



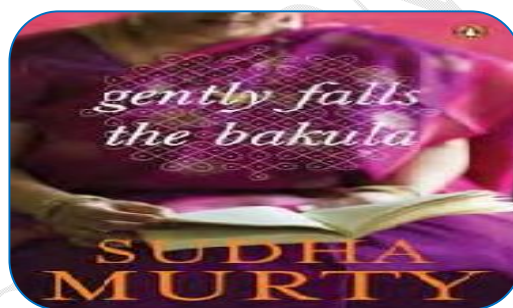
## FEMINISM PERSPECTIVE IN SUDHA MURTHY'S NOVELS

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### ABSTRACT :

*The purpose of this paper is to study modern and new women in the novels of Sudha Murthy. After independence the new dawn of women's evolution is started. Before freedom women had no right to take an education, writing any book even no equal status in the society. In India women has no any position in comparison with men. There is one proverb "The hand that rocks the cradle; rules the world", According to this proverb, an apt example is Sudha Murthy who is prolific writer in Indian English literature. She is author in Kannada and English and has published many books that focus her views on feminism, charity, hospitality and self-realization through fictional and non-fictional books. She received many awards and most important amongst them are the Padma Shree and the R.K.Narayanaward for literature. The author focuses struggle of women, their courage to face life, Women's question. This aspect shown in many novels. Her four novels- Gently Falls the Bakula, Mahasheweta, The House of Cards and Dollar Bahu. These novels describe women's emotions and attitudes are quite differently. We observe modern women trying to assert their identity in the male dominated society. The research paper concludes today's women are standing on their feet to achieve their success. She is like a man, wishes to reach her goal and satisfy her intellectual self.*



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**KEYWORDS :** *Feminism, Identity, male -dominance, New woman, Marriage, Loneliness.*

### INTRODUCTION:

The Indian literature is playing an important role in the development of India as well as through the world. Especially Sudha Murthy is one of Indian women writers who give more contribution in literary development. English language is also important to every region. The development of language is helping the literature to bring on the peak particularly Indian literature. In the present English literature, Sudha Murthy's writing is considered mile stone. Her writing deals with the education, religious task, cultural aspects, family relationship, social attitudes, economical situations, feminist problems etc. Her writing criticism of the society where the portrait of Indian women in all walks of life may be political, social, educational, domestic is precisely shown and being a prolific writer relates all aspects of society. Dr. Sudha Murthy is a great social worker, author; educationalist has great contribution in Indian English literature like fictional, non-fictional novels, short stories, novellas and travelogues. She claims feminism and make powerful her women characters to fight adverse situation of their lives. She gives marks on the point where the women are strong in their bad conditions and fought against male dominance. She is very polite and modest uses her wealth for the poor people. She has respect for those are impoverished, the destitute and fully marginalized part of the society. She writes on the background of Indian society. The main protagonists are women characters who are educated with naturally inner power and strong to fight against any situation under adverse

circumstances and always on fire to challenge any situation, make their place for them in the society with the restriction of Indian tradition. Her female characters struggle and suffering various social and domestic crises.

K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar states: *"When an Indian writer of fiction uses a learnt second language like English, he is actually recording a kind of half-conscious translation that has taken place in the mind. Most of our writers are bi-lingual, some equally proficient in English and the mother tongue, and some more in one than in the other. The background and the situations are usually Indian but the characters may often be drawn from bilingual milieus. The need for the expressing the values verities and heart-beats of one culture in the language of another poses its own problem and there is doubtless the inner urge to render in English the rhythms, idiosyncrasies, images, idioms and proverbs of the local speech"*. So, one of the features of Indian English literature is the background is traditionally Indian and language is adopted according to taste of characters. Now-a- days Indian English literature is indented and got identity. The novel is a genre which is living, new and evolved. Feminism is movement against male dominance in the principles of women has social, political, economical rights. It is a movement against sex patriarchy. Earlier women sufferer, self-sacrificing, devoted wife or mother or daughter. Their conditions are portrayed by male novelists. They were the martyrdom of sacrifice, love, devotion and kindness. After independence the men and women changed their attitudes. They started to portray the real situation of the society and give priority to feelings, longings and real experience. Sudha Murthy is the most important figure in this respect.

Sudha Murthy is born in 1950 in Shiggaon in north Karnataka. An M.Tech in Computer Science, she teaches Computer Science to postgraduate students. She is the first engineer in Telco and currently she is the chairperson of Infosys Foundation. She has written twenty-four novels, non-fictional books and children books. She is the recipient of many awards and has given charities to many institutions in the country. She is conferring with the 'Padma Shri' award by the Government of India for her accomplishments. Anita Desai, Ruth Praver Jahabwala, Mahasheweta Devi, Shashi Deshpande, Nayan Tara Sehagal, Shobha De, Jumpha Laheri, Arundati Roy and Sudha Murthy These Indian women's writing is make us to think and rethink over serious matters. In her novels she gives less fortune and happy ending. Her women protagonist are rough, rude, educated, respectable, middle class, possessed by disagreement about modernity that have accompany into their lives. They give priority to money, achievements, marriage, acclamation and social relationships.

