PREFACE

Being a history student basically, it is natural to explore into various source materials for presenting the realistic picture of social trends, customs practices as they affect lives of men and women and their diverse relationships. For the last two decades, literature is being used as a source material by the historians as well as research scholars to discuss various social issues. Owing to my interest in social history and having a good knowledge of Urdu, I found it worthwhile to study gender issues and problems through the medium of Urdu literature. I am lucky that I got a chance to do research in the field of my interest. As the study is mainly based on the works of Urdu fiction writers of progressive era, I took help of translated versions in addition to the original works in Urdu. First of all I acknowledge my debt to all those whose translations from Urdu to English have been used partially or wholly in this study. I apologise for my dare some act. I am thankful to all other writers whose books helped me to perceive my theme from different angles.

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(Rajwanti)