



The Cost of Favouritism in the select Novel of Sudha Murty's *Dollar Bahu*

Dr. R. Vijayalakshmi

Assistant Professor

Department of English

Sona college of Arts & Science Salem.

M. Poornima

Assistant professor of English

Sona college of Arts & Science Salem

Abstract

The paper deals with iniquity and nepotism. This explained the iniquity and nepotism in the characters in a precise manner. These themes explain the American influence on the Indian mind-set. The role of money value, traditional values, and relationship value interpreted with iniquity and nepotism is examined using characters in the novel *Dollar Bahu*. People have a wish at every stage of life. In this contemporary era, everyone has three phases in life they are school life, college life and settling in good career in life. In the school phase, the highest ambitious quality was getting high marks.

In the college phase, the highest ambitious thought was attaining their career goal. When people started to establish themselves in a good position in a career, they are not satisfied that their wish had become true instead their wish role was blurred by the greed element in this contemporary phase. Later the greedy thought transformed into iniquity. People started to do corrupt in different ways. According to the arrival of technologies, people started to innovate their thoughts on iniquity. Here the role of money had influenced people a lot. Initial stage these iniquity habitual activities used to take place in a public place. People those who were committing iniquity activities are punished by the authorities according to their crime but while some activities are not spoken. Many iniquity activities happen all-around the world in every single second.

The iniquity and nepotism activities degrade our society in various forms. Some lose their opportunity and while other forget about their true personality and started find for shortcut for surviving. Many people forget that money is only a materialistic thing. This novel it beautifully emphasizes that happiness and peace elements

would not depend on the value of money. This novel it also emphasizes the impact faced by family and society that if happiness and peace depend on money. Dollar is just a materialist thing it has its own value the mind-set of people towards dollar diminishes the value of the dollar.

Keywords: People mind- set, iniquity, nepotism, human relationship

The Indian writing in English continues to reflect social values, Indian historical delineation and Indian culture in a modern predicament. The contemporary writers questions and portrays different views about the fidelity of spouse, faith in religious practice, abstinence of alcohol and reverence to elders. Examine the life of Indian women with restrains, demand for self-identity, old cultural values and its variation in the digital world. Every writer has their own style and techniques that are implemented in writing a novel. Among all contemporary writers Sudha Murty's style, narrative techniques and themes are unique. Majority of writers concerned with portraying their works in a social based concept.

The crucial thing that differentiates Sudha Murty's writing from that of other contemporary writer was that she writes simple and interesting stories which can be easily related to the contemporary reality scenario. Sudha Murty uses simple words in her writings it makes the children and young readers to understand concept in readable way. Sudha Murty's writing in Indian contemporary English literature is one of the milestones in literary development..Among all works of Sudha Murty *Dollar Bahu* novel play a significant role.

. In the novel characters are from a modern phase lifestyle. It's a simple plot story narrates the life of a middle-class family. Middle-aged couple Shamanna and Gouramma were blessed with two sons and one daughter. The family lives in Bangalore. Chandru their elder son works as an engineer in a private firm, their second son named Girish works as a clerk in a bank and their younger daughter Surabhi. Shamanna was calm, patient and he value everything around him. Gouramma was a very ambitious and money-minded person.

The term iniquity etymology was derived from the combination of Latin words "in" denotes "not" and "aequus" denotes equal or just.. In middle English period, the term got a new shape as Iniquity. It denotes the uneven, unfairness and injustice. Iniquity defines morally objectionable behaviour and unjust act. The term Nepotism etymology root was from Italian word "Nipote" which denotes nephew. The French people modified and used it as "Nepotismo" later in mid seventh century the word was remoulded to a new shape as Nepotism. The term Nepotism defines the practice of favouritism based on kinship.

