

CHAPTER 3

EXTRINSIC THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Biculturalism

Rutledge M. Dennis wrote in his book entitled *Biculturalism, Self Identity and Social Development*. In his research, Dennis focuses on the experiences of individuals and groups in navigating two cultures, such as the heritage culture and the dominant culture in which they live. Dennis stated that, “Biculturalism among individuals may emerge due to marriage, birth, adoption, migration, because individuals simply choose to move from one cultural group to another, or because two groups live in close proximity and engage in trade and socio-cultural activities.” (Dennis, 2008:9).

According to Dennis, “Thus, the biculturalist, thought at ease with biculturalism, may tilt or feel much at home in one of the two cultural worlds” (Dennis, 2008:31). This means that a bicultural person who feels comfortable with their situation can enjoy living in both cultures they know. They usually understand the rules, values, and traditions of both cultures well. Because of this, they can adjust easily and take part in everyday life in both places. They might feel happy because they have two cultural identities and can use the good parts of each in their daily life. Also, they might help connect the two cultures and make a

space where both can exist together. In this story, the two cultures are American and Indian.

3.1.1 American Culture

America is widely known as a country that values freedom as a core part of its national identity. The strong emphasis on freedom in American life has not only shaped the country's global image but has also allowed others to use the concept of "freedom" for their own purposes (Foner, 2013:14). Freedom has become a central way of life in America, tied closely to personal rights and individual expression (Foner, 2013:15)

This sense of freedom is reflected in everyday lifestyle elements, such as fashion. In the past, jeans and jackets became popular in the United States and were worn by both men and women, symbolizing casual and equal styles. The blazer, in particular, became a staple of women's business fashion and evolved with various accessories and styles. Hill explains that jackets are now a key part of women's wardrobes, complete with colors, textures, and matching jewelry (2004:190).

In addition to fashion, American lifestyle is also shaped by food culture. Fast food, in particular, has become a strong symbol of American life. Americans spend more money on fast food than on items like laptops, cars, or even education (Schlosser, 2002:77). American cultural products including movies, music, magazines, shopping malls, and television programs are major examples of how the American lifestyle is spread and recognized around the world (Pells, 2000:500).

3.1.2 Indian Culture

India is widely known for its rich and diverse cultural traditions, including classical dance and religious music. It is also home to several major religions such as Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Hinduism, which coexist peacefully. Among these, Hinduism is the dominant religion and has distinct spiritual values. For example, cows are considered sacred in Hindu belief. Simoons and Lodrick explain that cow products like milk and butter are used in various religious ceremonies as offerings to God (1981:125).

Hindu teachings also discourage behaviors that can lead to addiction, such as the use of alcohol, tobacco, and narcotics. However, many young people in India are still affected by these issues. Factors such as peer pressure, difficult family situations, and stress are often linked to these problems, which remain a concern in Indian society today (Noori, 2017:7).

India's cultural influence can also be seen in its traditional clothing. The sari remains one of the most popular garments worn by Indian women today. The sari as a long piece of fabric wrapped around the body, often worn for both everyday and ceremonial purposes. Other traditional outfits like the salwar kameez are also widely used (Khaire, 2011:363).