

## **A Saga of the Overzealous Adoption of Industrialization : An Analysis of the theme of the ‘Mechanization of the Human Beings’ in Charles Dicken’s *Hard Time* (1854)**

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### **Abstract:**

*The research explores the presentation with a panoramic picture of the victims reflecting the cause and consequences of “Hard Times” with the mechanization of human beings. This study provides insight on Dickens’s “Hard Times” as mechanization imposed on men. It is based on the argument of the social commentary on England for the objective of achieving social reforms. The purpose the study was to analyse “Hard Times” for the adoption of industrialization with the practice to convert human beings into machines. Its main aim is to enhance the development of nations and increase the rate of growth in the industry. The study investigates about the pragmatic and aesthetic impact of “Hard Times”. Motivation of the study is to understand the proper adaptation of industrialization that transforms humans into machines. Mechanization of human beings in the age of Industrialisation led to social and economic disparity, considering working class workers as mechanical entities to further the economic goals of the upper class industrialists which are considered as the primary problem of the study. The study aligns the theory of Marxism to develop profound understanding of the topic, utilising an analytical methodology. The finding indicates a society that is divided into rich and poor and its causes the significant effects of the industrial revolution. The author criticizes the sudden changes due to industrialization. Mechanization of human being in Charles Dickens “Hard Times” causes the significant impact on the society and workers.*

**Keywords:** *Mechanization, Social issues, Industrialization, Social deterioration, Challenges of workers.*

## Introduction:

Charles Dickens is the most recognized and prestigious writer of the Victorian period. The famous writings of Charles Dickens such as *Great Expectations*, *Oliver Twist*, and *Christmas Carol* make him great writers in the world. The deploying rate of man into machines was illustrated in The “*Hard Times*” linking industrialization with the changes encountered by the people of England regarding their social and economic standing (Alzouabi, 199). Charles Dickens also shows the struggle of daily life and positive values that shows his generous behaviours towards society. Dickens’ novels represent a variety of settings that are mixed with social criticism and lively portraits of characters that exist in universal form. The ability to create dialogue is incomparable with the other English novelist.

The main strength of Dickens’ style is humour which represents that he was a great entertainer that created unforgettable characters with living enthusiasm. The overall themes of his works are rooted in human struggles, identity formation, social constraints and the desire to seek freedom from the injustices of the 19<sup>th</sup> century English society. Charles Dickens was renowned for their ability to mix comedy with pathos. The main theme of Charles Dickens's “*Hard Times*” is the visualization and hazardous effect of industrialization which shows similarity in his work to represent the social and economic aspects. It also used the theme to represent the social reforms that are required in the industrial workplace. It also shows the social theme in the workplace that causes significant impact on Industrialization.

The researcher intents is to study the mechanization of human beings with the activity in Charles Dickens's “*Hard Times*” with regard to industrialization. It also focuses on the dangers of the activity of industrialization and the impact of machines on human beings. This also portrays the social problems at the time of the industrial revolution. The main significance of the novel relates to the idea of Charles Dickens's to represent the importance of truth in the world. Mechanization is creating productivity increment but it is developing a mindless society as well.

Charles Dickens was highly critical industrialization with the particular ownership of the industry. The significance is to look at urbanization as unhealthy and represent the working classes in a specific form. This helps the researcher to investigate the process of industrialization with the involvement of the deployment of man into mechanical activity. The effect of

automation on society and the working process in the novel “*Hard Times*” gives proper highlights on industrialization. It mainly focuses on the industrial revolution that also gave rise to converting man into a machine in the workplace.

“*Hard Times*” highlights the main social issues of mechanization of human being with the impact of the industrial revolution. They intend to find out about the life of the working class and the bad environment in the industrial city. It intends the fully focus on the primary theme of imagination to depict the situation of mechanization of human beings in industrialization. The industrial revolution also helps the invention of machines and tools. The use of steam and various kinds of power with the adoption techniques of the factory system affects the workers in the industry. The adoption is the critical in terms of reputation, honour, and integrity helps the researcher to align the main idea of the poem with the “*Hard Times*” novel of Charles Dickens.