Iniquity and Nepotism share different meanings. Iniquity emphasis unethical concepts and nepotism emphasis the unfair bias in favour of one person. These two themes stand on the same string prominence an unfair role which was not good for society. There are several elements around us in the form of obstacles

while focusing on our priority. In order to attain their priority in an expeditious manner people starts to escort many unwanted concepts like iniquity and nepotism play a crucial role in influencing the mindset of people around the world. Though people knew iniquity and nepotism are abnormal concepts and not good for a healthy country society people started to accept them as a normal thing. Every action around the society shares a majority root of iniquity and nepotism. Personality, honesty, polite behaviour and other activities are dominated by the presence of iniquity and nepotism behaviour among the mind-set of people.

Iniquity takes place in the form as delinquency, sleaze, palm greasing and malfeasance. In the contemporary era these forms of iniquity are found everyday life. Partiality and pressure from a known person play a superior reason role of nepotism in society. Iniquity and nepotism quality emphasis a strong discernment barrier in society. The novel dollar bahu emphasis clearly depicts about the iniquity and nepotism role in the Indian mind-set. Dollar bahu novel also sets certain examples or antidote stories to overcome from the iniquity and nepotism qualities.

It's a simple plot story that narrates the life of the middle-class family. Middle-aged couple Shamanna and Gouramma were blessed with two sons and one daughter. The family lives in Bangalore. Chandru their elder son works as an engineer in a private firm, their second son named Girish works as a clerk in a bank and their younger daughter Surabhi. Shamanna was calm, and patient and he value everything around him. Gouramma was a very ambitious and money-minded person.

Chandru moves to Dharwad for project work, during his train journey to Dharwad he met Vinuta Desai. Chandru fell in love with vinuta at the first sight. Unfortunately, he stayed in Vinuta house as paying guest. Vinuta had lost her parents and lives in her house with Bheemana her uncle and his four children along with Bheemana mother Seethaka. Vinuta does the majority of household chores. She was a good student and an excellent singer. After a while Chandru had got an offer in the U.S.A, Chandru without revealing his feelings for Vinuta moves aboard. Chandru lives in dollar dream he enjoys the material comfort offered by the foreign company. Chandru without informing the company got a job offer from some other company. His new company assured him that he will get a green card if he joins in their company. Chandru wrote a letter to Vinuta about his interest in her but the letter was returned to him.

Fate has something in store in the interregnum Bheemana Vinuta uncle was dead. Vinuta left the home she and moves to her aunt Rajajinagar house in Bangalore. Vinuta works as a teacher in the same school Shamanna works. Girish met Vinuta on a bus journey and he likes her a lot. Shamanna notices Girish love for Vinuta and he extends his hand for the alliance of Vinuta with Girish. Both families had arranged marriage for Girish and Vinuta. Chandru was unable to attend his brother's marriage because he was waiting for the

arrival of his green card. He does not mind that his younger brother was getting married earlier than him, he is only concerned about the green card arrival. Gouramma was in idea to sell Vinuta house in Dharwad and have a lavish wedding but Shamanna insisted let Vinuta and Girish decide. The couple finalized that they are willing to sell the house and they had a simple wedding. Chandru had received the marriage photos of Girish. Chandru felt jealous and unable to digest the fact that his brother got married to Vinuta. The arrival of a green card had erased all those jealous feelings.

Chandru arrived to India. Gouramma likes her daughter-in-law until Chandru returns from aboard. Gouramma and Surabhi are more anxious about the gift's arrival than the arrival of Chandru. After ten days stay in India, he felt stomach ache so he went to his friend's clinic Ravichandran he as a doctor enquired about his financial status a lot than about his health condition. He received three hundred rupees as consultant fees which was thrice higher than his normal consultancy fees. Suddenly rich parents of eligible girl had their eye towards Gouramma family.

When Gouramma visits the Krishnappa farmhouse she is inspired by the gold, diamond and silver things that were displayed in their farmhouse. Those lavish thing beauties had blurred Gouramma eye about the reality of Jamuna. Bride's family was much sure about finalizing the alliance only because Chandru was a green card holder. Chandru relationship with Jamuna was more like a business negotiation. After several discussion Jamuna and Chandru marriage got finalised. Gouramma and Surabhi felt Vinuta to do all household chores alone and they were busy in shopping things for marriage without concerning about Vinuta opinion. Vinuta as a working woman, before she left her home, she should complete all her house holds work. Gouramma presented two golden bangles to her expensive dollar bahu Jamuna. When Gouramma was feeling ill Vinuta had taken her to the hospital taking leave for her job . After a couple of days, Gouramma got cured. Again, Gouramma started to praise Jamuna without having any gratitude feeling toward Vinuta.

