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IMPACT OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES ON SOCIETY IN SAMI AHMAD KHAN'S  
ALIENS IN DELHI

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**IMPACT OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES ON SOCIETY IN SAMI AHMAD KHAN'S  
*ALIENS IN DELHI***

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**Abstract:**

Literature is the mirror of society and considered as a widely acclaimed field in the varied genres of literary studies. It is undeniably true that literature imitates the attitudes and insights of the society; its virtues and vices along with the critical outlooks that make society more comprehensive by identifying the faults and simultaneously the corrections too. Science fiction is one of the genres of literature, functioning to the real values and fictional aesthetics of society, environmental changes, supernatural elements, scientific upbringing and massive scientific discoveries those identified through the upheavals of socio-cultural impacts. Science fiction represents various types of scientific discoveries that directly and indirectly make an impact on socio-cultural environment. The renowned scientists across the world have made their novel contributions to various scientific discoveries through their experiences. They try to make such scientific discoveries those are very useful for the society, community, and overall galaxy of the earth. Various types of scientific discoveries made an impact on the socio-cultural milieu that are further resulted into the development and progress of human beings on earth. Also, these discoveries make an impact on almost all the multidisciplinary approaches such as communication, research, industrial fields, engineering, biotechnology, medical science, space research and the like. Such fields help to flourish society in a scientific way as well as trigger the pivotal change and the standard of living of human being.

**Keywords:** Scientific discoveries, social-cultural milieu, science fiction

Literature is a blue print of human society which is widely acknowledged in the different genres. Also, it represents society, community, region, culture, traditions and many other interdisciplinary fields. Literature imitates the multiple attitudes and meaningful insights reflected in the society. It also involves with the various logical principles and implications such as robots, computer, alternative history or futuristic utopias, dystopias and narratives that find scientific outlook, rationalizations that avoid self-contradiction or form of thought experience, logical working of particular premises. In science fiction, various discoveries and their socio-cultural consequences are reflected by the concerned science fiction writers in their works. For instance, the discovery of a nuclear bomb which is used in the World War II; led to the destruction of cities such as Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As a result of such destruction, for a long time in Japan, it is realized as a further devastating aspect of science. At present, the war which is going on between Ukraine and Russia where advance destructive weapons are used are resulted into the destruction of entire world. It implies that the world is in periphery of the commencement the third world war.

This paper focuses on the various types of scientific discoveries along with both the positive and negative impacts on society through giving much importance to the socio-cultural milieu of the society.



The said analysis is carried out with multiple representations and elements that are reflected in Sami Ahmad Khan's notable work *Alien in Delhi*. The prime concern of this analysis is to identify how these discoveries make an impact on the socio-cultural aspects of the society. The scientific discoveries warn and direct the human being about the newly born technologies and discoveries which are developed and still developing in the world. According to the opinion of some renowned resourceful agencies that Covid-19 is also a kind of invention made by human beings that may destroy world. Also, the war which is taken place between Ukraine and Russia where advance hazardous weapons are used that resulted into the destruction of entire world that suggest the world is in periphery of the third world war. Throughout the novel, issues like politics, social changes, gender sensitizations, conventional beliefs, and traditional custom and cultural stereotypes rapidly change due to repercussion of scientific discoveries. It is a kind of warning for entire world that the consequences of scientific discoveries and technological changes in near future.

The selected novel incorporates the depiction of utopian and dystopian society. Science fiction explores various kinds of scientific discoveries that are inherently connected with socio-cultural and environmental issues. In the literary study, science fiction functions to study the varied issues of scientific and technological explorations on human being. Consequently, it connects with numerous mythological concerns and technological elements including space, niche, time, technological chronology, displacement from one place to another land and the endurance of human beings through scientific upheavals and mythological substances. The origin of Indian Science Fiction found in the auspicious entry of giganticidal and sacred Hindu Epics such as *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, the technological elements used as spiritual weapon like *Pushpaka Vimana*, used for transportation purpose. Since, the said scientific weapon that helps to move people from one *loka* (world) to another within the short span of time, matching to today's technological progress. In the book, *Mahabharata* various intellectual and excellent architectural designs made in the form of mansions, palaces and waxed floors blended with crystalline water and vice versa. Also, a real-time transmission of war episodes by the use of telepathic devices those are vividly and intensively described. Similarly, there are innumerable *shlokas* (hymns), describing the methods that help to rise youth and also provides strengths to restore their lives in the form of prolonged life span. The above cited illustrations had not any kind of scientific touch but they all are considered and classified under the roof Indian proto science fiction.

