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## Social Issues in Amit Chaudhury's Novels with Special Reference to A New World

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### ABSTRACT

The works of Amit Chaudhuri broadly highlight the issues related to identity crisis, diasporic problems and societal problems. In the novel *A New World* Chaudhuri exposes the social issues in a matrimonial relationship. The novel is pregnant with the complications and complexities of marriage life and its failure. The novelist has very artistically portrayed the social life of Bengali people, their odds and evens of daily life, their thoughts and reflections on society and the complexities of their culture. The novel very beautifully depicts a contrast between tradition and modernity as well.

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**Key Words:** Diasporic , Matrimonial, Pregnant, Society, Problems, Tradition

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### Introduction

The fourth novel titled *A New World* written in the year 2000 highlights the complexities and complications of marriage and its failure. The central figure of the novel is Jayojit Chatterjee also called Joy, who lives in America and once visits his elderly parents in Calcutta. Joy doesn't feel settled, instead feels uprooted and unsettled as his marriage becomes the major reason of his worries. The novel *A New World* scatters massive light on how a native Indian who is cut off from his identity, country, culture, language and from his nears and dear kisses success in postcolonial world. The writer very skilfully illuminates the expressions of the wonderful things that are hidden under the cover of ordinary things.

The main plot of the novel is set very clear and clean. The novel opens when Jayojit is coming back from America to Calcutta to pay a visit to his parents with his son, a seven year old boy during the latter's vacations in the month of April. The protagonist particularly has this visit to eradicate and root out the memories of his wife Amala, who divorced him and eloped with a gynaecologist.

Since Jayojit's wife elopes with a stranger, he divorced her later. This divorce of the couple is reflected by the novelist as a strong social problem. Jayojit's parents exclude themselves from the outer world and want to compress their daily affairs of life with closet relatives and friends only. The reason behind this is that they want to avert the torture of the society about their son's divorce. The old couple feel guilty though they aren't accountable. Amit Chaudhuri thus once again throws light on traditional Indian social life.

Here in India divorce is regarded as a curse to family while in USA it is done by the mutual understanding of the couple. In India the knot of the two shouldn't be broken even if the couple doesn't love each other or don't find any good mutual understanding through out the life. Because here a divorced one has to face the daunts and taunts of family, relatives, friends and even neighbours take it as an opportunity to gossip into others personal affairs. Because of this social issue many lives are lost. The divorced people even go for suicides and other extreme steps where from there is no return of normal life. Whereas in the West it is a normal thing and nobody cares about it.

Jayojit's diasporic tensions and his unsuccessful marriage makes him to stuck with his past life. Though every ritual was carried out to beautify the marriage and to make it a successful one, yet it ended in divorce. Chaudhuri here explains that social customs, rituals and traditions of an orthodox Brahmin family are strictly followed, otherwise it won't be considered a good knot in the eyes of society. The novelist then throws light on Amala's character when she changes her costumes at airport and says to her husband,

“Can you believe it, it’s the first time I’m going abroad?” (A New World)

This shows the impact of modernization and westernization that weakens the family ties. Thus a cultural dominance is depicted by the novelist through the character of Amala in A New World. The author has pointed out various social issues, particularly because of old traditions. Chaudhari also draws a clear picture of love of the Indian tradition as the parents taught Bonny to call them Baba and Ma, despite the child doesn't know Indian tradition. He is raised up in America completely. On the other hand the mother Amala is in terms with other man at her office and Jayojit doesn't even feel to file a report at court and take the child in his custody.

Debjani Ganguly says ;

When Bonny addresses his father as “Baba”, we see in it evidence of “language” in actu (enunciation, positionality) rather than language in situ (enonce or propositionality) and the sign of translation that continually tells or tolls the different times and spaces between cultural authority and its performative practice. (A New World p 93)

The novel A New World also highlights the mental agony and plight of the retired people. The same is reflected through the character of Admiral. He is observed a bit stubborn and hard person as he refuses to keep a washing machine when offered by Jayojit for his mother. The novel also reflects the distressed life of the old people who can't make up with their pensions and depends on their sons salary to meet the demands of daily life.

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