

**The Role Of Children and Orphans In Charles
Dickens's Fictions.**

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Abstract:

This study aims to investigate how the English writer Charles Dickens (1812- 1870) addresses the subject of childhood and orphanhood in his works. The main purpose of the study is to examine childhood during the Victorian era, which witnessed a significant "Industrial Revolution" with one of its worst aspects being the exploitation of children. Honestly, no novelist has shown the same ability to enter the perspective of children as Charles Dickens, who is the best English writer has written on childhood through the children's characters he dealt with in his novels .The study is founded on the supposition that the Victorian age was often characterized by the exploitation of underprivileged children and orphans, depriving them of possibilities for a fundamental education, preparing and training them to commit crimes, or putting them under duress in areas of vice and this is a route that only ever leads to death or prison. Dickens's works were a harsh condemnation of authority figures, business magnates, and factories during the Industrial Revolution, as well as child labour laws. Children from low-income homes typically worked full-time jobs to help make ends meet. Young children as young as four were often subjected to hazardous working conditions and lengthy shifts in industries. Most of the time throughout the Industrial Revolution, child labour was permitted, but it eventually became prohibited.

Key Words : (Childhood, Child labor , Industrial Revolution , orphanhood).

دور الاطفال والايتام في روايات تشارلز دكينز

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المخلص:

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التعرف على كيفية تناول الكاتب الإنجليزي تشارلز ديكينز (١٨١٢ - ١٨٧٠) موضوعة الطفولة واليتم في أعماله والغرض الرئيس من الدراسة هو دراسة الطفولة خلال العصر الفيكتوري، الذي شهد "الثورة الصناعية" التي كان من أسوأ جوانبها استغلال الأطفال. والحقيقة انه لم يظهر أي رواي نفس القدرة على الدخول في منظور الأطفال مثل تشارلز ديكينز، الذي يعد أفضل كاتب إنجليزي كتب عن الطفولة من خلال شخصيات الأطفال التي تناولها في رواياته. وتقوم الدراسة على فرضية أن العصر الفيكتوري تميز في كثير من الأحيان باستغلال الأطفال المحرومين واليتم، وحرمانهم من إمكانيات التعليم الأساسي، وإعدادهم وتدريبهم على ارتكاب الجرائم، أو إخضاعهم بالإكراه في مناطق الرذيلة وهذا طريق لا يؤدي إلا إلى الموت. أو السجن. كانت كتابات ديكينز بمثابة نقد لاذع للسلطة، وجشع أصحاب الشركات والمصانع، في عصر الثورة الصناعية، والتشريعات الخاصة بحماية الأطفال. وكثيراً ما يعمل الأطفال الفقراء في وظائف بدوام كامل من أجل المساعدة في إعالة أسرهم. كان الأطفال الذين لا تتجاوز أعمارهم أربع سنوات يعملون لساعات طويلة في المصانع في ظل ظروف خطيرة. استمرت ممارسة عمالة الأطفال خلال معظم فترات الثورة الصناعية حتى تم إقرار القوانين التي تجعل عمالة الأطفال غير قانوني.

الكلمات المفتاحية : (الطفولة، عمالة الأطفال، الثورة الصناعية، اليتيم).

Introduction.

The English novelist, journalist, and critic Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was born in Portsmouth and is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers of the Victorian era. He is one of the few authors whose works continue to be read decades after their creator has passed away. Writing largely to better social circumstances and to make his readers aware of many of the difficulties facing Victorian society, Dickens focused on social issues of his day in several of his works. Dickens focuses particularly on the plight of children. (Massauda, Djedai,2013, p.1).

