Title of the Thesis: The Conflict between Desire and Ethics in the selected works of Indian women Novelists with Special reference to the works of Shahi Deshpande and Arundhati Roy.

Introduction:

Human life is a complex phenomenon having the conflicts of desire and ethics with many other elements interwoven into.

Man tends to live upon the inherent instinctive desire coping up with ethics i.e. the code of conduct laid upon him by the socio-cultural systems like family, religion, tradition law, etc. A man can fulfill his life by blending these two elements harmoniously. He can experience his desires by being a part of the socio-cultural environment. A well-settled, advanced and balanced happy life is possible only by putting these two aspects together and an absence of any one of these would paralyze a life. This is the nature of life. Literature seems to be dealing with the major themes of human life experiences. Naturally the conflict between desire and ethics happens to be one of the dominant and recurring themes found in literature.

Since time immemorial man has been battling with the two different but connected aspects which together constitutes a man.

This tug of war can be explained in the terms of a dilemma of ‘to be’ or ‘not to be’. This dilemma starts burning right from the beginning of the deed, continues life time, separating him, in this pursuit sometimes from his dear ones and most of the times separating him from his own self.

This conflict of good or bad conduct is more dominantly seen in the context of the Indian culture, in its history and mythology because of the basic fear-viz the existence of a supernatural power prevailing in the universe. This is prominently reflected sometimes in thoughts, actions,
prayers which is expressed in books based on facts or may be on myth in the form of dialogues, soliloquies etc. but the conflict however prevails.

This conflict gains universal importance as it is not restricted to one particular time or place, as it is experienced by all the human beings.