



# Some Efforts To Change Society Through Education: A Sociological Study Of The Novels Of Charles Dickens

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**Abstract**

Education assesses the process of social change and establishes the necessary standards and criteria for desired social improvements. It should meet the demands and expectations of society. Every culture has its own social and cultural history, which includes customs, traditions, moral and religious beliefs, goods, and spiritual treasures. It both maintains and develops this heritage. It lays the groundwork for societal transformation, which brings with it a slew of new ideas and technologies. Education has an impact on a society's economic progress. It also contributes to the economic development of society. Charles Dickens's novels show that education is utilized as a tool for social change and improvement. Individuals become more dynamic citizens as a result of their education. Education fosters societal achievements in civilization.

**Key words-** Progress, Achievement, Standard, Spiritual Treasure, Dynamic Society.

## Introduction

Education not only increases information, but it also helps people manage their behavior with social norms. It is crucial in educating a person about good and wrong as well as the fundamental social norms of behavior. Dickens's novels portray a very mobile society in which future can be made. Most significantly, it makes everyone in society a bright future, which is essential for promoting social change. It brings up a basic understanding of social issues, such as the duties and rights owed to others. It gives regular people in society a progressive perspective. To attain its desired aims, a society that wishes to modify or modernize itself must engage a variety of means, instruments, tools, institutions, agents, or agencies. Education is possibly the most essential of these tools. Because of their superior living conditions and knowledge, people in contemporary civilization can apply better solutions to their problems. Every society organizes its education in such a way that it can realize its values and grows its population into dynamic citizens, while keeping in mind its own requirements, ambitions, and aspirations. Education is the process through which society shapes children to fit its goals, ideals, and objectives. In other words, education is as diverse as society. Thus, education is guided by and strives to realize the ideals of the society it serves.

Poor boys and orphans hold different social standing and get unequal treatment, according to Dickens. Despite originating from a lower socioeconomic level, the charity boy has a family and may pursue a degree since the government pays for his or her tuition at a formal institution. In contrast, children who live in orphanages, regardless of their social class, do not have access to education since they were put forth without parents and are thus destined to labor, which places them among the lowest social classes in society. Many of the old customs have become obsolete. It is up to education to either eliminate or amend them as needed. Education trains people's minds to readily and cheerfully accept and absorb desired changes.

Education has a big impact on societal transformation. While it is in charge of passing down values, cultures, knowledge, and skills from one generation to the next, it also acts as a catalyst for societal change. Dickens exposes in his novels that education starts with new ideas and concepts, which the next generation uses as goals to follow and complete. One of the sociologists defined education as "the adult generation's influence on those not yet prepared for adult life." The objective is to help the kid become aware of and develop the physical, intellectual, and moral qualities that society as a whole and their immediate social context expect of them

## The Use of Education to Promote Social Change and Reform

Education employs strategies to increase people's knowledge and understanding of societal changes. This process broadens people's perspectives on the role of education in the realm of social transformation. This results in the elimination of deficiencies in the process of social change. The major driver of social change is the growth of information. Continuous societal change and reform are brought about by education. Education attempts to

bring about required social changes and reforms by removing societal problems, blind customs, and traditions through various social reformation efforts and social service schemes.

Dickens employed fact-based principles extensively in his story to make the then-society aware that these utilitarian principle-based educational facilities deter its youngsters from enrolling. He was one of the finest writers of his day, and through his writings, he changed many aspects of society and the educational system in England. Dickens argues that society ought to treat the poor better. He feels that the educational system has to be reformed and is concerned about it. Instead of being made to work in industries, children should be permitted to go to school.

It's possible that Dickens's *Hard Times* was intended to alter the educational system amid the industrial revolution. Child labor and denial of education are concerns that Dickens convincingly portrays as societal maltreatment of children. Unfortunately, the poor are always entangled in the web of poverty due to illiteracy, which is brought on by a lack of good and formal education. A youngster from a low-income family who is denied an education will not be able to outlive them. The divide between the wealthy and the poor can be overcome via education. Dickens actively promoted social changes, which raised public awareness of the struggle against poverty and educational inequality.

### **How Education Affects Society to Order to Meet Social Needs**

Charles Dickens gave us message through his novels that education is a significant tool for achieving social needs. Education meets societal demands and spreads deals that encourage social change in many aspects of life. The economy of society is an important aspect with far-reaching ramifications for educational and human development in any place. Rich societies can provide quality education to their citizens, whereas poor societies struggle to educate all of their citizens. It should be recalled that societal needs fluctuate with changing eras, events, and situations.

Education should thoroughly comprehend these needs and develop plans and programs to address them. In *Great Expectations*, Dickens depicts the education of Jim's so-called paradoxical position is easily understood; not obtaining a proper education and being considered lower and less educated do not hinder him from acting logically and realizing the peculiarity of this benefit master-slave relationship. Joe, the breadwinner of his family, is a blacksmith who cannot read or write due to a lack of schooling. Because of his benefactor's generosity, Pip was able to move to London and acquire a good education, which might be seen as a turning point in his ability to move up the social scale.