When Jamuna was expecting a child Vinuta was not recognized as a human. Gouramma shifted to the U.S to take care of Jamuna during her pregnancy. Gouramma pampered the baby girl in a good manner. Gouramma met friends of the Chandru family and her conversation with them about their experiences open her mind to progressive thinking. Gouramma's meeting with the Radhakrishnan family, their daughter Shama and Surendar marriage life had made her understand family empathy. Gouramma meeting with Chitra's character and her marriage life evoke Gouramma mind to recognise the real human value and not to recognise based on wealth. Chitra story had made Gouramma to feel proud of her husband Shamanna though he may not earn a lot of money, but his compassion and timely help made them to lead a peaceful life. Shama life

story had Gouramma to think about land of opportunity in a different view. Gouramma after meeting people and hearing their stories shaped her way of thinking in a unique dimension.

Gouramma realizes that Jamuna is only a pretender and she has no genuine concern for her. Gouramma was shocked by the fact that the sarees presented to Surabhi for her wedding were already used by Jamuna and it was given as gift to them. Gouramma was broken when she hears that Jamuna told her friends that her mother-in-law that was a cheap babysitter to take care of her daughter. Gouramma had not questioned her about the gifts even after realizing her true color. Gouramma had not informed about these incidents to Chandru instead she asked him to book tickets to Bangalore. Before Gouramma departs from the U.S.A she purchased two purses for Vinutha, Surabhi and some toys for Harsha by using the money given by the Padma as a token of love for Gouramma.

Gouramma realize the value of money and the value of the relationship. Gouramma returned to India she realized that Vinutha, Girish and their son had shifted to Dharwad. Vinutha health had deteriorated because of the double standards, understanding father-in-law had advised them to take a transfer. Gouramma realized the value Vinutha and the relationship she shared with her was something unique. When Gouramma was about to apologize Vinutha got shifted to Dharwad.

This contemporary century witnessed an amazing boom in the IT sector of the Indian industries. Thousands of boys and girls are determined to adapt for an engineering degree in IT because it opened vistas of opportunities within and outside India for young people all around the nation. It also provides them the opportunity to migrate abroad countries, particularly to America and earn Dollars. The growth and development in the IT sector and their optimistic economic implication enchanted Indians to view the other side of this boom as gloomily dark. It eroded the personal relations not only in Indian society but also within the family. The enchanting dollar seeds later started to germinate as iniquity and nepotism behaviours in the Indian psyche. Sudha Murty had deal with this phenomenon in Dollar Bahu.

The novel had a delightful beginning of middleclass Shamanna family. ChandruShamanna's and Gouramma son shifted to Dharwad regarding his project work. Because of his hard work Chandru got a chance to move abroad. Gouramma was a clever woman she knew how to run family in a good budget. Gouramma has a good family, shelter and enough money but she was not satisfied with it she often dreamed of diamonds, gold, big house and lavish events. Gouramma knew the fact that her husband was impuissant in taking action to fulfil her lavish dreams. So, she pinned her dreams on her children. When Gouramma was attending any function, she uses to come across topics like about their arrival in abroad countries and things they purchased in aboard places. She also uses to come across different terms like

“oh, when I was in New York the last time, I brought a coral set, one would say and another would remark, but you know jade is available only in San Francisco. I brought a beautiful jade set there.’ And the third person states that, ‘In Florida, you get the best quality of green cardamom and Spanish saffron. I only use that to make sweets like kesari and all.” (DB 20)

Shamanna knew the state of his family. The Shamanna character reflects the value like self-direction, stimulation, achievements, security benevolence and universalism but he remains as introvert person. When he was unable to handle the nepotism pressure in the family, he started to express his thought to Vinuta that, “Nothing comes free Vinu and definitely when it comes to financial help. This dollar may have transferred the lifestyles of some families, taken them from poverty to wealth but it has broken up some families and destroy the peace of mind... Her greed burnt the peace and harmony in our family”. (DB139) .

