CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

The study of the Researcher reaches up to the concluding part of the thesis. The first thing that looks striking in the four novels of Abha Dawesar is that the writer is not much interested in the story-line. They are more novels of observation and comment, than of fiction. Her characters and themes are more important than the story-line.

Her novels can be divided into two parts— one, having Indian back-ground of 1980's and 1990's; and the other two novels— ‘Three of us’ and ‘That Summer in Paris’ deal with the European and American background of the last decade of Twentieth century.

In the first category of the two novels with Indian background 'Babyji' is brilliant, and won her acclaim and awards for it. It was published in 2005, by Penguin Books India. The focus is centered on its heroine, Anamika Sharma or 'Babyji'. It's a remarkably narrated story of a bold teen-ager girl studying in 12\textsuperscript{th} standard of science. It is a deep study of Anamika's recesses of mind and heart. Her love of unrestrained liberty, promiscuity as well as deep sense of morality, sense of humanity and personal pleasures are some of the aspects of life. About Anamika, 'Newsweek'; on the cover page (back) of the book, by Penguin India,

Comments:-

"Anamika Sharma is the kind of girl you always hated. She gets perfect grades, and as Head perfect of her school in Delhi, has vast authority over her class mates. But Anamika's extra-curricular activities are far from exemplary. She is at the centre of love-triangle between a lower caste house-servant, and an educated, older divorcee. On top of that she begins serious Flirtations with the most popular girl in school, and the father of her best friend, and the local bad boy. Anamika's amorous indiscretions provide a colour back-drop to her questions about morality, gender-roles, and social rank in modern India, resulting in a tantalizing and sophisticated coming to age story". (1)
Anamika had reached the stage of puberty. Right from the beginning, Anamika has been shown experiencing the first sings of sexual feelings, but as 'boys' were not allowed by the middle-class parents, she went for girls and women. She felt that spirit of boldness and rebellion to enjoy sex in her own way. In this regard, she even thought of going ahead of her class hoodlum, Chakra Dev, a male counterpart of her, who indulged in smoking, drinking and even going for prostitution. Anamika was suddenly ahead of everyone.

Under that state of mind she met an elderly woman, a divorcée Tripta Adhikari whom she named 'India'. Anamika felt a magnetic pull towards her, as if she understood Newton's law for the first time.

She narrated thus:

"I decided I would avenge myself by holding hands and flirting with girls, since Indian society was so holier than thou about having boy friends." (2)

She sneaked out at midnight to meet her friend India, and told her that she would pass that might at her place - in her bed. That was her first act of adventure or rebellion.

The same day, the family of Anamika had a new servant, Rani, a lissome and beautiful, to do household work. Anamika took fancy to her and dragged her into her room and kissed her. Soon, the family took full charge of Rani, after she was severely beaten by her husband. It was decided, on Anamika's suggestion that Rani would sleep in her room. Then, for Anamika it was honey-moon like pleasure to have Rani with her, whole night - every night.

Anamika's next adventurous step was towards the most popular and beautiful girl in her class, Sheela. She began by praising her lips tempting her to be kissed. Sheela too was ticketed. Later, she invited Anamika when she was alone. She pinned down Sheela on the bed, held her in one of her hands, and with the other hand unzipped her jeans and made her naked. Anamika narrates:
"You are beautiful, I said, as I slid my hand between her thighs where her bloomers should have been" (3) P. 78

Apart from Anamika's these affairs, her misadventures also include two men - The father of her best friend Vidur, whom she called Adit, and the other was her class-mate, Chakra Dev. when she come in contact with Col. Adit, he started flirtation with her - hugging and kissing her. It was a subdued affair in which she never participated actively.

Though Anamika seemed to dislike and even hated her classmate Chakra Dev, a bad boy, she was irresistibly driven towards him. It is because both of them have much in common - love of liberty and fulfillment of their natural instincts etc. Chakra Dev did not hesitate to mention that he paid seventy rupees to enjoy sex with a woman. Really speaking they have much in common - Anamika is a female promiscuous and Chakra Dev a male - promiscuous.

