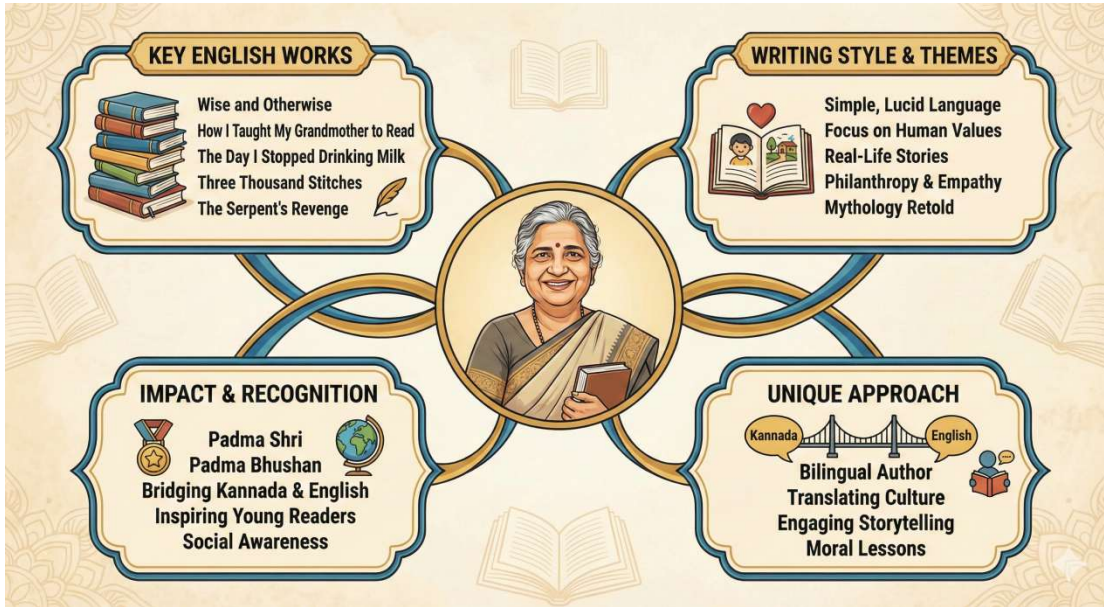


## A CRITIQUE ON WOMAN IN HOME AND SOCIETY IN SUDHA MURTHY'S NOVEL- THREE THOUSAND STITCHES

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Three Thousand Stitches by Sudha Murthy is a heart-warming collection of 11 real-life stories, centered on the impactful title story where she helps rehabilitate nearly 3,000 Devadasis (temple sex workers) in Karnataka, transforming their lives from exploitation to decorum through education and empowerment, earning their deep gratitude represented by a symbolic quilt. The book weaves in other personal anecdotes, like her struggles as a woman in engineering and the IT world, teaching profound lessons about empathy, resilience, social change, and the extraordinary spirit of ordinary people, blending humour with wisdom.

There are eleven short stories in the book, every solitary one of them from Mrs. Murthy's personal life. Each story reveals something that makes you want to pause and think twice before going further. Also we see firsthand how each of the stories shaped or changed her own life as well.

Sudha Murthy is an Indian author who is also a philanthropist, energetic social worker, and the first female engineer to be hired by TATA Engineering and Locomotive Company. She opened a path for all the women after her who could go on and become engineers as divergent to teachers and nurses or housewives. She is also chairperson of Infosys and wife of co-founder of Infosys, N. R. Narayana Murthy. She is also the chairperson of Infosys Foundation, a non-profit association helping the down and needy.

In the course of her stories, Mrs. Murthy walks us through the various efforts she and her underpinning has taken up in addressing several social issues in India such as devadasi system; body shopping by a variety of agents to recruit workers to work in foreign countries and the hardships those people face; awareness to get the rivers of India cleaned; need for rehab of any kind and the importance to support it.

Her life wasn't a cake walk despite the tremendous sustain she received from her forward thinking father. She clearly reveals that in the hardships she faced as being the only girl student in an engineering college, problems which would have been termed bullying in the current world. And she also brings forth the "Cattle-Class" mentality and how she tackles it.

All of her stories are not around the social evils or the grim side of humanity. She does instruct us about the history and origin of various spices, veggies and fruit that are commonly thought have been from India. She also touches upon the impact of Bollywood, the history of theatre work, and how she found the presence of Bellwood n every corner of the world she went. I can relate to this part of her experience very much.

Not all of it was her own experiences, there were stories from her father; stories from others that inspired to further her in philanthropy and social work she has been doing. And some stories actually make her take a step back on how the young generation of Indians who are settled across various countries in the world perceive the customs and culture of India.

Though the book sounds anecdotal listing out of Mrs. Murthy's life experiences, and may feel like there is nothing to take away from it or a commencement and end that a normal novel might have. However, one needs to remember that this is not a novel, but a collection of experiences that the author had in her life.

