"What is wonderful about great literature is that it transforms the man who reads it towards the condition of the man who wrote."

- E.M. Forster.
Chapter 5

Comparative perspective of the selected novelists and revelation of man and destiny

Revelation of man and destiny through Hardy’s novels
Revelation of man and destiny through Vyankatesh Madgulkar’s novels
Comparative Perspective:
Chapter 5
Comparative perspective of the selected novelists and revelation of man and destiny.

The selected novels present certain common characteristics. Note of universal message is common. Revelation of man and destiny can be noticed through it. Though there are some differences in cultural, social, natural changes in East and West, concept of man and destiny is same. This can be viewed through comparative perspective. Hardy presented that man is victim of destiny whereas, Madgulkar has shown that destiny governs man. This philosophy of life of both of them is also same. This chapter shows some common ideas highlighted from the selected novels. These comparative notes form base for revelation of man and destiny.

“Hardy’s Philosophy of life,” Man, as a victim of circumstance or destiny.

The fundamental basis of Thomas Hardy's fatalism is seen embodied in his youthful actions and the very first works he wrote, and there is evidently a gradual development up to the day of his death. He had a fatalistic outlook throughout his whole life. In fact, even his birth seemed to be caused by a mere twist of fate. When Hardy was born, the attending surgeon pronounced him dead. He was thrown aside until Fate stepped in and summoned a nurse to realize that Hardy was in fact alive. Probably stemming from this, never in Hardy's whole life did he look upon existence as being much worthwhile. He felt that his stoically born life was a record of unhappiness. He believed that Fate maintains a disinterested attitude toward man. Hardy incorporates these feelings into the novel Tess of the d'Urbervilles. Fateful incidents, overheard conversations, and undelivered letters symbolize the forces of Fate working against man's destiny. Hardy's tender sympathy with nature and his belief in her as an instrument of Fate, is to be explained that his entire childhood was spent close to the soil. Growing up in the countryside of a small village of Egdon Heath, he could carefully observe the relentless regularity of natural changes. It is evident that Hardy considered Egdon Heath a personality, and likewise thought of it as an agent of Fate.

Hardy lived in an age of transition which added to his natural disposition toward a melancholy view of life. The industrial revolution was in the process of destroying the agricultural life and the nature around him that he was so fond of. Subsequent shifting of population caused a disintegration of rural customs and traditions which had meant security,
stability, and dignity for the people. It was a period when fundamental beliefs -- religious, social, scientific, and political -- were shaken to their very core and brought in their stead the "ache of modernism". Hardy's early struggle with religious problems was an important factor in shaping his fatalistic nature. As a child, it was Hardy's dream to become a parson. He had several clerical relatives who supported him in his goal. His grandfather, father, uncle, brother, cousin, and two sisters had been musicians in various churches. As a young man, he frequently read church lessons and became curious of the different religions of Christianity. He couldn't understand that if each religion believed in the same god how they could practice their faith so differently. This was very bothersome to him and eventually resulted in his conversion to a fatalistic approach to life. Hardy's loss of religious belief was very painful and was accompanied by deep struggles, but his new belief of fatalism enabled him to write many great works.

Struggle between man and fate is Hardy’s interpretation of the human situation. It determines characters of his novels. Hardy’s conflict is not between one man and the other or between man and an institution. Man is ranged against impersonal forces that condition his fate. His characters are not aware of all this. Destiny in the novels of Hardy appears in different forms. Sometimes it appears as a natural force. In ‘The May or of the Caster bridge,’ Henchard’s plans for making himself rich are frustrated by a bad harvest. Here, destiny takes shape of weather. Sometimes, it appears as some innate weakness of character e.g. in Jude the Obscure – Jude’s life is ruined because by birth he had intensity of sexual temperament. He could not control it and it ruined him. Mainly, in Hardy’s novels fate appears in the form of Chance and love. Chance is the most typical. In his novels, we see that chance exercises great influence on the course of events. We witness a battle between man and Destiny.

Following piece of interview better presents Hardy’s concept of man and destiny.

Anderson: Free will versus determinism is a theme throughout the works of Thomas Hardy.
Drabble: I was deeply influenced by Hardy and his rather gloomy view of destiny. Hardy's characters can't evade their fate; mine seem to have a little more free will. Or maybe they're just born in happier times.

(Margaret Drabble Discusses Fate, ‘Gloomy' Thomas Hardy.

*Interview by Hephzibah Anderson - August 14, 2007 01:29 EDT.*)
**Fate and Chance:**

Chance and coincidence play crucial role in all the novels of Hardy. They often operate as the deciding factors. Character is certainly responsible for the tragedy. Hardy felt that an evil power ruled the universe, defeating every attempt of man to make better his fortune or to find happiness. He believed that fate or destiny was sometimes indifferent, but most often hostile, to human happiness. The hostility of fate can be seen in Hardy’s novels. Fate acts in the form of chance or accident or coincidence to ruin them.

