

Influence of Society over the Sapling of Future Generation

Abishek R.

Department of English
Madurai Kamaraj University
Madurai-625021
Tamilnadu, India
abishekraja432@gmail.com

Abstract

This article is to torch the societal issues present in the works of Literature through the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. In *Oliver Twist*, the boy Oliver was been exploited and cheated from the day of his birth till the last by the society. Though he himself being a good soul, the external pressure by the people of the society made him to do some mistakes. by knowing or unknowingly all around the Oliver trying to coverup his identity. Identity of each individual in as important as his birth right. Being a small kid, how many sufferings he had undergone by this society. ‘The child is not born as a negative character, but the society makes it’. Is the society, which abuses a child, or they corrupt themselves? As by the famous saying in Tamil society, “Child is alike god and he won’t say a lie”. This doesn’t show the good quality owned by child but the innocence of them. Via *Oliver Twist* we could know about how a innocent child is pushed into a cruel society filled will immoral values.

Keywords: Child abuse, External pressure, moral values, ethnicity, exploiting, corrupting minds

Introduction

There is numerous societal crisis in and around us. But all are left in the hands of social workers, until we are directly affected by those! Among all those crimes child abuse in the most terrific in the society. As how nourishing a sapling is important for the future harvest of plant, nourishing children with moral value is vital for the future of our world. It all about Good versus Bad, power versus weak, poverty versus loyalty.

Summary of *Oliver Twist*

Oliver Twist was born Orphan and Mrs. Thingummy stole his very first identity (the locket) from his dead mother. Then he was beaten and sent out for asking extra soup from the Master. His was placed in the workhouse, where he can bare the torture given to him. He ran away for more than several miles to reach the city of London. He starved for food and shelter. Here comes the Jack Dawkins or artful dodger offered him a stolen apple and took him to Fagin, a wicked cruel man train child for Pickpocket. At once, Oliver came to know these kids were trained to steal from people. Before he comes to a state, he was caught for stealing Mr. Brownlow’s kerchief, which was actually done by Jack. Mr. Brownlow finds the innocence in Oliver so he took him to his house and helped him with proper food and sophisticated clothings.

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But Oliver was once again forced and took back to Fagin by Jack. Only Nancy, the young girl with Fagin supported and protected Oliver. Then Edward Leeford alias Monk pays Fagin to corrupt Oliver. So that they plan for a burglary in Mrs. Maylie's house at night. Oliver was accompanied by Bill Sikes. During the theft the inmates are alerted and during the chase they shot Oliver. Totally humiliated Oliver was hospitalised by Rose Maylie (Mrs. Maylie's niece).

Day by day Oliver gets cured and had a pleasant life until he knew that dark plans going around him. Nancy came to Rose and gave a confidential information about a plot being built for Oliver to hide his identity by Fagin and an unknown man named 'Monk'. Mr. Losberne helped the ladies to protect Oliver. By later investigation on all these negative characters and they were punished of what they deserve.

Do Children get corrupt themselves or by others?

The children portrayed in Oliver Twist are not babies, they are tender kids. Oliver has experienced various environment of living till his boyhood. He faced life in Orphanage, workhouse and with burglars. Seldom he spent time with noble peoples, but he can differentiate the difference between good and evil. So, it is clear that he is not corrupted by society. Meanwhile he was forced to do crime by negative characters, and he does. The external pressure for the dark side of society shows their head here.

Jack Dawkins or artful dodger was also a kid of Oliver's age and he was fully involved in pickpocket without any guilt because he was brought up by Fagin by injecting the ideas and essence of pickpocketing. Here Jack was exploited, and the society doesn't give any chance for him to realise. In some case Jack pitied Oliver, whenever Oliver refuse to join the theft. It all because of Fagin's sponsorship in his basic necessity. So, he doesn't get any space to think about what he is doing!

Nancy, another young lady orphan with Fagin. She was also brought up by Fagin and she too involved in all unethical business-like cheating and prostitution. Though she was a grownup she was able to realise the unlawful issues going around Oliver. So, she tends to save him from all ways he was being corrupt. In the case of Nancy, we can get that children can only be fooled until they realise. How powerful the external pressure may be, a child with an adamant nature would strive. Such a way, hence Nancy was surrounded by all villainous characters till the end still ties her best for Oliver to get his identity.

Symbols and Themes

Symbol of Darkness shows the underground group of immoral behaviours. How good one may be, still there would be some who wants to do the misfortune. Here the Edward Leeford wants his half-brother Oliver to be corrupted. Oliver doesn't even know about Edward. Being on the darkness he does all whatever he wanted.

Symbol of Dirt portrays the poverty of the people of London, which tends them to involve in theft for their daily bread. The society of men make the children to be in dirty, to make the men with obesity. The Dirt denotes the children who are like the Chimney sweepers in the poem Lamb by Wiliam Blake. Their innocent nature was tuned in a way that, a robbery would give them all.

Conclusion

Water always takes the shape of the container and also gets contaminates by whatever poured on it. In case it would also get purified when it goes under any internal change caused by external pressure. I conclude that, there is a difference between child and baby. The stage of an infant is more volatile than boyhood. A molecular habit that we acquire in between can be changed rather than the radicular behaviour that we obtain initially. To an individual the Neighbourhood resident, relatives, friends and even guardians are the external sources who are responsible for sculpt the tender soul.

Works Cited

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- 2, Lamb by *Wiliam Blake*