



# **The Struggle of the Indian Women under the Oppressive Mechanism of a Closed Society in the Select Novels of Sudha Murthy**

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**Abstract:** The paper discusses the struggle of the Indian women under the oppressive mechanism of a closed society in Sudha Murthy's novel "Mahasweta" and "House of Cards". The women throughout the country struggle to live life with dignity. Women are facing in every sphere of life whether it is employment, health care or property rights. So in India the women empowerment is still a distant dream. This paper reveals the violence denigration and the exploitation faced by the female characters in Sudha Murthy's novels. Women and girls throughout the world continue to experience violence discrimination inequality and poverty and they have laid the foundation of the society but still they have failed to secure the true position in life the reality is that women and girls are routinely unable to claim their basic rights. This research paper would help to create the awareness of strong and vibrant women's movement comprising of women who are empowered individually and collectively to change the patriarchal norms tackled the root causes of inequality and demand the full spectrum of their rights.

**Keywords: Struggle, Indian, women, employment, fashionable, authority, domination, patriarchal, rights.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

In Pre – Independence India the picture of womanhood was stale and perverted. It was either exaggerated or neglected, or to put in another way. Women does not occupy an important place in most of the Anglo Indian novels. Indian women in Pre – Independence era had a different status in society. She was considered as a burden, and in literature, she was considered as a non-entity whose only obligation was to fulfill the needs of her family.

The Post- Independent Indian writers have depicted women in all her shades. Generally, they have delineated three generation of married women. First are the Wives of older generation who willingly or unwillingly accept their husbands as Pati Prameshwar. Second is the generation of the women who fight for their individuality. They manage to escape from the tyrannical order of the society without going out of the boundaries of Wed lock. They resist the undesirable in order to follow the desirable ends. In the third generation are the women are ready step out of the conjugal bonds when they find it difficult to adjust with their spouse. Sometimes they go rebellious against the Orthodoxical norms of life which violates the path of morality.

The Indian feminism is not something antagonistic to man but is a means and movement to project the socio- cultural problems liable to deteriorate the condition of women in the male dominated society. The postcolonial Indian English writers focus on major issues relating to women such as her awakening to the realization of her individuality, her breaking away with traditional image, her relation with man and her aims and objectives. They have developed their own perceptions concerning the revival of women, her urge and needs her problems and predicaments, and her survival tactics, in view of their own social conditions but the common denominator in their works in the victimization of woman by

patriarchy. The transformation of the idealized women into an assertive, self-willed women searching and discovering her true self is the focus the writers.

Sudha Murthy a major Indian English writer has focused attention on the problems faced by women in the male-dominated, tradition-bound society in her fiction, both novels and short stories. She does not claim to be a feminist writer but her central characters are usually educated, intelligent, middle-class, urban, carrier women who are familiar with the contemporary thoughts and trends. They face challenges, concerns and choices of the educated urban women and try to find a solution to the situation they are placed in the agonizing dilemma of the woman who has been exposed to the western thought and yet who is conditioned by tradition. Though assertive, her protagonists are never radically militant out to overthrow the social and familial order to flaunt their freedom. They resist the wrongs within the culturally determined space and gain their identity.

## 1.2 Research Objectives

The Specific objectives of the study are;

- To understand Women's Psychological vision through literature
- To observe the feminist perspective in the novels
- To identify and interpret "Women Issues" in select novels
- To analyze the impact of "Women's liberation" in Sudha Murthy's novels

## 1.3 Literature Review

D. Chandra Vadhana (2019) illustrate on "Delicate Conjugal Relationship: A Study of Sudha Murthy's Novel House Of Cards" the paper evaluates the marital relationship of Sudha Murthy's character Mridula in the novel House of Cards. Sudha Murthy projects the pictures of contemporary Indian female in the fiction of her. In a patriarchal society, female restrains their desires and dreams for family but when she's dismissed and deceived by the husband their conjugal relation becomes fragile and breaks.

S.Purnima Kumar (2018) illustrate on “Marital Concord in Sudha Murthy's House of Cards” The present century has witnessed a wonderful improvement in the areas of technology and science business, arts, literature, education, and technology , but most of this was attained at the price of humiliating human values. The goal of the paper is actually studying the importance of connection in the novels of Sudha Murthy, taking into account the intricacies of daily life, distinct stories, unusual structure and culture of values, the female's question, despite basic solidarity, has to be tackled about the socio cultural situation.

