

# Quest for Feminine and Cultural Identity by Contemporary Indian Adolescent Girls in the Young Adult Literary Works of Metali Perkins

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## Quest for Feminine and Cultural Identity by Contemporary Indian Adolescent Girls in the Young Adult Literary Works of Mitali Perkins

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### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** *The goal of this review paper is to draw attention to the multiple difficulties that modern Indian adolescent girls encounter in their quest for personal and cultural identity in an intercultural and globally connected environment. This study highlights the current social and cultural challenges the adolescent Indian females must overcome in order to pursue and realise their ambitions. This study aims to examine how these issues are handled in the chosen books of Mitali Perkins.*

**Design/Methodology/Approach:** *The current study has a qualitative tone and relies more on reasoning than a survey. The masterwork by Mitali Perkin, "You Bring the Distant Near," served as the research's primary source. Secondary sources included the internet and a few particular articles. Most of the research journals are used from Research Gate, Google Scholar, Academia, SSRN, and Shodhganga to identify the research gap in this study.*

**Results/ Findings:** *The challenges that modern adolescent females in India encounter are the paper's principal finding. These girls' attempts to preserve their cultural heritage and find their own sense of identity are also included. Perkin vividly depicts a young girl's internal struggle to uphold cultural expectations while still pursuing her own sense of identity as a woman.*

**Originality/Value:** *This study is unique and groundbreaking because it uses Mitali Perkins' novels to examine the subject of Indian adolescent girls overcoming obstacles and dismantling barriers to achieve their unique cultural and personal identities.*

**Type of Paper:** *Literature review.*

**Keywords:** Personal Identity, Cultural Identity, Indian Adolescent Girls, Mitali Perkins, Contemporary.

### 1. INTRODUCTION :

Young adult literature is a different genre from children's books. Adolescent literature has been termed as "coming of age" [1]. It originally arose in the 20th century, specifically between the years of 1930 and 1960, when teenagers began to have a considerable economic impact. YAL is commonly referred to as coming-of-age literature since it chronicles a young person's first encounters with love, mortality, and adult decisions and responsibilities [2]. Young adult authors don't hesitate to address the most difficult problems that teenagers experience, such as sexual assault, identity crises, drug and alcohol abuse, and even suicide. Young adult novels promote critical literacy [3]. Indian young adult literature has developed slowly and unevenly over the course of postcolonial background [4].

You Bring the Distant Near and Rickshaw Girl are just two of the many novels by Mitali Perkins for young readers that explore transcending and integrating different kinds of norms and discovering one's own identities, whether they be cultural or personal. Through her characters, she exposes to society today's young Indian girls who face a variety of social and cultural issues that are directly related to society and its cultural traits. Being honest and having witnessed the teen struggles that Indian families struggling with poverty face every day. Perkins has written several books that offer firsthand accounts

of Indian culture and history [5].

Newer sorts of cultural patterns and trends are found to arise among the youth as a result of the growth in globalisation and technological competitiveness. The darker, bitterer side of Indian youth, however, does not change. Many young people in India struggle for personal identity and freedom while being constrained by societal, gender, and cultural norms. Indian English literature exhaustively explores the theme of Indian youth overcoming societal barriers imposed on them and dealing with issues relating to their sense of self. In India, young adult literature primarily addresses the "actual difficulties experienced by a young adult, such as drug addiction, sex and alienation, suicide, divorce, single-parent families, child sexual abuse, gender bias, and queer identity and way of life. The reader's crucial role in self-identification as a part of the young adult society is a crucial component of Young Adult Realism's structure [6].

Today Perkins A. Bengali an American author has emerged as a spokesperson for the underprivileged young in India. Themes covered by Mitali shed light on issues surrounding teenage identity and offer solutions. In light of South Asia's changing sociocultural fabric, this study aims to concentrate on Mitali Perkins' approach to Indian adolescents by paying more attention to societal barriers things such as discrimination, identity politics, and acculturation in expatriate populations [7].

It is quite challenging to sustain Indianness in daily rituals and habits in this era of globalisation when the cultures blend. However, Indian females make an effort to track down ancestral traditions and assess their value. Teenagers of today are faced with a genuine challenge that is not simple to complete. The idea of how Indian adolescents negotiate their cultural identities and cross boundaries as a way of identity building is the main premise of this review paper.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF REVIEW PAPER :**

The study aims to perform a secondary systematic review and offer an overview of information on the difficulties that Indian adolescents encountered while seeking out their own cultural identities in two of Perkins' works. The review was conducted to identify any research gaps and to identify any research gaps as well as to learn more about the strategies Indian teenagers employ to achieve their long-term goals.

- (1) To look into the social constraints placed on contemporary Indian youth.
- (2) To critically assess Mitali Perkins's writings, such as 'You Find the Distant Close' and 'Rickshaw Girl'
- (3) To improvise using the current body of knowledge regarding societal constraints and Contemporary Indian female youth identity.
- (4) To assess how today's Indian youngsters overcome obstacles and achieve their objectives.

