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INDUSTRIALIZATION: A CRITICAL STUDY OF CHARLES DICKENS'S OLIVER TWIST



Mr. Raner Laxman Vishwanath

Research Student
Dr. B. A.M. University, Aurangabad



Professor (Dr.) Anil Y. Katte

Professor,
Department of English,
Karmveer Mamasahab Jagdale
Mahavidyalaya, Washi, Dist. Osmanabad

ABSTRACT

This research paper is a consideration of Charles Dickens protest of the deprived in the Victorian civilization and Industrialization. The Industrial deprived members that will be under discussion are the poor, women and children, who are of major concern in Dickens' selected text namely Oliver Twist. It is evident that Dickens noted the impact of industrialization on the Victorian civilization as it created a massive urban development, leading to a higher class division. Initially, the English society consisted of the aristocracy, the landed gentry and the servants who belonged to the lower class. The influx of industrialization created a further division of these classes in which there emerged the capitalists or

bourgeoisie, who were the industrialists like Mr. Bounder by in Hard Times, and the working class, who were the industrial workers.

Although the Industrial Revolution fostered urban growth, it is unfortunate that the number of the poor also increased. Many of them lived under squalid conditions with poor sanitation leading to fatal diseases and even death. Being a socially conscious writer, Dickens depicts the world in which he lives, as a strategy to raise awareness in his readers of what was really happening, and hopefully, to bring social reforms.

KEYWORDS

Industrialization, massive urban development, aristocracy and leading to a higher class division.