This thesis aims at analyzing the occidental and oriental works of literary art with special reference to the select novels of Jane Austen and Lakshmi. Women novelists have a strong foundation of social awareness and concentration on family welfare.

The Introduction analyses the gradual development of the female psyche during Jane Austen and Lakshmi’s periods and places on record the social background of both the novelists. A short account of the individual works of Jane Austen and Lakshmi is given to highlight the comprehensive perception of both the writers. Mention is also made about the female predicaments portrayed in all their novels, which the study proposes to adopt for an interpretation. At the end of the chapter, the methodology of the present thesis is outlines and a chapter-wise plan of the study is provided. The study adopts the method of close analyses to interpret and evaluate the works of Jane Austen and Lakshmi.

Chapter II entitled Dichotomy of the Human Psyche takes cognizance of the psychological factors responsible for the principles of pleasure and the regulating agents. It analyses the women protagonists in Lakshmi’s Penn Manam, Oru Kaviriyai Pola and Bhavani and juxtaposes them with the
empowering attitude Jane Austen’s women - Elizabeth Bennett, Elinor Dashwood and Marianne. While Jane Austen’s women are prompted and propelled by sociological considerations, those of Lakshmi stand firm against on slaught and by affirmation of their psychic strength rise from the abysmal depths to the level of self-overcoming.

Chapter III Sociological and Familial Bonds deals with the social issues in the occidental and oriental world, interpreting their variations in terms of poverty, love and marriage. All the heroines in all the four novels find themselves suffering under overlapping disadvantages pertaining to material, family, social and personal categories. This chapter analyses the causative forces responsible for their predicaments.

Chapter IV Towards Empowerment through Learning Experience enunciates the individual traits prevalent in Lakshmi’s and Jane Austen’s select characters in whom nobility and lovableness stay dormant with surety. Self-restraint and self-recognition are two virtues which both the writers have extolled in their novels. The depiction of an acute grasp of the human mind and human motives reveal the artistic skill predominant in these two writers. Lakshmi and Jane Austen have not only given their concern to the externals of characters but also have psychologically portrayed the women’s inner self.
The principal themes of love matrimony in the women’s world and a series of misunderstandings and frustration which they undergo and the learning experience through which they emerge successfully have been justified.

Chapter V **Conclusion** recapitulates briefly the important points and issues discussed in the previous chapters. It sums up the arguments chapter-wise. It also highlights the relevance and significance of the comparative study and gives suggestions for further studies. It enlists the findings of the study. Scope for further research has also been suggested. The chapter concludes with the assumption that these two novelist—Jane Austen and Lakshmi though they belong to different sociological landscape have vividly viewed their female characters and have ultimately proved women to be in their homelands inspite of the space being antagonistic and their peace often seems to be ephemeral.

Both the novelists have universalized the female predicaments, where the psychological views of the woman with sociological and familial environment have simultaneously played a predominant role in which they struggle for empowerment and ultimately succeed. Both writers do not allow their women to be wasteful beings.