The account of these experiences definitely made me think; made me understand what her goal was; why she took a particular path; and what made her make a certain resolution in her life. I am sure we all have our own noteworthy events in life that contributed to lead us to where we are now. The whole book made me think back on my own life as well.

More importantly what I have done with it; how I faced with my ups and downs; what decisions took to me where I am now; and what experiences made me what I am today' and also what regrets I still think of. This book got me to do my own self exploration and evaluation. That is what I take back from this book. And how it left me in the end after reading that book. An anecdotal list of her life activities and the impact they had on her, Sudha Murthy takes the reader on a spiritual and thought provoking journey that makes them reflect on their own lives as well. It is more than what it seems, certainly thousand stitches in one's life.

'Three thousand stitches' was published in 2017; this book consists of eleven stories. Her personal experiences and her works are woven in these stories. Several incidents in her life had laid deep impact on her mind, has framed her mind as such that it became a source of inspiration and motivation in later years. Her struggles are obvious and noted by people who know her, and all the stories have an honest confession of her thoughts and their transformation into a positive outcome. Three thousand stitches is the title story of this collection written by a social worker for the betterment of the neglected woman of devadasi culture existed in sometime in the 7 tie in the

reigns of Choler's and Pandas. A respected culture was held high status in society, but in modern days it is thrown into prostitution.

Those so called devdasi were ignorant of their future they were left out with the acceptance of their sufferings and their belief in their Goddess, but their ignorant firm belief that Goddess will protect them became true with the entrance of SudhaMurty into their world, and thought of for their reformation. She was Goddess for devdasi but in reality a woman who had struggled hard to make them realize their value as a human being. Initially Devdasi second-hand her, they didn't listen to her as, "—they all suffered at the hands of a society that exploited them and filled them with guilt and shame as a final insult. (p. 14). Later when she changed her manifestation and became an Indian woman, "I wore a two-hundred-rupee sari, a big bindi, a mangalsutra and glass bangles. I transformed myself into the 'bharatiyanari', the stereotypical, traditional Indian woman, and took my father along with me to meet the devadasis. (p. 13), they accepted her listened to her and followed her.

An autobiographical note written in First individual narration is so powerfully written that makes hearts move. In this story the helplessness of the author is beautifully narrate when those devdasis rejected her presence, also her cry and her constant effort, ultimately her victory, with an old devdasi's oration and the precious gift they gave to her. This experience has definitely shown the path to many people around who can't raise a huge empire of refuge for sufferers but at least can become a helping hand. The title of the story is justified in last few lines by old devdasi, said, 'We want to give our akka a special gift. It is an overstated embroidered bedspread and each of us has stitched some portion of it. So there are three thousand stitches.' (p. 19). A linear presentation with a single theme of reformation of neglected class, efforts made by a single woman who has lost the battle originally becomes winner with the support of her father and her co-worker Abhay, Her change over into sari gives a message how Indian traditions is accepted and deep rooted even today of which every Indian is superior of. Indians is emphasized by the use of hindi and kannadawords "They called me akka or 'elder sister' in Kannada. The 'bharatiyanari', 'Namaskaram, Amma.Kalash ,bhandara 'man—bahunjanhitaya, bahunjansukhaya—it must provide compassionate aid regardless of caste, creed, language or religion. (p. 8), as if she wants to make it and be sure that she is Indian irrespective of the English language, she has chosen for narrating her success of reforming devdasis. "How to beat Boys "Second story in the collection is titled "How to beat Boys "deals with the Theme of feminism, rather re-enforced occurrence that says nothing is impossible, for any woman can Beat the Boys. Emphasis is laid on woman education with the message when she can do why not others to make a community of a successful woman. Murty, Sudha. Three Thousand Stitches."(p. 20). A touch of absurdity or rather a proud humour by giving details of significance of studying at a small place engineering college and emphasizing the importance of Family being a core of 'Indian culture' Her fight against male dominance started with her admission in engineering college but ultimately ended with the importance of family as like all Indian woman does, 'acceptance with awareness. The constraint imposed on her before her admission to engineering college were".....ask her to wear a sari to college as it is a man's world out there and the sari will be an appropriate dress for the environment she will be in."(p. 23). Later

she proved herself better than boys “I found that I performed better than the boys,(p. 28). Finally, it was the lack of ladies’ toilets on campus that made me understand the difficulty faced by many women in India.(p. 23). Her observance and experience was not an ancient history past as when she became capable of, “Eventually, this would lead me to build more than 13,000 toilets in Karnataka alone this brief Autobiography,

Murtys college day’s experiences are beautifully narrated in the First person Narration;it is an inspiration to the young girls of today. Her thrash about in male dominated society has made her a strong woman. She got remarks from boys, for her it must have been painful then, today she proudly quotes their ‘foolishness’ by answering them, becoming a successful woman in the world of Man. Food for Thoughts An interesting experience of the author that gives an insight into mystical importance of nature with the religions and culture, mythology, Her visit to her friend house gathers interesting information that gives the impression of National Integration. It’s simply an informative experience with no particular theme to emphasize.

