



Reconstruction of New Life in Sudha Murthy's Novel *Gently Falls the Bakula*

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Abstract

Life is a constant state of flux, to achieve its splendor and stateliness, Indian English literature had to travel a long way to get there. In tandem with this trip, the standing of women around the world has been rapidly changing in recent years. Indian women have a long history of blindly accepting the family structure and displaying a rebellious attitude. However, the times changed slowly, and people began to strive for self-sufficiency and independence. The current paper examines how her better half's self-centered perspective causes her to revert to being a soul and ambitious lady.

Key Words

Sacrifice, Self-enhancement, Anger, Perseverance, Self-interest, Ambition

Introduction

Sudha Murthy is a philanthropist, writer, and engineer from India. Her literary achievements are many, with works such as *Gently falls the Bakula*, *Mahaswetha*, *Dollar Bahu*, and *The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk*, to name a few. Her books are noted for their in-depth depictions of individuals and the external forces that influence them. She became TELCO's first female engineer, but she kept her literary ambitions hidden. Others, like her, are torn between their spiritual selves and the mechanical world around them.

Mrs. Murthy has authored several stories as an author. Her writing has a feel for everyday life. She wrote about hospitality, her childhood, and recognizing her feelings on charity and donations. Several of her Kannada books have been translated into English, and some have even been made into television shows. She wrote a lot of children's books. Sudha Murthy is indeed a prolific fiction writer who writes in both Kannada and English. Penguin published the majority of her works. *Dollar Sose*, *Kaveri inda Mekaanige*, *Runa*, *Hakkiya*, *Teradalli*, and *Gutthondu Heluve* were some of the most well-known Kannada characters. "How I taught my grandmother to read and other stories" was one of her most well-known works. In addition to English, the book has been transcribed in 15 other languages. It reflects her relationship with her grandparents as a child. Her debut novel, *House of Cards*, chronicles the trials and tribulations of the wife of a wealthy doctor. She has earned numerous important honors since the beginning of her study. In 2004, the Sri Raja-Lakshmi Organization in Chennai honored Sudha Murthy with the Raja-Lakshmi award. She received the prize for her great achievements in the field of social work. She was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honor, and even received a doctoral degree for her publications.

Gently Falls the Bakula

Gently Falls the Bakula (2008) depicts the cultural differences among Hubli and Bombay throughout. Hubli is a rural town full of tales and superstitions, whereas Bombay is an industrial metropolis where human relationships are measured in terms of profit and loss. Srikanth and Srimathi are the novel's main protagonists. The novelist pays close attention to them and walks through their minds to examine how industrialization affects their way of life. The first half of the novel takes place in Hubli, a village in northern Karnataka, and the second half takes place in Mumbai, India's technical center. The Hubli clan is so narrow-minded that they can't comprehend beyond their beliefs. Smartha, a Shiva worshipper, cannot marry a Vaishnava, a Vishnu follower. The patriarchal aspect of the society is evident. Regardless of their age, the male leader of the household makes all decisions, and women are constantly in the background, subdued, and subordinate. They're like tattered Banarasi sarees, according to the writer. They can't imagine a woman addressing her hubby by his given name. They believe it's inappropriate when Srimati addresses Srikanth, who is the same age as Shri just after marriage. There is no compelling reason for Srimati's grandmother Rindakka and Srikanth's mother Gangakka to quarrel. Rindakka, according to the book, doesn't need a justification since she disagrees with everything. Rindakka, who is often hurling insults at

