

Exploring Social Injustice: The Role of Literature, Cinema, and Digital Media in Raising Awareness of the Exploited

Miss. Pratima Salunkhe

Research Scholar

Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil University

Satara, (M.S.) India

Dr. Babasaheb Kangune

Assistant Professor and Research Guide

Department of English

Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara,
(M.S.) India

Abstract

This research paper looks at how social injustice and exploitation are shown in literature and cinema. It focuses on two important novels, *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, as well as two famous films: *Slumdog Millionaire* and *Parasite*. Through these stories, the paper explores how inequality is reflected in society, how they make us feel empathy, and how they influence change. It also discusses how digital media platforms help spread these powerful stories to global audiences, showing that literature and cinema are strong tools for raising awareness about injustice and shaping public discussions.

Keywords: Social justice, literature, cinema, digital media

Introduction:

Social injustice and the exploitation of disadvantaged communities are still serious issues worldwide. Storytelling in literature and cinema has always been a way to expose these problems. By telling the stories of people suffering from oppression, these works make us care more about the problems, question our society, and push for change. With the rise of digital media, these stories now reach even more people globally, making their impact even stronger.

This paper focuses on *Oliver Twist*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, and *Parasite*, showing how each one shines a light on the struggles of marginalized groups and brings attention to the issues of injustice. It looks at how these stories go beyond the page and screen to inspire people and make them think about important changes in society.

Research Objectives:

- To analyze how *Oliver Twist* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* portray social injustice and marginalization.
- To examine *Slumdog Millionaire* and *Parasite* for their focus on class differences and inequality.
- To discuss how digital media and streaming platforms help spread these stories around the world.
- To explore the role of literature and cinema in influencing public opinions, laws, and social policies.

Literature Review:

Oliver Twist: Uncovering Victorian Child Exploitation

Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* (1837) is one of the earliest works to show the suffering of children in Victorian England. The story of Oliver, an orphan, represents many children who faced terrible

conditions in workhouses. Dickens uses the character to criticize the way society treated the poor and exploited children during industrial times. The novel also portrays the world of crime, with characters like Fagin and Bill Sikes taking advantage of vulnerable people.

This novel helped spark discussions in Britain about child labor and poverty and led to reforms in the 19th century.

To Kill a Mockingbird: Racial Injustice and Moral Courage

Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) examines racial injustice in the American South during the Great Depression. The story focuses on lawyer Atticus Finch, who defends Tom Robinson, an innocent Black man accused of raping a white woman. Through this legal fight, Lee exposes the deep racism that existed in society and the legal system at the time.

The novel became very important during the civil rights movement, encouraging conversations about racial inequality, responsibility, and empathy. Its 1962 film adaptation spread this message even further.

Cinema Review:

Slumdog Millionaire: A Modern Tale of Poverty and Hope

Slumdog Millionaire (2008), directed by Danny Boyle, tells the story of Jamal Malik, a young boy from the slums of Mumbai who rises to fame by winning a game show. The film contrasts the luxury of the game show with Jamal's life of poverty, highlighting the extreme divide between rich and poor in India.

The movie also shows child exploitation, human trafficking, and life in the slums. Despite these hardships, it's a story of hope and survival. The film's global success brought attention to these social issues

worldwide, encouraging discussions about poverty and inequality.

Parasite: Class Conflict and Survival

Parasite (2019), directed by Bong Joon-ho, is a dark comedy that critiques class inequality in South Korea. The story follows two families - one rich and one poor - whose lives become connected through lies and manipulation. The film uses the homes of the two families as symbols of the gap between the rich and poor.

As the poor family struggles, the film shows how systemic inequality forces people to make desperate choices. The movie ends violently, showing how the exploitation of the poor can destroy society. *Parasite* won several prestigious awards, including Best Picture at the Academy Awards, and sparked global discussions about class differences and injustice.

Methodology:

This paper uses qualitative analysis to look at how social injustice is portrayed in *Oliver Twist*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, and *Parasite*. Through detailed analysis of the stories and films, it examines the techniques used to create empathy, raise awareness, and challenge societal norms. It also looks at how digital platforms like Netflix and YouTube have helped these stories reach audiences around the world.

Discussion:

The Power of Literature to Expose Injustice:

Oliver Twist and *To Kill a Mockingbird* both show how literature can reveal social inequalities. Dickens criticized the exploitation of children during industrial times, while Lee's novel brought attention to racial injustice in the American South.

These novels humanize the oppressed and give readers a deeper understanding of the unfair systems that exploit and harm people.

Cinema's Global Impact on Social Justice Narratives:

Slumdog Millionaire and Parasite illustrate the role of cinema in portraying class struggles worldwide. Both films show the harsh realities of poverty and inequality, offering stories of hope and survival but also harsh consequences. The global success of these films highlights the universal importance of these issues.

Digital Media's Role in Expanding Social Justice Stories:

Digital platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, and YouTube have made it easier for people all over the world to access films

and stories with social justice themes. This wider reach means that more people are engaging with these important stories and starting discussions about inequality and the need for reform.

Conclusion:

This paper shows how Oliver Twist, To Kill a Mockingbird, Slumdog Millionaire, and Parasite play a crucial role in raising awareness about social injustice and exploitation. These works not only reflect real societal issues but also inspire public conversations and demand change. With the help of digital media, these stories are now reaching a global audience, creating a more informed and empathetic society.

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