

## ABSTRACT

### **A Study of the Female Protagonists in Shiva Naipaul's Novels**

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Shiva Naipaul's three novels: Fireflies, The Chip Chip Gatherers and A Hot Country are all concerned with an exploration of his East Indian female protagonists' quest for identity. This quest for identity is problematic because it is complicated by the disintegration of the traditional ancestral world and the emerging forces of acculturation present in the nascent post independence society of the West Indies against which all three novels are set.

Shiva Naipaul creates a world of flux which impacts profoundly on the psyches of his female protagonists since it leads to various manifestations of fragmentation and dislocation.

In this thesis, an analysis of the increasing dysfunctionality of Shiva Naipaul's female protagonists will be offered against this social and psychological background. The symbolic function of these female will be explored to highlight how their dysfunctionalities in their role as women mirrors the dysfunctionalities of the decaying Indian ancestral world and the shortcomings of the emerging modern post independence world.

**Keywords: Shiva Naipaul; Female Protagonists;  
Problematics of identity.**