Review of Literature:

In the post-colonial Indian Literature, themes regarding the gender issues have been the headquarters and center point of attraction of many Indian writers. The rise of feminist movement raised questions regarding the status of entire women community. Indian constitution, after independence, offered equal rights to Indian women. This changed the attitude of Indian women regarding their relationship with her family members. It also changed their attitude about the marriage. Women began to find themselves in the conflict of tradition and modernity and this made them alienated from self and society. Wave of feminism in India uplifted this problem and it produced many writers who evolved the concerns of Indian women in their work of art. Man-woman relationship, marital discord, gender discrimination, delineation of self, search for identity, male hegemony and female subordination, power and sexual politics etc. are the prevalent themes in the fiction of contemporary writers. To mention a few Kamala Markandaya’s Nectar in a Sieve (1954), A Silence of Desire (1960), Two Virgins(1973), Shashi Deshpande’s That Long Silence (1988), Binding Wine(1993), A Matter of Time (1996), Moving On (2004), Roots and Shadows, Dark Hold No Terror, Anita Desai’s Cry, the Peacock, Fire on the Mountain, Fasting, Feasting (1999), Voices in the City, Nayantara Sahgal’s The Day in Shadow (1971), Jai Nimkar’s Temporary Answers(1974), A Joint Venture(1988), Githa Hariharan’s The Thousand Faces of Night (1992), Shobha De’s Socialite Evenings (1989), Rama Mehta’s Inside the Haveli (1977), Bharti Mukherjee’s Jasmine (1989), Desirable Daughters (2003), Arundhati Roy’s God of Small of Thing (1997), Namita Gokhale’s Paro: Dreams of Passions(1984), Manju Kapur’s Difficult Daughters (1998), Uma Vasudev’s The Song of Anusaya (1978), Anjana Appachana’s Listening Now (1998), Chitra Banerji Divakaruni’s Sister of My Heart (1999), The Vine of Desire (2002) and many more.

The attempt of these writers to examine and analyze the role and status of women gave ample chance for researchers to study the female concerns and their voice for freedom. The references of these studies are given below:

Present article elaborates how the contemporary novelists deal with the predicament of Indian women by observing external behaviors as well as depicting the internal journey in the psychological ream of the feminine sensibilities. It reveals how they depict the women who are
torn between individual and society. Paper also explores the suffering of career woman which is caused due to patriarchal greed of power over them. Sarita, the protagonist of the Shashi Deshpande’s novel The Dark Holds No Terror, works as a doctor and her husband is failure artist. Paper also reveals how success of women is not tolerated by male community and hence women have to suffer in their life.\(^5\)

In present research paper, the writer explores how the cries of Indian women go unheard and her pain goes unfelt. It explores how the desires, aspirations and dreams of women come to an end when a woman gets married and starts to live in the home of her husband. Paper reveals how Mayas emotional needs are refused by her husband who is the follower of detachment theory. The paper reveals that Mayas neurotic behavior is the result of her difference with her husband in respect of age, temperament and philosophy.\(^6\)

This research paper studies how Manju Kapur in her novels ‘Difficult Daughters’, ‘Married Women’, and ‘Home’ portrays the picture of middle class women in Indian society. Paper reveals that question of women today is no longer an issue confined to the position of women within the family but it is part of total, far broader in terms of economic, social, political and intellectual perception. Paper studies and explores that Manju Kapurs women character revolt against male domination, age-old tradition and struggle for her survival.\(^7\)

Present article explores how women fight against injustices inflicted upon them by domineering patriarchal systems in Shashi Deshpande’s novel “Binding Vine”. Article studies various women characters in the novels and reveals how they overcome the sense of loss and despair by struggling hard against the social and acquire an identity and individuality of their own.\(^8\)

Through this research article, an attempt is made to compare the feminism present in the works of Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande. Both the novelists have presented the plight of Indian middle-class women who face conflict of tradition and modernity. The paper reveals how Shashi Deshpande and Anita Nair depict the misery of Indian girl-child who suffers from gender-discrimination and feels herself inferior. They express how women are exploited within the marital frame.\(^9\)
The present paper reviews a critical book “A Study of Love, Sex and Marriage in Anita Desai’s Novels” authored by Mr. Vinay Dubey. The paper reveals that the women characters in the novels of Desai are usually haunted by peculiar sense of doom; they withdraw themselves into a sequestered world of their own, and become neurotic, self destructive and unhappy. These women characters are too introverted to be able to cope with their personal circumstances and adjust themselves to life and meet its problem both courageously and adequately.10

