

Marital incompatibility of virmati and nisha in manju kapur's novels

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Abstract

This present paper depicts marital relationship and their incompatibility between the man-woman relationships. Manju Kapur's major characters Virmati and Harish in *Difficult Daughters* (1998) and Nisha and Arvind in *Home* (2006). The relationships between couples are one of the most subtle relationships surviving in this world. The couples are two different souls comes together to act as one after their marriage. This togetherness entirely depends upon the strength of their relationships to develop the relationship very carefully to make it a successful one. A successful relationship must include the self-respect, individuality, mutual understanding and the need to grow further.

Keywords: Marital-relationship, Mutual-understanding, esteem, identification, anticipation, attachment

Introduction

A woman who becomes a wife of a man is a new entrant to the family. As a wife, she enters there expecting respect, recognition, love and affection from her husband. If she gets what she expects from her husband, the very good relationship between the couple will certainly stay alive. She should also adjust herself to the new situations in a new place and to the members of the household of her husband. Besides, the husband and wife should have very good understanding of each other for the happiness of their entire family and for the advancement of their children in life. Through their relationship, they have to be the role models for their children in case their attitudes and responses should have an unpleasant impact on the sensitive mind of their children and provide their children a lot of opportunities to go astray in their path of life.

Man as a husband should understand the feelings of his wife and respect her because she becomes his life partner by pinning all her hopes on him for her good. He should realize the truth that the marital relationship is one in which independence is equal, dependence is mutual and obligation is reciprocal. He should not think that he has married a right partner but he should consider himself being her right partner in making his home as a haven for her. However, he should not take sides in favour of either his wife or the members of his family. If he does, his relationship with her either will become a strained one, and such a strained relationship will, in turn, become the cause of the stressed relationship among them. But at the same time, he should not let them down either. He should behave in such a way to keep the cordial relationship going unspoiled at home. He should also keep in mind that anything unpleasant happening in a marital relationship is not the main concern of his family alone and it becomes a great concern of the society as well.

The love of unmarried women for the married men, which in turn leads to their legal marital status in the society, has become the order of the day. Virmati as an unmarried woman, longing for such a relationship is no exception. She never cares about Ganga, the first and the legal wife of the Professor. Neither does she realize the pitiable situation in which she has

placed Ganga because of her illicit love with the husband of Ganga. She is determined to satisfy her ego and interest through her unprincipled relationship with him. Their love relationship, at last, ends in their sexual relationship. Hers is pre-marital whereas his is extra-marital. As a result, Virmati feels for the first time greatly satisfied with her first lovemaking without any inhibition.

As lovers, the Professor and Virmati meet frequently and spend a lot of time together to cement their illicit relationship strongly. She considers her relationship with the Professor as her life's great ambition. Virmati wants to be the legal wife of the Professor in order to enjoy legal status as his wife and consequent recognition in the society. Hence, she compels him to marry her but the Professor refuses to accept her socially as his wife. As he cannot resist her charms, he wants to continue his illicit relationship with her.

Harish is very happy to enjoy his love relationship with both his wives, Ganga, and Virmati. But he makes a difference in his relationship with either. He sees in his first wife Ganga a servant for keeping his house tidy and his clothes washed, a mother to rear his children and a wife to cater to all types of his needs. But he sees in Virmati, an intellectual companion during the day and his bedmate during night. With regard to his relationship with his two wives, Suman Bala and Subash Chandra in their critical analysis of Manju Kapur's *Difficult Daughters* have brought out the bitter reality existing in the familial life of Harish with his two wives of different nature:

Male egocentrism of Harish has blinded his eyes to see through the strange and agonizing situations of his two wives living in the same house together but each one vying with each other to continue their marital relationship without any difficulty (108).

Though Virmati has married the married man as she has liked, her relation with her husband is not on the line of her expectations.

Nisha marries a widower Arvind and gets settled into a home of her own for happy togetherness with her husband. When Nisha becomes pregnant, his mother takes care of her with all sincerity. Besides, she does not like her husband to show more

concern for his mother than for her in her state of pregnancy. Hence, she has the feeling:

I don't understand why he has married me if he treats me with indifferent looks during day time. Why night alone he shows his tenderness to me. I expect the same kind of sincere love and affection from him during the day as well. He should show some concern for me in my state of pregnancy and the coming of their child. Why does he enact this farce here? (329).

She feels that Arvind does not have any sincere love towards her as she has for him and so she cannot but express it in anger, by informing him, "If you are never going to talk or share with me, why don't you take me back to my mother's house? You have done your duty, married and made me pregnant. When the baby is born, you come and collect it" (330).

Her feelings expecting real affections from her husband all the time reveal her sincere and strong marital relationship with her husband. With god's blessings, she becomes a mother of twins, one boy, and one girl. She looks satisfied with her role as mother and daughter-in-law. Thus, she has, at last, got a family of her own, with her husband and two lovely kids, to carry on with her happy familial relationship without much ado. She reveals her satiety of her family through saying that "surrounding her are friends, relatives, husband, babies. All mine, she thinks, all mine" (337).

The Impact of their attitudes and responses to their behaviour towards the couple has been depicted. Likewise; it is pointed out how the relationship of couples one with the other is strained.

Manju Kapur's novels are the clear-cut depiction of all the positive and negative aspects of the marital relationship. Manju Kapur looks at the society, men and women and the life. Through her women characters such as Virmati and Nisha. Manju Kapur wants to ask entire men folk and the society why women should alone sacrifice everything for the sake of their men and experience inexpressible hardships. She also raises the question through her women characters why women alone are considered a scapegoat for anything going wrong in the relationship between the couple.

References

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