Conclusion

Sukul, P B.”The theme of conflict between generations in the novels of I.S. Turgenev and O.V.Vijayan- A Study based on Fathers and Sons and Thalamurakal” Thesis, Department of Russian and Centre for Comparative literature, University of Calicut, 2013.
Inter generational conflicts is a natural phenomenon which is as old as human history. These conflicts have increased today, thanks to the rapidly changing social and individual necessities and influence of science & technology (especially information technology and virtual networking), urbanization, globalization, commercialization etc. One of the recurring patterns of social development is the reluctance of the older generation to adapt to change, and refusal of tradition by the new generation. A generation, which comes into existence refuting the patterns of old generation will necessarily give way to yet another generation in the due course of time. This occurs in the human history as a continual process. Likewise, there emerge differences between generations in the field of social approach, religious or political views and other spheres of human interactions. There are different historical, sociological and even psychological reasons for formation of different views. The differences between generations assist the progress of the human society in many ways. It amounts to ideological transactions between generations. Subsequently, every generation make up for inclusion and rectification.

Since literature reflects social reality in its own way, there are a number of literary works portraying the conflict between the old and the new generations. Many writers around the globe have approached this theme from
different perspectives. *Fathers and Sons* of Ivan Turgenev and *Thalamurakal* of OV Vijayan have dealt with the issue of tension between the generations in their own manners.

Both Turgenev and Vijayan attempted to creatively respond to the issues of their society. Turgenev through his earlier writings depicted the structurally intricate social atmosphere of Russia. His works are basically a reflection of the Russian Society of nineteenth century. He seems to be advocating the change in the social structure for uplifting the common masses. The novel *Fathers and Sons* masterfully reflects the Russian society of nineteenth century. It describes the youth’s aspirations of creating a completely new society, as well as the frustration of the older generation in coming to terms with the new ideas of social development.

The literary life of Vijayan witnesses his constant and active engagement with social affairs. His creative works (including cartoons, articles and essays) represent themselves as social inquiries questioning the age-old beliefs and systems. His mode of expressing social reality diverges from realism to modernism.

Literature reflects reality as much as it is a product of reality. Bearing this, it can be analyzed that the content of *Fathers and Sons* and *Thalamurakal* is formed in a large canvas of socio political context. The Russian society of nineteenth century was a battleground fought between
tradition and novelty, westernization and revivalism. The society was on the eve of taking a drastic change. There were numerous ideas proposed by different intellectuals on the issue of the future of Russian society. A section of the society was firm with tradition and own culture and the other section was strongly influenced by western thought and scientific approach.

As a writer responding to the social circumstances, Turgenev was also aware of these diverse views. He has created his novel *Fathers and Sons* in the backdrop of this vehement discussion among intelligentsia on the issue of which path of development Russia should take. The novel raises the challenges faced by the peasantry and feudal lords; it gives voice to the emancipation of serfs, reforms in governance and aspirations of the youths having western education. In short, it can be said that the changes in the socio-economic and political spheres are the canvas of the novel *Fathers and Sons*.

Vijayan’s novel *Thalamurakal* has extremely different orientation, thanks to abundance of many personal elements of the author. Many members of previous generation of the writer appear as characters in the novel. Issues related to casteism, which is a decisive factor in Indian subcontinent including Malabar, occupies pivotal place in the novel. Identity problem faced by a section of people situated at the bottom of the casteist hierarchy is one of the significant issues dealt with in the novel. The novel also depicts many of the critical historical events, which brought socio-religious reforms in Malabar,
like – renaissance movement against casteism, activities of Indian National Congress, activities of trade unions and communist movements, Christian immigration from Travancore, religious conversions against casteism etc. Moreover, certain international incidents too get reflection in the novel. In short, history of almost two hundred years of Malabar is the canvas of Thalamurakal.

The clash of ideological differences is the main theme of Fathers and Sons. The characters of the novel appear as representatives of two different views reflecting the social shift during a particular period of Russia. Nihilism, as a thought that influenced the Russian society of nineteenth century, is discussed in the novel. The character Bazarov is portrayed as the spokesman of Nihilism, which denies the traditional concepts and patterns. Bazarov transform as icon of western thought and scientific logic. The fathers in the novel are representatives of the elder generation who behold the Russian tradition, norms, art and literature. Along with narrating tensions between generations, the emotional and mental tensions experienced by individuals are also enunciated in the novel. Though transformed as a tragic character at the end of the novel, Bazarov becomes the icon of the radical thought of Russia towards the end of the nineteenth century. In short, the novel Fathers and Sons, to a large extent, is about the conflict between two diverse views on life.
In the novel *Thalamurakal*, author depicts characters of five different generations. These characters instead of confronting one another, they are questioning the norms and standards of their predecessors. Thus, they become a part of the inevitable historical process of conflict between generations. The characters like – Krishnanammavan (maternal uncle Krishnan), who learnt Sanskrit despite of coming from a lower caste family, and Chamiyarappan, who challenged the social traditions with the ideas of communism, rationalism and Christian beliefs have openly defied the existing social norms. Velappan overcomes the oppression of casteism through the authority of British profession, and Chandran challenges the tradition based on his own knowledge. These characters, though coming from different generations, are representatives of the new generation in the conflict between generations. It is not through confrontation to one another but it is through the diverse ways they opt, the characters refute to their predecessors in the novel *Thalamurakal*.

Comparative study achieves its real objective when it transgresses the barriers of language and culture. Since, the two novels selected for the research thesis belong to two different times and spaces, they have their own peculiarities. Even though Turgenev adopts ‘realistic’ method and OV Vijayan, as a propagator of ‘modernism’, adopts different technique of writing, similarities are evident in the two novels. If *Fathers and sons* deal with tension developing during the shift from a feudalistic social system into
more progressive capitalistic social order, *Thalamurakal* presents the long traverse of transformation of Malabar from a casteist feudal system into a colonial modernity. Although obvious differences are there, certain common features are evident in the two novels written in the feudal period. The central characters Bazarov and Chamiyarappan who challenges the traditions in their own ways have many similarities. New generation in both the novels appears challenging the traditions. Traditional religious believes which exist in their own cultures for centuries are being questioned in different ways in both the novels.

Though these are two novels written in two different times, new rational thoughts have influenced the new generations of both the novels. Such similarities are there in the case of characters too. As comparison of the similarities of the two novels, study of the differences between them is also an integral part of Comparative study. In that manner, novels have own peculiarities which they don’t share. In presentation, two novels have adopted extremely different styles. In *Fathers and Sons*, Turgenev has adopted a method of storytelling of different generations in a logical sequence. In contrast, in *Thalamurakal*, OV Vijayan has accepted a style in which stories of different generations are mixed up without any regard for their order in time and space.
While the class division of nineteenth century is the subject of *Fathers and sons*, peculiar caste division of Malabar is the backdrop of *Thalamurakal*. Social contexts of two different cultures of two different times are being represented in the two novels. Though social factors are different, they are reflecting in same pattern in both the novels. Similar characters can be identified in the novels though they are representing different times and societies. Nihilism, atheism and Communism which deeply influenced the factors of social developments in Russia and Malabar, are influencing much the characters of the novel.

To study comparatively the two novels which are written in the mode of realism and modernism is also to study the creative probes on mankind which progress with every passing moment. The challenging attempt for comparative analysis of two novels belonging to different languages, cultures and times, is also study of the humanity at large. ‘Conflict between generations’ will always remain a relevant issue for a researcher of many disciplines. Such a study based on the two novels *Fathers and Sons* and *Thalamurakal*, is like reinventing the history of mankind and aesthetics.