

**DESTABILIZATION AS A RESULT OF NATURAL DISASTER ESPECIALLY LANDSLIDES
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF KIRAN DESAI'S NOVEL
THE INHERITANCE OF LOSS**

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ABSTRACT

This paper is about the natural disaster of landslides as expressed in Kiran Desai's Booker Prize winning novel, *The Inheritance of Loss* (2006). This novel draws a stunning picture of the natural scene of Kalimpong which is situated in the Eastern Himalayas at the Indo-Tibetan Border. As it is a hill station, avalanches happen frequently. In Kiran Desai's novel, this natural disaster affects the people of Kalimpong. People are always frightened because of landslides which occur mainly in the monsoon. Lack of infrastructure and poverty are the main reasons which they face to fight against landslides. My concentration on this research paper is to describe the inner feelings of the people of Kalimpong through the above mentioned novel and to suggest certain remedial measures. Landslides in the novel serve to convey to us the destabilization and lack of security that people feel and their disconnectedness to their own place. In spite of landslides being a recurring feature, government apathy regarding the population creates a more intense agony for the people. On top of this government officers sanction more building which increases the threat to landslides. The Gorkha insurgents use detonators to create fresh landslides adding to the fear and threat of the area. Thus the threat of natural disaster is compounded by human activity and this is a negative statement for our contemporary world that is trying to fight disaster at every turn.

KEYWORDS: Kiran Desai, *The inheritance of loss*, Landslides, Natural Disasters, Booker prize.