

## **FAMILIAL RELATIONS AND THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE IN MAHESH DATTANI'S PLAYS**

**OM NATH TRIVEDI**

Guest Faculty, Department of Humanities, Harcourt Butler Technical University,  
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

### **ABSTRACT**

Indian society has been a very traditional society with strong patriarchal values. Here fathers have desired to have sons because they are supposed to carry forward the name of the family, and because in their sons, fathers have hoped to live out their own dreams and aspirations. In the past, this had led to a situation where a father demanded unquestioning obedience from his son because he firmly believed that he alone knew what was best for him. This denied the son any opportunity for independent growth. With changing times, this has begun to change. Issues like personal liberty, religious tension, sexuality and gender- issues which play significant role in constituting and evolving familial relations dominate the thematic structure of Dattani's plays. What one loves about these issues is the way he brings in the dynamics of personal and moral choices while focusing on human relationships. Dattani deals with the problem of the individual in relation to his social environment and shows men and women struggling against the conventions of an unhealthy family and society.

**KEYWORDS:** Family and Society, Marriage, Dattani