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Sudha Murthy's Contribution in Indian English Literature

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ABSTRACT

Sudha Murthy is a prolific Indian author, social worker, and philanthropist who has made significant contributions to Indian literature and society. Her books offer insightful reflections on various social and cultural issues in India, and her writing style is known for its simplicity and clarity.

KEYWORDS-Sudha Murthy, English Literature, author, philanthropist, books

INTRODUCTION

Sudha Murthy was born in a small town in 1950 in Shiggaon in the Indian state of Karnataka. Her father was a famous physician and her mother washousewife. From a young age, Sudha was a voracious reader and excelled academically. She went to pursue her degree in electrical engineering from one of the finest college B.V.B. College of Engineering and Technology in Hubli districtof Karnataka.

After completing her degree, Sudha was hired as a software engineer at the Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company (TELCO) in Pune, Maharashtra. At the time, TELCO was one of the leading engineering companies in India, and Sudha was one of the first female engineers to work there.

During her time at TELCO, Sudha met and married Narayana Murthy, who would go on to co-found Infosys, one of India's most successful technology companies. Sudha eventually left her job at TELCO to support her husband's work at Infosys, but she remained active in the tech industry as a freelance computer programmer and consultant.

In addition to her work in technology, Sudha was also a prolific writer and began publishing books and articles in both English and Kannada, a language spoken in the Indian state of Karnataka. Her early writing focused on her experiences as a working woman in a male-dominated field, and her books often addressed social issues such as gender inequality and poverty.[1,2,3]

Achievements and Awards

Sudha Murthy's contributions to Indian literature and society have earned her numerous accolades and awards. In 2006, she was awarded the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honors, for her contributions to literature and social work. She has also received the R.K. Narayan Award for Literature and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Karnataka government. In 2018, she was awarded the Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to literature.

Besides her literary achievements, Sudha Murthy had an impressive reputation for her philanthropic work. She is the chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to promote education, healthcare, and rural development in India. She has also worked on various other social projects, such as the construction of toilets for girls in schools and the rehabilitation of flood victims in the Indian state of Karnataka.

Contribution to Indian Literature

Sudha Murthy's literary career began in the late 1990s with the publication of her first book, "Dollar Sose," a collection of short stories written in Kannada, her mother tongue. Since then, she has written numerous books, including novels, short stories, children's books, and non-fiction. Her works have been translated into several languages, including English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, and Gujarati.

Sudha Murthy's books reflect her life experiences and the issues close to her heart. Her writing style is simple yet powerful, and her stories are full of moral lessons and insights into Indian culture and society. Her books deal with a range of topics, from the lives of ordinary people to the problems faced by women, children, and marginalized communities. Some of her most popular books include "Wise and Otherwise," "The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk," "The Magic Drum and Other Favourite Stories," and "How I Taught My Grandmother to Read."

Sudha Murthy Books and Their Impact on Indian Literature

Sudha Murthy's books have had a profound impact on Indian literature, and have helped to shape the way that readers think about a wide range of social issues. One of the most notable themes in Sudha's writing is the role of women in



Indian society, and her books often feature strong female characters who defy social norms and overcome significant challenges.

For example, in her book "Gently Falls the Bakula," Sudha tells the story of a young woman named Sita who sacrifices her dreams and ambitions for the sake of her husband's career. The book explores the themes of gender inequality and the challenges faced by women in traditional Indian families. Similarly, in her book "The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk," Sudha addresses the issue of child marriage and its impact on young girls.

Another important theme in Sudha's writing is the relationship between tradition and modernity in India. Her books often explore the tension between the old and the new, and the challenges that arise when traditional values and customs clash with modern ways of thinking. In "Mahashweta," for example, Sudha tells the story of a young woman who faces discrimination and ostracism because of her skin condition, and must navigate the complex social structures of Indian society in order to find acceptance and happiness.

Overall, Sudha Murthy's books have helped to give voice to the marginalized and oppressed in Indian society, and have challenged readers to think deeply about the social issues that affect their lives. Her writing is characterized by its sensitivity, nuance, and deep understanding of the complexities of Indian culture and society, and has helped to establish her as one of India's most respected authors.

Sudha Murthy is a true pioneer in the world of Indian literature. Her books have had a profound impact on readers all over the world, and have helped to raise awareness about a wide range of social issues in Indian society. Her writing is characterized by its sensitivity, insight, and deep understanding of the complexities of Indian culture, and has helped to establish her as one of India's most important and influential authors.

Through her books, Sudha has tackled a wide range of issues, from gender inequality to child marriage to the tension between tradition and modernity. She has given voice to the marginalized and oppressed and has helped to shine a light on the challenges faced by women, children, and other vulnerable groups in Indian society.

Overall, Sudha Murthy's books are a testament to the power of literature to effect change and inspire readers to think deeply about the world around them. Whether you are a fan of Indian literature or simply looking for an engaging and thought-provoking read, Sudha's books are sure to leave a lasting impression.[4,5,6]

DISCUSSION

Sudha Murthy: A True Inspiration in The Indian Literary Scene

Sudha Murthy is an Indian literary giant and a true inspiration for many. She has been recognized as one of the most influential women in India, a thought leader and an ambassador of compassionate philanthropy.

