Abstract

In the field of Indian Writing in English, number of women writers have influenced for the past few decades. In their writings they have focused on the problems of women and their empowerment in Indian society. Their effective literary works have been standing strongly to bring them fame. The aim of the researcher is to present the plight of women in the novels of Manju Kapur and also to explore how women overcoming their struggles and challenges themselves to empower in the male chauvinistic world.

Manju Kapur’s works focus on women’s empowerment amidst the familial and societal troubles, like lack of parental love, illegal affair, communal riots, dowry system, childhood marriage, child abuse, pre-marital affair, love failure death, suicide attempt, extramarital affair, gender inequality, women restriction, education prohibition, frustration of family and economic oppression. Kapur, as a woman writer, she could understand the difficulties of women and their upliftment amidst the societal crisis.

The Introductory Chapter traces the existence of women from the early Vedic ages to modern period. It focuses on how women enjoyed their freedom in Vedic period and how their life style has changed in the following subsequent centuries. Women’s socio-cultural, legal and political, economic and educational empowerment leads to the development of the society as authorization. It deals with Kapur’s novels and achievement as a novelist showing her as eminent personality in Indian Writing in English. Her contemporary writers’ works show the lively portrayal of women’s survival in the society.

The Second Chapter titled Oppression of Women: Social, Cultural, educational, economic and Political shows how Kapur pictures women’s sufferings for
their existentialism. Women’s oppression is not only created by their kith and kin but also they themselves create and they voluntarily caught in a trap and fight for their rights.

The Third Chapter titled Discrimination of Weaker Gender: Familial and Societal highlights the problems of women in Indian culture. As the women, they have restricted with familial repression and societal ill-treatment. Women struggle and have torn between both western and eastern culture and their customs in the society from birth to death.

The Fourth Chapter titled Individual, Familial and Communal Support deals with the sustenance of women in the novels. Women’s empowerment origins support of healthy environment. With the help of family and community, women enhance their strength.

The Fifth Chapter titled Full-fledged Empowerment shows the self-motivated women and their empowerment in the modern times. Among the crisis, they overcome all the obstacles and reach their goals finally.

The Sixth Chapter, the concluding chapter traces the amazing development of women for the past four decades. Women have regained their identity as it was in the Vedic period. Though women are supported by the family and society, it is the self-motivation that enriches their livelihood. Manju Kapur highlights the women’s empowerment through their self-motivation. Their failures are the stepping stones and pave the way for their self-development.

An updated Bibliography is annexed at the end of the thesis.