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Meek and rebellious women in Manju Kapur's *Difficult daughter* and Gita Hariharan's *Thousand Faces of Night: A Study*

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Abstract

Indian Writing in English has its various crises which practices and follows the alteration that are taking place in Indian society and custom. Here the 20th Century Indian writers are striving to depict the uniqueness of contemporary women ragged between the stresses of custom and their separation and aggravation, which have made them influence actually, spiritually and expressively. Culture is violent. It keeps altering from occasion to occasion and emerges to be completely diverse from how it has been in the past. After the post-freedom of the nation, women in India have started receiving education and begin to lift voice for their requirements. *Difficult Daughters* by Manju Kapur and *Thousand Faces of Night* by Gita Hariharan discuss the background of India as a narrative based on the link between mother and daughter and husband and wife. Through the female characters in both the novels *Difficult*

Daughters and *Thousand faces of Night*, the authors try to depict how women strive to survive among the patriarchal society. The protagonists have faced millions of problem in their life but still are capable to run their life with the same stamina. They faced many problems such as marital rift and struggle for survival but still they have used certain tactics in order to survive in the society. They started their life to be meek but ended as rebellious.

Keywords: Cultural trait, Isolation, Identity, Marital rift

Literature might be differentiated according to a selection of systems, counting language, country wide source, past period, and theme. It is a shape of human appearance. But not the whole thin guttered in words yet when organized and printed down; it is known as literature. This

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chapter gives a detail explanation of the authors, their works and awards received. As both the novels come under the Indian Writing in English, there are lot to discuss about the origin and growth. The language used is also easy to read and understand.

Marital Rift in the novels *Difficult Daughters* and *Thousand Faces of Night*. In current scenario Marriage seems to be the major significant institution of mankind. It is considered to be a needed event especially among the Indian culture. It is considered to be the backbone of Indian tradition. The term 'Marriage' is created as an extremely new relationship. Each and every society has different rituals in performing marriages. For few groups it is a prestigious event to be held. These two novels *Thousand Faces of Night* and *Difficult Daughters* deal all about the old rituals and believe where women are supposed to get married to a man after certain age. It is considered to be a big sin if they don't get married. Through this chapter the theme can be very well guessed. There are many incidents that justify the theme.

Survival Tactics of women taking place in both the novels. In both the novels, *Thousand Faces of Night* and *Difficult Daughters* the women characters have faced a lot of sufferings and struggles in their daily life in order to survive in the society. But none of the women has

withdrawn the hope, though they have undergone many hardships in life, they keep on striving hard in the expectation of some good things to happen.

Many women, once they become mothers being locked inside the house to do only house hold works, do face a sense of loss of identity. They identify themselves as someone's mother or someone's wife. They completely forget who they were and their skills before they got married. They might have various dreams to be achieved but as soon as they enter into the marriage life, they completely forget all their dreams and concentrate only on their family and house hold works.

Men mainly focus on work and fail to lend ears to listen to women's dreams. Woman getting married doesn't mean that she has to bury her dreams. They have their freedom to work for their goals. Both the novels have given lots of experience regarding the value of dreams. It has very well showcased the inner feeling of women who refuse to let their dreams out. They hide their dreams in order to take care of the family and they typically lose their self-confidence in them. These novels have given voice for women to step out and be bold to fulfill their wishes.

Manju Kapur in her novel *Difficult Daughters* talks about the different roles played by a single woman and how the woman passes through an age of evolution,

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passing the threshold of male domination make a persistent movement valiant through the tough situation until they come out as liberated women. The novel portrays the urge of women, their desires, wishes and goals. There are lots of hidden desires in a woman which has never been identified by men in this novel. Manju Kapur's protagonist strives to make an attempt to break the gender division up to a very huge extent.

Woman is treated to be a machine that does household works, but they too have emotions. Whoever it may be, each one is supposed to be very particular in respecting relationships whether lined by mother, father, brother, sister, friend, cousins, teacher, student, children, secondary limits move cautiously in. When any one engages in confident interaction, it should be very exacting to be on limits. Such as early day's relationship, maturity is also intended to be more attentive in all the circumstances.

