PREFACE

The present study entitled "The Concept of Good Life- A Study of Aristotle, Mill and Radhakrishnan" is an attempt to introduce the problem as visualized in the philosophy of Aristotle, Mill and Radhakrishnan. The problem has been observed in a descriptive manner by redefining the original views advocated by the greatest thinkers of all times- Aristotle, Mill and Radhakrishnan. The existing views on good life have been interpreted and evaluated to derive a synthetic overall view on the main characteristics and its different components. These thinkers also observed that the realization of good life does not depend only on individual well-being, but also in all round development of the society. These thinkers tried to redefine the problem which has broader relevance to individuals as well as the society. These problems are so complex in ramifications that they are in one form or another, perennially present. Although society undergoes changes in course of time, but the moral problems remain as such. So such problems are becoming a part of philosophical inquiry which need to be rethought and redefined by each and every age in the light of newer frontier of knowledge and depend on ethico-social experience with critico-creative attitude. Concept of good life is also such a fundamental moral issue which concerns to the attainment of ultimate happiness and peace in the society. Good life embraces all aspects of human life by which we can make our life meaningful, enjoyable, duty bound, to become industrious and struggle in life amidst odds and to create a new world order by changing the society for betterment. It is an urge of life which satisfies our cravings of being moral.
This study based on the problem of good life is an account of philosophical and moral enquiry involving manual and mental processes, concerning various concepts and views. The present study in many ways is an untold story of existing knowledge about philosophical thought on good life of three different periods of philosophical history which will arouse the later thinkers from their dogmatic slumbers.

The present work comprises of Six Chapters. The first chapter deals with the statement of the problem, methodology involved and a brief outline of the five chapters. It also emphasizes the position of Aristotle, Mill and Radhakrishnan in the ethical world.

The second chapter ‘Concept of Good Life in General’ enumerates the different natures, characteristics of good life and the views of different thinkers, both Indian and Western, Modern and Ancient standpoint.

The third chapter ‘Good life in the philosophy of Aristotle’ includes moral philosophy of Aristotle described in Nicomachean Ethics.

In fourth chapter ‘Mill’s concept of good life’ Mill’s views of ethics has been described. It is made from the point of view of Utilitarianism.

The fifth chapter ‘Radhakrishnan’s concept of good life’ is dealt with his idealistic ethics considering Eastern and Western thoughts.

The sixth chapter summarizes the views of the three thinkers as mentioned above and presented a comparative evaluation of their thoughts and finally the author tries to give an opinion by synthesizing and preserving the elements of good life advocated by the three thinkers.
Bibliography includes all the references cited for the reader to extend his/her query beyond the stretch of the present field.

The concept of good life is explained by host of thinkers in various ways qualifying the different aspects from both western and Indian as well as ancient and modern perspectives. But the author has considered only the works of the above mentioned three thinkers as they represented three notable periods of human history. In the present work, the author has made an effort to compare and correlate the views of these thinkers on good life in the ethico-social context. Finally, the author tries to reconstruct a comprehensive relationship between the various components of good life already existing and to draw a holistic framework of good life.

(Bibha Rani Goswami)