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# Cultural Predicament in Manju Kapur's the Immigrant

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#### Abstract

The story revolves around the 30 year unmarried professor, Nina and recently immigrated. Ananda, a dentist from Dehradun. The novel is divided into three parts. The novel opens in the house of Nina. She lived with her widowed mother. Alka, Anand's sister thought that Nina would be an ideal match for her brother. And marriage happened. An immigrant thinks that new world has some expectations from him and he tries his best fulfill it. But to the western concept of beauty. Women should be fair, clean, slim, low speaking and attractive in appearance and for men, they should be elegant, strict, rational and not emotional. This concept is imposed on the colonized by the colonizers. Ananda, who departs from his own land does not own his own but is charmed under different colonial domination.

Key Words: Immigrant, colorized, domination. Culture, value

It is an accepted fact that the women writers have added a new dimension to Indian English fiction with their perception of men and matters. Their fiction constitutes a major segment of the contemporary writing in English. Through women writer's eyes we can see a different world, with their assistance we can realize the potential of human achievement. They have dealt with the place and position of women in Indian society and their problems and plights from time to time. While doing so, they have analysed the socio-cultural modes and values that have given Indian women their role and image along with their efforts to achieve a harmonious relationship with their surroundings. They aimed at portraying realistically Indian women's sense of frustration and their alienation.

The women writers depicted in their novels alienated figures, domestic injustice and institutionalized tyranny, the victims of their time, of their society, of their own romantic illusions. When the woman awakens, she awakens to the absurdity of life which follows the disintegration of familiar reality. Helene Deutsch writes:

"They (the women) often participate in violent anonymous protests and join revolutionary movements. Most of the time they are unconsciously protesting against their own fate. By identifying themselves with the socially oppressed or the non-possessing class, they take up a position against their own unsatisfying role." (P.298)

Postcolonial Indian English novelists Manju Kapur is highly acclaimed novelist. She has

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five novels in her credit. Difficult Daughters, A Married woman, Home, The Immigrant and custody, Difficult Daughters won common wealth writer's prize in 1998 and her third novel Home was short listed for Hutch crossword Book Award in 2006.

Manju Kapur's The Immigrant is a story of two immigrants, Nina and Anand. After marriage, Nina leaves her job of a lecturer. She was not married till the age of thirty. Anand lives in Canada. He wants to marry an Indian girl. So he married with Nina. After marriage, Nina goes to Canada as an immigrant and her journey of life starts in a totally new environment. At the end of the novel, she becomes a new woman totally different from what she was before her marriage in India. Many factors are responsible for changes in any immigrant personality. Immigrants change their personality in that environment. Postcolonial ideology pressures them, without changing themselves, they can't live in the developed country. They unconsciously follow the norms and cultures of that country, where they live.

The immigrants have a double-identity, which means that they start perceiving the world through the consciousness of colonizers as well as through their own vision, which is provided by their native cultures. Ananda is a perfect example of it in Manju Kapur's The Immigrant.

An immigrant leaves their land. In the new land, they get a new identity. The immigrant suffers from the double identity. They want to adjust their personality according to the new land's culture. But the same time, they want to remain in the identity of their own

culture. In this dilemma, they unable to get any identity. Even if they accepted the culture of the new land, their appearance remains the same as where he was born They can't escape from the personality of his native place. They could go anywhere but their inherent qualities can't be changed They can gain new qualities of new cultures to enrich their personality, but their identity will not be pure or absolute. It will be a mixture of two or more cultures, it never can be natural, because one can change his get up, but one can't change one's fundamental appearance. An immigrant willingly wants to be part of the new culture by changing personality. The New World immigrants have some strange types of norms, therefore the immigrant is facing a conflict within his own mind to accept it or reject it. So their identity swings between two cultures.

The Immigrant, novel is divided into three parts. In the first part, the insipid past and present lives of Nina and Ananda. The second part shows Nina's Passage to Canada and third part deals with Nina's inadvertent but nonchalant acceptance of Canada away from her home.

The novel opens with the description of Nina's life at the shabby Delhi suburban flat with her widow mother. Life from that moment became bleak and a tiring struggle for both the daughter and mother. Mrs. Shanti Batra was all the more worried of getting her daughter married to the right boy. She went to the astrologer and influences the views of him. With the help of consultation, she found a suitable boy for her daughter. Ananda, he is a dentist from Dehradun, now settled in Canada. For Ananda, "Dentistry was the alternate option.

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The medical exam entrance forms had demanded he fill in a second choice and now he was forced to see the bright side of things." (The Immigrant.P.13)

Alka, Ananda's sister came to know about Nina and she thought that Nina would be an ideal match for her brother, considering that latter she has lived abroad, studied French in Belgium, spoke very knowledgeable about books, even though the girl's side was not so well off as theirs (The Immigrant P.P.54-55) Alka thought that Nina was the right choice for her NRI-dentist brother.