Murthy's works have spanned different genres over the years – from children's books to autobiographical memoirs.

Here, we explore Sudha Murthy's accomplishments and what she has done to be an inspiration in the Indian literary scene.

Sudha Murthy: A brief biography

Sudha Murthy was born in Shiggaon, Karnataka, on August 19, 1950 into a Deshastha Madhva Brahmin family. Sudha's father, R. H. Kulkarni was a doctor and her mother Vimala Kulkarni, was a school teacher.

Sudha's parents were very supportive of her education; they encouraged her to study engineering and become financially independent.

Sudha attended the B.V.Bhoomaraddi College of Engineering and Technology in Hubli, Karnataka. completed a B.Eng. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the KLE Technological University. She graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1975.

Sudha married N. R. Narayana Murthy, co-founder of Infosys Technologies, in 1981. The couple have two children, Rohan and Akshata.

Sudha is the Chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, a non-profit organisation that works towards the development of rural India.



Sudha has also authored several books, including How I Taught My Grandmother to Read & Other Stories and Three Thousand Stitches.

Sudha Murthy's journey as a writer

Sudha Murthy's journey as a writer began when she was just a child. She would always be writing stories and poems, and she loved to read.

When she was in her twenties, she started working on her first novel. It took her four years to complete, and it was published in 1992.

Sudha Murthy has since written six more novels, all of which have been bestsellers in India. Her latest novel, The Mother I Never Knew, was published in 2016.

Sudha Murthy's novels are all based on real-life events and experiences. She writes about strong women who overcome adversity, and she is known for her feminist perspective.

Sudha Murthy is an inspiration to many Indian women, and her novels have been translated into several languages.

Popular Books by Sudha Murthy

Wise And Otherwise

How the Onion Got Its Layers

How the Sea Became Salty

How I Taught My Grandmother to Read and Other Stories

Gently Falls the Bakula

The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk

Dollar Bahu

Grandma's Bag Of Stories

House of Cards

The Old Man and His God: Discovering the Spirit of India

The Magic of the Lost Temple

Something Happened on the Way to Heaven: 20 Inspiring Real-Life Stories

Mahashweta

Three Thousand Stitches

The Bird with Golden Wings: Stories of Wit and Magic

The Serpent's Revenge: Unusual Tales from the Mahabharata

The Daughter from a Wishing Tree

The Man from the Egg: Unusual Tales about the Trinity

The Upside Down King: Unusual Tales about Rama and Krishna

The Mother I Never Knew



The Gopi Diaries

Sudha Murthy's most famous works

Sudha Murthy's most famous works are her novels, short stories, and collections of essays. She has published over a dozen novels, including *The Mahabharata: A Modern Retelling*, *The Palace of Illusions*, and *The Death of Vishnu*.

Her short story collection includes such classics as "The Wife's Letter" and "The Old Man and the Cow."

Her collections of essays include *My Life with Chennai Super Kings and Other Essays* and *Of Dreams and Demons: Reflections on India*. [7,8,9]

Sudha Murthy's contribution to the Indian literary scene

Sudha Murthy is a true inspiration in the Indian literary scene. She has been writing for over forty years and has published over ninety books. Her work includes novels, short stories, children's books, and non-fiction works.

She has received many awards for her writing, including the Sahitya Akademi Award and the Padma Shri. Sudha Murthy is also a philanthropist and social worker.

She has founded several organizations that help rural women and children in India. Sudha Murthy is an example of how one person can make a difference in the lives of others.

Sudha Murthy is an undeniable source of inspiration for many in the Indian literary scene. From her incredible achievements to her charitable works, she has demonstrated that true success comes from adding value and making a difference to the lives of others.

She is a terrific example of how anyone can make it big if they put their mind to it, no matter where they come from or what challenges life throws at them.

We should take inspiration from Sudha and strive to be like her in order to create positive change around us.

RESULTS

Sudha Murthy is an engineering teacher, philanthropist, and prominent writer of several well-known and praised Kannada and English novels. She is widely regarded as one of India's most respected and successful women. She has inspired both the young and the elderly to make reading a habit in their life through her works.

She is the chairperson of the Infosys Foundation and a member of the Gates Foundation's public health programs. She has contributed to raise awareness about education, public cleanliness, poverty alleviation, and other issues through her Infosys Foundation. She wants to bring computer education and library services to government-funded schools. She is also noted for encouraging and providing education to underprivileged children, as well as being one of the founders of Infosys, one of India's largest IT firms.

Sudha Murthy started off as a computer scientist and engineer. There was no stopping her after that; she went from being a small-town girl to becoming the first female engineer hired by India's largest automaker, TATA Engineering and Locomotive Company (TELCO). She allegedly wrote a postcard to the company's Chairman before being employed, complaining about TELCO's "men only" gender inequality. As a result, she was given a special interview and was employed as a Development Engineer right away. She later worked as a Senior Systems Analyst with the Walchand Group of Industries in Pune.

