

# **The struggle for existence of women in Manju Kapur's Novel**

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## **Abstract**

Today society is taking women in social, political, economical and psychological consideration. So women are shouldering whatever comes into their share. In pre independence and after women writers like Anita Desai Kamala Markendaya Nayantara Sehgal, Shashi Deshpande , Arundhati Roy have achieved world wide fame . They have put their pen in such away the portrayal of women spoke out their real story .The most notable thing is that they fought for liberalization of women strongly oppose the marginalization and suppression of patriarchal system.

The present paper mirrors the struggle of women in Manju Kapur's selected novels In 1940 women had no voice to address their rights as women not sufficient daring to fight for betterment of their lives from taboos and social restrictions etc. They have to follow protocol given by family / society. We found rebel of middle class, upper class and educated women against established social system for acquisition of their real existence in Manju Kapur's novels.

## **Introduction**

In the era of Globalization and modernization to fulfill basic needs / right is not sufficient for woman. They became aware of their existence, self reliance which created the image of new woman. We can't imagine today's world without woman. We know that in our Indian society male dominance and patriarchal system is very powerful but they are proving themselves as they are very crucial as equivalent as male. We also observe that man made rules break the progress women but they themselves encourage s for their own achievements. We can say that their marginalization come to an end in this modern times. They are empowered socially politically well as economically. They are discarding the deep rooted age old traditions and the women are creating their own livelong existence in the society. They are not only for the purpose of marriage , after that to look after their children to obey the others in the family etc. They are struggling for their survival it is also contributing for their existence.

This paper highlights the existence of women in the novels of Manju Kapoor. Who addresses many issues that are related to the middle class women? In middle class women are neglected partially or some times completely They are not free to make their own choices, own likes and dislikes. Manju Kapoor , explore such character in her novels and she tried to present a real portrayal of women which are find in our society. In the writings of Kamala Markendaya Nayantara Sehgal, Shashi Deshpande and many other women writers the women are rebelling against their traditional role and wanted to be free and live like their own wish . Manju Kapoor presented women character very skillfully with their issues The female protagonist in the novels of Manju Kapoor are educated their education promotes to their independently. The women characters are qualified and they make difference between tradition and modernity.

We see the emergence of the new image of women in Manju Kapoor's novel who do not want to be plaything for others as they wish In Manju Kapoor's first novel difficult daughters (won common wealth prize). It is very appreciated as a feminist discourage not because it is written by woman but there is feeling and understanding of woman as a woman and person under the excessive pressure of indirect and direct forces in this connection Kasturi is an example of typical woman skillfully portrayed by Manju Kapur who is only living for her husband doing all the domestic duties. But Virmati's daughter Ida, who born and brought up in post independence generation is very strong and bold by nature by taking step of abortion means one kind of break u in martial relationship. It means she wanted to discard the male domination and power which creates shackles to the woman .The such daring was absent in the Virmati, Swarna Lata Virmati friend is also shown as a strong woman. The woman like Ida, and other wants to create their own space well as struggling for own existence they are ready to create their own autonomy and wanted to dissolve their less important identity. Unlike her mother Ida wanted liberty, does not compromise as her mother did. The compromise, adjectives nature which is coming from generation to generation. The woman like Ida, wanted the destroy these traditional mindsets of woman and wanted to like freely. The generation gap the struggle for new identity / existence we observed in the difficult daughters

### **Kapur's women seen in liberating attitude**

Manju Kapur's A Married woman deals with various issues of woman in present concept. Manju Kapur stressed the upper class, middle class woman and The actual place of woman in Indian society is presented in the Married woman the portrayal of woman is enduring and

sacrificing mother. The novel depicts the story of Astha a married woman devoted to her family as her husband is busy with corporate sector, she play the role of mother and father for her children.

She was not happy with her family life. Her husband is not paying much more interest in her. It creates worse effect on children also Her loneliness, discomfort and isolation burns her life, she do not encourage herself to break the relationship hence her life develops the negativity and lack of self esteem to face the challenges of her life.

Astha knows very well a place of married woman's place in family that is only servant and divorce in life brings social and economical disturbances Hence she loosed her existence as woman and as human being. Though Manju Kapur displayed the woman in traditional mind sect but she also presented changing image of woman, which wanted to be ambitious woman, making an aware of their needs / demands. And searching for the self existence etc. Manju Kapur speaks about the physical needs of women and how they are suffered in it.

The character like Nina from the immigrant shows if very well. Nina, is matured for marriage and her parent looks for Nina's marriage, to see good guy and get married selected down. She is married to Ananda a dentist working in Canada After marriage she is living with Ananda provided all comfort except the time . She wanted to take part time job and enrolls as library student after she is relaxed from her isolation and loneliness, meanwhile she developed extra martial affair with Anton. At last we found Nina in frustration and depression a sudden death of her mother in India makes flights to India. The novel ends with new / fresh start for leading life.

Nina a simple lady her marriage is not what she thought or dream as her husband was busy with his clinic and she suffers from sexual inadequacy and their relationship is not fulfilled and gap created in them. Manju Kapur brings sufferings and sorrows of woman but she presented a lady with optimism and hence ready to start with fresh. The struggle for good life lovely life is one of characteristic of Manju Kapur's novel to make way for existence.

### **Conclusion:-**

Manju Kapur's novel depicts the woman characters to be new woman bold and dared woman. Though she possesses the same mental and moral power but she is not valued as equal she found her own identity / existence. Manju Kapur's novel deals with the life of woman their rebel for basic rights quests for identity The voice of feminism always in Mnaju Kapur's

writing. The hardship, obstacles, difficult for the survival in established order are the main features in the novels of Manju Kapur .being a novelist paves the much more importance to the social barriers, problems of the newly emerging upper middle class and middle class woman like Nina & Astha etc. The protagonist of Manju Kapur novels display the marginalization of woman she always seen as for sexual gratification but never to get her desired position in the male domination She wanted to free the woman psyche and mind from slavery and to gain her unique existence in the society.

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