

**CONTEMPORARY WOMEN NOVELISTS: A FEMINIST STUDY**

**GITHA HARIHARAN, MANJU KAPUR AND ANITA NAIR**

**A Thesis**

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BY

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**Contemporary Women Novelists: A Feminist Study, Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair**” completed and written by me has not previously been formed as the basis for the award of any Degree or other similar title upon me of this or any other Vidyapeeth or examining body.

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## CONTENTS

Chapter	Title	Page.No.
	<b>Declaration Certificate</b>	
	<b>Certificate of Supervisor</b>	
	<b>Certificate of Undertaking</b>	
	<b>Aknowledgements</b>	
<b>I</b>		
	<b>Introduction</b>	
	1.1 Introduction	
	1.2 Development of Feminism in India and Relevance of the study	
	1.3 Details of Life and Works of the three Novelists in respect of feminism in India	
	1.4. Objectives of the research	
	1.5 Justification of the objectives	
	1.6 Statement of Hypothesis	
	1.7 Sources of Data Collection	
	1.8 Review of important and relevant literature on the study	
	1.9 Period of Study	
	1.10 Limitation of the study	
	1.11 Contribution of Research work	
	1.12 Chapter Scheme	
<b>II</b>		
	<b>Review of Literature</b>	
	2.1 Introduction	
	2.2 Major purpose of literature review	
	2.3 Distinguishing what has been done from what needs to be done	
	2.4 Determining significant literature, reviews, Articles relevant to the topic	
	2.5 Creating and gaining a new perspective	
	2.6 Classifying relationships between ideas and performs	
	2.7 Considerate the structure of the subject and report writing	
	2.8 Contribution of Indian Women Novelists in English	
	2.9 Review of Literature on Githa Hariharan Novels	
	2.10 Conclusion	
	2.11 Review of literature on Manju Kapur's Novels	

	2.12	conclusion	
	2.13	Review of literature on Anita Nair's Novels	
	2.14	Conclusion	
<b>III</b>			
		<b>Research Methodology</b>	
	3.1	Introduction	
	3.2	Steps for conducting research	
	i	Purpose of research	
	ii	Role of three women novelist	
	iii	Collection of Data	
	iv	Planning the research design and research method	
	v	Final stage	
<b>IV</b>			
		<b>Data Analysis and Interpretation</b>	
	4.1	Revisionist Myth Making'' in 'The Thousand Faces Of Night' and 'When Dreams Travel'.	
	4.2	The New Woman in, 'Difficult Daughters', 'Married Woman, and, 'Home'	
	4.3	Ladies Coupe'' and "Mistress'': Portraits of Indian woman	
<b>V</b>			
	<b>5</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>VI</b>			
	<b>6</b>	<b>Bibliography</b>	

## **Chapter No. 1**

### **Introduction**

#### **1.1 Introduction:**

Developments of social systems have always been a complicated affair and this is clear from India's as well as world's history. Intermittent failure of society, unscientific philosophy, practices and rural indebtedness, imperishable needs of the society and other risks has ensured that high discrimination between men and women, it is norm rather than an exception with respect to women in the society. This problem was also noticed by our colonial masters and to this date, providing a formal system of Feminism seems to be a challenge even in present situation.

Feminism started out as small grass root philosophy in Western Europe, North America and Japan in the middle of the last century, however, it is the social issue that is regarded as the prototype of the modern society and the issue which has taken worldwide attention of Feminist.

Most of the writers, social activist, philosophical thinkers and educated people are engaged in preparing a very concrete base and platform for the development of the Feminism all over the world. However, the efforts of these people who have engaged in the development of the Feminism have not yet being so successful in preparing the format or theory for the Feminism and has not been prescribed by Laws of many States. The existing formats or theory or assumption in the world have evolved over a period of time on the basis of instructions from social thinkers and social needs. There is no uniformity and transparency adopted by Feminist in this field which was being expected by the women long time back.

The meaning of the word Feminism can be stated in many prospectuses. One of its kind may be the women's equal right on the ground of sexes, mental ability, physical appearance, belief system, educational

background, etc. It is very broad concept which has to be given ample of the time and thinking from all prospectus. One can also mention it as the social issue which has being ignored since long time as because it was not decaying the ethical society very fast. As some of the evidence in the past denotes that women's voice was suppressed as very primary level. There is lot of scope and investigation which is required to be explored from many angles with help of all the past and present evidence of the Feminism. It can be also stated as ideologies which is aimed at defining, establishing and fencing equal rights for women. Deep thinking of social justice must be implemented among the society to achieve greater level of success in the Feminism. It is very broad concept which have to handled very cautiously so that the dignity and respect for the women will be gradually and naturally being ploughed in the minds of people in the society.

The researcher has chosen the subject after having deep studied about the various phases of the Feminism. The researcher has invested ample of its time in understanding the various issues faced by the women in the society. After verifying various novels, literature, and every possible secondary data in relation with the Feminism the researcher has taken very wise decision in consultation with the guide regarding the research work on the study of Feminist; Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair's and its seven novels which were published after 1980. The research work aims at bringing out the changing images of an Indian woman in regards to the traditional and modern values. It is an effort on this view point with the aids of analysis and outcomes published by the Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair's and its seven novels which were published after 1980 with respect to Feminism.

The present research work is an attempt to portray the woman of modern and current modern India as characterized in the novels of Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair, who are devoted to raise feminist and social issue. Their novels are the mirror image of the Indian women of the modern age, in an effort of shaping their life in their own ways, and



tackling the differences in the tradition and modern society. In this way we can divide the problem or issues of the woman into two forms: one is tradition which is output of the belief system which was nurtured by our primitives in our way of thinking and another is modernization which we have taken as granted with modifying with ourselves in such a way that we have forgotten the basics of life. This gives calls for the balance between the two issues which will help us to develop a better society for the women in which subjects like women security, hygiene and growth will be discussed in open forum. Much of what we do today is the foot print of the past with little more advanced philosophy which is presumed to be based on the human tendency and point of view regarding women and society.

There is very urgent urge which has to be given more attention and that is the complexities of the women's life in different cultures and social values and their struggle under the unfair mechanism of a screwed society which is very nicely presented in the works of Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair. The writers have dared to openly discuss the issues like woman's social exploitations, politics, internal and external hardship in contest of women, balancing the home and professional life, the challenges of society with regards to development of women. The modern woman who is now well educated and able to take care of herself is aware of the rights and is now not sitting at home but coming out with confidence to tackle and protest against her social exploitation. This research work gives focus on each issue and has a valid introduction to the Feminist perspective of a family life, using various concepts like conjugal roles, dual burden, equal opportunities and various social policies which are in the favor of the feminist. All the three writers describe a woman who is on the threshold of self-discovery and suddenly decides to take control of her own life. As per the writers she is the woman who is exploring for the strength and independence and is more conscious on the inner strength possessed by her as a human being. Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair's contribution motivates women to understand the psyche of a woman, who is stuck in the web of relationship, partly made

by her, and partly made for her. The female characters, in the novels of these three writers, proclaim an enigma of the tradition and modernization often confronted by them in Indian society; there war against inner struggle between the desire to take care of their husbands and children; and the desire to discover deeper form of fulfilment that fall outside their traditional social norms. The style to present this subject in very lucrative manner is the main success of the writers. This shows the thrust of the women in prospectus of gaining stability in all field of modernization with balancing the home life as well as profession and social life.

Before going to concern with the writing of three novelists, we have to study in depth the roots of feminism. The establishment and development of theory of feminism with its type will help us to understand the boarder side of feminism. It will also give us chance to study every individual factor of feminism. The way theory was developed in various phases by various feminist and great philosophers. This will help us to find out the differences between today's feminism and past feminism. Comparison is always necessary for the better understanding of the subject. After considering various phases from beginning till today will bring into our consideration the necessity and development of feminism in the world as well as in India.

The researcher tried to study the feminism as deep as possible. As per many theories, the term feminism is used to describe a political, cultural, economical movement targeted at establishing equal and similar rights and also legal protection for women. It contains political as well as sociological theories and philosophical interest in the issues of gender difference and movements that advocates gender equality for women and aiming awareness for women's rights and interest. Until 1970s, the two words feminism and feminist were not very known to all; however it was rarely discussed in the public parlance.

Many writers have given their own theories regarding the feminism, but the most accepted theories worldwide is given by the Maggie Humm and

Rebecca Walkaer, as per there theory the history of feminism can be divided into 3 waves. 1<sup>st</sup> feminist wave was in 19<sup>th</sup> and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century, 2<sup>nd</sup> was in the 1960s and 1970s and last but not least was in 1990s which is still going on till date. It was emerged from feminist movements which were going on all around the world but was not properly planned and organized. It is distinct on various ground and principle; three majors of them are feminist geography, feminist history and feminist literacy critics.

Feminism have very vast prospectus from culture to law. Many issues and problems related to feminism are mentioned in various theories. The problems like women's sexual harassment, rape, problems at domestic levels, violence against them, workplace critics, harassment at home as well as in society. The suffering of the women has given rise to think on the women's rights in the society. Many high well meetings, conference, movements, seminars, workshops, symposium, protest was done on very massive basis in western countries for the rights of women. Many governments have given focus on the development and growth of women in the society. Many laws are formed which give many opportunities for self-defense and protection of women, which is the ultimate aim of the feminism. Women in the past were victims of a false belief system which restricted them only in activities of house hold work. This system caused them to completely lose their identity in all walks of life. These problems were faced by the women in the developed as well as in developing countries. But with help of great philosopher and feminist like Gloria Jean Watkins, Betty Friedan's (1963), author and philosopher Simone de Beauviours and many such people, who were promoting feminism, was moved to next stage. Many organizations were formed to tackle the problems and issued faced by the women in the society. The voice of women had started to rise. The phase of "Women's Liberation" was 1<sup>st</sup> used in the United States in year 1964. People started to recognize women as important part of transformation of the society with more respect as the movement was spread like wide fire all over the world. In this race India was also not at the back foot many modern and great leaders and social

activist supported feminism. As the time was passing women image was changing in the minds of people.

As per the Oxford Dictionary the Feminism is a doctrine advocating social and political rights of women equal to those possessed by men. It is movement to acquire such rights made by male in the presence of feminine characteristics.

The word “Feminism” seems to refer to an intense awareness of identity as a women and interest in feminine problems. The subjugation of women is a central fact of history and this is the main cause of all psychological disorders in society.

The word “Feminism” is a bundle of movements targeted at defining equal opportunities for women in education, political, economic, social rights and equal employment.

As per the Caroline Doxy-sten in her article she mentioned that the roots of feminism are buried in ancient Greece most recognized movement by the 3 waves of feminism which are discussed in details as follow:

### **The First Wave (1830’s-early 1900’s)**

#### **Women’s fight for equal contract and property rights.**

#### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Wave 1820 – early 1900:**

Women’s fight for equal contract and property rights 1<sup>st</sup> wave of feminism refers to the period of 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Originally it focused on the promotion of equal contract and property rights for women. It realized that they must 1<sup>st</sup> gain political power (including right to vote) to bring about the changes was how to develop the strategy. Their main focus was on the issues concerning sexual, reproduction and economic matters. As this was 1<sup>st</sup> was, there was lack of coordination and knowledge base in regards to representation and development of thoughts had some limitations. Campaigning were not so successful as because there was no

structural arrangement made to nurture the feminism. The movement had to face many oppositions from the society but at same time also got support of many modern thinkers. It was successful in proving the potential to contribute just as much if not more than men. As this wave was getting popularity in all over the world many issues related to women had started to come up and women started to raise the voice.

The 1<sup>st</sup> term was coined retrospectively after the term second wave feminism began to be initiated by newer feminist with advanced version on fighting against social and cultural inequalities with political inequalities.<sup>1</sup>

### **The Second Wave (1960's to 1980's)**

#### **Broadening the debate**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of feminism refers to the period of activity from 1960s to 1980s. it was continuation o the earlier phase of feminism involving the suffering women in relation to workplace sexuality, family and reproductive rights. Many writers were of view that 1<sup>st</sup> wave was focused on rights of women and second wave was largely concerned with other issues of equality such as ending discrimination. During this time USA was trying to restructure itself, it was perceived that women had met their equality goals with exception of the failure of the ratification of equal rights amendment. Second wave saw women's cultural and political in equalities as in extricable linked and encouraged women to take participation in Black civil rights movement, Anti-Vietnam movement, Chicano Rights movement, Asian American Civil Rights Movements, Guy and Lesbian Movement and many other groups fighting for equality. Many of the supporters were of opinion that there voice was suppressed and was needed immediate attention to address gender equality concerns. Women were so cautious about the issues that they wanted to strengthen

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<sup>1</sup> (Patel D. , 2017) (Patel D. R., 2017) ( <http://www.writersinspire.org/content/feminist-approaches-literature>) (Waves of feminism)<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/attachment.php?attachmentid=707374&d=1512076083>

their voices to ensure they would be heard. Women also started to understand aspects of their personal lives as deeply politicized and as reflecting sexist power structure.

During this period world famous author and philosopher Simone De Beauvoir came into light who wrote novels, monographs on philosophy, politics and social issues, essays, biographies and an autobiography. She was well known for her metaphysical novels including “She Came to Stay and The Mandarins” and also for her treatise. The Second Sex, which gave focus on many issues and problems faced by the women at various stages of life and it also promoted foundational tract of contemporary feminism. Her analysis grabbed the attention on the social construction of women. She was an ideal and had set a milestone for the development of feminism from all prospectuses.

After the Simon De Beauvoir came the all-time well-known feminist Betty Friedan’s who was recognized for her “The Feminism Mystique (1963)”, which criticized that women could only find fulfillment through children and home-making. She supported the women for the upliftment of social course. It ignited the minds of youth towards the accepting “Feminism” for the development of society.<sup>2</sup>(Waves of feminism)The feminist movement had effected change including greater access to education, more equitable pay, and right to fight for social cause and helped in taking good decision in favor of them. It also led the foundation of 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of Feminism.

### **The third Wave (1990’s - present)**

#### **The “micro-politics” of gender equality: -**

Third wave feminism started in the early 1990s, arising as a response to perceived failures of the second wave and also formation of new idea to move the legacy forward. Now “feminist” is received less critically by the

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/attachment.php?attachmentid=707374&d=1512076083>

female population due to the varying feminist outlooks. Third wave feminist often focus on “micro – politics” and challenges are resolved which were faced by the feminist in 2<sup>nd</sup> wave feminist sought to negotiate a space with feminist thought for consideration of race attached subjective. It helped in the formation of varying feminist outlooks like the ego cultural feminist, the radicals, the liberal reforms, the electoral, academic feminist and list continues. The main issue which is faced by feminist is prefaced by the work done by the previous waves of women. They are still working in relation to vanquish the disparities in male and female pay and the reproductive rights of women. Complete eradication of violence against women in our nation as well as country is taking place.