## **3. METHODOLOGY :**

A thorough examination of more than eighty research papers, two books, and twelve research dissertations was done on the crucial words of cultural and feminine identity in Mitali Perkins' juvenile literary works. In addition to these adequate references, an online Google Scholar search was performed to find the information. Both national and international publications publish the peer-reviewed source journal papers that make up the reviewed research pieces. The keywords feminine identity, cultural identification, young adult books, and Mitali Perkins were used to collect data. Both manual screening and digital search were utilized to find the necessary articles. The APA format was used, and research articles were examined using it.

## **4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE/ RELATED WORKS :**

### **4.1 Concept of Cultural Identity in Literature:**

One aspect of someone's identity is their cultural identity. Any form of a social group with a distinctive culture, including nationality, race, religion, socioeconomic level, generation, and location, is included. It is a dynamic system that is impacted by various historical, social, and cultural occurrences. A person's sense of self is shaped by their participation in informal or formal groups that impart and impose information, ethics, beliefs, attitudes, rituals, and lifestyle habits. Instead of prioritizing nationality, a broad definition of cultural identity should balance criteria related to profession, status, locality, beliefs, linguistics, and the societal aspects of biology. Throughout time, cultural identity changes and elicits emotions. It is affected by strong ties, complicated by privilege and power, and mediated through

interaction [8]. The phrase "culture" describes a collection of people's common characteristics, such as their spirituality, language, cuisine, social traditions, literature, art, and music. Due to the particular beliefs, behaviors, and origins of various cultures that are widely practiced, many individuals identify with these characteristics. People carry their knowledge, displays, and grief when they emigrate to another culture or country. Although their ethnic background is likely to change after they are firmly established in the new culture, they want to integrate through either integration or biculturalism, and this generates a sense of belonging [9].

**Table 1:** Scholarly literature on Cultural Identity

S. No.	Area & Focus of the Research	Outcome of the Research	Reference
1	Cultural Identity and colonialism interconnectedness.	The severity and prevalence of colonial conflicts in the area of contact put puts one's identity and cultural identity at stake.	Hogan, P. C. (2000). [10]
2	Cultural Identity in Jean Rahy's Works.	The concept of belonging is intrinsically related to cultural identity.	Nurminen, L. (2012). [11]
3	Interconnectedness between Globalization and Cultural Identity.	The process of forming one's cultural identity gets more intricate and can take on many various shapes as a result of introducing adolescents and adults to other cultures.	Jensen, L. A., et al. (2011). [12]
4	Cultural identity by Urban American Indian	Many American Indians who had grown up in urban areas far from their reservations or tribal centres established and maintained their cultural identity.	Lucero, N. M. (2010). [13]
5	Globalization and Cultural Identity	Outlines a simple model in which the equilibrium of global trade is in interaction with endogenous micro-founded dynamics of culture and identity.	Olivier, J., et al. (2008). [14]
6	Cultural Identify and Mental Health are closely linked.	It has been shown that a strong feeling of cultural identification helps protect against mental health problems and lessen the pain caused by discrimination.	Shepherd, S. M., et al. (2018). [15]
7	Cultural Identity gets identified in the mixed cultural groups.	There might be a cultural gap when people of different cultures interact.	White, K. K., et al. (2005). [16]
8	Cultural Identity promotes emotional and behavioral health.	Creation of programming for the promotion of culture and ethnicity to assist Alaska Native youth in developing their sense of self to an effort to support their behavioral and emotional health.	Buckingham, S. L., et al. (2022). [17]
9	Cultural Identity promotes Individual Identity.	Mixed up in personal identity When our cultural identification matures, it shapes our identity.	Jenlink, P. M., et al. (2009). [18]
10	Cultural Identity undergoes transformation.	Being and becoming are both aspects of cultural identity. It equally belongs to the past and also the future. It is not something that has always existed across all of space, time, past, and culture. Cultures have a history and a source. Nonetheless, they are constantly evolving, like all things throughout history.	Voicu, C. G. (2013). [19]

11	Cultural Identity undergoes transformation.	Both private and professional experiences have the power to alter a person's identity and cultural background.	Dana, R. H. (1997). [20]
12	Cultural identity is related to historical and cultural circumstances.	As a result, it might be argued that cultural identity is malleable and influenced by the historical and cultural setting.	Clarke, S. (2008). [21]
13	Cultural Identity among American Indian Adolescents.	The concept of competence presents a more thorough perspective on the relationship between social encounters, cultural components, and intellectual abilities during the identity-building process for African American youngsters.	Whitesell, N. R., et al. (2009). [22]
14	Cultural Identity has personality and social benefits.	Interventions that seek to clarify cultural identity may be psychologically beneficial for persons who struggle with it.	Usborne, E., et al. (2010). [23]
15	Cultural Identity as determinants of Hispanic Acculturation.	While Hispanic ethnic background had a negative effect on acculturation, ego and generational status had positive benefits.	Valentine, S. (2001). [24]
16	Cultural Identity changes with migration.	Although their cultural identity is likely to change once they are established in the new culture, they want to integrate either through assimilation or biculturalism, and this generates a sense of belonging.	Bhugra, D. (2004). [25]
17	Adolescent Cultural Identity in multicultural context contributes to cultural development.	In order to foster a society that values diverse cultures and sees them as an essential element of human development, the term "multiculturalism" recognizes that the creation of culture and identity in a wide array of disciplines can vary greatly and is not limited to specific cultural and immigrant groups.	Khanlou, N. (1999). [26]
18	Cultural Identity contributes to wellbeing of a group.	Cultural identification may aid in the improvement of the wellness of group members who have experienced collective trauma.	Taylor, D. M., et al (2010). [27]

