



CERTIFICATE NO : **ICRESMH /2025/C0425466**

**A Study of Women’s Aspirations, and Moral Guidance in
The Novels of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni**

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ABSTRACT

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni’s novels profoundly explore women’s aspirations and the moral guidance that shapes their journeys, blending contemporary social realities with cultural and mythological frameworks. Her female characters often grapple with conflicting expectations—between tradition and modernity, duty and desire, personal ambition and familial obligations. Through these narratives, Divakaruni highlights women’s resilience, creativity, and quest for self-realization, showing how aspirations are intertwined with ethical and moral decision-making. Myths, folklore, and historical narratives frequently serve as guiding frameworks, providing her characters with symbolic role models, moral exemplars, and insights into navigating life’s challenges. For instance, characters may draw inspiration from mythic heroines, using their stories as moral compasses while negotiating personal freedom and societal constraints. Divakaruni’s novels also foreground issues of migration, cross-cultural tensions, and gendered oppression, illustrating how women’s aspirations are shaped by both social structures and inner convictions. Her storytelling emphasizes the power of choices guided by ethical reflection, courage, and compassion, suggesting that moral guidance is not externally imposed but emerges from personal awareness, cultural memory, and imaginative engagement with tradition. Ultimately, Divakaruni celebrates women’s agency, showing that aspirations, when informed by moral discernment and cultural wisdom, can lead to empowerment, self-discovery, and transformative action in both personal and communal spheres.