As per researcher we are still fighting for acceptance and a true understanding of the term “Feminism”. It must be observed that it has made tremendous progress and development since the 1<sup>st</sup> wave. It is a term that have been unfairly related to 1<sup>st</sup>, with women in hoopskirts and ringlet curls, and then followed by butch man hating women, who treat each and every man as a person who is always engaged in the demotivating and proving himself more superior to women. The big delimit is that, much of the energy of the feminist is wasted in putting a label on the concept of feminist. This is because of its wide and long range of issues present today. As per Bharin and Khan (1999) feminism is an awareness of patriarchal control, exploitation and opposition at the material and ideological levels of women’s work and in society in general and conscious action by women and men to transform the present situation must be taken at 1<sup>st</sup> instances. It will help to secure the thought of feminism more effectively. The difference in the believes that there are important difference between the sexes and on other side feminist who believes that there are no inherent difference between the sexes and contend that gender roles are due to social conditioning. Women believe that they are of equal human value in their own way. Feminism is devoted to the struggle for equality for women, and effort to make women similar to man. In general form we can state that feminism is understood as a movement of women by women and for women. If we observe history, we

can understand that women's rights were in fact raised much early but were suppressed for personal gains. The 1<sup>st</sup> feminist manifest "A vindication of rights of women" published in 1792, it was written by Mary Wollstonecraft, and she appealed equal freedom for women in the field of education, economics and politics. In her introduction to her book, she directed that women should be treated as human being.

John Stuart Mills was one of the strong male supporters of women's cause, in his writing he focused on the serious concern over some of the issues earlier raised by the Wollstonecraft. In this way many dynamic authors, philosopher, writers and feminists emerged for the wellbeing of feminist, series of them are Mary Wollstonecraft (1792) and contribution is "A vindication of the Rights of Women", Simone De Beauvoir's (1949) and contribution is "The Second Sex", Virginia Woolf (1929) and contribution is "A Room of One's Own", Juliet Mitchell's (1966) and contribution is "The Longest Revolution" and last but not least Kate Millet's (1970) and contribution is "Sexual Politics". The problems of women's liberation sprung suddenly, and created waves in feminism giving it forward motion and scope for the growth and development. Feminist writers through their writing proved that women are neither a minority nor did she belong to the weaker section. This outlook is observed by the research and during the research work of feminist approach of Simone De Beauvoir, Virginia Woolf and Juliet Mitchell is considered to find out the feminist perspectives in the novels of Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair.

Simone de Beauvoir in her famous work "The Second sex (1949)" she initiates with the question, 'What is woman? She rejects that woman can be understood either in terms of her biological functions or in terms of the idea of the feminine that is to say of woman's basically feminine nature. She acknowledges that the latter concept is traditional. Rejecting this traditional conception, Simone de Beauvoir, expresses again the important feminist idea that woman has the same nature as man and is like him, a free and creative being and being of equal worth, should have equal rights.



Beauvoir's most famous statement in the book is that **“One is not born..... but rather becomes a woman” (267). This important insight ..... man is not. (P-295)**

Juliet Mitchell was the first feminist to explore a theory of female psyche processes. She has been a significant contributor to the development of feminist theory. She was of opinion that women must be given their own space for the development. She opposed the exploitation of women. She had work had for the betterment of the women. The theory had opened the doors of opportunities for the women to think about her own level of liberation. She gave scope for the creative thinking, equal justice to women and equal rights of the women.

Virginia Woolf 's essay, “A Room of One's Own” is certainly the most influential feminist text in this century. She has pointed out that first, women's previous lacks of success as writers proceed not from any absence of talent but from social disadvantages such as: their elimination from educational institutions; their financial dependence, their lack of personal space, the demands of constant child bearing. Secondly, Woolf proposes two remedies; financial independence and personal space in order for women to achieve their full potential as writers. Thirdly, she argues that it is fatal for anyone who writes to think of their sex.

Kate Millet's “Sexual Politics” suggested the history of woman's symbolic domination from the myth of Pandora (In Greek mythology Pandora was the first human woman on the earth, who was molded by Hephaestus according to the instructions of Zeus, as a part of punishment of humanity or Prometheus, thief of secret fire. All the gods provided her seductive gifts to create her as a 'beautiful evil', which will nuisance the upcoming generations). Making a distinction between sex and genders, she clarifies that sex is determined biologically, whereas 'gender 'is culturally, socially psychologically constructed through sex role. She proposed that discrimination on the ground of the sex is unfair and must be supposed as the illegal practice. To discriminate is to create differences.

She has successfully put forth the concept of equal freedom and liberation to all women and urged to stop discrimination on the ground of sex or gender.

Germaine Greer, in “The Female Eunuch”, suggests that a woman should refuse to marry. Analyzing man-woman relationship, she uses association of man as an ‘employer’ and a woman as an ‘employee’, and considers woman as contracted unpaid worker. Who cannot expect liberation from the authorities of the male narrow-mindedness? Eva figs in “Patriarchal Attitudes: Woman in society” also realizes the male-control or male dominance over woman.

Writers like Elaine Show Walter (A literature of their own; British woman novelists from Bronte of Lessing, 1979 and the new feminist criticism; essays on women, Literature and theory, 1985), Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar “The Madwoman in the Attic” the woman writer and the Nineteenth century Literary Imagination 1979, Sara Mills 9 Feminists Readings 1989 and many others have contributed to the growing area of Woman’s studies.

Feminism in the beginning was often used to describe a variety of political and critical realms; later interchanged with the term ‘The woman movement’ and after 1970, feminism converted into ‘Feminisms’. Feminisms has developed with following philosophies:

**‘Radical Feminism’** - which rejects the symbolic order and which is more militant in its approach.

**‘Liberal Feminism’**- which demands equal access to the symbolic order.

**‘Rational Feminism’**-That challenges the notion of male/female identity of masculinity/feminist as metaphysical constructed and concocted. (P-77)

<sup>3</sup>( <http://www.writersinspire.org/content/feminist-approaches-literature>)

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<sup>3</sup><http://www.writersinspire.org/content/feminist-approaches-literature>

After 1970, the 'Andro Texts' (books by men) shifted to 'Gyno texts' (books by women) and Gyn criticism by Gynocritics. There is a cognizant and concentrated attempt towards representing biological differences and their inferences, enhancing women experience, rethinking the standards of text, discourse and language, revising the recognizing sociocultural, economic and political conditions in the society. The content includes various fields like the history, styles, themes, genres and the structures of women writings, the psychoanalysis of female creativity, the trajectory of the individual or collective female career and the evolution of laws of a female tradition.

Admiring the contribution given by the other writers. Indian writers too started to express their views about the status of a woman in society. Veena Noble Dass describes in her book- "*Feminism in .....the self, have become the prime features of women in literature under the sway of feminism.*"(P-11) 6<sup>4</sup>(Patel D. , 2017)

The women's movement in India began as a social reform movement in the nineteenth century. The western ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity were being nurtured by the educated class through the study of English. They started to challenge the situation of women and brought about revolutionary changes in the context of feminism in India. Western liberalism was to extend to the women's questions which more focused on the awareness of the status of women in the society. In India, the tradition of women's struggle and movements against male-controlled institutions of gender in justice have been weak with compared to the women's movements in the European and Western societies. In fact, women's fight against the coercion of exploitation of the women has been rather slow in emerging day by day.

Most of the women's writings of the eighteenth century expose dissatisfaction with the occurrence of gender injustices rather than any

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<sup>4</sup><http://rhimrj.com/admin/upload/Rupal%20patel%20March17.pdf>

kind of active resistance or rebellion against them. Women did try to go against the male dominated world (for example, by joining the Bhakti Movement.) though there was a feminist identity awareness and responsiveness of their difficulty. However, this awareness did not get translated into an open and organized struggle tackle the problems of the women at that time as well. Though there were feelings of denial and anger against the injustice's women were facing, these remained mostly buried under the burden of responsibilities towards society and at the most, sometimes with some sort of opposition which ultimately lead to the punishment by the society. In today's world, in the same way feminist movement have gained expression due to similar factors which were responsible for the back foot or dominance of the women in the society. The women's movement in India can be observed as creating three 'Waves'.

The first wave can be observed during national movement, when there was mass mobilization of women for participation in the nationalist movement. Thereafter, for over a decade there was a silence in political activities by women. The late 1960's saw renaissance in women's political activity and can be known as the second wave. In the late 1970's, the third wave of the women's movement arose, which focused on women's empowerment. It took very less time for the development of the waves in India as compare to the development of waves in the world as much of the observation and issues were discussed in the waves which were trending in the world. In same way waves continued in the India which brought reasonable change and transformed the situation in India in favor of women. Still there is scope for the betterment of the women in India, as full transformation at local level is still way ahead which is also considered as the limits of expansion of feminism in India. However, after independence movement and education have played an important role in bringing an awareness in Indian woman. The freedom movement, led by Mahatma Gandhi, was successfully and was able to portrayed the image of women in the Indian mind to willingly undertake the noble task of overall upliftment and liberation of the women. This modern thinking was supported by the most

of the people in India, but some of them were of opinion that this will lead to over-freedom of the women in the society which can be harmful.

SurendraNaryanJha writes in ‘The treatment of modern Indian Woman in Manju Kapur’s *Difficult Daughters*’- ***“For the first time ..... great significance”***.(2003, P-80)<sup>5</sup>(Patel D. , 2017)

The feminist movement motivated to produce both feminist fiction and non-fiction, and it helped in creating new interest in feminist writing. Much of the early period of the feminist literary scholarship was given over the rediscovery and reclamation of texts written by women. Studies like Dale Spender’s novel ‘*Mother*’ (1986) was a turning point. The rise of Jane Spencer as a women novelist (1986) was grounds breaking experiment. Both these ideals had inspired many writers to repeat this experience. Thus, feminism has been developed by the sociologists, psychologists as well as behavioral scholars. Notable texts of this kind are Ursula K, LE Guin’s “*The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969)”, Joanna Russ “*The Female Man* (1970)”, Octavia Butler’s “*Kindred* (1979)” and Margaret Atwood’s “*Handmaid’s Tale* (1985)” are the famous book which have motivated the writer to think in different way. Feminism has methodically developed in Europe and America as program through literature as well as philosophical replications. It has also exaggerated India as part of colonial sub-continent part of the feminism; ***“However feminism now, as in the past entails a variety of widelydiffering approaches. And yet in spite of this diversity, feminism is often represented in everyday”*** (Beasley x,1999, P-171)

<sup>6</sup>(<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>)

It will be injustice to ignore Indian side of the story. The main difference between the western and Indian feminist movements lies in the fact that where as in the west women came to the forefront for demanding a better deal for them whereas in India women wants were basic freedom

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<sup>5</sup><http://rhimrj.com/admin/upload/Rupal%20patel%20March17.pdf>

<sup>6</sup>[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07_chapter1.pdf)

of life, readers of the Indian Renaissance thought of taking feminism to next step in India. During the colonial period in India, many missionary schools were founded. It was also a period when social reform movement took place. Men in India took up the cause of women so passionately that many women also organized themselves and fought for their rights against the injustice which them. In India there are various writers who write on feminism; not only women writers but male writers also contributed through their works like R. k. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, BalchandraRajan and RajaRao<sup>7</sup> ([http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07_chapter1.pdf)). This writer's contribution to representing women in India is quite significant in their works that easily found the destined womanhood and modern role of Indian women in their various works. The modernism and feminism of Indian women writers begins with Kamala Das who was successful in breaking the romantic idealist tradition of the Pre-Independence women writers and concentrated a realistic and concrete picture of life experience particularly in the domain of man woman relationship. Her treatment of love is honest and mostly confessional. Most of her poems are loaded with sentimental about pains, and irritations of unfulfilled love, hurts and humiliations of marital life, bestiality of sex, and domination of patriarchy and suppression of identity of Indian women in the society. She gave modern solution for the problems faced by the women in the society. She tried to achieve this goal with help of love and care passion so that it will be accepted more easily by the society. She was successful in the implementation of values which she proposed to all human beings regarding the phases of feminism in India. This approach of her has given motivation for the expansion of the feminism in India. The legacy which was continued by mainly great, humble and thoughtful writers.

## **1.2 Development of Feminism in India and Relevance of the study:**

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<sup>7</sup>[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07_chapter1.pdf)

Indian feminism has its roots since ancient time in India. In the ancient period women didn't had equal rights. The world's two of the famous epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata written by two sages Valmiki and Ved Vyas have been found revolving around the two central characters, Sita and Draupadi, both women. Sita in Ramayan had to face many complexities in her life as she was kidnapped by Ravan and had to passed through Agni test which was considered as kind of humiliation by many historical writers, Draupadi challenges the male ego to the epitomic limits of human excellence. Draupadi was extremely beautiful, intelligent and virtuous woman. There are a few women in Hindu Mythology aggressive that speak their mind in a world of men. Draupadi is one of them. Draupadi is considered as the first feminist of Indian Mythology. Feminism was born in ancient Indian Literature.

Balram Das a well-known poet in Orissa was a developer of feminism in India. It can be said that long before the idea of feminism had come up in western world, Balram Das a poet of the 16th century had brought forth the concept of male domination of women in strictly male-controlled society. Balram Das had written Lakshmi Purana an example of a piece of literature which promotes women's liberation and has introduced the concept of spirit of feminism.<sup>8</sup>([http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07_chapter1.pdf))

Indian women novelist in English has emerged as major writers in recent past. They have presented different themes like the clash between tradition and modernity, woman's struggle for liberation, identity crisis and psychological confusion in a male dominated society. They explore the existential difficulty of suppressed women in a male-controlled or female dominated society controlled by the rigid traditions and rituals. Being Women, they understand and disclose the inner mind of the insensitive women with their protagonist as vividly alive in terms of

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<sup>8</sup>[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07_chapter1.pdf)

feelings, intellect and emotions and present a kind of feminist approach, an outlook and perspective which is different from others. Likewise, Mahashewta Devi in her novel about men and women who fights face to face against a common enemy, the establishment with whatever weapons they can use. Feminism born in various languages in India but unfortunately the work did not get the right platform and popularity to show its potential. However, as the time changed women writers got opportunities to express themselves and they have taken advantage of this situation is represented themselves effectively. The women writers before 1980's was significantly preoccupied with the dilemma of women and backward classes in conventional societies which regarded them as inferior in the pyramid. After the eighties, however, Indian women's writing in English got its recognition with a gathering of new writers displaying their feminine sensibility. Many well know writes like Anita Desai, Kamla Markendaya, Ruth Prwar Jhabwala, Nyantara Saghal, Bharti Mukherjee, Shashi Deshpande, Uma Vasudev, Githa Hariharan, Shobha Day, Manju Kapur, Kiran Desai and Anita Nair etc. They signify a new era of liberation for the woman with social and intellectual life.<sup>9</sup>(<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>)

These women writers have presented the role of new woman who is conscious of her position in the family and in the society. Their protagonist emerged as individuals who challenge the society for their existential survival. They reveal the exploitation of women and their struggle for a new life which provides enough space for their own feelings and emotions have emerged as work which has to be paid immediate attention. We can interpret they bear a resemblance to different world of women's feelings, aspirations and achievements from a woman's point of view. Women are no longer presented as humble and submissive but dynamic with a sense of self consciousness and self-assertiveness. These novelists have made the process of social change meaningful with their fresh standpoint of man woman relationship. Among the recent novelists,

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<sup>9</sup>[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/96908/7/07_chapter1.pdf)



Githa Hariharan, Arundhati Roy and Shobha De, stand apart with their experiment and skillful representation of a new woman.

