

## Depiction of India in Sudha Murthy's Works

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### Abstract

*Sudha Murthy, an Indian novelist, a political activist involved in human rights and environmental causes. In the present paper, an attempt to study the deep influence of Sudha Murthy's background and social atmosphere of her work. Through this paper, an honest effort has been done to focus on important issues as; Depiction of India, subject of social awareness, poor condition of low family, female discrimination in Indian society, poverty in India and much important Indian value in Indian Society, etc.*

**Keywords:** Depiction, Social Awareness, Discrimination, Indian Society

Any artist, a sensitive human soul is a product of the society he lives in. He has on him numerous influences - social, political, economic, ethical, religious etc. which go a long way in shaping the mind and personality of the artist. An artist finds himself drifted along the river of life receiving the hidden challenges it offers in its course. However, he forms his ideas and chooses a path for himself and establishes his own identity. In the traditional postcolonial society, the problematic question is of women's emancipation and its women writers are more passionate and serious about it. Women's efforts to seek their independence and self-identity started a revolution all over the world. Anita Nair, one of the finest modern woman writers is one such genuine writer who portrays realistic female characters in her works. Her strength as a writer lies in bringing alive the everyday thoughts desires and doubts. Nair conveys her protagonists' dilemmas with freshness and charm

Sudha Murthy's novels depict women as preservers of culture and nature. Sudha Murthy is a prolific and realistic writer. She writes in the background of Indian English literature. The works of many recent Indian Writers like Anita Desai, Mahashweta Devi, Shashi Deshpande, Shoba De, Arundati Roy and Sudha Murthy have been enjoyed to a great extent by many readers. Sudha Murthy writes in a simple and lucid style. Her works carry a lot of historical influences and a strong cultural bonding. Her novels make a lasting impact in the minds of the readers which make them think and rethink. This research aims

to presents in the way in which women are portrayed, how women struggle for identity and finally liberate themselves in this male dominated society. Sudha Murthy's novels bring out to the world the characteristics of Indian women a blend of charm and firm.

Sudha Murthy is one of the well-known female writers in India writing in English today, writing on the dominant issues related to women in modern India in the age of globalization. Women and women's issue, thus become a central concern of Sudha Murthy's novel. Murthy's writing is marked by her impartial way of looking at man's relations with women and women's relations with other women. Her novels deal with the ideas and aspirations of educated girls and their struggle for space in traditional Indian society. Girls stand out as individual human beings in her works.

Indian female has always been treated partially by the family and society. Girl child always got secondary treatment in the family. Husband wife relations were always tilted in favour of husband. Husband took all the decisions not only related to family matters but also to the matters related to her personal life. She had no say in the selection of her own husband. She was considered ominous if husband died before her. In short, she had no personal identity, social status, economic independence and separate voice. Condition of western women was slightly different. They were educated, independent and protected. Their problems were different from the problems of Indian women. They wanted to be recognized as individuals like male members around, whereas Indian women wanted to be alive.

Many of Sudha Murthy's books portray her outlook which describing saris, bangles, domestic chores, godly worship and many more signifying Indianness and Indian values. She feels that women are competent individuals. They must be encouraged to be self-reliant and confident. She feels that though women are becoming economically independent, many of them are bonded with the shackles of emotional and social dependence.

Sudha Murthy expresses the view that the social status of women in other countries is better than in Indian women

there enjoy economic, social, political freedom, whereas India is male dominated. It is to their credit that Indian women have learnt to live and excel in such environment.

A majority of people would like to get more out of life than they have. A few achieve this goal, while many do not, probable because they do not try hard enough. Sudha Murthy empathies with those gifted students who due to poverty are unable to afford a proper education despite their intelligence. She feels that such students can achieve great heights of success if helped financially to pursue their studies and has made it one of her life's missions to help deserving and needy students. Sudha Murthy works toward the betterment of the society and rural development. She aims to provide the government aided school with computer education and library facility.