Kamala, the family's only earner, exemplifies the supremacy of mother-in-law. Kamala, being an educated lady and a respectful daughter-in-law, never responded to her. Kamala saw her existence as her destiny and lived a quiet yet productive existence. This is how she reared her daughter Srimati, and despite her mother-in-law's unpleasant conduct toward her, Srimati does not elevate her voice against her. Srimati also sees it as her responsibility to return her mother-in-law's debts. There are several examples in the story that demonstrate the superstitions that are prevalent in rural life. The writer also depicts the lives of upper-class ladies. Srimati meets the wives of other businessmen's husbands during the party. They engage in chatter and are fascinated with jewelry and clothing. Srimati is also invited to the diamond jewelry show. Srimati was uninterested in jewelry or other materialistic items. She is a straightforward lady. Other spouses advise her against becoming an ideal housewife. They express their belief that when men go on business travels, women should be able to enjoy their independence. Srimati was raised as a simple person by her mother, thus she cannot embrace their ideals. Throughout the narrative, Sudha Murthy depicts several people's materialistic attitudes. The females at the gathering are not having a meaningful discussion. It's for the sake of the company. Srimati's debate with Dolly Lynes reveals her passion for history as well as her growing dissatisfaction. She can't believe Dolly's claim that American culture is fantastic since she is a history aficionado. She is adamant in her rejection of the idea. Srikanth, who is preoccupied with his business interests, is unable to tolerate Srimati's attitude. This leads to a fight between them, in which Srimati vents her displeasure. His remarks on the importance of Indian culture affected her. We could perceive the depreciation of Srimati's worth throughout the story. She goes from being a first-rank holder to becoming the spouse of a businessman. Srikanth, on the other hand, went from being a second-place finisher to becoming the most successful entrepreneur. The story depicts the issues that middle-class country women experience as a result of industrialization charmingly.

Review of Literature

Gently Falls the Bakula is the novel by Sudha Murthy (2008), which is used as the primary source and the entire book is analyzed from the reconstructing life and strong perseverance perspective.

D. Nivetha (2018) "*Quest for Identity in Sudha Murthy's Novel Gently Falls the Bakula*" dealt with individuality and Self Enhancement and they concluded that Identity is the person's conception and expression of individuality. Finally, the protagonist identified herself and moved on with her life.

Dr. S. k. Pushpalatha (2016), “*Rejection leads to Revolution of the protagonist in Sudha Murthy’s Gently Falls the Bakula*” analyzed the social rejection and the personal sacrifice which a woman undergoes in married life. It projects the marginalization of Indian Women. The paper concludes that the family should develop and support her self-development in the dominated society. This leads to equality and prosperity around the nation.

Methodology

This paper does a content analysis of *Gently Falls the Bakula* using self-development analysis. The researcher uses *Gently Falls the Bakula* novel as a primary source and includes a few texts related to Quest for Self Identity and Self Enhancement perspective as secondary sources. On the whole, this paper describes the self-care reading of this novel.

Research questions

The following research questions guide this work:

1. What is the use of Self Determination?
2. Does Self Analyzation help one’s personal growth?
3. How does it create an impact on social networks?
4. Whether Rejection leads to Revolution?

Theoretical framework and Discussion

The development of Self Determination Theory was influenced by humanistic psychology. For self-efficacy and self-actualization, humanistic psychology looks at a user's whole psyche and personal success. Whether or not a person's self-efficacy and self-actualization goals are met might have an impact on their motivation. The relevance of the linkage of inner and extrinsic incentives as a form of motivation to attain a goal is recognized by Self Determination Theory. The theory is based on the idea that human nature has persistent positive characteristics, such as individuals consistently demonstrating effort, agency, and dedication in their life, which the theory refers to as intrinsic development tendencies. Today, self-determination has a more emotional and social meaning: the skill or act of developing one's own decisions and taking charge of one's own life. As per the Self-Determination Theory (SDT), man is born with an inbuilt desire to explore, absorb, and dominate his environment, and truly high self-esteem is achieved when the fundamental psychological nutrients, or wants, of existence, are met. True, real self-esteem,

according to Self Determination Theory, is steady and secure when individuals are at their most alive and vibrant, fully functional and driven, and when all of their 'needs' are met.

Self Determination Theory does indeed have a lot to discuss setting goals and achieving them. According to the idea, not only is the substance of our goals, i.e., what we strive for, vital for our need fulfillment and quite well, but the method of our objectives is equally significant. The degree to which goal-setting behavior is independent or self-directed as opposed to regulated is a key predictor of well-being results. To put it another way, we are happier and more successful when we may pursue our objectives "our way" rather than following a rigid, external system of control. Even when chasing extrinsic rewards like riches or celebrity, we feel more fulfilled and personal when we pursue them independently, for our motives, and through our means. Further study on Self Determination Theory and goals has reaffirmed the link between success and autonomy, as well as the notion that success is more probable when our objectives are intrinsic and designed to meet our fundamental needs. When we are surrounded by empathic and supporting individuals instead of controlling or directive ones, we are more likely to achieve our goals.