There are many feminist writers in India who have been specially studied. The present research study is an attempt at examining the modernization of feminine elements in the fiction of Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur, and Anita Nair. The feminist fundamentals remain one of the most urgent topics in literary and cultural studies. For nearly two decades it has been a central focus of debate for psychoanalytic, post structuralizes and cultural materialist criticism in the areas ranging from post-colonial and ethnic studies to feminism and querr theory. Feminism in Indian literature in particular is an exhibition of progressive values.

Feminism is perhaps the most powerful movement that cleaned literary world in the second half of the twentieth century. It has been expressed differently in different parts of the world, and within India, by different women depending upon their class, background and the level of consciousness and understanding. In main focus of feminism stands for liberation and liberation of women from all forms of domination by the state, by society and by men. Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair thoroughly testifies all the above-mentioned elements in their novels. Feminism is a progressive ideology, a mission and a movement that champions male and female equity. Feminism in India is not an artificial or duplicate of the west and feminist is not an anti-marriage, anti-men movement imported from the outside or any anti-social act which is against the society but it is an art and science of the development of women in various challenging environment, it is fight for the existence of the women for the freedom and equal human rights. Feminism is a philosophy and a undertaking for ending all forms of domination. It is not against family and marriage. It is all about transforming these institutions to weed out their integral injustices. Indian feminism has thus its own elements and character which are developed as the time have passed with the more experience.

The present research work attempts to explore and analysis of **Githa**

**Hariharan's two novels:**

1) The Thousand Faces of Night and

2) When Dreams Travel.

**Manju Kapur's two novels:**

1)Difficult Daughters

2)'Married Woman' and

3)'Home'

**Anita Nair's two novels:**

1)'Ladies Coupe' and

2)'Mistress',<sup>10</sup>

( <http://www.languageinindia.com/sep2013/kgmaheswarigithafinal.pdf>)

The variety of Githa Hariharan's writing varied dimensions to reveal social reality. She was successful in effectively implementing such reality with a precision of style and magical imagery concepts. She has intensely expressed women's hopes and aspirations in her striking collections. Her novels thoroughly testify progressive feminist elements one after another. Githa Hariharan represents woman who battles for self-identity in male dominated society.

In both the novels taken for study 'The Thousand Faces Of Night' and 'When Dreams Travel',Githa Hariharan pays more attention on the life and dreams of woman, so she turns to myths that contain chaste, self-effacing woman as well as more ambiguous figure of woman who offers the resistance of the ideal model.

Manju Kapur in her novels. 'A Married Woman (2002), Home (2006), The Immigrant (2007) and 'Custody' (2011)' projects strong self-assured female protagonist who passageway female concerns and show courage to

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<sup>10</sup><http://www.languageinindia.com/sep2013/kgmaheswarigithafinal.pdf>

capture their destiny. The crux of Manju Kapur's work rest on addressing issues like female liberation, their physical aspiration and their efforts in representing themselves in the present social environment.<sup>11</sup>(Patel D. R., 2017)

Anita Nair is famous name amongst the developing contemporary women novelists she has proved her potentials by her consistent work in field of feminism. Her novel, 'Mistress (2005)' probes deep into the closed monarchy of Kathakali Dancers and gives a sensitive representation of their lives both from outside as well as inside. Her novel Ladies Coupe (2001) is a strong example of feministic concerns where she presents her protagonist in search of her identity. The modern Indian feminist writers have a thrust for social justice and male female equality. The feminist literature is a part of creative, cultural force of the Asian writers. Kamala Markendaya is one of the creative Indian women novelists in India. Her achievement lies both in respect of her sensible handling of cross-cultural issues and her authentic representation of the Indian cultural background is fantastic which have touched the heart of every women as well as writer. Her works revolve around themes like east –west encounter, conflict between tradition and modernity as well as clash of values. Her only novel to have been published after 1980 is Pleasure City (1982) which is very much similar to some of her earlier works. She focuses on issues like east-west contact through the characters of Tully and Rikki.

As after taking in to consideration the Women's problems we are lift with only one option and it has an important place in 'Ruth Prawar Jhabwala's novels. She deals mainly with the problems faced by the Indian women who have undergone the impact of western culture which is not so accepted in India. These educated women try to assert their individuality and identity. They make an attempt to lead a liberal life. However; they surrender to their traditional parents which in the view of writer are right decision in regards to her work in the field of feminism.

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<sup>11</sup><http://rhimrj.com/admin/upload/Rupal%20patel%20March17.pdf>

In her first novel, 'To Whom She Will', the protagonist Amrita plays with Hari Sahani who is traditional in his attitude but finally marries a bachelor selected by her parents, similarly in nature of passion, Nimmy has western attitude, but marries Kalu, a boy who belongs to her religion and community instead of marrying Pheroze whom she had dreamed of as a partner in life. Jhabvala, presents a Sati Savitri model which means women who is completely dedicated to her husband even if husband treats her anyhow, this image of Indian woman who is devoted to her husband is very annoying to the writer. She has also described the women who have guts to go against their husband's will by leading a separated life. Sarla Devi and Gulab are such women represented by Jhabvala. They punished their husbands as they are immoral and irresponsible towards their wives.

ShashiDeshpande is also a distinguished Indian woman novelist who has dealt with the female problems in her novels. All her novels are explorations of the female psyche. Almost all her protagonist from Indu in 'Roots and Shadows' an, Saru, in 'The Dark Holds No Terror' and Jaya in 'That Long Silence' are primarily presented in a state of misperception. However, as the novel reveals them introspecting and self-analyzing and ultimately reaching self-realization through self-evaluation. The Shashi Deshpande speak for all women and they reply to many problems raised by their critics. It is correct that such problems are raised by the feminist dealing with race, ethnicity to alert feminists to the potential dangers of speaking for women as if for all women are not part of society.

Feminism is a progressive ideology, a mission and a movement that champions the male female equity. Feminism is a philosophy and a movement for ending all forms of oppression, including gender-based domination. It is not opposing family and marriage but it is about transforming these institutions to solve the problem of feminism in India so we can live in the better future where women are given equal respect as men and are not suppressed under the burden of heavy responsibility of

family and marriage. In the society where they are free to express themselves in very effective manner.

The research after studying waves and development of the Feminism in India as mentioned above facts throws light on the work of 3 novelists, which noticed the traditionally glorified women replacing with the genuine modern one, who is trying to lessen the burden which was led on her since long time. The protagonists, defined by this novelist, are away from the traditional defined issues like self-scarifying, enduring and a very shy woman. Now, the modern women are successful in proving their position not only at home but also at work place by self-assurance, assertive behavior, education, protesting and ambitious one making the society aware of their needs and processing their identities. These protagonists have worked very hard to find solace, assimilating the two world that is traditional and modern. In India, the development of English and that to English in context of liberation have being transformed from British rulers. It was introduced by them, to bridge the communication gap and promote the European literature and science. In the process of transformation at any point of time there is very huge resistance and opposition for the acceptance towards learning new think. As in case of English, some resistance was suspicion and hesitation were observed towards English, but gradually it was adopted looking towards its advantages. The great socialist and reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy supported their language because all the renaissance knowledge was mainly present in English language. Later on, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Swami Vivekanand, Dinbandhu Mitra and other also accepted the facts and favored the English looking at its board side. Many famous books like Rig-ved, the Upanishads, the Kathansaritasgara, the Aarthastra, Bhagvad Geeta and etc were translated in to English. This was the beginning of new era in English language which helped to understand the feminist more precisely.

1<sup>st</sup> novel in English was “Raj Mohan’s Wife” (1864), was written by Bakim Chandra Chatterjee in India, which was followed by series of

literature, as by Lal Bihari Dey's "Govind Samant" (1876), Raj Laxmi Devi's "The Hindu Wife" (1976), Taru Dutt's "Bianca" (1878) and many other were involved in some or other form of writing. The most famous creation by Raja Rao's "Kanthapura", R K Narayan's "Malgudi Days", and MulkRajAnand's "Coolie" carried this journey ahead by writing on themselves of Indian social in English.

As the English language was developing, the west philosopher was also started to development in the minds of writers, which have given more significance in the development of women in India. But these Indian novelists are not more imitators of the west as K S Ramamurthi opines "There has been observed continuous spectrum from 1874 in regards to present phenomenon of novel writing in English by Indian till date, which has derived its sustenance from two difference sources one from traditions of storytelling again which have their roots in two distinct cultures". As the opinion, the Indian writers in English as an inheritor of two tradition and values, which is one by birth and another by its exposure to the influence of the west through several mediums, has always been challenging, full of burden and encountered with problems of reconciliation in respect of values and attitudes and of experimentation in respect of form and medium. In the very beginning of Indian writers in English fiction have shown more awareness with greater or smaller degree, and have proven on various occasion that they not just imitate but have their own way of articulation of facts.

The concept of feminism and feminist movements from the west brought drastic revolution in the women's society. Women were no longer treated as a "Property" as noted by Nayantara Sahegal an Indian novelist, who strongly condemns those who regard women as "Property". She criticizes by giving remark that she never accepts any social commit regarding women and tries to avoid the use of any such jargon in regards to women. This kind of awareness in women writers helps in building the women image of "New Women of India". Most of the women in India desire to

accept this radical change and they try to distinguish themselves out from the conventional role.

It has been observed that feminism in Indian writing in English is modest attempt to evaluate the various concept of feminism. The two contrasting conditions faced by the group of Indian women novelist are hybridist of though, multicultural, multilingual and multireligious social dimensions have contributed the women's issues in general middle class and upper-class women. Some Indian women novelist like Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur, Anita Nair, Shashi Despande, and Meena Alexander have tried with optimum sincerity and honesty to tackle with the physical psychological and emotional stress syndrome of women.

These English writers have proved themselves and have created a position which awarded them with huge respect and prestigious awards like Bookers Prize, Commonwealth Writer Prize for best book and many which is sufficient to prove and recognize their contribution in the field of feminism. Sahitya Academy awards is also one of them which shows the world the standardized category of the work done by Indian writers and also that Indian women are not at back foot but are leaders in the world of social cause.

### **The details of the Life and Works of Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair in respect to Feminism in India:**

#### **1) Githa Hariharan:**

Githa Hariharan is one of the internationally applauded novelists of India. She received special recognition by winning the commonwealth Writers Prize in 1992 for the Best First novel, "The Thousand Faces of Night". The magnitude of versatility in theme is clearly visible in her immense output. This novel was followed by "The Ghost of Vasu Master" (1994), her third novel "When Dreams Travel" appeared in 1999, it was quickly

followed by, “In Times of Siege (2003)”, besides novels; Githa Hariharan has also authored a collection of short stories “The Art of Dying’ and books of short stories- ‘The Winning Team’ which came out in 2004.<sup>12</sup>(Patel D. , 2017) This is the great contribution made by the Githa Hariharan in the Feminism and still much more such type of work is still continued. As far as the novels of Githa Hariharan are concerned she expresses that her writing is from her feminizing perspectives so there is the touch of feminism in her writing.

## 2) **Manju Kapur:**

Manju Kapur belongs to the second generation of colonial women writers. Manju Kapur lives in New Delhi and is currently enjoying her retirement from Miranda House Women’s college New Delhi, she is the winner of the commonwealth writers prize for best first book (Eurasian section). She has earned grave praise as well as commercial success both in India and abroad. She has published five novels, to her credit which highlights her consistent effort in the field of feminism. The commonwealth Award establishes her abilities of being a quality writer. Her first novel “Difficult Daughters (1998)” with the partition issue in the background, narrates the story of Virmati, her interpersonal relationships, her search for control over her own life. Virmati desires for freedom to live her life according to her understanding and faces the consequences. Manju Kapur in her later novels Married Woman (2002), Home (2006), The Immigrant (2008) and custody (2011) projects strong self-assured female protagonist who raise female concerns and show courage to capture their destiny. The bottom of Manju Kapur’s work rests on addressing issues like female liberation, their physical aspiration and their efforts in transposition themselves in the present social environment. In her writings Manju Kapur has stressed on the issues in the context of patriarchy, inter religious marriage; family bond, male female bond, co-existence of past and present. She has described her women protagonist as a victim of biology gender, domestic violence and circumstances. Kapur thinks that “There is a man within

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<sup>12</sup><http://rhimrj.com/admin/upload/Rupal%20patel%20March17.pdf>



every woman and woman in every man, when manhood is questioned womanhood is fragmented”.<sup>13</sup> ([http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/6880/8/08\\_chapter%203.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/6880/8/08_chapter%203.pdf))

### **3) Anita Nair:**

Anita Nair is another name amongst the evolving contemporary women novelists. She has proved her potential by her consistent work. She has published five novels the piece of her work consists of understanding of men and women psyche as well as her strong and in-depth knowledge of mythology which she uses in her novels with expertise. Her novel “Mistress (2005)” reviews deep into the closed realm of Kathakali Dancers and gives a sensitive representation of their lives both from outside as well as inside. Her novel “Ladies Coupe (2001)” is a strong ad inclination of feministic concerns where she presents Akhila, the protagonist in search of her identity. Her latest novel “Lessons in forgetting (2010)” is a novel of hope and forgiveness, of a new life after calamities, thereby giving a second chance to restore life and move ahead. With her knowledge of south Indian culture Anita Nair depicts realistic social settings to give legitimacy to her background. Her ability to research deep into human mind helps her create the intensity which keeps the readers fascinated.<sup>14</sup> ( <http://www.tjprc.org/publishpapers/--1358846869-9.Contemporary.full.pdf>)

### **1.3 Objective of the Study:**

To Study critically the fiction of contemporary Indian women novelists who wrote after 1980.

1. To Study the women character portrayed by the three novelists from different perspectives and patterns.

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<sup>13</sup>[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/6880/8/08\\_chapter%203.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/6880/8/08_chapter%203.pdf)

<sup>14</sup><http://www.tjprc.org/publishpapers/--1358846869-9.Contemporary.full.pdf>

2. It also aims to study similarities and dissimilarities between the three writers.
3. To analyze Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair as a feminist novelist.
4. To Study the status of women in present context.