Apart from Anamika's amorous affairs the novelist has also made some observations on some topical issues. One of them is the implementation of the Mandal Commission's recommendations, causing a number of other economically backward castes to be included for reservation for various favors. As a result a large number of students and employees of upper castes were put to loss. It led to violent agitation all over India - self immolation, loot and arson etc. It led to further division of the Indian - caste - based society.

The novel 'Babyji' also is a study of man - woman relationship. All women characters Tripta Adhikari and Rani are subjected to violence and exploitation. Tripta belonged to upper-middle class and Rani belonged to lower class, but they meet the same treatment from their husbands. Thus, wife-beating is a common scene in India married life. Anamika and her mother also play a subdued role in the family. Anamika's father is a dominant character, being a man. On all important matters Anamika's mother has to take the approval of the head of the family.

Revolt of youth is another factor that comes to the mind of the reader of the novel. Anamika and Chakra Dev are out and out revolutionary youths, not obeying the dictates of the parents or elders. Chakra Dev’s indulging in smoking, drinking and visiting prostitution
is a sign of his rebellion. Anamika too does not like to be taken for granted by her father. She did not want to attend her father's friend's daughter's 'Sagai'. Out of rebellion, she started for Tripta's house at midnight. Tripta's affairs with a married man after divorce, her smoking, drinking and even taking drugs are all signs of her rebellion.

Dawesar's 'Family Values' is a brilliantly told story of the ordinary yet remarkable relationships. It's a big family with a large number of characters with variety. The title of the novel seems to be ironical, because it is not a novel about family values, but ironically it is about the lack of family values.

It is a story of a Delhi family seen through the eyes of a young Boy of about ten years, giving all the expected human passions - the rivalries, greed, jealousy, selfishness etc.

The silent observant boy notes his grand father's consistent selfishness and meanness towards his sons and daughters. The boy watches his uncle's greed and avariciousness, his aunt's resigned despair; his cousin's determined self-destruction. Among all these human ill-wills the doctor's family living in grace and peace, although in poverty. The characters in 'Family Values' represent the whole world of people.

The novel is a study of large family, though living separately, yet they are linked due to blood proximity. At the head of the family is the widower Grandfather, having six sons and two daughters and a few grand children. The eldest son Psoriasis was from Grandfather's first wife, who died. Psoriasis is so named by the Boy because he had some skin disease. He never married, and being a Govt. servant, he had been allotted an accommodation, so he lived separately. Another son, six Fingers (named for having six fingers), was the last to marry, and so he is living with his family with the Grandfather. He is rather mean and greedy. His son, named Cousin is rather wayward and misled by some political party.

Another son of the Grandfather is Paget, suffering from some mysterious and chronic disease, in danger of transmitting the contagious disease into his children. Therefore, he married a young woman, who was made pregnant by a visiting family friend
she delivered a girl-child, who later came to known as Paget's daughter. The woman being show of mind generally referred as Duffer. When the novel begins, Paget's daughter is of marriageable age.

Sugar Mills is another son of the Grandfather living separately with his wife and grown up son, Flunkie Junkie, drug-addicted and disorderly. Though poop is another son of Grandfather, who is rather a mentally related, elder to the Doctor the Boy's father. Poop earlier lived with the Grandfather, but after Six Finger's marriage, he was driven out by Mrs. Six Fingers and lived with Sugar Mills.

Apart form the six sons, the Grandfather has two daughters. The elder on is named as SSS by the Boy. She is married but not a happy person. She is exploited by her husband. She had to take care of her husband's sick mother for no thanks. She is an example how women have to suffer. Pariah is another daughter of Grandfather, serving in Police department, married, and having two children. Pariah also had to undergo a lot of hardships due to the odd shifts. She is a self-sacrificing woman. When married a man of her choice nobody helped her. But she is always ready to help the family. It was she who searched a number of suitable boys for Paget's daughter's marriage.

That is the whole world of Grandfather. Of all the characters in the novel the Grandfather, Mr. and Mrs. Six Fingers are mean, selfish and greedy. Cousin and Flunkie Junkie are examples of the spoilt children. If children are not brought up properly, parents as well as other relatives have to suffer through out. Good education, good culture and good family values would make children not only successful in life, but also prove to be the greatest blessing of God.