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Ananda is a reticent. Initially in the alien land, he slowly adjusts to the situation. He has never felt all along in his life caught in such a predicament like making his bed or even making his own meal or getting a loan to setup a clinic. So for being a Brahmin family, he dared not to eat meat or other evils like drinking or smoking. However the situation compelled him to change his diet.

The marriage of Nina and Ananda takes place. Nina returns to college as the term begins six months after her marriage with Ananda, she leaves to Canada. In the flight, Nina realizes that she is married. Right from the arrival to Canada, Ananda tried to impress Nina. But her bitter treatment at the air port only comes to haunt her. He was favoring an Indian wife rather than a Canadian one, Because the latter one would demand an equal status, but if it is an Indian one, she would be scaling him without any expectation.

Life was smooth, until Nisha realized that she cannot have children in her marriage. This created a physical and mental distance from Ananda and resulted into sleepless nights. As a result, she approached the doctor, who certified she is a normal and advised her to visit again with her husband. To divert the existing situation, she develops a sexual liaison with her class mate, Anton, He hails from New York. Meanwhile, Ananda undergoes a therapy secretively in California. However, the therapy is successful but instead of strengthening his marital life, it only led him to have an extra marital affair, with his secretary Mandy.

The immigrant faces problems of languages, custom, cultures, tradition, values and attitudes. They face discrimination on the basis of their skin colour, cloths, festivals and many other things. Due to the colonial impact they lost their own ideology and accepted the west as their own, living with a consciousness. There is a need of a serious discourse on the issue of immigration, its impact on colonized countries and most importantly, on the immigrants who suffer a lot.

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# Man-Woman Relationship in Manju Kapur's the Immigrant

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Late Nitin College Pathri, India

### Abstract

Literature is a medium, through which the writer explores the current situation of society Manju Kapur's novel the immigrant is set in the ern when the most of the people are migrated. In this novel, She explores the NRIs sensibility. She delves deep into manwoman relationship. She has discussed the man-woman relationship with two aspects, sexual and Psychological level. In sexual aspect, Nina's love with her friend Rahul is premarital sex and her love with Anton is a extramarital sex. Nina made her different relationship with different men at different situation.

She meets Ananda through an arranged marriage. She prepares herself for a new life. But in a Canada life, she lives alienation. In her mind, Ananda's sexual dysfunctioning sneaks. Nina wants a baby in a house; she gives the importance of baby in her life. Ananda's and Ninda's life has full of dissatisfaction by sex.

Ananda's relationship with Mandy, is another event to break up the mind of Nina. Than Nina enjoyed sexual love with Anton. Both are enjoyed extra marital life. But on Psycho. logical level when Nina proposes a field trip to Ottawa which Anand gladly approves. When Nina came back to Canada, she remains still strange. Both are pretending the warmth of love.

### KEYWORDS:- immigrant, Premarital, extramarital, alienation, Psychology.

Literature is a medium, through which the writer explores the current situation of society. A creative writer has provide an exact record of human life and social system. Milton Albrecht aptly emphasizes the significance of the relationship between literature and society. "Literature reflects accepted patterns of thought, feeling and action, including patterns of expressions and society's unconscious assumptions. It innovates, giving expression to emerging themes, that may not yet be definable in literal terms" (Milton C. Albrecht.P.425)

Literature reflects not only the social reality but also shapes the complex ways in which men and women organize themselves, their interpersonal relationship and their perception of the socio-cultural reality. The author explores and examines the relationship of man with his fellow men, vis-a vis the social forces at work around him in all their bewildering complexity. The process of examination covers the entire gamut of human experience, the most significant being the man-woman relationship.

Indian novelists have dealt with family relationships with seriously because the traditional heritage of India gives great importance to the family. They do not shy away

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from experimenting with any shade of human experience. They have extensively deals with the therne of man woman relationship which has a great historical, sociological and cultural significance.

In modern Indian English novel, writers like Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Operanya Chatlerjee, Amitav Ghosh, Arundhat Roy, Manju Kapur, Anita Nair, Moesa Mehrotra have tried to underline the relationship between man and woman Men-Woman relationship in modern Indian English novels has acquired varied dimensions. The hadden meaning and the sexual innuendoes in the dialogues point to a rapidly changing society in which conventional values are crumbling. Social norms has been thrown to the winds.