#### **1.4 Justification of the objectives:**

The present study concentrates on the contemporary Indian Women Novelist in order to focus on the novelist who has written after 1980. This research is an attempt to highlight the contribution made by women novelist to the genre of Indian English Fiction. Therefore, the research is focused on the understanding and analyzing the contributions made by the contemporary Indian women novelist. It also highlights the various themes that run uniformly across all the novels are subjugation, suffering, oppression, frustration, exploitation identity crisis etc. It also examines how the status and position of Indian women is changing from marginal to a new woman in their selected novels.

#### **1.5 Statement of Hypothesis;**

Based on the study and review of the existing literature and information available, it is understood that the writers Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair are committed to raise feminist and social issues. Therefore, the hypotheses formulated are—

**H 1:** Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair centers their writing on women's position.

**H 2:** Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair are the feminist Novelist.

#### **1.6 Sources of Data Collection:**

The research methodology to be adopted for the proposed research work is to collect the information through primary and secondary data:

### **Secondary Data:**

Secondary data was collected from various journals, books, reports, records, magazines, internet, newspapers etc. The relevant information was also collected from the library and various novels related to Feminism.

### **1.7 Review of important and relevant literature on the study:**

The researcher has studied the work of the 3 novelists in deep and has also studied the related article, contribution of various writers, and their view on feminism. Below is the list of literature which was viewed while doing research:

1. Contribution of Indian Women Novelists in English
2. Rekha and Anup Beniwal (2006) in the article entitled “From –Representation to self-presentation: The problematic of Female Body sexuality in Contemporary Indian Women writing” Pradip Trikha in the article entitled Githa Hariharans “The Thousand Faces of Night. Straight from a women’s life”
3. Urmila Verma (1997) in her article entitled ‘Satire’ as a mode of expression in Githa Hariharan’s, ‘The Thousand Faces of Night’
4. Avis Joseph (2009) in the article entitled “The Intricate Web of Human Relationship” in Githa Hariharan’s “The Thousand Faces of Night”
5. Premila Paul (1999), in her article entitled, “Return to the Veena”
6. Anita Singh in her article entitled, “Stairway to the stars: Women writing in contemporary Indian English fiction”
7. Shobhana Bhattacharya (1999) gives her idea on ‘When Dreams sTravel, in her article entitled “Dreams and Deeds”’.
8. Carmen Kagal (1999) in his article entitled “Fantasy Unlimited”
9. Kolekar (2012) in the article ‘An Estimate to Manju Kapur’s five well known novels, Difficult Daughters, A Married Woman, Home, The Immigrant and Custody.

10. John Etal, (2012) in the book ‘A Critical view on Kapur’s Difficult Daughters’.
11. Sanasam, (2013), in the article “A Quest for Identity and self-Independence in Manju Kapur’s “A Married Women”.
12. Ishwar (2011) in the article “Woman’s Suffocation and Struggle for Independence”.
13. Huse (2009), in the article “The New Women” in the Novel of Manju Kapur’s
14. Kaur, (2013) in the article “Analysis of woman in Manju Kapur’s “Difficult Daughters”.
15. Reddy Rajesh B.L. (2016), “Women Subjugation and Empowerment” in Anita Nair’s ‘Ladies Coupe’.
16. Dr. Madhu Jindal (2018), “Feminism and literature: A Study” of Anita Nair’s ‘Mistress’.
17. Sripurushotam Sekhra Rao (2015).
18. A Sasi Kala (2015).

### **1.8 Period of Study:**

It feels that this is the time that research should be carried out to see the adoption of Feminism in the society and such kind of an attempt will be great benefit to the society and women especially. It is planned that the data to be scanned should be as recent as possible so that the result will more up-to-date and relevant. Taking into consideration the above-mentioned reasons and the past literature, the researcher selected 3 novelists of Manju Kapur, Githa Hariharan and Anita Nair, who are committed to raise feminist and social issues.

### **1.9 Limitation of the Study:**

The research work deals with three contemporary Indian Novelists. i.e. Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair. Researcher has selected

two novels of Githa Hariharan i.e. *The Thousand Faces of Night* and *When Dreams Travel*, Manju Kapur's *Home*, *Married Woman* and *Difficult Daughters*. Anita Nair's *Ladies Coupe* and *Mistress* for her research work. All these seven novels have been examined through one perspective i.e. the feminist. Survey of novel shows that three of them portray middle class and lower middle-class women. These women belong to either urban society or to the rural milieu. In their attitudes they are modern or traditional but, a limitation can be seen from the subaltern perspective. The point is that till now none of their novels deals with tribal and Dalit women which is very painful as there should be more attention paid for upliftment of these women. The researcher has urge to many writers for the development of the literature in this reference as this is consider as need of the time. One of the limitations is that the literature study is totally based on the secondary data which gives raise to bias behavior which have to handle very carefully.

#### **1.10 Contribution of Research Work:**

The present research study attempts to highlight the various themes in the novels of Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair. Along with scholars and researchers this study will be also helpful to the students of literature to understand thoroughly the novels of the above writers. This research will help and encourage similar kind of study of modern Indian Novelists and their themes and visions.

#### **1.11 Scheme of the report or thesis:**

A span of four and half years was required to complete the study of the topic of research. In the first year the historical background of the feminism movements and feminist and its role in the development of society at international, national, state and local level and literature review on the topic was taken. In the second year the data collection through various ways was made and in the third-year work of data analysis and

interpretation was done. And in last year conclusion and suggestions was completed.

### **Chapter Plan:**

The study will be arranged in the following chapters:

The chapter wise plan of research study entitled 'Contemporary Indian Women Novelists: A Feminist Study,'Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair.

Researcher has been organized in five main chapters. Each with equal importance, chapter focuses on feminist ideologies embedded in the works of these three Novelists. Sequence of the chapters is arranged in such a way that first it deals with an introduction and theory which is being followed in the study and the major trends in feminism in general. After that review of literature is done. At last data interpretation and the outcome of research is discussed in conclusion, where research have also tried to prove the gains of the research and have also suggested for the further scope of study.

### **Chapter I –Introduction**

Introduction will take a survey of following points

- Introduction
- Rise and Development of feminism
- Feminism in India and Relevance of the study
- Life and Works of the Three novelists
- Need and Significance of the study

- Aims and Objectives of the study
- Hypothesis of the research
- Scope and Limitations of the study
- Justification for research
- Contribution of research work
- Chapter scheme

### **Chapter – II Review of Literature**

In this chapter researcher will study the major purpose of literature review, it will also study contemporary Indian women novelists: a review, it will also focuses on review of literature on Githa Hariharan's novels, Manju Kapur's novels and Anita Nair's novels through research articles, thesis, seminar papers the researcher tries to touch the issue.

### **Chapter III Research Methodology**

The researcher would apply the following methods for her research work.

- It will be one of descriptive, exploratory, and interpretative nature.
- The study material will comprise the collection and thorough analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- Collection of research papers, articles, reviews, critical material on the works of Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair.

**Chapter IV Data Collection and Data Analysis is further divided into three sub chapters**

**Chapter 4.1.** Entitled 'Revisionist Myth Making' in Githa Hariharan's 'The Thousand Faces of Night' and 'When Dreams Travel' focuses on how Githa Hariharan has used this technique very effectively to deconstruct the misogynous and colonial stereotypes which projected women having no independent life to live but to serve her husband in all faith which will lead her into heaven.

**4.2.** Entitled 'The New Woman' in Manju Kapur's "Difficult Daughters, 'Married Woman, and 'Home' examines Manju Kapur's handling of the changing image of women in the modern and postmodern era. Transition and Modernity are the stages through which women in Kapur's novels are passing.

**4.3.** Entitled "Portraits of Indian Woman" in Anita Nairs 'Ladies Coupe' and 'Mistress' examines how the women characters in the novel rebel against the tradition bound old mode of life and try to rise above the male hegemony.

**Chapter V-** Conclusion this chapter summarizes all the chapters and substantiates the main ideas discussed in this thesis with reference to the novels studied.



## **Chapter 2. Review of Literature:**

### **2.1 Introduction:**

One of the crucial tasks in research study is to go through the prevailing literature in order to comprehend the available body of knowledge in area of interest. It may be time overwhelming and annoying but vital for the research study. In the initial stage of research, it helps to establish the hypothetical roots of study clarify idea and is helpful for emerging research methodology. It enhances consolidated knowledge base integrate the findings with the prevailing body of knowledge. It helps to form the base for the research. It gives chance to compare the research strategy. It helps researcher to establish the links between what researchers is proposing to examine and what has already been studied. It widens the knowledge base in research area. It helps researcher and other people to understand the involvement made by the research in the particular field. Conducting a literature review is a means of representing an author's knowledge about a particular field of study, including vocabulary, theories, key variables and phenomena, and its methods and history.

The researcher has given her best to collect the literature from different well-known sources. For this resolution, researcher has followed as particular process which is conversed in details as follows:

#### **1) Distinguishing what has been done from what needs to be done:**

The researcher has studied the subject in detailed manner and after discussion with expert persons in the field of literature has done the review of literature. In the guidance of the guide various libraries of different institutions is visited in order to get flawless knowledge regarding the research done on the same subject by various researchers. Than various work and literature was collected and sorting was done with guidance of the guide. This gave proper direction for further research in feminism. A proper road map was design and planning to achieve it in desired time was done. Various options are verified and best option and channel of medium is selected by the researcher taking into confidence guide and expert people. Then obtained idea was formed as to what needs to be done.

## **2) Determining significant Literature, Reviews, and Articles relevant to the topic:**

The next step is determining significant variables relevant to the existing topic of feminism. Then determining the relation between the last topic and latest topic. The topic is thoroughly discoursed with the guide and in light of guide points are taken out and concentration is given in studying it in detail. After detail study the information gained or important facts are taken out and relation is established between the subject and topic. It is very vital part of the review of the literature. Various reviews, articles, books are pulling out and verified for the further use in the topic. It helps to keep the topic on the track. The appropriate reviews are then understood to extract data out of it.

## **3) Creating and gaining a new perspective:**

After determining significant variables relevant to the topic, the next step is to creating and gaining a new perspective. In this process researcher tries to find new horizon in the same topic. The next possibility is discovered and confirmed to enhance new direction in the research. Various modern tools and techniques of synthesizing is utilized for gaining new perspective. This process needs lots of subject or topic knowledge that also in detail manner, because it decides the direction of research.

## **4) Classifying relationships between ideas and performs:**

After creating and gaining a new perspective the next step is to classify relationship between ideas and performs. To identify relationship between ideas and performs it needs deep study of the subject and proper examination of the topic. Once the relationship is established it becomes very easy to do research in a particular topic. It gives a glimpse view of research which assistances in the forming general understanding regarding subject.

## **5) Considerate the structure of the subject and report writing:**

The last step in the review of literature is considerate the structure of the subject and report writing. It is vital part of the review of literature as it is receipt of the

finding and outcomes which are extracted from the different theories and literature by the expert behaviors. Carefully presentation of the facts and figure consequential from review of literature is done in this process. Simple report which is easy to interpret and understand is prepared and offered in report form.

## 2.2 Contribution of Indian Women Novelists in English

As far as the Contemporary Indian women writings is concern Indian English literature has fascinated worldwide interest, both in India and in foreign. It has now been universally accepted as a part of world literature in English. Fiction being the most influential form of expression today, has not only developed a prestigious position in Indian literature but it is autonomously recognized as Indian English fiction which is great achievement for Indian. Indian literature in regional language praises an unparalleled standard since ancient times. But, the category of Indian English fiction made its insecure appearance in 1864 with the publication of Bankimchandra Chatterjee's '**Rajmohan's Wife**'. The period from 1864 to 1920. Witnessed sparse publications like krupabaisathinandhan's 'kamala. A story of **Hindu wife in 1894**, Sarathkumar Ghosh's '**The prince of Destinyin 1909**, S. N. Mitra's **Hindupore** "A peep behind the Indian unrest", an Anglo Krishna's "**The Love of Kusuma**" an "**Eastern love story in 1910**", and T Rama krishnan's "**The Drive for Death**" an Indian Romance in 1911.<sup>1</sup>( <http://www.tjprc.org/publishpapers/--1358846869-9.Contemporary.full.pdf>)

For a long period, the contribution in the field of Indian English fiction by the women novelists remained revealing. The deeper emotions and the study of the thought processes going inside women in our society demanded immediate attention with the appearance of whole new group of contemporary women writers the long-awaited drought was quenched and various unknown aspects of women's personality were exposed. Apart from abode on the issues related to women and society these writers anticipated altogether a different point of view about life and successfully established their capability in the world literary work with full persuasion. As far as women's writing is concerned, it also occupies a

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<sup>1</sup> (Reddy)<http://www.tjprc.org/publishpapers/--1358846869-9.Contemporary.full.pdf>

distinguishing place in enriching category.<sup>2</sup>( <http://www.tjprc.org/publishpapers/--1358846869-9.Contemporary.full.pdf>) In Indian context the first women novelist of this category was Toru Dutt who wrote both in English and French. Some of the early women novelist includes Raj Lakshmi Debi “**The Hindu Wife**”, Krupabai Sattianadhan “**Kamala a Story of Hindu Wife**”. In recent Years we have succession of novelists who made their mark in this field. They include **Kamala Markandaya, Nayantara Sahgal, Ruth Prawar Jhabvala, Rama Mehta, Sashi Deshpande, Anita Desai, Dina Mehta, Manju Kapur, Arundhati Roy and Namita Gokhale**, to name a few .Theforemost themes discovered by these women novelists include the gender issues, female exploitation and domination the concept of being ‘other in a Patriarchal society, childhood of womanhood, liberation through self-guest, sexual autonomy, human relationships, realism, magic realism, fantasy, the image of ‘new –women’, Indian culture urbanization, Indianans migration east-west confrontation, clash between tradition and modern struggle for independence and partition. Indian women novelists’ in English have twisted a position for themselves which becomes clear from the illustrious serious awards they have received in recent times. They were appreciated with the prestigious awards like Booker prize, commonwealth writers’ prize for best first book (Eurasian Section) and the esteemed sahitya Academy award which indisputably establishes that women novelists are no longer ‘others’ in Indian English literary scenario.

The present research focuses on the contemporary Indian women novelists in order to focus on the novelists who have written after 1980. The research is focused on understanding and analyzing the contributions made by the contemporary Indian women Novelists.

The 1990’s women novelists present today are women of modern India and leaves it to scale whether the status of woman has experienced any change for the better of or for the worse these writers do not carry a kind of residual impediment with them but show refreshing and different face of contemporary India. The 1990’s novels positioned on female and their awareness of what it necessitates being a woman in male centered traditional society. Manju Kapur’s *Difficult Daughters* (1998) follow the journey of Ida who traces the life of her mother Virmati and

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.tjprc.org/publishpapers/--1358846869-9.Contemporary.full.pdf>

grandmother Kasturi. In the novel of Shashi Deshpande, it represents an educated woman in her 'A Matter of Time'.

