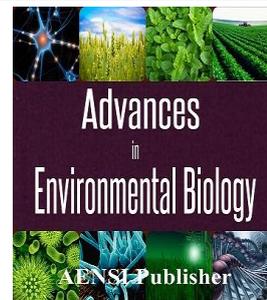




AENSI Journals

## Advances in Environmental Biology

ISSN-1995-0756 EISSN-1998-1066

Journal home page: <http://www.aensiweb.com/AEB/>

## The Reflection of Poverty and Social Inequality in the Novel of "the Spent Era of Olds" by Mahmoud Dolatabadi

<sup>1</sup>Maryam Salahshour and <sup>2</sup>Touraj Aghdaiee

<sup>1</sup>Department of Persian Language and Literature, Karaj branch, Islamic Azad University, Karaj, Iran.

<sup>2</sup>PHD, Department of Persian Language and Literature, Zanjan branch, Islamic Azad University, Zanjan, Iran.

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 26 September 2014

Received in revised form 20 November 2014

Accepted 25 December 2014

Available online 2 January 2015

#### Keywords:

Poverty, social inequality, poverty consequences, Mahmoud Dolatabadi, the spent era of olds.

### ABSTRACT

Undoubtedly the poverty and economical inequalities are the most important challenges of the humanity community problems being considered as a special establishment between other social issues. The poverty is the most fundamental problems and abnormalities of the human life pains that not only reduced in spite of the life development and progression but also it is increasing according to the recent statistics considerably. The poverty problems are not merely subjected to the consequences of the poverty itself but it will be intensified when the social issues are considered as the main social worsen events. The poverty is always considered as the main problems of the social sciences while the economists have given a complete analysis of the poverty the sociologists pay attention to the different social dimensions in this pavement. The poverty will always have many social worsen consequences terribly.

© 2014 AENSI Publisher All rights reserved.

**To Cite This Article:** Maryam Salahshour and Touraj Aghdaiee., The Reflection of Poverty and Social Inequality in the Novel of "the Spent Era of Olds" by Mahmoud Dolatabadi. *Adv. Environ. Biol.*, 8(25), 814-817, 2014

### INTRODUCTION

The process of the poverty and inequality are one of the most fundamental challenges and problems of the humanity community. But the fact is that the poverty is one of the most complex issues of the social affairs occupying the human minds socially. By the progression of the human life, this phenomenon has been transferred into one of the most acute issues at present time. The existence of the social and economical inequalities and other discriminations as well as sexual and ethnic issues is the main reasons making the appearance of the poverty in every society. Thus it can be stated that the root of these drastically events have been subjected to the poverty in relation to the social collapse. The poverty is coming with some terrible issues such as the illiteracy, unsuitable healthy status, moral criminals, prostitution, addiction and sexual abuse. In a sociological analysis, there have been represented three theories regarding to the process of the poverty. Some such as culturalists consider the poverty as an internal factor. According to them, the poor people show or indicate special value and behavioral patterns that these are really different with the community and cultural affairs [2]. Indeed, these groups of sociologists consider a basic value for the poverty phenomenon. In other words, they believe that the poor class people are naturally criminal and mental patient and they like to drop off their studies basically. But the second theory called "the situational perspective" says that the main reason of the poverty should be sought among the personal external forces. The poor is poor because it does not have enough availability to a suitable school, occupation and income. The poor is poor because it is getting under the discrimination. The poor is poor because it does not have enough governmental support. The poor is poor because it does not have enough opportunities for upgrading and optimizing the given chances at life. The poor is poor because it has been born in a poor condition. The poor is born poor and rich is rich and a society with the lack of necessary mobility should challenge to reduce the same status [2]. The supporters of the third theory "communicative perspective" believe that the culture of the poverty is not only subjected to the internal and external cases but they say that it is a communicative process depending on a sub-cultural case. It should be paid attention to the internal and external reactions in order to understand the culture of the poverty accurately [2].

**Corresponding Author:** Touraj Aghdaiee, PHD, Department of Persian Language and Literature, Zanjan branch, Islamic Azad University, Zanjan, Iran.  
E-mail: [Dr\\_aghdaie@yahoo.com](mailto:Dr_aghdaie@yahoo.com)

The investigation of the poverty phenomenon and the representation of an approach to eliminate the roots of the same poverty are the most fundamental challenges of the humanity since two hundred years ago. Different fields such as economy, sociology and politics have been always represented in this field. Experts have also represented some basic approaches to eradicate the poverty from the social affairs potentially. Probably talking all about the poverty in this literary work is not an easy task but Dolatabadi as a realistic writer has understood the foundations of the poverty as well and he has suitably made a terrible picturesque of the same poverty because he has been lived among these people.

