

**A study of psychic upheaval and marital adjustment in the novel of Sudha Murty's Dollar bahu**

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**Abstract:**

The rich contributions of numerous renowned women novelists, including Shashi Deshpande, Sudha Murty, Anita Desai, Nayantara Sehgal, and Kamla Markandaya, have embellished and glistened Indian literature in English. In light of the shifting hues of modern Indian culture, they attempted to depict the struggles, predicaments, and internal and exterior journeys of Indian women. Indian novelists' earlier works primarily highlight the conventional perspective on women's representation. As time passes, the intense suffering causes the women's lives to become more realistic, which makes Indian novelists feel frustrated and alienated. In Murty's Dollar Bahu, the phrase "psychic upheaval" appears to describe a major emotional or psychological disruption or change that takes place within a character Dollar Bahu by Sudha Murty explores the intricacies of psychological turmoil and marital adjustment, Indian and American value systems, and the general idea of materialism versus traditional values.

**Keyword:** Psychic, Upheaval, Adjustment, Marital, Women etc.

Dollar Bahu by Sudha Murty highlights the damaging effects of comparison and the exaggerated exaltation of life overseas, which can cause serious psychological distress for people and their relationships. She emphasizes the importance of appreciating and comprehending individuals for their intrinsic value rather than their residence or the imagined status of other nations. Although Vinuta and Ratna are the book's two primary characters, A few secondary characters also experience emotional turmoil; they are primarily women who are affected by the events and changes in their lives. Vinuta's mother-in-law is portrayed as a typical woman who values her

relationships and family. Her mental anguish is exacerbated by the daughters-in-law's differences. As she observes the strife between her two daughters-in-law, Vinuta and Ratna, and the effects it has on the family, she goes through emotional anguish. Her mental anguish is exacerbated by her worry about preserving family harmony while resolving the conflicts amongst her daughters-in-law. Uma, Vinuta's daughter, has difficulties because of her mother's choices and the shifting family relations. She stands for the younger generation's struggle with contemporary ideals and aspirations to defy established conventions. As she attempts to comprehend her mother's behavior and how it affected their lives, her internal conflict is evident.

In her family, Jamuna is more valuable than Surbhi, even after their marriage. Gaurma purposely overlooked Vinuta. When determining the wedding date, she is ignored as: "No that won't be right. How can we offered to upset Jamuna? We have to fix a date convenient to her." (Dollar Bahu: 65).

Ratna's mother is concerned about the distance that will result from her daughter's plan to relocate to the United States. Her inner anguish as a parent who wants the best for her child but yet faces the difficulties of changing times is reflected in her worry and concern for her daughter's wellbeing. The values of the family are greatly influenced by Shamanna's wife, who is also the grandmother of Chandru and Girish. When she must balance the shifting dynamics of the modern world with the traditional ideals she upholds, she finds herself in a state of distress. Her grandchildren's decisions, their marriages, and the changing expectations in the family are the sources of her mental turmoil. As pointed out by Sudhir Kakar, "it is feminine role that is crucial: In addition to the virtues of self-effacement and self-sacrifice, the feminine role in India also crystallizes a woman's connection to others, her embeddedness in a multitude of familial relationships" (83).

When two people come together in the name of marriage, a new relationship is created. They live as husband and wife and start new families. Therefore, interpersonal relationships—whether internal or external—are crucial for individuals as well as for society. Man is a social creature by nature, and he cannot exist as an individual apart from his environment. As a result, human nature is able to acquire and learn positive traits like good will, a tendency to help others, affection, patience, kindness, responsibility, and an awareness of other people's feelings and emotions through interactions with other people. Because of their mutual dependence, man and society are like two sides of a single coin. The familial bond is the most important

human relationship in society. Hence variety of human relationship is a remarkable feature of society and it also gives recognition to man-man, man- woman, woman-woman and parent- child relationships. Family modifies human behaviours and it also cultivates tolerance, patience, respect for others, love and affection, dedication and sacrifice etc., Kamala Bhasin in *Understanding Gender* states about the family as:

