ABSTRACT

Chapter I – Introduction:
The Dissertation is about the evolution in the portrayal of Women in Indian English novels written by Women novelists. The thesis aims to show how the women characters portrayed in the novels of the past three decades reflect the changes that are taking place in the Indian society. There is a lot of difference in the way women are portrayed - their desires, their trauma as presented in the earlier novels are different from their desires and trauma as presented in the later novels. This research work attempts to see the causes and consequences of this gradual development.

Chapter II –Changing Scenario:
The second chapter photographs the changing scenes in Indian society and the change in the life style of women, trying to contrast it with the pre independent period and earlier. The chapter intends to show the gradual change in the outlook of the character as well as the change in the social outlook through the novels of Manju Kapoor, Anita Desai, Gita Harihara and Anita Nair.
Chapter III – Consequences of Evolution:
The third chapter is a continuation and a development of the idea presented in the second chapter. This chapter throws light on the awareness that developed as a result of education. Women realize that they have been suppressed and exploited and they register their protest. Their struggle to cope up with situations results either in depression or in protest leading to marital disharmony and family disintegration. The chapter analyses the reactions of the various characters and focuses on their search for identity.

Chapter IV – Changing Expressions:
The fourth chapter aims to bring out the beauty of the style and how each writer in her own way records the changes in the status of women.

Chapter V – Summing Up:
The last chapter sums up the findings of each chapter and briefs on the scope of further study in the field