

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Women writings reached the tremendous growth in world literature by questioning the brutal indictment of the stereotypical society. Their writings break the domestic walls framed by the patriarchal society and have created a new plight in this social milieu. The independent growth of feminist movement has challenged the male chauvinistic society by questioning the disorderly society by their popular literatures. The accurate image of the contemporary society finds a predominant place in their works with popular diction. They have explored crime and detection in their writings and proved that this genre is also packed with social and cultural implications. Indian women writings play an inevitable role in detective and crime fiction and adapted the characters as per the Indian context. Debunking the voice of women through sentimental propaganda has demolished the seeds of feminist revolution. The successful inauguration of women writings has attained a rapid progress and is the root cause of the growth of feminine sensibility even in the writings of men.

The significant growth of feminism and the literary writings of Westerners have created a drastic impact and the source of inspiration to the Indian women writers to enter into the literary arena with great enthusiasm. The genre of feminist fiction rooted in the Indian soil by the powerful voices of women writers has raised them from the patriarchal society. Their domestic and societal life experience has motivated them to come up with the exploration of indigenous themes and characters. Besides they have also achieved the commercial success and acclaim after the beginning of the twentieth century by questioning the classical rules that

have been framed against them. It is obvious that they have a strong determination and an unquenchable passion to produce the various kinds of sub-genres in their style of writing. The researcher attempts to find the incrusted life of women through feminism induced detective approach by the study of Kishwar Desai's novels.

The writings of Indian women in English have reached its peak by their remarkable features with legendary artistic quality. It brings to light the various aspects of women psyche and their life in family, society, religion, politics etc. Feministic writings in India have exposed the challenges and the bigotry violence undergone by women which has also become the theme and focus of their writings. The fictional pieces written by the novelists were mostly based on tracing the real incidents and experiences they face in their domestic life and also depict the characters as per the Indian context.

The astonishing growth of Indian women in the literary scenario has become a source of inspiration to women to awake themselves from the horrible acts practiced against them. It has also laid the substratum to equip them from the vigorous act of the male chauvinist society. India turns to be the platform for the effective growth of women creative writers from the twentieth century to extirpate the misery and stumbling block in their matrimonial and public life. Kamala Markandaya, Shashi Deshpande, Nayantara Sahgal, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, Kamala Das, Ruth Perwar Jhabvala, Shobha De, Arundhati Roy have created a fresh look by marching against the stereotypical role of male tyrannized and hegemonized society.

Among the galaxy of women writers, Kishwar Desai has entered into the literary arena with fine sensibility in the life of postmodern women. As a noted

writer of social thriller novels, she has recorded the bizarre violence encountered by women even from their navel string to the graveyard. Desai brilliantly handled her detective fictions by her single masterpiece portrayal of detective-cum-crime-investigator Simran Singh and had proved that detection is a predestined process to support and maintain law and order in the society. In this postmodern milieu, crime and detective fiction plays a predominant role to save the woman folk from the marginalized sector.

Desai has proved her strong tendency to work for the emancipation of women which is displayed in her writings. Her unquenchable passion transformed the journalist experience into fictional mode to limelight the vices which prevail in Indian society. Her entry into the literary world has helped her to receive the red carpet welcome for attaining the Costa First Novel Award for her debut novel *Witness the Night* in 2010. She has portrayed the churlish reality of surrogacy industry and the anomalous life of women in her second novel *Origins of Love* in 2012. Her third novel *The Sea of Innocence* sprouts out as the reflection of crude realities of unstabilized political system and the contaminated social setups. The speciality of this novel is that; it traces the Delhi gang rape of Nirubaya which happened in 2012.

The present study entitled “Discourse on Incrustation of Women in the Post Modern Era: A Critical Study on Kishwar Desai’s Novels” is an attempt to explore dismantled life of women species in Indian society from the hands of barbarous men. This study is divided into five chapters and each chapter gives a new look by the strong framework in the adoption of techniques and has created an innovative look in the wide area of research.

The “Introduction” chapter has launched the area of research and the researcher’s problem. It has inaugurated with the history and the growth of Western feminism from the hands of Mary Wollstonecraft. It has paved the way to spread its branches to the Indian land, where it is treated as marginalized literature. Feminism has refurbished the life of women from the compressed life and has reached the literary world with their marvelous feet. Their works have created a great impact in social and cultural implications. In this post-millennial world, the literary works of women writers reflects the precise image of the contemporary society with great originality. They have proved that their works are inevitable and not to be treated as marginalized literature. This chapter briefly discusses the origin, growth and development of feminist movement from the west to the Indian land. Through this process, women writings and the emergence of feminism is discussed in brief.

