

SUDHA MURTHY A MIND BLOWING EDUCATIONIST N NOVELIST

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Abstract:

Sudha Murthy is a highly acclaimed Indian author, educator, and philanthropist recognized for her immense contributions to children's literature, social work, and for being a trailblazing engineer. Her work as an educationalist is characterized by a commitment to fostering literacy, establishing over 70,000 libraries in rural schools, and promoting moral values, compassion, and social responsibility. As a novelist and writer, she is celebrated for her simple, heartfelt, and relatable style in both Kannada and English, focusing on themes of human values, societal issues, and the experiences of ordinary people.

Keyword: Core Pillars, Philanthropy, Simplicity & Humility, Education Reform, Empowerment, Literary Themes & Style, Simple & Heartfelt, Human Values, Social Issues & Commentary, Real-life Incidents, Children's Literature

Sudha Murthy born 19 August 1950 is an Indian educator, author, and philanthropist. She is the Founder-Chairperson of the non-profit charitable organization Infosys Foundation. She is married to the co-founder of Infosys, N. R. Narayana Murthy. In 2024, Murthy was nominated as Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha on 8 March 2024 for her contribution to social work and education. Murthy was awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India, for social work by the Government of India. In 2023, she was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award in India.

Sudha Murthy began her professional career in computer science and engineering. She is a member of the public health care initiatives of the Gates Foundation. She has founded several orphanages, participated in rural development efforts, supported the movement to provide all Karnataka government schools with computer and library facilities, and established Murthy Classical Library of India at Harvard University.

Murthy is best known for her philanthropy and her contribution to literature in Kannada and English. *Dollar Bahu* (lit. 'Dollar Daughter-in-Law'), a novel originally authored by her in Kannada and later translated into English as *Dollar Bahu*, was adapted as a televised dramatic series by Zee TV in 2001. *Runa* (lit. 'Debt'), a story by Sudha Murthy was adapted as a Marathi film, *Pitruroon* by director Nitish Bhardwaj. Sudha Murthy has also acted in the film as well as a Kannada film *Prarthana*.¹

Early life and education

Sudha Murthy was born to a Kannada-speaking family on 19 August 1950 in Shiggaon, Haveri district in Mysore State (present-day Karnataka), India, the daughter of R. H. Kulkarni, a surgeon, and his wife Vimala Kulkarni, a schoolteacher. She was raised by her parents and maternal grandparents. These childhood experiences form the historical basis for her first notable work entitled *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read, Wise and Otherwise and Other Stories*. Murthy completed a BE in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology (now known as KLE Technological University), and then a ME in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Science.

Career

Sudha Murthy became the first female engineer hired at India's largest auto manufacturer TATA Engineering and Locomotive Company (TELCO). She joined the company as a Development Engineer in Pune and then worked in Mumbai and Jamshedpur as well. She had written a postcard to the company's Chairman complaining of the "men only" gender bias at TELCO. As a result, she was granted a special interview and hired immediately.^{[20][18]} She later joined Walchand Group of Industries at Pune as Senior Systems Analyst.

In 1996, she started Infosys Foundation and retired in 2020. She also taught at Christ University.

Sudha Murthy has written and published many books which include novels, non-fiction, travelogues, technical books, and memoirs. Her books have been translated into all major Indian languages. She was a columnist for English and Kannada newspapers.^[22]

Philanthropy

Main article: Infosys Foundation



Sudha Murthy at the Infosys Foundation
Murthy's Infosys Foundation is a public charitable trust founded in 1996.

Personal life

Sudha Murthy is married to Infosys co-founder N. R. Narayana Murthy. They married when she was employed as an engineer at TELCO in Pune. The couple have two children, including fashion designer Akshata Murthy, who is married to former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rishi Sunak, and Rohan Murthy, a computer scientist and founder of enterprise software company Soroco.

Her siblings include Dr. Sunanda Kulkarni, Caltech astrophysicist Shrinivas Kulkarni and Jaishree Deshpande (wife of Gururaj Deshpande) who co-founded the Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation at MIT.

Awards



Droupadi Murmu presenting the Padma Bhushan Award to Dr. (Smt.) Sudha Murthy A. P. J. Abdul Kalam presenting the Padma Shri Award to Dr. (Smt.) Sudha Murthy



Murthy receiving the Raja Lakshmi Award

- 2004: Raja-Lakshmi Award by Sri Raja-Lakshmi Foundation in Chennai^[26]
- 2006: India's fourth highest civilian award Padma Shri^{[27][28]}
- 2006: She also received the R.K. Narayana's Award for Literature.^[29]
- 2010: Daana Chintamani Attimabbe Award by Karnataka Government.^[30]
- 2011: Murthy was conferred honorary LL.D (Doctor of Laws) degrees for contributions to promote formal legal education and scholarship in India.^[31]
- 2013: Basava Shree-2013 Award was presented to Narayan Murthy & Sudha Murthy for their contributions to society.^[32]
- 2018: Murthy received the Crossword Book award in popular (Non-Fiction) category.^{[33][34]}
- 2019: IIT Kanpur awarded her Honorary Degree (*Honoris Causa*) of Doctor of Science.^[35]
- 2023: Padma Bhushan by the Government of India
- 2023: Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar.

