



**Sudha Murthy** (born 19 August 1951) is an Indian educator, author and philanthropist who is chairperson of the Infosys Foundation. She is married to the co-founder of Infosys, N. R. Narayana Murthy. Murthy was awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India, for social work by the Government of India in 2006. Later in 2023, she was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award in India.

Sudha Murthy began her professional career in computer science and engineering. She is the chairperson of the Infosys Foundation and a member of the public health care initiatives of the Gates Foundation. She has founded several orphanages, participated in rural development efforts, supported the movement to provide all Karnataka government schools with computer and library facilities, and established Murthy Classical Library of India at Harvard University.

Murthy is best known for her philanthropy and her contribution to literature in Kannada and English. *Dollar Bahu* (lit. 'Dollar Daughter-in-Law'), a novel originally authored by her in Kannada and later translated into English as *Dollar Bahu*, was adapted as a televised dramatic series by Zee TV in 2001. *Runa* (lit. 'Debt'), a story by Sudha Murthy was adapted as a Marathi film, *Pitruroon* by director Nitish Bhardwaj. Sudha Murthy has also acted in the film as well as a Kannada film *Prarthana*.

### **Early life and education**

Sudha Murthy was born into a Kannada-speaking Deshastha Madhva Brahmin family on 19 August 1951 in Shiggaon, Haveri in Karnataka, India, the daughter of R. H. Kulkarni, a surgeon, and his wife Vimala Kulkarni, a schoolteacher. She was raised by her parents and maternal grandparents. These childhood experiences form the historical basis for her first notable work entitled *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read, Wise and Otherwise and Other Stories*. Murthy completed a B.Eng. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology (now known as KLE Technological University), and then a M.Eng. in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Science

### **Career**

Sudha Murthy became the first female engineer hired at India's largest auto manufacturer TATA Engineering and Locomotive Company (TELCO). She joined the company as a Development Engineer in Pune and then worked in Mumbai & Jamshedpur as well. She had written a postcard to the company's Chairman complaining of the "men only" gender bias at TELCO. As a result, she was granted a special interview and hired immediately. She later joined Walchand Group of Industries at Pune as Senior Systems Analyst.

In 1996, she started Infosys Foundation and to date has been the Trustee of Infosys Foundation and a Visiting Professor at the PG Center of Bangalore University. She also taught at Christ University.

Sudha Murthy has written and published many books which include novels, non-fiction, travelogues, technical books, and memoirs. Her books have been translated into all major Indian languages. She is also a columnist for English and Kannada newspapers.

### **Philanthropy**

Murthy's Infosys Foundation is a public charitable trust founded in 1996.

### **Personal life**

Sudha Murthy married N. R. Narayana Murthy while employed as an engineer at TELCO in Pune. The couple have two children, including fashion designer Akshata Murthy, who is married to the current British Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak.

Her siblings include Caltech astrophysicist Shrinivas Kulkarni and Jaishree Deshpande (wife of Gururaj Deshpande) who co-founded the Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation at MIT.

### **Awards**

1. 2004: Raja-Lakshmi Award by Sri Raja-Lakshmi Foundation in Chennai
2. 2006: India's fourth highest civilian award Padma Shri
3. 2006: She also received the R.K. Narayana's Award for Literature.
4. 2010: Daana Chintamani Attimabbe Award by Karnataka Government.
5. 2011: Murthy was conferred honorary LL.D (Doctor of Laws) degrees for contributions to promote formal legal education and scholarship in India.
6. 2013: Basava Shree-2013 Award was presented to Narayan Murthy & Sudha Murthy for their contributions to society.
7. 2018: Murthy received the Crossword Book award in popular (Non-Fiction) category.
8. 2019: IIT Kanpur awarded her Honorary Degree (Honoris Causa) of Doctor of Science.
9. 2023: Murthy has been conferred with India's third highest civilian award Padma Bhushan by President of India.
10. National Award from Public Relation Society of India for outstanding Social Service to the Society
11. Award for Excellent Social Service by Rotary South – Hubli
12. "Millennium Mahila Shiromani" award
13. 2023: Padma Bhushan by the Government of India