The recent 2000's novels are about representations of middle-class women who have lots of problem in her life but she still tries to fight against it. It has now resulted into development of feminine sensibility beyond being feminist. We can sum up by saying that there is a change in the condition of female status in the course of time. Women's do not express their suffering opening as men do and bear silently their suffering without complain as she knows that there will be no change in the present situation. So, it is always better to keep quit on such issue which full of sufferings. As time changed the situations have compelled women come out of the house, start doing job and fight against male dominated society. Women writer gives the justice to the voice of women by their writing. They have started to express their thought and have developed the strong feeling of revolution against the injustice and suffering they had to face in the past. Their development has set an example for the future women who will live independently in this society and will get more respect than past.<sup>3</sup>

( <http://www.tjprc.org/publishpapers/--1358846869-9.Contemporary.full.pdf>)

**Kamala Markandaya** is one of the most talented first-generation women novelists of India. Her accomplishment lies both in respect of her sensible handling of cross-cultural issues and her trustworthy representation of the Indian cultural background. She is very much concern about the better living standard of the Indian women. Her works represents the themes like east-west encounter, confrontation between tradition and modernity as well as clash of values which are the major problems which are faced by the Indian women since long time. In all her novels we witness that along with political flavor she often wrote about the themes like `man-women relationship, their marital problems and liberation of women, need of the society, education for women, self-dependent, many such social issue are addressed by the writer which helps in betterment of society as well as women. Her devotion towards the welfare of women is seen in her writing and work which have contributed very much in building good image of women in the society.

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<sup>3</sup><http://www.tjprc.org/publishpapers/--1358846869-9.Contemporary.full.pdf>

**Ruth Prawar Jhabwal** has written four novels after 1980 which include, *In search of love and Beauty* (1981), *three continents* (1987), *Poets and Dancer* (1991) and *Shreds of Harmony* (1995). The writer has contributed in the field of development of women in the middle class. She has given deep thought on the problems encountered by the women in the middle class. She also has suggested many remedies for the welfare of women in middle class. The observation made by the writer have catches the serious attention of the society for taking major steps in the improvement and upliftment of women in the middle class. All have their own belief system which is developed by the experiences which they faced in their life, different people have different view on the subject and so, according to the well-known critic M. K. Naik, Jhabwala is perceived to have no new vision to offer new, equivalent to her serious and sensitive presentation of middle class life in India in her earlier works which is completely based upon the middle class tendency observed by the writer. Apart from this writer is successful in the work and contribution made by her for the feminism.

**Anita Desai** is certainly one of the chief supporters among Indian English novelists. Her works like, *Clear light of day* (1980), *In custody* (1984), *Baumgartners Bombay* (1988), *Journey to Ithaca* (1995), *Fasting feasting to* (1999) etc which appeared after 1980 give us clear understanding of her extended view. In her earlier novels, her themes varied from domestic conflict in traditional Indian families to the image of suffering women in the male-controlled society, where as in her later novels we can observe that writer have shifted her focus on many other issues faced by the women in the society. She has fearlessly expressed her thought on the women's dignity and has put the light on the topic like restriction on women freedom, right to educate, dowry, sexual assault, torcher, and many such anti-social acts against the women. She observed as one of the compassionate writers who have always fight for the rights of women in society. Her work and contribution have made it necessary for the society to thing in regards of the women welfare.

**Shashi Deshpande** is one of the most illustrious and reputed women novelists of India. She is an-award winning Indian novelist. She has published nine novels and is awarded with the glorious sahitya Academy award. She is considered as one of the profile writers of Indian English

fiction. Many of novel among which the famous are as follows, *Dark hold no terror* (1980), *That long silence* (1988), *Roots and Shadows* (1983), *If I die today* (1982) and many more such kind of the novel which has contributed in the development of new features in feminism have being contributed by the ambitious women writer Shashi Deshpande. She was also involved on film making like *Drishti*, *Cinema my darling*, etc. In her novels she explores the suffering and conflicts of modern educated Indian women who are caught between tradition and modernity but positively try to attain their individualistic desires in life. Her writing comes out of deep involvement with society, especially with women. Her novels are about women trying to understand themselves, their antiquity, their characters and their position in this society, and above all their relationships with others.

**Arundhati Roy** is world famous author of the novel, **God of Small Things**, which received the prestigious Booker prize in 1997 and became the biggest-selling book by a non-expatriate Indian author. She is also a political activist involved in human rights and environmental causes. She was also awarded Sydney Peace Prize in 2004, Arundhati Roy's Maiden novel '**God of Small Things**' appealed vast perilous acclamation from readers and critics throughout the world. The novel received praise for various aspects like shifting of past and presents with unexpected diplomacy her talent for description and its narrative style which include magic, mystery and sadness. Arundhati Roy adopts a description which is satiric in tone and hits her anger on the rigid age-old caste system in India which dominates our society. She expresses her deep concern regarding the present situation of women in the society without even caring for the critics which she has to face in India. She is political activist and have fought against government on many of the issues in India among which most famous is Narmada Andolan. She represents many of the social activist group and NGO's in India. Her love for the environment is seen in her writing. She is very much sensitive towards the human rights as well as environmental causes.

**Namita Gokhale** is also a well-known name in India English fiction, publisher and festival director. She has fascinated reader as well as critic's curiosity through her novels like, *Paro*, *Dreams of passion* (1984), *Gods, Graves and Grandmother*

(1994), *The Book of Shadows* (1999) and *The Mahabharata* (2009) in which she has explored numerous themes from status of women to the reinterpretation of age-old mythology. In her first novel *Paro, Dreams of passion* she ventures and gives voice to women's vision and her idea of independence. She has paid more attention towards the social causes of women and described the causes in very different way which includes the past articulate as well as modern day issues. She is very straight forward in representing her view against the modernization, where everything is acceptable in the name of modernization. She has written about the life long struggles of the women. She is also known as Champion of the feminist psychology. Her way to narrate the struggle of the women is very different from common writers as she has presented each and every fact based on evidence of past and is very strong in the presenting it in front of society.

**Jai Nimbkar** has published only three novels *Temporary Answer* (1974), *A Joint venture* (1988) and *Come Rain* (1993), which narrates the difficulties faced by Indian women post-independence. She has also addressed many of social-economic aspects of the women in the society. As per the writer even if the women are well educated, still she has to face many social economic problems. She encourages women to evaluate their problems and search for the mid-way which will help them to uplift their standard of life without sacrificing any of their relationship. She is one of the persistent writers who always focus on the problems of the women at grass root level. She believes that the women which are well educated, intelligent and self-dependable have more power to analyze the problems and can face them more broadly and strongly.

**Manju Kapur** lives in New Delhi and is currently enjoying her retirement from Miranda House women's college, New Delhi. She is the winner of the commonwealth writer's prize for Best First Book (Eurasian section). She has received critical acclaim as well as commercial success both in India and abroad. She has five published novels, *Different Daughter* (1998), *The Immigrant* (2008), *A Married woman* (2002), *Home* (2006), and *Custody* (2011). To her credit which highlights her consistent effort for the development of women and issues faced by them in society. Her first novel, **Difficult Daughter (1998)** with the barrier issue in the background narrates the story of Virmati, her interpersonal relationships;



her search for control over her own life. Virmati desires for freedom to live her life according to her understanding and faces the consequences. Manju Kapur in her later novels, *A Married woman* (2002) *Home* (2006), *The Immigrants* (2008) and *Custody* (2011) projects strong assertive female protagonists who raise female anxieties and show courage to capture their destiny. The bottom of Manju Kapur's work rests on addressing issues like female liberation, their physical ambition and their efforts in transposition themselves in the present social environment. She believes that women must be self-controlled, and must be prepared to face any situation firmly without any support. She encourages women to come face to face to their problem, she is strong writer with deep knowledge about the issues and problems faced by the women in the society and have also suggested many remedies to overcome it in very different way.

**Githa Hariharani** is one of the internationally commended novelists of India. She received special gratitude by winning the commonwealth writers' prize 1992 for the Best first Novel, *The Thousand Faces of Night* (1992) is based on the protagonists Devi's progress towards independence and search for identity through her relations. Her novel, *When Dreams Travel* is based on the theme of search for identity. Her other work includes *In Times of Siege* (2003), *The Art of Dying* (1993), *The Ghost of Vasu Master* (1994) and *Fugitive Histories* (2009). She is working as freelance editor. One of the big achievements by writer is she won the right to have named children after her, in famous case Indira Jaising. She is feminist as well as activist. She believes in the freedom of thought and has written on various themes in social life. She is considered as inspiration for the modern-day feminist writers and the reason for this is her strong recommendation for the revolution in old caste system and customs. Writer has given focus on every aspects of the life may it be political, social, cultural and historical. She invests her most of the time in searching talent and exploring new opportunities for the betterment of the women in the society. She opposed the myth stories told by the people which is baseless in regards the customs followed by Indian people. Her ability to express her thought right from young girl to old women has placed her in a different category of the feminist which is beyond the welfare of women. She has not limited her thinking only in regards of the welfare of women but have taken one more step to make sure better quality of life is achieved by the women

without considering them as second gender this can be seen by the active involvement of writer in various women's movement.

**Anita Nair** is another name amongst the emerging contemporary women novelists. Young and dynamic thinker of her own kind which is different from all other in all walks of writing with great sense of character. She has proved her potential by her consistent work. She has published five novels which include, *The Better Man* (1999), *Ladies Coupe'* (2001), *Malabar Mind* (2002), *Where the Rain is Born* (2003) and *Puffin Book of World Myths and Legends* (2004) which best among the writings of Anita Nair. Her work consists of understanding of men and women psyche as well as her strong and in-depth knowledge of mythology which she uses in her novels with expertise and is unique feather of her every novel. She has received Arch of Excellence Award given by the All India Achiever's Conference, along with then Kerala Sahitya Academy Award and many more internationally recognized awards like Orange Prize for fiction in UK. She is regarded as one of foremost novelist in the India. Her work mostly includes real human condition in the present world and matters which has to be given utmost attention by the human. No doubt that she is deep thinker and overall observer of the present situation in the society, she concentrates more on the self-actualization and family responsibilities of an individual. Her writing includes Indian culture and the characters which are intrinsically Indian. Most of the stories are on the middle-class families in India and the problems faced by the women in adjusting and scarifying there will for the family. She has hardly missed any of the expression and experience of women in social life of women. We can observe that her has mostly written on the day today life of women.

Apart from this there is a very big list of efficient and effective writers like Nisha Da Cunha with her novels like, *Set my heart in Aspic* (1997), *The permanence of Grief* (1993), *Old Cypress stories* (1991) and *No Black No White* (2001) has shown their potential of being the finest story tellers along with their understanding of the delicateness of human conditions. Radhika Jha is the author of the novel, *smell* (1999), and lives in Delhi. She writes on culture, atmosphere and economy for *The Hindustan Times* and *Business World*.

## **Review of Literature on Githa Hariharan Novels:**

Githa Hariharan enjoys a unique position in modern Indian English literature. She has contributed some important novel during her career from 1992 to 2009. She has also contributed some short stories. Both her novels and stories expose feminist elements on a large scale. The connection between storytelling and women's writing is a part of historical tradition which Githa Hariharan has prolonged. It has been observed by Hilde Lindeman: **Iffeminism is concerned with the gender issue and if gender can be described as a classification within a social system that nor mates the unequal distribution of power between men and women.**

<sup>4</sup>(

[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi_chapter1.pdf))

Githa Hariharan is one of the most prolific women writers of India. She was born in Coimbatore in 1954. She was brought up in Bombay and Mania a got her education in these two places besides in U.S.A she has been an editor's first in a publishing house and then as a freelancer editor. Githa Hariharan is also a social activist known for her care, devotion and concern for women. In 1995, she challenges the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act as discriminative in the supreme court of India and was conferred victory. Githa Hariharan's works is full of new ideas and innovation which are in favor of feminism. She does not stick to one particular theme or idea, but interconnects multiple ideas to form a concrete idea which is evident based. She likes to discuss and write on various themes, which can be categorized under heads like psychology, human relationship, national issue, social dignity for women and so on. Githa Hariharan's novels demarcate the insignificance society which is brutally stratified and lives under constant threat of communism, religious and cultural viciousness. She brings forth the difference which

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<sup>4</sup>[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi_chapter1.pdf)

social elements feed on to light a funeral fire of peace and harmony in the society. Studied by different researcher.

**Rekha and AnupBeniwal (2006)** in the article entitled **“From –Representation to self-presentation: The problematic of Female Bodysexuality in Contemporary Indian Women writing”** comment on Githa Hariharan narratives. Githa Hariharan’s descriptions are insightful combination of various concerns the problematic of body description within by patriarchy, the visualization of body as text or a conversational site, as a seat of desires, emotions and intellect and sites of conquest and confrontation around female body and try to understand their implications on female body within gendered social organization .They suggest an extensive analysis on how patriarchy, in its acts, both open and hidden, positions the female body to its advantage and tries to reach out a blue print for the liberation of curbed or overloaded bodies. Simplicity and modernity mark Githa Hariharan’s forte. Nonetheless, powerfulness of her ideas is infections and is conveyed through her writing.

**Pradip Trikha** in the article entitled **Githa Hariharan’s “The Thousand Faces of Night Straight from a women’s life”**. While appreciating Githa Hariharan says that she “has a gifted pen that’s able to dip itself into trove of refined observations of life and all the pain and swag it can impose on the unsuspecting wanderer” Githa Hariharan highlights the distinguishing Brahmanical ethics which has been in trend similar to T. S. Eliot, she also believes that the objective of the writer is to renovate usual ideas into a work of art. She is very particular about the contemporary application of her ideas invented as literary themes. Hariharan writes in a clean and straightforward manner. All her characters are appropriately dealt, they talk and communicate effectively. Stories from Indian Epics (the Ramayana and the Mahabharata) provide support to the main story line of the novel”. She pertinently communicates the significance of epic stories to the contemporary real life. In male-controlled set up, a frustrated woman

would undergo the suffering of segregation and loneliness. However, Githa Hariharan has changed the arrangement, by giving other solutions that recommend transformation and joy in a set of different circumstances that overthrow the predominant social designs and values. She has been motivating women by her writing which ploughed the seed of self-reliance in the women. Her feelings for the women have taken form of words to express her view and has given opportunities for betterment of women's life. She is able to achieve this by making her protagonist understand her womanhood, thus giving a new meaning in her novels.<sup>5</sup>

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[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi_chapter1.pdf))

**Urmila Verma (1997)** in her article entitled **Satire as a mode of expression in Githa Hariharan's, 'The Thousand Faces of Night'** says, 'Githa Hariharan is a new voice which cannot remain quiet or silent any more. It has to reverberate in order to be heard. It is a visionary voice announcing the development of a new identity. Her pen, which is expansive than sword, attempts to create a new order'. Githa Hariharan has successfully described the battle of woman in the society. She suggests that motherhood is either a power of weakness in her novels. She takes help of various story of myth which describes the ancient thinking of society in context of women. She has explored new horizon of feminist to solve the present issues and has taken advantage of stories to defend the different view in regards of feminism.