The second chapter “Fictionalised Reality” views the hard reality in family and the social context forces the women to become a victim. It contaminates the society and gives pathway to divergence in equality, penury, exploitation, aberration in social rights, antagonism in race, extreme greed for power and wealth which totally destroys the human values. The novelists like Kishwar Desai, have found fiction as a suitable medium to expose the existing problems prevailing in the contemporary society.

The third chapter “Incrusted Feminine Force in the novels of Kishwar Desai” traces dusky atmosphere faced by women from political to personal and public to private. ‘Self-sacrifice’, a woman’s symbol and gender based discrimination has becomes a deadly disease in several sectors of woman’s lives. Desai works with feminine sensibility in her novels and has evolved as a voice for the millions of

women who are battered burnt, sexual violence, mutilated both in public and private forms. She has used her pen as a powerful tool to highlight the consensual violence caused by materialistic patriarchy to attain the multimillion dollar enterprise. Thus the literary works of Desai elevated not only the aesthetic creations, but it has elucidated the messy reality and the struggle to conserve human rights or values in the universal level.

The fourth chapter “Redemption of Life: A Critical Study of Kishwar Desai’s Novels” focuses on the various challenges faced by single women entrepreneurs to redeem the incrusted life of marginalized women folk and bring them to the centre by undergoing numerous physical and mental adventures. Desai operates her fiction by her woman entrepreneur Simran Singh who works with determination to overcome the patriarchal conventions and has emerged as a resurrected woman by crossing the blockades of womanhood. She proclaims that the postmodern women will never swallow the inequity, violation and prejudiced patriarchal sovereignty like a customary practice. But woman can burn all the feminine assertion by creating a great social change through the act of instrumental revolution like Simran.

The researcher has analyzed the detective aspects in the fictions of Desai, she has experimented the crime committed against women from dawn to dusk. All the three novels are located in India and they mostly deal with Indian woman characters and their problems for their survival. Incrustation happens in their life for sex, wealth and reputation. But on the other hand, it gives rise to the growth of crime and consequently human values are to be dumped into the pit. Thus, justice supports the growth of one sex and tries to eradicate the honour of the other.

The fictitious characters of Desai are like mirrors that are created based on the humans of this earth. The violent and horrifying actions against women forces Desai to come up with the fictions in the detective mode and to get justice from the prospective criminals. The novels taken up by the researcher for the critical study are the hidden realities of our society and it is to be practiced in India. Thus the novels of Desai render social service to the woman folk to save them from all kinds of animalistic activities against them. The feminism induced detective fictions of Desai provide an ample record of social thrillers and urges for the physical security of woman on earth. Thus her fictions have paved a way to attain the principle of natural justice and redeem their life from all kinds of destructions.

The novel *Witness the Night* is the social thriller which deals with the hidden reality of female infanticide and foeticide in North India. The reader begins to feel the extent of brutality against women and gets intrigued by the change of protagonist as a juvenile delinquent in a single night. The novel's peculiar brand of mysticism works well up to this point precisely because it works within a recognizable and a strange framework of reality. This psychological crime novel is written in the form of diary by Durga to the social worker Simran Singh to reveal the secrets of her life.

The present study reveals the truth that harassment can be attributed to any form of physical, visual or verbal conduct demonstrating hostility towards a child. The harassment against women was done in many forms from womb to tomb. If they continuously get harassed, they will rise against the society. It spoils their life and creates harm to others knowingly or unknowingly like Durga. Their negative influence of life even turns them as terrorist. Through Simran Singh, Durga's life gets changed and she turns as a normal human being. Likewise, if proper love, care

and affection are given to any abnormal human being, one can turn them as a normal one. In this present era, machines are the controllers of human's life and it is the decision maker of his or her fate. It is like a God whether to give life to a woman or not. Through the cruel act of female infanticide and foeticide our society lost many unnamed female off springs who has the urge to live in this world as a woman. Thus the humanism gets withered from the hands of machine made man.

Witness the Night brings the picture of Atwal family who are known excellent in running the clinics in Jullundar. It deals with the enigmatic death of thirteen members in the family in a single night. Durga as a teenage girl is found in the straggling house and the thirteen dead bodies of Atwals disposed around her. She also got contaminated with poison, and battered by several physical abusements and rape. Her innocence is not spotlighted by the public thus she treated as a culprit before the law. She got imprisoned as the Juvenile Delinquent by predicting her through the circumstantial evidence. The reports of the post-mortem didn't give the proper explanation regarding the dead of the thirteen bodies of Atwals. The noble heart of Simran, enraged by the pitieous condition of the oppressed girl and attempts to identify the conundrum behind the mass murder in a single night. All the lifeless bodies of Atwals were heavily dumped with poison, burnt and slashed. The powerful social media displays innocent Durga as a trained professional in murdering and also used several kinds of weapons to destroy her family member for taking revenge against the brutal act of female infanticide and foeticide done by the Atwals.