#### 4.2 Quest for Feminine Identity

The word "search for identity" refers to a woman's existential struggle to comprehend her life and its purpose. It's an internal trip that is also a look for life, a look for roots, and a fight for self-expression. We might believe that a person's identity search only takes place during the vulnerable adolescent years. But when we face fresh obstacles and have novel experiences, our sense of which we are changes throughout time. We conduct a great deal of research and lifestyle discovery during infancy and early adulthood, which frequently results in critical judgments. We consider the important choices we have to make in life, including our careers, values, and professions, while we look for existential significance. Many things affect our search for identity, including our individual views of what gives life meaning, our "belief structure," our religion, our particular life circumstances, and our faith. When women began looking for solutions to end the oppression and limitations they had experienced as a result of the socially imposed female roles in patriarchal cultures in the seventeenth century, they have been at the heart of many discourses [28].



As women realized that the patriarchal society put obligations on them and that they needed to be empowered, the search for identity among women began in the 16th and 17th centuries. She has discovered her true individuality rather than rigidly adhering to societal norms.

**Table 2:** The list of academic publications related to Feminine Identity.

S. No.	Area & Focus of the Research	Outcome of the Research	Reference
1	Feminine Identity – varieties of paths to acquire it .	Although some may claim that their affiliations and traditions are "inherent," people can choose to travel a variety of paths in their search for identity.	Tamir, Y. (1996). [29]
2	Woman Identity should not be taken from man	Successful women identify as men, yet it is a woman's responsibility to separate herself from her husband.	Gardiner, J. K. (1981). [30]
4	Feminine Quest in Kiran Desai's Works.	Feminists believe that there are injustices in the world. They seek to close the gender gap and dispel the idea that men are superior to women.	Bhadoria, P. (2018). [31]
5	Feminine Identity in the works of Jaishree Misra and Anita Nair.	Reconfirming the private home domain has historically and traditionally been associated with a woman's "self." Such women's issues could be quickly suppressed, but they are commonly seen as moral and loving mothers, trustworthy and open-minded partners for sex, and virtuous and kind wives.	Hima, S. (2022). [32]
6	Feminine Identity in Shauna Singh's works.	Examines a novel angle on how a woman may fight oppression, discrimination, and gender inequity because these dangerous social maladies are the ones that pose the greatest threat to the values of equality and fairness in society.	Singh, S. (2019). [33]
7	Feminine Quest for Individuality in Beowulf and The Awakening.	Women's search for selfhood in these texts is challenging because there is little potential for female independence in cultures where judicial, economic, and social practices are common.	Taheri, S. (2011). [34]
8	Feminine Identity and Psychosocial sources in delaying marriage.	Because of the range of educational options provided by contemporary advancements for women, this issue has given rise to a complex web of interactions between feminine identities.	Hajhosseini, M., et al. (2015). [35]
9	Black feminine Identity in Postmodern American Plays.	It has been concluded that in the two plays selected for this study, women of African origin have experienced double oppression, victimization, and marginalization because of their race and gender. The analytical process additionally showed that the black woman's identification did not develop or change over time.	Alsanafi, I. H., et al. (2019). [36].
10	Feminine Identity in God of Small Things.	There is a push for fairness and decency in terms of gender identity and sexual orientation.	Chandra, N. D. R. (2006). [37]
11	Feminine Identity in the narratives by	Women's fight for their actual selves in a world where men are in power and don't	Santos, C. (2001). [38]

	Clarice Lispector and Carmen Boulosa.	approve of unusual female self-expression.	
12	Feminine Identity in Michelle Cliff's works.	Cliff highlights the difficulties women face in their efforts to be acknowledged, have their identities recognized, and participate in activities on an equal footing with males.	Alghamdi, A. Y. (2021). [39]
13	Quest for Identity in Kamala Das' Poems.	The search for identity is directly related to a former social system that sought to destroy the feminine psyche entirely.	Gupta, R. K. (2001). [40]
14	Female Quest for Identity in Shashi Deshpande.	By being resolved to end their silence and combat tyranny, Women are capable of taking control of their lives and making them better.	Kamu, K., et al. (2019). [41]
15	Female Identity in the novels of Anita Desai and Manju Kapur.	The current case study on Anita Desai has substantially helped to develop a good "Feminine" identity instead of a feminine identity since she is a role model for women who discourage relying on men.	Mundhe, M. S. D., et al. (2015). [42]
16	Feminine Identity affected by cultural identity- in the works of four women.	In Jhumpa's writings, cultural identification affects feminine identity more so than masculine identity since women have stronger cultural ties to the countries of their ancestors.	Hossian, R. S., et al. (2015). [43]
17	Female Identity in the Novels of Jane Austen and Shashi Deshpande .	Some of the topics covered include love, marriage, gender inequality, and the marginalization of women in the quest for identity.	Anand, S. (2018). [44]
18	Search for Feminine self in Bharati Mukherjee's Wife.	Indian women are more likely than men to feel dissatisfied and alienated when attempting to adapt to a new culture because they strictly follow the norm and customary way of life.	Naj, S. [45].
19	Female Identity is a hard nut in male-dominated society.	In Shashi Deshpande's stories, the female protagonists go to tremendous efforts to carve out unique identities in this patriarchal system. Women find it challenging to answer the question "Who I am" in a culture where men predominate.	Kaur, S. [46]