“Hardy is labeled as a fatalist, a determinist, a pessimist. He concentrates on the dark side of human life and excludes all the bright and cheering aspects of life. No single reason is responsible for the tragedy in all his novels, "fate", "character", "society", "chance and coincidence" plays a crucial part in the tragedy of Hardy's novel. Different devices of tragedy are employed by Hardy in different novels. In "The Mayor of Casterbridge", "character" was responsible for the tragedy in the play. In "The return of the native", "chance and coincidence" played a greater role in bringing about tragedy. In "Tess of the D'Urbervilles", "fate" plays a considerable role to contribute to the tragedy of the novel.

(Elliot, A. Pettigrew ‘Fatalism in the works of Thomas Hardy.’)

Hardy has a very pessimistic philosophy of life as his characters seem to have little control over their own lives. Hardy saw external circumstances and uncontrollable internal urges as controlling human actions. In this aspect we find that the vision of life that Hardy presented in The Return of the Native is essentially tragic. It shows man as the helpless plaything of invisible powers, ruthless and indifferent. In this novel Hardy embodies the idea that man lives in an indifference of universe. Critics usually refer to Hardy’s themes as expressing a fatalistic view of life, that is to say a view of life which depicts human actions as subject to the control of an impersonal force perhaps called destiny or fate which is independent of both man and man’s god. To Hardy, Nature is sometimes indifferent. A famous critic David Cecil remarks about Hardy “He illuminates Wessex but, in a light which comes from beyond the stars. The scale of his dreams is as vast as its setting is confined.” This can be seen in V.Madgulkar’s novels and this is the main thread for this comparative study.

Hardy presented Destiny as hidden force. Man can’t understand its nature or intentions. Man can’t predict what it will do. Hardy shows working of Destiny in the shape of inexplicable unexpected blows of chance. Discord in human life is presented. Man is
working to one end and Destiny to other. Destiny decides what will happen. Man can’t change and divert will of Destiny. In Hardy’s novels some past actions remain secret for some time and then they are revealed. By using this method he conveyed how destiny of his characters is pre-determined by the forces hidden from them. Characters can’t escape from consequences of past actions and they become instruments in the hands of Destiny and destiny uses this instrument against them. Hardy’s fatalism is transferred from outside to inside. He presented heroes and heroines struggling hopelessly in the net. His novels present the play of alien force controlling actions of mere puppets. His novels present tragedy of man, in which, man is mere plaything of chance or fate.

“Hardy’s ‘The Return of the Native’ is based on the assumption that man is destined by God to suffer the overwhelming pain and suffering which exits in the world. All the main characters of Return of the Native namely- Clym, Eustacia, Wildeve, and Mrs Yeobright have their own aims and ambitions. But all their plans turn into vain. They are trapped in a series of bitterly ironic events. They are faced with an incomprehensible universe. Destiny shows its power in more glaring form, namely in the form of accidents and coincidences.”

(Schirf D.L.Book Review, 2004.)

Characters' personality is the main influence in their actions and because their fate relies largely on their actions; characters have the chance to change their fate if they change their character. Characters who are unchangeful like Eustacia will never escape her fate. For example it is fate that Wildeve and Mrs. Yeobright visit Eustacia at the same time and it is fate that Clym is asleep.

To Hardy, Nature is symbol of impersonal force of fate. It works not from background but an actor in the play. It is an incarnation of a living force having its own will and purpose, e. g. ruining Henchard’s crops, sometimes; it is aloof, silent and ironic spectator of human creatures who are struggling in life. Hardy draws special aesthetic effect by presenting discord between man and his environment. The movement of man’s life and the movement of life of nature are set in contrast to present superiority of nature. Through all this Hardy wants to suggest that nature can be seen as self sacrificing force. It can be experienced in different forms. Man must realize the spell of brooding woods, the magic of quiet enduring trees. Fascination of Egdon Heath presents different moods of man. It shows that in different forms of nature, Hardy feels presence of some human qualities.

Hardy is known for his pessimism. Chance plays a very significant role in his novels is that of chance. We see in ‘Tess of the D’urbervilles’ how Tess is treated unjustly by the society, which followed the law in words and not in spirit. In Hardy’s novels conflict between
man and destiny is the centre of events. **David Cecil** remarks, ”A struggle between man on one hand, and an omnipotent and indifferent fate, on the other hand goes on and that is Hardy’s interpretation of the human situation.” Man is a mere puppet in the hands of an all powerful fate or destiny. According to Hardy there is a mysterious force that is always hostile to human happiness and circumstances always act against him and lead him towards destruction. Hardy has given different shapes to fate and destiny. A change in the weather changes the fate of Henchard, the protagonist of ‘The Mayor of Casterbridge’. It could the death of a horse changing the life of Tess or a chance meeting with Alec, the villain turned into preacher in ‘Tess of D’urbervilles’.

