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The Contribution of Sudha Murthy in Indian English Literature

(With a special reference to “How I Taught My Grandmother to Read and Other Stories”)



Raosaheb Vaijanathrao Kangne

(Asst. Teacher)

Podar International School (C.B.S.E.),
Chaudhary Nagar, ManthaRoad, Jalna (MS)
Email: sahebj17@gmail.com



Dr. B. T. Lahane

Principal

Sambhajirao Kendre College
Jalkot, MS, India

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The purpose of the paper is to study the evolution of a new woman in Sudha Murthy’s novel- *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read and Other Stories*. With the dawn of freedom, particularly India’s national struggle, the position of women took a turn for better. It was strongly realized that so long as women of country were not uplifted or granted equal status with the men in all walks of life - political, social, economic, educational, where India could neither progress nor make any significant advance in any field. For nothing was it said, “The hand that rocks the cradle; rules the world.” In accordance to this proverb, an apt example is Sudha Murthy who is a prolific fiction author in Kannada and English has published several books that promote her views on feminism, charity, hospitality and self-realization through fictional and nonfictional books. She is a recipient of many awards and the most notable amongst them are *the Padma Shree* and *the R.K. Narayan Awards* for her contribution to literature. The author has unlighted about the woman’s courage, struggle, views to face

problems and many aspects. The present paper is based on the psychological realism, exclusively to the main characters of the novel that is Sudha Murthy herself when she was a small, cute grand-daughter of her grandma. The novel mixed modern ideas in the orthodox Indian society and conscientious firmness of a new Indian woman. The present story deals with the rural life of a village in Karnataka where the people get the morning paper in the afternoon and the weekly magazine used to come one day late. The author has portrayed the real picture of countryside of India. The famous *Triveni's both Karmaveera and Kashi Yatre* was very familiar stories at the time. Her works were easy to read and very convincing to digest to the audience. The theme of Triveni's writing was usually dealt with complex psychological problems in the life of ordinary people. Unfortunately, for Kannada literature, she died when she was very young and after the forty to fifty years also, the people are missing Triveni's literature.

The contribution of Sudha Murthy in Indian English literature emphasizes to the Indian English literature and the present paper enlightens the impact of her contribution with a special reference to *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read and Other Stories*, the grandmother of the author, Krishtakka was alone in the modern world because of illiteracy, due to that the illiterate lady was dependent in the independent India. She has strong desire or enthusiastic emotions towards education, literacy. The real or spiritual meaning of education is drafted in the story with the religious philosophy and psychological status of the human being (Krishtakka). The religious philosophy of the author signifies with examples of *Kashi Yatre's* protagonist realized that the real ultimate *punnya* is not to visit pilgrimage (Kashi) but to help the poor and needy. The protagonist, an old poor lady who was already suffering from financial crises, gave her all collected amount to an orphan girl who is in love and she needs money for her wedding. The ultimate *punnya*, realization of ultimate truth, important and need of education and all these things are shown by the author. The present paper enlightens the minute observation of the author, Sudha Murthy.

Keywords : Loneliness, dependent-illiterate, religious-philosophy, psychological-realism, ultimate *punnya*, Psychology: relating to mental emotional state, Ardent: showing strong feelings, savoring: enjoying an experience, Scriptures: holy writing.