

ANALYSIS OF THE PSYCHE OF FEMALE CHARACTERS IN SUDHA MURTHY'S DOLLAR BAHU

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the psyche of female characters in Sudha Murthy's 'Dollar Bahu.' 'Psyche' refers to the totality of elements forming the mind – all the elements that form a human mind are collectively called the psyche. To understand someone's psyche, we need to comprehend their thoughts, behavior, and personality. This paper aims to analyze the psyche of only the female characters in the novel 'Dollar Bahu.' Upon its publication, the book garnered significant success. Within its pages, Sudha Murthy skillfully portrays the Indian value system and family relationships. Sudha Murthy is a distinguished Indian writer who consistently addresses real-life incidents in her novels.

Keywords: Family-Relationships, Psyche Of Women, Social Problems, Greediness, Selfishness.

1. INTRODUCTION

The word 'Psyche' refers to the totality of elements that form the mind. Specifically, in Freudian psychoanalytic theory, it encompasses the id, ego, and superego, including both conscious and unconscious components. Sometime in the 16th century, the word 'psyche' was borrowed directly from Greek into English. In Greek mythology, Psyche was a beautiful princess who fell in love with Eros (Cupid), the god of love, and underwent tremendous trials before being allowed to marry him. The story is often interpreted as a tale of the soul redeeming itself through love. (To the Greeks, 'psyche' also meant 'butterfly,' which hints at how they envisioned the soul.) In English, 'psyche' often conveys a less spiritual tone than 'soul,' a less intellectual one than 'mind,' and a more private nature than 'personality.' Essentially, the psyche represents the deepest feelings and attitudes of the mind. Every human being possesses a mind, and their thoughts and behaviors are shaped by their life experiences. This research paper aims to analyze the psyche of only female characters as portrayed in the novel by Sudha Murthy.

Sudha Murthy is a great Indian writer. She has written many famous works, Dollar Bahu is one of them. Dollar Bahu was also adapted as a televised dramatic series by ZEE TV in 1 September 2001.

Indian writing in English has a special place in Indian Literature. Indian English literature has covered all the major topics in India from the beginning to the present. There is a very strong relation between literature and society. Great literary work is created through many struggles. After Independence, female writers have worked in the field of writing very boldly. Sudha Murthy is a great writer of Indian Literature. She has been an inspiration to many people, especially women. She was born in 1950 in Shiggaon, a small town in Karnataka, India. She

was a brilliant student in her college and received gold medal for her academic performance in Engineering. After completing her education, She worked as a Computer Scientist. She became the first women engineer hired by India's largest auto manufacturer company, TATA Engineering and Locomotive (TELCO). She is also the chairperson of the Infosys Foundation. She is also a social worker. She has worked on many social problems like she works towards improving the quality of education, Healthcare, rural development in India. She has also established schools and libraries in rural India. She is member of the public health care initiatives of the Gates Foundation.

Sudha Murthy is a great writer of Indian literature. She has written and published many great books which include Novels, Novellas, Non-Fiction, Travelogues, Technical Books and Memoirs. She always talks about major issues of present day society in India. Some of her great books are: How I taught My Grandmother, Mahasweta, The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk Here, Dollar Bahu.

She has been recognized with many awards including the Padma Shree Award and R.K. Narayan Award for Literature in 2006. recently in 2023, she received the Padma Bhusan Award the third highest award in India and also received the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar.

This paper aims to analyze the characters in the novel 'Dollar Bahu.' The adopted research methodology is as follows:

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY This paper employs a qualitative research method. The primary data consists of a critical analysis of Sudha Murthy's story 'Dollar Bahu.' The secondary data includes other books by Sudha Murthy such as 'How I Taught My Grandmother to Read,' 'The Mother I Never Knew,' 'House of Cards,' 'Mahasweta.' These books collectively address the challenges faced by women.