**Avis Joseph (2009)** in the article entitled **"The Intricate Web of Human Relationship** in Githa Hariharan's *The Thousand Faces Of Night* quotes as Paulina Palmer's view, is most suitable to Githa Hariharan's "the credentials of feminist with an experimentally unsolidified form of writing which overthrows the readers opportunities of linear rationale address, inclusion identities and ego limitations in a manner similar to that which occurred in the mother-infant bond is

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<sup>5</sup>[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi_chapter1.pdf)

comprehensible with Githa Hariharan's novel, *The Thousand Faces of Night*'. She has mastery over the exhibition of man – woman relationship and the innermost pressures that a woman has to face. She also highlights problem faced by the women to encounter the problems in the society. Her main focus is sanctity of life human life to a hassle free and peaceful life. The Complicated Web of human relationships, as it was influential in the development of the self, was a foremost concern in Githa Hariharan's novels. Each of her novels is focused on different issues – loneliness clash with male ego, the degree of freedom within marriage and the extent to which one could approximate independence. Mingling myths, fables and traditional stories with the main theme of the writer to explain various issue and problem faced by the women in past as well as in present.<sup>6</sup>

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[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi_chapter1.pdf))

**Premila Paul (1999)** in her article entitled, “**Return to the Veena**”, and progress towards self-realization in Githa Hariharan's *The Thousand Faces of Night*' supports that Githa Hariharan describes the struggle of women to attain their space in Indian Society. Her continue effort for the betterment of women is seen in her work which is dedicated for women. She also grants the effects of patriarchy on women of diverse social groups and ages, particularly mentioned in the restrictive institution of marriage. Her writing on the marriage has influenced many writers in India to think in different perspective. She takes help of characters from mythology and the lives of saints and relates them to the characters in the novels which is unique feature of her writing. In ancient times many epics are evidence of the strong personality of the women and the way they have accepted the challenges and have overcome with high level of confidence is also shown in the different epics.

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<sup>6</sup>[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi_chapter1.pdf)

**Anita Singh** in her article entitled, “**Stairway to the stars: Women writing in contemporary Indian English fiction**” opines that Githa Hariharan’s *When Dreams Travel* is about Women’s stories and journey to achieve identification in the society. Her opinion regarding the writer is very Comprehensive, she expects high level of dignity for the women and her rights which must be given equal justice in the society. Her contribution is outcome of the experience and sensitivity which is felt by the writer while portraying the past and present women. She takes support of theory or writing proposed by Simon de Beauvoir’s statement in *Second Sex* about men’s downgrading of woman. This view validates Michael Foucault’s observation; the administration gives roles to women and declarations after social, religious and cosmic concepts appropriate to the interest and desires of the ruling class. Githa Hariharan’s human concern and her fascination for precision are quite understandable. The major themes of writer are domination and exploitation of woman in what is often called a male-controlled society which also has been a present theme in Indian fiction. Writer has attempted to form difference between the contemporary society and social values through their women characters which represent the ancient as well as modern society.

**Shobhana Bhattacharya (1999)** gives her view on ‘**When Dreams Travel**’, in her article entitled “**Dreams and Deeds**’. Githa Hariharan’s novel plays roles of ‘realistic’, but the novel extremely questions the evidence of the Arabian Nights. In the Arabian Nights, A king kills the women after seducing them. Since no woman is able to fully satisfy the king’s desire, kills them in the morning. The king selects a virgin for each and every day, seduces her in the night and kills them. She expresses, this egoistic scene lives on, writes and describe this act as ‘shamelessly immortal’. She further enhances, that the novel *When Dreams Travel*, seems to be ‘sound solemn’ and makes the readers feel somewhat boring whereas in reality it is not the condition it is full of new ideas and helps to understand the different angles of the writers. It is a combination of magic and different chronicle Styles which makes the reader feel as if he is reading bed time Stories, so readers are very fond of the writing of the Shobhana even though they are too factious.

**Carmen Kagal (1999)** in his article entitled “**Fantasy Unlimited**” remarks that, ‘When Dreams Travel’ is worth reading because of the richness of its imagery and the seductiveness of its prose is very effective in conveying the message of feminism in very direct way. She is impressed by the writer and expresses that the writer is deeply involved in wisdom and knowledge which are solely dependent on pragmatic understanding of social justice in general and gender equity in particular by the writer. As per the Carmen the fundamental issues addressed by the writer are presented in a very different way which shows the level of engagement with the subject matter of the writer. She praises the work of Hariharan by express deep desire to help the writer with the suggestion of the present-day situation of the women in India and world. The broad view of the writers motivates her to think about the women not only in terms of second sex but beyond it as a human being which has his own way of looking at the world.<sup>7</sup>([http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi_chapter1.pdf))

### **Conclusion:**

As writer Githa Hariharan has perfect ground, judging the comprehensive and weight of each word to achieve regular balance in her writing which is a unique feature of her novels. Accordingly, the modern Indian women writers have made use of modern method of description instead of sticking on to the conventional mode of narration. They have adopted innovative techniques and a lot of experimentation by the frequent use of ‘stream of consciousness or ‘interior monologue’. The review of literature makes it quite noticeable that Githa Hariharan’s fictional works concentrates more than just reading. There are ideas and aspects contained which can be made more profound by carrying out a systematic study. With the assistance of an academic concept, serious inquiry could be further strengthened for the development of the

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<sup>7</sup>[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi_chapter1.pdf)



feminism in India. By this we can understand the great contribution made by the Githa Hariharan in the field of feminism which will always inspire and motivate the future generation of women to fight against injustice and inequality.

### **Review of literature on Manju Kapur' Novels**

The other noted novelist in the research study and review of literature is Manju Kapur, a professor of English at Miranda House Delhi. Her first novel "Difficult Daughters" received the commonwealth award for the Eurasian region. Writer is very intelligent and has presented the facts and figure in very systematic way in her novel, which is the main point of attraction for the readers. Her impressive way of expressing the harshest problems in very openly manner and in details is admired by all the readers. She has ability to convince people regarding the problems of the women in the society and daily challenges which women has to face in society only because of communication gap and less attention towards the women by considering her as second sex. Her novel 'A Married Woman' is a seductive story of a love at a time of political and religious turmoil, and is told with compassion and intelligence in a very different way which is very impressive. 'A Married woman' is the story of an artist whose painting challenges the limitations of middle-class existence. Manju Kapur defines through her protagonist (Astha),<sup>8</sup> "A woman should be aware of self-controlled, strong willed, self-reliant and rational, having faith in the inner strength of womanhood. The focus of the feminist writer is on the development of women's position in the society and giving her the feeling of individualist. A meaningful change can be brought only from within by being free in the deeper psychic sense." In her writings, Manju Kapur has stressed on the issues in the context of inter-religious marriage; family bond, co-existence of past and present situation of the women. She has described her woman protagonist as victim of biology, gender, domestic violence and circumstances. Kapur thinks that, **'There is aman within every woman**

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<sup>8</sup>Sarah Sebatini. V.K.docx

**and woman in every man. When manhood is questioned womanhood is fragmented’’.**

**Kolekar (2012)** in the article ‘**An Estimate to Manju Kapur’s** five wellknown novels. **Difficult Daughters, A Married Woman, Home, The Immigrant and Custody.** It is a brief analysis of the following works and it helps us get perception into the themes that Kapur deals with Kapur being a feminist writer will also make us look at her characters and the events they face through the feminist viewpoint. As per the Kolekar the writer is very impressive in describing the present situation of women in the society and at home. The way she has narrated the situation and issues faced by the women in the society as well as home is very noteworthy. She has concentrated on the continuous development of the women in all walks of the life. She has very beautifully articulated both the external and internal dimension of the women community and has also come up with the solution which is helpful in solving the problems of the women. Writer has successfully addressed the women’s consciousness and interrelations which is need of hour.<sup>9</sup>

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[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi_chapter1.pdf))

**John Etal, (2012)** in the book ‘**A Critical view on Kapur’s Difficult Daughters’** is a critical study. It is a story of two daughters, Virmati and Ida. Kapur appraises on attitude of society. Society accepts man’s fault and also forgives him however in case of women this is rarely observed about woman. Manju Kapur desires to narrate how Virmati and Ida become tough daughters without any mistake of their parents. Virmati have to suffer as both Gopal and Virmati fall in love. The main focus of the study is on characters, appropriateness of the title, tradition and transformation which gives clear view on feminist approach. This novel is exceptional for the scholars and students as it is

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<sup>9</sup>[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi\\_chapter1.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/62166/2/aelsi_chapter1.pdf)

described in very simple way which helps to grasp faster with compare to others. The writer has analyzed the novel *Difficult Daughters* with different angles. The emphasis of the novel is mainly on the life of Virmati and her relationship with father, mother, sister as well as her own daughter. She is a second wife and her sufferings are realistically presented in very a feministic way.

**Dr. John (2012)**, in the article '**Kapur's Difficult Daughter**' articulates that book is a best book which narrates of female struggle in modern India. The writer expressed that how Virmati wanted to lead life on her own as per her wish. Virmati being a simple girl who wants to liberate herself and fight for her goal like education and love. The writer has described in details about her suffering while leading a life. This book demonstrations that while leading life how female become difficult daughter for their partners in real life. The article accomplishes on the point that Virmati becomes really a difficult daughter for her parents and her daughter Ida also becomes the same to her partner. **Ishwar, (2011)** in the article "**Woman's Suffocation and Struggle for Independence**" in Manju Kapur's '**A Married Woman**'<sup>10</sup>

(<http://researchscholar.co.in/downloads/79-dr.-reena-sanasam.pdf>)portrays the character of Astha's and the unconsciousness and suffering which is faced by her being an independence woman. The writer attempts to emphasis on Astha's inner suffering. She is educated woman, a mother of two children and wife of well settled husband. In the view of society, she must be happy in her life, but in reality, she doomed when she realizes her status in the mind of her husband and family. She feels that she is only an unpaid servant. Writer's efforts to concentrate on her lesbian relationship. When Astha didn't get faith and love from her family especially from her husband she is caught in the web of seduction, and starts to have a lesbian relationship. She also describes the way Astha gets involved in the relationship and forgets her own identity and starts to feel very embracing and the way she ends with very mass-up.

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<sup>10</sup><http://researchscholar.co.in/downloads/79-dr.-reena-sanasam.pdf>

**Huse (2009)**, in the article **“The New Women”** in the novel of Manju Kapur’s emphasizes on the new image of women. The way she has casted the character of women in the modern world is very mind blowing. It deals with novel ‘Home’ in which Nisha is more firm, self-confident and self-possessed woman. The writer remarks that Manju Kapur’s novel left her own mark on English novels and is different from them. The protagonist of the novel is in the search of her real home which is different from her present home. She represents a successful modern woman who has gone against male-controlled society.

**Kaur (2013)**, in the article **“Analysis of woman in Manju Kapur’s Difficult Daughters”** has investigated the woman characters. Article places of interest on the main three females. Virmati, Kusturi and Idaa. Kusturi wants her daughter Virmati should discontinue her study and become ready for marriage. She fails to understand the concerns of her daughter. She evidenced a difficult daughter for her parents like her mother Ida also become a difficult daughter for Virmati. The writer emphasizes on the journey of this difficult daughter. She very dishearten by the decision taken by the others.

**Rollason (2010)**, in the article **‘Women on the Margins Reflections’**

In Manju Kapur’s **‘Difficult daughter’** points out the issue of disregarded woman in the Manju Kapur’s novel difficult daughters. Lower caste people are not only sidelined in Indian society but women are also sidelined. They have no right to their express their views openly and also no right to go against the male-controlled society. Writer concentrates on female matters with the help of female characters like Kasturi, Virmati, Shakuntala, Swaralata and Ida in the novel. Ida is a new woman described by Manju Kapur. Women’s issue in this novel is addressed with freedom of thought. Writer accomplishes by saying that it’s a great achievement of Manju Kapur’s novel.

**Singh (2010), 'Tradition vs. Modernity in Difficult Daughters'** in a multicultural nation like India the discussion between tradition and modernity has not yet accomplished the attention of society but in modern it is supported by the women activist. Virmati in *Difficult Daughters* cracks the orthodox view regarding women and seeks for freedom which is the symbol of modernity. Ida is the new woman who adopts modernity. The writer contemplates that even in the post-independence period of modernization the opposite trends like tradition and modernity are making the man more and looser in character.

**Shrivastava Shilpi (2010), "A Quest for Identity"** in Manju Kapur's *'Difficult Daughter's'* presents women's mission of identity in their life. The writers articulate that a concept of men and women's work has changed. Virmati like a modern woman has courage to fight against male narrow-mindedness which restricts women for her right of education, right of choosing her life partner and economic independence. In her inference describes that women's must gather and raise their voice against any injustice towards them than only they will be successful in raising the voice of women.

**Chakravarty Joya (2010),** in the article, **"A Study of Difficult Daughter and A Married Woman"** is a reasonable study of Manju Kapur's two novels. Both the novels are all about the women's issue involving political as well as religious which are explained in a very different manner. Both novels explain the extramarital affairs of the protagonists. The writer completes rightly by comprehending that a woman's life is like the nation's life which is passing through various paths and suffering.

**Mehta Sangeeta (2010),** in the article **'Women's odyssey of liberation'** in Manju Kapur's *'Difficult Daughter'*, observed on the changing image of women in society and houses in India. Like the woman in Tennyson's poem on Helen who drives herself to another person according to her husband's wish is now no more dumb. Manju

Kapur's *Virmati* goes against the age-old tradition, cracks the restrictions. *Virmati*, *Shakuntala* and *Swarnlata* just wants to convey that now with the spread of education, the present situation has transformed. The writer gives such a great title "Women odyssey of liberation" to the struggle of women.