Family values are the main thing. The title of the novel is not only suggestive but meaningful and symbolic. After reading the novel, one realizes that apart from the doctor family, and Pariah, none of the characters have any values. Six Finger's son, cousin became a nuisance for the family, who ultimately became the cause of Grandfather's death. Sugar Mills' son, Flunkie Junkie became addicted to drugs during his teen-age causing a lot of problem for the family. Once, when he did not get his dose he invaded hid aunt's clinic violently demanding drug, and attacking her on not giving it to him. Cousin once told the
boy that when it comes to money no one is anyone's father of grandfather. That is the family values they have learnt.

Corruption in police department is highlighted in the novel. An FIR is not registered unless they are bribed. The DCP told the complainant lady Doctor that her husband would be put behind bars, unless the matter is not settled by five. The Doctor family went to the police station as complainant, but they are told that the other party had paid bigger amount to book the Doctor. The Doctor had to pay Rs. Twenty thousand to escape going to jail.

Corruption in education department and in the management of private schools is described. The school children had to contribute for the celebration of the Founder's Day. Teachers were made to work more than in the government-run Schools. Government teacher some times show up less than once in a month, and they get full salary. On the other hand private teachers have to work more for just a part of their salary.

Corruption in Medical profession is of the worst kind. Certain tests are done whether required or not. Angioplasty and Angiography are done just to charge the patients. The mils-woman, patient of the Boy's doctor-mother told her that her sister's kidney was stolen by the nursing home where she had her surgery. A number of patients complain of missing their vital organs like kidney etc. after a surgery. Kidnapping and killing of children for their organs is also reported. In human and brutal cases of eating human organs are also reported.

One of the very shocking things that are reported in an age of science and technology is that Indian society still believed in superstitious and good and bad omens. The astrologers, the palmist, the face-reader, the numerologist, the gemologist all have their flourishing business in India. The surprising thing is that the educated and uneducated, rich and poor all have faith in superstitions. In the novel Psoriasis, Sugar Mills and Doctor all consult the astrologer, when required.

Corruption is there in every field of life. If one has to obtain permission from the municipal authorities for new construction, or for getting a loan sanctioned one has to recourse to corruption or bribe.
Thus, the novel is like sowed commentary. Apart from the story of the Grandfather's family, it is a story about the variety of characters and the ways of the world.

From the Point of view of psycho-analysis the novel is superb. In 'Babyji' the novelist presents a teen-ager’s psyche. As soon as she reached the puberty, she felt a terrible revolutionary charge in her body. Her body wanted the sensation of sex. As the male-sex partner was not possible, in the Indian middle-class family she went for female partners. Sex in the ordinary sense was not possible, but she enjoyed foundling with women-partners. First, it was Tripta Adhikari and then it was the domestic servant, Rani. Both these women co-operated with Anamika because both of them were sexually unsatisfied in their personal life. Though both married, Tripta had taken divorce form her husband, she lived separately along with her small child. She separated from her husband, but her body was sex-hungry, and wanted the sensation of sex, which Anamika supplied to her in whatever manner she could. Tripta also had an affair with a married man, known to her for a long time. On some pretext she went to Kasuali taking Anamika and Deepak's wife, Arni.

In Kasuali they enjoyed by Tripta and Deepak wandering together, eating together, drinking, dancing and even taking drug. Thus, the psychology of such women like Tripta is exposed in her actions.

Rani was living with her husband before she went to live with Anamika and her parents. Rani was sexually satisfied by her husband, but her soul was parched. She did not get love. Sex without love remains incomplete. Anamika provided her with love, and sex in whatever manner she could. Rani broke away from her brutal husband permanently, to live with the loving Anamika's family.

Psycho-analysis of Adit reveals the mind of an elderly man rather dissatisfied by his wife, and finds satisfaction from Anamika by foundling, embracing and kissing.

The psycho-analysis of Chakra Dev is presented a male-counter part of Anamika - a teenager rebel and arrogant who enjoyed the state of puberty by smoking, drinking, and master bating and going to prostitutes. He did what Anamika did as a girl. In spite of her
almost hatred for him, she is irresistibly all acted towards him. With Chakra Dev she had sympathy so much that at the end of the novel she gave up the Head Perfect's title to save him. As a matter of fact the novel is a study of two teenagers mind by presenting Anamika and Chakra Dev.

