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Sudha Murthy: A Versatile Writer

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Abstract:

Sudha Murthy was born in Karnataka, India, on August 19, 1950. She is a versatile genius with an exceptional talent as a writer. She is a philanthropist and an entrepreneur. She is an Indian writer whose writings are close to Indian life, rich heritage, and culture. Her writings are simple and conversational in tone. She conveyed her ideas through her writings. She deals with the societal issues of an Indian society, and her writings explore her deep understanding of human life and ethical values. She did her electrical engineering from B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology, Hubli, and her master's in computer science from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. She voiced against the gender bias raised by the companies during their recruitment process. She was the first female engineer hired at TATA Engineering and Locomotive Co. Ltd (TELCO), known as Tata Motors. She has authored several books in English and Kannada. She wrote 1s, short stories, nonfiction work, and children's books. Some of her famous books include "Wise and Otherwise," "The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk," "Dollar Bahu" and "The Magic Drum, and Other Favourite Stories." Throughout her career, Sudha Murthy has received several awards and honors for her contributions to literature and social service. She continues to be an inspiration to many, known for her humility, compassion, and dedication to making a positive impact on society.

Keywords: Versatile, Philanthropist, Entrepreneur, Gender bias, Nonfiction.

Introduction:

Sudha Murthy is a renowned Indian author, philanthropist, and entrepreneur. She was born on August 19, 1950, in Karnataka. She is known for her simple and engaging writing style. Her works explore diverse themes, such as her country's social issues, ethical values, and culture. Her life is a testament to the power of perseverance, compassion, and giving back to her society. Her journey inspires millions, and her contributions continue to make a lasting impact on the lives of individuals across the globe.

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Sudha Murthy's college life was a significant chapter in her journey, shaping her both academically and personally. She pursued her higher education in engineering when the field was predominantly male-dominated. She attended the B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology in Hubli, Karnataka, where she pursued her undergraduate degree in electrical engineering. Her decision to study engineering was unconventional for a woman in that era, highlighting her determination to pursue her interests despite societal expectations.

During her college years, Sudha Murthy broke barriers and stereotypes by excelling in a field traditionally dominated by men. Being one of the few female students in her engineering program, she faced challenges but remained undeterred in her pursuit of knowledge and academic excellence. The college provided Sudha Murthy a platform to expand her intellectual horizons and develop her analytical and problem-solving skills. Her engineering education laid the foundation for her future career in technology and served as a springboard for her subsequent accomplishments.

Beyond academics, college life was crucial in Sudha Murthy's personal development. She embraced opportunities for extracurricular activities, social interactions, and leadership roles, fostering resilience, independence, and adaptability.

Sudha Murthy's college experiences inspired her later literary works. Her observations of campus life, interactions with classmates and faculty, and reflections on societal norms have influenced the themes and characters in her books, especially those addressing education, gender equality, and social justice.

Overall, Sudha Murthy's college life was a formative period characterized by academic rigor, personal growth, and the pursuit of her passions. It laid the groundwork for her future endeavors and served as a testament to her resilience, courage, and determination to challenge stereotypes and carve her path in life. Murthy is married to N.R. Narayana Murthy, the co-founder of Infosys. Sudha Murthy established the Infosys Foundation in 1996. The foundation is dedicated to supporting initiatives in healthcare, education, rural development, and the arts. She has two children, Rohan Murthy and Akshata Murthy.

Murthy has authored numerous books in English and Kannada, spanning various genres, such as novels, short stories, children's literature, and nonfiction.

Works:

A few notable works of Sudha Murthy are:

Wise and Otherwise:

This collection of short stories offers insightful glimpses into the lives of ordinary people, exploring themes of human nature, morality, and social issues.

The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk:

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A memoir that recounts Sudha Murthy's personal experiences and lessons learned from encounters with individuals from different walks of life.

Dollar Bahu:

A novel that delves into the complexities of family relationships and cultural differences, revolving around the story of a woman who migrates to the United States.

Mahashweta:

Is a poignant novel that illuminates the struggles of individuals affected by leprosy, highlighting themes of resilience, compassion, and social stigma.

How I Taught My Grandmother to Read and Other Stories:

A collection of heartwarming anecdotes celebrating the bond between grandparents and grandchildren and the importance of education and literacy.

The Magic Drum and Other Favourite Stories:

A delightful collection of short stories for children, filled with enchanting tales, moral lessons, and vibrant characters.

Grandma's Bag of Stories:

Another charming collection of children's stories that captivate young readers with their simplicity, humor, and timeless wisdom.

Three Thousand Stitches:

A nonfiction work reflecting Sudha Murthy's philanthropic endeavors and the transformative power of small acts of kindness and generosity.

The Old Man and His God: Discovering the Spirit of India:

A compilation of real-life incidents and encounters that offer insights into India's diverse cultures, traditions, and beliefs.

Gently Falls the Bakula:

A novel that explores a young couple's aspirations, sacrifices, and personal growth as they navigate the challenges of ambition and marriage.

Through her writing, Sudha Murthy continues to inspire and enrich the lives of countless individuals with her stories of hope, compassion, and human resilience.

Awards and Achievements

Sudha Murthy has received several awards and honors throughout her illustrious career, recognizing her contributions to literature, philanthropy, and social service. Some notable achievements include Sudha Murthy, honored with *the Padma Shri* in 2006, one of India's highest civilian awards, in recognition of her distinguished service in literature and education. She received the *R.K. Narayan Award* for

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Literature for her outstanding contribution to Indian literature, particularly for promoting the English language and encouraging aspiring writers. The Government of Karnataka conferred the *Attimabbe Award* for her significant contributions to Kannada literature and culture. She has been honored with a *lifetime achievement award* by various organizations for her multifaceted contributions to literature, philanthropy, and social causes.

Sudha Murthy's philanthropic work through the Infosys Foundation has earned her widespread recognition and appreciation. The foundation's healthcare, education, rural development, and arts initiatives have positively impacted numerous lives across India. In recognition of her exceptional achievements and contributions to society, several universities in India have awarded Sudha Murthy honorary doctorates.

Sudha Murthy's remarkable journey has had a profound impact on literature and society as a whole.

Conclusion

Sudha Murthy is known for her simplicity, authenticity, and depth, influencing readers of all ages. Her personal qualities, such as humility, integrity, and empathy, exemplify her as a great human being. She is multifaceted and has left an indelible mark on literature and society.

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