PREFACE

Novel is called an epic of modern life. Like other forms of literature it is totally related to human life. Man and woman, their worldly relations, thoughts and emotions and struggles of life with success and disappointment forms the basis of its creative process. As such the novelist weaves his creation with the warp and woofs of life. Novel is not an exception to it. From the beginning Hindi novel has been evaluating the life and related problems of woman.

In our male dominated society many male writers have tried to reach the root of problems related to woman and present its solutions. In their creative process their views have been predominantly male oriented, the problems of woman and her values of life have not been discussed from the female point of view. We can consider Ajneya as an exception. In his novels, which are not only woman dominated, the creation of character is done from the woman's point of view. So the study of the Changing values of woman's life in Ajneya's novels may be called the study of not only his complete creative genius but also the creative genius of contemporary novels. This forms the main inspiration of the present research work.
Many researchers have studied Ajneya's novels. Some of the important works are --

Ajneya: Vyaktitwa Aur Krititwa by Dr. P.C. Tiwari, Jiwaji University, 1976;

Ajneya Ka Katha Sahitya by Arabindasan, Cochin University, 1972;

Shailly Vaijnanik Tatòn Ke Adhar Par Ajneya Ke Upanyaso Ka Adhayan by K.L. Nagraju, Puna University, 1978;

Ajneya Ki Gadya Shaili by Dr. Savitri Misra and Ajneya Ke Manovaijuanik Ādhyyayan by Jwala Prasad Khetan.

Aim of the study :-

Many studies have been conducted to present the life-values and problems related to the woman in the present age. They have been attracted to this area because of the condition of the woman in the society. They have their own importance in the society. In the earlier studies the studies of women's life-values have mostly been evaluated against the background of traditional values.
The present tragedy is that although modern education and mass media have profound influence on woman, the attitudes of the society towards them have not shown an appreciable change. Consequently the contradictions still exist between their moral views and social morals. The roles of the woman in the past were comparatively fixed but now a woman has to play many roles at the same time and so, many conflicts arise.

Since the values are changing, it is necessary to make their evaluation accordingly. In the present age the role of woman is different from that of the past. The breaking of joint family, changing sexual morals, economic conditions, political awareness, alienation, uncertainty etc. are some of the factors which have influenced the social life. So along with man, woman also is not untouched by them. Ajneya may be considered a writer per excellence in this direction. He has not only given the vivid description of the changing society of his age but also has tried to visualise the individual problems through the eyes of a woman. In his works we find woman loving, hating, frustrated, taking their own decisions, inspiring man, sacrificing as well as revolting against traditional values. Being mostly of the middle class and the upper middle class they are thinking
women. They are more conscious of their individual existence and their actions are guided by their own decision. The present study has tried to focus on the changing life-values of the women in Ajneya's novels.

AREA OF THE STUDY :-

The present study does not claim to present the changing values of woman in the society as such but it focuses on Ajneya's women characters and the changing values reflected through them. The women characters belong to the middle and the upper middle class. They are intelligent and conscious of their existence. They are the main characters in Ajneya's novels. The changing values are expressed through them in relation to the traditional social values. The discussion deals with how the intelligent and sensitive women face the moral contradictions of contemporary society and their reaction towards it. In this work attempts have been made to explore the various aspects of woman's life and changing values comparing them with traditional values. The present study has focused on the three novels out of the four written by Ajneya. The novel Mekhala Chhaya could not be included because of its non availability to the researcher.
ORGANISATION OF THE THESIS :-

I have divided the subject of my research into five chapters followed by one concluding chapter. These are as follows :-

In the first chapter, I have analysed the traditional values of life of women from the Pre-Vedic age to the present day under the following sub headings :- Personality of women, women and society, women and her status in the society and concept of an ideal woman.

In the second chapter, I have analysed the social relationship of women, especially those relation with whom physical acquaintance is not permissible in general. These are as follows - father - daughter, brother - sister, daughter-in-law - father-in-law, sister-in-law - brother-in-law.

In the third chapter, women characters of Ajneya has been discussed under the following sub headings - Universal features of women, eternal problems of women and its solution, concept of women-liberation, women as a source of inspiration, accomplishment of womanhood in self-sacrifice.
In the fourth chapter, the negligence of traditional values of women's life in Ajneya's novels has been analysed under the following sub headings - new evaluation of morality, negligence of chastity, changing values of chastity.

In the fifth chapter, I have discussed about Ajneya's concept of society under the following sub headings - negligence of traditional and social relationship, friendly attitude of man towards woman, consciousness among women and concept of her identity.

The last chapter, i.e. the concluding one has covered in brief the entire study.

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