

# Mridula's Quest of Identity in Sudha Murty's House of Cards: An Analytical study

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## Abstract

House of Cards is a struggling journey of Mridula and her self-discovery while living in the restrictions of Patriarchal society. This novel is about Mridula's journey towards knowledge from a simple and innocent village girl to a strong mature and self-asserting woman. Today although situation of women in India is changed a lot but there are many Mridulas who are suffering silently and expecting the societal norms to bring a positive change to see at women not as an entity to rule and control but to empower to create developed nation as empowered women influence and bring change. Mridula's life example is truly mention worthy to respect women as life creators and embodiment of values and principles not just as an object to misuse and abandon for the sake of some negative societal thinking patterns. The literary texts like these can truly evolve the society towards a justified place for women where women can find their true worth. This study highlights Mridula's attempts to know her value and fight non-violently for that. In reality it was very difficult for Mridula to accept the truth and move on but what a woman can do further in such situations that must be noted realistically.

**Key words-**restrictions, self-discovery, self-asserting, strong, mature, journey, societal norms, patriarchal, empowered etc.

## Introduction

The present study is an in-depth analysis of Mridula's life and her quest of identity. This study can be also seen as a question to all those people who diminish the role of women in their life. Actually it is a woman who gives value to man. The word man itself is made included in the word woman symbolizing woman is the power to create man and form inner power (Shakti).

## Research Methodology

The present study is descriptive, analytical and interpretative. It is centered on the primary source that is concerning literary text, House of Cards written by Sudha Murty. The main drive of this exploration is to examine the real status quo of Indian women in present era. Why women are treated as secondary and valued less in patriarchal society is to be determined even today. In fact it is very significant to see women as valued human beings not just as object. Secondary data derived for this study from journals, research papers and scholarly works related to the topic. The research is based on qualitative methodology.

### 1. Mridula's idealism-

Coming from a small village named Alladhahalli in Karnataka, Mridula was the embodiment of simplicity, happiness and innocence. Her life was centered on cooking and other household chores. She is a perfect girl and believed in the goodness of herself and the world.

### 2. Marriage to Sanjay: A major turn in her life

Mridula's encounter with Sanjay who was a doctor coming from a poor family resulted into their marriage. After marriage, Mridula whole heartedly supported Sanjay for his well establishment. She even supported him for his

Education (postgraduate) and opening private clinic. Initially their relationship was based on mutual love and concern as the time passed Sanjay's ambitions grew higher and their loving relationship started to diminish.

### **3. A Clash of ethics and materialism-**

Initially when Sanjay was government doctor, he was very happy and satisfied with his career and believed in ethical values. As soon as he started his own private clinic, a great transition happened. He became extremely materialistic and started to value wealth more than ethical practices. Mridula who supported him financially, started to feel marginalized by all means. In family life Sanjay's dominance started to appear and he used to disrespect and treat Mridula negatively. He even disregarded Mridula in the matters of finance. In the family he entrusted his sister more than his wife. This thing brought a great clash in their life.

### **4. Mridula's shattered trust-**

Mridula was devastated by realizing Sanjay's betrayal and she fell into disillusionment. She was suffering from turmoil due to unhappiness and feeling helpless of having no identity of her life. The grief was so serious that she had to go for therapy to heal her.

### **5. Mridula's reclamation of life-**

After knowing the sad truth of life, Mridula decides to reinvent her life. She goes to her earlier village, Alladahalli where she always found solace and peace. There she found her self-worth and happiness again but her act of leaving her husband and searching own identity is completely against the patriarchal norms.

### **6. Murty's critique on patriarchal system**

With the help of Mridula's struggling life story, Murty has made a critical commentary on the real situation of Indian women in Patriarchal system. The novel highlights protagonist's importance of self-worth, independence and dismantling oppressive life. Transformation of Mridula happened from an innocent and ideal girl to a mature and self-asserting woman. She stands as an inspiration to other women who are facing these kinds of situations in their life and teaching the lesson how one can redefine life in the face of adverse situations.

### **Results-**

The present study showcase that women in Indian society are taken for granted for their dedication within the home and not valued where as they are also the productive contributor for their family's growth consequently for the nation's growth also hence they must be valued as a significant human being and not as passive members.

### **Discussion-**

It is very important to discuss and redefine the attitude of society towards women. As they are the significant part of any society or nation and important stakeholders so their growth is highly proportional to nation's growth. As any home or nation is based on two important wheels- men and women hence both should be progressed for future bright generation.

### **Conclusion**

Mridula's life struggle is not only narrative but a representation of women's struggle against societal expectations. Mridula's journey highlights the importance of self-assertion and encourages the readers to redefine life. Murty's narratives always stand as an example of ethical ways of life.

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