PREFACE

Women, being the major constituent of human society has been the matter of less concern in the developmental discourse. Their role has been acknowledged as just like a factor in the property relations rather than a powerful human actor in the society at par with man. Man, by capturing the centers of authority and power in the course of history, dominated the socio-economic structure and for that matter they also determined the place of women in history just as the means of production. Women were chained by the multifaceted responsibility assigned to her through the coercive method.

Despite the negative social environment the modern history is the evidence of women's fight for their liberation. Their role and assertiveness are being acknowledged by the modern times.

Women, in Africa in general and Kenya in particular have recorded their historical role in all spheres of social life. From pre-colonial to post-colonial period they have established the fact of their contribution not as non-entity social human beings but as a conscious social and historical category, which has immense contribution to the process of social change in Kenya.
Ngugi wa Thiong'o an original intellectual and the most prolific personality of African literature has focused the role of women in his literature. The conceptual and theoretical construct of women's question appears through a methodology by understanding the causal relations of the problem where the socio-economic structurality appears in the centre of his assessment. In this thesis his fiction where women's question arises in a very formidable shape, has been the base of understanding the role and contribution of women for their liberation and emancipation which ultimately contributes in the liberation and emancipation of entire Kenyan society.

Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, whose fiction has been taken up to understand the problem of Kenyan women's liberation struggle is a prolific, prominent and a sensitive writer of Kenya. The women in his fictions are examined to be a challenge to popular stereotypes of submissive women, nurtured and perpetuated in the patriarchal culture. He portrays women as embodiments of courage and fearlessness who are capable of rebellion. They are in fact better than men. They have positive qualities like courage, confidence, and ability, to see truth more lucidly. In his fictions, women are projected as self-aware, confident, and politically conscientious - be
it because of hunger, war, destruction, physical exploitation or mental and economic oppression.

This research in totality intends to explore not only women's role as liberator in Kenyan society but also highlights the fact that women play a very significant role in it which has not been well recognized. A theoretical discourse on women's question taking up the whole historicity of women's problem from platonic age to the age of globalization, as well as a third world perspective on women has been discussed in the study.

This whole research intending at recognizing the women's contribution in Africa in general and Kenya in particular will be beneficial and helpful to those scholars researching on women issues in the third world countries.

Despite the emerging ambiguity in the theoretical and conceptual formation in modern discourse the thesis has tried the best to create a foundation of theory and concepts which makes the study more objective and useful.