Conclusion

The ethnic multiplicity, religious diversity, cultural variety and linguistic multifacetedness give India the unique image in the eyes of the world. It is a multi-coloured land which has a rich cultural heritage. One can’t deny the fact that present India is positively different from pre-independent India. The new techniques, new inventions, new modes of production and revolution in I.T. sector, the advancement in science and growth in education have brought an enormous change in India. The urbanization, industrialization, modernization and westernization have influenced the way of living of Indian society. The rapid progress in every field has influenced not only our economic life but also our social and cultural system. The changes are noticed in every side in Indian society.

Change is the law of nature and likewise it influences the societies. No society ever remains changeless. It faces social and cultural changes time to time. These social changes may be either positive or negative in nature. Change is a characteristic of all societies. It is a different matter whether societies change slowly or experience revolutionary changes. Since last few decades, the Indian society is transforming from a traditional to a modern developed society. In comparison to rural society, the changes are noticed more in urban society. The change is visible in all institutions such as family, kinship, relations, caste, polity, economy, and the way of living of people. Indian society is going through sweeping changes, so it has lost its earlier identity because of the replacement of a large number of structures.

The urbanization has been a major threat to local and distinct cultures. Urban living leads to a total abandonment of the traditional way of life and culture. Culture is an accumulated store of symbols and ideas which are transmitted from one generation to the other. Culture regulates the social activities and it also gives identity to a society. But, in the influence of modernization and westernization, Indian society has lost its own culture. So, in future, Indians will perhaps have nothing to give in cultural heritage for the next generation.

Modernization has brought an immense alteration in urban society. Modernization is a process of change which takes a country from under-development to development. It stands as opposite of tradition. It has changed the traditional thinking of Indians in which women got a good place in society. People’s attitude has
changed for women. Now, they are performing the equal role like men in family, society and nation. In cities, maximum women are working in government jobs. The women who are not in government sector, they are performing the different tasks in farms, firms and factories, which has made them financial independent. The new economic role has placed women in the new environment where they experience a changed social status. This new role of women in turn has brought greater participation of women in decision making in the family. But in poor and underclasses, the women couldn’t improve their condition. They are leading the miserable life even at present. Along with the positive changes, the modernization has put the bad impact on Indian society. People seem to be coloured with westernization. It is an appropriate term to describe the British impact on Indian culture. No doubt, the westernization has brought new ideas and ideology, but somewhere it is hazardous to Indian culture.

In urban society, the joint families have turned into nuclear families. The importance of relations has faded-up. The working women have no time to sustain their families. They have no time to nurture their children. They have to send children in crutch in working hours. In crutches, the children feel aloneness which increases the detachment with their parents. They are not emotionally attached with their parents, and it becomes the major cause of generation-gap later. Such environment makes children selfish and self-centered. The urban consorts have to live in different places due to their jobs. It increases the detachment between couples which gives rise to extra-marital affairs. The extra-marital affairs lead couples to divorce and hence children suffer a lot. In cities, people have no time to care for their old parents, so they avoid living with parents. The old parents’ homes have become the essential part of society. People force their parents to join the old parents’ homes in which they suffer and feel alone in old age. It has become the culture of modern Indian cities, and it puts the bad impact on new generation, as they do the same with their parents. It is the direct influence of western culture on Indian society.

Social life of cities has become formal and personal. People have no concern about who lives in next door. City dwellers don’t want to get involved in other people affairs. Some people do take interest in accidents and in cases of molestations and even murders but other choose to be mere onlookers. The crimes, corruption, violence, rape, murder, robbery, have become the common things in Indian cities.
The advanced technology, I.T. Revolution and development in every field have brought a huge change in Indian society. The urban society is equipped with all facilities but people are not happy there. It seems that we are going in wrong direction somewhere, and we will have to pay for this sudden and rapid transformation. Indian society has grappled in social evils which are increasing day by day. The situation has become precarious. The present thesis aims to show the stark reality of urban society.

In the thesis, the first chapter presents the dark side of India. In *The White Tiger*, Aravind Adiga portrays the murky face of contemporary Indian society. He collates the rural India with urban India. He denominates the rural India ‘Dark India’ and the urban India ‘Shining India’. But he also reminds us that darkness is everywhere whether it is rural or urban. He presents the gloomy world of underclass who have to remain in the chains everywhere. They are not free yet, in villages they have to live with the slavery of landlords and in cities they are ruled by the rich employers. They always desire to get rid from hunger, poverty and slavery. He feels the pain of poor and reveals in his novel. He is against the prevalent situation, so he disgorges his anger through words. It seems that the author wittingly prepared a list of modern India’s social evils and portrays them in *The White Tiger* one by one.