During the Victorian era, Dickens utilised his books to discuss societal changes, as well as the issues and potential solutions to such concerns. After seeing his parents go to prison, he made it his mission to better the facilities where inmates are held. He used to stand up, clap his

hands, and sing jokes while sitting on a chair or table. He wasn't able to take part in typical kid stuff since he was sickly. He could only find solace in reading fiction. When Charles's father was sent to debtor's jail in 1822 and his mother's effort to build a school for girls was unsuccessful, Charles, then twelve years old, began working at Warren's Black Factory. Only Charles remained in the courtyard. He was clearly not taking care of himself. Moreover, he continued to be hungry four or five times a week. His parents had shamed him by sending him to work in a filthy, rat-infested factory to help support his family, and the memory of that experience haunted him to this day. For him, this was the darkest hour. John, upon his release from prison, enrolled him in a Hampstead school. Charles stayed for an additional three years at this institution. Charles started working as a legal assistant when he was just fifteen years old. In 1842, Dickens abandoned his legal career to become a parliamentary correspondent for the newspaper. He published novels, edited, and read to the public. Because of his varied interests and his habit of visiting the British Museum library and theatres, Dickens was well-equipped to take on the role of novelist. Charles reflected on his early misconceptions and disappointments in life in a number of his short tales and books. He chronicled the plight of youngsters who overcame incredible odds to become heroes despite the harsh economic and social climate of Victorian England. (Diniejkó & Litt, 2016).

Actually, he was the best author of the Victorian era. As a realistic author, Charles Dickens wrote in a straightforward, uncomplicated manner that focused on the everyday lives and struggles of regular people. His kind of humour, sometimes referred to as "dark comedy," is appropriately bleak, and he has used it to highlight societal issues. Since Dickens' humour is mostly character-based, his comic creations are largely responsible for his comedic legacy. According to (J., 1958, p. 160), the novel *The Bleak House* is a turning point in Dickens's career. On deliberately, he focused on the allure of everyday items. In this, the first of his ambitious endeavours, he strives to combine the everyday with the fantastic, the hard facts of his age's history and the dreamy perceptions of those truths that emerged from deep inside his own mind.

Charles Dickens's emphasis on youth and children's innocence led some to label him a romanticist as well as a realistic author. Charles Dickens was a romantic author because he wrote from a child's perspective to highlight adult issues in society. The purity and beauty of infancy have been praised by commentators like William Wordsworth, who coined the phrase "A child is the father of man." To paraphrase Wordsworth, children are natural and leave a life close to nature because they have access to the divine and mortal worlds in a way that adults do not. What this saying signifies is that youngsters are so pure at heart that they have much to teach the world. The point here is that Charles, like many of his contemporaries, is interested in seeing the world through the eyes of a kid. In his works *Oliver Twist* (1837), *David Copperfield* (1850), *Hard Times* (1854), and *Great Expectations* (1861), Dickens skillfully criticised the social, economic, industrial, and moral abuse of the Victorian age, establishing himself as a leading social critic. At the very least, no other English author has written better about childhood than Dickens, and no other novelist has shown the same ability to penetrate the perspective of children.

An important investigation into the roles of children and orphans in as will be established below, is merited in Charles Dickens's Fictions because of the novel's core and underlying difficulties and questions about childhood, orphans, and child labor in Victorian England. What were the living conditions of many working-class children in the Victorian era and their Deprivation of Childhood.? Did the industrial revolution in England affect childhood and lead to the exploitation of children and their use as cheap labor infactories? How are children protected from physical harm and moral corruption.? To whom was Dickens' speech directed in his novels.? What are the commandments of religion and the Bible towards caring for children and keeping them in families.?

Literature Review.

Cleopatra Jones demonstrates in this study that Dickens' interest in children sprang from at least three factors: his own background, his humanitarian spirit, and the socioeconomic milieu of the times in which he

lived and wrote. His children have also been discovered to be divided into three groups: those who are wicked, those who are decent, and those who are mature.

The first set of kids is more nuanced in terms of how horrible they are because of their potential for growth. Those in the second group are the ones who remain decent even when things get tough. Finally, the third group possesses maturity much beyond their years, whether they are good or wicked. It's clear that Dickens used children as stand-ins for real-world issues he thought needed to be fixed in his writings. Studying Dickens' works in this way has also revealed that, despite Dickens' frequent use of caricatures, his children are treated as characters; that, despite the dominance of exaggeration in his treatment of children, one can find a kind of realism based on his ability to treat realistically extreme and exaggerated cases; and that, since plot was secondary to the idea which he was attempting to convey, his use of pathos is often justifiable. In addition, the humour he deploys is the type that makes people cry. (Jones, 1948,p.46).