#### 4.3 Young Adult Literature:

Regarding its history as a named category, the young adult (YA) literary genre is relatively new. Even though books have always been produced with young readers in mind, the publishing business has only very recently given this genre a name and started producing books expressly for it. Literature that is created for a teen readership has a teen central character, and addresses teen issues is generally referred to as YA literature.

The phrase "young adult" first appeared during World War II, as "teenagers" were given their social classification. "Seventeenth Summer," written and published by Maureen Daly in 1942, is recognized as the first novel especially written and published for teens, said Cart, a writer and the former president of the Young Adult Library Services Association. It was a first-love novel written mostly for girls. Several romances and books for guys about sports followed in its footsteps. The term "young adult" was first used in the 1960s by the Young Adult Library Services Association to describe readers between the ages of 12 and 18. Teenagers at the time may find mature contemporary realism in books like S. E. Hinton's "The Outsiders." In the 1970s, authors were able to write about teen concerns more openly because of the emphasis on culture

and important topics in young adult literature. It is now regarded as literature that encourages risk-taking, experimentation, and aesthetic originality. Nevertheless, it is much more. It is about conflicts between the claims of the individual and the claims of culture; it is about life, including its antecedents, potentials, changes, and decisions [47].

**Table 3:** References related to Young Adult Literature.

S. No.	Area & Focus of the Research	Outcome of the Research	Reference
1	Young Adult Literature models how to teach literature to middle and high school students.	Middle-level and high-school students can find detailed literary analyses as well as tips on how to read and how to read in Young Adult Literature.	Cole, P. B. (2008). [48]
2	The value of Young Adult Literature	Young adult literature is valued and acknowledged by the Young Adult Library Services Association as an integral part of the collections of public and school libraries. Additionally, they see it as being crucial for the creation of safe communities where youngsters and libraries may flourish.	Cart, M. (2008). [49]
3	Promoting Young Adult Literature for the growth of literary understanding.	Several academic experts, English instructors, administrators, and parents have understood the importance of the last 10 to 20 years' worth of young adult literature. They observe that it is quite successful at fostering the development of literary understanding and enticing high school students to engage in critical reading.	Santoli, S. P. & et al. (2004). [50]
4	Young Adult Literature is important because the teenagers need their own literature.	Teenagers want literature that is written specifically for them, with relatable scenarios, in their language, and without patronizing them.	Owen, M. (2003). [51]
5	Teaching social responsibility through Young Adult Literature.	Inquiry-based education is advised by the author for teaching young adult literature.	Wolk, S. (2009). [52]
6	Young Adult Literature about claims of individuals and the claims of culture.	Issues exist between individual rights and cultural rights. The incredible flux that is life is the subject. It mentions new beginnings and alternative routes in addition to young heroes who tie knots and convey wisdom.	Proukou, K. (2005). [53]
7	Young Adult Literature offers notions of freedom for teachers in the classroom.	Enables educators to arrange class discussions on the themes of freedom in young adult literature by giving them a critical framework they can use and alter.	Bean, T. W. & et al. (2006). [54]
8	Young Adult Literature enhances teen	She provides numerous examples from middle school classes of how young adult fiction can enhance teens' "life literacy" by	Stallworth, B. J. (2006). [55]