Nature, in Hardy novels, too takes the form of cruel fate. But inspite of all this Hardy’s novels are not totally dark. For instance ‘Tess of D’urbervilles’, ends on a note of hope. There is a new beginning, something to look forward to. Madgulkar’s most novels present the same idea that hints the conclusion.

**Hardy also tried to present role of nature as an agent of destiny responsible to change human life.** What man proposes, nature disposes. It has it’s own power of controlling human life. Destiny acts in the form of nature. It can be seen through his Return of the Native. The chain of events that will lead to the catastrophe at the end of the novel will directly result from Eustacia’s refusal to accept her own free will (and thus her own reality and her ability to change it). Her endless haranguing of Fate - as well as her capitulation to it will proceed to its natural conclusion - that is, those who refuse to accept their own power to control their own destiny will ultimately be destroyed by their ineptitude.

The most powerful of all the influences on Hardy was the spirit of the age in which he lived. It was an age of transition, disturbing in itself for a sensitive mind. The old agricultural England was in the process of being devoured by the industrial development and old ties were breaking. Hardy was not in any sense opposed to material progress, but, as a countryman, he belonged, emotionally, to the world that was passing. It is also seen in Madgulkar’s novels.

Thomas Hardy was considered a fatalist. Fatalism is a view of life which insists that all action everywhere is controlled by nature of things or by a power superior to things. It grants the existence of Fate, a great impersonal, primitive force, existing from all eternity, absolutely independent of human wills, superior even to any god whom humanity may have
invented. The power of Fate is embracing and is more difficult to understand than the gods themselves.

The scientific parallel of fatalism is determinism. It acknowledges, just as fatalism, that man’s struggle against the Will behind things, is of no avail, but does decree that the laws of cause and effect must not suspend operation. Determinism seeks to explain conditions which fatalism is content to describe. The use of fatalism for furthering the plot was a technique used by many Victorian authors, but with Thomas Hardy it became something more than a mere device.

He shows that human beings are fundamentally at the mercy of the forces of the natural world, supernatural agencies, and destiny itself, and it is particularly noticeable that the female characters in Tess. Due to his fatalistic outlook of life, Hardy presents the character of Tess as having a variety of forces working against her efforts to control her destiny. Fate approaches Tess in a great variety of forms. Fate is present through chance and coincidence, and the manifestations of nature, time, and woman.

**Free will versus determinism is a theme throughout the works of Thomas Hardy.**

Critics are influenced by Hardy and his rather gloomy view of destiny. Hardy's characters can't evade their fate. But, Madgulkar’s characters sometimes overcome the fate and start new life.

Jude has the first of several personal crises when the dean suggests that Jude’s dream of higher education is unrealistic. This crisis brings out several negative qualities of Jude’s personality. He continues to indulge his tendency to turn to alcohol when he is upset, as we first saw when he learned that Arabella had tricked him into marriage. We also see Jude’s pompous, boastful side.

This flaw is an example of the novel’s moral complexity. On the one hand, it is heavily in favor of making higher education more accessible. Hardy emphasizes the inequality of his society by contrasting the two supposedly ‘elite’ undergraduates, who don’t know a word of Latin, with Jude, who can movingly recite the Bible even while drunk. But on the other, the narrator sometimes seems to disdain Jude for aspiring to transcend his working-class origins. The narrator frequently derides Jude for the ‘impracticality’ of his goals, and he characterizes the dean’s advice as “terribly sensible” (120). This could be read as conflicting with the novel’s overall moral: the narrator seems to say that the working class deserves to be more educated as a whole, but individuals from the working class who try to
seek education are impractical and uppity. However, we could also read these statements as reflections of character flaws that result from Jude pursuing his goals too single-mindedly.

**Following happenings and ideas in ‘Far from the Madding Crowd’ better present Hardy’s concept of Man and Destiny.**

Fate operates through natural occurrences. In ‘Far from the Madding Crowd’, Gabriel must work feverishly to protect Bathsheba's harvest from a terrible storm. Although Gabriel succeeds in overcoming the fate of the storm, Boldwood is not so lucky and loses all his crops. Gabriel Oak also loses his fortunes through an occurrence of natural fate; his sheep fall off a cliff to their deaths, and Gabriel must sell out to repay his debts.

