



**Epitome : International Journal  
of Multidisciplinary Research**

**ISSN : 2395-6968**

**PORTRAYAL OF SELF-DISCOVERY IN NIRAD CHAUDHARI'S 'AN  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN UNKNOWN INDIAN**



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**ABSTRACT**

*The fundamental definition of Autobiography is the account of a writer's life penned by himself, 'autos' is the self-whereas 'bios' is the life of the writer and graphin is the act of writing. The autos in autobiography takes precedence over the 'bios' therefore the autobiography records the life history of the writer and in the process, it leads to discovery or recreation of the self to offer an analysis of an autobiography. It reveals the inner dimensions of his personality and multi-dimensional aspects of his life intertwined with history and the times he lived in. Autobiography exposes the oscillations of the life, thought and times of the author which is often times very intriguing to the readers.*

*George Gusdorf an authority on autobiography writes, "It's a search of self through annals of history an act which embodies the self where the 'real' or actual self is replaced by a new self-made object, a cultural artifact the autobiographical text."*

*The odyssey of discovery leads him from the periphery of events to the centre of his essential self, his distinctive personality, his innermost guided secrets and thoughts. An Autobiography exposes the man and the creative artist within the self.*

**KEYWORDS**

*Self, autobiography, consciousness*