Sudha Murthy was born in Shiggaon, Haveri, Karnataka, India, on August 19, 1950. She is the daughter of Dr. R. H. Kulkarni, a surgeon, and was raised by her parents and maternal grandparents. Murthy graduated from the B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology with a Bachelor of Engineering (B.E) in Electrical and Electronics Engineering. She ranked first in her class and was awarded a gold medal by Karnataka's Chief Minister. She also completed an M.E. in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore.
Social Work and Padma Shri

Murthy is most recognized for her humanitarian activities and contributions to Kannada and English literature. She has accomplished more than the average in her 70 years, never underestimating herself or falling prey to society's expectations of a "proper woman." She has gotten multiple honors for academic brilliance as a result of her hard work.



She received the 'Best Teacher Award' from the Rotary Club of Bangalore in 1995. She founded the Infosys Foundation in 1996 and is currently a Trustee of the organization as well as a Visiting Professor at Bangalore University's PG Center.

At Harvard University, she established the Murthy Classical Library of India (MCLI). The Murthy Classical Library of India intends to reintroduce to a new generation India's greatest literary works from the previous two millennia, which are part of the world literature's treasured heritage. In 2004, the Sri Raja-Lakshmi Foundation in Chennai honored her with the Raja-Lakshmi award. She received the prize for her great achievements in the field of social work. Sudha Murthy was honored with the Crossword-Raymond Book Awards' Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. IIT Kanpur awarded her an Honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) degree the next year.

Sudha Murthy has published a number of novels, the first of which was titled "How I Taught My Grandmother to Read" and followed by a number of short stories. In addition to English, the book has been translated into 15 other languages. It reflects her relationship with her paternal grandparents as a child. She used her time well by founding multiple orphanages in addition to teaching at Christ University. Given her logical and creative nature, it's interesting to see her disclose in an interview with Film fare magazine that she is a movie buff who has more than 500 DVDs of various films.

'The Mother I Never Knew,' 'Three Thousand Stitches,' 'The Man from the Egg,' and 'Magic of the Lost Temple' are just a few of Sudha Murthy's widely appreciated books. She has also experimented in acting, appearing in two films: Pitruroon, a Marathi film, and Prathana, a Kannada film. She's a true multi-talented individual. In 2019, she received India's highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri. According to the Indian government, the Padma Shri is the fourth highest ranking official, and her publications have earned her a PhD. She is still energetic and healthy at the age of 70, and she enjoys teaching, therefore she continues her interest and enthusiasm as a Visiting Professor at Bangalore University's PG Center. All individuals around her and those who look up to her are drawn to her by her personality and ambition.[13,14,15]

She is dedicated to empowering and advocating for women, as well as raising awareness about rural education, public hygiene, poverty reduction, and other issues. She assists with the construction of toilets for those in need because she aspires to a clean India. The phrase "actions speak louder than words" fits her well. She performs what she preaches.

She has also been intended to aid people in flood-affected areas. Even as a writer, she speaks frankly about hospitality, her childhood, and her thoughts on donations and charity in her works. She even tried her hand at writing children's books, for which she is best known and admired. She began by writing Kannada stories, some of which were later translated into English. Dollar Sose, Kaveri inda Mekaanige, Runa, Hakkiya Teradalli, and Gutthondu Heluve are few of the well-known Kannada ones.[10,11,12]

Murthy recently stated in the news that she has recently witnessed how liquor has ruined poor families and broken families. As a result, she persuaded the state government to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages for the benefit of disadvantaged women. "Increasing the sale of liquor could bring in more income for the government. However, liquor is a societal scourge, and women and their children are its primary victims," Murthy said in an interview.

Women like Sudha Murthy, who worked hard in order to achieve her goals on her own, inspire and motivate other women and men to believe in their aspirations and work hard to achieve them.

CONCLUSION

The soul and spirit of morality have been transmitted to children from generation to generation through stories. Stories play a significant role in the mental growth and character-building of children. Storybooks are a wonderful source of inspiration and lay a strong foundation for their future life. Reading storybooks helps children to increase their confidence, handle emotions, and cope up with problems. It also develops their imagination power, language skills, and learning.[16,17,18] The multi-faceted prolific children's author Sudha Murthy's contribution to the field of children's literature is a hallmark in Indian English literature. Her children's stories dealt with the importance of family bonds and concern towards society and fellow beings. The characters in her stories help the children to understand our culture and tradition. The paper tries to analyze three such books of children's stories by Sudha Murthy in the light of the theories of 'tabula rasa' and 'Kohlberg's Theory of moral judgment'. The paper focuses on 'How I Taught My Grandmother to Read and Other Stories, Grandma's Bag of Stories, and The Magic Drum and Other Favourite Stories' and the moral values inculcated in them.[19]



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