

The Theme of Longingness in Manju Kapur's novels

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Abstract

According to Men, Women are always considering as a weaker sex. They sacrificed her whole life for her husband and children. For an example, after the long travel everyone wants to take rest. But woman is an only person goes to kitchen and arranges food for everyone. She doesn't wants to take rest even if she tired. She always concern about the needs of everyone in her family. She has to physically satisfy her husband though she is tired. Woman is an abundant gift given to this world. They are very precious unless men know the worth. She is the only person could balance and control her mind at any point. The term feminism has not attained its goal. There are many songs and movies explained the oppression of women in the hands of men as well as women. These words are not effective as well as the dominants still following the same attitude which we cannot modify. The people minds are corrupted which cannot change through feminism movies, theories or any other effective songs. This article focuses Manju Kapur's revolutionistic ideas, longingness, subjugations and sufferenings through different characters from her different novels

Keywords

Feminism, post colonialism, postmodern, immigrant

Manju Kapur is famous for her writing style. From pre independence to post independence writers has explored the theme of loneliness, mental struggle, suppression, sex abuse and gender space. But nothing has changed in the minds of men. Women are still struggling to register their foot prints in this society. They have been struggling from their

womb. In each and every stage the problems of women has been changed. They are always afraid for the monsters and giants of our society are none other than men. Are they glorifying women? This is not a question of a single woman. This is the ground- breaking voice of each woman.

There are so many feminist in all over the world. From the origin of the world to till now the people of this society gives platform to this existed concept called feminism. Women are much powerful than anyone emotionally rather than physically. The life and career of the Women were buried within kitchen and the dreams of them also shattered. At last the face longingness, expectation and unfullfilment only remained. Men give different faces to women. Such as Mother, Mentor, Daughter, wife and sister. There are different dimensions and names were given by others. But the face of the woman is same and it will be never changed.

These are the ideas focused by Manju Kapur in her novels. She is a famous novelist was born in 1948 in Amirstar India. *Difficult Daughters* is her first novel won Commonwealth Writers' Prize and one of the first and best books in Europe and South Asia. She has worked as a English teacher at Delhi University in the name of Manju Kapur Dalmia. And now she lives in Delhi. *Immigrant*, *Custody* and *A Married Woman* are her famous novels.

In her novel *The Immigrant*, a woman needs someone to marry her, love her, and above all she has to look after by somebody. She needs somebody has to be more responsible for her and always besides herself. These expectations are highly difficult and its price is too expensive to get. At last she gets miserable Loneliness, sacrifice, declines and heart aches in their life. These above lines are the dream of Nina.

She thinks, a woman should reinvent herself. She should adopt herself in all situations. She should pull up her roots and she always ready to move to an another place especially an another home. There she has to find a new place, new friends, a new family overall a new identity. She is always longing for love, relationship and motherly care. This is an immigrant experience faced by each woman.

One thing in life is very important a woman should always very steady enough to attach to the rest of her life. But it depends on the ways she belongs in it, the ways are not necessarily lasting but someone made your journey less feeling alone for some time. When something

unsuccessful it is a time and signal to move from that place. For a woman or an immigrant there is no specific and permanent place and no going back.

Manju Kapur's first and best novel *Difficult Daughter* starts with this line "The one thing I had wanted was not to be like my mother. (DD 3)" It was bursted out by a character called Ida, daughter of Virmathi.

Virmathi is an elder child in her family. She led her life under the pressure of family responsibilities. She lost her early days to bringing up her brothers and sisters. She is a second mother of her brothers and sisters. They were keeping on complaint or argued with others. 'She beated me, he needs this and that.' with this family background She finished her higher education. She is always longing for freedom. She wanted to break the obstacles in our society. It has clearly shown in the conversation between Virmathi and her cousin Shakuntala.

She was longing for affection, love, care and attention from her Mother. When she was studying FA, even that time also her mother was pregnant. So she didn't concentrate in her exams and failed. She wanted to be rebellious. So she became a difficult daughter to her difficult mother Kasthuri. Because Kasthuri used to think that women should tolerate and sacrifice all things for her family especially for her husband. According to them, practicing household works are the highest qualification for each woman.

After her marriage with Professor Harish (as his second wife) she was longing to study higher. But she didn't know What, When and Where to study. That time she was longing for proper guidance from somebody.

In her second novel *Married Woman* focused the character of Astha from her birth to middle age. Astha was longing for the soft corner from her parents. She wanted to become independent. After her marriage with Hemanth and she became a mother of two children (one daughter and one son). Being a woman, she was also changed by her expectations of love and the values of independence. She thought that marriage is all about adjustments.

At one stage she makes herself busy with school works and her husband started working in order to build or give bright future to his family. That time she was feeling alone. So she

started scribbling poetry about her own longingness such as affection, care and tenderness. Most of the woman addicted for love and concern rather than sex from her husband.

Astha used to think life is all about love and love is life. Hemanth dominating character and arrogant behavior over Asha lacked her interest on marital life. At one stage she was in need of money but when she was longing for love, she completely hated the money minded Hemanth.

The understanding and feeling between Astha and Pipee developed lesbian relationship among them. Pipee also moved to US for her further studies. Again Astha was unable to bare the loneliness. From the character of Astha we come to a conclusion that a woman needs true love from a true person.

Manju Kapur's next novel is *Home* in which she explained the pathetic condition of woman in this postcolonial world. From the references, there is a character named Sona was longing for a boy baby or a son throughout this novel.

In this society people almost believed that a 'boy baby' is a token of pride and he may be heir of the family rather than girl. Sona's daughter Nisha was the protagonist of the novel. She observed all the male characters and partiality among them in her family which was very much hurted her.

She sacrificed her dream for her own family member. She wanted to be liberated. But from day 1, she was dominated by others even after her marriage due to pregnancy she couldn't continue her job. At last she gave birth to twins. As a woman she fulfilled the expectation of her family but her dreams about future became shattered.

Manju Kapur's another famous novel is *Custody*. There are two types of female portrayed by her in this novel. One is infidelity and an another thing is infertility. The second thing is very complicated issue which is faced by many women. Our society thinks that getting baby is a boon. Yes, it is boon given by God. The problem of infertility is also given by God. But the people not at all ready to understand this concept. Here there is no domination between women and men. It is a serious issue and here a woman dominated by an another woman. There is no vice versa here. The concept of domination is not alone from men. Women also control and rule one and another.

Here kapur presents Ishita as a normal woman who is suffered by infertility. She is longing for a child but she is helpless. So she decided to get divorce from her husband. She was suffered by his mistreated character as well as she couldn't bare his harsh words which come from his bloody mouth.

There is an another broken character also in this novel. Raman seeks divorce from his wife Shagun. Both of them experienced the lack of identity and Ishita feels an emptiness and unfulfillment towards her life as a woman. She is helpless and longing for a companion to whom she wanted to share him everything about her past as well as present. At that time the two broken hearts met and it led them to have sex which satisfied their physical needs. Through this unconditional love and motherly indictments somewhat calm them.

In this materialistic world, both men and women also treat themselves as a material. Here Ishitha's body acts as a material. She satisfied her emptiness through erotic sex with Raman and she got intimate emotional bonding with Roohi. So automatically she got inestimable love from him. Her childless life makes her tensed. Our social constraints lead her physical and mental distress.

Manju's ideas about this novel give confident, independence, emotional balance and a power to survive. In this postmodern era, women are facing many troubles and agonies mentally as well as physically. Through her works, she gives conclusion, influential and self-effacing life to women.

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