CONCLUSION

The two poets discussed, Maya Angelou and Kamala Das, are representatives of Woman Poets in English. Both of these poets are truly representation of Woman as a whole. Breaking the traditional norms of female as a sexual object, these poets have given a new definition of woman. Woman, who has her own feminine self, has feelings, and desires to live life as of her own will – is presented by these two poets.

Maya Angelou and Kamala Das both are great poets. Maya Angelou is an Afro-American and Kamala Das is an Anglo-Indian. Both possess similarities and differences. Looking at the similarities, both poets are related to women's writings. Both poets are post colonial and their poems are related to subaltern and subordination of women. Their poems deal with suppression of women. Both of them are autobiographers also. Kamala Das’s autobiography is “My Story” whereas Maya Angelou has recorded her life and experience in six volumes: 'I know Why The caged Bird Sings', Gather Together in My Name', Singin' and Swingin’ and Getting Merry like Christmas’, ‘The Heart of a Woman’, ‘All God's Children Need Traveling Shoe’, ‘A Song Flung Up To Heaven’.

The poetry of Maya Angelou and Kamala Das is manifolded. It deals with variety of themes. But the purpose behind the study was to discuss aspects of Post colonial feminist Aesthetics in the poetry of Maya Angelou and Kamala Das and also to do comparative study of these aspects in poetry of both of these poets. These aspects were subordination and marginalization, quest for self and confessional and autobiographical mode in their poetry.

It is hoped that is has served its purpose well. Both the poets use poetry as a medium to air out their inner conflict, their wishes. Maya Angelou and Kamala Das both have used the theme of subordination and quest for identity in their poetry very well. They have also used poetry as a tool to share their life experience of life, condition and position of female in the society in which they lived. The themes used are same but their way for expression is different. For one quest for self is related to feminine self, whereas
for the other, quest for self is also related to self race. Thus the difference lies between
the poetry of Maya Angelou and Kamala Das.

The first aspect of the study was to discuss the subordination and marginalization
of women in their poetry. Subordination and Marginalization, a mode of postcolonial
poetry, is at core in the poetry of both of the poets. Women had been subordinated and
marginalized by dominating nature of males. They had to live as a subordinated being
and still they are facing the same. Although education has changed the scenario of
female’s subordination and marginalization a little. Women are becoming more and
more aware of their rights as an individual. The poetry and works of women writers is
encouraging them.

Maya Angelou is a poet of her race. Her poems are the proof of marginalization
and subordination of blacks as slaves and marginalization due to racism. The victims
were both men and women. But women are the main sufferers. Afro-American women
faced many problems because of their dark complexion. They were subordinated thrice-
By white male, white female and thirdly by black male. The poems of Maya are showing
the crystal clear picture of marginalization and subordination of women in America.

Kamala Das as a representative of Indian women shows their position as
marginalized. Indian society is patriarchal society where male domination exists.
Females have to live under the males in the figure of father, brother and husband.
Husband is considered as a sheltering tree for his wife. She has to live her whole life as
a subordinated being. She is marginalized and subordinated by her husband. The same
has been felt and faced by Kamala Das. Her poems do not belong to Das only but they
speak the bad condition and lowered position of an Indian wife. The poems of Kamala
Das clearly paint the picture of an Indian woman as marginalized and subordinated
human being. Her cravings to take her as a human being of blood and flesh are the
themes of Kamala’s poems.

The second aspect of this thesis was to discuss their quest for self, their identity
in the poetry of Maya Angelou and Kamala Das. A person is known to all by his/her
identity. The self of a person is his/her confidence and pride. But a woman is known by
males of her family. In a patriarchal society a woman has no individuality. Her self exists
nowhere. Although because of education women are becoming aware of their selves.
They are trying to make their identity instead of accepting the culturally imposed one in which a woman is taken merely as a toy in the hands of males. But as it is known to all that the increasing number of rapes, molestation and sexual assaults, female foeticide are the burning issues of today. All these problems are making pressures on the parents to think upon the freedom given by them to their daughters. It is the alarming situation on the existence of women on earth.

