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Inclusion of the Global Family i.e. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam' in Jhumpa Lahiri's Literary Works

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It's not in our hand when, where and in which community, caste or religion we born. But definitely it's possible for every individual to think beyond the boundaries. Everyone can have the mindset i.e. 'Individual to Global'. It's in our Indian culture 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam'. The entire World becomes the 'Global Village'. Though we born here as an Indian Citizens, we are the Global Citizens. This global aspect is an order of the day to flourish, establish, enhance and enrich our personality to prove globally.

Individual to global, or Individual Global Responsibility: It is the concept that personal actions, attitudes, and ethical decisions contributed directly to addressing global issues like inequality, environmental decay, and human suffering. It involves fostering a "global mindset" an awareness of the interconnected world to create positive, sustainable, and peaceful change through, for example, conscious consumption, education, and civic engagement.

Key Aspects of Individual to Global Impact:

Global Citizenship: Involves understanding one's role in the wider world, promoting peace, and taking responsibility for humanity.

Action-Oriented Impact: Small-scale, daily choices (e.g sustainability) create significant, aggregated ripple effects on global issues.

Developing a Global Mindset: This involves increasing knowledge of international affairs, traveling, and adopting an open-minded approach to diverse perspectives.

Ethical Responsibility: Actively fighting against inequality, stigma, and discrimination as part of a global community.

Symbolic Connection: Individual actions are viewed as a "new form of global action," allowing personal ethics to drive systemic change.

This perspective emphasizes that individuals are not just passive observers but active participants in shaping a more sustainable world.

Global Family:

It refers to the concept of humanity as one interconnected unit, promoting unity and shared responsibility, often celebrated on Global Family Day (Jan 1st) for peace, and also describes real families living transnationally due to migration or conflict, as studied in sociology and supported by networks like the Global Family Reunification Network. It also encompasses large family businesses studied by groups like the Wharton Global Family Alliance.

Human Unity: The idea that everyone is part of one big family, transcending borders, races, and religions, advocating for world peace and understanding.

Transnational Families: Families physically separated across multiple countries, often due to migration, conflict (like refugees), or work, creating complex cross-border family dynamics.

Global Family Day (World Peace Day): A yearly observance on January 1st encouraging reflection on global unity, peace, and mutual respect.

Research & Business: Used in academic studies (Global Family Change) and financial contexts (Global Family Offices, Family Businesses) to understand large, wealthy families and their impact.

Community Initiatives: Organizations like Global Family Travels and Global Family Reunion use the term to foster connection, cultural understanding, and support.

Thus "Global family" is a broad concept uniting idea of shared humanity, international family connections, and the study of family systems worldwide, from socio-cultural changes to large-scale business structures.

Key aspects of Global Family inculcated in Jhumpa Lahiri's literary Work:

Jhumpa Lahiri's works frequently explore the concept of a "global family" through the lens of the Indian diaspora, specifically focusing on the Bengali-American experience. Her narratives often depict families operating across borders, navigating the emotional, cultural, and generational gaps caused by migration.

Dislocation and Nostalgia: Lahiri highlights how families are separated from their homeland, creating a sense of "in-betweenness" where characters feel alienated in their new country while becoming foreign to their home country.

Generational Disconnect: The "global family" in her work is often fractured by the gap between immigrant parents and their American-born children. The parents struggle to maintain cultural traditions (language, food, customs), while the children (second generation) adapt to Western culture, leading to communication breakdowns and a loss of shared identity.

Negotiating Identity: The characters often struggle to reconcile their inherited cultural roots with the adopted American way of life. This is central in *The Namesake*, where the Ganguli family moves between Calcutta and Massachusetts, and the children feel torn between two worlds.

Cultural Hybridity: Instead of complete assimilation, Lahiri depicts a hybrid identity where families create a unique, blended, or "Unaccustomed" existence.

Examples in Specific Works:

The Namesake: Follows the Ganguli family's journey from India to the US, highlighting the struggle of first-generation immigrants (Ashima and Ashoke) against the backdrop of their American-born son, Gogol, who struggles with his bicultural identity.

Interpreter of Maladies: Explores the emotional and cultural challenges of Indian immigrants in America, focusing on themes of marriage, longing, and the loss of cultural ties.

