CONCLUSION

The results of the study corroborate the hypothesis on two levels: (a) That social change when perpetrated by women is specific to them, i.e. interconnected with their social and personal status as 'centres' of the family, and (b) Women as interactors with cultural representations provide alternatives to the status quo.

The study began as a broad based survey of different aspects of relations between women and society. The source material ranged from Western feminist theories to Indian research projects and case studies of women relating to prescriptive social systems, which condition behaviour and norms governing the actions of women. The survey of women's novels created a specific pattern, indicating the position of women novelists vis-à-vis male novelists as also the gradual development of the consciousness of women novelists and their representation of women through literary characters. An interesting discovery was the impact of women characters on the consciousness of readers who were attuned to the possibility of alternatives to marriage which has been the centre of women's ideology. An important aspect of the study is related to the shift of emphasis from quantified results to a qualitative understanding of women's perceptions and their level of consciousness. This, in turn, draws attention to the need for modifying or reformulating tools or methods of analysis for the purpose of eliciting information.
and compiling data which could provide more valuable insights into the social status and psyche of women. A part of the study has also brought out the relevance of the Gandhian model for the study of Indian women - a model and a method which has proved valuable in the present study.

The salient points of the study are manifold:

1. The perspective through which the Indian situation is analyzed, has been delineated after an extensive survey of available feminist approaches.

2. The Gandhian model of feminism for the study of Indian women has been recast in the light of recent developments in Indian society.

3. The need for a study of Cultural Literary work from the point of view of their representations of women has become evident.

4. A survey of women novelists, their work and representations, points to another dimension for investigation, as part of women-centred research.

5. Results of the empirical study point (in two parts) to the productive and dynamic interaction between a cultural product like women's Indian English novel and the consciousness of women.
The study has been perceived as a valuable medium for providing feminist interpretations of social reality, so as to plan culture in a way which would begin by reducing and eventually eliminating gender discriminations which prove detrimental to women, desirous of seeking alternatives to prevalent prescriptive social norms and values.

The whole thesis may be summed up as indicating how the availability of a new medium of self-expression, led to the development of a new genre as a cultural literary phenomenon. This evinced a gradual but definite class-specific response and involvement from women who lent the phenomenon an orientation discernibly different from that of men. The writings of women have in turn become distinct agents of socialization for women respondents. The thesis also reiterates the importance of women centres research through related paradigms.
QUESTIONNAIRE I

1 Do you think you have the same rights as men?
   Yes ( ) No ( )

2 Do you prefer family roles to roles outside the household?
   Yes ( ) No ( )

3 Do you think your status is biologically determined?
   Yes ( ) No ( )

4 Do you idealise motherhood?
   Yes ( ) No ( )

5 Would you prefer Marriage to remaining single?
   Yes ( ) No ( )

6 Which of the two qualities is considered more desirable/ideal, by your society in the context of women:
   a) Active  
      b) Passive
   ( ) ( )

7 How would you prefer to describe yourself:
   a) Active  
      b) Passive
   ( ) ( )

TARGET GROUP : Undergraduates, Graduates, Post-Graduates, Research and Teaching Professional Women.

(Tick in Appropriate Boxes)

1 As a woman, how do you feel towards men:
   Inferior  
   Superior  
   Equal
   ( ) ( ) ( )
2 How would you assess your potential for society:

Significant (  )
Minor (  )
Indifferent (  )

3 As a woman, to which aspect of your potential would you attribute greater importance.

Reproductive (  )
Productive (  )

4 What place does marriage have on your life:

Primary Importance (  )
Secondary Importance (  )
Not Important (  )

5 If you have to choose between marriage and work for remuneration, what would you choose?

Marriage (  )
Work (  )

6 At what stage did you seriously consider marriage?

Soon after Leaving School (  )
During Graduation (  )
After Graduation (  )

7 To what would you attribute your contemplation to marriage?

Cultural Factors (  )
Social Factors (  )
Natural Factors (  )
8 What in your opinion is woman's major contribution to society besides reproduction? (If the respondents wishes to state more than one contribution, they may be arranged in serial order of priority.

1 2 3 4

9 Which of the following role sets do you assume to be the most satisfying?

Daughter/Wife/Mother
Wife/Mother/Career Woman
Daughter-in-Law/Wife/Mother/
Paid Worker
Wife/Career Woman
Mother-in-Law/Wife
Single/Career Woman

10 Do you feel, your life as a woman has made you part of:

Mainstream of Society
Margins of Society

11 Are you satisfied with your role set and status in the Indian Society.

Yes
No
Occasionally
Most Of the Time
PART II

1 Which of the following authors are your familiar with:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Familiarity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raja Rao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.K. Narayan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mulk Raj Anand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhabani Bhattacharya</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anita Desai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nayantara Sahgal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meena Alexander</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamala Markandaya</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Pawar Jhabavala</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santha Ram Rau</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shashi Deshpande</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attia Hosain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 What kinds of women do they represent:
(You may put down other conservations)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind</th>
<th>Familiarity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Transition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Would you be able to identify with the representation made by above mentioned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identification</th>
<th>Familiarity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never thought</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 Is there any difference between the social perceptions of men and women novelists?

Yes ( )
No ( )

5 Explain briefly why you think so:

6 What are same common features between women in novels and women in your society:

Pre-Occupation with marriage ( )
Aspirations of motherhood ( )
Subservience to males ( )
Passive ( )
Religious ( )
Rebellious ( )

7 Could you identify any women characters in the books that you are familiar with, who have consciously, or unconsciously, served as role models?
Common Questions appended to each Questionnaire:

General Information
Education
Caste
Class
Religion
University
Subjects
Residential Student
Day Scholar
Marital Status
Present Occupation
Children
Income
Percentage
Family: Joint/Extended/Nuclear
QUESTIONNAIRE II

Addressed to Contemporary Indian Novelists Writing in English

1. Do you feel your novels are expressions of imaginative acts?

2. While writing, do you have your readers in mind?

3. Are your novels directed towards specific readership?

4. Are your works based on your own experiences of social reality?

5. Can your works be described as models of
   a) Transmitting subjective/Social experiences
   b) Transmuting Personal/Social Experience

6. In the course of your development as a writer, have you achieved greater awareness of social processes and/or gender relations?

7. Are your consciously projecting alternate male/female role models?

8. Do you feel your sociological perspectives are different from other writers? In what way?

9. Have you been influenced in any significant way by Feminist thought and theory?

10. While writing about women, do you conform to any models, from mythology, History, Contemporary Society?