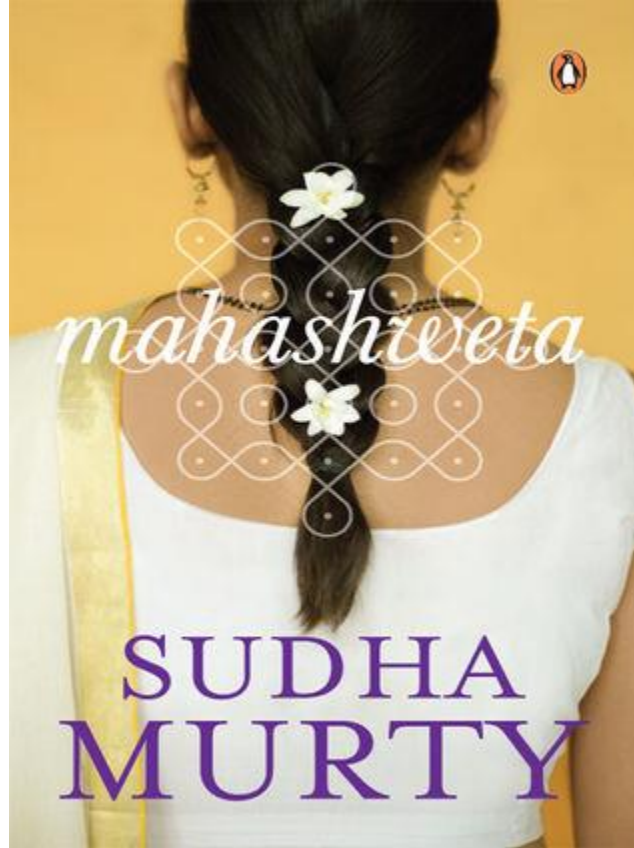


**Domestic Violence in Sudha Murthy's *Mahashweta***  
Dr. G. Aruna Devi and K. Vijaya Lakshmi, Ph.D. Research Scholar



**Abstract**

The purpose of the paper is to study the presence of domestic violence in Sudha Murthy's *Mahaswetha*. Her novels deal with the themes of Courage, Education, Social Evils, Feminisms, Social status and Family Relationship is more important than Money and silent suppression of woman and how they overcome their problems in society. She gives more important to spiritual love. Spiritual love more valuable than Physical love. She focuses on the main theme of a marriage. Marriage is life-long commitment for better or worse, still death do us part. Sudha Muthy who is prolific fiction author in Kannada and English has published several books that her views on feminism, charity, hospitality and self-realization through fictional work. She is recipient of Padma Shree and the R.K Narayan awards for her contribution to literature. In *Mahashweta* Anupama suffered with "Leukoderma" so Anand and his family left her alone. She overcomes all her problems with moral courage.

## Indian Novel

Indian writers in English have made the most significant contribution to the field of the novel. Ever since the publication of Bakimchandra Chatterjee's *Rajmohan's Wife*, Indian novel has grown considerably in bulk, variety and maturity and it has marked difference from Raja Rao to still the 20th century writers many issues in their writings such as political, racial, social, economic, sexual, communal and gender issues domestic violence and gender problem still their subject. Today men's life is dominated by Economical, money constrain everything. Home is the place of love, affection, sacrifice and sharing with the members of family but now its turn to the place of fulfilling unworthy expectations of other's it leads to misunderstanding, suppression, depressions and violence in their relationship.

## Sudha Murthy

In the same way Sudha Murthy, as one of the leading and successful women writer of contemporary period, her works are a realistic picture of the socio-economic and psychological issues faced by Indian women. She has depict inner voice of women and role of women in law's house in her works. In her novels, the reader can understand the legitimate longings, dreams, hopes, fear, disappointments and psychological experience that have been faced by a lot of women. The portrayal of the dependency and struggling to survive independently has been elaborated in her works.

## Role of Women

The role of women in India from the pre-Independence period to be dependent on their family members especially their men, before their marriage they depend father or brother after their marriage they depend husband or son. This tradition cowed down their position just to continue family line. Women are denied from grabbing the opportunities of education and refinement. Only few women of the nobility, the life of general women is not worth living. Child marriage to infanticide and dowry deaths are some of the evils that have been caused to pull down the position of women in Indian society. After the Independence, women position increased in many fields. But all these are one side of women's life. If we keenly observe status of women in domestic life, it is still dependent and deplorable. They are powerless and ill-treated inside and outside of the home. In Modern India women are empowered by acquiring education but it is not true to the fullest at all if sensed with reality. One of the most harrowing oppressions is marriage for many women. It empowers men and disempowers women. Traditionally women are confined to homes to discharge their household duties such as courteous of their husbands, brought up child, obeying in-law's commands and shouldering different burdens. As a result they have been relegating the position accepting, dedicating themselves for the upliftment of the family.