In this postmodern era, Indian English Fiction presents women not as the silent victim and upholder of the tradition and traditional values of family and society has undergone an enormous change and is no longer presented as a passive

character. Desai's protagonist Simran Singh as a single individual woman rebels against the traditional role, breaks the silence of suffering tries to move out of the cage existence and asserts the individual self. Her emergence as neo-Indian lady, defy the patriarchal notions that enforce woman towards domesticity, assert her individuality and aspire self-reliance through education. Her genuine social work makes her to be bold, outspoken, determine and action oriented. Thus Desai's novels bloom with a postmodern woman who saves the marginalised women and become a voice for the subdued, subjugated and suppressed.

Simran Singh applies syllogism methods in her detective journey to unlock the mystery behind the death of Atwals. Through her investigation, she finds Harpreet Singh, Ramnath Singh and the old servant of the Atwals Manubhai is in the list under suspicion. The brutal treatment faced by Durga and Sharda by the Atwals, be the pathway to their tutor Harpreet Singh who spoiled them both physically and psychologically. He may be the culprit who has killed the entire family except Durga by pointing her as the murderer for taking revenge against female foeticide. The bribed police Superintendent Ramnath Singh also had given a fake report regarding the murder and arrested Durga by creating evidences against her. Simran's investigation shifts to find the vanished condition of Sharda to Paagalkana where she treated as the mental retarded person. Thus the Atwals daughters are considered as curse before and after birth with a short life span. Thus the novel *Witness the Night* gives the view of heinous crime committed by Atwals against their own girls without any kind of mercy for them. Desai provides the indication regarding the murder and leaves it into the hands of the readers to identify the culprit. Thus the novel is open to several kinds of interpretations.

Desai's novels convince with the fact that the personality of every individual gets framed by the social institutions and the mechanism in its functions. Durga's entire life gets designed after the disastrous event faced from the family and society and to emerge herself as a successful teenager with the support of the strong personality Simran. Thus the concept of functionalist gets illuminated by the thought that family be the leading element in the socialization of a child. It is to be justified with Durga at the end of the novel.

Women in northern parts of India especially in Bihar, Haryana, Orissa, Punjab suffers from poverty, illiteracy and mal-nutrition, unemployment, several health ailments etc and this transforms them as bonded labourer, forced into prostitution and flesh trade. The novel *Origins of Love* stands as an example to the world by the effective description of illegal surrogate industry and portrays how women are sold as camels in the market. The surrogates presented in the novel who struggles between tradition and modernity and the choice of life gets arrested inside the iron walls of the hospitals.

Thus in the novel, *Origins of Love* draws our attention to one of the new forms of violence against women, especially towards surrogate mother who not only become the victims of patriarchal violence but more subtle forms of violence in which they have to be mute spectators and bearers of violence. This utter disregard for these underprivileged women makes the part of the business activity that debases and destroys their individual self. This extreme form of violence on a mother's womb takes us close to the process of deification and the material world where even the womb of mother is for sale. By practising non-violent ideology, the traditional form of patriarchy into a new form with the help of technology.

This monetized surrogate business may be the root cause for the transformation of Genetic diseases rapidly from the mother to child and vice versa. People are unaware with the fact that surrogacy may ruins the environment by spreading several kinds of communicable diseases both directly and indirectly. It is better to adopt the child by saving its life from orphanage. But surrogacy spoils the child by creating the imbalance in physical, mental and psychological levels. It is highly economic when we compare surrogacy with adoption methods. The expense for the In Vitro Fertilization and the surrogates and the international travel for the commissioning parents would be very expensive. There is a need of half an amount is required to provide the food and schooling of thousands of homeless, hungry, undernourished children in India.

Feeding the baby is the natural boon given to mother from God. But it is denied to surrogate mother by the commissioning parents. It damages the physical prosperity of the biological mother due to the poisonous drugs and it is against the harmony of physical growth and development. In the case of surrogate mother, the drugs given to induce the egg production in women could be a life threatening process. More number of surrogate face several kinds of risk during the fertility treatments and it affects their natural tendency.

