CHAPTER – VI
CONCLUSION

The concluding chapter takes into account the researcher’s observations based on the study of the selected novels of Manju Kapur, Sunny Singh, Bharati Mukherjee, Shobhaa De, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Kavery Nambisan and Shauna Singh Baldwin.

Prior to the textual analysis of the novels the study begins by examining the multifarious problems of the present teenagers in different context. In order to analyze these novels in the light of the parameters mentioned in chapter I and to point out various problems of the teenagers such as – a search of identity, generation gap, stress and depression, suicide attempts due to diverse conditions, deviant development, marriage dilemma and its predicaments, addiction of drugs, unemployment, cyber crimes and internet addiction, alienation and loneliness etc. These multifarious problems are focused while analysing these novels in chapter III, IV and V.

Manju Kapur’s novel, *Difficult Daughters* projects the problems of teenagers through the protagonist Virmati, narrator Ida and other teenage characters like, SwarnaLata, Shakuntala, Chotti and Giridhar. The problems confronted by these teenagers like – strong aspirations for higher education and various obstacles in it, teenagers perversion of illicit love, generation gap between teenage daughter and her mother, search for identity, strong desire or aspiration for education and even to achieve it one sacrifices the marriage proposal, suicide attempt by the protagonist, alienation and loneliness, divorce status in early young age, premarital sexual exploitation, ordeals like abortions and pre-mature miscarriages and predicaments due to bigamy status in the life.

Like Kapur, even Desai and Mukherjee in their novels, *Fasting*, *Feasting* and *Jasmine* have presented search for identity, hypersensitive problems like suicide attempt and alienation and loneliness by the teenagers on the way of their lives. At the same time, De, Baldwin, Deshpande and
Nambisan also have presented the problems of teenagers such as alienation and loneliness in their respective novels.

Kapur’s second novel, *A Married Woman* is also a projection of the problems of the teenage youth like-dilemma of marriage in the form of love marriage or arranged marriage, strong obsession and fad to be in love, incompatible marriage and resultant frustration, loss of self-identity because of striving for traditional duties and family values, excessive interference of mother towards daughter, incessant feelings of loneliness, discomfort and isolation, troubled marital relationship developed the guilty feelings, negative and lack of self-esteem in facing challenges in life, impact of globalization which worst affects the teenagers marital life, conversion of marital prosperity and bliss into greed and obsession for material prosperity by the husband, lesbian relationship as a self-assertion, subvert status due to gender discrimination. In treatment of these problems Kapur resembles Nambisan and De with their respective novels, *Mango-Coloured Fish* and *Second Thoughts*.

*Nani’s Book of Suicides* reflects some of the problems of the teenagers like-incessant peregrination from one place to another place as paradigmatic of life and perceptive quest myth, and an addiction of intoxicating drugs like cocaine, opium, heroin and other unlawful things in foreign countries in the trance of waywardness and the same trance leads the protagonist to illicit sexual love affair with a foreigner, while searching for the identity on an alien ground the protagonist appears as helpless, perverted, baffled and in a perturbed state. The protagonist of Singh appears totally different in search of identity than that of Kapur’s. Singh proclaims through the present novel the predicament of the present teenage youth which is displaced, alienated and searching for the identity on an alien ground. The premarital illicit sexual affair of teenager with a foreigner; and becoming pregnant in an alien land as one of the worst problems of the teenage protagonist. In treatment of sex of the teenage youth Singh differs totally different from Kapur and De.
The teenage protagonist of Mukherjee, Jasmine reflects her qualities as dynamic changing and progressive minded, having a blend of old and new ideologies. Mukherjee presented her problems like-rebellion and struggle against the conventional setup of the traditional feudal society and her fate, confrontation of violence- of her husband’s killing and rape on her by Half-Face, even in despair she attempts to commit suicide, predicament of expatriation or an immigration and search for identity on an alien land. Like Kapur, Mukherjee highlights the problem of teenagers that is suicide in different context. After overcoming her despair and thought of suicide, she purifies herself by punishing the evil and murders the rapist. So, this protagonist emerges in the form of a ‘New Woman’, who has opted like to break than to bend and evolved as fighter, surviour and achiever. The protagonist reflects her image not as a pessimist but as an optimist and her ‘Life Force’ enables her to surpass all the predicaments and ordeals to win the favour of all Americans. She emerges as a path finder and pierces her way courageously through the dense jungle of the problems.