Fate is responsible for Bathsheba's changes in fortune as well. Her uncle happens to die and leave her the farm. Gabriel happens to go to sleep in a wagon that carries him near Bathsheba's farm; he then happens to see the fire and is concerned enough to go and help put it out, thus earning a position for himself near the woman he loves. Bathsheba happens to see Boldwood and be offended by his lack of attention just at the time of Valentine's. She and Troy happen to pass Fanny on the road when Fanny is about to die. Bathsheba's sheep happen to take ill when she has just foolishly sent Gabriel away, forcing her to call him back. Hardy combines these and many other fateful incidents with a carefully crafted sense of realism to make them seem natural.

**Following happenings and ideas in ‘Return of the Native’ better present Hardy’s concept of man and destiny.**

When human figures do finally appear, they seem insignificant against the backdrop of the indifferent, if not hostile, Egdon. Many times during the course of the story, for instance, Clym will be shown to appear like a tiny insect moving across the face of nature. These elements — the heath as a setting and a symbol, and the way the first people to appear are shown in relation to their surroundings — demonstrate Hardy's theme: Man lives his life in a universe that is at least indifferent to him and may be hostile. (Book 1, ch.2)

Hardy's use of coincidence in his novel is well known and often criticized. Some critics have suggested that coincidence is so often to be found because Hardy uses it as a way of expressing his idea that chance governs man's life more than man wishes to admit. To illustrate this theory, Johnny encounters Venn by chance and tells him of accidentally overhearing the conversation between Eustacia and Wildeve. (Book 1, ch.9)
Hardy says of man's world in relation to the universe: "Amid the soft juicy vegetation of the hollow in which [Wildeve and Venn] sat, the motionless and the uninhabited solitude, intruded the chink of guineas, the rattle of dice, the exclamations of the reckless players." In short, the actions of men scarcely ruffle the surface of the great world around them. This idea is consonant with the several times Hardy shows Clym aware of his insignificance in the universe. (Book 3, ch.8)

The fact that Hardy added this book to his original conception of the novel causes many consequences, most of which are obvious enough. For example, it blunts the effectiveness of his demonstration of the idea that man lives in an indifferent, perhaps hostile, universe. In speaking of the fact that Clym, unlike Eustacia, does not blame either Destiny or God for his fate, Hardy says: "Human beings, in their generous endeavor to construct a hypothesis that shall not degrade a First Cause, have always hesitated to conceive a dominant power of lower moral quality than their own; and, even while they sit down and weep by the waters of Babylon, invent excuses for the oppression which prompts their tears." But Eustacia Vye never hesitates to blame Destiny, which she always thinks of as having a questionable "moral quality." The whole movement of the first five books is unmistakably in this direction of questioning the power that governs the universe. In this novel, Hardy depicts the universe as essentially indifferent to man rather than, as in later novels (notably *Jude the Obscure*), hostile to him. (Book6, ch.1)

**Following happenings and ideas in ‘Mayor of the Casterbridge’ better present Hardy’s concept of man and destiny.**

Through his use of metaphorical place names, Hardy shows that his characters are motivated by a power stronger than their free will. Relying first upon the Bible, Hardy sends Michael away from the King's Arms Hotel. The "King's Arms" could represent the control exerted by God's force (the weapons that the King of Heaven uses to guide men). The Henchards are drawn to the Three Mariners in because they act as three mariners, adrift on the tumultuous sea of Chance.

Indeed, chance dominates this chapter. By chance the Scotsman hears the conversation about the corn and happens to have the solution. By chance Elizabeth-Jane notices the young man, and by chance all three stay at the Three Mariners. Michael just misses his family on the way to find the man. Coincidence plays a major role in Hardy's
novels. The coincidences in this chapter are just a few examples of the work of a greater power that seems to constantly work against mankind—at least in Hardy's view. (Chapter 6)

Even nature sides with Farfrae. The rain that ruined Michael's entertainment magically disappears in the evening, when Farfrae's dance is about to begin. The natural world appears to work for the success of the dance: the trees provide convenient, living poles for the tent cloths. Of course, Farfrae is the one who had the idea to use this spot in the first place. Like the townspeople, he is able to understand and adapt to nature. Perhaps the fate that is working against the business-oriented Michael works so well for the nature-loving Farfrae. (Chapter 16)

"Character is Fate, said Novelist." This is one of the most debated comments in Hardy's novels. At first it seems to run against all of Hardy's insistence that man is ruined by an impersonal fate. Is Michael's fate determined by the gods, his own flaws, or a combination of the two? A case can be made for each response, since the novel seems to change opinions in several places. (Chapter 17)

The theme of being plagued by a blind fate has already become clear to Susan and Michael. Now the same fate is working against Elizabeth-Jane, in the form of a relationship between Farfrae and Lucetta. (Chapter 24)

