



IMPACT OF DISHONESTY ON FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN SUDHAMURTY'S HOUSE OF CARDS

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Abstract:

The purpose of the present work is to explore the Impact of dishonesty in familial relationships'. The theme of SudhaMurty's books which centre around family and the significance of self - identity specifically a woman. Murty's novels reveal her strong feminist ideas and her support for women's freedom and rights. Her literature works shows a profound awareness of gender identity and a serious concern for women's issues. Through her fiction, she portrays a realistic world that encourages critical thinking on modern views toward marriage, gender roles, Self-perception and societal expectations. She also explores the authentic social and emotional bonds women share, highlighting their adaptability as they navigate a society that balances tradition with modernity while honoring cultural heritage.

Key Words: Feminism, Portrayal of Women in India, Human Relation, Dishonesty, Self-perception

Introduction: The Status of woman in different periods:

Indian women novelists focus mainly on women issues. They create their own world with a wide range of characters and a variety of existences. The selfless sacrifice and the loss of identity faced by the expatriates and immigrants are some of the other aspects they are concentrating upon. In the Earlier 19th century the devoted Women right leaders like Elizabeth CandyStanton, Margaret Fuller, and Lucretia Mott etc.,were more concerned with securing women's legal rights in marriage, Education, employment, divorce and child custody laws. In the 20th century, women's writing was considered as a powerful medium of modernism and feminist statements. We see Indian women writers like Sashi Deshpande, Arundathi Roy, Anita Desai, SudhaMurty and Shoba De, just to name a few,who hold their own in the woman writer's world of initial rejection, dejection , familial bonds, domesticity and what not. Indian English as well as Indian writing in English has got its own identity. It is amazing to note that these writers and many more have climbed the Hard-fought success.

The subjugation of woman is an innermost fact of history and it is the main cause of all psychological disorders in society. Women had been subjugated to the following issues, such as, exploitation, harassment, ill treatment and discrimination from time immemorial. An attempt was made to analyze the portrayal of women during the different periods of history through authentic and available sources of Information. It is classified into three major periods: Ancient, medieval and Modern. The status of woman was classified into four broad sub periods in ancient period such as: The Vedic Period, Epic, Jainism and Bhuddhism. In the Vedic Period – Women had their own space in sacrificing and the duty of chanting the hymns and enjoyed the same religious rights as men and received the same education. Whereas in the period of the epics, the wife is one who humbles her husband. In Jainism,

women were admitted to the religious order and could give up family life to become ascetics. The political and economic status of women remains unchanged, in Bhuddhism.

In Medieval Period, women having no opportunity to develop their capacities and ultimately become helpless, illiterate and narrow minded. It is concluded that they had no significant status in the society. In Modern age, the constitution of India has laid a fundamental right that created a social order where men and women were treated on par. In real practice, most of the women continue to suffer discrimination, harassment, humiliation, and exploitation in and outside home in large numbers.

Every woman values their inner strength to choose – much more than her husband's money or position. In our society, it was observed that all the important decisions are made by man, including choices about what his wife wants. This paper seeks to explore and evaluate dishonesty from a husband can hamper a human relationships. Her selected work, 'House of Cards' has been analyzed in this paper to endorse that her husband had manipulated her completely, due to her ignorance and foolishness by secretly imparting major financial and power to relations without her knowledge. When the truth became clear and hurt her, she had no choice but to leave him.

It portrays how a woman often sacrifices so many things for her family but are not given equal importance. Here, the narrator's protagonist is not happy with wealth and social status in society but expects her husband to share his feelings.

Methodology

The methodology employed in this paper involves a close reading and textual analysis of Sudha Murty's House of Cards. It incorporates to examine the portrayal of characters Mridula, and Sanjay and their experiences within the narratives. It is analyzed based on two aspects namely,

Character Study: The main focus is on the main characters, Mridula and Sanjai. The paper examines their characterization and personal aspirations. It discovers how they navigate their identities in relation to societal expectations, familial pressures, and personal ambitions.

Exploration of Themes: The paper identifies and analyzes key themes such as Gender Stereotypes, liberation, and general norms. It discusses how these themes reflected in the lives of the female protagonists and how they contribute to their personal growth and empowerment.

'House of Cards' is the story of Mridula, a simple and smart girl who is full of love and enthusiasm. She is intelligent and an honest girl who believes in doing the right things always. She stays with her parents and her brother in Alladahalli, a small village in North Karnataka, Where all of them want to be a doctor or an engineer, whereas Mridula chosen to be a teacher.