	life.	offering them a forum to discuss challenging life issues and aiding in the development of the reading and writing skills required for success.	
9	Young Adult Literature-Beyond Relevance to Literary Merit	Themes and topics essential to young readers are addressed in young adult literature, but it also does so in a complicated way that invites serious thinking from readers looking for a balance between intellectual and emotional engagement.	Soter, A. O. & et al. [56]
10	Young Adult literature discussing on hot topics.	Young adult novels can serve as a good starting point for students and give us as instructors the opportunity to tackle "hot lava themes," which are uncomfortable or difficult to discuss and are usually best avoided in the classroom otherwise.	Groenke, S.& et al (2010). [57]
11	The purpose of Young Adult Literature.	By exposing kids to excellent adult novels, the plan is to assist librarians in encouraging in between the ages of twelve and eighteen, readers.	Nilsen, A. P., &et al (2001). [58]
12	Spiritual themes in the Young Adult Literature.	The intersection of faith and fiction in literature can be difficult for young readers. Children's literature has a long history of explicit messaging, although secularism today dominates schooling and, as a result, children's literature.	Radley, Gail. (2001). [59]
13	Young Adult Literature empowers girls	Popular young adult literature, which was inspired by the women's movement, allows girls a way to explore their sexuality and validates the idea that girls do experience sexual urges, which gives them power.	Bowles-Reyer, A. G. (1998). [60]
14	Young adult literature for young adult males.	A wide range of fiction that attracts to all types of boys and accurately portrays them has been produced by the expanding canon of teenage literature. Studies show that YA literature improves male readers' reading skills.	Gill, S. D. (1999). [61]
15	Issues of identity and border crossings in young adult literature.	Using the knowledge they have gained from a cultural studies perspective, students can analyse, evaluate, and reflect on young adult literature. The fields of young adult literature as well as literary analysis are becoming more complex and active.	Niday, D. & et al (2000). [62]
16	Using Young Adult Literature to foster a sense of place and self.	Teen readers should consider how "location" helps build a protagonist's identity even though it is increasingly challenging to pin down "place" in modern young adult novels.	Bleeker, G. W. & et al. [63]
17	Female sexuality in Young Adult Literature.	Young adult literature frequently presents female sexuality as a hazardous power. These fictions show how issues with body image are becoming more and more prevalent.	Younger, B. (2003). [64]
18	Young Adult Literature in the English	For sustaining standards, creating a useful curriculum, and engaging young adults in insightful discussions about literature and	Gibbons, L. C. & et al. (2006). [65]

	curriculum today.	contemporary life, some English teachers feel that YAL offers a smart reading alternative.	
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#### 4.4 Adolescent Girls in India:

Adolescence is a time of transition between childhood and adulthood, a time when significant physical, cognitive, and psychological changes take place that require attention. For many teenagers, it is also a time of "storm and tension" [66]. India has the largest population of adolescents. Every fifth person in India is between the ages of 10 and 19. If these youth are protected, in good health, educated, and given the knowledge and life skills they need to sustain the nation's continued progress. In addition to the many advantages they enjoy, adolescent girls are subject to several numbers of layers of vulnerability because of societal norms that limit the value placed on girls, which in turn limits their liberty to move and their capacity to choose their social, marital, professional, and educational paths. 43% of girls leave school before completing their secondary education because of household responsibilities, marriage, child labour, the poor relevance of education for employment and employability, and the distance to school.

**Table 4:** References on Adolescent girls of India.

S. No.	Area and Focus of the Research	Outcome of the Research	Reference
1	Indian Adolescent Girls	Youth literature shows that family circumstances can affect how cultural assimilation processes affect teenage anger and violence.	Smokowski, P. R., et al (2009). [67]
2	Gender Based Violence faced by young adult girls	Teenagers who are married or single both deal with stress in their everyday lives as a result of various forms of violence.	Patel, R., et al (2021). [68]
3	American Indian Adolescent girls	Teenagers' struggle with identity formation is a critical developmental concern.	Vasquez, M. J. et al. (1999).[69]
4	Self-efficacy aspiration and achievement of adolescent girls	Self-efficacy is closely tied to these women's goals for their jobs and school in addition to their ultimate successes.	Roy, S., Morton, M., et al (2018). [70]
5	Psychosocial wellbeing among adolescent girls.	The results show that a brief programme offered during the school day can aid girls attending high-poverty, rural schools in developing their psychological resources.	Leventhal, K. S., et al. (2015). [71]
6	Experiences of Young Indian Girls.	The results show that a brief program offered during in the school day can aid girls in remote, high-poverty settings in enhancing their psychological resources and wellbeing.	Dutta, S. (2017). [72]
7	Behavioral and emotional problems by adolescent girls	Unacceptably many of our young people struggle with emotional and behavioural issues that have familial roots. These results show that a classroom mental health center is urgently needed.	Pathak, R., et al. (2011). [73]
8	Violence against adolescent girls.	More commitments are being made by both wealthy and impoverished cultures to guarantee that girls have equal and secure access to rights, resources, social interaction, and economic possibilities. Yet, girls' attempts to assert their rights are thwarted by a number of violent risks.	Bruce, J. (2012). [74]
9	promoting the	n low- and middle-income countries, there	Leventhal, K. S., et al

