TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Cross-Cultural Communication in Jhabvala's A Backward Place

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Master of Arts in English

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Abstract

The present research is an inquiry into the major characters in *A Backward Place* by Ruth Prawer Jhabvala. Etta, Judy and Clarissa, all westerners, are in India for different purposes. Etta is in India because of a chance marriage to an Indian. Judy gets married to an Indian to escape from her country whereas Clarissa is unmarried and ever after idyllic beauties available in India. Etta develops a sense of dislike towards this 'backward place', Judy adopts an Indian personality and Clarissa seems ambivalent. The exposure to eastern socio-cultural pattern generates diverse attitudes in them as they react differently. The contrasting attitudes of them towards India are the results of two contrastingly different cultures communicating.

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