According to studies, programs aimed at improving the main skills and abilities may help students develop self-determination: Self-awareness, decision-making, goal-setting, goal-achievement, communication, and relationship-building abilities are all important. Ability to both celebrate and learn from successes and failures. Experiences are reflected on. It has been found to lead to a variety of good outcomes, including a better possibility of finding a lucrative job and living independently in the community. The primary purpose of Self Determination Theory is to develop analytical tools for reading and understanding a wide range of Self Enhancement practices and forms, past and present.

The picture of the feminine as a dependent adjunct to her male counterparts in society is strikingly different in Indian novels. A slew of female authors has emerged, contributing to the evolution of Indian fiction by introducing new themes, with a particular focus on issues affecting women. Sudha Murty is one of the most important English-language Indian women novelists today. Sudha Murty creates Shrimati, the heroine, from a middle-class family who is intellectual, educated, and sympathetic in *Gently Falls the Bakula*. Sudha Murty shows Shrimati, a tenacious woman around whom the core plot revolves, becoming a victim of her husband's perseverance, and how the muffled voice has released its own and come on stage to express its worry in this work.

Shrimati, a lovely young lady, and Shrikant, a pleasant and gorgeous young man, fall in love and marry. They relocated to Mumbai from Hubli, a tiny town in the state of Karnataka. Shrikant becomes a highly accomplished IT specialist who quickly rises through the corporate ranks. He works belligerently and rises to the pinnacle of his profession, while Shrimati, who holds a master's degree in history, abandons her academic ambitions and becomes his unwavering shadow, quietly carrying out her responsibilities as a corporate leader's wife. Shrimati's life becomes dreary and empty when she examines and learns that her struggles and compromises went unnoticed.

Shrimati arrives as an uninvited daughter-in-law in Shrikant's home. Despite her best efforts to win over Shrikant's parents, Gangakka taunts Shrimati and accuses her of the family's predicament because Shrimati comes from a poor household. Gangakka couldn't stand having her rival's daughter as her in-law. Shrimati is depressed because Gangakka taunts her constantly. When Shrimati offers to assist her in the kitchen, Gangakka dismisses her by stating, You just married, You are unfamiliar with our customs. So don't even think about cooking.

Enormous achievement is usually the consequence of huge sacrifice, and it is never the product of selfishness, according to Napoleon Hill. The question is who's sacrifice the accomplishments were made on. Shrimati defers her field research and works in some kind of a tiny import-export company out of love for Shrikant and to return the loan her mother-in-law took out before their wedding for Shrikant's studies. She sends her whole salary, including savings, to her mother-in-law every month, oblivious to the ruse hatched by her mom and siblings. She bears her husband's burden as if it were her own, as is customary in India. When Shrikant inquires about repaying his loan, she responds, When you are hers, your lending is mine as well. It is delivered in a box. I can't say that I solely desire my hubby. His triumphs and setbacks are likewise acceptable to me.

Shrimati is eager to register for her Ph.D. in History when the opportunity to visit Delhi knocks on Shrikant's door. Shrimati sacrifices her passion and comes to Delhi with Shrikant after Shrikant aggressively pursues his transfer and says he may refrain from his advancement if he accepts the relocation. Shrikant suggests that she stay alone and in Bombay to pursue her studies while he visits once a month as a beloved wife, but she rejects his suggestion. No Shri, neither choice is acceptable, she reassures Shrikant. I don't want you to miss out on a promotion because you turned down this offer, and I don't want to be

alone. We will spend a year in Delhi, and I will begin my studies the following year. Anyway, there are many historical sites in north India that I can visit.

Shrikant climbs the ladder of business success in a short period because of his hard effort and strong performance. As a General Manager, Shrikant develops into a meticulous, motivated, determined, and tireless worker. Success, he claims, is never an accident; it must be planned for. But he doesn't realize that his constant victories are due to his wife's failures. Shrikant and Shrimati's lives have been drastically altered as a result of their new status. When Shrimati expresses her dissatisfaction with her inability to have children, Shrikant urges her to put her "energy to good use."