The poverty has both objective and non-objective sides itself. The objective side is subjected to poor people's food and clothing approaches and the next side is related to the humanity cultural affairs.

#### *Clothing status of poor people:*

In poor family members the priority is subjected to full the hunger not clothing issues; that is, there is not enough money for paying attention to clothing affairs and they usually use the old people's cloths for the small ones and this is very common in old times:

*"Except some wearing suitable cloths but others cloths are really unsuitable like crying for their situation because the cloths are really tight being hired from their brother or dad". [3].*

This situation is seen during the drought years more and more:

*"And in these drought years how people can afford their new cloths and they have to only weave their own wearing"(the same, volume 1, 314)*

#### *Nutrition status of poor people:*

The landlords and village masters had better life than villagers and people of the villages had to work hardly to afford their simple life.

The day of Moharram, Ghaem the son of Haj Kalo used to give alms and many people come to the village to show their reputation in that era.

*"The used to bring some people like his father towards Talkhabad Village and kept the houses full of guests where smelling the rice around the alleys and the children used to walk around the master's house to only smell the rice and the alleys got full of these beggars."*(the same, 167).

People could find bread and their daily chores hardly and they could not afford themselves due to the drought years at that time. Yadeghar the uncle of Abdous says about Abdous honors that:

*"He was the only son of the house and knew that we cannot find something to full our stomach."*(the same: 21)

Due to the weak economical status of some people, they were not able to buy fresh bread and had to eat or buy cheap bread. Taher as one of the village children had very terrible economical and financial situation. He used to pose himself as eating bread and said it is very delicious.

*"And he had always cheap bread into his pockets and used to bring them into the alleys posing to other children. He used to chew these cheap breads talking all about the wheat and beer breads to other children and Samoon saw that he is eating the breads with full of jealousy. He never care of the bread black slices."*(the same: 503)

The unsuitable nutrition had made people to face with many dangerous diseases particularly among the poor people. The most terrible situation of the people in this novel sometimes make readers sad and dismal for reading and hearing all about the events taking place at that time. One of Samavat's students (Samoon's friend) was a 16 years old girl that used to vomit up bloody at class times. Doctor says about the girl's health condition:

*"I have seen many cases like this in this clinic for many years. Many used to vomit blood up. They used to boil the blood pouring it into a bowl and eat and when the digestive system is weak, the blood will be backed. The neurological stimulants can also make the digestive system damaged. And the eaten blood into the stomach can also make some stimulant cases in the body."*(the same: 199)

As we said, the poverty is the main factor of many social challenges and problems. The cultural appearance of the poverty can make the roots of many social criminals.

#### *Poverty and social criminals:*

The poverty is coming from the intensified class of two groups of people taking place between poor and rich people. It also is a phenomenon that the inequalities can take place between the social classes. This inequality can take place in many various communities but when the class of people and the gap between them is getting high, the social collapse will be also increased where it can make the events out of control in this pavement. In communities where the related gap is established in moderate and logical level, this process will not lead to the social collapse and any other criminals in this regard.

Research and investigation regarding to the relationship between the economical condition and criminals have the longest history. These investigations have brought many experimental researches assessing the relationship between these two phenomena. First in this study, the researchers aimed at investigating and

seeking the relationship between the various economical conditions and the rate of criminal actions. They compared the rate of the criminals in the economical crisis and the rate of crime in the economical enrichment for many various communities regarding to the poor and rich areas to see whether significant difference exists between the rate of crimes or no?

In the next phase, the researchers are getting more objective and the lack of crime rate and economical inequalities as well as the crime with unemployment as the main economical disability were investigated in this pavement [1].

The obtained results and struggles and other controversial findings made these studies to be divided into two main groups. The first group confirms the correlation between the crime and poverty and in contrast other studies reject the positive relationship between the crime and poverty.

When the inequality of a society is high, the social abnormalities and collapses will be also getting high. The increase of robbery, addiction, beggar, family separation and age of marriage are the main consequences of the poverty.

#### *Poverty and beggar:*

One of the most important factors coming from the poverty is subjected to beggar that influences on the humans' self-esteem directly. It also destroys the personality of people making loose people into communities.

The wife of "Kalani" started making beggar after her husband's death to afford her daughters' life time.

