Literature Review:

The novels of Anita Nair and Manju Kapur and many other feminist women novelist like Anita Desai, Rama Mehta who have presented new women with changed roles in their novels, are a great reservoir for research activity. Ample research has been done by the research scholars and ample is to be done. Abstracts of the following papers on the writing of these novelists in national and international seminars and conferences show that the writing of these novelists furnishes opulent opportunities and possibilities of doing research on many hidden issues and aspects in their writings.

In this research paper, the writer analyzes the issues related to the middle class or upper middle class women. The writer discusses in detail the issues related to this class of the society by giving reference of the novels like Home, Difficult Daughters and Married Woman by Manju Kapur. The article deals with many issues related to the women of this class of the society for example: Whether or not a girl has the right to make her own choices in life.¹

The article is about Akhila, the major character in Ladies Coupe by Anita Nair. It shows the impact of patriarchy on the lives of the Indian women. Akhila struggles against the male dominated society and its age-old conventions which do not allow her to live her life as she wishes. How Indian women are exploited and used in human relationship is best discussed in this paper.²

In this article the writer deals with the life history of the female protagonists in the novels of Manju Kapur. How women like Virmati in Difficult Daughters, Nisha in Home and Astha in A Married woman go against the stream of the traditional way life and accept the new way of life with new ideology is discussed here. All these women characters break the social conventions and emerge as new woman with independent ideology.³

The article is a critical study of the character named Nish in Manju Kapur’s novel. The writer has made critical study of Nisha and her revolt against the male dominated system to find her own identity. The theme of women’s search for identity is the core part of the discussion.⁴
It is a brief survey of the Indian English fiction. Through this article the writer shows how the change is occurring in the image of the Indian women through the study of women characters in the feminist writers like Nayan Tara Sehagal, Kamla Markandya and Anita Desai and many more. The writers say that women in their novels are changed women because they have learnt to speak about their problems. Silence has gone and speech has taken its place. Through this speech the how these characters changing themselves and changing the society is shown here.\(^5\)

This article throws light on the life of people living in urban middle class family in Indian. How the families in this class lead their live is shown by taking the reference of the people in the novel home by Kapur. The writer discusses the ups and downs which occur in the life these people who go according to the traditions of the society. \(^6\)

Through this article, the writer throws light on the women character, Rukumini and her struggle against all adversities which follow her like shadow. In most critical moments and situation in her life she does not lose her courage and morality and emerge as an ideal sufferer who makes no compromise with values.\(^7\)

The article is an endeavor of the part of the writer to look at the novel *Inside the Haveli* by Rama Mehta from feminist perspective. The writer through this critical study bring before the readers the major character of Geeta of Inside the haveli as a great feminist who fights for the problems of the women who have been serving the The Ranas in the havelies of Rajasthan. Her struggle between traditions and modernity and her social reforms which she brings about in the haveli culture is critically discussed here.\(^8\)

The writer comments on Shashi Deshpande’s and Anita Nair’s feminism which is displayed in their novels. Whether they are same or differ in their ideology of feminism when they display it while dealing with the lives of the women character is critically discussed here.\(^9\)

The article is historical survey of Indian English Literature and the contribution made by the Indian women writers in different forms of literature like poetry and fiction. He has referred
Many novelists like Anita Desai, Kamla Markandya and many others who are contributing to the realm of fiction. The main objective of this article is to show that image of women in Indian fiction is changing.¹⁰

Present paper endeavors to analyze the female quest for identity in Shashi Deshpande’s novel That Long Silence through the female protagonist, Jaya. Shashi Deshpande portrays the image of modern women who faces void and feel vacuum in their life. It shows that how the character Jaya tries to go against the social convention to fulfill her thirst for self identity.¹¹

Anita Desai deals with the problems of the Indian women’s predicament and its impact on the psychology of these of women through the women characters in her novels. This article comments on the philosophy of existentialism which Anita Desai presents through the struggle of her women character’s predicaments which are imposed upon them by the contemporary male dominated society. How the traditions of the male dominated society disturb their psyche and causes marital discord through the character of Ila Das in the Fire On The Mountain is critically discussed here.¹²

In this article, the writer makes a critical study of the lives of the women characters in the novel of Shashi Despande and shows the changes occurring in their lives. The paper shows that how the novels of Shashi Deshpande deals with the problems and concerns in the lives of the women representing middle class of the Indian society. The paper is especially concerned with the problems and concerns in the lives of the characters in the three novels of Shashi Deshpande i.e. The Dark Holds No Terror, Roots And Shadows and That Long Silence.¹³

The writer has made critical examination of the novels of Indian women novelist and shows how the process of empowerment of women in India is taking place. She has critically discussed lives of the women characters in the novels of Anita Nair and many other women novelist who deals with the theme of women’s empowerment.¹⁴

This article deals with the lives of the people in the Indian society in the novels of Manju kapur. The author comments on the women characters specially women who live in different classes of
the society and their struggle against the social conventions and social taboos of the traditional society of their times.\textsuperscript{15}

Mamta Bhatnagar writes of the transition occurring in the life conditions of the Indian women through the women characters in the novels of Manju Kapur. The writer says that this transition is transforming the Indian women from traditional women into modern women. He discusses the change which occurs in the lives of Nisha, Virmati and Astha who represent Indian women fraternity in Manju Kapur’s novels.\textsuperscript{16}