	emotional, social, physical, and academic welfare of young Indian girls in remote areas	are 600 million girls, many of whom are in really significant danger of developing poor physical and mental health in addition to academic achievement.	(2015). [75]
10	Indian girls' emotional and behavioural problems' predictors.	Poor monitoring and surveillance, along with the ages of the parents, are statistically significant predictors of pro social skills in adolescents. Parental mental illness and poor or skewed interfamily contact are the leading determinants of general difficulties in teenagers.	Aboobaker, S., et al (2019). [76]
11	Adolescence is a struggle for autonomy	It is becoming more widely acknowledged that young girls' adolescence is fact marked by dialogue and the consolidation of meaningful relationships rather than being characterized by a struggle for independence from parents. Female adolescents describe themselves in aspects of the nearness of their ties.	Hutnik, N., [77]
12	Adolescent identity provides one the relatedness of the real world.	In turn, the adolescent identity serves to provide the framework for comprehending who one is, offers direction and significance through convictions, values, and aspirations, and facilitates a relevant interrelationship with the real world.	Sandhu, D., [78]
13	Adolescents identities are grounded and influenced by media	Young men and women intentionally invent, formulate, and create their standards for behavior, appearances, and identity within the intricacy that is distinctive of a changing society. Their ideas of their identification are based on dominant media representations.	Thapan, M. (2001, May). [79]
14	Adolescents undergo stress while facing behavior related problems.	Adolescent females believed that there was a large social cost associated with disagreement and protest; as a result, they accepted the status quo and anticipated slow societal change. Stress can cause behavioral issues in some teens	Talbani, A., et al. (2000). [80]
15	Cultural identity among adolescents is a complex development	Teenagers and emerging adults are more exposed to diverse cultures, which complicates and broadens the process of forming one's cultural identity.	Jensen, L. A., et al. (2011). [81]
16	Women in India follow a behavioral pattern of their ancestors.	In one instance, women's educational and professional backgrounds ensure that they display a specific habit that has been passed down through more than one generation and gives them a certain capital.	Thapan, M. (2009). [82]

#### 4.5 Mitali Perkins:

Mitali Perkins has garnered honours for her fiction and picture books for young readers. Her painting reflects the influences of her background in India. They examine a variety of issues, including poverty, child soldiers, microcredit, immigration, and human trafficking. She hopes to leave readers with their emotions open and in tears or laughter, ideally both. All of her books centre on crossing various types

of borders. Her considerable travel experience, as well as her studies in political science at Stanford and public policy at UC Berkeley, are major contributors to her knowledge of a wide range of subjects. She contends that the human soul is built to take in stories, irrespective of our sexuality, culture, or level of education. She herself states that she "writes books for kids who have already grown up like me, knowing that they are a t of a bigger world, and I aspire that my books assist kids to get prepared for living in as big as possible" [83].

**Table 5:** References on Mitali Perkins:

S. No.	Area and Focus of research	Outcome of the Research	Reference
1	Mitali Perkins speaks of raising kids to engage popular culture.	Former missionary and Bengali immigrant Mitali Perkins exhorts us to draw a parallel between bringing up kids in a pop-culture milieu and being an ambassador abroad.	Mitchell, M. R. (2007). [84]
2	Mitali Perkins creates bicultural identity in Desi young adult novels.	A adolescent girl who has anxiety and battles with her bicultural identity is the main character in each of Mitali Perkins' tales.	Superle, M. (2010). [85]
3	Mitali Perkins gives insight about Indian Culture and history.	Her own opinions on Indian history and culture are shared in other works by Perkins, notably those that deal with the place of women and education.	Day, D. (2009). [86]
4		It is hoped that the reader would be engrossed in the story and put herself in the protagonist's position, adopting the main character's ethnicity, gender, values, and goals. She is assimilating into that culture rather than studying about it and retaining facts and information.	Yokota, J. (2015). [87]
5	Mitali Perkins highlights postmodern fragmentation in her works.	In her talk, Mitali Perkins will emphasize the theme of postmodern fragmentation.	Yasmeen, S., et al. (2021). [88]
6	Community Boundaries and Border crossings in Mitali Perkins novels.	Their Two books show how diverse fusions of cultures can benefit both the person and the community.	Aouadi, L., et (2016). [89]
7	Mitali Perkins on Crossing community boundaries	Mitali Perkins is concerned about the recurring issues that have an impact on communities in addition to the regions within societies where change occurs.	Swamidoss, H. (2016). [90]
8	Mitali Perkins' books address mass incarceration in the country.	There aren't many books for new readers that deal with the incarceration statistics in this nation, claims Mitali Perkins.	Elliott, Z. (2017). [91]
9	Mitali connects between two cultures traditional Bengal and	the modern California of her suburban peers and the traditional Bengali ancestry. The distance between those two universes occasionally appeared enormous.	Perkins, M. (2009). [92]

	California		
10	Mitali touches upon the loss experienced by young migrants.	Young immigrants lose a number of things when they relocate to a new country. These losses could include the capacity to forget about race, language, the benefit of having parents who can decipher social mores, the calming influence of traditions, and the opportunity to blend in with the crowd wherever an immigrant goes in their new environment.	Perkins, M. (2005). [93]
11	Challenges faced by migrants	The difficulties faced by refugees in their freshly occupied space are depicted by Mitali Perkins in her imaginary universe.	Varghese, S. & et al. [94]
12	Cultural Identity is the theme of Mitali's works.	Throughout the majority of her works, Mitali weaves a strong thread of cultural identification.	Day, E. (2015). [95]

### 5. CURRENT STATUS & NEW RELATED ISSUES :

In Mitali Perkin's works, themes of femininity and cultural identity are explored. Her work explores recurrent themes that centre on an interest in both communities and the areas within communities where transformation takes place. Both characters that negotiate cultural barriers within the many civilizations are presented in her writings. [95] These are the two main subjects that books and other works of young adult literature touch with. The current Indian society has undergone a tremendous transformation as a result of social growth and globalisation. Indian girls' cultural and personal identities have been a significant challenge to society and to individuals in the quest for progress. To assert her rights and freedom and become acknowledged in society, a girl or woman had to go it alone. Children's book authors frequently utilise the characters in their works to discuss the changes that Indian culture has undergone, and a large portion of South Asian young adult literature nowadays is concerned with socio-cultural and political heterogeneities [96].