Murty meets some woman who had been taken to Middle East as maids. And their tortures and helplessness has touched her so much that without wasting time she straight one way fare for these tortured women to bring them back to India, keeping aside a manufacture of her new office. A Powerful Ambassador is about Sudha Murty’s interest in films and her keen and observe nature has perhaps taught her and given her a preparation to become a writer of class. Extensive travelling all over the world helped her to know the varies cultures as well as importance of “Bellwood” everywhere and it’s deep rooted impact. She herself accepts, “Necessary prerequisites consist of a tight story, good music, crisp conversation, excellent script and dialogues, fine acting by the lead roles, appropriate costumes, outstanding direction and careful editing.” “My deep interest in films took me to the next level—assessing the acting abilities of the heroes and the skills of the director.” (p. 84). Rasleela and the Swimming Pool a helpless Grandmother who narrates two stories of Indian grandchildren. She told those stories to them which her grandmother had narrated, “I thought that they would visualize the scenes just like I had.”(p. 94), ‘the same tale of Lord Krishna and the’ gopikas. Since I had their attention, I added the story of Akshaya Patra too.(p. 94). Retelling of the stories by the two grandchildren changed the whole westernized version and made the author spellbound as now it was impossible for her to explain them importance of Indian mythology and the moral lesson has no place nearby. A Day in Infosys Foundation gives the picture of author’s busy schedule where she cannot have her social life, cannot justify her social commitments in the family. She invites her childhood friend Shobhato spend some time and without spending some leisure time her friend leaves the office as Murty has to do some more work herself in the office, Her friend advise her, ‘Tell me, why do you continue to give your remaining years to this thankless job?’ she asked. ‘You can sit back, relax, spend time with your grandchildren,’. Her friend’s suggestion is rejected then and there, “The truth is that I am the luckiest of them all. I love what I do and...”. I Can’t, We Can -In a family wedding, Author’s cousin wanted to introduce her to her friend’s daughter, Murthy interrupts but, ‘My friend’s daughter is a bright student aid . . .’ ‘Is she planning to apply for a job at Infosys?’ I interrupted her. ‘Because I really can’t . . .’ This needs to be mentioned because the word in title used is ‘I can’t,’ which is later converted into ‘We Can’

when she visits AA organization, and then when the girl said, 'Ma'am, my father was an alcoholic.'

Social reformer herself Murthy came to know about the organizations of Alcoholic Alcohol. She attended their meetings and was impressed by their strength of mind. Though this story directly has nothing to do in this brief autobiography of hers but unquestionably her appreciation for other such organization meant a lot for people who are struggling hard to come out the devil's grip. SudhaMurthy in this brief autobiography is concerned only with those incidents and experiences in her life that has helped her to develop her personality, and a thought process. A strategy was made long before in her mind and implemented later in life. What makes SudhaMurthy dissimilar from the other contemporary women writers is that she's basically an engineer, an Information Technology professional. So therein lies the difference of mind set. Her language is simple first-hand experience with no ornaments used; purpose is to be understood by masses. Other women writers at large are concerned with the inner world, psychology, internalconsciousness; and little emphasis is laid on social needs whereas in this grandchildren. She told those stories to them which her grandmother had narrated, "I thought that they would visualize the scenes just like I had. 'the same tale of Lord Krishna and thegopikas' gopikas. Since I had their attention, I added the story of AkshayaPatra too..Retelling of the stories by the two grandchildren changed the whole westernized version and made the author spellbound as now it was impossible for her to explain them significance of Indian mythology and the moral lesson has no place nearby. A Day in Infosys Foundation gives the picture of author's busy schedule where she cannot have her social life, cannot justify her social commitments in the family. She invites her childhood friend Shobhato spend some timeand without spending some leisure time her friend leaves the office as Murthyhas to do some more work herself in the office, Her friend advise her, 'Tell me, why do you continue to give your remaining years to this thankless job?' she asked. 'You can sit back, relax, spend time with your grandchildren,". Her friend's suggestion is rejected then and there, "The truth is that I am the luckiest of them all. I love what I do and...". I Can't, We Can -In a family wedding, Author's cousin wanted to introduce her to her friend's daughter, Murthy interrupts but, 'My friend's daughter is a bright student aid . . .' 'Is she planning to apply for a job at Infosys?' I interrupted her. 'Because I really can't . . .' This needs to be mentioned because the word in title used is 'I can't,' which is later converted into 'We Can' when she visits AA organization, and then when the girl said, 'Ma'am, my father was an alcoholic.'. Social reformer herself Murthy came to know about the organizations of Alcoholic Alcohol. She attended their meetings and was impressed by their determination. Though this story directly has nothing to do in this brief autobiography of hers but definitely her appreciation for other such organization meant a lot for people who are struggling hard to come out the devil's grip.

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