“A CRITICAL STUDY OF THE PREDICAMENTS OF INDIAN WOMEN IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF SHASHI DESHPANDE, KAMALA MARKANDAYA AND ANITA DESAI”

Introduction:

Present research entitled “A Critical Study of the Predicament of Indian Women in the Select Novels of Shashi Deshpande, Kamala Markandaya and Anita Desai” is an attempt to examine and bring forth the suffering of Indian women. The status and plight of Indian women would be examined from feminist perspective. The topic of research is concerned with the human sufferings especially of women fraternity which covers the half of the entire population and this makes it immensely important in the present era.

Indian English Writers reflect many socio-cultural issues in their fictional and autobiographical writings. Their works focus on the realism of the human condition and its existential predicaments. Rise of Feminist Movement in post-colonial era probed into the miserable plight of Indian women and demanded the equal rights for the women fraternity who are counted as peripheral members of society and are suppressed, exploited and marginalized since ancient time. Many distinguished writers like Nayantara Sehgal, Arundhati Roy, Rama Mehta, Bharti Mukharji, Namita Gokhale, Meena Alexander, Meera Syal, Geetha Mehta, Shobha De, Manju Kapoor, Githa Hariharan Kamala Markandaya, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, etc. uplifted this demand of emancipation of women by presenting the realistic picture of the existential agony of Indian women.

Fiction of Shashi Deshpande, Anita Desai and Kamala Markandaya concentrate around the feminine sensibility and women’s emotional world and bring forth the predicament and suffering of Indian women through their responses to the situations and event that take place around them. Anita Desai probes into the psyche of urban women, Shashi Deshpande explores the condition of modern women and Kamala Markandaya depicts the plight of rural women. The women characters in the fiction of these eminent writers are from all spheres of life. They are from rural and urban region. They are from aristocratic families, middle class families and the
families of poor background. They are educated, illiterate, orthodox, modernist etc. This gives ample chance to project the present status of Indian women and the problems that they face.