The dark fate again haunts Henchard. Despite his noble act of confession, the townspeople instantly think his act is scandalous—implying the hurtful nature of public opinion once more. Ironically, Michael could have stopped the damage if he had been honest from the beginning. Hardy notes that the damage would not have been as great if the news had been older. Regardless, his debtors fail and all his property is taken. On the other end of the scale, Farfrae has gained the business that Michael has lost due to the same fate. The punishment that Michael deems fitting for himself is self-destruction. (Chapter 31)

**Following happenings and ideas in ‘Jude the Obscure’ better present Hardy’s concept of man and destiny.**

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This flaw is an example of the novel’s moral complexity. On one hand, it is heavily in favor of making higher education more accessible. Hardy emphasizes the inequality of his society by contrasting the two supposedly ‘elite’ undergraduates, who don’t know a word of Latin, with Jude, who can movingly recite the Bible even while drunk. But on the other, the narrator sometimes seems to disdain Jude for aspiring to transcend his working-class origins. The narrator frequently derides Jude for the ‘impracticality’ of his goals, and he characterizes the dean’s advice as “terribly sensible” (120).

This could be read as conflicting with the novel’s overall moral: the narrator seems to say that the working class deserves to be more educated as a whole, but individuals from the working class who try to seek education are impractical and uppity. However, we could also read these statements as reflections of character flaws that result from Jude pursuing his goals too single mindedly. (At Christminster: Chapters 4-7)

The composer’s personality also foreshadows Jude’s fate. Because he is so poor, the composer fixates on making money by selling wine, going so far as to solicit Jude, who has come by for a friendly talk. Jude will also be altered by financial woes before the end of the novel. Indeed, the pressure to earn money destroys his relationship with Sue and causes him to comment to his children that they are ‘too many’, leading to the murder-suicide by Little Father Time.

(At Melchester: Chapters 6-10)

Although relatively little of the story takes place at Shaston, Hardy uses a fair amount of space to describe the city’s physical layout. This further develops the richly detailed geography of Wessex that Hardy creates in this and his other novels. It also hints at the predestined quality of the Phillotsons’ separation - their marriage is literally founded on rocky, difficult, terrain. The numerous images of characters struggling to walk uphill evoke the futility of forcing an unwanted romantic relationship. (At Shaston: Chapters 1-6)

Country life is a very important theme in this novel, and in this section, Hardy emphasizes the relationship between rustic life and superstition (Webb 3). Arabella buys a love potion from Physician Vilbert, and Anny suggests that she put her hands on a lock of Cartlett’s hair to help eliminate her feelings for Jude. However, even characters that are ostensibly intelligent submit to the logic of superstition. For example, Jude and Sue are
unsettled when they hear Widow Edlin’s story about the gibbet, even though they don’t know whether they are actually related to the father in the story.

(At Aldbrickham and Elsewhere: Chapters 5-8)

The novel’s final chapters also continue the book’s motif of superstition. Widow Edlin’s folk tale about devils disguising themselves as husbands foreshadows the way Sue’s marriage to Phillotson will seem to drain the life from her. Physician Vilbert’s fake medicines also play an important role here; the fact that Arabella consults Physician Vilbert instead of a real doctor speaks both to her rustic naïveté and to her lack of consideration for Jude. (At Christminster Again: Chapters 6-11)

Vyankatesh Madgulkar’s Philosophy of life

‘Destiny governs man’. The human soul consists of both good as well as evil elements. The monkeys in Sattantar have both the aspects. They are as cruel even they do not feel about equality. Everyone behaves and treats others according to his own wish. No one takes into account the wish of others, apart from following the natural instincts.

Welfare state is the imaginary mission which is continuously taken in hand by many people. There is a particular gap-line between the reality and the ideal state. No human soul is free from the existence of inherent evils. The dream of an ideal state without considering the human nature cannot be fulfilled. People of all the ages and the nations in the world are continuously striving to demolish the evils. There is continuous fight between the good and the evil. It will be a golden moment, when the good would win the fight overcoming and defeating the evil in it. That day the struggle will stop. But no one knows when such ideal state will appear.

‘His novels present plight of characters set against an agricultural society threatened by the forces of change. From his childhood he observed relentless regularity of natural changes. So, through his novels, he presented nature as an agent of destiny. Most of his characters try to defy social conventions. It leads to their misery. Through this Vyankatesh Madgulkar presented issue of fixed class boundaries. His characters present man as the victim of decisions forced on him by a kind of predestination.”

(Madgulkar V. ‘Formulae of my writing’, Speech, Solapur.)

Structure of his novels is based on conflicts between human will and destiny. His heroes present optimism. His novels present the play of alien force controlling actions of
mere puppets. His novels present tragedy of man in which, man is mere plaything of chance or fate.