Present research paper is centered on the exploration of sensibility and psychology of female protagonist of the Anita Desai’s novel “Cry, the Peacock”. It reveals how Anita Desai depicts the mood observation, detachment and abnormal behavior of protagonist, Maya. Paper reveals how Anita Desai has portrayed Indian women’s fears, insecurity, loneliness and sufferings through Maya. Writer finds that root causes of marital discord and loneliness of Indian women lie in age difference, difference in maturity, Indian philosophy of detachment and communication gap between husband and wife.11

Present research article reveals how Githa Harihara in her debut novel ‘Thousand Faces of Night’ examines the particular conditions of Indian women characterized with self-abnegation in their different appearances. Paper reveals that mind or the deepest thought of Indian woman is generally influenced by violent powers that control unfairly her control unfairly her acceptance and admittance of defeat which results in varieties of reactions and includes protest, revenge and violence.12

Present paper tries to explore the issues like rape in marriage in the novels of Shashi Deshpande. Article reveals that women have been quite suppressed, quite oppressed. It explores, even though educated, large section of Indian women are suffering even today. Article also reveals how Shashi Deshpande depicts that rape, in marriage life, is used as tool by husband to dominate women.13

Present Paper focuses on 2011 census year and analyses male female sex ration in various states of the India. Paper also reveals that average sex ratio of India in 2011 is 940 females per 1000 males. Haryana State records lowest sex ratio i.e. 877 females per 1000 males. Paper reveals that except Kerala, number of female per 1000 male is below 975.14
This article throws light upon how Kamala Markandaya portrays the strength and weakness of Indian women through the woman protagonist of her novels. This article reveals Kamala Markandaya, through her fiction, has shown how Indian women are bound to custom and social structure and explain even after marriage they live to please everyone else than self. This article analyses and reveals that women who is fixed into the Indian cultural root could be successful than the woman who has aped the foreign culture.\(^{15}\)

Present paper examines how Shashi Deshpande explores the psyche of educated middle-class Indian women who find themselves smothered and fettered in patriarchal society. They suffer from mental trauma because of frustration, hopes and disappointments. They feel trapped between her own aspirations and an individual and forces of patriarchy which confine them.\(^{16}\)

This paper attempts to study Rama Mehtas “Inside the Haveli” from feminist perspective and explores how Rama Mehta, through the protagonist of novel, Geeta, presents the picture of modern, educated young woman who is crushed under the weight of male dominated and tradition bound India society. Paper reveals that after marriage a women in Indian society losses her identity and struggles for survival.\(^{17}\)

Present research paper explores how Vijay Tendulkar gives voice to women’s concern, their sensibility and their subjugation. Tendulkar reveals his deep and uncanny insight into feminine mind to present the oppression of female characters in male dominated society.\(^{18}\)

Present Paper examines the marital dissonance and its reason by comparing the Jhabvala’s novel ‘The Householder’ and Anita Desai’s novel ‘In Custody’. Paper reveals how both the novelists in their novels depict profession, financial and social crisis as responsible factors for the marital dissonance in Indian society.\(^{19}\)

Paper explores the study of feminism and its various definitions. It explains that Feminism fights against male chauvinism and demands equal rights and treatment of women as human being. It demands emotional and psychological adjustment respecting each other. Feminism is not insult of partner but is a movement of social reconstruction. It is not anti-man but it challenges to patriarchal thoughts.\(^{20}\)
Present paper analyzes the types of violence against women community and its reasons. It compares statistical figures on the crimes and violence states how government and voluntary organizations are making efforts towards ending / minimizing violence against women. Article states that number of cases against various types of women’s violence registered in police station in the year 2010 are 2,1385. \(^{21}\)

In this paper writer explores how Shashi Deshpande portrays the image of modern women who face void and feel vacuum in their life. The paper examines how patriarchal set up, where man is given complete freedom and futility of life compels the women characters for self-introspection and to find out their own identity in the society. It elaborates how the protagonist Jaya suffers due to lack of communication with her husband. It explores how her husband, her children, her brothers and her mother disappoint her. This makes her to revolt and need for the identity and in the end her quest reaches to compromise. \(^{22}\)