Anindita Dutta, writing about the use of children as labourers during the Victorian era, pointed out that the children in Dickens' works are stand-ins for real children in the real world who have genuine experiences and sad backgrounds like poverty, orphanhood, neglect, and a lack of access to education. Dickens drew inspiration from his own youth for these stories. Slavery was a term for child labour back then. Torture, exploitation, and even murder were inflicted upon children. Parents and guardians of children at these institutions insisted on their children working in factories and workhouses. The horrific system of child labour in Victorian England robbed kids of their youth, health, and sometimes their lives. Many youngsters in Dickens' day worked long hours in deplorable conditions alongside their parents. There was a big need for low-cost labour throughout the growth of industrial capitalism, and children fit the bill well. Many families were thrown into such dire poverty by having to fend for themselves that the income from their children's jobs was essential to their survival. Dickens's works demonstrate his deep sympathy for the plight of these kids. Dickens's young

characters often lack parents or have murky family histories. The orphaned Oliver Twist, the disabled Tiny Tim, the underdeveloped Smike, and the destined Paul Dombey and Little Nell are just a few of the youngsters that suffer at the hands of adults in his tales. There's Pip from "Great Expectation," Esther from "Bleak House," Oliver from "Oliver Twist," David from "David Copperfield," Estella from "Great Expectation," and Sissy Jup from "Hard Times," to name a few. The youngsters in his books are easily manipulated and used. He also highlights the issue of youngsters being denied an education because of their socioeconomic background. Abandoned as infants, Jo, Pip, and Oliver miss out on a formal education. (Dutta, 2014).

Theoretical Framework.

The reign of Queen Victoria, also known as the Victorian era, began in 1837 and lasted until 1901. Massive population expansion, technological progress, shifting worldviews, and dismal working conditions are all hallmarks of this time period. At a time when literature mattered much, many novels and other substantial works were written depicting Victorian culture and everyday life. In reaction to societal challenges such as child labour and education, writers like Lewis Carroll develop works of children's literature. Children were the dominant demographic in Victorian culture. Books like Oliver Twist show how child labour actually occurs. Gavin argues that the Golden Age of British children's literature can be traced back to the Romantic movement and the significance of fantasy for children as emphasised by Victorian authors like Charles Dickens. (Lopez, 2015)

Beginning with the Victorian era, there were two major influences on literary representations of children. There was, on the one hand, the romanticised conception of a kid as innately innocent and spiritually close to God. On the other hand, there was the Evangelical tract kid, who was said to be born with a sinful nature and so required continual monitoring and punishment. Many critics have pointed out that Victorian literature not only recorded and expanded upon these divergent views of childhood, but also introduced fresh angles on the subject. In the wake of groundbreaking discoveries and theories of the time, like as Darwin's On the Origin of

Species, scientific and evolutionary narratives of infancy began to appear, starting about 1859. (Ben, 2021)

According to Laura Peter's Orphan Texts, most Victorian authors were interested in writing about orphans. The orphan in Victorian literature can be interpreted in a way that distances him or her from the standard family story. The Victorian orphans have become a symbol for "the dispossessed and detached self," which is defined by the person's lack of belonging (no place to call home, no relatives or friends to lean on), as well as his or her lack of social ties. (Peters,2000, p.18)

Discussion.

Charles Dickens's traumatic upbringing had a profound effect on his development as a person and left an imprint on his heart and soul that are evident in his writing. Children of his day in England were subjected to a great deal of cruelty and hardship due to the prevailing social climate. He spent his leisure time reading books despite his difficult upbringing, exploring the City of London's favelas—dangerous neighbourhoods where many people struggle to get by on less than a dollar a day—on his own. All throughout his writing career, Charles exploited the plight of orphans and the poor to call for social reform and critique the negative effects of the Industrial Revolution on the poor category in general and innocent childhood in particular. Children were often forced to labour in hazardous environments throughout the Industrial Revolution. They had to labour in factories and workshops with little to no safety training, where many of them lost limbs and fingers. They also have lung ailments from working in poorly ventilated mines.