Nature is symbol of impersonal force of fate. It performs the role of an actor in his novels. It is an incarnation of a living force having its own will and purpose e.g. drought in Bangarwadi responsible for many social changes, sometimes it is aloof, silent and ironic spectator of human creatures who are struggling in life. e.g. novelist himself had to change his hiding places in the novel Vavtal. All of them are isolate and natural. Madgulkar also draws special aesthetic effect by presenting discord between man and his environment. The movement of man’s life and the movement of life of nature are set in contrast to present superiority of nature. He tried to suggest that man must learn from nature – benevolence, endurance, self sacrifice etc…

To reveal Vyankatesh Madgulkar’s concept of man and destiny, we must consider happenings, ideas and thoughts from his selected novels.

Following happenings and ideas in ‘Bangarwadi’ better present madgulkar’s concept of Man and Destiny.

1. Educational aspirations of a teacher ended with failure. It forms the main base for comparative perspective.

Sheku neglected his wife because she had no child. But, still she was hopeful. She said, if it is the game of destiny, barren tree will also grow fruits. If god had decided, she will give birth to a child (page 113).

2. Very effectively Madgulkar had described ill effects of this drought in Bangarwadi – houses, streets, schools, fields were empty. Whole village was like a haunted place. Villagers couldn’t live in Bangarwadi. So, they decided go elsewhere and to come back when it will rain. They said that it was their destiny.

3. Through this novel madgulkar had presented a different social scene. Migrations, displacement due to drought, vagaries of nature are common scenes in maandesh. Though, now we are globalised, modernized, the picture we notice in bangarwadi is devastating. Realistic presentation of all ideas makes the novel heart touching. Still people think that it is their destiny that they have to suffer all this. Pursuing knowledge is not easy idea in such social condition. Illiterate, superstitious people still think of the destiny and its role in human life. They accept this as a part of their predestined life. Human life is governed by destiny.

Following happenings and ideas in Vavtal (The Winds of Fire) better present madgulkar’s concept of Man and Destiny.
He frightened and cried because everything was looted and set on fire. It was the wind of fire that destroyed everything and everyone. After sometime they met yeshwanta’s relatives. His elder brother said, “it was better that they reached safe. Let them set fire houses, let them loot Houses; No one can change their fate. They had courage. They could earn what they lost.” (pg. 72) it presents role of destiny in man’s life. All thought that it was their destiny so, they faced all this.

Very soon, he reached the village. Old Mrs. Karandi told him that his relatives were at patil’s mansion. He went further and saw his house half burnt, looted, only walls without roof without people. There were heaps of coal and dust. It was desolate and ruined. He went to patil’s mansion and saw his mother. Met her and relieved. She told him that people from katphal came looted and set on fire all houses. Patil’s wife interrupted and said now, leave it aside, it was the game of fate. (pg. 106)

Hardy’s Wessex and madgulkar’s maandesh witnessed ill effects of thoughtless actions of far from madding crowd. In madgulkar’s novel the wind blows and the fire overspreads. Pattern of human life is predestined. One has to undergo many changes due to it. Madgulkar has very effectively presented this idea through this novel. Changes in pattern of human life can be seen through – shifting scenes, changing places, different actions and thoughts of people etc… Destiny played havoc with them, so they started a new life.

Madgulkar’s belief in character is destiny is seen in his ‘Pudhach Paul’. Every character has to follow predestined path in life. Many ups and downs in Krishna's life present the same idea. Total family of Deva – Krishna, Rakhma, Gana, Binchya, and Rashhi – all were victims of the traditional social system. Krishna adopted new way of life, they suffered due to blows of destiny, but at last all became happy. Struggle of life must go on, though destiny overpowers man. This main idea is presented about man and destiny. Man is puppet in the hands of destiny but, he struggles very hard to endure blows of destiny. This struggle of life is very effectively presented through this novel.

Following thoughts, ideas and dialogues present Madgulkar’s revelation of Man and Destiny in the novel ‘Pudhach Paul’

1. Deva's family without Krishna was facing blows of destiny. Deva thought that he had done some sin so, Krishna had left them. Touching the beads he said God may forgive him. I am sinful, please forgive Krishna. One day Krishna's letter was received by Deva. Bawaryanana read it. Deva became angry because Krishna entered the field of Tamasha. He thought that doing service of the villagers and the Government was their destined path. (Chapter 8, pg.67)
2. Chiplunkar Mama said that he was fool. Destiny supports these who try. He gave Krishna some money and told him to try his luck again. Then, he joined Godi and started doing work of a Coolie. (Chapter 13, pg.108)

3. At the very end, Krishna met Bawarya, told him everything. Bawarya told him about Deva's death. Krishna cried like a child praying God to stop these blows of destiny and to make them happy. He thought that destiny made them to face all this. (chapter19, Pg.145)

4. Bawarya's wife made Krishna to live with them for some days. Bawarya supported Krishna. He decided to meet Gana. Bawarya's wife said Krishna, what will happen is written on everyone’s forehead by God. This is blow of destiny. What will happen, we can't avoid it. (Chapter 20, Pg. 145).