*"but after the death of mother, brother and husband, she used to be beggar and then she understood that she is not doing right particularly her daughters figured out that they will not have good destiny for their mother's beggar action."*[3].

I see that the poverty and poor condition in one hand made the family towards doing beggar and in the other hand the girls tend to make prostitution for their weak economical and financial problems. If they had better life time, they would never do these criminals at all.

The natural catastrophes had always played a key role in people's destiny. One of these catastrophes is subjected to the appearance of the city beggars.

*"Abdous remembers everything showing his own talks with Glich while he should not forget the beggars of his city walking around the city and the square."*(The same: volume 1, 403).

#### *Addiction and selling out (prostitution):*

Doing and acting the addiction and other social criminals are the main effects of the poverty challenging the people of a community in this pavement. As it mentioned above, the daughters of Kalani had tended to do criminals due to the poverty of the family. After the death of Kalani, his wife used to do beggar to be able to afford the daily life times. The daughters of Ali Ghool as the bushes' keepers were also addicted to narcotic making sex with sons of Zargham. One of the biggest factors of these social criminals is subjected to the poverty following the cultural poverty in this case.

*"And he used to eat the narcotic extraction more. There was no any bread and food for eating. For the reason, the schism pain was about to kill him day to day and he was become only a skinny man. I do not know I said or no that Ali Ghool was the bushes keeper and one day he cheated one of Ali Ghool's daughters taking them towards Zargham's sons."*(the same: volume 1, 282).

#### *Poverty and unemployment:*

The increase of the immigration and unemployment as well as the reduction of the financial and economical levels is considered as the main factors of the poverty. Of course, all of these events have mutual relationship together having direct impact on each other showing the signs of the disappointment in this pavement. Abdous has collapsed his own hopes during the lifetime affairs emigrating frequently from this city to another city but again he could not afford his daily life chores.

*"But there could not be established any changes for Abdous in his lifetime."*(the same: volume 2, 102).

*"I myself had changed some of my thoughts trying to go to Neishabour? No matters here or there? I made an excuse for the market issues and only I decided to afford myself but no help for me left yet."*(the same, volume 1, 323).

Abdous had to purchase all of his requirements by credit account due to the lack of enough money and financial problems but sometimes the shopper never sold something as credit due to Abdous financial problems. Abdous also could not go to the shop due to his owes trying to send Samoun to buy something but Samoun knew that the shopper never gives something for them.

*"go and say to Ali that it is little and I swear by the Holy Quran every package is four Geran and give only one package to my dad. Come on baby."*

*"Samoun stood up when leaving his hand with playing with his tore shoelace but he is very suspicious deadly in this case. Because he knew that it is very hard to buy something credit account. But what he could do?"*

*His father asked him to do this and he has to achieve it as soon. But he again could not go waiting only for his father anger to go.*"(the same: volume 1, 518).

*Poverty and drop off:*

The sacrificed children of the poverty do not have enough or suitable backgrounds to grow up and they prefer to work and make money than studying at school. Most rural children had the same condition as Dolatabadi mentioned them in his novel. From Akbar Barandaz (Samoun's friend) to Nabi, Razi and Asad (Samoun's brother-in-law) and even Samou as a talented novice had the hardest condition for working preventing any hard conditions against their family members. In turn, they sent their children to school.

*Mental effects of the poverty on people:*

Someone who grew up with the taste of poverty observes many bitter affairs and brutal from the surroundings. This kind of person will confront with many mental obsessions in his or her old ages. The poverty will be considered as the main problem. According to Samoun's statements talking with his friend in his young time about the poverty:

*"Samavat says: the poverty? The poverty is not a problem or excuse and Sam says: not in everybody's viewpoint. It is very destructive by most people's viewpoints and it is considered as the filthiest case."*(the same: volume 3, 63).

Living with poverty has many various consequences. The poverty can cause people to follow other dirty cases such as criminals. These terrible consequences should be investigated in many personal, social, cultural, educational and mental dimensions.

The poverty and social inequality can lead to many different social factors making many various social problems, too. In other words, there is a mutual relationship between the cause and effect of the poverty. The poverty has a direct relationship with the prostitution, unemployment, illiteracy and other social criminals making many mental-spiritual effects of people's temperament.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Esfandiari Esmaieel, 2003. Poverty and social criminals, navigation studies of women, 21.
- [2] Afrough Emad, 1994. An introduction on the poverty sociology analysis, seasonal magazine of Kalameh, 12.
- [3] Dolatabadi Mahmood, 2010. The spent time of olds, Cheshmeh Publication, 3rd printing.