Work-plan:

The researcher has preferred to divide his study in the following chapters as one of the established part of the doctoral research design:
Chapter I: Introduction.
Chapter III: Four Quartets and the Indian Influence.
Chapter IV: Other Poems and the Indian Influence.
Chapter V: His Poetic Dramas and the Indian Influence.
Chapter VI: Conclusion.

Let there be some outline of the chapters:

Chapter I: Introduction

In the very first chapter the researcher has given the introductory details about Eliot’s life and works. In the same chapter the researcher has found out that there are two groups of critics regarding the influence of the scriptural texts of Hinduism and Buddhism on T.S.Eliot, both of which are mutually opposing to each other. One group believes in favour of the influence of the scriptural texts of Hinduism and Buddhism on T.S.Eliot while the other group is quite skeptical about the same. Both these groups have been categorized as under

➤ The Pro- Indo-Buddhist Influences Critics:

As the very name of the group denotes, these critics definitely hold the view that there was a mesmerizing impact of the Indo-Buddhist thought-systems on the creative as well as the critical works of T.S.Eliot. The critics encompassed in this category are mostly Indian critics of repute like P.S.Sri, Amar Kumar Singh, Jitendra Kumar Sharma, A.N. Dwivedi and Damayanti Ghosh.

➤ The Anti- Indo-Buddhist Influences Critics:

As the very name of the group denotes, these critics are highly dubious whether there was any influence of the Indo-Buddhist tradition on the works of Eliot or not. Most of these critics hold the dismissive attitude towards the scriptural influence of the Hinduism and Buddhism on the works of Eliot. In this group of critics are included the critics like F.O.Mathiessen, Helen Gardner.

In the very second chapter the researcher has dealt with the reflection of the Indian culture and that of Buddhism in Eliot’s magnum opus *The Waste Land*. It is a poem divided in the following parts:

- The Burial of the Dead
- A Game of Chess.
- The Fire Sermon
- Death by water.
- What the Thunder Said

The third part of this poem, The Fire Sermon, is all about Lord Buddha’s gospel to his disciples about everything being on the fire of lust. Here in this chapter Eliot has fused the oriental emblem of asceticism with the occidental one, i.e. Lord Buddha with St. Augustine. The first and perhaps the only poem in the entire English literature concluding with the Upanishadic message of prevailing peace in the midst of hazardous evils caught the attention of all the readers of Eliot about the poet’s last refuge in the *Brihad Aranyika Upanishad*. The conditions prevailing in England in the aftermath of the World War- I were so deplorably painful to the poet persona that he has to take refuge in such a scriptural text very much remote in time, alien in language and diverse in interest.

Chapter III: Four Quartets and the Indian Influence:

The third chapter will highlight the scriptural references to the Indian tradition as found in the above mentioned classic *Four Quartets*. The rise of confidence in the divinity mentioned in *Ash Wednesday* culminates to the highest pinnacle of perfection in *Four Quartets*. The researcher wishes to mention the introduction of Lord Krishna as the most enormous impact of the scriptural influence of the traditional heritage of India. In this chapter the researcher has dealt also with the symbol of wheel in the Buddhist as well as the Hindu scriptures. Eliot’s dealing with the contradictory ideas of ‘beginning’ & ‘end’ as well as ‘birth’ and ‘death’ also remind us of the Upanishadic style of *Tamo Ma Jyortiya Gamaya, Asato Ma Sad Gamaya* and *Mrityormamritam Gamaya*.

Chapter IV: Other Poems and the Indian Influence:
The fourth chapter will throw light on the traditional influence of the Indian civilization in the other poems such as *The Ash Wednesday*, *The Hollow Men*, *Love Song of J.Alfred Prufrock*, *Portrait of a lady*, *To The Indians died in Africa*.

*The Ash Wednesday* lies at the genesis of this research. *The Hollow Men* is a kind of confession of a modern men about his spiritual degeneration. *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* is all about the indecisiveness of modern men. This very thing makes Prufrock comparable to yogis of India who believed in taking much time in deciding about anything worthwhile.

**Chapter V: Eliot’s Poetic Plays and the Indian Influence**

The fifth chapter will speak volumes about the traditional influence of the Indian civilization on certain of the poetic dramas of Eliot. Here it needs to be mentioned that there may not be the direct introduction of the scriptural characters from the Indian cultural heritage of India as is the case with the above mentioned poems like *The Waste Land* and *Four Quartets*, but several characters might be playing the roles of Krishna in encouraging their respective Arjunas to renounce the worldly attachments towards their kiths and kins and to follow the gospel of self-deed i.e. swakarma. In the very final chapter the researcher will conclude his dissertation, keeping in mind the proceedings of the earlier chapters.

**Chapter VI: Conclusion:**

The very conclusive chapter will sum up that as the researcher has found out numerous allusions from the Vedic and Buddhist scriptures in the works of Eliot he is undoubtedly the spokesman of the Indian scriptural tradition of India in English literature. The other contenders of being the spokesman of the Indian scriptural heritage are the New England Brahmins or what we know as the transcendentalists, under the presiding leadership of Ralph Waldo Emerson, such as Henry David Thoreau and Walt Whitman. In this group may be included Max Muller and Hermann Hesse. But these people are less renowned in the literary field than T.S.Eliot. Hence the researcher is fairly and definitely to conclude that Eliot is undoubtedly the foremost voice of the scriptural tradition of India in English literature.
✔ Methodology:

- As the research topic is highly concerned with the comparative study of the Indian scriptural classics and the poetry of Eliot, the research student is to follow the research methodology of comparing and contrasting both the scriptural works of Hinduism and Buddhism along with the works of Eliot.

- As per the nature of the topic the researcher has divided his readings in the following three parts:
  - Works of Eliot.
  - Vedic Books like The Bhagavad Gita
  - Buddhist books like Dhammapada, on line version.

- This comparison between the works of Eliot and the scriptural works of Hinduism and Buddhism is duly supported by the critics.