The article throws the light on the story of woman, Akhila, who revolts against the social taboos and social conventions of the male dominated society. Being fed up with futility of the family relationships, she goes on a journey to Kanyakumari in search of freedom and identity.\textsuperscript{17}

In this article the writer deals with the ageold problem of man woman equality. She says that even today, the women are not treated equal to men. Kalpana Rajput writes on this problem by taking reference of the novel of Maju Kapur’s Difficult Daughters.\textsuperscript{18}

The article throws light on the man woman relationships in Difficult Daughters of Manju kapur. It also critically examines the intellectual and emotional dilemma of Virmati, the protagonist in the partition and post partition days.\textsuperscript{19}

The article presents the portrayal of women in the fictional works of Indian English novelist, Manju Kapur, based on her perceptions of women’s liberation and autonomy within the socio-cultural spaces and paradigms in India. Kapur’s woman characters reflect her views on the role or religion, tradition and myth in molding Indian women, as well as suggest a way to promote women’s right.\textsuperscript{20}

The article throws light on the handling of the theme of marriage and marriage concerns in the novels of Manju Kapur. Manju kapur has very authentically dealt with this problem in her novels like Home and Difficult Daughters.\textsuperscript{21}
The article is about the character of Virmati in Manju Kapur’s Difficult Daughters. The way she fights against the social taboos and social conventions which prevents women from going out of the house, marrying the person of their choice, leading their own lives on their own terms and conditions, makes her a feminist. How she is feminist is discussed in this article.²²

The article is a comparative study of the lead characters in Ladies Coupe and The better man of Anita Nair. The writer throws light on the life struggle of Akhila and Mukundan who are the leading characters in these novels.²³

The paper attempts to analyze whether these writers give a deeper insight into the middle-class ethos and culture. Is there a tone of protest to awaken the conscience of society? Are they able to project different, serious issues and problems existing in society or also try to offer a solution; whether they have told the realities or there are contradictions too. The novels of contemporary women novelists Arundhati Roy, Manju Kapur, Kiran Desai and Anita Nair would be analyzed.²⁴

The paper throws light on the family structure which Manju Kapur used in her novel, “Difficult Daughters”. The paper also reveals how social values are cherished in family structure. The family life ‘Lala Diwan’ and its struggle to maintain the social values and family conventions is best studied here.²⁷
The writer shows that the women characters in Manju Kapur’s novels are not traditional women who think that marriage is their destiny and they are to obey their husbands. The women in the novels of Manju kapur differs from this category of woman and breaks all social taboos, and conventions and emerge as a new woman who is aware of herself. The women in the novels of Manju Kapur are the personification of the new women.\(^{28}\)

The theme of feminism in the novel of Anita Nair’s novel ‘Ladies Coupe is critically is discussed here. The writer looks at the stories of the women in Ladies Coupe for example Prabha Devi, Janki and of course Akhila, the protagonist of the novel from feminist perspective. He shows that how the novel has feminist touch.\(^{29}\)

The article looks into the life stories of the women characters in Anita Nair’s Ladies Coupe. The writer tries to analyze the struggle of these women character from feminist perspective. The writer says that this book is not feminist; it is between feminist and female.\(^{30}\)

It is an attempt on the part of the writer to show how the Indian women are reflected in the novels of both the men and women. He says that personality of the Indian women is somewhat neglected in the writings of men. The women writers are too much emotional and sentimental in depicting the condition of the Indian women. The article probes into the condition of the Indian women in the contemporary society.\(^{31}\)

The article is about the emergence of completely new women in the novels of Manju Kapur. The writer discusses how the women characters in the novels are different from that of the traditional women with confined lives and confined thinking. He says that the women who appear in the novels are modern and away from the influence of social conventions and social taboos. How these women breaks the male supremacy and create their own world is critically discussed in this article.\(^{32}\)
It is a study of feminist ideology which Anita Desai employs in her novel Ladies coupe. The writer throws light on the character of Akhila, the protagonist who sacrifices forty five years of her life for the sake of her family. Eventually, she realizes that her sacrifice has gone in vain. She revolts against the false social values and taboos of the contemporary male dominated society and struggle to acquire her identity in the male dominated society where woman has no identity of her own. She is nothing but an extension of someone’s identity. Whether Anita Nair’s Ladies Coupe is feminist study or not is critically discussed here.

It is an attempt on the part of the writer to make the analytical study of the women’s lives and their psyche within the context of south Indian family. Through this article the writer tries to show that the women in the Indian families are coming out of their traditional roles like someone’s mother, daughter and above all wife. The change occurring in the sensibility and attitude of the Indian women is critically examined through the characters like Akhil, Prabha Devi and Janki in Ladies Coupe. The writer exposes the changing roles of the women Indian society.

The article probes into the suffering of the protagonist, Virmati in Manju Kapur’s Difficult Daughters. The writer tries to get the answer of this question whether the sufferings of Virmati are imposed or self imposed. The writer studies the life of Virmati from different angles and brings before the readers the truth behind the suffering of Virmati.

Change occurring in the women’s sensibility and her attitude is critically discussed. There is no doubt that the women of the modern times are conscious of their self, individuality and existence. They cannot tolerate any kind of injustice done by the male dominated society. Through this article, the writer raises the question about the consciousness of the Indian women. He questions whether the women are conscious of their consciousness?