

## Projection of Issues in Manju Kapur's *Difficult Daughters*

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### Abstract

This Article explores the enslavement of female through Manju Kapur's *Difficult Daughters*. This paper portrays the independent women who are not in conflict with the male but accepts responsibility. It shows that women are complex cultural persons. It is revealed by the character of the Protagonist. Manju Kapur describes the life of three generations of women with various thematic structure. This paper picturizes Virmati as a woman who faced a lot of problems and who searches for her Identity.

**Keywords:** Conflict – Depression – Identity – Enslavement - Freedom

*“What is wonderful about great literature is that it transforms the man who reads it towards the condition of the man who wrote”.*

This paper concentrates on Manju Kapur's *Difficult Daughters*. The novel deals with three generations of women's life. Manju Kapur takes sympathetic view and motherhood love. The novel opens with “The one thing I had wanted was not to be like my mother” (pg no.1).

This novel is connected with the past, present and future Indian women's society. Three major female characters are presented in this novel -- *Virmati, Ida, Kathuri*. This novel is written in the background 1940's when women were fighting to get their independence of freedom for women's life. Women face a lot of problems as soon as they are born in this world. Protagonist Virmati fights to get her freedom There are many themes in this novel, like male domination, sufferings, searching for identity, enslavement, feminist issues, dowry, partition. etc. “Love can divide as well as unite. This is an urgent and important story about family ... love”. Manju Kapur lives in New Delhi. She is a teacher of English Literature at Miranda House College, Delhi University. Her first novel *DIFFICULT DAUGHTERS* won the Commonwealth prize.

*“A woman is like bag -you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.”*

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Ida is searching for her mother identity. Virmati is a young woman, and high-minded householder. Kapur explains about Indian mother's affection and importance of education. Though the women can get an equal Education in the present society, the safeguard is in the lowest point.

Education is a powerful weapon. Virmati is an educated woman. The novel opens at Amritsar and bright light of the Lahore college. Virmati's father doesn't allow her to get education. She faces the problems of Indian women in joint family male domination society. The protagonist of the novel is Virmati who is a traditional woman. She cares for her sisters and brothers. Virmati inspire her cousin Shakuntala who totally different with education. Her modern outlook is problematic. But she is helpful to Virmati.

*“Vain trifles as they seem, cloth change one  
View of the world and the words new view of us.”*

Viramti falls in love with a professor, who is already married. The professor eventually marries Virmati. He insults her at home alongside his furious first wife. He helps her pursue her education which is small consolation to her scandalized family. Mostly males torture women. For example in Kamala Das' life, Kamala Das faces a lot of problems during childhood days to marriage life. We could see this in this novel's women characters. Virmati saw her mother's life, on the other side a modern girl Sankutala. Two attitudes of difficult life for women, but women are not like a sand, mud, or clay. Though women can get an equal education in the present society the safeguard is in the lowest point. Education is one of the features women should seek. Education is superior to all as it cannot be sold, stolen, destroyed. Manju Kapur made a suitable title justification as Difficult Daughters. This is the novel applicable for women who face obstacles. It intellectually explores women's position and predicament in this world.

*“Sacrifice her health  
For the entire family  
Her struggle starts  
form early morning  
Fights with utensils in the kitchen  
And then goes for hazardous labor  
Till the dusk”*

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