**Following thoughts, ideas and dialogues present Madgulkar’s revelation of Man and Destiny in the novel ‘Kowale Diwas.’**

1. Superstitions, illiterate villagers, vagaries of nature create impression that destiny overpowers man. All the characters are helpless and supportless. They were living life only like a way to follow not more than that.

2. Writer's journey from one place to another, his meeting with other people, his active participation of freedom struggle, his disguise, his hiding—all presents role of destiny in human life. Up to the end, it was not fixed what he destined to do. So, he had to undergo many changes – hunter, freedom fighter, an artist and at last a writer. Through all these characters and their lives, Madgulkar has effectively revealed man and destiny in this novel.

**Following thoughts, ideas and dialogues present Madgulkar’s revelation of Man and Destiny in the novel ‘Sattantar.’**

1. New intruders were becoming leaders. Looser were killed, defeated run away. ‘Continuous struggle was going on. ‘Huge lifecycle was encircling.’ (Chapter 1, pg.6)

   It was Sattantar.

2. Madgulkar writes that to take birth as a monkey’s child, to grow and to be a leader, to rule others for some years and to grow old – this wasn’t a destined path of all monkeys. For them life was an accident. (Chapter 4, pg. 43)

3. At the end of this chapter, Madgulkar has commented on struggle. Yesterday’s Pendharis now had become rulers. Madgulkar comments that with time struggle continues. There is no end to it. It grows with population and crowd. It grows with increase in number
of distributers. It overflows when intruder tries to enter a gang, group or society. Weapons are used in fight. Teeth and nails are monkey’s weapons. It shows that everywhere struggle can be seen. (Chapter7, pg.70)

From this, he states that basic cause of Sattantar is struggle and it is predestined.

What is fixed no one can avoid it though he may be Muda, Lalbudya and Moga and so on. In life cycle everything is predestined. Presentation of male dominated society brings Madgulkar’s thought very close to that of Hardy’s. In the concept of love things happen due to male domination and females have to suffer and further it is labeled as path of destiny. In Sattantar all female monkeys in the gang follow the leader and they endure the injustice.

Males fight for domination, females have to suffer. They don’t revolt because they suppose this as their destiny. Like Hardy, through this novel Madgulkar has shown that the marriage institution is baseless. In society male domination is the only principle followed everywhere. Role of male in the society is for domination and suppression. Role of female is for endurance and suffering.

**Change in Rule is Sattantar.**

Sattantar shows the elderly female monkeys' love for the children; dog's love for the family which makes him to hunt Bothari, Dhokari bird's love for children through the act of bringing the fishes for the children, Tarani’s love for Muda makes her to take his place in his absence etc. This novel presents the bad aspects of human behavior like power-worship, selfishness, cruelty, use of violence and terror. It also presents the hero desires to be a ruler, a dictator. It is essential for the dictators to preserve their power. Naturally they apply the cruel ways of violence and terror. All the grown up male monkeys in Sattantar have power-worship nature. The core part of the novel is the narration of power-struggle among Muda, Moga, Lalbudya and even Dadhiwala (Bearded). The continuous flow of power-struggle is the significant mark of this novel. One who rebels against another, thinking him as his enemy later is found influenced by the same. It depicts the cyclical structure and constancy in the power-struggle.

Sattantar ends with the birth of Moga's likely competitor, i.e. Muda's son. This novel symbolically reflects the exploitation of the commons. It throws light on the truth that the typical human weakness is to break the promises, especially the political wish to spoil the society leaders are well known in this regard. Everywhere man is caught into his age-old evil tendencies. Human life has become meaningless, chaotic and self-centered. The self-centered behavior of the male monkeys in Sattantar is responsible for bringing the chaos in the lives of
all the female and children monkeys. The desire of power becomes responsible to create the restlessness in the society. It happens due to the evil hidden in man. This novel presents wish of the novelist to make the world free from such evils. The strong, at intellectual level as well as physical level, always makes the weak to surrender. Sattatntar presents such truth by describing the weak condition of the females and the children monkeys. They easily surrender the winner male. This study shows the harsh truth that the weak are always inferior and the strong are always superior.

“The desire of power in the journey of power-struggle turns the common man into a leader and at last converts him into a dictator. The dictatorship is the sole cause of many sufferings of the present world. The chaos of the modern world in the life of common man is one of the main evil consequences of the dictatorships.”

(Pathak M.G. ‘V. Madgulkar, an obsessed writer’, Maharashtra. Sahitya Patrika, 223.)

