

Review of Feminist Consciousness in the Works of Sudha Murthy

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Abstract

Sudha Murthy is a prominent Indian writer whose literary works engage with the everyday experiences, aspirations, struggles, and social relationships of women in contemporary Indian society. Her narratives frequently explore themes of gender roles, education, marriage, family, economic independence, social expectations, and women's self-respect. This review examines feminist consciousness in selected works of Sudha Murthy, focusing on the ways her female characters negotiate patriarchal structures and seek dignity, agency, and personal identity. Rather than presenting feminism solely through direct confrontation, Murthy often incorporates feminist concerns into realistic accounts of women's domestic, professional, and social lives. Her narratives portray women from diverse social backgrounds and highlight their experiences of discrimination, sacrifice, resilience, and self-discovery. The study also considers how education and financial independence contribute to women's empowerment and influence their ability to make decisions about their lives. Particular attention is given to the tension between traditional values and changing ideas of womanhood in modern India. Murthy's representation of female characters demonstrates that empowerment can take multiple forms, including education, employment, emotional independence, ethical choice, and resistance to restrictive social expectations. At the same time, her works invite discussion about the relationship between traditional family values and feminist perspectives. Overall, the review suggests that feminist consciousness in Murthy's writings emerges through an emphasis on women's dignity, agency, equality, and capacity to negotiate social structures while remaining connected to their cultural and familial contexts.

Keywords: Sudha Murthy, Feminist Consciousness, Indian Women's Writing, Feminism, Gender Roles, Patriarchy, Women's Empowerment, Female Identity, Education, Social Change.