Sudha Murthy went into the tribal areas, forests, into hamlets ravaged by poverty, into communities' devastated by disease who needed help. She assisted the poor and the needy with supplies during natural calamities, like Tsunami. Readers experience the same feelings as Sudha Murthy on reading her books and encounter a personal insight on reading each story in which has been fabulously woven in eloquent English. It signifies the fact that she is well read and has travelled deep into places of poverty like those of villages of various states of India and other flashy locales of America and other country.

Sudha Murthy feels that there are various types of poverty besides on insufficiency of money. These are for example, poverty of compassion, poverty of tolerance, poverty of concern and regard for others. There is also poverty of justice, of vision, of integrity and of human understanding. There is a poverty of humility, of forgiveness, of loyalty. We find a vast number of people starving for love and understanding.

Sudha Murthy's short stories help in measuring correcting and reinstating values by changing the attitude in a society ethics. Perhaps the deepest crisis of all poverty is a complete lack of sympathetic feeling for one's fellow men, which is actually a dearth of brotherhood and poverty of sustaining belief. It would not be wrong to say that Sudha Murthy's books and her writing are committed to eradicating this poverty of values.

Sudha Murthy's books address many social issues and gender issues like the issues of the status of Indian women in the society. Her stories also highlight the orthodox Indian society regarding women's rights. She also tackles the problem of human trafficking like in her one story protagonist, who is subjected to prostitution by her own brother on the Rakhi day, which is a ceremony between a

brother and a sister. Love knows no bounds when it changes strangers into brothers, while money sets boundaries changing brother into strangers.

Sudha Murthy's stories convey varied morals from modesty to compassion from fairness to societal concern which sensitize readers for being true. To understand what compassion is, one must be emotionally committed and should be capable of moral indignation suffering due to exploitation or greed or their own misfortunes. One must be compassionate in carrying out one's obligation as a citizen to help build a caring and just society. These values have to be constantly replenished for social harmony.

In her stories the protagonist belongs to humble background like tribal boy or salesgirl in local train. She writes about lesson on humility in accepting gift at the hands of a uneducated like tribal chief in the story 'In Sanhandry Hill'. The story teaches a philosophy of life which says 'give when you take' to enlighten the grace of accepting a story.

Money can be earned in life, but confidence and self-esteem are easy to lose and difficult to gain. Sudha Murthy's encounter with the victims of fold, drought, hurricane and other calamities in various parts in India taught her that there is a limitation of human power and achievement when any amount of money cannot help a person, as it cannot substitute many things in life. There is no greater joy in life than to render happiness to others by means of intelligent giving. We must donate generously to the poor and needy.

Money comes with expectation and spoils the delicate equilibrium of social work. Through her stories she shows us that the one who give in the true sense will make a donation in the most confidential manner where the left does not know the Daan given by the right hand. There are a few who contribute very little but make a huge hue and cry about their contribution while there are the others who genuinely wish to do good for others without revealing their identity.

Sudha Murthy has condemned many social evils in our country. Her stories on these issues create awareness and motivate us to put an end to these social ills. Many of her stories depict numerous shades of social evils in Indian society. Her stories also depict the strength with which a person can rise above these evils and diminish them.

Thus the women is Sudha Murthy's work acted on what they felt was right not even bothering about what would people think of them. She has portrayed strong empowered women finding their own identity. Sudha

Murthy has been successful in bringing out the brutal effects of money on family relation in modern India. She is an inspiration for every single woman in this country. Her works continuously broken several barriers and improved society in every way it could.

Social, cultural and historical forces in the home country have their immediate and inevitable impact on the choice of theme for the writers. Whirlwind of globalization in India and its damaging effects on the domestic and social fabric had to be dealt with by the writers towards the end of the twentieth century. Sudha Murthy was the most eligible person to handle the theme eroding effect of liberalization on Indian youth and culture. Sudha Murthy, the author of several books that reflect the ethos on Indian culture says her philanthropic work is an extremely fulfilling part of her life.

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