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## **Mahesh Dattani's *Seven Steps Round the Fire* : Exploring the Plight of the Hijra Community in Indian Society**



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### **Abstract**

Mahesh Dattani's choice of themes related to sexuality and gender issues, especially homosexuals brought about a paradigm shift in the presentation of Indian English Drama. His characters represent people of contemporary society who are usually set aside or subverted as subaltern in Indian society. His exploration of homosexuals challenges the heterosexual normatively considered to our culture. *Seven Steps Round the Fire*, a radio play foregrounds the so-called perverse 'Hijra' and displays the cultural instruments responsible for the loss of their identity. The play depicts a minority of 'Hijra' and the specific subversion of the community from the mainstream Indian society. The play also exposes the conservative mindset of high, middle and lower class Indian society towards the homosexuals. Homosexuals are always marginalized on several cultural and social occasions. Dattani's attempt to choose this unconventional area is to offer different kind of stuff to the English and Hindi knowing audience in India.

### **Keywords**

Dattani, Hijra, plight, Indian society, isolation, exploitation, homosexuals, subversion etc.