HYPOTHESIS:

This study is based on the following hypotheses:

1) Women characters make their appearance in flesh and blood in the novels by women writers only.

2) Women characters make their appearance in their variegated facets. They project themselves as traditionalists as well as modernists, introverts as well as extroverts.

3) Women in contemporary Indian novels in English sublimate their unhappiness and inner turmoils by involving in social, religious or spiritual activities.

4) Changes in social, cultural, educational and economic spheres of life have expanded the nature of reality for women in India. These are very vital factors that decide women’s place and fate in India.

5) Indian women novelists make women characters the central figures and their male counterparts are marginalized.

6) Women characters in Indian novels in English define the age old institutions of marriage and family anew.

The above hypotheses are the outcomes of various studies on Indian novels in English. Mention could be made of studies accomplished by the following eminent scholars:

1. The Novels of Shashi Deshpande - Sarabjit Sandhu (1991)
2. Women’s voices : The Novels of Indian women Writers - K. Meera Bai (1998)
7. Shashi Deshpande’s Novels : A Feminist Study - Siddharatha Sharma (2005)

The present study will be carried out along these hypotheses and will examine the validity or otherwise of these hypotheses.