

Postfeminist Perspective in Sudha Murthy's *The Mother I Never I Knew*

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Abstract

Sudha Murthy is a principled writer, trailblazer and known for her philanthropic work. Sudha Murthy is a post-feminist litterateur; not because of her writing insist on the terms of post-feminist aspects. In her real life also she trashes the entire fence to prove herself. She acknowledges that women should not be submissive but have to prove themselves by their effort. She becomes a female engineer in her whole college and asserts herself as a first female engineer in TATA firm. She insists the value of individual identity of female and their achievements. The women in the feminism period give more important to their family and deny their desire and goal. Instead, the post-feminist women give more importance to their career even by pro casting their family desire. This shows that gender is not important for achievements. According to Judith butler gender is what we 'do' rather what we 'are'. Sudha Murthy proves her best in her individual life. The mother I never knew explicit the life of Bhagirathi and Shanta feminism as well as postmodernism respectively, how their life has changed and emancipated with lots of effort. It describes the life Mukesh and Venkatesh from primitive stage of women to modern era. The research article analyses the postfeminist perspective in the novella.

Key Words: Postfeminist, Trailblazer, Philanthropic, Feminism.

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Postfeminism origin in the recent period to demonstrate the ability of women. The post-feminist women give more importance to their career more than the marriage and family. In the modern era, women are proving themselves as multitalented. Where the gender is subdued, now it is not considered. Postfeminist notion studiously ignored the features of feminist point-of-view, which is irrelevant to modern society. Butler affirms that the binary solution of biological gender and the sexual terms that die from it should be viewed as a socially structured gender, so what we 'do' is more than what we 'are'. Sudha Murthy is one of recent time Indian writer depicts the post-feminist thought in her writing. She not only writes and also exercises in her life for the sake of society.

The Mother I Never Knew explains about the two individual people how they lost their mother. The sufferings and the state of miserable life directly picture the importance of life. The present paper describes the life and value of feminism and Postfeminism which is present in the two epistles of Venkatesh and Mukesh.

The first epistle of *The Mother I Never Knew* is Venkatesh. Through Venkatesh life, we can see the status of women how it transforms from feminism period to the post-feminist era. The life of female from olden days is completely changed and now the females are liberated and allow enjoying the space in all genres. It is the acknowledgement of women's achievement and struggles to get freedom. Here the life of Shanta and Bhagirathi resembles

their effort and achievements based on their period. Bhagirathi is not allowed to continue her education because of the restriction of society. The structure framed by society for women is to suppress and overrule her. Bhagirathi is compelled to stop education to get married. Her uncle and aunt did not want her to be a burden to their family. Bhagirathi's life becomes miserable out of her lack of education and knowledge. When Setu Madana Rao decides to marry her she insists by her aunt to marry him.

After marriage when Champakka departure, she advised Bhagirathi to stay there till Setu gets a job. It shows that if a woman is uneducated she has taken for granted. On the contradiction to Bhagirathi, Shanta represents the post-feminist life by leading an independent life. Shanta gets an education and creates her identity so that she doesn't want to be dependent on anyone. When the novel starts Shanta's husband is mentioned as "Madam's husband" it explains the importance given to Shanta. Shanta made all her decisions on her own and successively manages her house and profession. Because of Bhagirathi's ignorance and illiterate her son and her granddaughter's lead a poverty life. Though Shankar is educated he knows the value of education to educate his daughter's in his incapable. However, Mandakini is educated she struggles to get a good match. Horoscope plays a vital role in matching the bride and bridegroom. According to horoscope and the status of the family, ignorance becomes a fence of their achievements. When Shankar's daughter is forbidden to get a prospectus life in a faraway land, Shanta's daughter Gauri insists her interest and decision outward hesitantly.

Gender plays a significant role throughout the life of Gauri. Gauri and Ravi are siblings and the way treated is same both built their career according to their interest. But in Bhagirathi's life, it is not given, even the society also becomes a barrier to her growth which affects her whole future. Without education and financially independent, she can help her son to educate if she is good in education it helps him in all his life. Gauri shows that education and marriage are two important things which the individual can decide without considering gender. When Gauri's mother insists her to do MBA finance .