Yet, the public is enclosed with imaginative culture; and they by chance entrust mistakes. In the present and future, they refuse to fulfill ethos, maybe out of fury or out of individual dissatisfaction. But assured things can be attained in a truthful way. Like Manju Kapur, the majority of the contemporary novelists portray their superwoman with various attitudes that points them to confront the current

scenario. Virmati here is a warrior who fights for her own freedom but at times fall by the hard shoulder. In *Difficult Daughters*, Virmati asks for equivalent life chances and education but moves afar the rule, destroying them proves her fall.

Giving respect to relationship is considered to be very important. That has to be sowed in our childhood days, only they boys when growing up will know the purpose of relationship. When a male kid sees his father or uncle not giving respect to their wife, he will also do the same when he gets older and marries a woman. The society has to teach a male to respect women and give equal opportunity. Only then a female can at least step out of her house to achieve her dreams.

Difficult Daughters is a novel that talks mainly about the struggle for freedom and liberty. Similar to how India has struggled under the British for so many years in order to get liberated, here Virmati strives hard to attain her freedom to live life as she wishes. As other women she too wants to get educated, get placed in a job then enter marriage life that too the one she wishes to get married. In the concluding stages, it becomes visible that she might have attained all that but it stops to be significant. For in the journey of struggling, she misses being her. She is tattered in two faces, among which one is the face she is struggling against her goal.

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India's miserable triumph is keenly reflected in the life of Virmati. Among all this the professor puts forth substantial influence, though in a catalytic kind of method. Almost immediately as British did in the adversity of Partition. It ought to be bought into public notice that partition has left such hurting scars that even generations of reinstate and therapy provided by the government, civilization, conviction or legalized system have also not been able to cure.

People had no other option rather than accepting the fate and survive according to it as there was no one else to accountability but themselves and no reliable way out in view as the end of the last chapter of the novel says: It's the accurate time for each human being irrespective of gender to treat both the male and female child are vague. A family can be at happy if there is no gender bias.

Once India was completely under the control of British rule. Both men and women were treated same by the whites. They were equally tortured. But now women are under the domination of the male, literally treating them very badly by not even giving them the basic rights in the society. Every individual in the society has their rights to get education and get into a job. But woman are branded to be a machine that should only take care of the husband, kids and look after the household

works. There are not even souls to question the male who are dominating their wives. They consider it to be their family issue and no one has the authority to enter into another family and judge a man.

In both the novels marriage is considered to be the most important thing in life. As soon as a woman entered her teen, she is forced to enter a marriage life without her wish. It seems to be a norm in olden days. If someone sees a woman unmarried at a particular age she is treated to be an immoral girl and the society isolates her from the family. There are lots of unworthy rules still exceeding in our society. If a man loses her wife even after two children are born then he is allowed to get married to a woman for second time. But in the case of woman, if she loses her husband she is not allowed to marry a man even if she has no children. She is supposed to stay alive remembering her only husband. She will not be allowed to participate in any rituals in the house. She will be separated from the society.

Manju Kapur has keenly depicted the feministic feeling in her novel *Difficult Daughters*. The author's protagonist struggles till the end of the novel. Kapur has depicted her female characters in a more reliable attitude though Deshpande shows her female characters in a passive way. Kapur has portrayed leading significance for extra-marital love in her

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novels, though this does not give a factual key to the problems of inappropriateness.

Manju Kapur vibrantly presents the life of women striving against the male dominating society in order to assert her accurate place. The novel is fairly a story of a woman's incessant fight back for her existential individuality against the insight of domesticity. The novel is the disheartened story of a woman ragged between her family liability, the obsession for education and her illegal love.

India is surrounded by wealthy custom of very old tales and stories. The stories not only please but also replicate the traditions that succeeded. Out-of-the-way from enthusiasms, adventures, and feelings, they also teach moral principles and thinking, affluent in meaning. The story shows us an assessment of mother-daughter relationship, captivating it through three succeeding different generations. From side to side the open depiction of three generations of women and their predicament, Manju Kapur has specified a memorable image of the development of the Indian woman's consciousness overtime, opening from the pre-independence era through the independence age up to the time of the post – independence.

