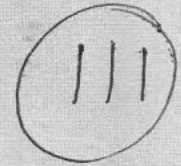


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From Assertiveness to Submissiveness: A Study of Victimization in the Protagonist of Manju
Kapur's *Difficult Daughters*

Abstract

This paper delves deep into the painful struggle of Virmati to establish her identity. Ida, the narrator and daughter of Virmati who is the protagonist of Manju Kapur's *Difficult Daughters*, brings out the awful past of her mother and shows her battle to make a space for herself on her own. Virmati puts down patriarchal norms and confronts with the expectations of male dominated society to achieve self realization but her lack of confidence and tendency to be dependent emotionally and intellectually on her husband, stop her in reaching her goal. To some extent, she becomes successful in her aspiration yet every time she is pulled back by the circumstances. Manju Kapur emphasizes on the fact that a woman should not be controlled by emotions only rather she should be strong-willed, self-reliant, and rational to evade victimization.

Keywords: Education, Marriage, Identity, Motherhood, Dependence, Entrapment.

Indian women novelists keep in mind the various complexities of life and different structures of values and culture in society, while dealing with the predicament of their female protagonists. Manju Kapur is as such novelist who portrays her characters realistically. Her debut novel, *Difficult Daughters* won the Commonwealth Writer's Prize for the Best First Book. It was set in 1947 when our country was facing partition. Manju Kapur describes the women of three generations, Kasturi, the mother of Virmati, Virmati, the protagonist and the mother of Ida and Ida, a divorcee and childless woman. The reader is shocked at the very