In her another novel Desirable Daughters, Mukherjee also presented the problems of the teenage youth such as the status of diaspora and the identity of many Asian Americans who confront the complex issues of racism, sexism, classism, violence, high social expectations and pressures, poverty, cultural adjustment, lack of family support, post traumatic stress and disorders related to the refugee experiences. Apart from these problems noted, there are still more problems such as psychological, sociological, linguistic, cultural and emotional, divorce status of the protagonist and immoral affair with a foreigner, problem of the sexual affair, problem of the quest of identity, predicaments of migration, marriage obsession in different form, extra-marital affair, lust for the wealth, fame, fashions and life-style addictions. Kapur highlights lesbian relationship as the self-assertion whereas Mukherjee reflects homosexuality in different form.
Second Thoughts of De deals with the problems of teenagers in different context and on different level. Problems such as stumbling of the protagonist in her life with bearing aspiration for the proper marriage, dreams after marriage appear to the protagonist as mirage and illusions, protagonist’s secondary and subordinate status in her own family, the physical starvation of the protagonist. Like Astha, the protagonist of De suffers from the problem of alienation and isolation in her life. In spite of foreign education, her husband leaves her in the status of yearning, flustered and disappointed forever. The excessive intervention and expectations by the matriarchal forces also create problems in the individual life of the protagonist. The novel reflects the pathetic plight of newly wedded urban middle class young girl who becomes victim out of no fault of her own.

The novel of Desai, Fasting, Feasting projects the problems of the teenage youth like – extreme gender discrimination by parents, marriage failures due to the misjudgement and haste of the parents, isolation and loneliness of the teenage girls due to the adverse condition and diverse treatment in the family, domestic violence and subjugation by the husband and mother-in-law that resulted in suicide by the young wife. The protagonist aspires for education like Kapur’s, Virmati of Difficult Daughters. The protagonist who is neither good looking nor intellectual brilliance mostly treated as domestic drudge by the parents. The protagonist is docile victim of the circumstances and her own fate. Hence her status is always like a dumb-driven cattle. Like every teenager the protagonist has her own dreams and aspirations but when conflict occurs in them, she helplessly sacrifices them. Like Kapur and Mukherjee, Desai has handled the suicide problem of the teenagers due to the diverse treatment. Desai put her vision of fasting in which the younger generation does not remain on the background.

The novel of Deshpande, A Matter of Time presents problems of the teenage youths effective manner and in different context like- search for identity, parents’ problem of marriage disintegration and its worse effects on
the teenagers. The protagonist and her two sisters emerge as rebellions to their parents, especially the elder Aru who wants to fight and prove her father the injustice of depriving them all of coherent family life. Deshpande traces the life of protagonist from her adolescence to maturity and later on the occasion of her mother’s and grandfather’s accidental death; who emerges as responsible granddaughter. Even her joining of women’s activist group gives her platform to voice her anger and frustration against the tradition bound society. Like the novel of Desai, Deshpande portrays the mental state of different kinds of teenagers on the journey of freedom.

*Mango-Coloured Fish* reflects vividly and effectively the problems of teenage youths like – pre marriage dilemma and incessant burdens on her by overbearing mother. The protagonist of the novel is neither enthusiastic nor eager for her marriage which appears to her as no thrills or spills. The protagonist and her brother Krishna, have rebelled against the excessive intervention of their mother. Like Kapur’s *A Married Woman*, Nambisan has also stressed on marriage dilemma—whether love marriage or arranged marriage, which mostly bewilders the teenagers. Like Sammie of Singh’s *Nani’s Book of Suicides*, the protagonist of Nambisan, Shari also haunted by incessant feeling that her life has been controlled by others. Nambisan also reflected the marriage crises and predicaments of other teenagers like Krishan, Teji. Despite blissful married life, Yash, friend of Shari engaged in extra-marital affair. To the protagonist, the word marriage appears so slippery that it prompts her to give up her engagement.

The novel of Baldwin, *What the Body Remembers* throws light on the various problems of the teenage-protagonist such as bigamy status etc. Like Kapur’s *Difficult Daughters*, the novel reflects the bigamy predicaments in the life teenager. Like Mukherjee’s Jasmine, Baldwin’s Roop, despite her family poverty and ‘Mangal Star’ in horoscope, emerges adventurous and determined young girl. Roop being a teenage protagonist tries hard to assert herself as a new woman.
Thus, these ten contemporary novels by various women novelists in English project the problems of the teenage youths in various forms as the themes of their novels. The researcher comes to the conclusion that there are many problems that appear in various hazardous forms which sometime somewhere resulting as damage to the budding image of the teenage youths. Mostly, all novels reflect ‘marriage’ as a very dominant aspect of human life at the centre. But sometimes due to their wrong notions and adverse implications, various problems recur in the peripheral circle of life. Problems are also sources of the modernization, globalization and fast changing life style addictions. The select novels in the present study dominantly project marriage and its facets like dilemma of love marriage or arranged marriage, divorce, extra marital affairs, bigamy, child marriage etc. In these precarious conditions, it seems that if teachers, parents and elders play a good vital and more effective monitor’s role with more responsibility to them, then their lives will be easy and comfortable one.

Yet, the researcher feels that the total eradication of the problems does not end. In near future, too, more intricate and complicate problems may crop up and the novels will emerge from different angles or points of view or in the different perspective of the scenario. Hence, in coming future, more research study on the problems of the teenage youth would be possible in different perspectives in the respective circumstances.