A deep concern for the safety of children is also evident in the works of Charles Dickens, the most widely read novelist of the Victorian era. At the age of twelve, Dickens' father was put to prison for debt, and Dickens was assigned to work at a blacking factory. This experience would haunt Dickens for the rest of his life. The orphaned Oliver Twist, the disabled Tiny Tim, the underdeveloped Smike, and the destined Paul Dombey and Little Nell are just a few of the youngsters that suffer at the hands of adults in his tales. Barrett

Browning, like Dickens, was inspired by accounts of the terrible conditions in which the impoverished lived. The harsh New Poor Law of 1834, based on the ideas of utilitarian philosopher Jeremy Bentham, prompted Charles Dickens to pen *Oliver Twist* (1837). This legislation forced the poor into workhouses, which resembled prisons and subjected inmates to harsh working conditions and family separation (Gubar,2005).

Dickens' writings include middle-class characters and language. It may be argued that his writings offer no solution to the problem of the virtuous poor and instead just reinforce the positive stereotypes held by the middle class. The more charitable explanation is that Dickens knew the vast majority of his Victorian readers would come from the middle classes and very few from the lower classes, therefore he chose to focus his work on the wealthy rather than the poorer classes he meant to defend. He got his readers to care about the poor people of Coketown and England in general by having them empathise with the novel's main characters, who were themselves likeable. To that extent, the book was successful. (Sparknotes, HardTimes,2022)

Children are susceptible to injury even in the best of conditions, but especially so in harsh environments like poverty and violence. Those lacking father figures are spoken out by name in the Bible. Children who are strangers, who have been uprooted because of war, and who are living in great poverty are also at risk. They have no one to look out for them or take care of their basic necessities or social welfare. God asks his followers to help youngsters in these precarious situations.

Verrett argued that God's directives to humans may be found in every book of the Bible. One of the first instructions was repeated by him. In the Book of Genesis, God tells Adam and Eve, "And God blessed them." God told them to have children, multiply, fill the land, and rule over everything in it, including the sea life, the birds in the sky, and the animals on the ground (Genesis 1:28). He told Noah to do it again. "and you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it" (Genesis 9:7) was the Lord's command to Noah, his sons, and their descendants after the worldwide flood.

On two separate occasions, God commanded humans to multiply by having and caring for offspring. (Verrett, 2020) .

God's plan for the future includes having children. After creating Adam and Eve, God told them to reproduce, or have offspring. The initial plan took into account the needs of families with children. Our smallest members were not an afterthought. His plan for future generations, like everything else in creation, was judged to be good. The place where we dwell now is polluted by evil. In addition to concerns like drug and alcohol addiction, bullying, and gang membership, children nowadays may confront a wide range of other challenges, such as child labour, physical abuse, exploitation, and child marriage.

While Dickens' depictions of orphans and abandoned children may stand out among his other works, they are not unique. The fundamental definition of a child was being challenged while orphans and children began to feature more significantly in literature (Grace , 2013,p.6). One of the few really timeless authors of the English language is Charles Dickens (1812-1870).

The Construction of the Orphan.

In common parlance, a "orphan" is a child who has lost both of his or her parents. However, when we look up other definitions, we find that children were often referred to as "orphans" if they had only one parent left, had been abandoned by their families, or had been forced to leave home due to overcrowding. Orphans have played pivotal roles in literature and history from antiquity to the current day. The history of humanity includes many orphans. ((Babi Hani, Nisreen Abdel Raheem.2012.p.1)

While the child's figure was effective on its own, it was more effective for the story when it was an orphan. This was because it showed the victimisation at its most severe. Authors in the Victorian era commonly used child characters in sympathetic roles. The ultimate victimisation may have been the Victorian practise of erasing children's names and birth dates. (Rebecca, Albertsson. 2016.p.9).