**Deshmukh (2014)**, in the article '**A married woman**' by Manju Kapur a novel of women's for expedition for identity and self-realization is present as a new woman in her novel. Where a woman presumes her husband as the god and worships him till death. Astha raise her voice about job but also, she took active part in social work. Astha in her life struggle for her identity and in that course, she becomes more confident about her skills.<sup>11</sup> **Nath (2013)**, in the article '**Female Consciousness**' in Manju Kapur's '**Difficult Daughter**' present the Kapur's behavior of feministic problem. The novelist has offered her feministic ideas within the preview of Indian consciousness with new standpoint. *Virmati* is a model and representative of new women character in the novel. *Virmati* is represented with great sympathy and warmth and a consciousness woman who wanders for her identity. *Virmati*'s fight is against the rules made for women by male. Her sufferings narrate to the vital matters of modern women and their deliverance. She is trapped between family duties and lives for education as well as her prohibited love with married man. She admits her suffering with great courage and fight for education and economic independence motivates her to think in different way.

## **Conclusion**

From the above review the researcher comes to know that Manju Kapur as a novelist basically is concerned with the issues of the newly emerging urban middle class women who are trapped in the tradition and modernity. In her novels the female protagonist dissident against the male domination and the disregarding of woman. The researcher with

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<sup>11</sup>Sarah Sebatini. V.K.docx

the support of all these reviews try to emphasize the various aspects related to feminist viewpoint in the novels of Manju Kapur.

### **Review of literature on Anita Nair's Novel:**

Anita Nair is one of the prominent women novelists of contemporary India. Her novels are mostly about suffering, challenges and problems of woman, which is part of society. She has not only articulated women's feelings but has also raised voice against male dominated society. Her protagonist is daring once. They explore their distinctiveness through their struggle. Born in Kerala. She has written novels like *Better Man*, *Ladies Coupé*, *Mistress*, and *Lesson in Forgetting* apart from being a novelist; she is a well-known short story writer as well as a poetess. She has also composed five travels pieces. She writes for Indian express and is liked by many people for her style of expressing her thought in very direct manner. Her grip on the subject is very impressive and she is also known as subject matter expert in feminism.

**D Silvia Flavia** in the article entitled "**The concept of Patriarchy and Female Defiance**" in Anita Nair's '**Ladies Coupe**' gives details of the concept of male-controlled society and indicates a relationship of inequality in society. Through male dominated society is a common concept in every woman's life, Anita has narrated variety of instances within each woman's life as she did not want to put the lives of woman to one ideal. She points out the fact that women must come forward and start to encounter their problem on their own without the support of others.

**Lalit Ambika Antharjanam** in the article entitled '**The Female Phase**' in the selected novels of Anita Nair and Arundhati Roy she examines that lady's coupe tries to deal with the opposition between conceptual presences of women. The central Character Akhila helps us to see how it is a perfect case of the second phase advocated by writer. The sensitivity to get away however has been latent yet determined all through her years

of tramping and that is seeking execution in her exertion to undertake a train journey. She is very good at observing the details given by both the author through which one can understand the level of interest taken by her in the writer, to get herself involved deliberately in feminism and its concept.

**Rachel Bari (2004)** in the article entitled **‘Narrative confinement and captivity’** Anita Nair’s **‘Ladies Coupe’** initiates with a journey that of Akhila a 45 years old bachelor to Kanyakumari, representatively the land devotees; a journey in the inside of a culture and the gendered identity it gives to Akhila. It is interesting to note that Nair uses the journey to modify and motivate her creation (Akhila) to undergo a process of transformation even as it opens the way to forms of mastery like a traveler. Akhila finds her way and contemplates the forms of power at stake in order to restructure her identity. It is clearly pointed out that the writer is more interested to explore new aspects of life through travelling. She wants to take view of other side of life by engaging herself in collecting the information for the identification of her as a traveler.<sup>12</sup>

**Y Vidya and G Baskaran** in the entitled **“Epitomizing women through vociferous protest A Deconstructive Reading”** of Anita Nair’s **‘Ladies Coupe’** she studies the way Nair’s character handles herself with the tough situations like rape, violence insulation and disturbed relationship. It discovers not only the effects of narrow-mindedness but also the women’s willpower to overcome these barriers and arise un-scathed and whole eventually exhibit this willpower and attain a state of autonomous selfhood confronting and overcoming their decrepit and contemptuous state in order to live a purposeful live and to be content with themselves. Through these characters Nair’s has characterized the realities of the lives of Indian woman and registered a enthusiastic protest against the prejudiced male-controlled society. The most interesting feature of her writing is role played by the women to



reflect the commencements of society. She is very positive and narrates that every problem has solution but only thing which we need is to keep oneself always motivated and be ready to face any problem in life boldly.

**M Velvizi.** in the article entitled “**Essential Identity as an Ephemeral Identity**” a critical perspective on Nair’s ‘**Ladies Coupe**’ witness that All women in this novel are suppressed in one way or other. Prabha and Janaki have trauma; Aklila and Sheela have come across both psychological and social sufferings. Margaret antagonizes psychological and physical annoyances. Mari has gone through psychological physical social and emotional carnages. They have attempted throughout their life to explore their own world to absorb their identity as long as they live. However, they start to lose faith in themselves, but they are so persistent that they do not loose hope to overcome their problems. Akhila’s conscience, Janki’s open declaration to be with her husband without sharing him to anyone, Prabha’s sense of doing things on her own Margaret’s performance to give what her husband deserves Sheela’s wrestle to follow the philosophies of her grandmother and Mari’s next step to be real thing. These are all achievements of the minority group in the lady’s coupe. They have accomplished their goals by their own actions. Their accomplishments endowment their essential identity but also after they leave this coupe, the real world they live will drive them to go along with it like before. December 19,1997 is not permanent in their lives like their sense of achievement on that particular day. Their essential identity will become temporary and they will be in search of their identity in another coupe once again.

**Savita Singh** in the article entitled “**Repression, Revolt and Resolution**” in Anita Nair’s ‘**Ladies coupe**’. She declares that Anita Nair’s Ladies Coupe is a deep penetrating into the psyche of the women characters. The coupe evidences to be a close packed cozy and warm environment for the women to let their hair down and speak freely of

their experiences Nair's has an open, no judgmental approach. She comprehends modern women and does not target to preach to create role models. She shares her women as they are with their resistance down, ready to open their hearts to other women. The dilemma of her characters is covered with an indistinct existing manner. They struggle for freedom are aware of their irrational situation, feel muffled in it and try to find an answer to the very anonymous of their existence in a society that does not understand them. They all come finally to their conclusions and feel at peace with themselves and their worlds.

## **Conclusion**

Image of women in the male dominated Indian society is a major issue from the ancient period. While concluding one can say that there is a change in the condition of female status in the course of time. Through research articles, thesis, and seminar papers the researcher tries to touch the issues. On this severe issue many male and female Indian writers have raised the voice. Women have a secondary status in the family, society and most important in the minds of people. Women's didn't talk about their suffering and bear silently their suffering without completing. But in the course of time the situations have compelled women come out of the house, start doing job and revolt against male dominated society. Women writer gives the effective response to the voice of women. The present chapter highlights on the image of woman presented in the works of women writers. It also contents the brief survey of Indian women writers. The reviewed articles show the strength of women power in the society and literature. The voices are not only raised by female writers but also by the male writers. Identity of the female is most important issue from the ancient period to the modern period. Mostly in the male dominated countries in the world, faces this problem.<sup>13</sup> Males treat females as the instrument in their hands. Women are suppressed under the humiliation of male in the houses and also in the society. Indian novelists and researchers have done work on them.

The writers like Raja Rao, Amitav Ghosh, Vikram Seth, Mulk Raj Anand, Arundhati Roy, Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur, Githa M, Shobha De, Anita Nair, are some of the names who write about women and their issues.

## **Chapter No. 3**

### **Methodology**

#### **3.1 Introduction:**

The purpose of this chapter is to define the specifications that have been followed while performing research. When a research has been identified to be built, a proper methodology planning has to be completed to select the proper direction of the study, to locate existing features of the study, to identify areas of other factors and its impacts on the survey, to identify areas of difficulties, to help to determine the costs of the research and to design the research tool. While doing research, a researcher has to explain the primary goals of his methodology. In the process of research, methodology occupies an important place. This chapter will present a broader view of the uses and techniques of the research. It controls the study dictates the attainment of the data and arranges it in a logical manner. The entire process is an integrated effort as well as an obligation of its component parts. The research methodology refers to the choice and use of particular strategies and tools for data collection and analysis.

Research is useful for documenting existing community conditions, characteristics of a work to be carried out, and community opinion. In this chapter, one can find an outline of the steps needed to conduct research using both the primary and secondary data methods. Details on reading different books, novels and schedules are presented, along with a comparison of both methods for different community-based situations. Collecting and studying data is not only useful for immediate community development purposes, but it can also serve the future of a community efforts by providing the baseline data needed later to demonstrate progress. More specifically, a research in literature is a method of collecting data in a consistent, or systematic, way. This usually involves constructing a set of methods that are either searched by means of a primary data or through reading different novel and understanding the views of different writers.

Prior to beginning any preliminary research activities, a pre-meeting on using various literature materials has been held with experts and guide. The researcher has notified all parties who were important from point of view of research are intimated prior to conduct the research. The important parties include guide, the people or friends and experts who were going to help in conducting research were contacted and invited for meeting. Various strategies have been decided on how to perform research and what tools and techniques must be utilized to get best outcome from the research. Various standards are decided while performing the activities of research. Guide have played very vital role in giving the specifications for the research work. One of the primary purposes of the pre-meeting is to delineate the requirements and limits of the upcoming research. The pre-research meeting provides an opportunity to determine the type and amount of research activities to be done, and will prevent over-research as well as under-research of the literature and subject.

Checks and calibrations on all types of research methods are essential to obtain and maintain the minimum acceptances required in this chapter. Methods must be properly verified, regularly checked, and calibrated for accuracy at the beginning of any research to ensure that the method is operating properly in accordance with requirement of the research. If in any method faults are found to exist, they must be reported to the guide prior to the start of the research. These errors will need to be verified and eliminated prior to performing any research.

It cannot be overstated that the proper research will result in a better all-around scheme and it will make research analysis more secure. Researcher may find in his/her research that may not utilize information or monuments currently in use, or will end up working with a completely different set of data and monuments as the requirements of research implies. It is advisable to keep an open mind to allow for the inclusion of new data and information discovered by research.

Even though the data are collected at one point in time with the research there are methods of comparing items or looking for change. For example, the literature reviewed may be time-ordered, referring to events in the past, present, or the future. A basic, descriptive design is also often a good first step toward finding direction for a more complex design later on. The most important factors in choosing a design are the needs and the resources of the literature.

#### **4.3 Steps for conducting Research:**

The following steps are intended as a general outline of the methods generally used in conducting a research. Consideration of these steps is useful in completing the research design before the actual research begins. An overview of the steps involved in the research process is given in the following Steps.

##### **1. Define Purpose Of Research**

- i) The research is done to study the contemporary Indian women novelists work .
- ii) It's impact on the society and suggestion for improvement.

##### **2) Role of Three Women Novelists**

- i) The Three novelists and feminist Githa Hariharan ,Manju Kapur and Anita Nair's novels are considered for the research.

##### **3) Collection of the Data**

- i) Primary Method of Data collection is used
- ii) Secondary Method of Data collection is used

##### **4) Planning the research design and research method used**

- i) Interpretative Research
- ii) Theoretical research
- iii) Biographical Research

## **5) Final Stage**

- i) Analysis of data
- ii) Interpretation and report writing is done

### **1) Define Purpose of Research:**

Any research may it be conducted by researcher or any organization is done with some purpose. The purpose of the research may be for acquiring knowledge or for improving sales depends upon the researchers. In this case the research is an attempt to portray the woman of modern and current modern India as characterized in the novels of Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair, who are devoted to raise feminist and social issue. Their novels are the mirror image of the Indian women of the modern age, in an effort of shaping their life in their own ways, and tackling the differences in the tradition and modern society. In this way we can divide the problem or issues of the woman into two form one is tradition which is output of the belief system which was natured by our primitives in our way.

### **2) Role of three Women Novelist:**

The next important step in the conducting research is role of three women novelist which are included in the research study by the researcher. In this research work three very important novelist are Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair who have attempt to portray the women of modern and postmodern India as depicted in their novels, who are committed to raise feminist and social issues. Their novels show how the Indian woman of the modern age, in an effort of shaping her life in her own ways, is torn between tradition and modernity.

### **3) Collection of Data:**

Collection of data is next step in research. A perfect research designed is tried to be framed in order to get definite plan determined before any data are actually collected for obtaining source. Primary sources are original works which give extra information and insight to the researcher. Primary sources can be hard to understand without some knowledge of their context. Primary sources include statistical data, manuscript surveys, speeches, biographies, diaries, oral histories, interviews work of art and literature research report government documents.

The research work presents description and analysis of the life and experience of the female characters in their domestic life. The characters and their social situations are presented with comments on the social and family background of each female character in the novels. The researcher has first analyzed the primary sources with the feminist perspective.

Primary sources used for the Thesis are the Original Texts written by the Novelists, the researcher has selected the following Novels:

- 1) Hariharan Githa “The Thousand Faces of Night. New Delhi: Penguin Book, 1992”
- 2) Hariharan Githa “When Dreams Travel. New Delhi: Penguin Book, 1999”
- 3) Kapur Manju “Difficult Daughters. London: Faber and Faber, 1999”
- 5) Kapur Manju “A Married Woman, IndiaInk, 2002”
- 6) Kapur Manju “Home, Random House India, 2006”
- 7) Nair Anita “Ladies Coupe New Delhi: Penguin Books:2000”
- 8) Nair Anita “Mistress New Delhi: Penguin Books:2000”

The researcher has used different types of secondary sources, for example articles, encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbook, periodicals, indexes, reviews, critical articles etc.as a secondary source. Secondary data analysis is commonly known as



second hand analysis. It is simply the analysis of preexisting data in a different way or to answer a different question than originally intended. Data and information collection for secondary data analysis will depend entirely upon the subject that is central to the focus point of study. Therefore, the purpose of conducting secondary data analysis is to further develop an improved understanding of the subject matter at hand. In order to use secondary data, the researcher has followed following three steps.

- i) Locate the data
- ii) Evaluate the data
- iii) Verify the data.

**Materials and Tools used by the researcher**

Journals	Virtual Library
<b>Books</b>	E Books
<b>Conference Proceedings</b>	E Journals
<b>Government Reports</b>	Internet
<b>Newspapers</b>	Encyclopedias
<b>Unpublished Theses</b>	Thesauruses

The sample design is decided by the researcher after taking into consideration the nature of the enquiry and other related factors.