The protagonist’s journey passes through poverty, illiteracy, child-exploitation, casteism, dark democracy, slavery, and beggary. Page after page the novel shatters the image of ‘Dark India’. In this novel, the poor parts of India are referred to as ‘Darkness’ which is a world filled with hunger, servitude, illiteracy and poverty. Modern Delhi is referred to as the ‘Light’. This is a world where men and women grow fat, have air-conditioned flats and cars, costly mobile phones, TVs and computers. But the ‘Light’ has its darker side; it marks bribery, corruption and murders.

In this novel, the writer delineates the true image of contemporary India. He is criticized by many writers but he is successful in his aim to show the bitter reality of India. He presents all social evils one by one and apprises the country that we are not on the right way. The corruption, bribery, terror, violence, dishonesty, poverty, unemployment have grappled India terribly. Indian society has coped with endless social evils. The novelist reminds us the old time when everything was in order. But now the situation has become out of control. In ancient time, India was the richest nation on the earth but at present it is known for poverty, corruption and filth.
The second chapter is focused on the frustration of urban youth. In *The Middleman*, the writer reveals the affliction of unemployed young men. The novelist had also faced the unemployment in his youth. He faced a number of problems in his youth. So he shares his own experiences.

*The Middleman* is the experience of unemployed youth of Bengal, who looked for jobs but can’t find any. Through the characters of Somnath and Sukumar, the writer portrays the anguish of urban youth. Somnath belongs to middle-class family. But, through the character of Sukumar, he reveals the situation of poor families that how they are dependent on the jobs and their life elapses in the wait for jobs. The story becomes more serious when Sukumar becomes mad. He had a great need of money to sustain his starving family. But inspite of proper qualification, he couldn’t get job, so becomes mad. Through, Sukumar, the novelist apprises us about the present situation that nobody knows that how many young men become mad due to unemployment in India. He shows that how the circumstances make a man helpless.

On the other hand, when Somnath fails to search job, he decides to get into order-supply business as a middleman. His ambition drives him to use an innocent girl as a bait for contract that will secure the future of Somnath Enterprises. So he grows from an idealistic young man to a corrupt businessman. But he feels humiliation when he knew that the girl who was used as a bait, she was Sukumar’s sister. Here, the novelist tells that how the rampant unemployment extracts the youth. This is a poignant narrative that how circumstances turn a naïve youth into a corrupt businessman. The novel is a realistic commentary of urban India during an era of rampant unemployment and political instability. The evocative writing and vivid imagery keep the readers engrossed.

He also presents the gloomy world of prostitutes that how the wicked circumstances metamorphose an innocent girl into prostitution. In this story, Sukumar’s sister has to sell her body for the treatment of her ill mother and for the survival of family. She hates the prostitution but circumstances force her to do that. He also presents the image of business-elites and rich that how they use girls to expand their business. In this story, there is similarity between two characters, Somnath and Kana (Sukumar’s sister), they both are helpless. Somnath didn’t want to involve himself in such heinous activity but if he didn’t, he will lose the opportunity of becoming self-employed. He did it unwillingly. On the other hand, Kana didn’t want to indulge in prostitution, but her helplessness forces her to do that. She had no
alternative, if she doesn’t sell her body the family will die with hunger. The novel is a poignant portrayal of urban youth that the characters have no choice but to become corrupt due to their helplessness.

The third chapter presents the chaotic picture of Indian cities where the crime is on its pinnacle. *Six Suspects* is a murder mystery. It divulges so many secrets of high-profile society that how the rich murder innocent people on their minor mistakes. But it also gives moral that evils can’t disguise. The law of nature punishes everyone whether he is rich or poor.

The novel shows that how the high-profile people break the laws and orders and they are exonerated every time. There is no law for rich. It seems that the law is implemented only on the poor. Through the six characters, Vikas Swarup presents the kaleidoscopic picture of Indian society and divulges so many secrets. Most of the characters belong to high-profile society. He shows the complexity of Indian cities where the weak have no place, they remain always afraid. Through the character of Vivek Rai, he presents atrocity of rich that how they play with the rules and murder the poor on minor mistakes as he murdered the bar girl for the refusal of wine.

Through the character of Home-Minister, Jagganth Rai, the writer lays bare the real face of corrupt politicians. The nation is in the hands of such corrupt politicians. They misuse the political power and have become the enemy of the country. They give shelter to criminals and underworld dons and use their muscle power. They also misuse the police department and involve them in corruption. If any honest policeman adheres on his honesty either he is transferred to remote area, suspended on the false cases, or murdered. In this novel, the honest police officer, Navneet Barar was murdered because he works against the corruption. So ironically he was rewarded with death.