Charles Dickens, one of the most famous Victorian era novelists, was concerned with the bleak outlook of the orphan and how orphans cope with the sorrow and psychological injury inflicted by people who should have cared for them. Family bonds are shown to be abnormal or nonexistent in Dickens's depiction of the world in *Oliver Twist* (1839) and *Great Expectations* (1861). To illustrate his point, he uses the story of a single homeless person's quest for love, companionship, and safety. The novels of Charles Dickens provide observations on society. He was a scathing opponent of Victorian-era poverty.

Starting with Dickens' "*Oliver Twist*," "*David Copperfield*," and "*Great Expectations*," Charles exposes the exploitation of children and orphans in his writings. He began by explaining that each story examines moral and cultural questions by examining the actions of "children" in a violent setting. In fact, Dickens utilised childhood—and particularly childhood abuse—as a lens through which to examine the myriad issues plaguing Victorian society. The children in Dickens's *Oliver Twist* workhouses and workshops are starved to death while being forced to perform menial tasks, yet investigations always conclude that the youngsters died of natural causes or accidents. Dickens's true intent was to make readers furious and disgusted by the cruelty of a system that treats children so horribly. The tragic effects of capitalists' and manufacturers' exploitation of youngsters as cheap labour may be traced back to their insatiable desire for profit. Work-related stress and depression have been linked to child labour. Slavery and other forms of sexual and economic exploitation are possible outcomes. This is the reality for kids all across the world today, even in Iraq, where child work is legal. Human rights breaches, including assault and torture, are unfortunately commonplace for trafficked children in Iraq. Because no laws exist to safeguard children in Iraq who have been trafficked, they are frequently subjected to acts of violence, abuse, and other abuses of their human rights. Increased rates of child labour have been linked to the wars, conflicts, and economic crises that have plagued Iraq over the previous four decades. It is believed that Dickens' intention to bring attention to the plight of children and evoke sympathy from Victorians by making these youngsters tangible to his readers was secondary to his wish to

attract attention to their misery. Long before industries arrived in England, people were harsh to children. But the ramifications for interpersonal connections and the way of life that the changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution. Given that Victorian society did not prioritise the health, safety, or happiness of its children, his real goal was to elevate the social consciousness of its citizens by calling for reform and change on their behalf. Dickens's stories often feature children as central characters. Half a million kids under the age of fifteen earn money for their families by working in hazardous situations. The representation of childhood varies from book to book. Each piece is shaped in part by the author's or authors' experience as a child or youngsters. The novels "Oliver Twist" and "Great Expectations" are prime examples. The author's perspective on kids is crucial. Despite the story's intricacy and the wide variety of its characters and events, the audience's focus is almost always drawn to the kid, and the lonely and sad youngster in particular. The protagonist of three of Charles Dickens' novels—Oliver Twist (1837–1839), David Copperfield (1849–1851), and Great Expectations (1860–1861)—is an orphan who is rescued by good people from his cruel society and bad environment of unkind people. In all three books, Dickens depicts the stark contrasts between the wealthy factory owners on the one hand and the impoverished employees on the other. Many families have been impacted negatively by the widespread poverty in the country, but those whose children have lost both parents suddenly under the tyranny of heartless capitalism have had it the worst. He had a tough upbringing, but his lovely personality shone through, and he made the most of his free time by working hard. It's a rough and dangerous existence sometimes. The progressive policies of his age had an impact on him. In Oliver Twist and many of his other stories and novels, he portrayed the workhouses that emerged as a result of the English Poor Law of 1834. Oliver Twist, an orphan and innocent, is a prototypical illustration of Dickens's orphan and innocent archetype. The fact that Oliver is a poor and social outcast as a youngster makes him a sympathetic emblem for the notion of virtue. Dickens presented Oliver as innocent because that is how he actually is. Unlike other works where everything is not as it seems on the surface. It was a reflection of what was happening in the Victorian era of abuse and exploitation of children, and

