



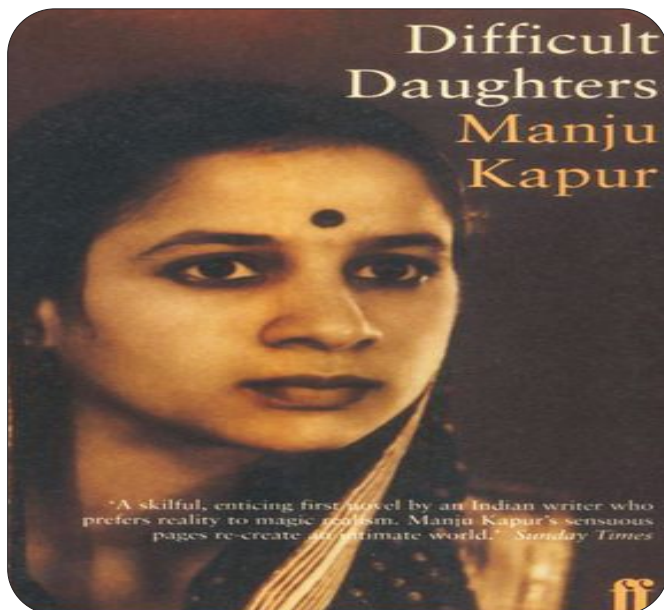
Review of Literature

VIRMATI-A REBEL AGAINST SOCIAL TABOOS AND RITUALS OF MALE DOMINATED WORLD IN MANJU KAPOOR'S DIFFICULT DAUGHTER



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ABSTRACT

This research paper is going to explain main female protagonist's rebellious nature against male dominated society. Manju Kapoor's *Difficult Daughters* published in 1998 and won the Best First Book Commonwealth Writers Prize in 1999. It sets around the time of partition of 1940 and also exposes the problems of a family that moves around female characters. This paper throws light on the rights and situation of women in Indian society .it also raises some question about female's role in our family through female protagonist i.s. Virmati. How Virmati does suffer in her childhood with the responsibility of her eleven siblings? Does she get her parents real love n her whole life?

This novel also expresses some Indian experiences in colonial and postcolonial time and also read as a feminist novel.

KEYWORDS :Colonial, Postcolonial and feminist.

INTRODUCTION

The novel opens with the frank declaration of the narrator, Virmati's daughter Ida, who know her mother's history,

"The one thing I had wanted was not to be like my mother" (Kapoor 1)

This feminist novel centers on Virmati, the protagonist of the novel and the daughter of Kasturi and Suraj Prakash. The burden of household work and her eleven sisters-brothers had dropped on her. That is why, she attain maturity in an early age. She never enjoyed her childhood days. So she never enjoys life as she wants. Ida, her daughter comes to know about her mother situation after her death:

"You know, our mother was always sick, and Virmati, as eldest, had to run the house and look after us. We depended on her, but she was free with her tongue and her hands. One tight slap she

would give for nothing. She would lash out if she did not listen. We used to run from her when she came. She was only sister, but acted very bossy. We were scared of her. She never rested or played with us, she always had some work....." (DD, 5)

She looks after her siblings as a second mother but she did not receive same love from her mother.

She was caught in whirlpool of misplaced passion towards the oxford returned professor who already had a wife. Because of her family burden, she falls in love with professor. But here also she involved in a useless and meaningless love relationship which had given her nothing but pain.

Rebels against society:

In spite of her suffering, she does against social taboos and convention at every step. Here is some point of her rebellious nature:

To continue her higher studies, she is prepared to sacrifices her family and all norms of male –dominated society. When she informed to her mother that she would like to go Lahore to pursue further education kasturi reproached her daughter;

"When I was your age, girls only left their house when they married. And beyond a certain age..... (Kapoor, 111)

But she rebelled against her mother's expectations and left for Lahore.

Not only for education, is her decision to live and marry a married man with a wife and children a clear defiance of the tradition of the male dominated culture.

Also and again, Virmati is also against the observance of the rituals like funerals in our religion and society. Ida tells us about her mother's wishes in the following words:

"I started again at my mother's ashes and wondered what memorial I could give her. She, who had not wanted to be mourned in anyway, when I die she said to me"

I want my body donated. My eyes, my heart, my kidneys, any organ that can be of useand she went on; when I die I want no shor-sharr. I did not want to chauth, I did not want an uthala and I want no one called, no one informed."

SUGGESTIONS:

This research paper also offer a suggestion to Virmati that she could also escape from the revolution if she received love from her parents and also cared especially by her mother Kasturi.

CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, Manju Kapoor's Difficult Daughter presents female protagonist Virmati's revolution against conventions and taboos of male dominated society. This paper explores the rebellious journey of heroine.

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