**PREFACE**

Bhabani Bhattacharya is highly acclaimed among the Indian writers in English for his use of art as a medium for achieving social reform. His novels have commended themselves for a study by virtue of the arresting quality of his themes. His artistic capacity to project the plight of the hungry and the poor during the Bengal famine is highly praised by many a critic. And he has exceptional regard for women which is evidently observed in the portrayal of women characters in the gamut of his fiction. His passion for synthesis and integration divergent cultures and ideals has been a great source of interest for me. Also, I was very much inclined to analyse the adoration the novelist exhibited towards Mahatma Gandhi. Hence, I have made a modest attempt to highlight the themes of hunger and poverty, feminine consciousness, Gandhian ideals and synthesis in all the six novels of Bhabani Bhattacharya.

The first chapter of this research work, *Introduction*, is an attempt to trace the evolutionary development of Indian English novel from its beginnings. It also deals with Bhattacharya’s birth, parentage, his professional career as an educationist, novelist, and the themes which he dealt in his novels. The second chapter entitled *Unscrupulous Hungers* deals with the predominant theme of Bhattacharya’s novels, poverty and hunger. This chapter also presents the related aspects of hunger such as disease, sufferings of the poor and deserted, social evils, tensions and pretensions. The third chapter, *Gandhian Currents*, focuses on Bhattacharya’s admiration for Gandhi and his ideologies
which was spread across the entire gamut of his fiction. The fourth chapter, *Golden Lotuses*, examines the crucial problems faced by modern Indian women and how they transcend their struggles by understanding and perseverance in the novels of Bhattacharya. The fourth chapter also reveals the ways in which Bhattacharya advocates the freedom, liberty and emancipation of women in order to disentangle them from servitude and inhuman torture to which they were subjected by male sex, and their own. The fifth chapter, *Synthesising Encounters*, focuses on the theme of integration and compromise, which is exquisitely dealt with by Bhattacharya in his novels. The chapter closely explores the theme of integration of the old and the new, of the real and the ideal, of faith and skepticism, of asceticism and aestheticism, of East and West. The final chapter, *Conclusion*, summarizes the literary talents of Bhabani Bhattacharya and his careful handling of various themes. In addition, a section for References is provided at the end to help the study of this research.