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Predicament of the Migrant Workers in Farrukh Dhondy's *Come to Mecca and Other Stories*

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Abstract: Farrukh Dhondy is one of the significant voices in the field of writers of Indian diaspora. He is an Indian born British short story writer, novelist, columnist and editor whose ancestors belonged to Parsi Community. He was born in Poona in 1944 and after schooling migrated to United Kingdom in the 1970s. His first collection of short stories *East End at Your Feet* (1976) marked the proclamation of the arrival of a new impressive writer in English. His second collection of short stories *Come to Mecca and other stories* (1978) won the Children's Rights Workshop Other Award. The collection also won Collins /Fontona Books for Multi Ethnic Britain Competition and has been widely admired by people since its appearance. It consists of six stories namely *Come to Mecca*, *Two Kinds of Truth*, *Iqbal Cafe*, *Free Dinners*, *Salt on a Snake's Tale* and *Go Play Butterfly*. Though the stories are meant for the young teenagers and their sense of conflict but on the other side it focuses the racial discrimination, expatriate experiences, diasporic dilemmas, trauma, feeling of being an outsider, anxiety, exploitation, feeling of insecurity in an alien land and so on of the migrant workers in Great Britain. Selected stories of the collection deals with the British Bangladeshi migrant workers namely Shahid, Mr. Miah, Jolil, Khalil, and Hoshiar Miah's predicament in the alienated land in regard to earn the livelihood for their families. The paper will high-

light the plight and predicament of the migrant workers in Great Britain in 1970s.
Keywords: Predicament, diasporic, conflicts, migrants, Exploitation, Discrimination, anxiety, Insecurity, Racism.

Since the pre historic time people of this universe migrated from one place to another in search of sustenance and secured life. Likewise the British Bangladeshi immigrated to London from Bangladesh in search of employment and better fortune as the job opportunities skilled and semi skilled was common in textile trade and factories which were not quite common in their native country. They have taken the citizenship in the United Kingdom through immigration and historical naturalization. Besides this some Sylheti's from Bangladesh started to open cafes and were very popular during the days. In this way a network of Bangladeshi restaurant, shops and other small business started to set up in Brick Lane in East End and its vicinities. The background of Farrukh Dhondy's collection *Come to Mecca and Other Stories* in Brick Lane in East End in London where the British Bangladeshi had been staying there for long time.

Farrukh Dhondy, born in India and settled in United Kingdom in the 1970s, is a significant voice in the modern age. Though his *Come to Mecca and other Stories* are meant for the Asian and West Indian teenagers in Great Britain. Immediately after publication the collection won the Children's Rights workshop Other Award. It has also won Collins /Fontona Books for Multi Ethnic Britain competition and has been widely admired since its appearance. The stories are angry in tone and expression and depicts the conflicts of the first and the second generations of Britons. The stories also depict the predicament of the outsider, the diasporic dilemmas, racial discrimination, exploitation, sense of fear tinged with insecurity in the alien land. The Collection *Come to Mecca and other stories* (1978) consists of six beautiful