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Lib



Sahitya Akademi



Sindhi Adabi
Sabha

invite you to

meet the author

Tara Mirchandani



Tara Mirchandani



Tara is one of the few Sindhi woman writers who developed this flair for writing while she was still a student in pre-Independence times and had never imagined that she would be so well loved for her writings in the days to come.

Tara was born in Hyderabad Sindh (Now in Pakistan) on 6th July 1930 in an upper middle class zamindar family and had very simple, God fearing parents. Her mother was very religiously inclined and used to recite the passages from the *Ramayana*, the *Mahabharat* and *Guru Granth Sahib* to her children. Her soulful renderings kindled in Tara's sensitivity to be able to pour out her

feelings with simplicity on paper.

Tara's talent was realized when she was assigned the editorship of *Vidyarthi*, a Sindhi weekly by her friends to awaken the youth of Sindh to propagate and express their demand for establishing the Sindh University. Tara wrote the editorials for this weekly and thus begun her long journey of the lifetime commitment to writing about touching, heart-rendering issues which she put down on paper with absolute simplicity. Tara has always believed in humanity and all of her stories carry a strong message for the reader.

With the Partition of India came disruption of life, agony and misery for thousands of Hindus from the newly made country called Pakistan, leaving behind their homes, businesses and property. The Partition brought about sadness, poverty and helplessness. Many youngsters had to take up jobs to fend for their families... Tara was one of them. She would attend her classes and then go to work from 10.00am to 7.00pm in the office to sustain her family.

Prof. M.U. Malkani of Jai Hind College, spotted her talent for writing. He urged and guided her to meet many other authors under



Reading out a short story at Sindhi Adabi Sabha in Pune



Receiving Sahitya Akademi Award

the auspices of the Sindhi Sahit Mandal in Bombay (now Mumbai). Interacting with all these writers inspired her further to keep on writing and perfecting her art. Her first short story which she wrote after joining the Sahit Mandal was entitled 'Surg jo Sair'-meaning 'A Journey to Heaven' was followed by 'Gopu', the story of a youngster who was from a very affluent family before the Partition and to whom she saw in a torn shirt and shorts on a train in Bombay, selling sweets to passengers to make a living for himself. She was haunted by the expressions on his face and

his condition inspired her to write 'Gopu', a story of the trauma of the Partition.

Tara married Moti Mirchandani in 1950, a young, dynamic, handsome man who belonged to a family with strong patriotic leanings. Sri Ramchand Parumal, her father-in-law, was a man of undaunted courage and determination. He sacrificed his ancestral property and firmly held his moral principles and honesty in order to accept the family's dictates to abandon his participation in the freedom struggle.

Tara in her own right can be called a social reformist, as she



Tara, Parum Abhichandani, Moti Mirchandani, Kishin Khatwani, Bhagwan Harani



Being felicitated at the hands of U. R. Anantha Murthy

wrote about the day to day incidents which occurred in the lives of people around her and was able to bring out the pain and pathos with an unseen depth and analysis of the social problems and domestic stresses, tensions, responsibilities and reactions of the ordinary Indian man and woman. One could say that Tara portrayed her own basic nature of sweetness, care, faith and simplicity in every central character of her writings as she was unable to ever visualize a woman who could be otherwise.

In the novel *Hath Yogi*, which bagged the prestigious Sahitya

Akademi Award in 1993, Tara describes the trials and desperation of the four year old girl, Malu, who is the protagonist of the novel. Malu is a kidnapped girl and is forced to beg on the streets of Ramnagar, Banaras. She is rescued by a young college student, who gives her shelter, showers his care and selfless love and brings her up. At the age of sixteen, Malu finds herself desperately in love with her guardian, this young man who has brought her up but cannot bring himself to acknowledge or reciprocate her feelings as he feels duty bound to restore her to her parents. *Hath Yogi*, is an



L. K. Advani & Tara at a Sahitya Akadami Function



Tara Moti Mirchandani after receiving Bharat Bhasha Sahitya Award in Kolkata

emotionally charged novel of the inner war which goes on between emotions and principles within the heart of the guardian.

Tara's characters are realistic; as they are based on the people she knows and meets. She says, "Everyone has his/her own virtues and vices. Each individual goes through this cycle of suffering, aspirations and achievements and

the writer has to narrate the situation as honestly and sincerely

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Novels

<i>Komayal Kali</i>	1949
<i>Usha</i>	1958
<i>Hath Yogi (2 Parts)</i>	1990
<i>Laherun-Ji-Goonj</i>	1992
<i>Suraj Ji Pahreen Kiran</i>	1998

Short Stories

<i>Gavat Phulale Chandane</i>	1978
<i>Aino Ain Aks</i>	1965
<i>Rubber Ji Guddi</i>	1966
<i>Ulljhal Tandoon Resham Joon</i>	1986
<i>Dard</i>	1991
<i>Visaryo-Na-Visran</i>	1996



Tara Moti Mirchandani in Kualalumpur



Rukmini Chainani, Rita Shahani, Tara Mirchandani & Ishwari Jotwani at Khandala

A CHRONOLOGY

- 1930 Born on 6th July 1930 in Hyderabad Sindh (now in Pakistan)
- 1947 Settled in Bombay (now Mumbai) after Partition
- 1948 took to creative writing
Worked in Rehabilitation Finance Dept. for one & half years. First story was published in *Hindwasi* named 'Surg Jo Sair' (A Journey to Heaven)
- 1949 First novel *Komayal Kali* was published by Bharat Jivan Publication
- 1950 Married Moti Mirchandani, settled in Banaras
- 1988 Moved to Pune
- 1991 Received an award from Nai Duniya Publication
- 1992 Award from Akhil Bharat Sindhi Boli Ain Sahit Sabha, Sahyog Foundation & Central Hindi Directorate
- 1993 The Sahitya Akademi Award for the novel *Hath Yogi*
- 1993-97 Member, Sindhi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi
Member, Maharashtra Sahitya Academy for 3 years
- 1994 Ram Punjwani Literary Award
- 1995 Bharat Parishad Award – Kolkata
- 2000 Literary Award from Sindhi Academy, Delhi
- 2004 Life time achievement award from Maharashtra Sindhi Sahitya Academy



Rita Shahani, Tara Mirchandani, Rukmini Chainani & Ishwari Jotwani