

**ABSTRACT****The World of Lakshmi Persaud: The Empowerment of The Indo-Caribbean  
Female****Prabha Jerrybandan**

“The World of Lakshmi Persaud: The Empowerment of the Indo-Caribbean Female” is the first critical study containing all the works of Lakshmi Persaud namely Butterfly in the Wind (1990), Sastra (1993) and For the Love of My Name (1999). The first Indo-Trinidadian female author to have published as many as three novels, Persaud uses the novel to explore features of colonial and postcolonial discourse peculiar to the Caribbean region, especially in Trinidad and Guyana.

A personal interview was conducted with Persaud. Her works show a direct correlation with her life and personal relationships. A careful review of the cultural, social, political and historical phenomena occurring within the Caribbean region highlights the veracity of Persaud’s work.

This study examines the strengths and weaknesses of Persaud’s work. She experiments with bildungsroman, prose-romance and a re-writing of history. The female subject, despite traditional subjugation, is empowered mainly by education and her opportunity for migration. Persaud acknowledges the atrocities which historians have ignored. Especially in her final work, Persaud uses fiction to lend recuperative powers to the effect of tyranny which has affected the region.

Both the Afro-Caribbean female and the Indo-Trinidadian male subjects have already been made visible in Caribbean literature and its related criticism. This

study seeks to highlight the emerging Indo-Caribbean, female voice which is present in all the works of Lakshmi Persaud. She presents a re-definition of the Indo- Caribbean female with a propensity for independence in spite of the limitations of tradition.

**Keywords:** Prabha Jerrybandan; Lakshmi Persaud; Butterfly in the Wind; Sastra; For the Love of my Name; Indo-Caribbean female; Hindu tradition; Education in Trinidad; Guyanese History;

To my parents, my brothers and sister, for their support, physically and emotionally.

To all my lecturers, whose efforts have nurtured me as a student.

To the positive, universal force called God, and to the angels of mercy who have surrounded me with protection and strength.