ABSTRACT

This study entitled "Dreams and Realities in the Novels of Kamala Markandaya" tries to examine the social realism that reveals a continuous struggle between man and fate which Kamala Markandaya portrays in her novels, by a comprehensive analysis of the themes and characters of her novels.

Starting with an overview of Kamala Markandaya’s novels, this study goes on to evaluate the themes of her novels, her authorial interest in the growth and development of the central characters of her novels, and her superior delineation of women protagonists through whom she transmutes the social reality with in the mode of life she depicts. As a humanist novelist who believes that literature must be purposive and play a vital role in the betterment of society in particular and humanity in general, her deep concern for society is also highlighted in the process.

Through a careful scrutiny of Kamala Markandaya’s novels, it is established that dreams are the sustaining factors of humanity. They are the everlasting life-savers and the invisible guides who protect and lead the people towards their goals. But in reality, not all the dreams of the people are fulfilled. Only a few dreams are rewarded with the fruit of realization. Most of the dreams of the people are shattered against the rocks of harsh realities in the various forms of socio-economic, religious, political and psychological restraints imposed upon them. In addition, this study proposes ample scope for future researchers to explore the treatment of feminism in the novels of Kamala Markandaya.