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CHARLES DICKENS'S *HARD TIMES*: A SOCIAL DOCUMENT



Dr. SANDEEP KUMAR SHARMA

Assistant Professor, Department of English,
P. U. Constituent College, Dharmkot (Moga) Punjab

ABSTRACT

Dickens wrote his novels with the intimate and first hand knowledge of the persons and places just as he visited Preston to survey the effects of the strike of manufacturers before writing *Hard Times*. He emphasized the importance of reality in his novels by having sympathy for the poor and hapless labourers who were also neglected and suffering lot, all this added an appeal to the novel. His philosophy of facts is a perfect example of the heartless and cruel aspect of materialistic Victorian society where Gradgrind and Bounderby are the chief exponents of this ideology. *Hard Times* is a great social novel and it has exposed the hollowness of the Victorian society.

KEYWORDS

Industrialisation, Utilitarianism, Victorian Society, Philosophy of Facts