Dr. G. Aruna Devi (2018) her article attempts to deal with “Domestic Violence in Sudha Murthy’s Mahashweta” The goal of the paper is actually studying the presence of domestic violence in Sudha Murthy's Mahaswetha. Her novels deal with the themes of Family Relationship, Social status, Feminisms, Social Evils, Education, and Courage is much more important compared to money and silent suppression of female and the way they overcome the troubles of theirs in society.

R.V.Naga Lakshmi (2018) has done her article “Treatment of Marriage in House of Cards by Sudha Murthy” In the text of Mridula, the protagonist of the novel, to the son of her, Things are actually nowadays that is different. Girls are actually independent now. The expectations of theirs from a partner are rather high. Boys have to change to set with females now. Traditionally, just the female was anticipated to adjust and change.

C. Abhinaya (2018) has done her article “The Traditional belief in Sudha Murthy’s Mahashweta” Indian Literature constitutes the unique countries with which India is actually made up of. We have seen a number of values preached through culture related Indian texts that are being translated with a fusion of contemporary views that in turn can make the foundation for contemporary Indian novels in English.

## II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Methodology

The present research paper is predominantly an analytical. The methodology of the whole work is based on secondary data. These data has been collected from Sudha Murthy’s novels “Mahesweta” and “House of Cards”. For

preparing this research, the researcher also used books, novels, and articles on the suggested novels and information from websites. With help of these resources the researcher was able to study the struggle of Indian women and how they overcame the barrier by finding a solution to lead a meaningful life.

### III. DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Feminist Perspective in the Novels of Sudha Murthy

In Sudha Murthy's fiction, there is the emergence of the third type of new woman who seeks to synthesize traditions with modern values which is the need of the hour. Here woman is shown to move ahead with positive changes in society. And the women possess a profound inner strength which allows them to find freedom through realization of their individual truth. These women belong to the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the emergence and growth of feminine tradition. Unlike the western liberated women the India women ones do not wish to discard the social value rather they realize their limitation and try to seek their identity within this limitation which they feel essential and vital for their survival.

Women writers contributed much to the development of the English novels including new themes which resulted in full of a female world. Their feminine sensibility made them capable to break a new ground in Indian English fiction making and approach from the external to the internal world they created their own world filled with extraordinary sensitive beings.

The changed woman in post-colonial Indian English fiction are conscious offer individuality and has been trying to confirm her rights as human being. She seems to be in constant fight for equality to men since long silent suffering and upholding of Indian culture values have been glorified in Indian fiction. Women is designed to perform varied roles in her life the role of mother, a wife, a sister or a daughter etc. but never she has been thought as an individual far from being merely a cog in the family machine.

She is deprived of her own identity or aspirations for self-fulfillment in the male dominated patriarchal society. The processes of women's emergence in new form brighten with new thoughts and ideas took place gradually. Women

novelist writing in English in post-colonial period projected women in the lead role. They revealed changed image of women in the family and society.

### 3.2 The Struggle of the Indian women under the Oppressive Mechanism of a Closed Society

“Mahasweta” and this novel sets up as a classic and mythological episode throughout the work and the chief characters – Anupama, Anand start revolving faithfulness in their relation and this article contextualizing Indian consciousness in a serious and comprehensive attempt to investigate in issues of women.

The novel protagonist is introduced as a brilliant actress and an outstanding student who even has familiarity in Hindustani classical music by Dr. Desai to Dr. Anand. She is well versed in Sanskrit novels written by the grand scholar Bana Bhatta. Those works are translated and dramatized by her. She even takes the front role in the play “Mahasweta” because of which Dr. Anand is attracted to her good looks as well as capacity as an artiste. Every one whoever watches her play is spellbound, like her show extremely and admires her a lot. It is not an over statement given by Dr. Desai in praise of her talent and that can be comprehended when the affluent bridegroom who happens to see Anupama’s play and interested to wed her. She merely lives for the love of her husband without considering anything about her career then after her marriage Anupama’s mother in law shown a ruthless, authoritative and typical of Indian traditional sensibility. And later Anupama’s positive image of life shatters with the emergence of the white patch called Vitiligo; she becomes a symbol of ‘social stigma’, abandoned by her uncaring in-laws and insensitive husband. Her visits to the dermatologist, her pain, anguish, and cry, as well as her inability to voice her thoughts, then she suddenly realized that she reached the top of the hill and entertained the thought to commit suicide from ledge but some unseen power held her back.

