PREFACE

A great deal of attention is being given to various aspects of women and society, through academic, government and non-government organizations. It is this concern, which has established, gradually, a new field viz. women's studies. Every discipline provides, what may be described, as "food for thought" on one level, and impetus for planning, action and social change, on another level. Likewise women's studies, has developed into a discipline examining and drawing from various Social Sciences, Cultural and Literary Studies, strengthening the basis for a new perspective, and an empathetic stance, thereby establishing the need for reoriented socio-cultural planning.

This Project aims at confirming the significance of women based research, when the goal is to identify factors which can enhance consciousness and consequently elevate the status of Indian Women, within the existing framework of declared goals.

This study is based on Sociology and Literature to determine the interrelation of these disciplines in order to evolve a perspective on available depictions of women, the need to delineate relevant methods for cultural literary studies and to identify areas which can be developed for the
specific purpose of bringing about attitudinal change towards prescriptive norms, which have created discriminatory and derogatory modes of social survival.

The results of the study have an important bearing on the need for restructuring academic syllabi, in order to promote a balanced perspective by exposing and thereby eliminating gendered views of social reality.

As a discipline, women's studies, of which, this project aims to be a part, inculcates the male and the female, subjective and objective, perspective of social reality.