‘Quest for self’ for Maya Angelou is totally different. Here ‘self’ means whole race- the self of blacks, the self of black female. The poems of Maya Angelou are the result of slavery and racism. These systems include social insult, sexual assaults, inhuman behaviour and many more. Human is a human first of all. After it, a human can be labeled as an American or African. The poetry of Maya asserts on identification of blacks as human beings. She believes in equality. Blacks were treated as slaves and they were dehumanized due to racism. Hardships of life have been realized by Maya Angelou. Thus she quest for identification at least as human being first.

'Quest for self' is the crux of Kamala Das poetry. Kamala Das has dealt with the quest for self through the themes like physical relations, oppression of husband, forced-sex and boundations of house wife. Living the life of an Indian woman, she feels dissatisfied with the Patriarchal Indian Society. The dominating nature of her husband, his feelings less heart, his carnal hunger, his irresponsible behaviour as father as well as husband, breaks Das completely. Kamala craves to be identified as an individual human being. Her role of a wife seems not to satisfy the poet and thus we have good number of poems dealing with the ‘search of an identity’, ‘search for her self’, ‘search for her existence’.

The third aspect of the study was to explore their autobiographical and confessional mode in their poetry. Both of the poets have written about their life and experiences in their poems. An autobiographical poem deals with any real event of poet’s life. But a confessional poem usually deals with the intimate details of poet’s life. These details are those events that a person would normally share it with a close friend or with a therapist. Thus confessional poetry is a subset of autobiographical poetry. So all confessional poems are autobiographical but all autobiographical poems are not confessional.
Maya Angelou is a poet, producer, director and autobiographer also. Her autobiography has been serialized in six volumes. Besides these volumes, many of her poems are termed as autobiographical. Maya Angelou records her anecdotes of childhood, slavery, slaves, hard work, and problems of single unwed mother, financial crisis, rape and racism in her poems. Many of her poems are a tribute to freedom fighters. Her poems don’t belong to Maya alone but her poems are the voice of marginalized and oppressed blacks. Maya Angelou uses slavery of colonial times as a weapon to strengthen her idea of racism. She emphasizes the oppression and tortures already born by blacks due to slavery. She differentiates between the life style of black and whites in her poems. Her satiric tone on the ‘boasting of whites as superior’ is a great attack. She writes poems on her family, mother, father and son. Her poems include details of her life. She sings song of freedom in her poems. She is of the view, that a human being is a human first of all. Her poems deal with the theme of humanity. There is a fine mellowness of positivism, love for race and a fine altruistic benevolence towards humanity. Her poems give the message of international brotherhood. It shows her broader attitude of international understanding. Her belief lies in a citizen of the world instead of a citizen of a country. In true sense she is a poet of humanity.

Kamala Das is a great poet. She can be labeled as a confessional and an autobiographical poet. Searching for true love, she does the experiment of extra-marital affairs but feels constantly dissatisfied in such attempts. Her childhood, love for grandmother and ancestral house, motherly feelings, change in life after birth of Jaisurya marriage, husband sex are the variety of themes that labeled her an autobiographical poet. Her bold unveiling of many intimate details of her life such as her husband's forced sex, nudeness of female, details of sexual organs and extra-marital affairs are the themes of her poetry that make Kamala Das not only a confessional poet but the queen of confessional poetry also. It is because of her confessions in poems that whenever the word confessional poetry comes, then name of ‘Kamala Das is at the apex.

The fourth aspect of the study was to explore the comparative study of poetry of Maya Angelou and Kamala Das. Both of the poets have written about their life and
experiences, social problems of their times, condition of female, urge of female for her identification in their poems.

Maya Angelou and Kamala Das both were born in the era of colonization. But they got their conscious selves and became known to the ways of world in the post colonial era. Both of the poets did not get good nourishment in their childhood. Their upbringing by their parents was not up to the mark. As these are the circumstances that lead both of the poets to live their lives under hardships. The parents of Maya could not adjust with each other, thus Maya with her brother was sent to Arkansas. The orthodox Indian patriarchal society did not allow Kamala Das to think and take decisions about her. Another similarity in their poems in "Grandmother", Grandmother is a figure that appears in the poems of both Maya Angelou and Kamala Das. Both the poets had great attachment with their grandmothers. In their company, the poets feel good and affectionate. Many poems deal with memory of Grandmother such as “My Grandmother’s House’ of Kamala Das and ‘Out Grandmother’ of Maya Angelou. Both poets have been the victims of exploitation. Maya Angelou had been the victim of rape at a tender age of eight. Later in her life, she had been a victim of racism also. On the other hand, Kamala Das was victimized by conventional patriarchal society where women have no right to take any decision. So was with Kamala, as her marriage was fixed with a man maturer than her, at an age of fifteen. Her feminine self got hurt by the brutal sexual treatment done by her husband.