The Indian English Science Fiction primarily focuses on the effect and advent of scientific discoveries and technologies those are impacted on socio-cultural and political aspects of the society. The writer, through his narrative, explores the various constructive, deconstructive, positive and negative impacts of scientific discoveries and technological uses through the plot of the formation of story with narration and characterization. The writers belong to the genre of science fiction attempt to depict the various scientific discoveries and its impact on the socio-cultural and also multiple other aspects while using the vectors of science fictions. Sami Ahmad Khan vocalizes,

"Oblivious to the blaring car horns, the resident AI aboard the dark, dank bridge of the alien craft was playing a soothing meditation song. The Qa'haQ mother ship in orbit was but an exploratory science vessel with complement of fifteen, and two officers were assigned to take a cloaked shuttle down to the earth's surface for a reconnaissance run." (Ahmad 9)

Sami Ahmad Khan attempts to fulfill the desire of almost each and every reader those who are appealingly study the scientific fiction to explore the possibility of aliens who invade the country along with rules and regulations of government agencies to perceive. Khan deliberately set his novel *Aliens* in Delhi by using Delhi as a spatial location where almost all the scientific, technological, social,

cultural, economic and political strengthened activities. Delhi is the base for all the decision taken by the authorities regarding centralized orders of military. Since, Delhi is the capital of India and considered as a political and technological focal place. In the present novel Sami Ahmad Khan uses the example of smartphones, the recurrently used device by the human being as well as aliens, to explore the consequences on human beings, as it causes the destructions of ordinary human beings. Ahmad states,

"I...I still do not know how this is possible. This radiation? Cell phone radiation?" the minister of defence stammered, and then whipped out his cell phone and threw it on an empty chair nearby. I do not follow, 'said the Health Secretary. 'WHO has classified cell phone radiation into Group 2B on the IARC scale?'"(Ahmad109)

The above instance proves that the affected genes interfere into the lives of human beings and turn them into the hybrid alien which further seems to be resulted into the threat of extinction from the existential world. Ahmad rightly observes,

"True, Cartman has been extremely secretive about this entire operation from day one – not sharing details even with the Central Intelligence Agency(CIA)andthe National Security Agency(NSA) – but Basheer could not deduce why he had chosen not to publicize Operation Ragnarök ,once it was successful, inter-agency rivalry notwithstanding. After all, it had unearthed the truth."(Ahmad10)

The instance suggests that Indian agencies such as RAW and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) jointly take initiative to fight against aliens for the sake of saving the humanity on earth. The people from the capital Delhi start turning into aliens and hybrid identity. Unlike any other country in world, India gears up to face a foe to make transformative change. At the time of successful launching of Chandrayaan, mission from earth to galaxy indicates the explosive geopolitical, geospatial science through the example of Osama bin Laden by showing the spatial thriller while representing in Hollywood movies to depict alien invasion. There is also the depiction of an illuminati-like secret cabal, the Military Industrial Conglomerate and Sinium. In this way Ahmad tries to provide the varied scientific discoveries.

### Conclusion

To sum up, the novel incorporates the representation of varied scientific discoveries by taking references of aliens, gene, Smartphone and the like. Through the radiation of smart phones human being may become the victim of alien's transformation of DNA by the effects genes and destroy the human lives. Also, it shifts them alien hybrids, RAW, ISI, ISRO and other agencies those are trying their level best along with their scientific knowledge to save humanity from the attack made by such so called enemies. The depiction of varied scientific and technological elements such as Chandrayaan mission, space, time and the like make a severe impact on socio-cultural, socio-political and socio-economic milieus that are reflected both positively and negatively in selected narrative of Sami Ahmad Khan. In the narrative, Khan brought out the predicting danger and advantages and disadvantages of scientific discoveries with its implications.

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