“*Hard Times*” with the overzealous adoption possessed by the industrialization within nineteenth century threatened human beings and convert them into the machines. This has been done by the enhancement of the emotions acquired by them and the imaginations possessed by them. This comes to show the actual portrait of industrialization in 1854. The primary goal of Charles dickens in “*Hard Times*” is the illustration of the dangers of giving permission to humans to work the same as machines. Dickens also attacked the defects in the legislative system and the abuses in the social and economic institutions. The practice of turning man into a machine causes the situation of lack of income and the loss of jobs with the evolution of devices (Salami, 3). It leads to a lack of employment that forces people to do unethical activities. The problems such as poverty, crime, class division, and child labour, injustice, and the education system highlights the problems regarding industrialization. “*Hard Times*” represents the cruel effects of class division in the education system and economic class with the addition of social issues with increasing the rate of unemployment. The use of social reforms provides the exploration into the different classes for various reasons during industrialization. The activities of Grandgrind along with his follower who is Bounderby have delineated that they are involved within the industrialization. Grandgrind has educated the youths of his own family, as well as, of his school within the methods of fact. On the other hand, the treatment of the workers done by Bounderby within his own factory as the objects those are devoid of any sort of emotions. This states the fact that there has been an easy exploitation of the workers in the matter of his self-

interest. A parallel has been drawn by the narrator amidst factory Hands along with the children of the Grandgrind. It has been shown that monotonous life has been led by them and their life is full of uniform existence. The touch of pleasure is not present within the lives of the youths who are taught by Grandgrind and within the lives of workers who are working under Boundersby. Similarity is present in the fantasies and the feelings that have been dulled and there has been a presence of mechanization within them. In the opening scene of the novel Grandgrind says:

**Now, what I want is Facts. Teach these boys and girls nothing but Facts. Facts alone are wanted in life. Plant nothing else, and root out everything else. You can only form the mind of reasoning animals upon Facts: nothing else will ever be of any service to them. (1)**

The contradiction with the idea of the character represents the different issues such as class division, education, and human rights under the influence of industrialization (Lal,82). The phenomenal work of Charles Dickens reflected the scenario of the industry and its effect on the world. The sudden economic growth and the rise of the middle class developed new interest among the people. Education is the area that shows a huge interest in industrialization and social reforms. The depiction of “*Hard Times*” signifies the importance of education to every child in the principle of utilitarianism. The philosophy of utilitarianism is based on the utility of individuals for working towards the betterment of society as well as individuals themselves that helps to understand the perspective of industrialization. The smokes emerge from low underground doorways into the factory and causes breathing problem with high heartbeat.

Industrialization began with the demands for resources and the introduction of new technology. This also signifies the upper class that gets the desirable benefits with the conversion of the lower class people in the mechanical area. Industrialization created disgraceful living conditions due to of overcrowding and overpopulation. The novel shows the complete vision of contemporary society with the idea of the industrial revolution. The impacts of mechanization possessed by industrialization have been compounded with the help of the philosophy of self-interest that Mr. Grandgrind possesses. The core goal of the author refers to the illustration of those dangers that allows people for becoming machine-like. It has been recommended that life cannot be bearable without imagination, as well as, compassion.

The industrial revolution stressed the environment with the evolution of harmful gases and the leakage of toxic substances. “*Hard Times*” suggests that the factory owners use the laws and regulations that insist on the education of children in the factory. This causes the rapid evolution of the intention of labour-saving and other electricity-driven appliances during the mid of eighteenth century and nineteenth centuries. The major changes in the making of handmade goods for the factory make the people jobless. “*Any capitalist.....do it?*”( 67). These people were forced to compete with the industrial machines to continue their livelihoods and the mechanization of human beings occurred at a significant rate. Machines were considered more efficient with the evolution of industrialization (EL 69). It brings out the advent of power that creates unemployment and the surplus in the reduction of wages in the industry.

