Vedanta philosophy teaches that the life is the realization of the ‘self’, where self means ‘Atman’ or ‘Brahman’. Actual life has two distinct forms of the male and female and two distinct identities as such; men and women are always in the quest for their separate identity together as both are complement to each other. So, woman has to realize her own identity as a human being. Then further this dialectic has been in operation in literature too. This depicts the interaction or conflict between the male and the female which results the regeneration and the progress of humanity. All contemporary writers whether male or female have sympathy with the aims of feminism. But it is the women writers who were more sensitive to these issues, being women themselves. Female writers produced such fiction with missionary zeal In the conscious of feminism. The expression of ‘quest for self identity’ by women character made the women novelists distinguished from the contemporary male novelists. So, the indigenous contribution of such women writers highlights the legacy of equality between the sexes inherited from the western civilization development. Indian women were/are caught in between flux of tradition and modernity. So the modern literature demands in the exploration of the inner dimension of the protagonist, as the modern age stresses the restless, questioning spirit of man. Here, the quest for self means; self in relation to one’s own emotions and desires and self relation to the family and self in relation to the society. As society has changed and progressed so and also these idea of identity too has changed. Now woman wants to cross the patriarchal thresholds and to define her self- will with full equality to man. With the new century heading for close, we all know that a new awareness is sweeping out the social evils slowly but actively where in more attention and recognition is bestowed for the status and position of women. No doubt the women have suffered, sacrificed and disappointed in their lives; yet, they are undefeated, unbroken and strong.

We all are aware that women in all society is assigned with certain norms of behavior i.e. standard of conduct, taste and decorum, any deviation or violation to be ideal women, which makes her an unruly, obstinate woman to be condemned by the society. Hence to gain equality and to enjoy their human potential, women must have to fight against all these norms which subjugate their position and forces them to accept the status of an inferior compared to man. Jai Nimbkar obliviously portrays modern, educate and career-oriented middle-class married women who are very sensitive to preserve their identity. All her protagonists in her three novels are stronger who reveal a remarkable insight into the nature of a women’s mind, she
depicts women’s multi-faceted roles-wife, mother, daughter who are more to all individual and complete, they can realize that there is beauty and security in life through the reconciliation of life. Jai Nimkar’s three novels are obviously concerned with the feminist issues of ‘quest for self identity’. She portrays modern educated and career-oriented middle class women, who are sensitive to the changing relations and situations as well as culture. In the novel ‘Temporary Answers’ the actual female character Vineeta narrates her own story but attempt at the realization of her self. The other two shift to the omniscient narration.

Jai Nimkar’s protagonists are perhaps stronger then Shashi Deshpande’s, as they attempt to resolve their own problems by a process of deep and gradual analysis. Nimkar reveals a remarkable insight into the nature of a woman’s mind. She depicts her woman characters in myriad roles as mother, wife, and daughter and above all, as individuals in the society. All novels are concerned with woman’s endeavors to define woman as a social individual, who has broken away from the traditional constraints and in try to redefine her identity in tune with the social changes. No doubt, Jai Nimkar has written only three novels but the theme of quest for self identity is delineated with a progressively in the trilogy. What is so magnetic about her novels is that all the stories are very clear, which appeal to all group of readers. Her all three novels make it crystal clear that she is a part of and parcel of everyday Indian, where, we all breath, stay and inhale to one culture i.e. the Indian culture. When we compare with other women novelists of India, Jai Nimkar has got a less attention from the media. It is of course, she never writes for her popularity, yet, she deserves a wholehearted popularity.

In her first novel ‘Temporary Answers’, Vineeta, in her quest to be an independent and complete, realizes that marriage is only a temporary answer for her loneliness. If there is no equality and mutual respect, then it is meaningless for each other. Here, Vineeta wants to live her life with the will full potentiality of her femininity. When she tries to protest against the social that constraints and restricts her, she makes a conscious choice and rejects marriage, without giving up man-woman relationship. The emotional context of the identity of a woman requires a man. Vineeta’s predicament is of general woman in contemporary Indian society, who is passive through the transition from the old cultural modes to the neo- modern one affecting present human patterns of life. Vineeta represents the assertive woman who is torn between age-old traditions and her individual desires. She retains herself from the feeling of domestic security. At the beginning she surrenders to the traditional elms as a typical traditional woman but as she matures in to an individual, she chooses to live life in accordance with her own wishes. She analyses other married relations around her. Being a doctor she is financially independent but her life casts a dark, negative shadow on marriage. Being woman she seeks emotional fulfillment for which she involves herself sexually with Abhijit Gokhle. At first she decides to marry, she falls in to deep love with Abhijit that once his absence makes her to fall very sick. It is very critical situation here but at last she controls her emotions and decides to
live him. Thus jai Nimbkar’s women characters are very determined as positively indicates for the social change and hence the change happens. They wants to realize their identity. Secondly, they are ready to rebel against all those norms which are hurdles to gain respect from society. And thirdly, they never thought that they are inferior to the male. These are the ways to destroy the patriarchy. Economic independence, which the protagonists have, is the basic requirement of women’s empowerment. Physical violence, sexual abuse and mental torture are realities in the present society too. But with intelligence and education women can change the social condition and empower themselves.

