PREFACE

It is said that ‘Literature is a Social Institution’. As a student of Literature I have come to have a strong faith in this view, and it is with this view serving as the very basis of my study I took up this topic of ‘Changing Social Ethos’, to study and analyse those various factors which govern the life and thought of an Artist and, which finds an authentic presentation in their works. A writer is a product of the social conditions in which he lives hence it becomes imperative to study all those factors which shape the novelist’s mind.

Indian writing in English, is now more than a hundred and seventy years old. Though it started off as a by-product of the eventful encounter between India and the Indian Ethos on one hand, and the English language and Western culture on the other, it developed a distinctive voice of its own in the later years. If R.K. Narayan was presenting India as it existed before independence, Nayantara Sahgal presented the completely modern India, Indian with a distinct voice. The political, social and cultural upheaval during the independence movements brought about a sea change in the attitude, values and beliefs of the people of India which have been faithfully recorded by the novelists in their works.

For understanding the works of R.K. Narayan and Nayantara Sahgal, and the wide gape in their attitudes, the study of various major political, social and cultural changes which occurred between 1900-2000 A.D. becomes necessary. Hence this work was taken up and an indepth analyses was made.