SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

Women have made remarkable contribution to fiction in Indian English Literature. In fiction, there is ample scope for the expression of feminine sensibility. Women have inspired literature and the feminine theme has been a pivotal importance too. She is herself a creator of literature and is all pervading. Woman is the cause of all action. If woman is absent, there is no poetry, no song, no drama, no tears, no laughter and ultimately no life in this world. But they are still walking on a tight rope to achieve their human rights and social justice. Indian woman at the turn of century are in a transitional phase via- a- vis the interface of tradition and modernity. The different aspects of feminism are stressed through many Indian English fiction. This study attempts to present various images projected by Indian women English contemporary and modern novelists like Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande and Bharati Mukherjee. This research work also tries to study comparative image of women reflected in these fiction. With comparative image, the particular approach of these novelist regarding women will be understood. These novelists have written many novels but here it is impossible to analyse each and every fiction of them. The study will focus on only particular Indian English Women novelists like Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Bharati Mukherjee and their select novels. The present study limits itself to analyze only the select representative novels as follows:

**Anita Desai:**


**Shashi Deshpande:**


**Bharati Mukherjee:**  


**SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:**

The research scholar intends to explore and study the images of Indian women reflected through the works of Indian English women novelists like Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande and Bharati Mukherjee. These three women novelists are studied by the researchers and critics with various angles and views, but there is no comprehensive study on the present topic. Many Indian Women novelists have explored female subjectivity in order to establish an identity that is not imposed by a patriarchal society. The image of the New Woman and her struggle for an identity of her own also emerges in the Indian English Novel. Such a struggle needs support structures outside the family to enable to survive. Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Bharati Mukherjee have presented the image of a suffering woman preoccupied with her inner world, her sulking frustration and the storm within; the existential predicament of a woman in a male dominated society. Through women characters they have portrayed Indian women and other suffering wives, and mothers silenced by patriarchy. Silence is the symbol of oppression, characteristic of the subaltern condition, while speech signifies self expression and liberation.

The image of women in Indian English Fiction has undergone a change during the last four decades. Women writers have moved away from traditional portrayals of enduring, self
sacrificing women toward conflicted female characters searching for identity. So it will be significant to analyze the novels of these Indian Women novelists in English. The work of Indian women writers is significant in making society aware of demands and in providing a medium for self expression. The present topic also invites a comparative study of images of women reflected by these women novelists. The present study would be useful to understand various images of women reflected by three Indian women English novelist and their approach behind the projecting images. It is also useful to know various ways of handling women characters by women novelists.