ABSTRACT
The theme of the research is social consciousness in the select novels of Mulk Raj Anand, an Indian Writer in English, and Imayam, a recipient of Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers’ Association Award. Social Consciousness refers to the social awareness of the problems that different societies and communities face in every day life. Many studies have been made for examining the roots of the difficulties and hardships of society, and such studies arise as a social response to social injustices experienced by the individuals. Mulk Raj Anand and Imayam in their novels expose the social evils prevalent in the society and the hypocritical attitude of the individuals and the society as a whole.

This study aims at analyzing the metamorphic changes that an individual undergoes owing to the consciousness of the prevailing social conditions of his or her times. It also probes into the implications and the impact caused to the individual due to class divisions, illiteracy, traditional beliefs, and how the individual gets shaped or changed by the society and environment.

Chapter I gives the definitions of the title of the thesis, brief histories of Indian English novel and the novel in Tamil literature with brief outlines of certain important novels, which are not primary sources for this research, followed by the lives and works of the authors chosen for this study.

Chapter II deals with the travails of the socially depressed class of society, including the so-called untouchable people because they also come under the socially depressed, like the cobblers, washermen and the like, who are dependent upon others for their livelihood.
Chapter III deals with the evils caused by the class system. Class system is different from caste system in the sense that in the former our society is divided into only two classes – the rich and the poor – while the caste system has innumerable divisions and sub-divisions. This chapter brings into light the discord between the rich and the poor, the employer and the employed, and its inevitable consequences.

Chapter IV deals with religious bigotry. It concentrates on how ignorant people are deceived and exploited by the selfish and avaricious religious men. The sham and corruption promoted in the name of religion are universal, which receive critical attention all over the world. This chapter brings out Anand and Imayam’s criticism on the selfish religious fanatics and blind religious faiths that spoil the life of the innocent and the helpless.

Chapter V, the concluding chapter, shows how Mulk Raj Anand and Imayam register in their novels social evils caused in the lives of the socially depressed, economically poor and religiously ignorant people and how they suffer due to the exploitation by the high-born, the rich and the priests. They project some suggestions for improving the present condition, the foremost of which is change in the attitudes, both mental and spiritual, of people, and also change in the ways of human life.