Dickens' real purpose was to arouse anger at the callousness of a system that subjects innocent children to inhuman treatment. Dickens shows Oliver and his partners of children in the workhouse who starve to death in a kind of slow death, but investigations always attribute their deaths to natural causes or accidents. It mirrored the widespread child abuse and commercial exploitation of the Victorian era. By writing about a criminal underworld and a workhouse where children are starving to death, Charles created contrasting ideas of good and evil in his novel *Oliver Twist*. It appears that Dickens is interested in depicting the darker sides of human nature, and he does so by populating the world with images of darkness. The few instances of brightness only serve to amplify the overall sense of doom and despair that permeates the novel. To sum up, Dickens wanted to make the plight of children and their uncertain futures tangible to his readers in order to evoke a sense of empathy in Victorian society. By using *Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations*, we can confidently say that Charles Dickens is a writer capable of profound insight into and believable representation of children. The phrase "Dickens is capital at a baby" has been used to describe him. His illustrations of *Oliver Twist* and *Pip*, both children, are excellent. Although Dickens did not want to do so, he temporarily assumed the role of a kid in order to write about one. Some have said that no author since Dickens has had the same ability to enter the world of the kid. He has painted a realistic picture of squalor, urban decay, and economic woes. The pain of innocent children is a key theme across most of Dickens' works.

Dickens's orphans.

The orphan represents someone who doesn't quite fit in and must learn to survive on their own. The novel developed into a genre that reflected the struggles of the average individual trying to make their way through the world. Therefore, the orphan is a really novelistic figure, unfettered by norms and facing a world of infinite opportunity and peril. The orphan acts as a protagonist, leading the reader through a series of events in which they must face dangers and seize opportunities. Because of the story's emphasis, he or she is a naïve reflection of the story's other characters. Obviously, the orphan

will be able to make up for the loss of his or her parents by finding happiness. Of course, the orphan in children's literature will overcome their tragedy and find joy. One can't help but notice Dickens' almost pathological preoccupation with orphans. There are several such characters in literature, including Oliver Twist's Pip, David Copperfield's Martin Chuzzlewit, Our Mutual Friend's Sloppy, and A Tale of Two Cities' Sydney Carton. In addition to Esther, the protagonist, Richard Carstone, his niece Ada Clare, and Jo the crossing sweeper are all orphans in Bleak House. Dickens uses these people to examine the dual themes of heroism and isolation. While Esther is able to overcome the gloomy forecasts of her 'godmother' (really her aunt) and succeed thanks to her own strengths, Richard, who lacks a compass and believes his own lies, is doomed to failure. Dickens' portrayal of the destitute Jo is a sentimentalised version of the more realistic fate of a 19th-century orphan: a youngster doomed to a life of hunger, ignorance, and sickness. In the eighteenth century, orphans occupy a unique place in literary canon. There is a real social history hidden behind these made-up orphans. But leaving your main characters orphaned might also serve as a plot device, giving them an opportunity to grow and find their own way in the world (Mullan , 2014).

The Orphan in the Victorian Novel .

In spite of the fact that there are a remarkable number of orphans in 18th century literature, characters who have lost one or both parents tend to become even more prominent in 19th century literature, which "could also be termed 'the century of the orphan. Many male and female orphans of all ages and social classes populate Victorian fiction. Some of these orphans fail in their endeavours or even perish, while others succeed and are given a happy ending, albeit frequently after undergoing great difficulty to get there. Orphans appear in nearly every work by Dickens, the Bront sisters, and George Eliot. It's no wonder, then, that so many of the most iconic literary figures of the Victorian era grew up without parents: Oliver Twist, David Copperfield, Pip Pirrip, Jane Eyre, Heathcliff, Catherine Earnshaw, Jude Fawley, and Kim, to name just a few (Gymnich, Marion. p.14). Many critics agree that Oliver Twist was the first of Dickens' characters to clearly

dramatise the dilemma of the abandoned orphan in a hostile and unfamiliar environment. After the orphan's birth secrets are revealed and he acquires a safe position in the world, Oliver is saved and the tale has a happy conclusion, as is typical of hundreds of Victorian novels. This typical storyline is saved only by the vividness with which Dickens imagines and experiences Oliver's sorrows. (Miller, 1958, P.306).

The Deprivation of Childhood in Victorian Literature .

