Preface

It has been asserted and proved that there is correlation between literature and society and both influence each other. If literature claims to guide the society to a certain fair destination; it also has to accept that it gets its sinews from society. In fact, literature is a by-product of social life, and bears various social responsibilities. The phenomenon became more apparent in nineteenth century, when the genre of novel took birth. Right from its birth the novel, as a genre, has been an active force against social injustices and have been quite helpful in proliferating the democratic values. It has travelled a long journey till now. It has turned from its adolescence to maturity.

Since I have a great allure for both literature and contemporary social issues, I decided to study the intricate relationship between literature and society. For the purpose I chose to write my thesis on Social Realism that reflects in contemporary Indian English novels. It is an objective and modest attempt to explore the sordid realities that permeate our society. Owing to limits of time and space I have selected three novels viz., *The God of Small Things*, *A River Sutra* and *The Thousand Faces of Night*. The novels are entrenched in Indian society; focus on women subordination, child issue,
problem of caste and class, and degradation of country politics. Highlighting these subjects they put a mirror before the society. They reveal in their own characteristic way, the vicissitude of human sufferings.

For the convenience of study, the thesis has been divided into five chapters. The first chapter, “Realism: Concept and Dimensions” discusses the causes for the realist movement as well as its development across the globe. The second chapter, “Social Realism in The God of Small Things” examines the condition of women, children, and lower caste people in the society, as depicted in the novel. Likewise, the third chapter, “Social Realism in A River Sutra”, and the fourth chapter, “Social Realism in The Thousand Faces of Night”, also study the social realities depicted in the novels. The last chapter of the thesis is reserved for the conclusion.

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