Manju Kapur has clearly shown the feminine partiality at the onset in the depiction of Virmati and Shakuntala who

build their own option in life. The further growth appear to make obvious that women who go adjacent to custom are sure to be pulled out and browbeaten by society, discarded by their own mothers. Their relationship with their own mother slowly becomes strange, and the burns they tolerate are passed to the next generation. Owing to the dissimilarity in times, the generation break becomes too broad to be via ducted. Yet the ordinary knowledge of child bearing did not carry them as one, like in normal mother – daughter relationships.

The worrying period of Partition and its consequences, much difficult in the novel, may have reasoned a crack in relations. Merely with Virmati's death is the spirit gone to rest, and Ida has become liberated to guide her own life, no more in danger by the gloom of her mother. The novel is an indicator to how a mother's authority could be disturbing to the daughter beneath diverse situation. Manju Kapoor has clearly depicted how obsessed love and fondness could be put back by detestation and resentment, how a mother, conventionally and embodiment of sacrifice and kindness, could turn out to be a symbol of self-centric and bitterness to her children.

The next novel *Thousand Faces of Night* by Gita Hariharan is the story of Devi's search for a self-personality. Here we might see the protagonist Devi, who at the closing stages goes back to her mother

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in order to commence a new life because she has failed to be a proper wife or a true lover. It is in her affiliation to her mother that Devi stares forward to unearth individuality for herself. Quite a few Indian women authors have challenged to change a woman's position from discrimination to independent and plan a new intelligence of woman's individuality.

For every woman wedding would be a dream. They anticipate defense, adore, care and bliss from their better half. Marital life in our culture lies under lots of restrictions. They literally undergo lots of disenchantment in reality. The novel *Thousand Faces of Night* clearly explains how woman undergo lots of troubles after marriage life and the predicament they face before marriage. The three women in the novel belong to three different generations, but the sufferings they have faced are almost identical.

Marriage seems to be the major significant institution of human being. It is the backbone of Indian tradition. Marriage created an extremely new relationship. Each society has different rituals in performing marriages. For some it is a prestigious event to be held. These two novels *Thousand Faces of Night* and *Difficult Daughters* deal all about the old rituals and believe where women are supposed to get married to a man after certain age. It becomes an evil if they don't

get married. *Thousand Faces of Night* is a story of three women namely Devi, Sita and Mayamma who typically shows the patriarchal pattern.

Gita Hariharan's *The Thousand Faces of Night* is a story which depicts a woman who is striving for affection, care and love from her husband, but unluckily they are used only as a machine for their sake. They are not given appropriate respect. This novel is all about some women characters that are trapped under the male dominating society. Gita Hariharan depicts her own incident through the characters in the story. Self-freedom and realization helps these women to fly of the caged society.

Githa Hariharan also deals with the query of woman's individuality and her inborn power stays in her resist for continued existence. Disgruntled with age old rules that highlight woman's inert position as a wife, Githa Hariharan strives to set up a fresh order. Her dream includes the entire history of woman's position and enlightens the appearance of a new woman who is right to her own self. Self identity is considered to be the most important part in a human being. Each and every individual are running hard in order to earn an identity. Some want to be identified as best athlete, some as topper in studies, some as a successful business man and so on. Identity is equal to both men and women,

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but here in this story, identity is considered to be a man thing. Woman has nothing to do with it. They shouldn't actually have an identity. Their identity is to be his wife and their mother.

Most of the women resist with self-assurance and self-individuality issues at some situations in their life. Deep in the heredity it is said, in one shape or another, to bottom who Indians are and what they appear like on what many believe of each other and what civilization seems to necessitate of everyone. It has been an ancestral struggle for women to appear in their individual right, and decide for one's self what and who ones needs to be, despite of what culture forces everyone to be.