In another novel with Indian background the novelist presents the psycho-analysis of a big family in 'Family Values' There are a dozen characters, but mainly it is the study of the head of the family, the Grandfather, a man of seventy-plus in age. Her eldest son is retired from government job.

Through the Grandfather an ordinary old man and an individual person is presented. He is senile, mentally as well as physically. He is mean, selfish, greedy and self-centered. Due to his peevish nature the Grandfather is not liked by anybody. To sell his own house and live with one of his sons was a foolish step. Ultimately, he had to pay the price of all that by meeting with death.

The young son of Six Fingers, Flunkie Junkie, and the son of Sugar Mills are the case study of the frustrated youth of today. In the absence of family values and good education, they are misguided to join some political party or start taking drugs. Faulty education results into serious consequences.

The novel does not concentrate on one or two characters, but on a variety of characters in a family that makes the society.

Abha Dawesar's other novels are based on the western culture - European and American. They reflect the overall picture of socio-cultural life of the post-world-war-II in Europe and America. It would be more appropriate if they are called the scenario of the last decade of 20th century, because Dawesar novel 'The Three of Us' was published in America in 2000 and 'That Summer in Paris' in 2007.

Abha Dawesar made her debut as a novelist by 'The Three of Us' the novel depicts broadly the modern American society with perversion in every field of life - in relationships, sex-life, values etc. The trend of perversion started in Post-war American society, which had been earlier depicted in American dramatist Tennessee Williams' plays
like 'A Cat on Hot Tin Roof' and 'A Streetcar Named Desire', and in English plays like 'The Home - Coming' by Harold Pinter in 1965. The pious institutions like marriage and man-woman relations have undergone a sea of change. Those who returned to social life after the war found depression in trade and industry. The job opportunities were least. Only those who had mechanical background could find jobs as a mechanic or driver, others were frustrated and unemployed like Jimmy in George Osborne's play 'Look Back in Anger'.

The focus in the novel 'The Three of Us' is study the mental predicament of its protagonist, Andre Bernard. Andre who himself was a gay and a bi-sexual found it terribly involvement to indulge into sexual affairs with a husband and a wife, by turns. In the beginning when Andre started indulging in the gay relationship with his boss's boss at the Japan based American Bank in New York, very convenient and pleasure some. But when his partner, Nathan was away to Japan on an official visit, Andre came in contact with his wife, Sybil. Soon they developed physical relationship. For some time the relations continued smoothly, but the complication started when Nathan returned from his Japan visit. Both the husband and wife were habituated to sleep with Andre.

The novel deals with the marital complications in a married couples' life due to husband's gay relations. Both Nathan and Andre were having gay-relationship since their early young age. Nathan became gay, when as a young boy he fell in love with a young teacher. Stephen Hart, in tenth grade, Andre also started indulging in gay relations with a boy, Jack at school. Then he started relations with Jack's elder brother, Danny, Later, in college days he met John, and soon became his gay partner. Andre is actually a bisexual man because as a young man he also had relations with girl-friends like- Roni, an Israeli, Madhu, an Indian and Patricia etc.

After Nathan's return from Japan, relations with Nathan and Sybil became difficult. Both of them demanded to pass nights with Andre. Andre’s psycho-analysis is presented in the novel in his own way of thinking:

"If Nathan and Sybil were both to spend alternate days with me, they would never see each other, and then they would get suspicious". (4) (P.47)
He was horrified to think of the consequence of the musical chairs that he was playing with the husband and wife.

Intrinsically he was sincerely inclined towards the gay relationship with Nathan, but it was difficult for him to get detached from Sybil. When Nathan or Sybil was not available Andre started having a casual affair with the office secretary, Martha. Martha is also case study of a victim of sexual infidelity Years ago Martha was ditched by a businessman-lover, thirty years senior to her. Andre found himself in complete soup when Martha informed him that she was pregnant. It was like a bolt from the blue. Andre was not at all prepared to become a father at that stage. Martha's love for motherhood is presented from the psychological point of view. She refused to go for abortion.

Another psycho-analysis is presented of Andre's Indo – American friend, Madhu. Andre and Madhu was co-student in a college, and truly loved each other. But Madhu's father wanted her to get married and Andre was focusing on his career, so they broke off. Dissatisfied wife Madhu met Andre again. In the novel the analysis of Madhu's married life, and her reviving sex relations with Andre haw been presented with psychological subtlety.

