

SOCIAL-DISORDER IN MANJU KAPUR'S "DIFFICULT DAUGHTERS"

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ABSTRACT

The role of woman writers in India, especially the role of Indian woman novelists is quite significant in many respects. Right from the beginning of Indian English literature, so many Indian women literary figures have shown their stronghold and grip. Their importance has been realized in every sphere. In this context, Sharad Srivastava rightly remarks:

KEYWORDS: Indian Woman Novelists, Manju Kapur

INTRODUCTION

In India also, woman authors have badly come out with intimate details of lives in the autobiographies. When woman could talk so freely about themselves, it was natural that they would be more uninhibited in their writing, especially in their novels (K.K. Singh 1).

Born in Amritsar in India, Manju Kapur is an Indian novelist writing in English. She studied and received an M.A in 1972 from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada. She did her M.Phil from Delhi University and teaches English at Delhi University. She is married to Gun Nidhi Dalmiya and she lives in New Delhi along with her family members. Manju Kapur is a well-known novelist of great reputation and her teaching experience and clearly visible in her novels.

Manju Kapur's all five novels Difficult Daughters, A Married Woman, Home, The Immigrant and Custody have different themes but deal with the typical middle class dreams, hopes and aspirations. The background of these novels is urban in nature and catches the city life with ironical detachments.

Virmati, as a character of feminism portrayed by the author in this novel focuses on different themes. Here, I would like to focus the disorders in the relationship between Virmati and the professor Harish. He comes in Virmati's life and brings an entirely different world along with the different kinds of education. Though Harish is the new tenant to the house of Somanath Lajwanti, he is cousin to Virmati. The professor is also now ready to grab the occasion with smartness. The glimpse of Virmati gives the professor a real pleasure and emotional fulfillment. She also began to find a rare kind of pleasure and happiness in the company of the professor.

Virmati's emotional need seems to be satisfied by the professor although it is not accepted by the moral standard of the society. Virmati and professor both are in confusion regarding the fate of such kind of human relationship. Several letters were exchanged between the professor and Virmati. All the time, Virmati thinks only about the professor. She feels it is pathetic for her to tell in the family about the illegal relationship between her and the professor. He wrote many letters to her in which he unfolded his heart with the help of words, for instance, in one of his letters, he writes :

I am sitting by the window in the sitting room. I can see rolls of eumulous clouds piles up in the sky outside. It is going to rain; The whole earth is waiting, join a wait lover in his mood. I feel one with its, because no matter what i see or do, there are some connections that can be traced to you. the koel is singing to its mate, a pair of squirrels is running up and down the jamun tree in the corner by the hedge. we too will one day be together. It is the faith I live by (Kapur 22).

On the other hand, Virmati does not respond to the professor. a sense of outrage seems to be influencing the attitude of Virmati. She has developed her own sense and attitude. she is not ready to accept the words of her elders especially in her marriage settlement. Virmati is in the verge to move towards Lahore for her education. In Lahore, she finds the company of Shakuntala who always inspires her to be free and vibrant in her outlook and manner. The big problem for Virmati is that the professor is already married and the father of a child. That is the reason of his slow advance. the professor is also aware about the nature of Virmati who is so serious about her relationship with him.

Virmati is conscious of the nature of her relationship with the professor but her resistance is not long. The professor succeeded in persuading Virmati in sexual involvements. After the act of sexual involvement, Virmati seems to be caught in the sense of guilt. She is in dilemma whether to surrender before the need of the professor or to reject all these things. But she could not do according to her will. Virmati finds a good company of Swarna who seems to help her all the time, even in her private affairs. Virmati would like to talk to her relationship, about her ambition and even about her confusions. Virmati realizes and notices a change in her body, she feels uneasiness. Sometime, she suffers harassment. She is afraid of something big problem because of her mere act of sensual involvement with the professor.

Virmati becomes pregnant after sometime and this is an alarming situation for him. The professor becomes totally upset and depressed what he should do. Virmati's pregnancy puts the professor in dilemma. Virmati blames the professor for his mishap in her life. She says to the professor:

I break my engagement because of you, blacken my family's name, am locked up inside my house, get sent to Lahore because no one knows what to do with me. Here I am in the position of being your secret wife full of shame, wonderings what peoples will say if they find out, not being able to live in peace, study in peace... and why? Because I am an idiot (Kapur 42).

Both the professor and Virmati are aware of their limitation. In the traditional Indian society, it is quite beyond to imagine such things before marriage. This thing is worst before marriage and it is supposed to be death of morality.

It is quite unimaginable for an Indian girl to become pregnant before her marriage. Virmati is aware of this shameful situation she is facing this time. Virmati's situation might be the situation of many girls and woman in Indian. Men do take advantage of such condition they always seem to exploit women and girls for their sexual and physical fulfillment. The condition is same for Virmati. Virmati case is the case of many women and girls in our society. In the typical male-dominated society, such conditions are prevalent because the individuals do no dare to cross the limit of the society. But Virmati also has to understand the situation of the professor. Since he is already married, How could he dare to have a second wife? He is in more dilemma and conflict. Manju kapur has beautifully analyzed the situation of the professor in comparison of Virmati. It is possible for the professor to control the situation.

Manju Kapur also hints about the gulf between the boy and the girl. In the traditional society, it is unimaginable

for a boy to stay with girl. It is considered as taboo. People thinks and considers it as bad. But real education might bring the change in the outlook of the people. Both the professor and Virmati become the victims of their own cobweb. They have committed something beyond imagination but do not able to stand at their sides. Particularly the professor was in utter distress because he had to face the double strokes-society is not going to accept him and his act easily and virmati is not able to leave him easily also. He could not decide what he should do. He was in dilemma and seeks advice from many people. He met a poet who advised him to marry Virmati as soon as possible.

CONCLUSIONS

Finally the professor and Virmati got married after five years of their love. Now, they are one to realize the happiness of love. But on the other hand, more difficult circumstances are waiting for them in future. The basic problem before them was that whether the society will accept them easily or not.

REFERENCES

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