“A place of bargaining and contestation, where power is negotiated... family as a complex matrix of relationships in which there is ongoing negotiation, subject to constraints set by gender, age, type of relationship and undisputed traditions. Gender interactions within the family... contain elements of Co-operation and conflict”. (29)

*In one sense, Dollar Bahu is a parody of naive individuals who are captivated by western culture and money-mindedness. This book illustrates how, if things go out of hand, money can ruin a family's existence. On a train, Vinuta, a talented vocalist, meets Chandra Sekhar, a Bangalore employee sent to handle the task at Dharwad. The buddy of his brother Girish helps Chandru, who is also anxious about the new location. With his help, he is able to stay at Vinuta's house as a paid guest. He appreciates Vinuta's songs because he loves music. Though he never tells her, he falls in love with her. When he suffered a leg fracture, Vinuta took care of him.*

She enjoys caring for the house and garden her parents left her, and she lives with her uncle. Chandru was raised in Bangalore's Jayanagar neighborhood by a lower middle class family. His mother, Gouramma, is an intellectual homemaker; his brother, Girish, is simple-minded; and his sister, Surabhi, is ambitious. His father, Shamanna, is a school teacher. After earning his engineering degree, he started working for a nearby construction company, and his diligence earned him opportunities in sports. From Dharwad, he is transported to America, the land of dreams. Despite being a good lady, Gouramma has an obsession with wealth and money. She affects the ladies who live next door, who are equally as uninformed as she is because she prevents Indian mothers of children from engaging in conversations with American mothers of children. She aspires to emulate them. She develops avarice as a result of Chandru's departure to the fairyland. In the land of opportunities, Chandru works hard, makes a good living, and takes computer classes after work that are paid for by his employer. Without worrying about losing her kid, Gouramma has constructed an upstairs and made numerous contemporary modifications in her life. Chandru, who is equally

enthralled with the alluring land, returned covertly without telling his previous employers.

Chandru claims that it would be improper for his parents to delay Girish's marriage because he is unsure if he will receive his green card. On a bus, Girish, who works at a bank, encountered Vinuta. After her uncle passed away, she moved from Dharwad to live with her aunt and work at a school. Girish is aware that she and his father both work at the same school. Girish and Vinuta's alliance is arranged by his giving father, who recognizes his son's affection. Vinuta begins to settle in with her new family. She adjusts to this new situation rather well and dedicates her life to caring for her husband and her in-laws. She even makes every effort to ignore her mother-in-law Gouramma's taunts. After Chandru moved to America, he wrote Vinuta a letter to tell her how he felt, but Vinuta returned it because she wasn't staying. Humans cannot control destiny; although both brothers admired her, the golden-voiced girl could be won by the sibling who is not as good as the older one. After six years of struggling to obtain a green card in Nashville, Chandru went back to his own country. Prominent figures have stated that when viewed from a distance, anything deceives the eye, but when viewed up close, the true truth is revealed. Although Chandru is pleased that he was able to please his mother, his true emotions are somewhat hidden. He is prepared to wed Jamuna, the wealthy girl his mother picked for him. He says, "Well, I plan to settle there. But one should be aware that life in America is lonely, as against life in India" (Dollar Bahu 49). Gouramma lost sight of life's reality when the elder daughter-in-law and her wealth arrived. She begins degrading Vinuta because she is enthralled with the "dollar bahu."

The writings of Sudha Murty frequently highlight straightforward stories based on real-life situations, emphasizing moral, ethical quandaries and marital adjustment. Her stories usually feature strong, resilient female heroines who use their integrity and intelligence to overcome obstacles faced in marriages. Murty's settings might range from metropolitan to rural, but they frequently emphasize Indian customs and cultural values.

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