“Why should she die for husband who didn’t even care about her”

Sudha Murthy to draw the attention of the reader to the suffering of the patient with cosmetic disease named leukoderma while presenting arrest human being who torments herself to maintain her dignity. Dr Anand reference in the

novel is limited to an infatuated young man who marries a poor girl based after seeing the beauty but not the inner character. This novel portrays that the hidden courage of a woman which makes her strong in the situation when even her husband was not in her favor.

House of Cards, is story of Mridula who stays in the village of Aladhalli. Mridula even though born to a well to do family is brought up in the most simple lifestyle and beliefs. Mridula's trait of austerity and frugality is interesting and a pleasant change in this material world where joys are associated with material things. She doesn't like material life, yet loves and lives life to the fullest. Mridula enjoys life in her village, teaching, cooking and sketching.

Mridula finds a husband like herself, who has less demands and needs from life. They move to the city and from there life begins to change for them. Mridula's husband, a doctor, who serves patients considering it as his duty eventually succumbs to the cruel ways, demands and pressures of the rat race. Mridula came from a wealthy background but Sanjay came from a poor background with only two people whom he could call as his family, his mother, Ratnamma and sister, Lakshmi. The couple settled down after marriage in Bangalore where Sanjay joined in a temporary job at Victoria hospital and Mridula got a government job as a school teacher in Yelehanka. The writer explores human relationships intensively.

“Every woman wants to change her life but no man understands how. He showers his wife with gifts that he likes but not with what she wants.”

Mridula remains the same hardworking and obedient wife throughout and Sanjay is influenced by the power of luxury. Mridula, a bright young woman, sacrifices her ambitions and positive energy to make her husband Sanjay successful and popular. After her marriage she found her husband, Sanjay as a dishonest and untrustworthy person. She struggles to release herself from the marriage obligations and finally made a firm decision to head her life independently. Due to cunning nature of Sanjay she lost her confidence. In the novel, “House of Cards” the central character, Mrudula suffered from identity

crisis. She struggles to release herself from the marriage obligations and finally made a firm decision to head her life independently.

This study is an attempt to analyse her novels through a feminist Perspective it reveals the violence denigration and the exploited faced by the female characters of the novels. It is also found that man women relationship And social acceptance estrangement in modern life Forms the core in all novels namely Mahasweta and House of Cards, In this two novel the male characters of Anand and sanjay are influenced by the power of luxury comfort and steadily climbing up Corporate ladder without realizing the value of family life. The main greed for the power luxury and social status has proved to be very expensive to the female characters. The female protagonists realize the fact that artificial values and material success cannot make a person successful. They also work tirelessly to overcome the barriers drawn by male-dominated society to lead a purposeful life.

### 3.3 The impact of women liberation on Sudha Murthy perspective

Sudha Murthy is conscious of the fact that women have their existence as an individual who have their own rights and wishes she fights and write against the timid itself of women as well as men protectoral shell. In her novels women are not mere “goddess are an automation” they move weakness through strength from indecision to self-assertion and from bondage to freedom most of the women characters in the novels of Sudha feel bonded within the so called sacred bonds of marriage the object to being treated as a piece of furniture or a doormat in which women is post to leave the question of values and strive to establish a new order with change standard where can be their true selves.

Sudha Murthy portrays two kinds of women characters the typical Indian housewife and a fashionable butterfly type of women. Women of the farmer category are docile, models, gentle religious and living there only on anxiety is the welfare of their husband and resistance as wide range of meanings from rebelliousness aggressive behavioral pattern deliberate defense of authority oppositional action to organized the collective movement against domination.

Through her novel invariably point to an inner exhilaration suggesting the beginning of a fresh awakening. Her women strive to overcome their perplexities, sense of isolation, fear and emotional vulnerability and find new horizons of self-esteem and liberation.

## IV. CONCLUSION

### 4.1 Conclusion

Women and girls throughout the world continue to experience violence, discrimination, inequality and Poverty. Even though they have laid the foundation of the society. But they have failed to secure the true position in life. The reality is that women and girls are routinely unable to claim their basic rights. This research paper would help to create the awareness of strong and vibrant women's movement comprising of women who are empowered individually and collectively to change the patriarchal norms tackled the root causes of inequality and demand the full spectrum of their rights.

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