Nathan and Sybil's married-life was heading towards a catastrophe. Both she loved a gloomy life after her father's death. Andre returned from Madhu's father's funeral having lost everything - Nathan, Sybil, Martha and Madhu. He has been shown drifting aimlessly - torn between Nathan and Martha.

The novel ends on a tragic note for almost all major characters. The whole novel is a psychological study of American life man-woman relationship. They claim that their marriages are open, and that monogamy in married life was 'stifling'. Then have to face the complications in married life. The last part of the novel concludes logically to an inevitable disintegration of such society. Licentiousness and perverted human relations can never lead to stability, peace of mind and emotional satisfaction suspected each other of infidelity. Both confessed to each other of having a 'Lover'. On the other hand, Andre's conscience was pricking him for playing 'double game'; with Nathan and Sybil. In the climatic scene Andre told both of them that he was the common lover to them. Sybil was
furious and Nathan was dejected. Sybil told them that all through her life she met only gay men.

Martha's pregnancy further created complications. She was adamant to have the unborn child, and she was not ready to live with Andre and Nathan. Sybil separated from her husband and began to live with Yoshi, but she looked like a broken soul. Nathan also repented the loss of Sybil whom he loved truly. Madhu also separated from her husband.

Thus, The novel 'The Three is Us' is a psycho analysis of perverted human relationship causing tragedy in personal life and in a larger way it is a satire on the American way of life were human relations do not matter.

Dawesar's novel 'That Summer in Paris' is an extra-ordinary book dealing with the deep psychoanalysis of its main protagonist, Prem Rustum and aged writer and his romantic involvement with a woman of twenty-five years old, Maya, a strong fan of Prem. Prem Rustam was a famous but reclusive Indian living in American for the past many years. Most of his life-time was spent in writing novels. After writing about thirty books Prem felt tired. Feeling the weight of seventy five years of his life, he decided to stop writing and live a little. The novel does not have a straight story-line, but from time to time the main flow of the story is hampered due to Prem's frequent indulging in past memories. The technique of the writer is perfect with memories, dreams and frequent indulging in stream of consciousness technique.

Seventy five year old, tired Prem Rustum with re-kindled desire to live life, he ventured online where he found Maya, a twenty-five year old, beautiful, aspiring young novelist. She boldly pasted her almost admiration for Prem's works. Captivated by her charms, Prem decided to join her in Paris. Then, during the summer that followed, Maya brought Prem into direct confrontation with his mortality and his desires through the awakening of new loggings and the rekindling of old ones.

In the beginning of the novel it seemed from Rustum's predicament, physically as well as mentally getting slower and slower. It seemed as if he were preparing for the full
stop. He also thought that it was time to move back to India and live with his family, in the absence of women, sex and further laurels to be won.

Prem Rustum's past life is revealed by occasional ruminating about the women who came into life from time to time. It's a unique technique of Psycho-analysis of a character. As a teenager his love was with Meher, His cousin and lover.

They were together up to Meher's marriage at the age of twenty. In the present Prem recalls how, during vacations Meher and he learnt the first lessons of love. They used to sleep together. Cuddle and caressed before going to sleep. They did not keep any secret in between the two. When Meher had her first 'periods' she talked about it with Prem. From that time up to Meher's marriage at the age of twenty they indulged in all kinds of physical activities - embracing, kissing and clinging. A little later they started having physical relations. As Meher's date of marriage approached closer, their physical appetite for each other was burning like fire, and they had frequent sex. But, a part from the physical relationship they became two bodies and one soul. Meher's marriage was quite shocking for Prem. But he could not stop it. Soon after Meher's marriage, he heard that Meher was pregnant. Although Meher denied that Prem was the father of her child (Homi); yet up to the last, Prem could not believe it. Soon after wards Meher died, leaving a void in Prem's soul. He left for America there-after.

The writer takes us into the mind of Prem when he loved a number of women while in America. Each woman is individualized by revealing their psyche, So much so that they all come before us as living pictures, rather than fictional characters.

