The Right Independence of Women

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ABSTRACT

This present study explores the right use of liberty and independence by women and men and also the consequences if it is misapplied. Manju Kapur, the proficient Indian writer who is well known for her contemporary, feminists', award-winning novels shows how a single wrong decision of a woman brings a great setback to her entire life and puts her life upside down especially her career and marriage life through her first novel 'The Difficult Daughters'. Parenting both boy and girl is equally consequential but once the failure occurs at least at one side it drags misadventure to the other side as well. This paper deals with cultivating and sowing the significance of responsibility, culture, dignity, contemplating, self-discipline in neutrality to both the gender moves on to the right shore of life.

KEY WORDS: GENDER NEUTRAL PARENTING, EDUCATION, ILLEGITIMATE LOVE, VICTIM BLAMING, MARRIAGE LIFE.

INTRODUCTION

The paper aims how right independence should be inherited over-generation from the initial stage which is the infant stage of humans as everything starts from parenting. Manju Kapur, in her novel Difficult Daughters, depicted the consequences of abusing freedom. Manjur Kapur is a prolific Indian writer and novelist, born in 1948 in Amritsar, India. Her spouse Gun Nidhi Dalmia and she has three children and four grandchildren. she studied and received an MA degree. She resides in New Delhi. She teaches English at Delhi University under the name Manju Kapur Dalmia. Her first novel 'Difficult Daughter' is an award-winning novel that was published in 1998, won the commonwealth writer's prize, the best first book, Europe and South Asia. In 2011, the novel The Immigrants was short-listed for the DSC prize for South Asian literature. Manju Kapur's fifth novel Custody has been adapted as daily soap operas on several Indian television channels in different languages.

Three Different Perspectives Of Women Towards Life: The novel Difficult Daughters is about the different versions of three different generations of women (mother, daughter,

granddaughter) and especially about the protagonist's illegal love towards the professor who is already married. Virmati, the major character who struggles for choosing the path between the desire for education and career, and her illicit lover of her for a married man depicts that if a girl chooses to commit a mistake even with the knowledge of consequences the entire life of her becomes a disaster. It does not just cause the disgrace but also the practical catastrophe throughout her life.

Kasthuri, the mother of Virmati who is fond of reading books always goes with the norms, culture, and conditions of society. She gets married and has 11 children among those Virmati is an elder one. Kasthuri is conscious of the words of society. She always wants to be in a dignified circle as such the society molds her. Kasthuri believes that a woman has to move on only with the trajectories made by community. As per her life experience, a woman's entire life is supposed to be donated for the kinsfolk not just bodily but also introspectively. Hence she expects her daughter's life to be the same as her own life. Kasthuri played a neutral role in the novel. She neither chooses to move with what she prefers nor be humiliating instead she moves on with the favor of society. But she fails to search for self-identity but self-sacrifices for her family.

Ida, the daughter of Virmati is a divorcee. Unlike her mother, she has significance for her self-respect, her individuality, confidence, and the ideas of her dignified future. Throughout the novel, Ida tries to fetch the details of incidents that happened in her mother's life as she seeks to get to know about the life history of her mother. Eventually when she grasps each happening that

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occurred in her mother's life makes her realize not to be like her mother anymore. The novel reflects different characteristics of women in two kinds. The first is a traditional woman who acts as per the social construction without having any second thought about the cause and reason and never questions about it. The different terms for the first kind are adjustable, sacrificer, domestic, submissive, compromiser, pleaser (as they are expected to please everyone to make all others wish fulfilled but not supposed to contemplate about their own will and wish which defines the career and goal), and socially termed as a right and perfect woman.

Women characters in the novel which befits the first kind are Kasthuri, Lajwanti, the professor's mother Kishori Devi, and his wife Ganga. Kasthuri wishes to be an educated woman but she never makes a chance to reveal her wish as she is already aware of society's opposition to woman's education. But she never gives up on reading books and feeding her brain for herself and keeps herself entertained. Similarly, the professor's wife Ganga is illiterate. The duties she all possesses are cooking, cleaning, dish washing, arranging clothes and always she engages with the household works which is allocated for her inside the four walls. The first set of women resembles some present modern women in India. There is a only difference between the above-mentioned characters and the few present-life women. They are illiterate and have no career and at present graduated women still being a homemaker after the marriage.