Subordination and Marginalization is the theme of poetry of both of the poets, Maya Angelou and Kamala Das. For Maya Angelou, it is almost equal to a crime as her race i.e. Afro-Americans had underwent the social problem of slavery. She herself has been a victim of racism. The pain of subordination lies in her poems where cruelty of whites on blacks is shown in poetic form. The dark complexion becomes the reason of marginalization of blacks. Black women became victim of these cruelties thrice. She was subordinated by white male, white female and black male. Thus the subordination and marginalization theme in poetry of Maya is not only related to herself, but it is related to her whole race. On the other hand the subordination and marginalization in poetry of Kamala Das is related to women of India. Because of Patriarchal orthodox society, there is domination of male. A married woman has to live her whole life under
her husband. She is the property of her husband. In fact she is a rubber ball to whom her husband can use whenever and anywhere. Thus Kamala Das’s poetry is related to position and condition of women as a subordinated and marginalized being.

‘Quest for self’ is the crux of Kamala Das’s poetry but in Maya Angelou’s poems it is related to humanity. Maya believes in equality. Her quest is ‘search for identity’, ‘search for survival’ and ‘quest for identification as human being’. The poems of Kamala Das are a mirror of the condition of a woman as she is in lockup and the key is in the hands of her husband. Her husband uses her mentally, physically and sexually. Her own will, own self exists nowhere. Thus here self is related to individuality.

Autobiographical and confessional poetry are related to biographical details of a poet. It makes the reader acquaint with the life of the poet. Maya Angelou’s poetry is autobiographical as she records her life, parents, friends, freedom fighters, social problems in her poems whereas the poetry of Kamala Das is confessional. She recorded the intimate details such as sexual treatment of her husband, her extra-marital affairs, nudeness of female, carnal hunger of woman, quest for true love etc. in her poems. Das boldly unveils all the closed matters. Thus, the poetry of Kamala Das is confessional whereas the poetry of Maya Angelou is largely autobiographical in tone.

Thus both the poets share common ground of variety of themes but their target is different. Although it is true that both are the representatives of women, one is of Indian women and other is of Afro-American women. A woman in India has been considered the embodiment of Shakti. She is still worshipped in her childhood as ‘Kanjak’. But still there is discrimination between boy and girl. In Vedic period there was no discrimination between boys and girls. But in post-vedic period her status had been declined. She was treated as a puppet that dances on the tunes of patriarchal society, in which husbands are the head. She was supposed to be obedient to her husband who may have some qualities like a drunkard, dry abuses, and wife beater. She was indoctrinated to believe the ideology of India’s tradition in which husband is like a sheltering tree. The domination of husband, absence of self had been faced by Kamala Das, so her poetry is a blend of subordination, search for self and autobiographical details. She fights for rights of women. In America, a white woman is considered superior than a black complexioned woman because of her colour. She is treated as a low caste person and
a person who has no individuality. Although now scenario of America has been changing as Obama, a black became the President of the country. It is a journey of success of Africans who came to America as slaves and now their successors are rulers. It happened because of positive attitude of its people, strong determination of women and a big credit goes to the optimistic poets such as Maya Angelou, whose sanguine poems became strength and a source of motivation to the blacks.

To conclude, it can be said that the objectives of the study has been achieved. The problems raised in the poems of the female poets are eternal questions pertaining to the position of a female in a man dominated society. It is also true that the position of women in the whole world is changing now. It becomes possible due to awareness of women by various works of female writers. Among these name of Maya Angelou from America and Kamala Das from India are taken into consideration.

Maya Angelou and Kamala Das, both are postcolonial poets. They have played a poignant role to bang the colonization of male and to sing song of freedom by breaking the male dominated territory. Both poets have revolutionized the world by their poems in raising the feminist issues. Through their support to the stumbling position of women they have not only strengthened the women but also have paved a path to move on to prove their worth.