Final Report (2010-2012)
MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT
ON
OLIVER GOLDSMITH AS A POET AND SOCIAL CRITIC

APPENDIX I

A. SUMMARY OF THE WORK

The first chapter of the work on Oliver Goldsmith has the nomenclature as Social
illusions of England which deals with the prevalent socio-economic conditions and
traits of Industrial Revolution brought about remarkable changes such as exodus of people from villages to the towns, the installation of factories, rise
in capital and the enclosure of land. An account of this period from these
endpoints throws light on the fact that the writers living and writing during this
period judged these happenings to be inimical to the truest of common people in the
honesty.

The second chapter, Flowering of Romanticism highlights the fact that Oliver
Goldsmith was a staunch proponent of the ideology of ‘Art for Responsibility’s sake’.
Over, the elder generation of romanticist had embarked on its literary career and
they followed this ideology which was the essence of Goldsmith’s art and fashion.
This is how Oliver Goldsmith set the tone for the upcoming trend in poetry which is
named as Romanticism.
A. SUMMARY OF THE WORK

The first chapter of the work on Oliver Goldsmith has the nomenclature as Social Milieu of England which deals with the prevalent socio-economic conditions and points out how the onset of Industrial Revolution brought about remarkable changes such as exodus of people from villages to the towns, the installation of factories, rise of capitalism and the enclosure of land. An account of this period from these standpoints throws light on the fact that the writers living and writing during this period judged these happenings to be inimical to the truest of common people in the society.

The second chapter, Flowering of Romanticism highlights the fact that Oliver Goldsmith was a staunch proponent of the ideology of 'Art for Responsibility's sake'. Later, the elder generation of romanticist had embarked on its literary career and they followed this ideology which was the essence of Goldsmith's art and fashion. This is how Oliver Goldsmith set the tone for the upcoming trend in poetry which is termed as Romanticism.
The Third chapter takes an account of the literary works of Predecessors of Oliver Goldsmith who made significant contribution to the poetry of social significance and pointed out the disequilibrium in the society, especially the sufferings of the poor and the privileges of the rich. The awareness of this feeling goes back to the times of Edward Young and James Thomson. Later, Thomas Gray and Oliver Goldsmith followed their footsteps and expressed their ideas and ideals through their writings.

The fourth chapter delineates how Oliver Goldsmith embarked upon the battle of life not merely as a historian but as a legitimate spokesman of the contemporary social life. He delineated realistically the social panorama through his two long poems *The Traveller* and *The Desereted Village*. After his continental wanderings, he conceived the idea of his first poem in which he surveyed his long pilgrimage to different European countries like Italy and Switzerland, France and Holland. This unusual experience enabled him to take an account of certain things such as the virtues and vices of different countries, advantages and disadvantages of political institutions and the role of our minds in shaping our life and destiny. In his other poem *The Desereted Village*, he inveighs against the increase of luxuries and sympathizes with those who are reduced to misery. He points out that the people of his time had different parameters to measure the success of their life. They used to consider luxury as one of the greatest advantages and all the wisdom of antiquity in particular as erroneous. This state of topsy-turvydom urged him to give his message to mankind that the kinds of luxuries people were indulging in were detrimental to the country and its citizens.
The Fifth chapter is pertaining to the findings and achievements of the work on Oliver Goldsmith which highlights the fact that Oliver Goldsmith attempted all the forms of literature and his dedicated pursuit helped him to accomplish success as a poet, playwright, novelist and essayist. The literary works of Oliver Goldsmith show that he was quite conscious of the social maladies around him.