A baby was meant to be the anchor or the bridge or the connecting point of the family. If a woman fails to create the bridge, she may lose the bridge of her family and must create a pathway to her husband to find the fertile bride. In the case of Malti and Mehta, she undergoes several kinds of spiritualistic rituals but everything ends in failure. If she moves to the noble process of adoption, she may escape from the life time abusement of barren life. The novel *Origins of Love*, also

celebrates the love, strength and self-sacrifice of the Indian mother Sonia and the dramatic focus of the novel are women as a sacred feminine force leads the life with very limited resources of the family. Employment opportunities must be provided to the women who are in the lower rank of the society. It will automatically get away from the hell of surrogacy business.

In the case of commissioning parents, they prefer the fertile surrogate who has the capacity to bear the male child. Even though the practice is unnatural; they are partial with the gender of the baby. But in future the reverse thing will happen and female child were considered as the property. Limited stock in the market always highlighted as praiseworthy. Likewise, if there is scarcity for female ones, people will automatically shift their idea and welcomes them with much enthusiasm. Thus all our customs and the rigid practices against woman will change to get a female one.

Our society is highly crooked in terms of money and wealth. It makes them to select the sex of the baby before or after it is born. Thus the term aroused as Female infanticide and foeticide which is very common in our society. The world will not operate without the involvement of women. Thus there is a need of a girl and the society will change and have the favor towards the female children. This also arouse with the thought that the female one will bring wealth, money and prosperity.

India becomes the child production factory for the gay couples. The economic prosperity of gay couples turns them as parents even though it is against the laws of nature. But the deep agony of the surrogate mother is not to be recognized by any human being. After her hard labour, there is a hope for her better

life. The Machine becomes a God and it decides whether to give life to a woman or not. Thus the belief in God turns to belief in machines and it will decide the fate of women in the Post Modern Era.

The cultural contamination by the consumer conscious western society has tainted social values of our country become the central plot of the novel *The Sea of Innocence*. Feminism, sexuality, nudity, permissiveness, promiscuity, pornography and prostitution etc, have conquered the Indian minds. They have lost the spiritual outlook of life. Youngsters are taught as to how they should be naughty, indiscipline and sexually active, even when they are in their prime age. The western culture, conveyed through western film, Television programmes etc, steal and spoil the young minds from its pristine, natural qualities of social behaviour. They are converted as addicts of sex, drugs and crime. But on the other hand, the innocent human beings may face the punishment due to circumstantial evidences created with the use of media. The novel *The Sea of Innocence* displays, Vishnu as an innocent young boy but the circumstantial evidences stamps him as a criminal and needs to tolerate all kinds of pains during his imprisonment. But later on, it urges him to take revenge on his conspirators, who spoiled his peaceful life.

Violence is worshipped and vulgarity is patronised; women are portrayed in the media as the symbol of sex and sexuality. Nudity is exhibited without any control. The influence of this media among the common is immense. In a consumer society, when competition of consumer goods and its successful marketing takes the central place, it erodes cultural values and people slip into the bottom of greed, selfishness and immorality. Things are exhibited on the screen without any inhibition or control. The culture of western society is typically copied in Indian

films in this postmodern era. Thus crime, cruelty, terrorism etc are the subject matter of these film and Television Channels. This nefarious influence is one of the root causes for the cruel molestation of young girls like Liza, Scarlet Kneeling, Vicky etc.

Desai's novels created awareness with the fact that, if someone is ready to give more offers, it is their pathway to trap their mind and body into the nest made by them. The human trappers are highly aware with the loaded bundles of unfulfilled dreams of women. Their wishes convert them as their slaves and it leads to the abusement of girls in many ways. 'Delayed Justice' is the root cause for several evils in the society. In the case of Liza in *The Sea of Innocence*, her brutal death never received justice due to the time lacking investigation done by our judiciary. Her innocent death lost its importance and Marian's fight for her justice become a backstage voice, soon gets silenced by the dominant force. Thus the unwilling capacity to reveal their identity and the lack of union in the public leads to the drawback of women development

As per the findings of the researcher, woman folk become a rare species and it is visualized through Desai's novels. The focal point of the novel *Witness the Night* is the mass murder of female infants in the Atwal land through infanticide and foeticide. The novel *Origins of Love* elucidates the diabolical act towards surrogates Preeti, Radhika, Sonia and the numerous unnamed girls. Her third novel *The Sea of Innocence* have aroused by the brutal act against women, which turns them as victims for sex and drug trade. Thus the future mothers are dumped into the burial land through prenatal and postnatal oppressiveness using womb as the place of rent, commodification of female body for business enterprise. Through the study the

researcher comes with a conclusion that “Women become a rare species” with a critical outlook in the novels of Kishwar Desai. Girl babies are the bane to the family because of the family reputation and dowry system. If we continue this merciless way of killing female infants, it is very rare in future to find a mother to give birth to a child to create new generation.

