

**Rethinking the Nation: Authors from the Tibetan and
Nepalese Diaspora**

by

Koushik Goswami

Registration no: AOOCL0100418

Abstract of

**Thesis submitted to Jadavpur University for the
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Arts)**

Supervisor: Prof. (Dr.) Suchorita Chattopadhyay

Department of Comparative Literature

Faculty of Arts

Jadavpur University

2023

Abstract of PhD thesis

Rethinking the Nation: Authors from the Tibetan and Nepalese Diaspora

Lived experience in the diasporic space has offered the Tibetan and Nepalese diasporic writers a fertile ground for producing unique literary works. These works document the difficult journeys of the immigrants from their homelands to the host lands and their constant efforts to survive, acculturate and assimilate in the countries of their adoptions. However, the ancestral memory and nostalgic elements related to their homelands are also very strong in their works. By 2023 a sizeable corpus of Tibetan and Nepalese diasporic novels written in English have emerged, and this has started arresting the attention of both the scholars and the lay readers. Yet, interestingly, critical discussion of these novels is almost absent in the academia. This, in a way, justifies my attempt to write the present thesis. It is rather surprising that diaspora from the Himalayan region is yet to find adequate critical attention in the interdisciplinary areas of Diaspora Studies, Postcolonial Studies, or Himalayan Studies.

This Ph.D. dissertation will focus primarily on the select novels and stories of two Tibetan authors (Thubten Samphel, and Tsering Namgyal Khortsa) and three Nepalese diasporic authors (Manjushree Thapa, Samrat Upadhyay and Rabi Thapa). It will critically explore Thubten Samphel's *Falling through the Roof* (2008), and Tsering Namgyal Khortsa (*The Tibetan Suitcase: A Novel*, 2015). Among the Nepalese literary works, it will discuss Manjushree Thapa's novel *Seasons of Flight* (2010), select stories from her *Tilled Earth* (2012) as well as Rabi Thapa's *Nothing to Declare* (2011), and Samrat Upadhyay's *Arresting God in Kathmandu* (2001) as well as *Mad Country* (2017). The thesis will analyse the nation-diaspora interface as it appears in the works mentioned above in this paragraph.