

Feminism in Sudha Murty's Novels

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Abstract:

Sudha Murty is a prolific Indian author and novelist known for her simple, relatable, and heart warming storytelling in both English and Kannada. Her novels often delve into human values middle-class life, and social issues. Her novels also explores themes of compassion, honesty social responsibility, feminism and the complexities of human relationships. Feminism in Sudha Murty's novels, such as *Mahashweta* (2007) *Dollar Bahu* (Dec 2007) and *Gently Falls the Bakula* (2008). depict feminism through the lens of Indian social, socio-cultural realities, emphasizing self-definition resilience, and personal dignity over radical rebellion. Her female protagonists often challenge patriarchal norms and fight against gender discrimination aiming for economic and emotional independence. She highlights the suppression of women in patriarchal structures showing her women battle, and sometimes succumb to the pressures of traditional, societal and family constraints. Her novels explore the complexities of marital life, showcasing women who refuse to be silent sufferers, as seen in *Mahashweta*, where the protagonist leaves her husband to gain independence. As a novelist, she presents women as intelligent and capable of handling multiple roles while navigating social prejudices. Her concern for social well-being is not only in her philanthropic deeds; it shines brightly through the pages of her literature; whose narratives focus upon the true difficulties of women and the issues surrounding societal norms. The term "feminist consciousness" can be defined as the perception of the gender inequality and the common struggle to destroy patriarchal systems in literature, activism, and argumentation.

Keywords:

Equality, femininity Female, Women, Self-affirmation

Introduction:

The term "feminist consciousness" can be defined as the perception of the gender inequality and the common struggle to destroy patriarchal systems in Literature, activism, and argumentation. The goal of the social movement known as feminism is to provide women in society equal rights and opportunities. Feminism is the practice of considering women as human beings with issues aspirations and needs. Regardless of gender, religion, sexual orientation, race or other similarly predominating distinguishing characteristics, feminism holds that all people should be treated equally in legal economic and social contexts. A Socio-political movement known as feminism encourages women to take an active role in fighting for their rights. It is a movement that fights patriarchal oppression of women. In fact, women's writings was regarded as an effective platform for modernism and feminist views in the 20th Century. Feminist novelist perspectives focus on dismantling patriarchal structures, exploring female subjectivity, and asserting autonomy against social, cultural, and familial constraints. Most of the feminists novels explore the psychological struggles of resentful housewives and oppressed lifestyles of lower-class women. They show how modern women have come to understand that they are independent and not helpless. Female subjectivity is examined by Indian women writers who apply themes ranging from childhood to womanhood. Through their works they explain what feminism is in reality Sudha Murty one of the few feminists in India, is a social worker who also writes frequently in both Kannada and English. Murty started out as a computer scientist and engineer. Her concern for social well-being is not only in her philanthropic deeds; it shines brightly through the pages of her literature; whose narratives focus upon the true difficulties of women and the



issue surrounding societal norms. The feminist consciousness in Sudha Murty's work is analyzed critically in this research paper based on her work.

1) Gentle Falls The Bakula:

The novel is a perfect blend of culture, tradition, and modernity. It encounters the balance between a happy marriage and on affluent career. *Gently Falls The Bakula*, first published in the year of 2008, trails the story of a young fledged woman and a bright student named Shrimati, set in the small town of Hubli and Bombay. Shrimati's attraction toward Shrikant the love between the two that hooks into marriage, and the sudden appraisal of Shrikant, a corporate officer who works relentlessly to achieve his goals, while Shrimati disowns her academic aspirations. She becomes uncomplaining, however, a silent cat that fulfils the duties of being the wife of a corporate leader. When Shrimati decides to pursue her academic aspirations independently, the physical separation from her husband becomes a pivotal moment of self-discovery. Adversity forces her to confront her own desires and priorities, leading her to rediscover her passion for academics and reclaim her sense of identity beyond her role as a wife. This period of separation becomes a transform active experience that empowers Shrimati to assert her independence and peruses her dreams on her own terms. In brief, *Gently Fall's The Bakula* portrays adversity as catalyst for change, prompts characters to confront their limitations and embark on journey of self-discovery and growths she has nothing now when she looked back. Her existence is meaningless. She finally got an intention when she says: "A house is made up of four walls. But a home is where there is love affection and meaningful relationships, when that was not there it was only a house and the best thing was to get of it". (P. 152)

(2) House of Cards –

This novel is an Indian family drama focusing on the struggles and transformation of a woman within her marriage, emphasizing the tension between materialistic pursuits and emotional, moral values. The protagonist Mridula in *House of Cards* (1989) is a simple, charming and contended girl from Aladahalli, a small village in Karnataka. Not only that but her distinctive trait frugality makes her unique in this material world, where joys are seen in boasting material things. She enjoys her life in teaching, cooking, gardening and in people around her. She gets married to a meagre but intelligent hardworking and ambitious doctor Sanjay, who was almost the same way as her at the time of marriage. With effort and support each other they get to settle in Bangalore. With favourable conditions and money flowing in, Sanjay's attitude towards work and people starts to change but Mridula always stay indifferent. Twenty five years of marriage life passed, but neither her son, mother-in-law, sister-in-law, including her husband doesn't understand her. She starts to feel void and emptiness in her life-despite all the comforts. This suggests that women ought to acquire equivalent privileges and they ought to not to be ruled, subjected or cheated by male controlled society or their spouses. They ought to enjoy the same rights as their husbands. Females should likewise enhance their awareness and should get fooled by anybody. Sudha Murty discusses the genuine encounters of her life and presents female character to show their griefs, yearning and suffering in this fraudulent world where there is gender discrimination.

③ Mahashweta:-

In this novel Sudha Murty depicts a woman's struggles from disappointments to self-fulfilments. Anupama, the desolate protagonist in *Mahashweta*, is a sensitive energetic, passionate and sensuous character. She attempts to work out some kind of harmony between the needs of the institution of marriage and her own scholarly desires. She is profoundly bedazed when she comes face to face with the absurd life brought before her. Anupama is cheerfully married to Dr. Anand but her fantasy marriage goes to pieces when she finds a few white patches on her foot and discovers that she has leukoderma. Deserted by her relentless in-laws and heartless husband she is compelled to get back to her father's home in the village. At the point when Dr. Anand goes to Britain for higher studies, she encounters prolonged loneliness and distressing absence of communication. The novelist



demonstrates the shift in society's mentality. Anupama temporarily takes up a clerical work which gives her confidence. There she meets Dolly who becomes her best friend and she moves to remain with her. In the midst of time, Anupama faced several difficulties. One day in Britain when Dr. Anand come across a noble husband who attends to his disabled wife, he is overwhelmed by responsibility. After some genuine effort Anand get Anupama contact address and meets her. She makes it clear that their relationship is over in her decision. Her decision itself shows that the long painful suffering of being a woman the bitter struggle to the equality of decision making, come to an end.

Conclusion :-

The writings of Sudha Murty speak to the women's activist topics luxuriously and with the complexity by appearing the qualities, office, and versatility as they go up against the strengths of society's desires and suppression. The patriachal society takes their commitment to their family as obligation yet they ought to likewise understand that it is the obligation of the male to show an equivalent commitment and affection towards the wife and her family. The domination of the man centric culture has been there for ages. The characters of Shrimati in *Gently Fall's The Bakula*, Mirudula in *House of Cards* Anupama in *Mahashweta* and numerous different women are having similitudes women are such. In brief, Sudha Murty clearly presents her feminist thoughts in all of her novels. She expresses her thoughts exquisitely in words that are clear and simple.

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