Among many women, the three have been given prominent place, keeping in mind, Meher's memory Prem began to love with Angie, the anger monger, as he called her. Prem was under the illusion that he loved Angie, but he suffered more with Angie due to her ill-temper. Prem dragged out their relations fro about six years out of sheer fear of her temper.

Then, Prem met Vedika, a truly lovable woman and wife of Dr. Bedi. Prem and Angie had met the Bedi couple at a party, while he was writing 'Raga'. Prem was invited by Dr. Bedi, known in America as Harry. Prem just adored Harry's wife lie Vedika initially
referring to her as 'Bhabhi', after separating from Angie, the Bedis became his intimae. Often, Harry was away fro heart surgery in a hospital in Florida, Prem came closer to Vedika. He gave her the first two hundred pages of his book 'Meher' in which he put all his poignant feelings of love and sex. After reading 'Meher' Vedika longed for the intensity of love to be directed towards her. Vedika also revived Prem's hope in life - in love and in women. After their six months' relations together, Prem proposed her for marriage. But during her visit to India, Vedika turned down his proposal thus ended Prem Vedika relations. For some time Prem was terribly upset.

Prem's all past actions and affairs are presented through the sparks of memories coming in to his mind from time to time in the stream of consciousness fashion. Prem reached up to the age of seventy five, tired of writing, and wanted to live life. At that time, Prem's friend K'enny taught him computer operation - searching and online chatting. That he came in contact with Maya, and then started the saga of Prem-Maya relationship. It's a unique love story of seventy five year old Prem and twenty five year young Maya.

Maya's past history is given. After reaching America, she was jilted by a lover, Thomas or Tom. She was terribly upset, and was struggling to forget his memory. For several nights, after breaking from Thomas, Maya suffered from insomnia. In that state of mind Maya's father in India gave her books written by Prem Rustum, a Nobel laureate from America. After reading Prem's books she became an ardent fan of him.

During the online searching, Prem and Maya came in contact. On their First meeting, Prem was so smitten by sensual feeling for Maya that when he came to know that Maya was going to Paris, Prem also decided to follow her to Paris, on some pretext.

Maya reached Paris a head of Prem, and she befriended a man, Jean Pierre and the passed nights together. A little later Prem also reached Paris, met Maya and they went together to attend a concert of Indian music. Jean's friendship was not inspiring, so she could not write anything of her novel. Prem and Maya met frequently and once they visited a painting museum, at Degas Pastels. They also discussed art and painting. Maya told Prem that due to her reading Prem's books she was able to forget Tom completely.
Gradually, the situation reversed for Maya. Earlier Maya was influenced by Prem, the writer influencing her mind and heart, then, she felt Prem, the man was influencing her, as if hypnotizing her. Prem also passed through confusion, and questioned himself could Maya love him as a man? Pascal advised Prem not to play fatherly with her, and to be romantic.

At that juncture, Prem in one of memories of the past imagined his earlier visit to Paris when he came in to contact with two teenager girls, Julien and Valerie. That was ten years ago. The writer has depicted the whole episode quite in detail. Prem was sixty five years of age and the two girls were fifteen and sixteen. Both the girls used to enter in to Prem's room and sleep with him - fondling and inciting him sexually. Prem protested and resisted, but they persisted. Once, Prem had sex with Valerie.

Prem's relations with Maya continued to develop into intimacy. Once Maya told him frankly that earlier she loved Prem for his books, but then she began to love his as a person. On Maya's request Prem and Maya hugged and embraced each other. Intimacy with Prem quickened and sharpened Maya's imagination and she could write her novel further.

Maya's love for Prem rose above her physical needs. She rejected her friends Pierre's demand for sex with her. Before leaving Paris, Prem made a proposal to Maya to live together with him at his place in America. Maya agreed, and told him that she felt like Gala ten coming alive to Pygmalion. In the last phase of the book Prem and Maya lived together in perfect bliss. Very soon, Prem was found dead one morning, in the blissful embrace of Maya. Thus the saga ended of true love of Prem and Maya.

Towards the concluding part of this research it is to be noticed that Abha Dawesar's novel have a very thin story-line. But they are all rich for the psycho - analysis of the characters. Her characters leave an indelible mark on the memory of the reader, long after the book is completed.
REFERENCES


