58)

The innocent Indian lady, Rameeza Bee, was brutally raped by the drunken policemen. She came to watch the movie with her husband. They came out late at night on Naampally Road, where both were caught and bitten by drunk policemen, and they brutally killed her husband. She was gang raped, and her spouse's body was recovered behind the police station. People were brought there because of rape and murder, but the police were a special force appointed by the leader, Limca Gowda. So no one took any serious steps

against the criminals. Rape includes both physical and psychological violence against victims and other women. Instead of doing justice, the government, political parties, and police are involved in other activities. Murder and rape were jokes among the superior and powerful. Mira loses herself after witnessing the real image of her country.

Similarly, for Mira, all her hopes and dreams are shattered to see a totally different picture of India which teems with violence, civil unrest, and turbulence. The protagonist struggles to overcome her naïve idealism and attempts to recognize and assimilate the changes in her country. (2)

Meera is experiencing women's suffering. The condition of women in India is painful. Rameeza Bee, the rape victim whose case was heard, shocked the entire city of Hyderabad. It showed the naked reality of political suppression and a ruthless communal condition. The emergency crackdown and protest started against Indira Gandhi. Mira confronts the woman's dilemma, political subjugation, and social pain. Her words can be touched by the pain she and Indian women are suffering. The protagonist's attention is distracted because of the polluted surroundings. The only genuine person is "Little Mother," who proposed the example of kindness in this novel. The wordsmith reference shows tranquility, nature, pure form, and connection with human beings. Thus, the portrayal of reality is opposite to the characteristics of Wordsworth's poetry. The fiction provides a harsh scenario for each element of India.

## **Conclusion**

This novel shows the threat of political affairs. It deals with several serious and complex matters. There are no solutions in sight for these issues. The emergency period has a solid impact on every Indian's life. The Nawab of Hyderabad presents the political powers that surpass a city. Although the central characters, Mira and Little Mother, exemplify humanity, Rameeza is an example of the poor condition of Indian females. The emergency period has a solid impact on every Indian's life. The Nawab of Hyderabad presents the political powers that surpass a city. The Rameeza example of the poor condition of Indian females is a lyrical concern, although the central characters, Mira and Little Mother, exemplify humanity. The orange vendors are beaten by the police on the call of a political leader. India is independent of the British; however, the post-independence scenario of this novel indicates the people of India are slaves of political powers. Portrayed incidents such as murder, rape, threats to poor people, and the celebration of political leaders and their powers give us an idea about the emergency period condition of India.

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