She shows her stubbornness to follow her desire and during marriage also she proclaims with Venkatesh's consideration she chooses her life partner. She does not have fully given her life in her father's hand. Behind this, it shows the change in society. Bhagirathi and Indramma's miserable life shows the oppression and discrimination picture in the primitive stage, from that woman changed their life by creating a self-identity, with the help of education which helps them to awaken their knowledge.

In the second epistle, Mukesh describes the women's life due to the tangles in the society because of restriction constructed in society. The life of Nirmala explains the power of status and politics. Then the life of Rupinder shows the superstitious belief and the system of patriarchy society. Sumati's life slightly differs from Rupinder and Nirmala because of her identity. Though she is not qualified in education by her self-work of tailoring. She works hard and opens Mukesh garments.

Nirmala is Mukesh biological mother but the status and political power of her father alienated and suppressed till the baby born. After that, he separates the mother and baby for the sake of his reputation. Here Nirmala not allowed taking any decision rather she is compelled in all situations. Then the major part of female's miserable life is poverty, due to the family condition Rupinder married to the big family where everyone treats her like a

servant. She adjusts everything to lead a successful life, but without considering her health she is compelled to bear a child.

Then superstitious belief separates her from the adopted son. Mukesh as Munna adopted by Rupinder because of a small dark patch in his leg, he is considered as a bad omen child, here the respect given to gender is crashed of the old belief. Rupinder subdues in all her life because of her illiteracy. For her family, she sacrificed her pleasure, for her husband she sacrificed her child and finally, she lost her husband as well as wealth. Though her confidence and courage help her to work for her needs. It shows the ability and self-independent life.

Sumati's courage not only gives her self-identity instead it lends hand to build fame and status in the society. By her hard works she changes her economic status and built a secured life. By the arrival of Mukesh, they required many things. So that they plan to mortgage his chain but Krishna aback, the courage of Sumati mortgage and commence a garment and built it successfully. The predominant theme of Mukesh garments is Sumati's courage.

Mukesh a BBC reporter covers many incidents but once he records the life of unwed mothers, he could not understand their emotions. As a reporter, he registers every incident when finally he learns about his past life his life changes. Before that, he supports and helps his wife to become courageous. Though she was brought up in a conservative family, where the liberty of the woman is restricted but after marriage, he completely supports her to learn everything. Even she is daring to do, skiing and frightened Mukesh.

It makes Vasanthi break the shackles made for her. Mukesh helps her to be independent and learn a lot when finally Mukesh knows his past and informs Vasanthi to decide things according to her desire. The supportiveness of Mukesh and the knowledge helps her to decide the thing highly positive she never considered the caste, religion, and so on. She gives importance only to humanity. Education helps human to think beyond the segregation of the barriers. She frees herself from all traditions and customs.

The Mother I Never Knew is the plot where the son deserted from their biological mother. The reason behind this is the structure of society. It proves that Mary Astell's view the education only helps women to free from their inferiority and insecurity. Education helps women to be conscious of the world and ensures her place in society. Shanta and Vasanthi create their identity and prove themselves as successful women. It helps them to lead an economically free, self-respectable life and to be independent. It is considered as the post-feminist perspective of women in the modern era. When Feminism claims equality for female as male, the postfeminist deconstruct the root causes of the problem, which is gender to demolish and considered everyone as equal. So that the women can assert their identity and enjoy their desire.

Sudha Murthy describes the importance of the individual identity of women. The era has changed where women are supposed to be dependent and feeble because of their miserable life. Now women are granted to do according to their desire so that they can assert their space in society. The novella shows the different life of two eras as Bhagirathi and Nirmala as primitive stage and Shanta and Vasanthi as emerged women who belongs to the postmodern era. It shows the importance of individual identity and knowledge of women to lead an independent life.

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