Unaccustomed Earth: Examines the lives of second-generation immigrants (like Ruma) who, while in their new "unaccustomed" homes, navigate the complexities of their parents' traditions versus their own American lives.

The Lowland: Explores the long-term, transgenerational impacts of political upheaval in Calcutta on a family separated by the US and India.

Through her writing, Lahiri depicts the "global family" as one that is constantly adapting, often struggling, and searching for belonging in an increasingly connected, yet fragmented world.

In Jhumpa Lahiri's Literature the ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudaiva kutumbkam (the world is one family) is often explored through the lens of multiculturalism and the breaking of cultural boundaries. While Lahiri's primarily focus on themes of alienation, displacement and immigrant experience. Scholars note that work inherently reflects the spirit of the philosophy by navigating the "mingling of different characters from different countries.

Multicultural integration: It is a process in which diverse cultural, ethnic and religious groups co-exist within a single society while maintaining their unique identities. Unlike assimilation which requires minorities to abandon their original culture to adopt the dominant one, integration allows individuals to function in a new society without losing their heritage. Modern multicultural integration in 2026 is built on several key pillars.

Cultural pluralism: Encouraging diverse groups to retain their traditions, languages and religions while contributing to the boarder society.

Equality and rights: Ensuring all cultural groups have equal access to social, economic and political opportunities.

Social Cohesion: Building mutual respect and reducing alienation through intercultural dialogue and shared community activities. In Jumpa Laharis characters such as those in namesake and Unaccustomed Earth, navigate the mingling of different characters from different countries. The constant negotiation between Indian Heritage and western environment prompts a search for accommodation and adjustment in a globalized world. Multicultural harmony in a post-modern and globalize word, Lahiri's characters often represent the bridge between the East and West. Her narratives prompt readers to find ways to "accommodate and adjust in a multicultural world" moving towards the motto of the entire world as a single family.

Universal Human Emotional bonds:

It refers to the innate psychological and biological connections shared by all people, regardless of culture or background. In 2026 research continues to emphasize that these bonds are rooted in a biological- innate, universal program for survival and social cohesion.

Affectional bonds: A persistent psychological connection where the individual seeks closeness to a specific partner (for example attachment between parent and child.)

Extended group bonding: Human have a unique evolutionary capacity to Bond with non-kin or large groups (like a country or sports team) using symbols of shared identity.

Topography of touch: Research shows Universal pattern where the amount of 'allowed' social touch is linearly dependent on the strength of the emotional bond largely consistent across different cultures. Lahiri's writing oftens transcends specific cultural barriers by focusing on Universal themes of longing, loneliness and communication. By highlighting that people of all countries and culture undergo similar emotional struggles such as isolation or the search for identity Her work suggests shared human experience that aligns with the core of Vasudev kutumbakam. Despite being rooted in the Indian American experience her themes of longing, loneliness and the struggle for identity are described as universal. By tapping into shared human vulnerability, her stories transcend specific borders, aligning with the idea of a global human family.

Conflict as a tool for connection:

Conflict can be a powerful tool for connection by shifting from winning mindset to one focused on vulnerability, empathy and mutual understanding. When manage constructively dis agreements reveal underlying needs, fostering trust and deeper intimacy rather than tearing divisive force into a productive collaborative experience.

Key Principals for turning conflict into connection and benefits of conflicts as connection:

Stronger trust: Successfully navigating disagreements prove that the relationships can withstand difficulties.

Dipper intimacy: Sharing vulnerabilities during conflicts foster a deeper, more authentic connection.

Improve communication: Constructive conflict encourages open expression of thoughts and feelings.

Greater Innovation: In professional settings different perspectives, you can lead to better, more creative

Cross cultural bonding: Like *Unaccustomed Earth*, characters reevaluate Indian and American most to improve their life and the lives of those around them, demonstrating "communal bonding" that define narrow cultural labels. Cultural conflicts in Jhumpa Lahiri's stories are not depicted as purely negative, instead they serve to "raise our consciousness" and encourage characters to find ways to coexist. This process of overcoming alienation and seeking communal bonding, particularly among female characters like Ashima (the namesake) and Ruma (*unaccustomed Earth*), reflects a movement toward seeing the world as an interconnected community.

Hence, The Whole World is just interlinked with each other in varied ways as the Global Family where Global Culture conceived. In the literary work of Jhumpa Lahiri, it is thoroughly conceived.