As the Victorian era began, there were two major influences on how children were portrayed in literature. On the one hand, there was the image of the perfect child, who was shown as completely pure and close to God .Not only did Victorian literature record and develop these divergent visions of childhood, but it also contributed new perspectives of its own, such as the view that children are inherently sinful and require constant discipline and vigilance, as presented in Evangelical tracts. New theories and findings, such as Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* in 1859, fueled the emergence of scientific and evolutionary views of infancy. Perhaps the most profound movement in Victorian literature was the psychological one that led to the view of childhood as a time of complex and chaotic passions that produced, predicted, and sometimes threatened the adult world. *Jane Eyre* (1847) by Charlotte Bront, *The Old Curiosity Shop* (1841) by Charles Dickens, *Dombey and Son* (1848) by Dickens, and *Great Expectations* (1860) by Dickens are only few of the works and authors that have come to represent Victorian notions of childhood for literary academics (Moore ,Ben .2017).

Dickens' works paint a bleak picture of the lives of many Victorian orphans. The abuse of children is a recurring theme in his writings. His teachings on giving and helping the poor have influenced people for decades. His protagonists fit the archetypes of the time: the nave orphan, the ruthless businessman, and the shady criminal. Their socially conscious words serve as a reminder that not everyone benefited from the Industrial Revolution's advancements. As a social novelist, Dickens concentrated on the poor neighbourhoods of London, where he saw many individuals living in constant sadness because they felt unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. All across his

works are the downcast expressions of youngsters and the stony hearts of grownups. Through his works, he advocated for systemic reform and showed how compassion can mitigate the harm done by heartless people. (Dutta, 2014)

In other words, Esther, Oliver, David, and Harry may all be seen as victims of their social milieu in Dickens' three works (Oliver Twist, Bleak House, and David Copperfield), as well as the Harry Potter series. One could assume that these people, who are poor, have no friends or family to help them, and are continually ignored by society, have little chance of ever doing anything worthwhile in their lives. In other words, the reader wants them to succeed in escaping their predicament and moving on with their lives, finding a job that allows them to save enough money to buy a home or, at the very least, to live the life they want rather than the life they are forced to live. The hardships they endured make the reader feel sad for them. (Esquinas, 2018.p.12)

Child labor in Victorian England

Child work was the same as slavery back then. Torture, exploitation, and even murder were inflicted upon children. The parents and guardians of these children insisted that they labour in factories and workhouses. In Victorian England, child work was institutionalised as part of a cruel system that robbed kids of their youth, health, and sometimes even their lives. Like their parents and grandparents before them, many youngsters of Dickens' period worked long hours in deplorable conditions. Campaigns to better the lives of disadvantaged children drew support from philanthropists, religious leaders, physicians, journalists, and artists. To improve working conditions for children in mines and collieries, Lord Ashley (7th Earl of Shaftesbury) established the Children's Employment Commission in 1840. More and more individuals, however, came to agree that children should be afforded a special time of safety, learning, and fun as the twentieth century progressed. Education reform arrived, although slowly. However, poverty was identified as the primary driver of children's labour throughout this time period. Dickens, himself a victim of child work, condemns the crippling effects of the practise. (Dutta,2014, p.2).

The " Industrial Revolution " of the 18th century saw the transition of many manual and agricultural tasks to machines and the development of the coal industry. Power-driven machinery and the organisation of manufacturing in factories were two of the most significant advances that the eighteenth century brought to British manufacturing. These developments were important to the "Industrial Revolution" that took place in Britain in the second part of the century, transforming the country into the world's first modern industrial power. There was one aspect of industrial life that really stood out to the public and came to be seen as a major issue. Three-quarters of the workforce in the textile industry has always been made up of women and children. As the twentieth century came to a close, widespread reports of children working in industries drew widespread attention. In addition, there was a lot of room for exploitation in the system that provided underprivileged and frequently orphaned youngsters to employers. (Ibid41).