This detective study reveals the truth by echoing the last words of victims like Nirubaya and recorded their last cry as, “I want to live in this world” and the veterinarian Priyanka Reddy “I am scared”. This is set to be the best example regarding the incrusted life of women. ‘Thirst’ and ‘Greed’ for wealth are used as the tool to victimize women in all three novels of Desai. In the novel *Witness the Night*, Harpreet played a double game with Atwal family and murdered them in a single night and the innocent Durga pointed as a culprit under his master plan. Thus Durga became a victim and stamped as a Juvenile Delinquent. In the second novel *Origins of Love*, Subhash reached the international business of surrogacy industry by corrupting the womb of Preeti with the deadly Human Immuno Virus and thus he enriched his business in global market. Also in the novel *The Sea of Innocence*, travels with the cold blooded politician Vineet Bhai who deliberately makes Liza as a victim of rape and used his body for drug transportation. By spotlighting all kinds of facinorous crimes against women, Desai’s novels make a call to all the citizens of India, that every men and women of our motherland are responsible to save the Indian woman folk from their incrusted state of life.

Individuality can be taken as a serious objective by negotiating inferior and superior complex among men and women. The advocacy of liberation emphasized by the feminist movement paved the way for the successful credible future where all

genders are to be treated with equal recognition. This complementary attitude can be achieved by painting the mind with the fragmentation of silence, obtaining optimistic identification, acquisition without capitulating individuality. The world must free from constraining the freedom of childhood experiences, gender bias, bigotry sexual violence, dilemma in specification, demolishing the individuality, displacement, untarnished nobility in the life of women which legalize them to spring up from their own Gordian knot.

The scientific and technical equipments are created to develop the advancements in human life. But in certain cases, it is a bane for woman's development. In the novel, *Witness the Night*, the technology is wrongly used to identify the sex of woman's foetus. It erodes the birth of a female infant through the process of foeticide. In the novel *Origins of Love*, the technological developments become a boon to create multiple embryos to enhance the business of surrogacy and in the novel *The Sea of Innocence*, the unpleasant videos and the hidden camera operation in private residence affect the pleasant life of woman. Thus it turns as a bane for woman's development. Machineries and its technological developments are unaware with virtues and vices. It completely works as per the instructions and directions given by the operator. With its support, humans destroy the pleasant and peaceful life of woman in this postmodern era.

The novels of Desai are the replica of present social status of women in this postmodern era and it becomes the aspiration for future. Desai differentiates three kinds of women characters in her novels as the first group is with majority in number who are termed as victims or sufferers. The second group is quiet compliant yet dreams of resurrection. But the third group is with self-reliant, defiant and has

several potentials with revolutionary ideas to proclaim against the patriarchal community as neo-Indian lady to save the entire woman folk from all kinds of discriminations. By presenting numerous victims in her novels, Desai alert the authorities to pinpoint the causes of this victimization and to take preventive measures to eradicate this quandary situation and to achieve a complete revitalization for the entire woman's life.

'Unity first, equality later' will be the watch-word for the women in this materialistic world. To accelerate the trend of progress, the entire woman folk must awake themselves by provoking their unity despite of their social, cultural, linguistic and regional differences. This progressive march will enhance them to reach the social goals through the woman organizations and unions to eradicate the issues like female infanticide and foeticide, dowry death, sexual harassments and social evils and injustice to the women. It will create a sense of fear in the minds of anti-social and unscrupulous elements and prevent them from committing all sorts of atrocities against women. Thus equality will be achieved through the first step with the clear indication of unity.

Women are the precious human being created by God in earth. She plays the inseparable role in the development of human society. By doing the research work on Kishwar Desai's novels, regarding the incrusted life of women in the Post Modern Era, the researcher draws with a conclusion that there is a need of a 'New Mother' who will change the Universe with her pure love. She considers the birth of a girl is a boon; her foetus is divine and only accepts the birth of the baby of her own and she nourishes (nurtures) her boys to mutually respect the girls like his own sisters. Adoption turns out to be a noble process by giving life to the lifeless like

Simran to Durga, Sharda and Amelia. This feminism induced detective fiction of Desai opens up a new intellectual exercise as in the readers that the realistic description of fictitious characters garnished with the fact that the concept of ‘New Mother’ will lead to the redemption of life from their incrustation. Desai’s novels also open to the merit of Psychological study, Sociological and Game theory-based to the future researchers who are interested in this area of Indian Women Writings.