

## THE ESSENCE OF MORALS IN SUDHA MURTHY'S CHILDREN'S STORIES

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Stories play a prominent role in shaping the personality of children from the tender age. Exposing to the stories will develop a broad sense and analysing capacity. Sudha Murthy's stories are encapsulated with morals and ethical values. These stories orient them to build self-reliance and aesthetic sense. The characters in her stories motivate children and help them to acquire the tradition and culture in the modern generation. These help them to develop a positive attitude and familiar with problems, miseries, merits and demerits theoretically.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Story, Personality, Ethics, Sense, Character, Motivate, Develop*

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### **Article History**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

India has vast tradition and culture since centuries. It stood the nation in the prominent place among the world's nations. Since there are several genres in literature, stories stand in a unique position. Ages ago philosophy, ethics and morals are transmitted from generation to generation through the vehicle of story only.

The genre story has an oral tradition. It passed generations orally. For example, the stories of Panchatantra, Vikram and Betal stories.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- To study the different stories and novels and ethics in the stories of Sudha Murthy.
- To understand the moral that lies in the story.
- To study the importance of Children's Literature in the modern era.
- To know the contribution of Sudha Murthy to the genre Children's Literature.

### **Research Paper**

Since centuries literature is acting a bridge to connect generations. Even in the contemporary society, it stands by a prominent place among the genres of literature. The aim of the research paper is to study the morals imbibed through the stories of Sudha Murthy. The present research topic "The Essence of Morals in Children's Literature in special reference with the Stories of Sudha Murthy" has been taken up.

The Children's Literature helps students to develop their imaginary skills at the same time it helps them to build their personality. Stories assist the child to learn about his culture and tradition. By reading stories children develop

creativity because stories act as stimulatory labs and nourish their abilities. These stories dealt with challenges and solutions, and humorous instances and accounts of fictions and real life.

Sudha Murthy has played a remarkable role by playing innumerable stories in the Children's Literature. In this contemporary society, she stands in a prominent place, because her stories are encapsulated with Indian traditions and cultures in spreading the values and ethics among children. Her collection of story books like *How I Taught my Grandmother to Read and write and Other Stories*, *Grandma's Bag of Stories*, *Bird with Golden Wings and Other Stories* and *Magic Drum and Other Favourite Stories* are belong to this category.

The book "How I Taught my Grandmother to Read and Write and Other Stories" is the collection of finest stories. These stories have engraved with a flavour of common lives of Indian society. Most of these stories have drawn from Sudha Murthy's personal life and experience. Through these stories she has tried to teach life lessons to children, so she has become a role model to the youth.

Sudha Murthy has a great passion towards Indian mythology and ancient Indian Scriptures. She has conveyed her stories in simple touching language, so these catch the attention of the young readers and inspire them to read further. She is very careful in language and word selection of the story writing.

Sudha Murthy has a special feature of choosing Indianised characters and terminology without translating the word into English in her stories, this feature made her stories very nearer to the children. She is also mastery of telling stories with pictures which pass a great message and spellbound the youngsters. Sometimes she has buffed fantasy into the reality. For example, in the story "When Yama called; Grandma's Bag of stories". Her stories are knitted with the themes of socio fantasy with moral and ethical affairs and science fiction is never a cup of tea in her stories.

The character in the stories of Sudha Murthy are the common characters from our day to day life, if we once start reading her story we spell bound to it till completion of it. These characters are acting as a bridge to connect the reader and the theme of the stories. She is very keen in portraying her character of the stories. The stories have the unity of effect in the narration of the appearance, dialogues and actions. Most of her characters strive hard for survival.

Sudha Murthy's characters convey the problems and solutions of the common man. Sometimes her stories take children into a different world. The stories "Amma What's your Duty" "The Secret" and "My Biggest Mistake" are the ardent pictures of the young and their approach of moulding with the teachings. Her stories move around a commoner in the society. The stories of her teach children the art of living with compassion and generous to the fellow being in his contemporaries societies. So the stories provide avenue to them to attain a personality to achieve the goals in the personal life. The child learns self reliance, humanity and gratitude from her stories. Her stories are the simplest solutions to the real life obstacles.

Till to a few decades children used to learn stories from their grandparents. Due to LPG the nuclear families have grown up mother and father was busy with the jobs. The accessibility with the grandparents has diminished, so the process of storytelling has almost shelved in our societies. Child's education is also not catering to the gap of storytelling. They confined to the electronic world only. There is an essence of developing of instructions to learn the stories in the educational intuitions. It keeps the child away from the rote method of leaning system and provides a platform of entertainment along with injecting morals.

Sudha Murthy's stories "The Golden Fish and the Demon: The Bird with Golden Wings" is the story of a woman, Laxmi transforms into an ugly devil with her greedy trait. Similarly the story "Payasam for a Bear" is a story of keeping

promises. The story "The precious Rupee; The Bird with Golden Wings" teaches the importance of working hard. The story "The Way you Look At" is a real picture of human, often we see the things it appears to us. It is the portrayal of human attitude towards an object, similarly in our life most of the instances and things appear to us.

Through "Doing What You Like is Freedom"; "How I Taught my Grandmother to Read and Write and Other Stories" Sudha Murthy conveys the child be given the strong fundamentals to stand on their own legs. The child should be given the freedom to choose their own way to grow like an independent person. Her books convey the essential qualities of life. In the story "Books for the Cook" enlightens the important qualities of a good teacher. "The Silly Rich Boy" is the story of Anil who learnt lesson from cheaters.

The truthfulness is a quality; it helps to shape the character to attain success in the personal life of all. It is the moral served through the story "The Seed of Truth" and the story; "The Banana Tree Princess" are the symbol of truth. Here the story teaches the essence of truthfulness in day to day life. Since majority of the stories are engraved with supernatural powers it catches the sight of the children.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

All the stories of Sudha Murthy have touching and inspirational themes. These are apt to the modern society to bring a change in their attitudes. All these stories are dealing with the challenges and entertain with fun.

Sudha Murthy's contribution to the Children's Literature of Indian English is one of the hallmarks in the advancement of literature. Her stories dealt with the problems of the family relation, a woman and her problems, societal needs, poverty. All these stories are confined in a moral, when child ends the reading of a story it is known to him. She has portrayed the image of the rural India. It is the conscious aspect of her socio educational and socio cultural conditions of the countryside.

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