• 2023: The Global Indian Award,^[38] which is worth \$50,000, is given each year to a prominent Indian who has made a major mark in his or her chosen field. Her husband Narayana Murthy too got the same award in 2014, so they became first couple conferred with this award. She donated the sum to the Field Institute (University of Toronto).^[39] So far I've gone through Sudha Murthy's 3 Novels I) Mahashweta II) Dollar Bahu n III) A House of cards

I) Mahashweta

Introduction About Mahashweta

Mahashweta is a novel by Sudha Murthy that tells the story of Anupama, a young woman from a poor family who faces many challenges in her life:

Theme

The novel explores the meales, pain, and struggles women face, as well as how Anupama converts from a negative character into a strong woman. It also highlights the untrue values and misconceptions that can stop people from living satisfying lives.

The overview of Mahashweta

Anupama is a intelligent, talented, and beautiful college student who marries Anand, a doctor from a wealthy family. However, Anupama's in-laws are harsh and dishonest towards her, and Anand is indifferent to their treatment. After noticing she has leukoderma, Anupama is forced to return to her family home, where she is teased by her stepmother and half-sisters. Anupama finally leaves for Bombay, where she finds success and friendship.

II) Dollar Bahu

Introduction About Dollar Bahu

About The Book Dollar Bahu is the story of how money can cause chaos in the life of any family, if things turn out of control. Vinuta is a young woman, who marries Girish, who is a bank clerk. Vinuta then initiates to live in Bangalore, with Girish's family and jumps to get adapted to her new family.

Theme

explores the themes of family, relationships and the clatter between old-style and new values.

Overview of Dollar Bahu

The story revolves around Vinuta, an standard working woman who ties the knot with Girish, a bank clerk and relocates to a middle-class household in Bangalore. Employed as a school teacher, she derives vast contentment from her life. Vinuta naturally assumes the role of the ideal daughter-in-law, effortlessly shouldering family duties.

III) House Of Cards

Introduction of House Of Cards

Sudha Murthy is an excellent Indian author who writes novels that send a message for improvement specially for women. 'House of Cards' is no different. This book highlights how an individual changes with money. It shows how a woman should stand for what she believes in. It puts forth the fraud ness of rich people and showcases their real conduct. It's the story of a village girl, Mridula who marries a doctor, Sanjay. While it brings out the meaning of marriage, it also displays the true side of fraud and depicts the difference in lifestyles of deprived and the rich.

Theme of House of Cards

Greed, corruption and unappeasable ambition

Overview of House of Cards

House of Cards brings a small family drama to the front, with the easiness of village life opposing with the city life. We are introduced to Mridula, a young intellectual hardworking girl, daughter of Bheemanna, who is a very rich person in Aladahalli, a small village near the towns of Hubli and Dharwad, in Karnataka. She's the apple of her father's eye, and a very cheerful girl. She enjoys her life, and is always brimming with energy. Years pass by and Mridula grows up into a beautiful young lady, and talk of marriage starts. We are then introduced to Sanjay, a brilliant, but poor doctor, who works in Mumbai. He's a little careless and forgetful, easily partial. The two meet at a wedding, and then again cross paths when Sanjay has to deliver a package to Bheemanna's neighbor, and spends a little time at his place while that neighbor is away. They soon fall in love, and get married. The couple shift to the city of Bangalore, where he pursues his post graduation, and she takes up a teaching job in a government school. Things appear to go smoothly, till he takes up private practice after getting tired of the job at a government hospital. The story is about their family life, and how they rise in status in the city, but begin to find differences in their relationship. When it comes to quality and language of the reading, as I said before, Sudha keeps it simple. But in the plot, she explores relationships in depth. How Mridula stays the same careful cleared self throughout, how Sanjay is influenced by the power of luxury that he finds coming toward him and begins to want the best of the best, rather than what is essential, and how their son Shishir realizes the value of family very late. It shows the love between daughter and father, in Mridula and Bheemanna; love between husband and wife, in Sanjay and Mridula; and a whole lot others.

Reference

1. Academic Articles: Studies on her work often focus on her role as a novelist, the social themes in her writing, and her contributions to children's literature (e.g., Nishtha Vaswani's "Sudha Murthy: An Eminent Contributor to Literature," 2021).
2. Biographical Information: Details on her life, including her role as the first female engineer at TELCO and her work with the Infosys Foundation, are found in profiles by Scribd and The Times of India.
3. Literary Analysis: Further analysis of her novels can be found in Shodhganga and other research journals focused on Indian English literature.
4. She has received the Padma Shri (2006) and the Padma Bhushan (2023) for her social work and contributions to literature.