Manju Kapur emerged in the Indian English scenario as one such writer. Her first novel Difficult Daughters (1998), A Married Woman (2002), Home (2006) and the immigrant (2008), She has evolved as a sensitive writer. Kapur's novels show the struggle of women against the patriarch and male-dominated society. They are searching their own identity

The immigrant is set in the era when the most of the people are migrated to North America, U.S. and Canada. In an interview Manju Kapur mentioned that the gensus of the book was her desire to explore the NRI sensibility, as well as to convey a sense of the darkness that surrounded India around the time of the "Emergency- When there was this idea that India was just not a place to be in, you had to get at, nobody could get any where here. Its something I grew up with too."(Saturday, Aug. 9, 2008). The immigrant, she deals with the theme and peoples shifting from India to Canada. The novel delves deep into man-woman relationship. The female protagonist, Nina is searching her identity at to level as a female and as an immigrant. Kapur has discussed the two aspects which are important in man-woman relationship in the novel. "First in sexual aspect and second is psychological. But it is the sexual aspect which overpowers the psychological aspect. In sexual aspect Kapur has shown premarital and extremarital relationship in the novel. In premarital sex Rahul, the boy friend of Nina, ignites the fire of sex in her. In extramarital relationship. Nina finds a partner in Anton. In both the relationships Nina comes forward by herself". (Kumar Ashok P.1) Nina made her different relationship with different men at different situation. Nina's relationships began with Rahul who is fifteen years old that her. As like her he is a teacher of English. She devoted her life towards Rahul, not only emotionally but also physically. " But Rahul had always made it clear that he wanted to have his cake and eat it like all cakes this one was chewed, mashed into pulp and swallowed too". (the immigrant P.6)As a result she totally disturb. In her short love affair with Rahul, Nina had sought, " Love in her own terms, untainted by convention and respectability", and when ditched her self-respect forced her to " chose loneliness over compromise." (the immigrant P. 6) Though she meets Ananda through an arranged marriage. After marriage she prepares herself for a new life "laced with choices, novelty and excitement and migrates to Canada to share her husband's money, body an success."(the immigrant P.79).

Their newly married relationship consumate night proved to be the turning point of their life. It was the night of fulfillment of Ananda's carnal love and for Nina it proved to be the night of thunderclap on expectation. But Ananda's sexual dysfunction left a bad the night of thunderclap on expectation. But Ananda's sexual dysfunction left a bad impression on her. Ananda seemed to be giving pleasure to himself and Nina. He cares impression on her. Ananda seemed to be giving pleasure to himself and Nina. He cares the Nina well. But Nina comparing his love with Rahul. "As she lay in bed she tried to

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transform reality into a scenario that would not confuse or upset her. Togetherness was the important thing. To be critical of how it was achieved was against the spira of marriage " (the immigrant P.91) Like Nina, Meenii Mehrotra depicted her protagonist of the novel Medha in Sunlit Hearts. After marriage medha compares her husbands (Rishi) love with her college lover Nikhil. She founds the backdrop of her husband in Musicat. Mariju Kapur also depicted the same character as Nina.

Beside the sexual matter the excessive preference has given for money were also some of the factors responsible for the failure in their relationship.

She thoughts that all her desires, aspirations were shattered away it was clearly suggestive of love that was sex based not on what a woman long for. Ananda new that Nina is thinking wroughly about the relationship. He is a man of cold sensuousness but shows his true love only in hot moments. But Nina does not understand and she is a love seeker for her." There was no one to shout, get up, its getting late, no task that would suffer by her staying in bed no person whose loneliness she had to assuage." (the immigrant P.115)

Nina thought that the life of Canada means alienation. She does not adjust there. Kapar explores the special challenges that the immigrant wives faces. The immigrant's wife has a more difficult to spend the time. Many many hours, they live alone in the house. Nina also lives lonely life. Anand is aware of his sexual dysfunction problem so he loves more to Nina and giving her the love of a husband, and give her pleasure Nina thought that it is very hard to her to adjust in Canada. Her husband is more indulged in his clinic.

"He loved his wife but he did not want to feel that she was the only one in the world he could have sex with. What kind of man would make him, with his masculinity so limited" (the immigrant P 151) Nina wants to become a mother. She feels herself. In her neighbourhood she saw the babies, she takes them in her lap. But invain. After six months of marriage she is accusing herself for not getting pregnant. In her mind, months of marriage she is accusing herself for not getting pregnant. In her mind, and a sexual dysfunctioning sneaks. Nina wants a baby in a house, she gives the importance of baby in her life. This makes Ananda het up rather that understanding the nina's plight. But still it is not all Ananda's stoicism towards Nina's plea, he sounds stubborn because of his suggestive incapability in sexual matters.