The second set of women characters create a trajectory for themselves. Making some unconventional decision and implementing it in life make society stand against them. Rational thinking and practically performing without lending the ears for the stereotypical ideas are the key attributes that are turned down by the community. Sometimes the second kinds either happen to become a trendsetter and great epitome or turn into humiliation. For instance, the woman characters such as Shakuntala who is a cousin of Virmati, and Swarnalatha, roommate of Virmati takes a lead in the novel and sets an example whereas Virmati is portrayed as a humiliation.

Unhealthy Relationship: A Barricade For Career: Virmati initially has the quest for identity and a thirst for knowledge, which also be the reason that makes her fall for Harish who is the professor in believing that he will advocate her career. Since her childhood, she fails in receiving love and affection from her mother Kasthuri as she is given the responsibility to look after her ten siblings. Her family members and siblings treated Virmat as a motherly character rather than a young girl. Unlike her mother Kasturi, Virmati gets freedom for education but she blows her chance by misusing the liberty she gets Shakunthala inspires Virmati by her attribute and unwavering decisions, especially about her career. Shakunthala seeks to be an educated and financially independent woman. She hates marrying and depending on someone for her self happiness. Swarnalatha, roommate of Virmati resembles

the character of Shakunthala who rebelled against the traditional role of woman.

The similarity among the three is they break the cultural law and refuse to follow the historical prejudice. But the protagonist Virmati drives her life in the wrong way whereas Shakunthala and Swarnalatha choose to go with the career path. The only unconventional thing Shakunthala commits is she remains herself as an unmarried woman. Lajwanti, mother of Shakunthala who believes in her daughter stands unique among other typical mothers is one among the significant reason for Shakunthala's independent life style. There is a huge difference between voicing up and making noise. The true feminist advocates for equal rights in the right way but the miscreants try to convince the wrong deeds as a fair one in the name of independence and freedom.

Virmati realizes her mistake only after her Marital bond with the already married professor. She remorsefully begins to lead her life as her life in Amritsar paves the new way to enter into the independent world but she misuses it. The professor is a perfect example of how to not be a man. Initially, he uses love and affection as his weapon to make Virmati fall in love with him. Secondly, he uses lust for making her addicted to him. This is a conventional thing of a man in actual life. Sensitive women like Virmati are sometimes like fish in the fishing pole. Attracted by the fake love mask where lust is hidden.

Education: The Savior: Society Fixing marriage as a destiny in young mind driving them to choose the partner at their young age and forgetting about the education and career. At some point male acts as a barrier for woman's development. When the protagonist tries to put herself, on the right track the professor stands as a hurdle and pulls her on an illegal track which brings a disaster for her entire lifetime. This is not just happening in the novel but also in the contemporary world as well. Woman becomes a pray for man's hunger. This is due to uneducated minds of woman which stays back in decision-making. Depending on humans for the entire lifetime never be a permanent thing for a lifetime. Marriage is just a single part of life hence marriage should not be treated as a lifesaver and one's destiny.

Ideas of Education and fixing goals must be inherited over generations since an infant (both male and female) begins to become a grown-up. Allocation of equal responsibility for males and females in all cases is contemplated as perfect child-rearing. Gender-wise parenting is not at all advisable for a promising future. The importance of chastity must have been preached for both the gender. Teaching kids Self-discipline, self-respect, the dignity of the individual, humanity, how to respect people (male and female) equally, behave responsibly, how it affects the family members and one's own life if a person chooses love over education. A human without pedagogy and goal is like a human without a spine, he has to depend on someone for the entire lifetime. If a

mistake happens, society has to question the male as well rather than attacking the martyr as shown in the novel. Virmati loses her self-respect and dignity both in her own family and the professor's family. His mother consoles his first wife Ganga but not ready to ask or chastise her son Harish which is discriminatory. The bitter truth about society is a Man is indirectly allowed to commit mistakes and blame the victims and this action happens in the substantial existence as well. This is also patronized by the patriarchal society.

CONCLUSION

The tall compound wall of the campus, fully covered outfits, women surrounded environment, segregation of men and women in schools and colleges never conserve women from men. The inheritance of boldness, education as a lifesaving destiny, fiery eyes to attack the harassment, sharp thoughts about the career, Importance of leading a dignified lifestyle, focused mindset, direct sentencing from the victims, never fails to lend its hand in safeguarding women from males. But only the reformation in parenting brings a modification and restoration in the life of the nation

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