

Executive Summary of the

UGC – Major Research Project

The Subaltern Themes in Post – Colonial Indo-Anglian Fiction and Regional Literatures: A Comparative Study

The subaltern studies originate from Marxism, post-structuralism and turns out to be an ingredient of postcolonial criticism .In terms of Post-colonialism, the subaltern recognizes the people who are socially, politically, geographically, culturally and spiritually outside the hegemony power composition of the country. The subaltern concept gained its impressive momentum in England at the end of 1970s.The subaltern concept consists of the groups that are marginalized, oppressed and exploited on the cultural, political, social and religious grounds. The subaltern concept is related to socio-cultural and historical facets of the society which studies about the people who are subordinated and subjugated in terms of class, caste, gender, religion and sex.

The colonial powers have exploited, suppressed and oppressed the native people in all fields. Extinction of colonialism paved the way for post-colonialism. Post-colonialism appeared as a decolonization process which was initiated in the second half of the twentieth century. Marginalization is one of the themes of subaltern concept. It probes into the issues of self-identity of women, dalits and neglected sections of mainstream of society. The world today hears the suppressed voices of marginalized people such as women and dalits that are found in Indian English fiction. The themes related to dispersion, migration and exile have been reflected in the novels of Indian writers' in English. These all are the characteristics of Diaspora which are also related to subaltern themes such as alienation and identity crisis in an alien land.

The subaltern themes reflected in postcolonial Indo-Anglian fiction and Regional literatures of Telugu fiction of two novelists' have been taken up for the Study. The subaltern themes include the issues such as marginalization, of women, suppression of women exploitation dalits, oppression of tribals, subjugation of lower rank people, and gender discrimination. It is found that in all most all the novels of Indian writers' in English, I have taken up for study, one or the other subaltern themes are reflected. The novels, I have taken up for the Study are: Mulk RaJ Anand's *Untouchable* and *Gauri*, R.K.Narayan's *The Guide*,

Anita Desai's *Bye-Bye Black Bird*, Kamala Das's *My Story*, Bhabani Bhattacharya's *So Many Hungers* and *He who Rides the Tiger*, Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, Kamala Markandaya's *Nectar in a Sieve*, Nayantara Saghals's *Rich Like Us*, Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*, Shashi Deshpande's *The Dark Holds No Terror*, *Roots and Shadows* and *That Long Silence*, Shoba De's *Socialite Evenings*, Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*, Bharati Mukherjee's *Wife* and *Tiger's Daughter*, Chetan Bhagat's *The 3 Mistakes of My Life*,² *States: The Story of My marriage and Revolution 2020*, Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*, Manju Kapur's *Home*, Mahasweta Devi's *Mother of 1084*, Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance*, Anita Nair's *Ladies Coupe*, Gita Hariharan's *The Thousand Faces of Night*, Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*, Namita Gokhale's *Paro: Dreams of Passion* and Girish Karnad's *Naga Mandala*.

I have also taken up two novels for study in Regional literature i.e in Telugu fiction in which subaltern themes mirrored. These novels are : Vemula Yellaiah 's *Kakka* and Venkata Chalam's *Maidanam*. In Vemula Yellaiah's novel, *Kakka*, oppression of Dalits' and marginalization of women and in Chalam's novel, *Maidanam*, marginalization of women - these are subaltern themes reflected in the novels. I have compared some of the novels of Indian English with the two Telugu novels such as *Kakka* and *Maidanam* in which it is found that the similar subaltern themes such as exploitation of Dalits' and marginalization of women are echoed.

I have interviewed two personalities who are acquainted with the subaltern themes. They are: The Director of Women Cell, Dr.Lavanya and the other is Sri P.Jagdishwer Reddy, Dist.Social Welfare officer for scheduled castes. The Director of Women cell opined that Exploitation of women and the hegemony of men on women are still continued. But to some extent, there is a change in the attitude of men towards women in the last two decades. She opined that hegemony of men on women is reduced to the extent possible. The social welfare officer for scheduled castes viewed that exploitation of dalits has been gradual declined due to the measures taken up the Governments and the strict implementation of laws.It is found to be true to some extent. It is found that the Project work provided exhaustive information to the readers of literature regarding the subaltern themes. It is observed that after reading the Project work, a change has been witnessed in the attitude of men towards women. It is found hegemonic attitude of men towards women is substantially reduced.

Similarly, after reading the project work, it is found that the exploitation on Dalits by other section of people is decreased to the extent possible in the society. In this Project work, I have attempted to trace out Indo-Anglian novels mentioned above in which subaltern themes are reflected.

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