The rise of the factory was criticized and questioned for the dominance of machine over man. The value of human being gets reduced with the rise of industrialization and people or workers not get the desired recognition in society. Efforts of the people were not valued with the adoption of mechanization. The era of the rules and regulation followed the philosophy that everything should be based on the facts and reality. The art of creativity and imagination were replaced through the mechanization and people were losing interest in doing their core strength work (Bhat 125). The cruel impact of the industry changed the society and perspective of workers towards the workload in the workplace. The people become detached from the philosophy of utilization that makes clear understanding for the family and makes the other things as secondary parts. Changes in infrastructure and manufacturing and the transformation of society affect the growth of industrialization. It has been understood from the depiction of the cruelties applied on workers that there has been an importance of industrialization and it has been exceeded in the current scenario within contemporary society. They have been treated as animals and as per Dickens, the treatment that have been done on the workers in the factory of modern times are sometimes more worse. It has been taken into consideration as worse as liberty is not existed within their lives to spend quality time with their family. All that they have to do is to make hard efforts to meet the requirements and demands of the factories.

The primary source for the trading and involvement of industry observe the significant changes in the process of industrialization. Charles Dickens observes industrialization with the turning of man into a machine. It signifies that man tends to become objects without emotions

(Salami, 3). The impact also shows that the nation represents its significance without fancy, romance, and entertainment for making successful progress in industrialization. The imaginary motive is necessary for people to develop the spirit of mercy and gentleness.

The suggestions in the novel “*Hard Times*” give the proper advice to society against the conversion of man into a machine. The suggestion shows that in case men are converted into machines and are used without creativity and compassion, life becomes miserable for them. It causes an effect on the social and economic aspects of industrialization for the labour in the workplace (Salman, 106). The philosophy of industrialization with the assumption of social and economic downfall represents the main problem of poor people in the workplace. Machines in the factory and black cloudy smog are associated with the industrial revolution. The factory workers and the workers had the poor relationship portrayed in the novel. This novel also use the Marxism literary criticism theory that relates to show the social aspects that comes in the mechanism of human being (AŞCI 65) .This also shows the ideologies of Marxist that is similar to the social approach used through Charles Dickens in his novel “*Hard Times*”. It also focuses on the central idea of Marxism for the society around the economic activity of a society.

### “*My dear.....little while*”

Social and economic aspects also come in the way of industrialization and cause negative effects on the workers. It makes a contradiction on the traditional belief and provides an analysis of the upper classes that supports the vision in the workplace .The analysis of the selected novel make the imposition and advent of power for the workers that hampers the social and economic growth of people .The study also attempt to show the insights in the “*Hard Times*” faced through the factory workers with the negative impact of industrialization. This gives the highlights on the specific conditions such as lack of education, employment and personal factors. The workers are bound give their large amount of time on the industrial sector. The lack of education factor forced them to work in fewer wage and obey the commands of their senior.

The novel reflects the Challenges of the workers in the novel and such challenges signify that the factory workers were angry with the loud sound and it creates immense pressure on their mind. They understand that their treatment with them was highly comparable to machines. The workers just have to obey the command and turned into machines (Xaydarova

31). The salary of the workers decreasing and this was also a factor for dissatisfaction in the industrial area. The unsatisfied review of the workers creates the social and economic lives poor and full of struggles. It shows the difference of class in upper- and lower-class people in industry that are bound to work in low wages. The smoke emerge from the chimney gives the vigorous appearance and it faded after sometime through passage of the house and church and have reached to the summit part of the factory to the sky. This entails the fact that there country has been dived into the mechanization and it is hard to emit the smoke from entire city. The factory is situated on the secret place and the workplace are noise free and the hands of workers are bound through the spun of threads. They are mere puppets in the hands of the owners and have to do work as per the instructions given from the higher authority of the workplace.

### **Conclusion:**

From the above discussions, it is concluded that the impacts of Industrialization on the workers was not positive. The beginning of the new inventions brings out the transformation in production and impact the factory system. The observation also revealed the period during the industrial revolution not given the good outcomes for community people. Mechanization of human being in Charles Dickens “*Hard Times*” causes the significant impact on the society and workers.

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