WORK PLAN AND METHODOLOGY ADOPTED FOR THE RESEARCH

In this proposed research work, an intensive study will be done to elucidate and justify Social Realism employed by the renowned Norwegian dramatist and social critic Henrik Ibsen in his English plays during the second half of nineteenth century to portray the contemporary burning social problems realistically.

In a series of plays, Ibsen addressed a range of social problems, most notably - the hypocrisy and deceit of a middle-class businessman in ‘Pillars of Society’ (1877), restriction of women's lives in ‘A Doll's House’ (1879), mercy killing and sexual transmission of disease in son due to father’s infidelity in ‘Ghosts’ (1881) and provincial greed in ‘An Enemy of the People’ (1882). This research work aims at analyzing, interpreting and evaluating the above mentioned select social realist plays of Henrik Ibsen.

WORK PLAN:

The proposed research work will focus on the in-depth comprehensive study of the select social realist plays of the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen and will explore the relevance of Social Realism in the contemporary period. Time limit for the research is 78 weeks(approx.). For timely completion of the research work, the indispensable work plan needs to be laid out in which the complete research process is divided into various tasks/chapters which are to be completed according to the specified time frame.

Preamble/introduction will be used to clarify the concept of social realism. Some basic considerations like need and significance of the study, objectives, scope and limitations of the study will be defined and discussed clearly. For better understanding of the concept, a brief survey of the history of the theatre and a study of the disposition and inclination of the earlier playwrights will be conducted.

For analyzing, interpreting and evaluating select plays of Henrik Ibsen, certain theoretical framework is necessary. For this Henrik Ibsen’s philosophy of life will be considered and perused.

A literary survey will be carried out to explore the craving, worth and need of Social Realism as a literary movement in the contemporary society.

Primary data for this research work will be collected by comprehensively studying the original social realist plays of Ibsen and by evaluating different literary, critical references by other playwrights. Secondary data will be collected by making use of agencies like internet, journals, magazines and articles. Earlier research work related to Social Realism and Henrik Ibsen will also be used as secondary data. By visiting different libraries and institutions, and by searching different websites on internet, relevant data will be collected for the research work.

A brief historical survey and a brief critical review about the playwright and his work will be done. For brief critical review, a brief survey of critical opinions already expressed on the plays of Henrik Ibsen will be considered. To form critical and theoretical framework, analysis, interpretation and evaluation of the select plays of Henrik Ibsen will be done, incorporating the analysis of Ibsen’s art of characterization and plotting in context of Social Realism. The socio-cultural aspects of the contemporary society presented by the playwright in his plays will be
studied. This will provide necessary scope and basis for the study of the concept of social realism used by the playwright.

Further, on the basis of the study, certain conclusions will be drawn. As and when needed, some other approaches and aspects of studying plays will be considered and used.

**CHAPTER SCHEME:**

Chapter I- Introduction

1.1 A brief survey of the theory of Social Realism. 3 weeks
1.2 A brief survey of the life, disposition and works of Henrik Ibsen. 3 weeks
1.3 Significance of the study. 3 weeks
1.4 Hypothesis and objectives of the study. 2 weeks
1.5 The approach (Method to be used) 2 weeks
1.6 Scope and limitations of the study. 3 weeks

Chapter II – Brief historical survey and brief critical review.

2.1 Brief historical survey of social realist plays. 10 weeks
2.2 Definitions of key concepts. 2 weeks
2.3 Brief critical review of expression of Social Realism in works of Henrik Ibsen 15 weeks

Chapter III- Analysis of the select plays of Henrik Ibsen. 15 weeks

Chapter IV- Analysis of Ibsen’s art of characterization and plotting in context of Social Realism. 15 weeks

Chapter V-Conclusion 3 weeks

**METHODOLOGY:**

The proposed study will adopt exploratory, analytical, interpretative and descriptive approach to identify, explore and elucidate the concept of Social Realism in the select social realist plays of Henrik Ibsen. The approach aims to find the relevance of social realities depicted in the plays with the societal facts of the contemporary society. The strategy involves following attempts:

1. The social realist plays of Henrik Ibsen will be studied in chronological order. The contemporary socio-cultural situations will be used on the background for analysis of the fictional world of the plays.
2. The issues encountered in the depiction of social life in the plays will be considered as the markers of socio-political aspects of the contemporary period.
3. The readings recorded in the review of the plays would be compared with idealistic descriptions.
4. The characters, the settings and the plotting of the plays would be compared to the real people, environment and situations respectively of the contemporary age to verify the validity and reliability of the issues raised by the critics.