Similar to numerous other "traditional" nations, Indian society is still patriarchal. The patriarchal rules governing sexuality, reproduction, and social production are communicated through specific cultural metaphors. [97] Under Mitali's reign, Indian girls, particularly those living in rural west Bengal, were forced to create a new identity. Such girls had to overcome the obstacles that their families and cultures had set in front of them, such as having to take on household responsibilities, proving their equality with males, maintaining Indian culture in the face of all the latest fads, etc.

The planned study would look at girls' quests for cultural and personal identification in a few of Mitali's novels. Those who leave their country and live in other nations will face real challenges, and their efforts to preserve the culture of their home nation will be highlighted. This study aims to investigate and analyze the adaptability of cultural assimilation and self-identity, which has received little prior attention.

A young, creative Bangladeshi girl who valiantly rejects tradition in order to help her family get through difficult times is mentioned in the author's book *The Rickshaw Girl*. Naima is an accomplished painter of the traditional alpana designs that Bangladeshi ladies and girls decorate their homes with for important occasions. Naima, however, is not content with merely painting alpana. Like her close friend Saleem does for his family, she wishes to contribute to the family's financial well-being. Naima uses her resourcefulness and her skills to boldly save the day when her hasty attempt to assist her family causes them to incur even more debt. Includes a dictionary of Bangla terminology and a statement from the author regarding microfinance and a changing Bangladesh. In this scene, Naima fights for her female identity and realises her life goals. Here, the author has drawn on the courage and strength of women to overcome the severe social constraints placed on them. It emphasises how important women's roles are in rural Bangladesh [98].

In her book *You Bring the Distant Close*, Mitali Perkins explores the complex issues of cultural identities that the characters Tara, Sonia, Ranee, Chantal, and Anna must deal with. The novel's three generations of women interact with one another and the world around them in a variety of ways, and the author frequently alludes to Bengali culture in her writing. The complexity of the intersection of



cultural, national, and religious identities is revealed by the author; Culture clashes occur in these women's life even before factoring in the cultural shock which comes with moving to a new nation with very different social norms, particularly when they relocate to the USA. The main characters struggle to integrate into society and their own families. The works of Moreover Perkin go beyond what is typically considered young adult fiction and significantly improve the area of border crossings and community borders research [99].

#### **6. IDEAL SOLUTION, DESIRED STATUS & IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED :**

The different topics that the academics have employed are distinct but constrained. Few articles have been written about Mitali Perkins's works, and even fewer of them focus on the concept of transcending boundaries. In India, a large portion of the coursework is focused on young adult literature and the numerous subjects it addresses. In-depth discussion of Indian youth issues is required. This study focuses on Mitai's works' representations of femininity and cultural identity. The texts explore the themes of femininity and cultural identity of Indian adolescents as they relate to the common themes of her novels. The Indian woman's strong voice defending her cultural heritage and sense of self is a crucial component of this work. Her writings are the perfect way to speak to today's youth's issues.

#### **7. RESEARCH GAP :**

It was discovered after analyzing the earlier books and articles that Mitali Perkins' works had received very few interpretations. The novels address the difficulties Indian girls have in defining their personal and cultural identities as a result of this examination. These difficulties are not constant throughout time, space, and people. These problems have to be studied about relation to comparing American and Indian scenarios in depth since she deals with cross-cultural cultural aspects in her works. The other facets of Indianness, such as nature, bravery, social situations, and people's typical views and beliefs, should be studied.

#### **8. RESEARCH AGENDAS BASED ON RESEARCH GAP :**

The research will primarily focus on the following critical topic items:

- (1) How do the female characters in Mitali's writings fight for their sense of self?
- (2) Does it present any unique difficulties for the distressed adolescent girls?
- (3) Do the books provide women agency?
- (4) How do Indian teenagers deal with cultural obstacles in a mixed-cultural environment?
- (4) Do these difficulties still exist for Indian youngsters today?
- (5) Is it necessary to safeguard the worries of children?

#### **9. ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH AGENDA :**

Analyzing the discussed research agendas is required to provide an appropriate study outcome. Below is a detailed analysis of the above agendas:

- (1) To investigate teenage girls' identity difficulties in the context of India
- (2) To discuss the issues that young girls encounter at home and in the community.
- (3) To look into the techniques Indian youth utilise to discover their cultural identity.
- (4) To evaluate the challenges that young people who reside in heterogeneous environments confront
- (5) To expand on Mitali's justification for girls' and women's empowerment in India.

#### **10. FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL/PROBLEM IN CHOSEN TOPIC :**

The supplied research proposal focuses on the way the author addresses adolescent females, especially their cultural and personal identity, after an extensive examination of the chosen research topics that are stated beneath the author. The novels chosen for the study are examples of works where the author discusses the struggles of young girls for their identities as well as social customs. These difficulties are typical of Indian women's ongoing struggles in general. Thus, "Search for Feminine and Cultural Identity by Modern Indian Adolescent Girls in the Young Adult Literary Works of Metali Perkins and Its Relevance Today" will be the topic under study.

