ABSTRACT

The principal objective of the present study entitled *Feminist Sensibility in Autobiographies of Five Indian Women Writers* is to study these autobiographies critically. It aims at highlighting the impact of feminist sensibility as observed through their autobiographies. An attempt has been made to signify the elements of sensibility in autobiographies of five Indian women writers. They are Amrita Pritam’s *The Revenue Stamp*, Kamala Das’ *My Story*, Laxmibai Tilak’s *Smruti Chitre*, Urmila Pawar’s *Aaydan*, and Shobha De’s *Selective Memory: Stories From My Life*.

My thesis is a modest attempt to bring to light the remarkable work undertaken by major Indian women writers with their feminist approach. The feminine sensitivity as observed through their works is undertaken for the present study. They have revealed their cultural, linguistics and religious background in their memoirs.

The first chapter deals with ‘Feminism in the Indian context: An Introduction’ This chapter deals with the research problem in detail. It deals with background of feminism in India, its growth and development. The chapter analyses the feminist approaches of the Indian women writers in general and highlights the importance of feminism in the Indian context. The second chapter discusses ‘Review of Well-known Autobiographies of Indian Women Writers.’ The chapter examines how, the five women writers as well as the women autobiographers of the country have influenced English literature and women’s writings in India. The third chapter ‘Indian women Writers an Overview’ presents women writers of pre and post-independent India. The fourth chapter discusses ’Amrita Pritam’s *The Revenue Stamp- A Critical Study*. This chapter highlights Amrita’s life and literary activities and role of a feminist writer. The chapter discusses *The Revenue Stamp* and its impact on Indian English literature. Autobiography is setting new roads for feminist writings. The fifth chapter covers the period of India’s independence with Kamala Das’ *My Story* and another exciting and romantic autobiography of history of Indian English writers. The presentation of *My Story* has created shock waves in English literature with her openness and confessions. The sixth chapter deals with Laxmibai Tilak, the senior most writer among the five writers selected for the present study. Laxmibai Tilak’s *Smruti Chitre* is a historical record of Marathi literature and presenting her period. It deals with mainly conversion and caste issues of the time. She has witnessed herself
many problems at her home and in the society. The noteworthy thing of this autobiography is that Laxmibai being illiterate trained herself and has dictated to her grandson Dattu this memoir. The seventh chapter deals with autobiography of Urmila Pawar. Her autobiography is different from other writers as it presents dalit background and problems of poor people of rural area. Aaydan presents dalit issues as well as women’s liberation issues too. Pawar has established herself as a feminist writer with this autobiography. The eight chapter studies the autobiography of Shobha De, noted journalist of Mumbai. De’s memoir, Selective Memory: Stories from my life represents urban women and their life styles. The ninth chapter of the thesis is Comparative Studies of Women Writers. This chapter focusses their linguistics, cultural and religious background of the period. The women writers presented their artisanship and characterization in their memoirs. The last and important chapter is Summary, Findings, and the concluding remarks about the women writers.