## *Mahashweta*

Sudha Murthy's Novel *Mahashweta* is one of the best examples for domestic violence. She an ingeniously focuses on realistic problems faced by women in the society and family relationship and how they encounter with the problems. This paper reflects on the educated woman's role as a wife in love marriage, her submission life to her husband, mother-in-law and step- mother in the novel *Mahashweta*. Anupama who is protagonist in the novel *Mahashweta* becomes subject of domestic violence. From Vedic period to Digital period women undergoes a

series of humiliations, betrayals. The very beginning of the novel start with:

"Even though the female child is stronger than male child at birth as adults it is the man who become oppressor, and woman who suffers".(Mahashweta,1)

Life on earth is not a paradise, especially to women like Anupama. She moves heaven and earth to succeed in life, had many stumbling blocks. She was in the form of poverty, missing her mother when she was a one-year old baby, problems posed by her step-mother, poor father who was a school teacher, domineering aristocratic mother-in-law and sister-in-law and educated but insensitive husband. Anupama, as the meaning suggests was a woman who could not be compared to others either in beauty or attitude. She is well educated, beautiful, wonderful dramatist and fine stage actress but draw from poor socio-economical background. Dr. Anand a genius falls in love with Anupama. She organizes and acts a drama for raising money to a charity. She sells the tickets to Dr. Anand. He hails from a wealthy family, gives much importance to the physical appearance than the inner beauty. He is successful throughout his education and career and also expects his wife to be something special from other. He finds Anupama, who is rich physically and internally but poor in economical. Anand makes his mother Radhakka agree to the proposal. Radhakka, a widow of a contractor agreed to the alliance, with her own calculations in mind. She knew her son might marry an English woman as he was planning to do his advanced courses in England. If she agrees to the desire of Anand, People may think of her large heart by accepting a poor girl into the family. Money and material pleasures made them more compatible to degrade Anupama. Anupama's father is happy on hearing of Anand proposal. Sudha Murthy shows the pathetic economical condition of poor father in front of a such mother-in-law, "Looking at Radhakka's ornaments, and Anand's Mercedes-symbol of world totally alien to him-shamanna had grow so painfully aware of his limitations that he had not spoken at all" (37). Anupama was happy for the next few months of her marriage. Radhakka compelled Anupama to stay back to join the Lakshmi Puja, which would be after two months. When Anupama find out the illicit behaviour of Girija, she never revealed to her mother-in-law due to the fear and poor relationship between them. Anupama's problems started from the day of Lakshmi Puja she discovered the white patch on her leg and found it was Leukoderma or vitiligo from the dermatologist. She missed all her freedom as she was allowed to go out only in the car. She had to lie to Avva to make visits to the skin doctor. She was caught by her mother-in-law. They treated her like untouchable; A feeling of misery engulfed Anupama. She realized that her position had become lower than that of a servant in just one day. "The servant could go home and sleep after finishing the day's work, but where she go? To her father's house? Where would she find kindness and trust? To her husband? but he is not here now"(55). She send out to her father's house.

### **Social Stigma of the Married Woman**

The social stigma of the married woman living with her parents her stepmother's continual barbs and the ostracism that accompanies her skin condition force her to contemplate suicide. "Marriage is a gamble. The result cannot be predicted beforehand. Finding the right match is matter of chance. I was unlucky in this. (66) A small white patch had ruined her career has well as her marriage. Sudha Murthy beautifully expresses the traumatic experience. Anand is a doctor. He knew more about the disease but he is not ready to understand the feelings of Anupama. Anupama writes many letters to Anand but he never replied to her letter. Anupama

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expecting soothing words from Anand. He didn't pacify her nor met her when he came to India for his sister's marriage. He forgets his promises, when he made at the time of their marriage before the sacred Agni. Anand is oppressor because he is attracted by physical beauty of Anu. He knows his mother character and also Anu's family background, but he keeps calm, As a doctor knows about the disease he gives courage to Anu, he did not treat Anu as his wife like patient. He is successful doctor but he failed in husband. He blindly believes her mother words. They treated Anupama as a beautiful object but forget giving importance to her feelings. Before Marriage Anu was caught by her step mother, the only reason is she is more beautiful than her step-sister. "Let us not educate her further, it might become difficult to find a husband for her Besides, she will not support us. She has to marry and go to somebody else's house" (23).

Poor Anupama worried for three years, suffering the humiliation of her step-mother, Sabakka as her daughter were not married because of her. She moves to Sumitra's house and stays for a year, she find the real man in Hari and moves to Dolly's house. Anupama met with an accident and was treated by Dr. Vasant, a good humanitarian and his friend Satya. Meanwhile Anand, even in the west, were divorce was easy Anand's patient who did not give up his crippled wife because of his commitment to the marriage and inner love between them but Anand left Anupama alone in the hands of loneliness and poverty, at last Anand realizes his mistake and remember his words before the sacred fire during the wedding ceremony. He searches Anupam, after a long battle he finds her but Anupama rejects him. Anand's mental changness had no way melted Anupama. "you knew that i didn't have this disease before our marriage, you could have told your mother..... but you didn't. Your mother and sister disliked me because i was from poor family" (146).

Even household pets are treated with love and cared for when they are unwell. Anupama totally dependent Anand after the marriage, she wants to hear a few words from him which have been strength her both physically and mentally, but he never bothered to console her. Anand worried about his unborn daughter's future, but he failed to realize Anupama also somebody's daughter, he never worried about Anupama's present situation. "*you never treated me as a human being. I was only a beautiful object that you wished to possess and flaunt*" (146).

## To Conclude

Marriage is life-long commitment for better or worse, till the death do part. No more she was the Mahashweta struggling for her Pundarika, the play which brought them together. She wiped away her dream "Like Rohini to Chandra, like Lakshmi to Narayana am I to him; Just as the creeper depends on a tree emotionally I depends on him" (126). The real success of marriage not on superficial matters such as those, but on love and mutual understanding between husband and wife.

Sudha Murthy clearly expressed by her work that the present age women have realized that they are not helpless and are not dependent. A woman is an equal competent just like a man. Today a woman has also become a direct money earner and she is not only confined to household works. The character Anand and Anupama reflecting the mood and temperament of present day couple. The Novel *Mahashweta* projects post-Independence sentiments and attitudes crystal clearly making the readers to think that life after marriage is not to live individual life but

to life together with right understanding to lead a clean and healthy life.

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