Objectives

- To analyze the psyche of female characters of the novel Dollar Bahu.
- To analyze the influence of financial status on the minds of the people and situations.
- To analyze the impact of money and power.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Dr. Vipin Kumar – “Exploring the events happening around the life of women : An analytical study of selected work by Sudha Murthy” - This research shows the difficulties and chances that women face at different times in their lives, such as when they are children, teenagers, married, mothers, and when they are old. The study also looks at how the traditions and rules of society influence women's lives and how getting an education and feeling empowered can help them do better in society and make more money. (KUMAR)

2. Shekhar B. Vispute – “Sudha Murthy's Dollar Bahu : A literary panopticon of Indian values” – In this study author says that Dollar Bahu is a literary panopticon of Indian people due to the fascination of the westernization. (Sudha Murthy's Dollar Bahu: A Literary Panopticon of Indian Values)

3. K. S. Punithaasree – “Human relationships in Sudha Murthy's Dollar Bahu” – This research also talks about how money can affect the way people see each other and even cause problems in a family. The story is straightforward but shows how it can create issues in relationships that seem very real. The book 'Dollar Bahu' depicts how families deal with each other. Life begins and ends within a family. This journey links human and money-related connections. (Punithaasree)

Analysis

In the 21st century, numerous challenges have arisen in society, including fear, stress, anger, loneliness, and anxiety, among many others. The respect for emotions appears to be diminishing, overshadowed by a relentless pursuit of success where individuals compete to undermine one another. The value placed on money often outweighs that of life itself. Amidst this money-driven race, a deficiency in peace, happiness, love, and harmony, as well as a lack of genuine relationships, is pervasive. Many individuals find themselves isolated. The primary driver of these issues is money. Undoubtedly, money is an integral aspect of life, possessing the power to facilitate both positive and negative outcomes. On one hand, money can strengthen relationships; on the other hand, it has the potential to fracture them, eroding one's peace of mind and triggering deep psychological distress.

The characters and their psyche is due to their past experiences or their value system when they were being brought up. So this research paper is trying to analyze three main characters of this novel first is the mother in law Gauramma and her two daughters in law.

The psyche of Gauramma is as follows : Gauramma is the central character of the novel Dollar Bahu. Gauramma is wife of Shamanna and mother of Chandrasekhar, Girish and Surabhi and mother in law of two beautiful girls. She has lived a middle class life where she was deprived of many things because her husband did not earn much of money. So she has a strong feelings for money and her behaviour is controlled by love for money. Her likes and dislikes are controlled by money. So any person who have lot of money she likes that person she behaves nicely with that person and one which does not have money she does not behave nicely. Her behaviour is that she is crazy for money her feelings were controlled by money because she face lot of problems due to lack of money. She was so greedy and extremely ambitious. Her craving for money make her prejudice. "Gauramma, his wife, was a clever woman who knew how to run the family. She worked hard to keep the domestic expenses within the budget, but she was extremely ambitious. She always dreamed of diamonds, gold and silver jewellery, cars, a big house, servants.... (Murthy)"

Her younger son Girish was very helping nature person. He emulates his father's trajectory. After work, he would take part in various cultural activities like hosting events during the Dusherra festival, Ganesha Chaturthi, and Kannada Rajyotsava. He is a clerck in bank. If someone needed assistance at the bank, Girish was always the first to step up and provide support.

Gauramma doesn't like it. She is very upset with this nature of her son. She often tries to discourage him from such activites.

Gauramma compares her daughters in law on the basis of money. She never appreciate her younger daughter in law Vinu (Vinuta) because she did not bring in the dollars. She lavishes Jamuna with affection and presents. She turns a blind eye to Jamuna's indifference and lack of concern. "when she reached the door, Gauramma heard her name and stopped for a minute. She was curious to know what Jamuna and her friends were saying about her. Foolishly she thought, maybe Jamuna is praising my services.

