A constitutional document of the country plays a pivotal role in the governance of the country. It is all the more important for a country like India which is committed to a democratic set-up of polity which envisages to secure to its people rule of law within the framework of the Constitution. The founding fathers of the Indian Constitution deriving inspiration from other federal constitutions preferred a federal polity for India.

Perhaps, of all the aspects of the Indian Constitution amending process occupies a prominent place and it is for this reason that the provisions relating to the amendment of the Indian Constitution have always remained a matter of debate and controversy. A survey of case law from Shankari Prasad to Keshvanand Bharti, followed by the Minarve Mill and Waman Rao's case amply demonstrate the shifting trends in the field of amendability of the Constitution. This therefore poses a variety of questions before the intellectuals, academicians as also the professional lawyers, judges and even the
common man to ponder as to the real nature, and scope of the amending process in a constitutional document and its impact on fundamental rights and extent to which it can affect the basic structure of the constitution. It for this reason that this topic has been chosen for research to arrive at certain concrete conclusions relating to the intricate problems arising out of the amendibility of the constitution.

For the purpose of convenient study and proper analysis and critical appreciation of the problem in all its facts the proposed thesis is divided into nine chapters.

The first two chapters being introductory contain discussion relating to concept of amending process, its nature, scope and extent to which it has been used by different federal systems as a lever of the governmental machinery to accomplish its objectives.
The next chapters seeks to survey the impact of amending process in a federal set-up of government and its implications in the exercise of the political power by the Executive and the Legislative organs of the Government.

Chapter IV of the thesis deals with fundamental rights and amending process. In this chapter an endeavour is made to analyse Parliament's power to amend the constitution within the frame work of the constitutional machinery and the judicial trend in this regard. An interesting off-shoot of this controversy relating to amending process is to be seen in the doctrine of "Basic structure of the Constitution" which was evolved by the Supreme Court in the historic Fundamental Rights Case. However, it is still highly controversial as to what portion of the constitutional document should be covered within the term basic structure. It is being generally felt that the concept is more or less subjective. Capable of being interpreted the way one likes.
The next chapter contains an account of the comparative study of the amending process in different constitutions. An attempt has also been made in this chapter to probe into the reasons as to why it is the Indian Constitution which is subjected to frequent amendments as compared to other federal constitutions in which amendments are far and few. There is no denying the fact that amending of constitution becomes necessary to meet the needs and requirements of the society but the ambit and scope of amending powers has to be limited beyond certain stage also it may lead to misuse of power by the government. This tendency has therefore to be checked and kept well within bounds.

The subsequent chapter i.e. VI deals with the merits and demerits of the amending process. While on the one hand the powers of amendment of the constitution provides flexibility and lucidity to the Constitution, on the other, it may also lead to misuse of power by the Parliament.
Chapter VII of the proposed thesis deals with the location of the sovereignty in the matter of amendment of the Constitution. Obviously, the executive is the supreme sovereign power in the government machinery as all the executive and legislative measures need the assent of the President who is the head of the Executive. Nevertheless, the constitution of India also endows the Parliament political sovereignty in the capacity of representative of the people of the India. Therefore a very pertinent question arises as to where lies the sovereignty in context of the amending process. As evident from the text of the Preamble of the constitution of India which reads "we sovereign people of India........", the framers of the constitution were clear in their mind that the sovereignty must rest with the people of India who are represented by the Parliament. This therefore follows that sovereignty in the matter of constitutional amendment vests with the Parliament.

Chapter VIII of the thesis contains a vivid account of the prospects of amendment and its utility in a welfare state like India. It also seeks to discuss the tendencies which have been peculiar as a result of constitutional amendment introduced by the
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The last chapter contains conclusion which shall be reached after making all intensive study of all the aspects of the problem and surveying entire case law relevant to the topic. It shall also contain some concrete suggestions to make the amending process a real instrument of achieving welfare of the people.

SHYAM VIHARI SHARMA