Her second novel ‘A Joint Venture’ employs business symbolism to delineate the marriage relationship which adequately forces on the subaltern role of the wife as only the sleeping partner. At the end the women asserts a new identity when she realizes that since a long period of thirty years she has been cheated by her husband. After a long painful experience, she realizes that, escapism is never a solution and that she is her own refuge. Now, Through Jyoti, Jai Nimbkar endeavors to establish woman as an individual, who wants her personal identity as she has been only the servant of her husband for thirty years. All the luxurious paradise provided by her husband seems to her like a hell of slavery and submission. She goes on analyze her past; she finds it seems difficult more to tolerate any more to the one-sided decision making of her husband. She at once decides to leave her husband. But due to failure her husband becomes weak in his soul. Seeing her husband Ram Vulnerable and weak Jyoti changes her role from a wife into a protector, as mother. So, she satisfies herself with the changed role of her identity. She preserves her female identity in a different and unique way. She very well understands her inner strength to overcome the hurdles of her life. Now at the end Jyoti represents the courageous woman who is able to break the illusions that she had created by her own submission and she changes her identity into a new respectable one. It’s a reversal of role here. Jyoti herself here accepts that she is the victim of her own first because she from the beginning didn’t interfere in the decisions of Ram. She managed the whole business as an honest employee yet, she never thought of her economic independence. On the contrary she became distanced from her own children and at the end becomes totally alone in her life. So in one way we can say that women in Indian society suffers due to their own fault, those women who realizes very early and set their identity back they live a happy life with their family and those who cannot realize their victimization, they becomes the sufferer through out their life.

Ann in ‘Come Rain’, is rooted in her foreign culture and traditions. And also is empowered as such but at the same time she is ready and willing to learn a new culture and it’s traditions. She gets shocked to learn that her husband whom she married out of love gets involved with another woman. This most mature of the author’s novels depicts in a unique way of the feminine assertion. The female protagonist here is a young, idealistic American girl who comes
to value and accepts Indian traditions. She faces her husband’s family which is ruled by the proverbial mother-in-law. Usually the fictional world of the women novelists has a wider range and the female characters confirms to the age old expectation of society or any conflict with the patriarchal world. Here, Ann attempts to breaks this tradition of the submissive wife and rejects even the male protection by refusing to the U.S.A. with her husband. Now she decides to live without sacrificing her own desires and identity. She faces head-on the cross cultural conflict of the misunderstandings among the women of the family, which Anita Desai’s characters face, in the reverse context of the Indian Diaspora in the West. Here Ann’s final decision shows that she is capable to manage her own life. She negates all her feminine limitations and acquires the power to change herself and also other female characters. At the end her feeling of freedom shows that how much she was compacted with the boundaries of the marriage bond. She now gets a new confidence to face the hurdles very easily and quite simply. She feels happy to see the realities of Indian heritage. She knows it very well that woman has the power to express herself and also is able to remove social evils. Hence, she engages her free times in the social activities. In this way the protagonist Ann becomes an ideal for similarly positioned women in Indian society.

Some women in the society faces annihilation of their identity in society fails in their resolve to fight against it and some even commit suicide. But the female characters in Jai Nimbkar’s novels are never helpless and spineless. They are educated and forward looking women who can face boldly all problems of life. They are assertive in their own way to find their self identity, they know their limitations. Ann fights against her situation in a new culture dominated by patriarchy. But another female character resists the taboos of widowhood, Usha, reestablishes her married life by marrying again with the moral support of Ann. Here a new problem arises regarding the custody of her daughter which she can not take with an easy way. She is helpless as she cannot take her daughter with her to start a new life with another person and nor she can live with out her daughter. It is really a critical situation for her. Ann’s sister-in-law ‘Madhuri’ too is an educated woman and rebels against the system of arranged marriages and runs away with her boy friend. As she has selected a boy of another caste she faces inter-caste conflict which makes her life miserable. All these female characters struggle to learn to become, ‘one’s own refuge’. But ultimately they recreate their own identity.

