



General & Higher Academic Programme

NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Desi Dreams: Indian Immigrant Women Across Two Worlds

by Ashidhara Das

The book

This ethnographic study focuses on the construction of self and identity by Indian immigrant professional and semi-professional women who live and work in the USA. The major issues are: What are the selves and identities of professional Indian women? How is the continuity of selves and identities accomplished when these women find themselves constantly traversing the starkly different expectations of American society and workplace on one hand, and the Indian immigrant home and community on the other?

The focus in this anthropological fieldwork was on Indian immigrants in the San Francisco Bay Area, who have often been defined as a model minority. Indian immigrant women who have achieved entry into the current technology-based economy in the Silicon Valley value the capital-accumulation, status-transformation, socio-economic autonomy, and renegotiation of familial gender relations that are made possible by their employment. However, this quintessential American success story conceals the psychic costs of an uneasy Americanization, long drawn out gender battles, and incessant cross-cultural journeys of selves and identities. The outcome is the production of a diasporic identity through the re-composition of Indian culture in the diaspora and the strengthening of transnational ties to India.

Contents

List of Tables

Preface

Acknowledgements

1. At Home and at Work in the Diaspora:
Theoretical Approach and a Statistical Overview

2. In Search of Success in the American
Workplace

3. Professional Women at Home and in the
Community

4. The Construction of the Self

5. Conclusion

Glossary

Bibliography

The Author

Ashidhara Das has received a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of California, San Diego, and has presented her work in various conferences and journals in the US and in India. Her main interest is in the Indian diaspora in the US and in gender relations within the Indian immigrant community. She resides in the San Francisco Bay Area and teaches freshman anthropology.

Market

Students and faculty members of the Departments of History, Sociology and Anthropology, Centres for Migration and Diaspora Studies (for example, Punjab University Chandigarh, Gujarat University Ahmedabad, University of Hyderabad) libraries of colleges, universities and research institutions, like Indian Institute of Advanced Study (Shimla), National Institute of Advanced Studies (Bangalore), Madras Institute of Development Studies (Chennai), Centre for Development Studies (Trivandrum), Centre for Economic and Social Studies (Hyderabad), Institute of Development Studies (Jaipur), Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (Pune), G B Pant Social Science Institute (Allahabad), Centre for the Studies of Developing Societies (Delhi), Centre for the Studies in Social Sciences (Kolkata) Indian Council of Historical Research (Delhi) and Indian Council of Social Science Research (Delhi). General readers interested in the subject.

Proposed Publication Month: July 2012

Print Run: 500 cps

Size: Royal 8vo