#### **11. ABCD ANALYSIS OF CHOSEN RESEARCH PROPOSAL :**

The acronym ABCD of a System (Advantages, Benefits, Constraints, and Disadvantages) can be used to assess and comprehend a model or system effectively. According to this analysis method [100 -110],

By recognizing and analyzing the benefits, limits, and disadvantages of various impacting aspects while considering numerous determinant issues numerous determinant issues into consideration, it is possible to determine the success of a business plan, strategy, concept, or system. An innovative analytical approach called ABCD analysis uses four constructs to analyse a particular business model, corporate structure, strategy, or operational thought or idea. Benefits, Drawbacks, Restrictions, and Advantages This system takes into account all factors in important domains through examining the main problems and figuring out the essential components. This study's objective is to analyse these five indices utilising a brand-new quantitative analysis technique called ABCD analysis/listing. A researcher's skill, the amount of research conducted, and the calibre of a research publication are regularly evaluated using a variety of research indices. Research indices are produced using the total number of research papers published during a certain time period or the total number of citations for those same publications by researchers using ABCD analysis. Aside from commonly used citation indices like the H-index, i10-index, and G-index, it is discovered that calculating an author's annual research index based on annual research publications is the best way to assess their contribution to research. This conclusion is based on an explanation for why some research publications do not at first draw citations for some years. Several new research indices that have recently been proposed for calculating the research efficiency of individuals as well as a team of people in an organization are the ARP Index, RC Index, RE Index, Project Productivity Index, and Cost Index.

The benefits, Advantages, Limitations, and Drawbacks of the research are investigated in this paper using a qualitative method of a system or idea known as the ABCD analysis framework/listing devised by P. S. Aithal [100]. Below is an ABCD Analysis qualitative breakdown of the suggested study.

#### **11.1 Advantages:**

The benefits of conducting a study in the suggested location would allow the research community to comprehend the novelist's viewpoint on the community of Indian Adolescent Girls and their issues. It would help us appreciate a girl's courage to stand up for herself, fight for her identity, and strengthen herself by engaging in ongoing conflict with the forces around her. To comprehend the conflicts the girls face in a society with mixed cultures as well as the cultural norms they are expected to follow. The research also considers the applicability of such techniques in the current environment.

#### **11.2 Benefits:**

The advantages of this research include that it will help the academic community comprehend how Indian adolescent girls are portrayed in novels, particularly against a Bengali background. It helps us recognise the young girls' strength and maturity in handling the difficulties of raising a family with a male mentality. We can now appreciate their adaptation and gratitude for upholding Indian society's cultural standards.

#### **11.3 Constraints:**

Teenage females in India confront a variety of issues and dangers. Even though there have been significant changes because, of education and awareness, certain rural and remote communities are still in the dark. Girls in these situations must fight hard to be heard, recognize their rights, and adhere to the traditions society expects of them.

#### **11.4 Disadvantages:**

There are no simple answers to the research topics mentioned in the study. Unless the patriarchal society disintegrates and a new society emerges, these issues will likely still be problems tomorrow. In a large democracy like India, where the constitution guarantees women equal rights, women nonetheless have to make sacrifices to survive. Hats off to the women who have demonstrated their woman power and made a difference in the home and society, though, for their fearless daring. Hence, ABCD Analysis would aid in methodically analysing the advantages and disadvantages of the research. A better comprehension of the research would result from the methodical analysis, and it would also serve to emphasise the research's purpose.

### **12. SUGGESTIONS TO IMPLEMENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ACCORDING TO THE PROPOSAL :**

The proposed study sheds information on the Indian community of adolescent girls. Even in the twenty-first century, a male-dominated society presents difficulties for the girl population. The social norms that devalue girls are attacked, while a girl's fearless courage in discovering her own identity and achieving empowerment is admired. Several realistic methods that allow girls to be free and be themselves are used for the implementation of this research. This study's discussion of adolescent females will shed more light on young adult literature in India and help to improve the situation of the girl community, making it more pertinent.

### 13. LIMITATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL :

Textual analysis and secondary source exploration are used to carry out the research. Below is an analysis of the author's Young Adult literature. A study like this has never been done before. There were significant limitations, including the study's focus on adolescent girls and its difficulty to cover all works that deal with the same subject.

### 14. CONCLUSION :

"Search for Feminine and Cultural Identity by Modern Indian Adolescent Girls in the Young Adult Literary Works of Mitali Perkins and its Relevance Today" is the title of the current study. Investigate Mitali Perkins' books, including *The Rickshaw Girl* and *You Make the Distance Close*. Six chapters that cover topics like Indian adolescent girls' search for their own personal and cultural identities make up the current study. Even now, and in every region of the nation, the theme issues raised in the book are actual issues in India. Nearly every Young Adult has the topic of the search for identity. This is the age-old tale of how women have been searching for their identities since the dawn of time.

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