EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UGC SPONSORED MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT

TITLE : - **A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF R. K. NARAYAN'S NOVELS WITH SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE**

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR : - **DR. JOGESHKUMAR M. PUROHIT**

The Minor Research study entitled, " A Critical Analysis of R. K. Narayan's Novel's with Social Perspective " was undertaken with the objectives of analyzing R. K. Narayan's novels with social perspective to explore the sociological study of atmosphere in contemporary society as visualized by R. K. Narayn .

Though Narayan's fictional world is multi-dimensional and rich in colour and tone, the basic under current of social awareness is always perceptible. As class struggle is not the only reality, Narayan's social novels transcend this ideological boundary and present the real picture of society encompassing the broader humanity. Through his characters he enlivens the contemporary Indian life. R. K. Narayan is a gifted artist who is quite sensible to his surroundings, different kinds of people living in the society, their likes and dislikes, aims and objectives, their ways of thinking and living, their beliefs and the values they set before them. Narayan very sincerely portrays man in relation to society in his novels. This sincerity which is the supreme test of an artist also characterizes Narayan.

R. K. Narayan's realism has no ideological slant. His social realism is born out of his innate understanding of human society. He may not have Mulk Rai Anand's fervour for social reform or he may not seek Raja Rao's heights of spiritual contemplation, but he never loses moorings in Malgudi.

As Narayan recreates the Indian society in its entirety, love of mystery and fantasy is invariably coupled in his fictional world with realism. Narayan presents the Indian society as it is. He does not aim either at justification or at condemnation. Mr. Narayan presents the myth of 'Karma' just as a part of reality in the Indian context.

An indepth study of his novels shows that Narayan successfully projects the true image of India in his novels by his re-creation of the Indian landscape and by his realistic portrayal of the Indian life and characters.

R. K. Narayan's novels are essentially Indian in the sense that they truly exhibit the social pattern of life existing in India.

Different customs, traditions, ways of thinking ad living are so clear depicted in Narayan's novels that even a foreigner, after reading Narayan's novels, can get first-hand knowledge about India. The Indian Atmosphere is recreated before the minds of the readers.

R. K. Narayan is a socially aware artist but his vision has a broad spectrum. He sees beyond class-conflict. His domestic world is alive within the greater circle of society. Narayan has a great regard for family ties and pieties of the home. Therefore, domestic relationships occupy the central place in his novels. Father-son relationship is very important in all his novels. Most of his major characters are devoted fathers e.g.- Chandran's father in *The Bachelor of Arts*, Margayya in *The Financial Expert* and Jagan in *The Sweet-Vendor*. The relationship between Chandran and his father is very healthy or may be called ideal. There is a proper coordination between the two Chandran can very frankly open his heart to his father. Even father is always ready to solve his problems and is always concerned about his happiness.

Man-woman relationship is also another prominent theme of Narayan's novels. He portrays two types of woman characters who are firmly rooted in social reality. First there are typically Indian house-wives such as Krishna's wife in *The English Teacher* and Savitri in *The Dark Room*. They are simple, modest, gentle, loving and obedient. They are religious and traditional in their ways. Indeed, they are the upholders of the ancient Indian way of life. Their only anxiety is the welfare of their husbands and children.

As a social realist R. K. Narayan has a keen eye for various customs, traditions that shape the life of society. His novels throw light on the Indian culture and tradition.

****