There was a sea change between the high and poor classes of Great Britain. During the Industrial Revolution, as new methods of mass manufacturing were accessible, many small businesses and farms went out of business. The education of children was also a hotly debated issue in Parliament, as many youngsters in the country worked alongside their parents in the industries. The "reconstruction and expansion" of the elementary school system that began with new law in 1833 providing government funding for schools and allowing children's breaks during work hours for instruction culminated to the passage of the Elementary instruction Act of 1870. Even though Dickens wrote *Hard Times* before public education was completely sponsored by the government in 1870, he foresaw how teaching to the "figures and averages" that would bring in more money for the school would eventually supplant the need to teach students to think creatively. (Astle, 2014.p.2.).

However, significant progress was made in the latter years of Victoria's reign. The Factory Act of 1878 made it illegal to employ anybody younger than 10 in any industry. The Education Act of 1880, which mandated schooling for all children up to the age of 10, gave the system a boost. Later on, only kids who had already attained the required levels in reading, writing, and arithmetic

were allowed to leave school before the age of 12. Almost all kids up to age 12 were enrolled in school by the time Queen Victoria died. Between the beginning and the conclusion of Victoria's reign, child welfare saw a significant improvement because to this. (Emma, 2014).

Conclusion.

Due to the originality of Dickens writing, which was characterized by sarcasm and satire on the challenging social conditions of the nineteenth century, and the popularity of his works both during his lifetime and after his death in 1870, he was regarded as one of the most significant and influential writers of the Victorian era. Dickens utilized novels to discuss social changes and societal difficulties, as well as to remedy these problems throughout the Victorian era. Charles wrote about his traumatic childhood experiences. He wrote about heroes of young children who bore immense anguish, tasted color torment, and lived in absolute loss because of the intricate socioeconomic situations that prevailed in (England) at the time. Beginning with Dickens' three novels "Oliver Twist," "David Copperfield," and "Great Expectations," Charles explores the abuse of children and orphans. He noted in his introduction to the books that each work exploits "children" in a violent circumstance as a tool for moral and cultural interrogation. As a realistic author, Charles Dickens utilized everyday language to communicate about common people and their difficulties. Charles Dickens was a romanticist as well as a realistic author since he emphasized childhood and the innocence of children. Charles Dickens was a romantic author because he utilized a child's perspective to depict and make evident society's issues. Charles uses child's ideas in many of his works to look at the world through the perspective of a child, such as his novels (Oliver Twist 1837, David Copperfield 1850, Hard Times 1854, and Great Expectations 1861) to effectively criticize the Victorian era's social, economic, industrial, and moral abuse. Typically, Charles Dickens explores the roles of children and orphans in the Victorian era, as well as the challenges and conditions faced by many working-class kids during the Victorian era and the Industrial Revolution, as well as their Deprivation of Childhood, and how to safeguard children from harm and

moral decay. Charles Dickens was interested in how orphans deal with the hardship and psychological injury brought on by people who should be looking out for them. He was particularly concerned with the bleak perspective of the orphan.

Children in Dickens' works reflect real children from the real world with genuine experiences and tragic backgrounds when it comes to child labor in the Victorian era. They go through orphanages, poverty, maltreatment, and lack of educational opportunities. They are an expression of Dickens' own formative years. At the time, child labor was considered a kind of slavery. Due to the manufacturers' and capitalists' avarice, they used youngsters as slaves because of the pressing need for large labor made, which had disastrous effects. Children were killed, exposed to cruel exploitation, and tortured inhumanely. On the demand of their parents, these child laborers were made to work in factories and workhouses. In Victorian England, child labor was a horrifying system that robbed kids of their youth, health, and sometimes even their lives. In his literary works, Charles discusses how children and orphans are victimized. He clarified that each piece employs "children" in a hostile setting as a tool for moral and cultural examination. By focusing on children, especially on the maltreatment that happened during infancy, Dickens explored the many concerns of Victorian life. Dickens emphasised the importance of children in God's creative purpose by concentrating on works by Charles Dickens. After creating Adam and Eve, God told them to "be fruitful" by reproducing. The initial plan took into account the needs of families with children. The inclusion of kids was not an afterthought. His original blueprint for human offspring was approved of along with the rest of creation.

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