Shrimati was caught aback by Shrikant's desire to have children. Sangakkara no longer mocks her for her money, but rather for her infertility. Shrimati recalls her mother-in-law's sister-in-law's remarks about their inability to have children. Even though both are capable of producing children, Shrikant ignores his family responsibilities as a spouse due to his overbearing temperament. This makes her yearn. Wouldn't Ashoka, Vikramaditya, and Siddhartha Gautama, whom they had discussed extensively before marriage, be born into their family? Is there no one who can succeed Shrikant and her intellect? Many of the kids she had fantasized about would stay just that: fantasies.

Shrimati conducts all housekeeping tasks and also serves as hostess for Shrikant's guests, as Mother Teresa says, "Love starts by having to take care of the closest ones—the one at home." Despite her sickness, Shrimati performs all housekeeping chores and also serves as hostess for Shrikant's guests. She is a torchbearer who removes all impediments in the way of her husband. Shrikant took her for granted, despite her contribution to his success. When she discovers Shrikant is just concerned with his business, her sacrifices, compromises, and collaboration are unrewarding. When she realized this, she experienced a void inside of her, as if the job she has been doing is against her will and she wasn't enjoying it.

Shrimati discovers, slowly but steadily, that their love, affection, and the free exchange of ideas and aspirations have faded with time. She loses interest in items that formerly piqued her interest. 'I am quite upset at meeting individuals like you and wasting my time,' Shrimati was tempted to say while meeting guests... 'I am happy to meet you,' she added with a fake smile.

Shrimati's outrage is aggravated by events at the party and Shrikant's enraged statements directed at her, invoking historical values. Shrikant's statement shamed her greatly, and she realized for the very first moment that he had assaulted her freedom. He snubs her when she tries to teach history to him, saying, Enough of your lectures, Shrimati. Do not even bring up your useless subject. The business world is vastly different from yours. You can't eat history. At such gatherings, don't act like a historian... What, after all, is there in India's history to brag about? Time, care, affection, and concern are the greatest gifts one can give to one's loved ones. The marital life becomes meaningless when someone fails to develop or receive the aforementioned attributes. Shrikant's harsh comments ripped Shrimati's emotions apart and 'chopped the sensitive tree of their friendship.' She begins to question if it is possible to go back to Hubli's glory days. Her spouse sneered at her notion of relocating to Hubli when she expressed it. Shrimati, the old, is always lovely because we can't get it back, he continues, insisting on her being sensible. When you're young, childhood appears to be wonderful. When you're older, youth becomes romantic. Whatever we lose will always be valuable. Consider adjusting to and anticipating a constantly changing world. Don't get caught up in the past.

Shrimati thinks like a worn-out wanderer in a lonely tract yearning for an oasis when she discovers Shrikant spends his entire for himself and his objectives. She has the sensation of being a planet that sparkles with reflected light rather than a star that emits its light." Shrimati's anguish rises as wide as the ocean as she realizes that their hobbies, tastes, and perspectives diverge. Instead of Shrikant, she chooses history as her future.

A house consists of four walls. On the other hand, a home is a place where love, affection, and a serious relationship exist. When something wasn't present, it was just a house, and the greatest part to do was to leave. Shrimati expresses it like this: Shri, I adored both history and you. Indeed, there was a time when I adored you more than everything. But when you sacrificed your finer impulses in pursuit of commercial success, I was abandoned alone with nothing but history... You knew what you wanted to achieve. Now I know what I'd like to achieve and how to get there. An extended period of sacrifice can turn a person's heart stone.

Conclusion

Finally, Shrimati's insight dawns, and she undergoes a metamorphosis in her attitude about nuptial bonding. Her gigantic aloofness and annoyance in life drive her to shatter the concept of hopeless surrender to her spouse and give up on existence. As a result of her strategy, she puts a stop to her seclusion and yearns for freedom and individuality beyond the grasp of familial ties. Shrikant, who has succumbed to authority, aspiration, position, and achievement, feels helpless in the absence of Shrimati. Shrimati has stolen his spirit with her, and he notices that his beloved flower Bakula has faded from his existence. Sudha Murthy thus portrays the traits of Shrimati and Shrikant, emulating the energy and temperament of today's couple following the advent of IT industries.

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