Present paper explores that complexity man-woman relationship is the prevalent theme in the novels of Anita Desai. Paper reveals how Anita Desai digs into the female psyche and goes beyond the skin and flesh to explore the predicaments of modern women. \(^{23}\)

Present paper distinguishes Indian Feminism from the Western feminism. Western feminism follows the notion of ‘self’ which is in relation to ‘individualism’ but in Indian Society individual is considered just as a part of the society. Paper reveals how this theory is presented by Shashi Deshpande in her novel That Long Silence. Paper explores that Shashi Deshpande, through her male characters, presents Indian masculinities. Deshpande does not dehumanize the male characters and depicts that plight of Indian middle class woman like Jaya is the result of her own making. The greed for materialistic life is the main reason of the suffering of male as well as women in the society. \(^{24}\)

Present paper explores how Rukmini, Ira and Kunthi in Kamala Markandaya’s novel suffer due the poverty and natural calamity. Paper reveals how Rukmini and Ira find their way of life not only suffering but also a sureness and inner space. In this journey they do not compromise with the situation. \(^{25}\)
The paper attempts to analyze Kamala Markandaya’s novel ‘Nectar in a Sieve’ from feminine perspective. Paper reveals how Kamala Markandaya has depicted the life of Rukmini, the protagonist of novel, with full of hopes and frustrations, pleasures and pains, triumph and defeat, rise and fall. It explores how Rukmini shows her strength, integrity and resolution against the exploitative, discriminatory world. Writes calls the novel as a veritable saga of triumphant womanhood in Indian society.26

Present article studies how Anita Desai in her fiction searches out the causes of marital discord by presenting it from women’s sensibility. Article reveals that Desai’s fiction focuses on the struggles of middle class and anglicized women. These women attempt to come out of social limitation imposed upon them by the society. This attempt makes them alienated from the family and society and finally their marriage gets disintegrated.27

Paper throws light upon how R. K. Narayan, in his novel “The Dark Rook”, portrays the endurance of a south Indian lady, Savitri, at the hands of her male chauvinist husband, Ramani. Ramani believes that women should be confined to four walls to look after the domestic chores only. She should obey her husband, dress up to his liking and keep the children disciplined. Paper reveals how R.K.Narayan has portrayed the plight of Indian women in his novel.28

Paper analyses the picture of women characters in the fiction of R.K.Narayan, Nayantara Shagal and Anita Desai. The writer expresses the difference between the ways of portraying women characters by these three novelists. Writer says Shagal and Desai’s women characters are based upon their autobiographical experiences and they imagine other women’s condition like theirs. In contrast to this R.K. Narayan present the status of women from objective observation. Paper also does the comparative study of sufferings of women in Indian society and their different ways of breaking the silence.29

This paper attempts to analyze the grave social issue of the victimization of the innocent women by comparing the women characters of two novels Mary Turner in Doriss Lessing’s novel ‘Grass is Singing’ and Ila Das in Anita Desai’s ‘Fire on the Mountain. The paper expresses how women voices are made silent when male dominated society finds them a threat to their age-old patriarchal values. The paper express that Ila Das, who is victim of gender discrimination
since childhood, raises her voice against cruel system of child marriage and is, therefore, silence to death by raping. Mary Turner is also killed in the name of social demands at the end of novel.  

Present Paper explores how Rukmini, women protagonist in Kamala Markandaya’s novel ‘Nectar in a Sieve’, show her endurance in the rapidly changing face of nation and its urbanization. Rukmini’s neighbours throw the past way and grasp the present whereas Rukmini attempts to retrieve and recuperate the elements of rural life and feels most deeply about the sense of community and connection with the land. Closeness towards the land in unfavourable condition expresses Rukmini’s ecofeminism.  

In this paper, writer studies woman as a major character in Kamala Markandaya’s novels: Nectar in a Sieve, Some Inner Fury, Possession and Two Virgins. The writer reveals that the female characters of the novels in Kamala Markandaya are always in search for meaning and value of life. Her novels present an existential struggle of woman who denies to flow along the current and refuses to submit her individual self.