Thus, Human relation plays a significant role in the society. In the novel the basic elements like the personality of a person, respect and relationship which are necessary in a family are being tarnished by the presence of iniquity and nepotism. Indian values are the paradigm of human life which embodies the Indian society from the humanitarian perspective. The intrinsic forms like eternal pleasure, love, affection, human relationship, humanity, brotherhood, peace, duties, politeness, etc are embedded in Indian values. In the novel, the marriage concept was toxicated by iniquity. The dollar presence had made certain characters integrated with nepotism and iniquity.

Female section of the society must indeed be given equal status in all the family matters. Gouramma, Jamuna, Vinuta and Surabhi should not be prevented from expressing their opinions simply because they were women. But Jamuna was allowed to dominate and Vinuta was not even allowed to express her mind. This discriminatory treatment had certainly to deal with the nepotism and iniquity maniac. Jamuna spoke because she had dollars; Vinuta did not speak because she did not have dollars. Thus, nepotism and iniquity had entered in the family with the arrival of dollar in Indian life. So Sudha Murty defined about the purpose of Having good relationship, Compassion and peace of mind Is much more important than achievements, awards,degrees, or money.

Every field has this iniquity and nepotism behaviour. Education, business profession and working-class people were interpreted with this behaviour. Sudha murty dollar bahu explains the situation of society. The novel portrays the role of how family interprets with the iniquity and nepotism. Its impact in the family is emphasized realistically in Dollar Bahu. The role of human relationship, Indian values, trust, loyalty and affection its interpreted role with iniquity and nepotism are exhibited realistically.

Sudha Murty deals with the hitches of contemporary society with the images of middle-class Indian women and their turmoil in her literary narration. Sudha had employed several elements of iniquity and nepotism to portray the reality of the bitter tarnished relationships in the family. Through her narration, she has seldom failed to underline the prominence and the need for human beings to live in peace and harmony with nature. When it comes to the concept of blending with nature, the biggest obstacle to this may be considered as money and materialism. Dollar is just material that helps to lead life but people started to drag it in different drastically psychic views which was not good for the family and the society. In the dollar had interpreted many iniquity qualities in a person.

Dollar Bahu exhibits the shifting context bringing in its trail moral, psychic dilemmas and challenges in achieving a new harmony in human relationships. Obviously, they present a marked change from traditional human relationships to modern human relationships. The protagonists in these novels belong to the middle class which ever seeks to reach the pinnacle and is always afraid of falling into the depth and which entrusts its members to eternal struggle against the forces of tradition and modernity. The entangled view in both ways like optimistic and pessimistic views of nepotism and iniquity of human relationships are portrayed in a precise probing manner.

Through the words of Shamanna, Sudha Murty portrays the veracities of the world. Dollar Bahu probes the iniquity and nepotism role in different cultural worlds. She also explores the typical Indian family relationship and its hardships. Dollar Bahu tries to bring a solution to the cultural clashes of two nations through her characters in this novel. An iniquity and nepotism element was disseminated and beautifully distinguishes between two roads of mankind namely the road for a happy life and the road to grief..In the novel, the Dollar holds both optimistic and pessimistic views of life. People should stop blaming the dollar and they should change their mindset. Shammana character was a good example in the novel he understands the value of relationships and money in a precise manner.

WORK CITED

- Murty, Sudha. Dollar Bahu, India Penguin Books, 2007. "Acculturating Experience in Sudha Murty Dollar Bahu", August 2017, <https://ejmcm.com>. Accessed Apr 2022.
- Mamta, sai. "Women in the age of dollars and Indian currency," <http://www.elkjournals.com>. Accessed 14 Apr 2022.
- Vijayalakshmi, "Familiar relationship in the works Of Sudha Murty" <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/347986>. Accessed 25 Mar 2022.