Virmati is completely unhappy about her pathetic situation of being husbandless and childless. If tradition hurdles, women undergoes the task of losing their identity, they will have to face lots of consequences in personal and social life. Virmati stands strong as a woman of rebellion to explore the promises for women in getting education with independence. The idea of Feminism came into reality when some individuals like Virmati started to practice a chronic disparity in gender relations and to appreciate that the uneven power-sharing between man and woman. Women who literally struggled under the patriarchal society were uncovered to more social

isolation. They were maltreated and were prejudiced in lieu of their sex.

The three major women characters in the story, Sita, Devi and Mayamma are the embodiment of the distinctive Indian women who experience a lot throughout their daily matter of life. They have never given full freedom to do things as they wish in their daily life. Sita and Mayamma symbolize the women who try to come up to conditions with their roles and surroundings while Devi appears as an unconquerable personality and stubborn survivor. She hates being timid and docile like her mother or Mayamma. Githa Hariharan depicts Devi as a fresh woman, who directs life from meekness to rebelliousness.

Thousand Faces of Night symbolizes a diversity of female characters, with various desires and aggravation, needs and pain, penetrating for self-identity or self freedom. Here the female characters are framed allowing for marriage and attaining motherhood. These two qualities are considered to be the main role of a woman in the patriarchal society. In this story, the women stand with the third wave of feminism powerfully supporting individual freedom. Gita hariharan has clearly shown the tradition and custom of women in India.

The major vision of Gita Hariharan is women empowerment. Equally, the

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achievement of the end of the story as portrayed by the author is suggestive. Sita has invigorated her ability as a violin player. It is taken for granted that Devi will also discover herself by leaving back to her ancestry. Devi at last understands her fault that she was seeing herself from the differing end. She has been “an obedient puppet” (TFN 137) listening to every ones voice.

Devi is at a point in time where she has to make a decision whether she wishes to stay aggravated all through her life or she wants to be liberated. She makes a decision to be brave and face the society with confidence. She remembers in her entire life she has never immersed out to take her own decision. At last she boldly takes a decision to leave Gopal and gets back to her mother as a daughter to find her identity. She kicks the entire barriers that is in front of her and restricts her to move forward. For the first time of her entire life, she takes a decision of her own closing her ears.

All the way through the female characters in both the novels, the writers try to depict how woman endures in male subjugated society. Woman faces all the troubles in her life and even then strives hard with her internal power, feminine attachment and this has made Githa Hariharan’s ‘feminism’ characteristically an Indian. She develops a feminist thought of the woman’s crisis out of a merely Indian ambiance. The innermost experience in her

novel is a genuine autobiographical implication. Her feminism is not a reproduction the modern feminism. It is so much rooted in the Indian earth. She is fairly down to earth in her feminist loom to the woman’s difficulty.

The worldwide fact about dread is that it influences everybody. But when was the previous time every on. The realism is one will by no means know. There could be life-altering jobs, relationship and commerce relations, just waiting to be in use or shaped. And that is the frightening side result of leasing fear manages our life: **we by no means know what we are truthfully able of attaining.** Women here at the opening of the novel doubts for her parents and misplace their option of obsession, later on they are compelled to marry men who appear to be mean and impolite to them. They have totally lost their existence and simple lived for the sake of the public.

The three main women in the story, Mayamma, Devi and Sita are the essence of the distinctive Indian women. They are not approved liberty of their option during the everyday matter of their life. Sita and Mayamma symbolize the women who effort to come to conditions with their duties and environs whereas Devi appears as an unquestionable personality and stubborn survivor. She does not desire to

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be meek and submissive similar to Mayamma or her mother Sita. Githa Hariharan depicts Devi as a novel woman, who guides living from submissiveness to rebelliousness.

Through the female characters in both the novels *Difficult Daughters* and *Thousand faces of Night*, the authors try to depict how women endeavor to persist among the patriarchal society. They have confronted loads of difficulties in their life but still are trained to run their life with the similar resilience. The protagonists in both the novels have faced many problems such as marital rift and struggle for survival but still they have used certain tactics in order to survive in the society. They started their life to be meek but ended as rebellious.

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