Through the character of Mohan Kumar, the novelist comments on the corrupt bureaucracy. He adds the humour in story when Mohan met with accident and lose his memory and behave like Mahatma Gandhi. Through the character of an actress, Shabnam Saxena, he presents the real face of glamour world in which actresses have to pass many ordeals for become heroines. He reveals the darkness of Bollywood which is hidden by it glamour. He also tells about the links of underworld don with Bollywood and politicians. He presents the miserable journey of actresses that how they are exploited in filmy world.
Through Munna, the writer presents the miserable life of slum-dwellers. They are often tortured and exploited by rich. They have no place in society. They live in margin and are deprived of all amenities. They are born poor and die with poverty. Everyone exploits them. He also presents the world of homeless people and how they are crushed by the rich when they are sleeping on the road-sides. He also focused on the begging system. He presents all the wrong practices that happened in the country in the past or so.

Besides telling six different but interlocking stories Vikas Swarup has told each of them form a different points of view and in different style. The novel is really a collection of six separate stories all of which are reasonably well-plotted that eventually converge into a large grand narrative.

The fourth chapter discloses so many secrets of metropolitan city, Mumbai. *Sacred Games* is set in present-day Mumbai. The novel is a story of conflicts between police and criminals. It is focused on two men, Sartaj Singh, Mumbai policeman whose career and personal life have both plateaued, and Ganesh Gaitonde, a bhai or mafia boss who rose to power from poverty. He not only relishes murder and destruction, but also dabbles in filmmaking, works closely with Indian intelligence, and gets involved in a Hindu extremist plan to detonate a nuclear bomb in Mumbai and provoke India into a suicidal war with Pakistan.

The novel is really a passionate tribute to contemporary urban India. It presents myriad facets of fast changing society. The story reveals the murky world of Mumbai mafia-style underworld and international terrorism and the corrupt working of Indian bureaucracy and the corrupt face of police department that how it indulges in nefarious activities.

The novelist also focuses on the endless abhorrence between Hindus and Muslims. He reminds us about the nationwide riots of 1992, when sixteenth century old masque was demolished in Ayodhya by Hindu nationalists, in which hundreds of people, mostly Muslims were killed. In retaliation, the bomb attacks were conducted by master-mind Muslim don in which nearly three hundred people were killed. The novelist also reveals the pain and traum of the victims of partition of 1947, when so many people were separated from their family members and relatives.

Vikram Chandra’s extraordinary work depicts India with its complexity, crime and violence, the worlds of poor and rich, the actors of Bollywood movies and the starving of human beings from every walk of life. Rather than focusing on the specific
cultural differences between a few individuals, the novel tackles the diversity of the people of Bombay, through the eyes of a police officer who has much experience with many different people.

He also presents the gloomy world of prostitutes. The dance bars, dance clubs, pubs, knight clubs, have become the need of urban society in which the poor women are exploited. The Dance Bar is a place of amusement for rich, but it is hell for women and girls, who work there. Chandra also reveals the dark world of actresses that how they are exploited in film-industry.

The rapid growth of science, technology, education, and I.T. Revolution has bought a revolutionary change in Indian society. People’s way of living has also changed. But they couldn’t bring change in their thinking. Even at present, the people are adhered to casteism. The incidents of honour-killing are also prevalent in Indian cities.

Through the character of Aadil Ansari, the writer reveals the frustration of urban youth, that how the corrupt system turns innocent young men to crime. Aadil is a Muslim boy and searches for the job of tutor, but Hindus don’t allow him to teach their children because of his religion. After a number of attempts for searching the job, he becomes a Naxalite, under great compulsions.

Here, the maximum characters are the victims of social injustice and corrupt system and poverty. They don’t want to indulge in criminal activities, but the depraved atmosphere of Bombay forces them. Every wicked character has a miserable background. The underworld don, faced extreme poverty in his childhood and became the victim of social injustice. Jojo wanted to become an actress but the society left her to making a dealer of bodies. Aadil was an intelligent and innocent boy but he faced a rampant unemployment. Eventually, he became Naxalite. This is the reality of urban society which creates monsters oneself.

To finally conclude one can sum up by stating that these selected four extraordinary novels depict contemporary India with an unsurpassed richness of detail: its complexity and violence, the worlds of the poor and the wealthy, the gripping sagas filled with humour, shock, tragedy and the characters who prove to be all too human. These stunning new novels tackle the diversity of Indian urban youth who is constantly under the threat of sweeping change of culture and value-system. They challenge the reader to consider each character and the associated actions across the entire spectrum of grey as there is no black and white involved here. Under the
rapidly transformed society everything becomes relative as what is right and what is wrong and what is good and what is evil. These epical works cross time, place, decades and specificities as they ebb and flow and rise and fall exploring the dreams, struggles and emotions of an array of characters trying to survive the compulsions of everyday life.