

FEMINISM INTROSPECTED IN MANJU KAPUR'S NOVEL DIFFICULT DAUGHTERS

K. Kayathri,

Assistant Professor,

Department of English,

Karpagam Academy of Higher Education,

Coimbatore, India

Abstract:

In this paper deals with the writer of Indian literature who gives such wonderful writing in the subjectivity of female characters. Everyone can understand the major issues related to gender construction and its impact on the girl-child, traditional interpretations of motherhood, exploitations within and outside the family find its root how it will affect the female genders.

Key Words: Feminism, Woman, Culture, Gender, Family, Marriage

Indian Literature plays a central role in English Literature and strictly tells about how our Indian culture, tradition, and society. Many Indian writers get an enormous place in English literature and give their contribution to Literature through their writings. Particularly many Indian women writers have taken female subjectivity in their writings and tell about female characters' feelings, sufferings what will happen in their real life in day to day lifestyle in India. Manju Kapur is a dominant figure in Indian Literature in twentieth-century fiction.

In postcolonial Indian Literature, some female writers such as Kamala Das, Shashi Deshpande, Anita Desai, Jumpha Lahiri, Manju Kapur, Shoba De, Anita Nair, Chitra Banerjee, Arundhati Roy whose writings pertains to the body of a female subject that is Feminism. Feminism states that women are not objects but they are persons. However, people are living in the materialistic world male gender used to treat an object. The male world never thinks that female gender is also having emotions, feelings, and etc.

Manju Kapur, born in 1984, in Amritsar, Delhi where she is a teacher of English Literature at Miranda House College, as a living author who's writing depends on the female gender. She is an eminent writer of Indian English Literature in English. Some other works of Manju

Kapur are *A Married Woman* (2003), *Home* (2006), *The Immigrant* (2009) and *Custody* (2011). She occupies a significant place among the contemporary women novelists, who concern themselves the problems of women and their quest for identity in the society and proves themselves that they also human beings not an object or tool to anyone. In all her novels, the main characters are a woman. The novel *Difficult Daughters* deals with the story of three generation women and how they suffered their whole life. The mother-daughter relationship is not a good one in the novel of *Difficult Daughters* because of their misunderstanding or generation gap or lifestyle or customs or family. In this novel, every female character wants to identify their self-realization. Manju Kapur portrays all women characters in their own right and it is evident in this novel. Manju Kapur speaks for the middle-class family in Punjab. The novel starts the place of India's capital Delhi where Ida lost her mother and feels lonely. Ida is the narrator who got a divorce from her husband and daughter of Virmati. Kasturi who is the mother of Virmati and had eleven children in the novel *Difficult Daughters* does not bother about her first child Virmati and her feelings. Virmati wants to study and enrich her knowledge but it all destroyed by her mother.

The novel's opening line which is said by Ida that illustrates how Ida's mother suffered from her childhood to her lost breath. Ida's mother Virmati had ten siblings; Virmati who is the take care of everyone when they all are in childhood because of her mother's continues process of giving the baby in every year. It gives extra work to Virmati so for that she is the second mother of her siblings. She has done all works because her mother Kasturi is always sick. Kasturi's sister in law Lajwanti says that Breeding like cats and Dogs. Lajwanti's words examine our Indian culture that is how a married woman treated in her mother in law's house. Every day, Kasturi enters the dark and slippery bathroom to check whether there is any promising reddish color between her thighs. When the readers read these lines it makes them too painful. Nothing, always nothing, and tears come to her eyes. Kasturi's mother gives full support to her even Kasturi wants to abort. But the baby is too strong. Manju Kapur explains here that how our Indian society in the past, present, and future treats female gender.

Virmati is an educated young girl belongs to middle-class Punjab family. She falls in love with Professor Harish and married him. Harish starts love towards Virmati because of his illiterate wife who is not his perfect soul mate. He is the professor of Virmati during her college days. Harish is a handsome and well educated young man from Oxford University who got already married and having two children. Virmati thinks that with the relationship of Harish makes her life feel comfortable and relax. Even she is house arrested; she doesn't stop writing a letter to Harish and starts a letter to send Harish and continues her relationship. She enjoys when she is with Harish. Our Indian culture never accepts that the illegal relationship with a married husband or wife with someone. In the novel *Difficult Daughters* Virmati's family have some norms and rules. After getting marriage with Virmati, Harish takes her to his house where his first wife and two children are living. Virmati's marriage life is a disaster

to her because from the starting period Harish's mother treats Virmati in the way of worst behavior. Being a woman Virmati maintains patience and accepts all kind of bad mannerism from her mother in law. At last, she gets a good name from her mother in law and her stepchildren.

The happiest time for Virmati is when she stays at Nahan where she is a teacher as well as a headmistress. These days make her life so beautiful and give to her merriment. The role of other woman characters in this novel such as Virmati's cousin Shakuntala and her friend Swarnalata would have been a great influence in Virmati's life. Somewhat they indirectly teach to Virmati that what is meant by life. After the meeting of these characters, Virmati starts to compare herself with them. She starts to think which life does her lead and how to change her life which one she needs.

Thus Manju Kapur as a feminist writer in Indian Literature we can understand through her writings. From her novels, everyone can understand those female genders emotions, feelings, and sufferings. She does not simply create the situations and characters to populate her pages but is seriously concerned with the freedom and importance of female gender in society. In *Difficult Daughters*, she stresses on every woman's self-identity and self-fulfillment autonomy.

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