Dr. Sudha Murthy being one of the contemporary women writers of modern period, her literary works are a realistic picture of the socio-psychological issues which faced by contemporary Indian women. Her style is very simple and lucid, analyses day-to-day incidents and issues in her novels. She studies in deep the minds of her women characters in her novels.

She communicates her thoughts very precisely. Being creative writer in English and Kannada, her novels concentrates on Karnataka villages and the people. She make women protagonist very strong to take challenges in their daily life. She cut up the tradition of Indian Culture and accepts the modernity and inculcates in the mind of her women characters the qualities educational women.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For this paper, the methodology used likes Sudha Murthy's Original books. I visited British Library, Pune. Some Marathi books and references on Sudha Murthy's books from Marathi Vishwakosh and Tilak Library, Wai. I visited Infosys, Pune. I get some sources from from Questionnaires from Video. Data from internet also useful.

### Search of Identity in "Gently Falls The Bakula" (2008)

The story of this novel is about Shrimati and Shrikant are neighbors and star students of their school and marriage that loses its way as ambition and self-interest take their toil. Shrimati falls in love with the amiable and handsome Shrikant and the two get married. She promotes him to reach the top of glory in his IT. She is a protagonist, sincere, dutiful towards her husband, loving wife.

Shrimati, a plain -looking yet charming person, who always better than him in the exams. While Shrimati abandons her academic aspirations and becomes his uncomplaining shadow, silently fulfilling her duties as corporate leader's wife. But her husband shatters her dreams and has no time to spend and unable to recognize her sacrifice for him. Finally she takes hard decision to separate from him. She didn't like material things. She tells Shrikant, *'Shri, I am getting a scholarship. I have taught over this matter for the last few weeks before taking this decision. I did not bring anything with me when I got married to you. Now also, I am not taking anything from his house. My flight is scheduled for tonight.....now I can leave peacefully'* (GBF, p.160)

Shrimati tells Shrikant *'I cannot live in this kind of an atmosphere with these artificial values; I want to find my own happiness.'* (GBF, p.160)

She didn't think of the society what would tell if she leave Shrikant. She wants a fresh air which not found with Shrikant. Sudha Murthy portrayed strong and dashing women to find her identity.

### Search of Identity in "Mahashweta" (2007)

This novel is published in 2007, the story of Anupama who tremendously loves Dr.Anand who does not respect her love. Because of it she suffers incurable disease called Leukoderma after marriage. This is very dangerous disease and changed many lives in the society and become reason lot of hardships and injury in the minds of people.

Finally Dr.Anand understood his mistake and said sorry to her but she is not in mood to forgive him. She says *'You knew that I did not have this disease before our marriage .You could have told your mother ...but you didn't. You were scared that I would be disfigured because of this disease...I ended up a victim because you chose to dishonor the vows you took'* (MS, p.147)

Sudha Murthy created Anupama as a very confident woman and respects her identity in the male dominated society.

### Search of Identity in "House of Cards" (2013)

Mridula and Dr.Sanjay meet in a marriage ceremony took place in Hubali; they attracted to each other and decided to marry with each other. After the marriage Sanjay got a job at Victoria Government Hospital in Bangalore. Sanjay manipulating Mridula because of foolishness and ignorance and doubts. Sanjay is very cunning and when she understood of Sanjay's activities, she lost her confidence, shocked and became annoyed. She becomes mad when her faithful husband deceives her.

She tells her friend Anita, *'Anita, it is not about money. Money can be earned and lost. It's about faith that a wife has in her husband. That's more valuable than money and gold. Faith sustains a marriage and brings joy to the family. Without it we have nothing .How can Sanjay destroy the faith and trust I had on him?'* (HOC, p.186).

### Search of Identity in "Dollar Bahu" (2007)

In this novel the importance is given to money and how it corrupts the nature of the people and how family is divided. Girish and Vinuta are husband and wife living in Bangalore. Girish is a bank clerk. Vinuta takes care of his family. Chandru is Girish's brother who is in US, decides to get marry, Vinuta is tortured in the family. There is constant comparisons her and Chandru's wife. Gradually, she loses her confidence and peace of mind and health. Her Mother-in-law is neglected Vinuta's selfless sacrifice and suffering.

She tells Chandru, *'To be honest with you, I am not at all that happy either. All the time ,there is comparison between Jamuna and me. I don't want and can't compete with anybody. But its evident that the family does not need me anymore....finding him more a friend than a brother-in-law.* (DB, p.72)

Eventually she takes decision to leave the home.

### CONCLUSION

The tradition of Indian women is not changed even after the independence. She is emotional, passive, fearful and isolated by the society. She is not liberated internally and externally, trapped in the

shackle traditions. She finds it is difficult to adjust with reality of life. Women of modern era also aggressive, pathetic because of constant torturing at family and outside, so they cannot cope with people. Man and women should regard as human being.

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