It seems her mother in law always treats her like her own daughter! Is it not surprising? Said Veda.

Nothing so surprising. My mother in law is greedy and stupid. My co-sister in law Vinuta is from a poor family and innocent about the ways of the world. It is easy to manage such women. (Murthy)"

Now she realizes how wrong she was. She was heaping praises on the wrong person who did not deserve it. It was money that blinded her. "how blind I was! Why did I behave so stupidly? She kept asking herself through that wretched night. And the answer became clear. It was the dollar. The dollar had blinded her, making her unable to see the reality. (Murthy)"

The psyche of one of the main female character Vinu (Vinuta) is as follows: Vinu (Vinuta) is the first girl we meet in this story. She had fair skin, striking black eyes, a straight nose, and long, thick hair neatly braided. She appeared a bit surprised to see someone sitting in her spot. Vinuta is the younger daughter in law of Gauramma and Girish's wife. She is a teacher in school. She is very simple girl and a great example of how women are raised in average Indian families. She is very beautiful, intelligent and also she have golden voice. She does all the house hold chores and does not expect anything. She is very good hearted girl.

"The one night, after dinner, she overheard Bheemanna saying to Vinu, 'Vinu, I couldn't find the exact color you wanted, so I got this for you instead. Vinu responded cheerfully, 'Oh, that's fine. This blue color is also very nice. I like it.

Vinuta is a selfless person who's ready to adapt to any circumstance. She doesn't have any specific dreams. She said a statement "I don't have any such demands nor am I bothered about his family's riches. If necessary, I will continue to work. All I ask for is to be contented. (Murthy)"

After the arrival of Jamuna, Gauramma started comparing both. before Jamuna came into their lives, Gauramma used to say, 'With Vinuta around, I feel as relaxed as a retired person. She manages everything.' But now, she didn't speak like that anymore. The proverb, "If you have money, like the sun you will shine, if you don't have money, like a dog you will whine" was quite apt in this case. Jamuna's sun shone brighter each day while Vinuta's life become more like that of a dog. (Murthy)" Vinu goes into depression. it is the money (Dollar) is main reason behind this trauma. She feels alienated in her own house. There is no respect for her opinion in any matter of the family. She was a beautiful girl but day by day, Vinu became small and closed up, like a flower folding its petals to shield its delicate inner part. She live in so much pain. "Vinuta looked depressed and went about the house work in a list less; machine like manner. (Murthy)" It is the Dollar which destroyed the peace and harmony.

Jamuna, a college graduate, spends her time attending painting, ikebana, and batik classes. Born into a very affluent family, she has experienced a life of luxury. Consequently, upon her marriage, she garners significant attention from both her own family and her mother-in-law, effectively becoming the 'dollar bahu.' She pretends to be a good daughter in law. Her actions are premeditated and cunning. She is also the reason for vinu's depression. She always praised by gauramma. Regrettably, she lacks respect for her mother-in-law and treats her more as a servant within her own household "her Dollar Bahu continued spewing out her real feelings. „I give them what I don't like and they don't suspect anything. For example, I pass on all my old saris to Surabhi and I tell her, due to customs restrictions, I rewrapped them. They believe me. I always believe in divide and rule." (Murthy)".

4. CONCLUSION

Thus this paper has analyzed the psyche of the three female characters. At the end, It concludes that, The portrayal of Vinuta clearly demonstrates that a family is composed of strong and positive human connections rather than wealth or money. The novel also culminates with a sense of wistfulness and reflection, as the character of Gauramma realizes that money is not everything in the life the Indian value system of love and respect is very important as

Gauramma realize this so this paper also gives the conclusion that money is not everything and it should not dominate our likes and dislikes we need to have the value for Indian value system which gives importance to politeness, to respect, to give value to every relationship. All these value systems are important when money is not playing an important role. Money is there to fulfill our material needs but it can not be a part of our relationship. Relationship is far beyond money and financial thing.

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