



FEMALE PROTAGONIST

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Abstract

In the galaxy of Indian fiction the contribution of women novelists has been of paramount significance. In majority of the novels we come across the miserable plight of Indian woman. She has been suppressed, oppressed, depressed and exploited in the male dominating society or to say in the patriarchal setup. The fictional world of Shashi Deshpande, Kiran Desai, Anita Desai, Kamala Markandaya, Nayantara Sahgal, Bharati Mukherjee, Manju Kapur and others have tried to discuss the issue like women struggling for their identity, women's commitment to the traditional roles of motherhood, the complex relationship between husband and wife, the family structure and caste system. These writers have tried to depict both the diversity of women and the diversity within each woman.

Keywords: *Feminist, society, divorce, aggression, domestic*

Manju Kapur:

Manju Kapur is one of the outstanding Indian English female novelists. She is famous for her novel, *Difficult Daughters* and she got Common Wealth Award for it. Her next novel is *A Married Woman* which is about love at a moment of political as well as spiritual disturbance. It also deals with understanding as well as astuteness. *A Married Woman* is tale about a one of the performer whose image confronts the limitations about the middle rank living-life.

The female protagonist, Astha similar to, encompass a fracture from the confidence on others. She also profits on the pathway of complete human being standing that facades a hazard to Hemant as well as his gentleman dominance. On the other hand, she comes across herself fascinated connecting the force of the contemporary increasing civilization as well as manacles of the antique unfairness. She puts out on her search for a new significant existence within her lesbian association. She consecrates as well as observes her affronted womanly deep feeling elevating the gentleman outburst to communal revolution within the civilization.

Her one of the famous novel, *Difficult Daughters* also highlights on the true picture of misery female. During the postcolonial time, the separation has always been the mainly creative as well as well-known region for imaginative novelists. Throughout this stage, numeral of work of fiction is written on the idea of the devastation. It conveys the dilemma as well as gives miserable influential observations on the stop working on human being and their standards.

The novelist, Manju Kapur also highlights on the problems major during the circumstance of the patriarchal society; bury-sacred wedding ceremony, relations link, man-woman attachment, co-existence of history as well as current. She describes her female central character like a sufferer of environmental science, masculinity, familial hostility, along with state of affairs. Therefore, the writer believes to:

“Here is a gentleman inside all female as well as a female in all gentlemen. At what time, gentleman hood is difficulty adulthood is disjointed.”¹

1. Bhagwat Naik, Feminine Asserssion in Manju Kapur’s, A Married Woman, The Indian Journal of English studies, R.K. Dhawan, Ed New Delhi, IAEI, 2003 on, Vol. page. 13

Indian Women writing in English is being recognized as major contemporary current in English language- Literature. The likes of Salman Rushdie, Amitav Gosh and Anita Desai, Arundhati Roy, Kiran Desai, Shobha De, etc. have won worldwide acclaim for the quality of their writing and their imaginative use of English. These include the role of English as global lingua franca: the position of English in India. The Indian writers in English are writing, not in their native language but in a second language, and the resultant trans-cultural character of their texts.

It will be great effort to depict multiple faces, roles played by women through the novels of Manju Kapur. In the women writers of 21st century Manju Kapur arrests our attention by exploring a wide range of female experiences with minute observations, the everyday issues in the life of a middle class woman who is caught in the web of patriarchy and tradition on one hand and on other hand a modern educated woman struggling for independence, self-identity resisting the hierarchies of power. To the credit of Manju Kapur go five novels: *Difficult Daughters* (1998), *A Married Woman* (2003), *Home* (2006), *Immigrant* (2008), *Custody* (2011). Through these novels Manju Kapur has tried to show the multiple faces of woman coming from middle class and the problem faced by them.

Difficult Daughters: Her first novel won 1999 Commonwealth Writers’ Prize. Through the character of Viramati she has tried to show a woman caught in old traditions laid by the contemporary society. These traditions become obstacles in the way of getting freedom and then she raises a voice against it. The turmoil of a woman is aptly portrayed who tries to overcome her cultural identity and struggle for self-identity. She stresses on women’s need for self realization. She has also focused on advantages and disadvantages of joint family and different woman reacting differently.

A Married Woman: After the publication of *Difficult Daughters* Manju Kapur gained reputation for another novel *A Married Woman*. She has depicted the oddity of the institution

of marriage. Astha the central character after marriage becomes rebellious due to growing dissatisfaction, falls in love with a widow of Aijaz, develops same sex relationship. She is longing for a purpose in life but remains helpless. The writer points out the problems and pressures that are created in joint family of a shopkeeper. The discrimination made between a girl and a boy child, hierarchy of power in the house, treatment given by in-laws, how women are jealous about each other, how they are weak and submissive.

Home: This novel too has the patriarchal background of an ordinary middle class joint family. Three generations are portrayed of the Banwarilal's family. The novel moves towards modernity which is a threat to the existing joint family.

Immigrant: After reading her another novel Immigrant, we don't find any exaggeration in the portrayal of either the character or the situation. The novel centers on Nina, who is in turmoil to acquire new identity. She gets married creating a sense of displacement and her going to Canada means double displacement. She remains childless and forgetting the sense of morality falls in love with a fellow student. The themes of alienation, rootlessness, loneliness are found in her novel.

Custody: The novel is set in middle class colonies of Delhi in the mid's-90. We come across the uncertainties of matrimony. In this novel she has tried to show the plight of a woman and the husbands fear for loneliness, miserable plight of children, who are treated like commodities and who suffer because of the uncertainties of matrimony. Through this novel she has tried to depict how the family love disintegrates because of modernity, secondly external marital affairs are maintained and people are after materialistic pursuit and the result is women are made to suffer.

ManjuKapur has portrayed a number of middle class women characters suffering due to the norms and taboos of age old tradition, the patriarchal setup, uncertainties of matrimony and their struggle to find identity. All protagonists know they cannot depend on others to sort out the domestic situation and proceed to tackle it on their own. In spite of getting education and freedom the women protagonists of ManjuKapur's novels does not blossom into new woman in the real sense.

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