**4) Planning the Research Design and Research Method:**

Once the research is decided next important step in research is planning the research design and deciding the research method. There is no data without a theory, so researcher needs to emphasize the theoretical basis for his selection of relevant data. However, the methodology of interpretation varies from person to person, but each researcher has to specify his process of collecting and analyzing data. Researcher in this regard have studied many research tools and reports present in the various libraries. The important suggestion given by the guide and expert people is taken into consideration for selecting best research design and method. Many options of research design and method is verified and best suitable option is selected and tested before implementing it for the purpose of the research. It was then decided to collect data in very systematically way and is arranged in order to meet the standard of research and get desired knowledge and information from it. Proper planning of the research is done by the researcher taking in confidence the suggestion given by the guide and experts. So as to implement this, the researcher has first collected the Primary sources i.e. Original Texts of the Novelists then turn towards collecting the secondary data from various sources like National and International Libraries, also collected from various articles published in National and International Journals, Magazines, different Interviews, Critical Books, Reviews, etc. After collection of the data the researcher go through it thoroughly and try to interpret it in her own way. The record is properly maintained and sharing of this data to unrecognized sources have been avoided. This means confidentiality is maintained by the researcher.

However, literature is the product of the society which needs to be studied from different lenses and perspectives: therefore, literary research is different than the research in natural sciences and in social sciences. Research in natural sciences and in social sciences enriches our spiritual awareness and perception of human life. Even materials and tools of literary research are quite different. In fact, literature is the product of creative mind of an author who employees' different linguistic strategies by using his talent and creative abilities. Therefore, literary research cannot imprison itself to either the literary text or the writer: it studies

both. In literary research, a researcher cannot ignore literary artist's approach, perception of life, literary ideology, literature vision, linguistic ability and imaginative power. In a sense research in literature

Is not complete in itself because of multiplicity of meanings and interpretations of a single literary text. Therefore, area of research in literature is very vast. There are three kinds of literary research

- I) Interpretative Research
- II) Theoretical Research
- III) Biographical Research

The researcher would apply the following methods for research work.

i) It will be of exploratory and interpretative nature.

ii) The study material will comprise the collection and thorough analysis of primary and secondary sources.

Collection of research papers, articles, reviews, critical material on the works of Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur, and Anita Nair.

### **5) Final Stage:**

After the data have been collected the researcher have analyzed them. The researcher has done a number of closely related operations such as establishment of categories, the application of these categories to raw data through coding and then drawing statistical influences. The researcher condensed have unwieldy data into a few manageable groups for further analysis. Thus, researcher have classified the raw data into some purposeful and useable categories. Coding operation is done at this stage through which categories of data are transformed

into written work that have been examined and verified by researcher. Editing is the procedure that improves the quality of the data for writing. With writing the stage is ready for verification and checking validity. Various report and self-analyzed interpretation are prepared and validated by the experts and guide so as authentic information and outcome is drawn. The sequential arrangement and presentation of various subjects, literature and writing are done in very systematic way. It helps in better understanding of the research work done. Then finally the hypotheses are validated and proper interference is taken out so as to reach at general view of the research. The objectives of the research are accomplished by proving the details and giving self-analyzed statement which are relevant from point of view of research. The conclusion is given in details and scope for the further study is also discussed at the end of the research report writing. Various sources and references are mentioned at the end in the bibliography so that the authenticity is maintained.

## Chapter No 4.

### Data Analysis and Interpretation

#### 4.1 Introduction:

After the collection of the data, data has to be dealt with to get information from it. It has to be processed and analyzed to achieve its purpose of collecting. It has to pass through many discrepancies and system to check its accuracy so to get anticipated outcome. It gives chance to compare data to come at result. In this research, the study of novels written by the 3 contemporary novelists is collected from different sources and then presented it with help of experts available by the researcher.

In technical term, processing implies editing, review and synthesizing of collected data so that they are amenable to analysis. The data collected is in raw form. It has to be processed and analyzed in certain format. Thus, "In the process of analysis, relationship or difference, supporting or conflicting with original or new hypotheses should be subjected to statistical tests of significance to determine with what validity data can be said to indicate any conclusions." Thus, in this research study, researcher has followed the procedure which is appropriate and is according to the hypotheses used by the researcher.<sup>1</sup> After properly studying all the facts regarding analysis of data a process is selected and implemented by researcher. Proper pattern is followed by the researcher to present the data.

Researcher has carried out the operation of data analysis and processing in three phases:

#### 1) Editing:

Editing of data is a process in which examine of the data is done, so as to limits errors and omissions and to correct wherever possible. While doing editing researcher has kept in the mind the exact concept resulting from the data. Without modifying major changes, correction is done wherever necessary. As the data collected was from secondary sources, researcher has

carefully handled the data and converted it in useful information. Unnecessary data has been dropped from the research. Guide's help is taken in editing important part of the research.

#### 2) Reviewing:

After editing the data, researcher has done reviewing of data. Reviewing denotes to the process of assigning meaning to the data collected so that data can be put into limited

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<sup>1</sup> Project Report on Advertisement , Murli Agarwal ,

form so that quality is maintained. Looking at the immensity of the data researcher has converted data of novels into limited number of pages and presented it in a systematic manner. Reviewing is necessary for efficient analysis and through it the numerous upshots is reduced to small number which contain the critical information required for analysis. Researcher has carefully misplaced the error while reviewing.

### **3) Synthesizing:**

After reviewing the data, researcher has utilized the important tool of processing data that is synthesizing of data. Understanding the broad and massive nature of data available of the 3 novelists, researcher has reduced the raw data into small paragraphs and quotes are taken as reference for the same, so as to get meaningful relationship between literature can be established. It is process of arranging into systematic manner on the basis of common characteristics. However, researcher has kept subject simple and understandable by layman person. Guide's help has donated for performance of the subject matter. Experience of guide as well as researcher has been fully utilized in synthesizing the data.

## **Chapter No 5**

### **Conclusion**

#### **Introduction: -**

The work of researcher has to be given proper justice; this can be done with the help of conclusion chapter. The outcomes and the efforts of the researcher are presented in very systematic way. It is the most important chapter which is presented with lots of efforts taken by the researcher. It plays very important role in research. It is considered as the soul of the research. It is last section of the research and it helps to leave the impression that researcher is confident about his research work. The quality of the conclusion can be measured by the way it is presented, it must be logical, and must be able to convince the reader regarding the views of the researcher. Weak conclusion will reduce the importance of the conclusion which will result in the incompetence of the researcher to convince the reader about the research conducted by him/her. Conclusion is considered as last chance to convince the reader about the research conducted. The proper structure of the conclusion is very crucial factor as it starts with the general context and move to narrower and to very particular and specific piece of information. It is most important chapter after the analysis of the data, as it is completely based upon the outcomes of the analysis done by the researcher. In research all chapter are linked to each other in same way conclusion has more weightage in research and so it is considered as soul of the research. New discovered information from the raw data after analyzing and synthesizing is shown in this chapter.

Researcher has taken utmost care while framing this chapter. Researcher has summed up the argument and the vital point covered in the study in very specific manner. Researcher is successful in giving justice to each topic of the research work. In conclusion researcher has shown the wide and broad prospectus of the subject and is able to create sense to the research work. At the end of the conclusion chapter researcher has given scope for the further study or research that could be conducted in the feminism this shows the acceptance of the research towards the subject. The conclusion is given in very organized manner and narrated in a very simple way so that any layman person can understand what the researcher wants to convey in the research work.

## **Fulfillment of objectives**

### **1. To study critically the fiction of contemporary Indian women novelists who wrote after 1980.**

The researcher has selected and critically studied the fiction of contemporary Indian women novelist who wrote after 1980, and after the close study of the novels written by them the researcher comes to the conclusion that these novelists who have high educational and intellectual standards, have sharpened their observations of life and have imparted a psychological depth to their writings. So, these writers have created a new canvas for the younger generation of Indian women novelists. These women writers have projected an insider's view of female psyche, inner aspiration and their peculiar responses to men and things.

### **2. To study the women characters portrayed by the three novelists from different perspectives and patterns.**

Researcher has studied the women characters portrayed by the three novelists in chapter 4.1, 4.2. And 4.3.

As far as the writings of the Githa Hariharan are concerned, she has portrayed her protagonist, who battles for her self identity in male dominated society. Her women protagonists are the representatives of the present day intellectual women.

**Manju Kapur** in her novels has emphasized on the issues in the context of patriarchy: inter-religious marriage, family bond, male-female bond, co-existence of past and present. She has narrated her women protagonists as a victim of biology, gender, domestic violence, and circumstances.

**Anita Nair** –paints her women as they are, with their defences down, ready to open their hearts to other women. The predicament of her characters is covered with a faint existential hue. They struggle for freedom are aware of their absurd situation, feel stifled in it and try to find out answer to the very mystery of their existence in a society that does not understand them. They all come finally to their conclusions and feel at peace with themselves and their worlds.



### **3. It also aims to study similarities between the three writers.**

- 1) Hariharan, Kapur and Nair's novels focus on the complexities of woman's life in different cultures and social values, and her struggle under the unfair mechanism of bolted society.
- 2) Three of them portray woman who is on the threshold of a self-discovery and suddenly decides to take her life in her own hands.
- 3) Their works encourage our understanding of the psyche of a woman, who is caught in the web of relationships, partly made by her, and partly made for her.
- 4) Female characters in the novels of these writers illustrate an enigma of tradition and modernity often faced by them in Indian society; their inner struggle between the desire to take care of their husbands and children; and the desire to discover deeper modes of fulfillment that fall outside the traditional social norms.
- 5) We also notice in their novels that traditionally glorified woman replaced with the genuine modern one, who is trying to throw off the burden she has been carrying for ages.
- 6) They have intellectually described through their novels, the different states of woman's mind in different circumstances.
- 7) Their novels manifest a woman's struggle for her emancipation from economic political and social bondage.
- 8) Kapur, Hariharan and Nair highlight those issues of feminism that are endemic to the situation in India. In order to help us understand how difficult it is for a woman here to arrive at an evolved state of mind being trapped within the milieu of religion and tradition.
- 9) They struggle for the equality of woman's rights historically and politically and emphasis on the value of woman in the society.
- 10) Hariharan's, Kapur's and Nair's female protagonists are the women of flesh and blood, not the mute, long-suffering tradition-bound women. They are human beings aware of their own individuality and aspirations. When they find themselves in oppressive patriarchal bondage, they struggle for freedom and achieve it. They appear to challenge the patriarchal moral code and the role prescribed for women.

#### **4. To study the status of the women in present context**

Though Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair Vary in their narrative techniques, attitude towards feminism but their novels are centered on family and finally the idea of 'New Woman' who questions their existence in patriarchy and break the social order or make a silent war against it and succeed keeping themselves within social conventions. The prominent thing is that their women realize they are in the dominance.

#### **Fulfillment of Hypothesis**

##### **1. Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair center their writings on women's position.**

Githa Hariharan is truly a great scholar as she covers a variety of themes and plenty of ancient myths in her novels. To provide a better understanding of her concepts, she narrates her stories through mythological examples that ascertain her as a lifetime learner. It is remarkable that feminism is rooted in all her novels. 'The Thousand Faces of Night' is absolutely a feminist novel, narrating the sufferings of woman over different ages. 'When Dreams Travel' illuminates the emergence of a new feministic approach i.e. Claims for justice and equality the themes in her novels are unique.

Manju Kapur registers her concern for the Indian woman and dwells on various feministic issues like female education and their empowerment, financial independence, elimination of woman's sexual abuse etc. She narrates important issues of class and nationhood and connects them to the emerging sense of female identity in postcolonial India. The novelist is quite down to earth in her feminist approach to the woman's problems. All her protagonists protest against the social rules to become self-dependent, but finally compromise for the sake of social harmony. She is aware of the seriousness of the Indian woman's dilemma and her generation old struggles behind it, but she believes that a positive change in her social status can materialize by bringing about a change in her mind set and making her literate and well informed. Kapur truly considers her role as Indian feminist as one of a humanist feminists.

Anita Nair has presented the life of her female protagonists in the post-independence India, in which women have begun to be conscious of their individuality and need to find their own place in the family and the society. In the 'Ladies Coupe' and 'Mistress', the

writer tries to show that the traditional view of woman is not any more acceptable. Akhila in Ladies Coupe illustrates the problem of how to stay alone in a male dominated society. Anita Nair poses questions before the society in portraying the life of her female protagonists. Her female characters appear to challenge the patriarchal system and show the possibility of existence of woman as an independent entity.

## **2. Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair are feminist novelists**

The researcher has also fulfilled the second hypothesis of her research work that is to analyze the three writers as feminist novelists,

**Manju Kapur as a Feminist Writer-** Manju Kapur is also truly afeminist; all her novels have a woman as the central figure and her struggle for identity as the central theme. She presents a new-fangled protagonist whom we can call a 'new woman'. In all her novels, she comes with a new woman with more dignity and determination. Her protagonists are so bold that they struggle hard to acquire their own identity and this is a new trend which emerges in her works. Her female protagonists are mostly educated. Their education leads them to an independent thinking, for which their family and society becomes intolerant. They struggle between tradition and modernity. It is their individual struggle with family and society, through which they plunged into a dedicated effort to carve an identity for themselves as qualified women with perfect backgrounds.

### **Githa Hariharan as a Feminist writer**

Githa Hariharan has challenged the traditional patterns of Indian social structure, and she has tried to strengthen women, the weaker sex. She has also challenged the belief that the woman has her place only in kitchen. She has given a message that 'men have failed lest women should take over. Githa Hariharan has attacked the out dated traditions which were responsible for social injustice. She has raised the war against this outdated tradition. Githa Hariharan is successful in visualizing the helpless women who are cornered by the system. She has challenged the orthodox social system of India. Githa Hariharan has revolted against the patriarchal system which is a constant hurdle in the women's development. The realistic expressions of Githa Hariharan must be given credit for authentically reflecting women's agony, grief and sorrow. Thus, it comes possible to

state that Githa Hariharan is a feminist novelist and her works mostly deal with the feminist elements.

**Anita Nair as a feminist writer:** Anita Nair is a writer who makes her readers, understand and feel what it is to be a woman, know how a woman thinks and feels and behaves. She depicts the psychological crisis of Indian women who are subjected to physical and psychological torture in a male dominated society. She skillfully explores the agonized mind of the persecuted women. She portrays the psychological conflicts of women to choose between tradition and modernity. She protests against the violence against women physically and mentally. This attitude of her marks her as a feminist writer which she often refuses to agree. Anita Nair has unconsciously used the myth of patriarchy in all her novels, and has given voice against it through her characters and thereby has become a feminist writer.

### **Scope for further Research**

Here, the researcher very honestly states that she has tried to do justice to the topic of the research, but there is a scope for further research in the areas such as the theme of -

1. Female Bonding and Feminist consciousness reflected in the novels of Githa Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair.
2. Motherhood and Feminist consciousness reflected in the novels of Hariharan, Kapur and Nair.
3. Researcher can also undertake comparative study of feminist consciousness reflected in the novels of Indian writer and Western writer.
1. The research undoubtedly has a scope for future researchers. It will further encourage young scholars and researchers to do a detailed study on Hariharan, Manju Kapur and Anita Nair.

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