TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1  
Introduction  

1.1 A Critical Overview.  
1.2 Aims and Approaches.  
1.3 A Schematic Description  

Chapter 2  
"Roots and Shadows": A Study.  

2.1 Indu at the Crossroads of Life.  
2.2 "The Dark Holds No Terrors" Saru's Quest  
For Identity Against Gender Discrimination.  

Chapter 3  
"That Long Silence": A Study  

3.1 Jaya's journey from Crisis to Affirmation.  
3.2 "The Binding Vine": A Study of The Trauma of Rape:  
Mira and Kalpana as Victims.  
3.3 Female Bonding and some Solutions.  

Chapter 4  
"A Matter of Time": A Multi – Layered Relationship:  
From Darkness to Light  

4.1 Sumi's search for Identity and self awareness  
4.2 From Kalyani’s self abnegation to Aru’s positivism  

Chapter 5  
"Small Remedies" Women at the Crossroads  

5.1 Savitribai Indorekar: Road from Rebellion to Success.  
5.2 Madhu and Leela: Gender issues and Small Remedies.  

Chapter 6  
Gender Discrimination  

6.1 Gender Discrimination and Marriage and Sexuality  
6.2 A brief Analysis of Moving on.
Chapter 7

Conclusion. 218-262

7.1 Language and Stylistics
7.2 Shashi Deshpande and the Tradition of the Indian Novel.

Works Cited 263-267