CONCLUSION

The study of the foregoing chapters reveal the image of minorities in the Writings of Mulk Raj Anand, Manohar Malgonkar, Khushwant Singh, Ahmed Ali and Attia Hossain.

In the very first chapter and the introduction itself I have made very clear the meaning of minority that it is not just a group which is thinly populated compared to a densely populated one, but it has got various meanings, and for our convenience we can divide minority into various categories i.e.

1) Numerical minority
2) Racial minority
3) Language minority
4) Religious minority
5) Underprivileged minority.

Minority is not always suppressed and underprivileged. Sometimes the ruling class which may be less in number or belonging to numerical minority is able to exercise an influence and also at times suppress the ruled majority. For example, the Mughals and the British who were a minority in India, ruled the Asian sub-
continent for centuries. I have also stated the functioning of minorities in society and the discrimination against minority.

I can conclude from the present research work that at times minorities are partially or completely excluded from both the formal and informal association found among the majority. Not infrequently, the minorities also voluntarily exclude themselves from participation with the majority, partly as a means of maintaining traditional cultural differences. Majority-minority relations in variably involve some conflict, although this may take varied forms and operate on different levels.

The minorities undertaken for the study of this research work are

1) Underprivileged minority,

2) Racial minority i.e. British and Anglo-Indian minority,

3) Religious minority i.e. Sikh and Muslim minorities.

To depict the 'Underprivileged minority' I have undertaken Mulk Raj Anand's three novels viz., 1) Untouchable, 2) Coolie, 3) Two Leaves and a Bud.

Mulk Raj Anand, in the above three novels, described the plight of the underprivileged lot i.e; the Panchamas and the Shudras.
The main characters such as Bakha in Untouchable, Munoo in Coolie and Gangu in Two Leaves and a Bud, rise above the limited confines of the thematic sphere and strongly stand for a social cause. Anand has tried to reform the society by laying bare all the ills and evils and by taking cudgels against social injustice. The above three novels are a crusade against the injustice done to the poor peasants and the lower classes by the upper classes in the caste dominant Indian society.

Mulk Raj Anand has advocated the cause of humanity, freedom, equality and justice through his novels. He does not just dream about a casteless and classless society, but prepares the minds of his readers for this. Anand is not satisfied to see what is around him and so he depicts in his novels a need to change society. For this one must begin somewhere by contributing something new.

Another minority under study in this research work is ‘Anglo-Indian and British Minority’. To throw light on this particular category of minority I have undertaken the study of Manohar Malgonkar’s two novels, 1) The Combat of Shadows and 2) The Princes. One aspect wherein Manohar Malgonkar is distinctive from other writers of fiction in English is the depiction of the
Englishmen as individuals and the British legacy in general in a highly adulatous manner, which makes him stand almost by himself in this respect. Malgonkar portrays in his novels an unabashed eulogy for Englishmen in general for their sense of duty, devotion and commitment to principles in handling difficult situations in India. The Anglo-Indian characters under study are Ruby Miranda, Eddie Trevor and an Englishman Henry Winton.

Malgonkar depicts the Anglo-Indian’s quest for self identity and an urge to mingle with the West. Ruby Miranda is the perfect example of the same. She gives up her Anglo-Indian lover Eddie Trevor to fulfil her longing to become a ‘memsaheb’ in the world of the British Malgonkar introduces the theme of revenge as Ruby Miranda tries steadfast to be avenged on Henry Winton for his ruthless betrayal and duplicity.

Malgonkar has portrayed Englishmen possessing qualities like devotion, commitment, sense of duty. Even if Malgonkar views Englishmen not as rulers primarily but as human beings who exemplify most illustriously the value he cherishes.

But Henry Winton in ‘Combat of Shadows; proves the rule by default. He fails for he doesn’t measure up to the exacting standards
set for his men by Malgonkar. Winton's failure in the novel is attributed to his betrayal of the code. He is loyal to none, not even to his own feelings. He is torn in conflict between 'desire and aversion'. A man of no integrity, he fails to establish viable relationship either with Ruby Miranda or with his English wife Jean.

We can conclude that Malgonkar's personal experience with the British and Anglo-Indians has helped him to portray the British and Anglo-Indian characters as if they are in flesh and blood.

Another category of minority understudy in this research work is the religious minority depicting Sikh and Muslim minority. To depict the Sikh minority I have undertaken two novels of Khushwant Singh viz. *Train to Pakistan* and *I shall not hear the Nightingale*. In the above mentioned novels Khushwant Singh has portrayed the Sikh minority in a perfect manner. The Sikh character of Juggat Singh, in Khushwant Singh's first novel *Train to Pakistan*, is a perfect embodiment of the basic tenets of Sikh minority. He is cast into the image of a Sikh martyr. His sacrifice is motivated by personal love expanding itself into the love of an entire community. He saves the whole train load of innocent Muslims at the cost of his life and follows the basic tenets of Sikhism. Khushwant Singh has
portrayed two types of characters depicting Sikh minority, one is Juggat Singh, a noted dacoit, and a simple rural man belonging to Sikh community, the other is Iqbal who is a Sikh intellectual an educated and city bred Sikh.

Another embodiment of Sikh minority in the writings of Khsuhwant Singh is the character of Sabhrai from *I shall not hear the Nightingale*. Sabhrai is a woman of great simplicity. She is religious and devoted to her family. Sabhrai is the leading light and moving spirit of the family. She is gifted with intuition. The novelist says that she is possessed with the sixth sense, which often goes with people of deep religious convictions.

To depict Muslim minority I have undertaken two novels viz., Ahmed Ali’s *Twilight in Delhi* and Attia Hossain’s *Sunlight on a Broken Column*. *Twilight in Delhi* presents a vivid picture of the cultural decay and decline of the Muslim aristocratic tradition, which patronized culture for centuries, as perceived by Ahmed Ali.

Mir Nihal from the above novel is a perfect embodiment of Muslim minority. He is an orthodox Muslim who hates everything that is English. Mir Nihal laments at the gradual decline of the Muslim rule, and the novel takes a pessimistic note from an
optimistic one, from strength to weakness, from hope to despair and
from love to death.

Another character of Muslim minority is Laila in Attia
Hossain’s *Sunlight on a Broken Column*.

Laila is an embodiment of an educated Muslim girl belonging
to a feudal household of Lucknow. Education and family are at
crossroads for her. The purdah culture of the house in which Laila
has been brought up represents conservatism, confinement,
restriction, suppression of emotions, repression of sexuality and
complete patriarchy. Her Western education on the other hand
exposes her to a totally different world – a word of new political,
social and economic ideas which encourage an individual to
question, assert and grow.

In the present research work I have tried to analyse the various
minorities and throw light of the characters belonging to these
minorities as depicted in the writings of Mulk Raj Anand, Manohar
Malgonkar, Khushwant Singh, Ahmed Ali and Attia Hossain. A
quick glance at the following tree-diagram will help to understand
the work in the foregoing chapter vividly.
From the above research work, I can conclude that the writings of the writers undertaken for this study viz., Mulk Raj Anand, Manohar Malgonkar and Khushwant Singh have depicted the image of different minorities in their writings. The different minorities are:

a) Under privileged minority

b) Racial minority

c) Religious minority