Sanjay, a doctor, meets Mridula at a marriage in her village and falls in love with her. They get married and move to Bangalore. Sanjay goes on to complete his post-graduation and Mridula joins a government school as a teacher. After getting frustrated in a Government job, Sanjay moves into private practice. Though Mridula and Sanjay move up in status and wealth they eventually drift apart after twenty five years from each other in thoughts, words and deeds. Mridula being an honest person expects the same from her husband too, but she is shocked when she comes to know that he has been hiding something from her and having his own secrets, especially in financial transactions. How can Sanjay open an account without telling me?(HOC, p.183). He is the one who said, "I don't want to handle money. You manage it and I'll manage the nursing home."(HOC, p.183). She had lost all her confidence, aggrieved, and shocked and also became annoyed. She didn't believe that her faithful husband Sanjay had cheated her. He had inculcated restlessness in her. She had lived with complete belief and trusted him from the first day of the marriage and condemning her belief that he had maintained parallel financial elsewhere. He cheated her with the incident of 10 lakh DD sent to his mother, gift deed of a car given to his sister's son Anil and made a joint fixed deposit with his sister for fifty lakh. It was not about the money but she blindly believed that her husband is honest and truthful but he had stabbed her in the back.

She was filled with shock and anger. 'I can't believe that Sanjay has cheated me like this,' she said to herself. 'I have lived with complete belief and trust in him ever since we got married. How am I going to live with him for the rest of my life? (HOC, p.184). Being a dedicated, beautiful, sincere and hardworking wife, she enabled him to reach the highest position in the medical profession. But very soon he ignored in many ways, which made her depressed.

After twenty five years of being married, Mridula harbors few illusions about her relationship with her husband. She was so depressed and decided to meet a psychiatrist. The doctor says to Mridula, Money makes him feel powerful. He has an inferiority complex and an old value system where men are supposed to be the dominating partner. Unlike you, he's a complicated person. That's why he's never established good communication with you(HOC, p.214).

She thought, 'If I continue staying here and in the same atmosphere, then I have to live life on my terms, if I want to be happy'. And that's not possible with Sanjay around. He ridicules and dominates me and it affects my confidence terribly. I can't take it anymore. I have to do something. But what?(HOC,p.216).

Misunderstanding due to differences of opinion, failure to satisfy others all expectations, non-transparent in financial transactions and other activities are common to many married person today. However, these perfect couple failed to understand that perfect relation was to be created and not found. This served as the main cause for this couple to separate and pursue their objects of desire.

At the fine time her son Sishir realized and wondered, 'what authority does my mother have in any household decisions except in the kitchen? She doesn't have freedom anywhere. Everywhere, my father makes the decisions and my mother has to follow them. But no one ever tells my father about my mother's sufferings or his mistakes. Though she has sacrificed a lot, she is still a non-entity' (HOC, p.229).The author clearly explains in this book 'Every woman wants to change her life but no man understands how. He showers his wife with gifts that he likes but not with what she wants'. In India, when you marry a person, you also marry to his family. By default, people expect you to adjust to the husband's family. In India patriarchy is the prevalent system, and across various spheres of society is largely male-dominated. Murty demonstrates marriage as a patriarchal institution that binds women to a lifetime of male domination.

The author's protagonist was not like everybody, she was different. She had enormous enthusiasm for life and unlimited energy. She wanted to spend every minute of the day fruitfully. It seemed that the sun rose for her and the rainbow colours were meant only for her. Every day was to be lived to its fullest and every beautiful minute to be enjoyed. SudhaMurty's protagonists struggle to break the clutches of suffocating relationships which results in marital dispute.

The study of Feminism and Gender theory requires constant retrospective rework and revisions to facilitate rehabilitation and transformation in people. By emphasizing feminism, male chauvinism, trust, dishonesty, self-identity, and Self-perception offers a feminism approach that seeks to identify the self. Thus, this is a very well written book and the story is about how dishonesty can hamper a relationship between husband and wife. SudhaMurty brings us the story of a common person, someone we can relate to and that is what makes her books so special. "Women contribute significantly to the functioning of society and the economy. If they were to stop working, it would create a major imbalance and affect various aspects of daily life," - SudhaMurty wrote on X. This paper argues that every woman values her freedom to make choices – much more than her husband's money or position. It also highlights how dishonesty can hamper a human relationship.

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