Though Vineeta, Jyoti and Ann are very significant characters portrayed by Jai Nimbkar. They delineate the present age struggle of middle-class, educated, modern and bold women. When their marriage fails to provide them freedom and equality and respect, they become restless, hurt and seek dissociation from their immediate relations. In fact in India marriage is a promised land for a Indian woman to fulfill her dreams. But it actually encloses all autonomy, avenges of self-realization for woman. These protagonists are rebellious in nature but they do not want to show it in a violent way. Their decisions do not come in a bang but as a ‘whimper’.
In the context of power struggle that always goes on in the patriarchal society, these three characters show their inner strength to preserve their identity one way or other. They do not succumb to the social injustice of the rigid norms and without breaking away from the usual traditional social institution they can well maintain their own individuality as well as position in society.

So, Jai Nimbkar’s portrayal of intelligent women characters is a good ethos of their present day social relevance. Changes in socio-cultural concepts have also changed the image of women. Now in these three novels of Jai Nimbkar ‘wife’ is never portrayed in a ‘patibrata’ mould. Here women can analyze their marriage relationships in all the three dimensions of time; past, present and future. As they are clever enough, they never intend to hurt or break any relations with the in-laws. With the right sense of freedom, these women exhibit a cool detachment. While they feel unsatisfied with their husbands they never shift their loyalties towards another man. No doubt all these three novels here attempts the victimization of women but nowhere has the author directly attacks on the brutal treatment of the husbands for their wives. Author directly says here that women are victimized due to their own fault first, and then comes the other reasons. Of course there are some rigid norms and traditional systems are there which behaves women as slaves but for that we cannot claim to all the male society. We know it very well that not all men are bad and neither all women are the sufferer.

In this research, as we have started to probe deeply into the inner landscape of Jai Nimbkar’s three novels and we have furnished certain objectives in the quest for identity by the female protagonists. So, for this purpose each of her three novels is studied in a right earnest. The feminist viewpoint in these novels is not Westernized one but is typical Indian feminism. This defines woman as an equal member of the society, and a complement to man but not a rival. Through these novels it is also observed that there is depiction of generation gap and its adjustment problems with the age old traditions. Its relevance to the present day society is a perfect achievement. In the novel ‘Temporary Answers’ there is quest of a widow, who suffer inner conflict due to maladjustment between her ingrained traditions and her modernity due to her education. She dares to reject the bond of marriage to preserve her identity. She looks for a perfect life partner again but fails and she does not want to surrender herself under the domination of male, so she even rejects all male protection. She comes to the conclusion that marriage for her is not a solution to get rid of her loneliness but it is a temporary answer for her problems. In the second novel ‘A Joint Venture’ here is an analysis of the married relation of Ram And Jyoti and their family. It seems just like a business venture, where the wife is given the role of a ‘sleeping partner’ and the husband is a ‘decisive partner’. So, here the quest of the woman character leads her towards a new role in her husband’s life as a protector. It is a reversal of role of women in a vulnerable situation of husband, which can be seen more or less in all women. The novel depicts the study of women’s eternal struggle for getting identity. The
third novel ‘Come Rain’ depicts the quest of woman for her identity when she faces the reversed cross-cultural conflict of an American bride in the Indian traditions. But she does not hate Indian tradition, which is the difference here. The women protagonist does not allow her husband to make her subjugate and rejects his company in life and at the end of this novel allows him to go back to U.S.A. She always is in a crave to enjoy the inner beautys of Indian heritage so, she finally enjoys her Indian citizenship and stays in India with her only son. It’s a different way of achieving self identity to preserve individuality.

Jai Nimbkar’s feminism in her works argues about the emotional segregation of women and men, all her novels advocate many patterns of feminism encompassing agitation for equality, sexual autonomy and the power to take self determination. Not only her stories of the novels seem real but also her characters are real, modern life types, who are the typical representative of young women of third world countries. They can identify their problems and needs. The problems and situations which they face seem realistically portrayed. No doubt, her protagonist’s gradual transformation to get new identity in reality expresses a separate type of feminism in the Indian fiction which balances both the traditional faiths and the modern thinking of Indian women in this progressing age. Every woman has a dream of her life as she is also a person, and she wants to live it fully, that’s what she needs from society. But we fail to understand why people who, themselves have been born from the womb of ‘WOMAN’ should mistreat her? Now let me conclude my whole thesis with the following lines from a beautiful poem of Padma Gole from her poem “Smruti Git”:

“Forgetting the past to take pleasure in the future,
Smash and discontinue the hard-disc and its scary song.
Pitch this gramphone of the psyche in a deep vale
Sustain me, sisters, as my deprived sinking mind is unstable.” (p-12)