BROKEN FAMILIES AND BRITTLE RELATIONSHIPS IN MANJU KAPUR’S CUSTODY:
A SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

S. SUPRIYA
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Vels University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

Manju Kapur’s novels, especially *Custody*, have been critically reviewed by many from different perspectives. The present paper discusses the societal implications of divorce and the consequent breaking up of family; the trauma the children have to undergo; how relationships are strained and affected; and stigma attached to infertility and inferences made from the study.

A child is born. The first relation it comes to know instinctively is its mother. Then, as it grows, it learns about its father and siblings; and, in some cases, the grandparents. As it grows up further, it knows about relatives, friends and neighbours. How strong are these relationships are purely depends on the individual. Of these relationships, parental affection is foremost, especially that of the mother. If the bond between the child and the mother is strong and the parents bring up the child with love and careful guidance, then the child grows into a confident, caring, loving and useful member of the society. As one grows up and settles in life, one gets another important relationship, viz., spouse. For many, this is a turning point in life. An ideal relationship between the husband and the wife will have following elements: love, affection, understanding, mutual trust and mutual respect, which ensure peace and harmony in the family.

KEYWORDS: Manju Kapur’s Novels, Custody of Manju Kapur