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“WOMEN EMPOWERMENT, WOMEN LAWS AND EDUCATION IN INDIA”



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Sudha Murty: An Icon of Women Empowerment in 21st Century

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Abstract: Sudha Murty has become a lighthouse for many aspiring women in present century India to show them a pathway towards hope and upliftment. Born in a middle class teacher's family, Sudha Murty has been evolved as a multi dimensional person and motivation to many coming generations. She is an educator, a philanthropist, a professional techno savvy, a literary figure and above all a compassionate and sensible human being. Her multiple intelligence is the need of every woman in contemporary time as the Cosmopolitan scenario in present demands versatility of a woman at professional and personal life. The present research paper critically analyses the life and achievement of Sudha Murty and how she has been evolved as an icon of women empowerment in 21st century.

Keywords: Educator, Icon, Multidimensional Personality, Philanthropist, Women Empowerment

Introduction:

Sudha Murty was born in a middle class family in 1950 in a small town Shiggaon in Karnataka. Her personality was cultivated in the company of her well educated parents as her father was a surgeon while her mother was a school teacher. She was also cared and loved by her maternal grandparents who taught her simplicity, humbleness, honesty and significance of moral values in life. Sudha Murty's autobiographical reflections and emotional connectivity with her grandparents has been

described in her sentimental stories entitled *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read, Wise and Otherwise and Other Stories*. Sudha Murty completed a Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the BVB College of Engineering and Technology and Masters in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. Her higher education itself is a great source of inspiration for her contemporary women because Masters in the most modern subject like Computer Science in those days was a rarity. Sudha Murty has created a history by becoming the first female engineer employed at India's largest auto manufacturer TATA Engineering and Locomotive Company TELCO. Her name came in limelight when she had written a postcard to the company's Chairman JRD about gender discrimination in recruiting employees at TELCO as they used to appoint 'men only'. As a result, she was granted a special interview and was hired immediately. So, it was her first protest for gender equality.

Sudha Murty: A Dynamic Professional

Sudha Murty is an inspiration and motivation to countless businesswomen and professionals in India. Sudha Murty began her professional career in computer science and engineering. She joined the TELCO company as a Development Engineer in Pune and then worked in Mumbai & Jamshedpur as well. She later joined Walchand Group of Industries at Pune as Senior Systems Analyst. Sudha Murty is also a Visiting Professor at the PG Centre of Bangalore University. She also taught at Christ University. She married to Narayan Murty, the founder of INFOSYS. The company was founded in Pune and is headquartered in Bangalore. Infosys is an Indian multinational information technology company that provides business consulting, information technology and outsourcing services. Sudha Murty has been always a caring sharing part in the emergence and establishment of the company. Infosys is the second-largest Indian IT company, after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

Sudha Murty : Evolution as an Author and a Renowned Literary Figure

Sudha Murty is a prolific writer who has produced tons of short stories, articles and novels in both Kannada and English. The flair of writing in her is from her childhood. Her sentimental stories entitled *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read, Wise and Otherwise* and *Other Stories* were the works in her early age. The stories contain her autobiographical reflections and first hand experiences in her family and the society around her. Her four novels *Mahashweta*, *Dollar Bahu*, *Gently Falls the Bakula* and *House of Cards* is a milestone work which reveal the predicament of women and poor folks living in both rural and urban areas in Karnataka. Her writings put forth the factual life, pains, struggles and fervour to raise life with hope in post colonial India. She has presented life with simplicity in Kannada villages, man woman relationship and the reletivity of a woman in family, relatives of society around and her suppression and anxiety in dealing with everyone. Her stories and novels have been also adopted in Indian films and television series.

Sudha Murty : A Great Philanthropist and Social Worker

Sudha Murty has been working incessantly for the cause of tribals, women and children since last three decades. Sudha Murty has established Infosys Foundation in 1996 exclusively for the charitable services rendered for the upliftment of weaker section in the society. Infosys Foundation is a non-profit organisation based in Karnataka, India, established in 1996 by Infosys to support the underprivileged sections of society. It supports programs in the areas of education, rural development, healthcare, arts and culture, and destitute care in remote regions of India. The foundation is solely funded by Infosys, and no external donations are accepted. The foundation is headed by Sudha Murty. She has founded several orphanages, participated in rural development efforts, supported the movement to provide all Karnataka government schools with computer and library facilities. She is also a member of the public health care initiatives

of the Gates Foundation which has been started by a great philanthropist couple Bill Gates and Melinda Gates. Sudha Murty has also established Murty Classical Library of India at Harvard University.

Conclusion:

In this way, Sudha Murty is selflessly and tirelessly working on various fronts. She is a multi-faceted person of post colonial India. She is an image of a new woman in India who has kept a good poise in her personal and professional life. She is a techno savvy engineer in satellite age; she has mastered the art of writing; She has compassionate heart for the poor. She is a loving wife, a caring sharing mother and a responsible daughter but above all she is a sensible citizen of the largest democracy, India. The honours like Padma Shree and Padma Bhushan conferred by Indian Government is the testimony of her devotion for the better living of the people in India. Undoubtedly, Sudha Murty is an Icon of Women Empowerment in contemporary India.

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