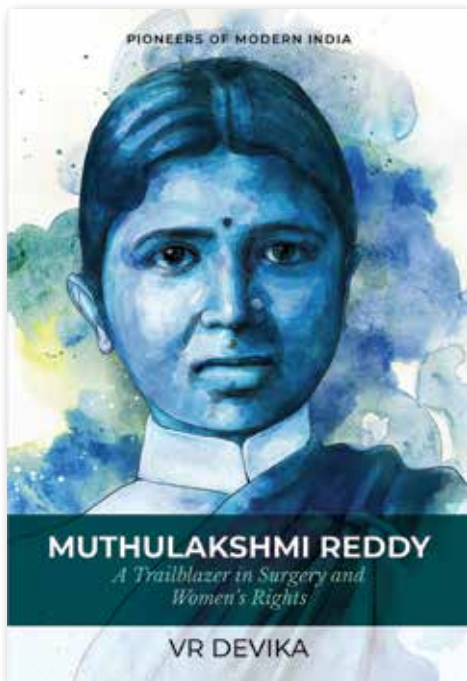

**PIONEERS
OF
MODERN INDIA**

Muthulakshmi Reddy was a reformer from the inside, as it were like Dr Ambedkar was. Which is different from being like a corrector from the outside. That was her strength.



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VR Devika is a well-known story teller, educationist and Gandhi scholar, with a PhD on MK Gandhi's communication strategies. She is known as a cultural activist, having been associated with the inception of Chennai's Dakshinachitra Heritage Museum and Tamil Nadu INTACH. Trained in Bharatanatyam, she lectures on dance and cultural heritage.

Winner of several awards, Devika contributes frequently to leading publications in India and abroad. She is the founder trustee of The Aseema Trust linking traditional performing arts and education, to bring Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of non-violence to children.

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ENDORSEMENT:

But I do wish she had a vein of art in her as well, that could have enabled her to see and say that the tradition she wanted to abolish had a precious possession within it that needed salvaging, protecting and nurturing. We cannot, of course, have everything that we want our way. Muthulakshmi plus art, Balasarasvati minus seclusion, Rukmini Devi plus Sringeri, Subbulakshmi minus Sanskritisation. These are our wish-lists, based on our predispositions and prejudices. Each of these icons had guiding passions and pursued them, fulfilling their individual destinies. We cannot shape to suit our ideals. We are not their bhagyavidhata!

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