Marginalization and Exclusion in M.G. Vassanji’s *The Assassin’s Song*

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**Abstract**

The spread of global economy and cosmopolitan cultures has resulted in the emergence of different communities with different identities. The diversity of the world gives birth to the contradictions around the belongingness of the people in a nation like India. After migrating for better living, the migrants try to be at par with the new cultures and ethnicity and persistently belong to an ambivalent zone of in-betweenness. Their identity brings havoc in their attempt to adapt to the dominant cultures and thus creates gap between the developed and the developing, the dominant and the dominated, the coloniser and the colonized. Here comes the idea of marginality and exclusion of certain groups from the ‘main stream culture’. M.G Vassanji as a writer of diaspora basically focuses on the problems of in-betweenness of his characters who get migrated from a particular group to some dominant groups and start dominating the marginals and the excluded. In *The Assassin’s Song*, Vassanji centres on the conflict between religious identity and the incorporation of dominant identity. The paper focuses on how migration to the dominant communities affects the ethnic culture of the Indians and how communal riots and political corruption add fuel to the degeneration of the unity of particular groups. It will also focus on how postcolonial nation states with geographical borders bring about homogeneity to silence the excluded and the marginalized. The world has become so intense in global capitalism and economy that the postcolonial literature reflects the after-effects of globalization and cosmopolitanism. With the emergence of global multicultural identities, the consciousness about social and cultural hierarchy came into the minds of the people. It resulted in the process of exclusion and domination of certain ethnic groups and communities by certain other groups. The acceptance and celebration of the cultural hierarchy led to the personal dilemmas and identity crisis. In a globalized world, the postcolonial writers concentrate upon the themes of quest for identity, in-betweenness, aboriginals, the mimic people, and the people of transnationality. There are some writers who try to deconstruct the difference between the colonizer and the colonized. They start to write about migration, immigration and political and cultural opposition in the decolonizing nations, especially, in the African countries like Kenya, Tanzania etc. Vassanji is such a writer who was born in Kenya, brought up in Tanzania and studied in the United States.

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