Methodology:

1) A close reading of the primary and secondary sources will be done to analyze the social status of women in Indian context.

2) Scrutiny of the novels will be done in the light of social, philosophical, psychological and literary theories.

3) Critical, analytical and comparative methods will be used to study novels from feminist perspective.

Work Plan:

Chapter Division

1) Chapter One: Introduction

This chapter will throw light on brief survey of history of Indian English Fiction. It will reveal the various phases of development of Indian English Fiction. The chapter will also emphasize the concept of feminism in Indian English Fiction.

2) Chapter Two:

Critical Study of the Predicaments of Women in Select Novels of Kamala Markandaya

Kamala Markandaya, one of the distinguished writers of post colonial era, depicts issues and problems of women community in Indian society. Her novels are mainly focused on redefining the concept of womanhood and quest for their identity. In most of her novels she depicts the realistic picture of Indian women who struggle for existence and suffers most due to poverty, industrialization and cultural aspects. The present chapter would focus on the critical study of Kamala Markandaya’s three novels: Nectar in Sieve, Two virgins and A Silence of Desire.

3) Chapter Three:
**Critical Study of the Predicaments of Women in Select Novels of Anita Desai**

Anita Desai presents traumatic experience of the self of an Indian woman who fights against imposed predicaments by the male dominated society. Her novels depict the alienation of the self and their struggle in unfavorable conditions. Anita Desai mainly focuses on man-woman relationship and marital discord due to human predicaments. Women are growing conscious in the age of industrialization and analyzing their role in the family and society. Desai, through her women protagonist, digs into the female psyche and reveals her emotional world. She explores the miserable plight of Indian women, their tension, depression and inner turmoil which is the result of patriarchal structure in India. In this chapter, for the detail study of women predicament, prime focus would be on the following novels: Cry, the peacock, Voices in the City, Fire on the Mountain, and Fasting Feasting.

4) **Chapter Four:**

**Critical Study of Predicament of Indian Women in the Select Novels of Shashi Deshpande**

Shashi Deshpande, a Sahitya Acadamy Award winning novelist in India, portrays the realistic picture of Indian middle class women who, albeit educated, have to suffer to create their own identity. These novels throw light on oscillation of Indian women between tradition and modernity. Shashi Deshpande, in her novels, exposes many issues like gender discrimination, Indian womanhood, man-woman relationship and the imposed silence which have great impact on the overall condition of Indian women. For detail research of predicaments of Indian women, following novels, authored by Shashi Deshpande, are selected: That Long Silence, Roots and Shadows, Dark Holds No Terror, and A matter of time.

5) **Chapter Five:**

**Conclusion:**

This chapter will show how the predicament of Indian women was in the past and how growing consciousness is responsible for revolutionary change in the past predicaments of women which deprived them of all the rights of growth and development. It would throw light
on how Indian women suffers socially, psychologically, physically, economically etc in domestic life of Indian society.