This research paper throws light upon how silence is used as a weapon against their male counterpart to inflict punishment. Paper also studies how Shashi Deshpande through her women character insists to bring about the change in the norms and values for women and give equal space for women in society. It also expresses co-existence and co-operation makes the marital life successful. Man’s success or failure is closely linked with degression and regeneration.  

This paper defines the term alienation as emotional isolation or dissociation. Author also examines how Kamala Markandaya has depicted the theme of alienation of the male and female characters in her novels Nectar in a Sieve, Possession, A Handful of Rice, The Nowhere Man and Two Virgin. The alienation of the characters makes them suffer and face the tragedy in the end.  

Present paper is focused on the women characters in the three of Shashi Deshpande’s novels namely The Dark Holds No Terror, Roots and Shadows and That Long Silence. The paper elaborates how Shashi Deshpande’s novels reflect on the problem and the concerns of the middle class Indian women. The paper finds that root of Deshpande’s feminism is in the
In the present research article, writer explores how freedom for women is like a myth. Writer studies how Anita Desai suggests that ‘myth of masculine superiority is preserved in the area of physical strength.’ Ila Das, character in Fire on the Mountain suffers from poverty as she did not get any rights of property from her parents. Paper also explores that Ila Das’s sexual violence and death, Nanda Kaul’s death and Raka’s plight in life shows that woman, though offered rights by the constitution, has no escape from male domination and power politics. In such society woman has to choose the life of slave and has to lose her identity.

This research paper explores the philosophy of existentialism, and focuses on the existential sufferings of women characters Nanda Kaul, Raka and Ila Das from Anita Desai’s novel Fire on the Mountain. Paper examines how women find it difficult to live in male dominated society. Paper reveals the tension between female-self and society. It expresses the alienation and existential anguish of Nanda Kaul caused due to her adulterous husband and suffocation from family. It also reveals how tension between husband and wise hardens the life of their daughter, Raka. It also expresses the miserable plight of women who raise their voice for equal right and emancipation of women community gets the punishment of rape and murder.

Present article throws light on the existentialism philosophy. It explores how Anita Desai projects a tragic vision in her novel by placing the female protagonists in hostile situations. Paper also reveals that Desai depicts the modern society, with its ups and downs, and explores the emotional world and sensibility of women in her work of arts.

Present research article presents how a writer’s choice of narrator is crucial for the way a fiction work is predicted by the reader. Article examines how Anita Desai makes the combination of all the three types of narration. Article discusses the different methods of narration the works of Anita Desai.

The present paper discusses how self-discovery awakens the spiritual intelligence in the women protagonists of Shashi Deshpande’s novels. Writer proves that women in Shashi Deshpande’s novel not only stop with identity crisis and self-discovery but analyze their
sufferings, concerns, and problems, understand the culture and make positive decisions through introspection. Paper reveals that Deshpande’s heroines suffer from alienation, identity crisis and they feel the need of complete freedom to their own life. But in the end showing maturity, they find happiness in peaceful co-existence, understanding and acceptance and expect the same from male community.40

The writer probes into the root causes of plight of Indian women through this paper and explores that illiteracy among the women, their weak and submissive natures are responsible for their sufferings. Paper reveals though Indian women are aware about the rights, status and identity; they lack the will and courage to fight against the exploitive forces. Paper reveals that Deshpande’s women characters are victim of exploitation, separation and negligence. Paper also examines how Shashi Deshpande, through her fiction, suggests prestigious adjustment to Indian women and tries to protect the marriage system in Indian society.41

Present paper studies that feminism is a part of humanism and through this potential of women can be recognized and women can express themselves very freely and fearlessly. Paper suggests that Indian Feminism must be welfare oriented and it should target female foetocide, female illiteracy, child marriage, malnutrition, dowry system all evils and violence against women community. Paper reveals that women in Indian are marginalized as they perform every work at home as well work outside still they don’t get the status of working women.42

Present Paper presents a critical culture-based reading of Anita Desai’s novel ‘Fasting, Feasting’, a novel that portrays the miserable condition of women in Indian society. Paper studies the life journey of characters Uma and Arun from the novel and concludes that it is only through the synthesis of both male and female recognition and effort can women be released from the oppressive conditions of patriarchal society.43