Here Manju Kapur shows Nina is a selfish woman and fetish to have a baby. She does not understand the predicament of Ananda's mind. Ananda also hard hearted man, he didnot communicate with Niana. "Nina brooded over her situation for a few more days before communicate with Niana. "Nina brooded over her situation for a few more days before picking up the yellow pages to look for gynecologist." (the immigrant P.170). Ananda picking up the yellow pages to look for gynecologist. "(the immigrant P.170). Ananda picking up the yellow pages to look for gynecologist." (the immigrant P.170). Ananda picking up the yellow pages to look for gynecologist. "On the thinks it to be an shudders at the thought of knowing to Nina about his dysfunction. He thinks it to be an shudders at the thought of knowing to Nina about his dysfunction. He thinks it to be an shudders at the thought of knowing to Nina about his dysfunction. He thinks it to be an shudders at the thought of knowing to Nina about his dysfunction. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilization. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilization. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilization. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilization. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilization. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilization. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilization. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilization. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilization. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilization. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilization. So Nina wants to ask him that any problem is not hidden in her body for fertilizati

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Ananda and Nina's life has full of dissatisfaction by sex. They are married but not satisfied. So Ananda decided to go to the California to core his disease. But he make treatment, he is successful over his impotency. He told Nina, but she is not believing him. All these things he secretly done.

"Sadly it looked to her that ever good sex didn't ensure happiness beyond act"(the

She also secretly, joining the La Leche League. In her mind a sense of competition and rivalry sprouted up. She tested herself and doctor has given the positive report. When Ananda felt he had recovered, Nina's passions cooled down. That time, She wanted to attract her attention towards the job and live a life independent.

Manju Kapur has depicted the Ananda's relationship with Mandy. It is the another event to break up the mind of Nina. In the hospital, Ananda has appointed a new receptionst who was found the least of sexual inhibited and demanding. She has a craze to have a sex with different men. Ananda attaracted towards her and physically they get together. Like Ananda, Nina with Anton proved yet another step to destroy their married relationship. But the turning point of Nina's life comes with the help of Anton.

With the relationship, Ananda and Nina would be left free to enjoy their extra mantal life with Mandy and Anton respectively. One day Nina proposes a field trip to ottawa which Ananda gladly approves. But on psychological level Ananda felt striken and Nina remains a formal behavior.

"Filled with the guilt of this, he would not fight with Niana even when she was irritating him. This artifice lessened their relationship and made it seem superficial. Laove for Niana began to wear the face of responsibility, and when he was with mandy be naturally felt less burdened." (the immigrant P.253)

Anton is admiring the beauty of Nina. He loved her and Nina also satisfied with Anton. This emotional, fascination and admiration led to their physical relationship. Nina surprisingly.

"For the first time she had a sense of her own self, entirely separate from other people, autonomous, independent, so strange that sex did not make her feel guilty, not beyond the initial shock". (the immigrant P.267)

After their trip Anton turned out to be cold and dispassionate. Anton made it clear that our relationship is only give and take "Anton gave her pleasure if his easy acceptance of her gilded her studies did not she owe it to herself to sleep with him?" (the immigrant P.273) Now Ananda's relationship with Mandy also started getting sloped. She demanded much to Ananda and it's hard to Ananda. He is in a tense, to give the money Nina, as a wife and to Mandy as a lover.

Ananda and Nina come upon a turn, one side Anton passed his time with Nina but he is loyal to his own wife, on the other hand she was so the verge of break up with Ananda, loyal to his own wife.

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Shri Guru Buddhissani fishavidyal

Ananda seeks the enjoyment with Mandy and therefore arranges and gives consent not only for Ph.D. but also for Nina's ticker to India to her otter surprise.

When Nina came back to Canada, she remains still stronge. Both are pretending the warmth of love which neither had. For Nina "His obvious pleasure upon her return contributed to her guilt... but in this endeavor she experienced a burrier impossible to cross. (the immigrant P. 296). Ananda is very happy when Nina came back. That time she found a more caring husband than a lover. Though she knew it and didn't expect it Something was there which was not letting her to be at case and left her distillustrated and frustrated after her had raped her forcefully. Even later on when he wanted absolution from she was not ready for it, rather she thought him to be beneath contempt

Nana has found the character of Anand is a fictitious. Thus we find that both Aranda and Nian etijoy extra mantal relationship, betray each other and are themselves responsible for marring their married relationship.

The Immigrant explores NRI's experiences and sensibility of many Indian educatood women who marry the Indian emigrants. The novel is written in "deceptively simple." English with extra ordinary brilliance, and feminist issues in the narrative style. The theme of the novel makes readers cautious, feel, think and analyse its broder perspectives. Manju Kapur narrates the predicament of an Indian woman in a foreign land in her immigrants status.

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