FOREWORDS
The 'Chitralekha' of Bhagwaticharan Verma was a prescribed text book for the school Final Examination during our days. Although we read it in that stage as a text book yet it attracted me so much that I began to read other novels of Vermaji which were available. Even after the school days, we had to go through some novels of Vermaji as text books in the college. With the passing of times my attraction of the childhood days grew deeper and I began reading of his novels with more interest. I collected all the writings, particularly the novels of Vermaji and read and re-read them.

After doing my M.A. in Hindi literature, I decided to go through the novels of my best beloved writer and if possible to analyse them scientifically. With this end in view I met my respected Professor, Dr. Dharmadeo Tiwari, the then Head of the Hindi Department, G.U. and expressed my desire. He appreciated my feeling and asked me to do some research work on my favourite writer. He also assured me all help from his end. Finally with the blessings of Tiwari Sir, we decided to devote to do research on the 'Woman Characters in Bhagwaticharan Verma's Novels'.

For the sake of convenience of study the whole monograph has been divided in to eight chapters.

The first chapter is an introductory one dealing with the concept of the subject, necessity of its study, methodology applied for the study and such other introductory issues.

The second chapter deals briefly with the life and works of Vermaji with special reference to his novels. Here more stress has been given on the novels than that on other writings.

The third chapter begins with different attitudes towards women with special reference to Indian values. Then we proceeded to analyse Vermaji's attitude towards Women. A note on the different classes of women in the novels of Vermaji has also been added.
The fourth chapter analyses the Women of Vermaji’s novels in their different roles— as mothers, as wives, as sisters, as daughters, as daughters-in-law and as lovers.

The next chapter i.e. fifth chapter studies his women in various status and positions — like Sammanit (Honourable), Sonmohak (Enchantress), Karun (Pathetic), Upexit (Neglected) etc.

The sixth chapter deals with aesthetic sense and toileting of Vermaji’s women such as their dress, cosmetics etc.

The seventh chapter analyses the major woman character in his novels.

Finally the eighth chapter is our Conclusion. After going through the different aspects of woman characters of Vermaji, we endeavoured to draw some conclusion in this chapter. It reflects our complete understanding of the subject.

Now, it is not out of place here to convey our gratitude to some persons to whom we are really grateful and without whose aid and advice my dream would not have been fulfilled. First, I cannot just express my gratitude towards Dr. Tiwariji in words for his invaluable help and inspiration, without which it would not have been possible for me to do this work. I shall remain evergrateful to this beloved and respected Gurudev. I have no hesitation to say that whatever is achieved here in my work is only due to Dr. Tiwariji. May God give him a long and healthy life to inspire and guide hundred others and do the service of Hindi literature!

During the course of my studies, I received help from many of my well-wishers which I can never forget in my life. Of these well-wishers, special mention should be made to Dr. Bhupendra Nath Raichoudhury Professor and Head of Hindi Department, G.U. and Dr. Vivek Kumar Shrivastav, Reader of Hindi Deptt. G.U. I express my heartfelt gratitude to them both. I also consulted Dr. Vandana Shrivastav and Sri Achyut
Sarma of Hindi Dept., G.U. I am also grateful to them both for their kind help in various ways for my work.

Here I must mention the names of two persons of the B.N. College, Dhubri from whom I receive encouragement and help in various ways in my work. I cannot but express my gratefulness to them - Prof. Tarini Kanta Sarma, Head of Hindi Dept. B.N. College and Prof. Gopi Krishna Shrivastav, Head of the English Deptt., B.N. College. I express my high regards & indebtedness to my respected parents - Shri Abhay Kant Jha and Srimati Prema Devi, my uncle Gajendra Jha and aunt Smt. Basundhara Devi whose affection and blessings encouraged me in every walk of my life. They encouraged me a lot in this work also. I am ever-grateful to them. I also express my gratefulness to my mother-in-law and my father-in-law respected Lal Jha, ‘Vinit’ Principal Kodak Higher Secondary School, Arunachal Pradesh who always blessed me with their help and advice. The following persons also came to my help in various ways. They are --- my wife Vinita, brothers Anil, Rupkumar, Rupesh and Nikesh; sister Sanjita, brother-in-law Rakesh and friend Pradeep Verma. I cannot forget them in my life. I am also thankful to my elderbrother Shri Piyush Kumar Mishra, Academic Counsellor, CINCAD, Guwahati for his sincere advice and time to time guidance during the entire period of completion of this work. The smile of my one year old daughter 'Simmi' always inspired me during this work. I also express my gratitude to the librarians of different libraries including the K.K. Handique library of G.U., and library of the Benaras Hindu University, from which I got immense help as to supply of books of my need.
I am also greatly indebted to all authors of the books I have consulted. Last but not least, I acknowledge my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. S.M. Mahanta, Principal, Guwahati Academy, Guwahati-37 for his help in my work in various ways.

I tried my best to analyse and discuss the various aspects of the woman characters in the novels of Bhagwaticharan Verma. The omission and commission in this analysis, if any, is mine and does not reflect upon this great writer.

Date: 01-01-99

(SAMIR KUMAR JHA)
B.N. College, Dhubri
Dhubri, Assam.

***