Once the leader turns into the dictator his selfless soul automatically transforms into the selfish soul which always concentrates the attention on the preservation of the power. The strong holds his power by applying the violence and terror. The restless, disturbed, confused state of today's world is the result of such dominating aspect of the power-holders. While removing to the would-be competitors from the way, Moga forcefully crushes the male children snatching them from the female monkeys.

**Comparative perspective**

This research compares Thomas Hardy’s philosophy of life to that of Vyankatesh Madgulkar’s through the selected novels. To form comparative, critical and theoretical framework-analysis, interpretation and evaluation of selected novels of both novelists has done. It provides necessary scope and basis to form comparative perspective about the concept of Man and Destiny as revealed through their novels. Comparison of the thematic aspect pinpoints most unexplored similarities between novels of both novelists.

Thomas Hardy’s philosophy of life is compared with that of Vyankatesh Madgulkar’s Philosophy of life. **Hardy’s philosophy presents man as a victim of circumstance or destiny whereas V. Madgulkar’s philosophy presents the idea that Destiny governs man. It is the common note about revelation of man and destiny through their novels.** Both tried to reveal this concept. Though this research doesn’t deal with one to one comparison of
all these novels considering all details, it presents some common note about man and destiny as seen through the selected novels. Following are the common points that form comparative perspective and reveal their ‘Concept of Man and Destiny.’

- **Hardy’s ‘Far from the Madding crowd’** presents central figure Bathsheba, running here and there to get a better suitor but, fails. So, at last she had to accept hand of Gabriel Oak whom she doesn’t like. Destiny makes man to adjust many ideas. It plays central role in uniting couples. Life partner of man is also determined by destiny. Hardy suggests this view.

  “Madgulkar’s Vavtal (The winds of fire) narrates writer’s personal experiences of Jalit/ aron – activity of people of setting fire of everything. Narrator is presented as traveling here and there secretly, sorrow fully to get adapted, but faced many difficulties and at last settles at Pune. Reference to the madding crowd is seen here. Here, crowd is presented as mad and furious so, narrator and many other families left villages and settled elsewhere that is Far from the madding crowd. Both these novels present the idea ‘Destiny makes man to change pattern of human life’. Central figure wishes to go away from the madding crowd and to settle at new place.”

  (Mancharkar R.V. ‘Rural Literature’, Maharashtra Sahitya Patrika, 1980)

- **Hardy’s ‘Return of the Native’** presents main character Clym, struggles hard to tread new way of life but at last accepts the earlier or original. Hardy presented that Destiny makes man to follow path of established order otherwise he suffers a lot.

  Madgulkar’s novel ‘Sattantar’ presents how man is related to animals. Change in rule is Sattantar. Ruler changes but the system is old. Both novels present wildness in man and his cultural ideas - power, rule and struggle for it. Hardy refers to marriage as a socio-cultural aspect whereas Madgulkar refers to living in group as a social activity. ‘Destiny makes man to follow established order.’

- **Hardy’s ‘Mayor of the Casterbridge’** presents, sufferings of the hero, Michael Henchard due to selection of immoral way of living life. Ups and down in the life of Michael Henchard are presented. It shows that man can be master of his fate in limited sense but at the end destiny overpowers man.

  Vyankatesh Madgulkar’s Pudhach Paul (Next step) presents sufferings of the hero, Krishna due to selection of immoral way of living life; and regretted at last. Krishna wasn’t
lured by advances of Mogari. So, he suffered much. Both novels present that Destiny makes man to face many difficulties and to adopt new way of life. Sometimes, last overcomes sense of intellect.

- Thomas Hardy’s ‘Tess of the d’Urbervilles’ presents tragedy of Tess as a young lady. She couldn’t understand real meaning of life and was tossed here and there up to the end. She travelled many places for settlement but couldn’t fulfill her aim. So, tragedy takes place.

  Madgulkar’s ‘Kowale Diwas’ presents tragedy of her, writer himself as a teenaged chap. He couldn’t understand real meaning of life, travels here and there, all time thinking of better settlement but he couldn’t. At last, defeated in all episodes of love and adopted profession of a writer. ‘Destiny governs man’ this idea is presented.

- Thomas Hardy’s ‘Judge the Obscure’ presents, Judge Fawley as hero, a village boy fired by academic aspirations. He fails due to sensual temper. Here, destiny works in the form of sensuous love. Jude was motivated, intelligent but, lacked perseverance, application and ability so, suffered a lot.

  Vyankatesh Madgulkar’s ‘Bangarwadi’ presents, Rajaram Saundanikar as a school master who enters Bangarwadi with academic aspirations but due to natural calamities and adverse social situation he had to leave his thought of education and social reform in the village. Control of destiny over man’s life is presented through plight of shepherds of Bangarwadi particularly, due to their illiteracy and superstitions etc…
References:

1. Elliot, Albert Pettigrew. (1966) ‘Fatalism in the works of Thomas Hardy’