## **Our Social, Moral, and Cultural Values are spread via Education**

It is vital to note the significant roles that Dickens' writings give to family and education, two of the main ideological state apparatuses. Education familiarizes people with the constitution, norms, and regulations that govern them, and so on. Each culture has its own set of customs and traditions, which it is proud of. Education should not only preserve and sustain but also expand society's cultural inheritance and civilization achievements. If education fails to fulfill its critical role, society will stagnate. As a result, education should empower individuals to become dynamic and strive for higher and higher levels of brilliance. Education can help to bring about national integration, cooperation, mutual understanding, and secularism. It can also aid in the development of pupils' acceptance and tolerance. Education supplies individuals with knowledge of the most recent advances as well as appropriate motivation for their application, resulting in the formation of new concepts, values, and goals that society progressively embraces.

Education safeguards, preserves, and promotes the moral and spiritual ideals on which society is highly reliant. The term "degradation of moral principles" refers to a change in behavior from right to wrong, including acts of retaliation, violence, isolation, bullying, stealing other people's property, truancy, cheating, using drugs, fighting, being inebriated, and so on. The best solution for these moral problems is character education. Furthermore, Faturrahman et al. stated that education can mold or shape a person's character, with education being described as a deliberate and methodical endeavor to maximize a student's potential. Additionally, the affective theory of education was used by a teacher to influence students' attitudes through learning activities, such as having them read a story based on the moral principles found in Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*, write about what they learned from it, and modify a different story with the same principles.

Dickens used to depict the society in a sense of awareness regarding moral and cultural values in his novels. Moral behavior is defined as any sort of human behavior that results from views about what is right or wrong, good or terrible, insofar as that behavior is useful or productive in society. Every society has values that guide how they live their lives and include some ideas, ideals, or norms. Moral ideals serve as a guideline for determining which activities are appropriate and valuable and which are not. The socialization of children serves as the foundation for education, which advances through institutions. Students need moral education because it fosters a sense of responsibility in them.

## **Enhanced Uniqueness and Innovation**

Dickens was highly sensitive to social wrongs and injustice so he wanted that people should be educated. Only through the process of education are new ideas and researches possible. People were educated here about knowledge. As a result, a better sort of society is possible. Education can do wonders; it is a potent tool for bringing about societal growth. A good education results in a good society. Education and society are as intertwined as body and soul. Education is viewed as both a preserver of traditional culture and an effective

agent of school transformation. Education broadens one's knowledge and offers the door to further and deeper analysis and research. Through the medium of invention, education gives birth to new changes. Individuals' creative and constructive abilities must be promoted and developed through education. This is critical for their personalities and for their ability to contribute something unique to the evolution of society. He encourages people to be creative since imagination aids in empathy for others.

As a social novelist, Charles Dickens emphasized women's appropriate identity, advocating strongly for education. "Charles Dickens believed that a woman should be a 'house angel,' devoting her life to housekeeping and child-rearing." Charles Dickens attempts to place a specific emphasis on women's education and status in society in *Hard Times*. Dickens wants to show us the inner world of pupils, that the problem of child education is not only one of labor force quality and education but also one of the societal difficulties. Morals and culture are poor, which is out of step with the rate of economic and social progress. It is currently necessary to pay more attention to disadvantaged populations and give opportunities for their growth. Otherwise, it will jeopardize the long-term viability of social development.

### **Economic Progress in Society**

Education helps people to develop skills and become effective citizens. Everyone learns how to earn money through education, and based on their qualifications, they get a job or labor, and on the whole, with the help of education, more or less everyone gets a job and earns money, so as literacy increases, precipitate income, rises as the government assists in the form of taxes, and our economy grows. Dickens's novels depict economic necessity for social change. People travel to other countries because of education, and their earnings serve to build society and the country. As a result, education has an impact on a society's economic development. To accomplish this purpose, education equips youngsters with many sorts of vocational training for them to better themselves and bring about economic advancement and success in society. Without education, a civilization stays economically underdeveloped and, as a result, impoverished.

Charles Dickens's novel *Great Expectations* shows that every person needs education to thrive psychologically and even economically. The uneven distribution of economic and educational sub-spaces is important in the creation of social spaces. Pip realized that in order to advance in society, he needed to gain an education and earn more money. Pip was able to get an education that enabled him to socialize with the higher classes thanks to this benefactor. The average person was powerless to change their social status on their own. Education and income continue to be important factors in determining an individual's social position. Pip pursued schooling, modified his wardrobe, and even his living circumstances to achieve the psychic space he identified with the upper class.

## Goals for the Study

The main objective of this study is to determine how education affects society in the modern day to promote social development and economic growth. The study also looks at how education and society are intertwined in today's world. The truth will be revealed, fresh perspectives will be generated, and it will be shown why society has to be changed so that people may express themselves freely and keep up with the times. To increase people's knowledge and comprehension of the social changes taking place in society, education uses a variety of techniques. The procedure broadens people's perspectives on how education plays a role in societal transformation.

## Utility of this Research

Education lays the groundwork for society and contributes to the complete development of people and society as a whole. It provides several opportunities to explore, learn, and improve one's life, as well as mental and physical independence. The quality of education supplied to youngsters determines the nation's future. Education assesses the social change process and establishes the norms and requirements for desired social changes. As a result, flaws in the process of social transformation are eliminated.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the key to societal transformation is education. Education has always played a significant role in societal development and will continue to do so. It enables us to accept novel concepts, do away with undesirable behaviors, and advance our civilizations. Finally, education is a critical component of social change. Education has been and will be a crucial component of societal change, impacting our everyday lives. It permits us to embrace novel concepts, give up unhealthy habits, and advance our civilizations. The goal is to awaken and develop the physical, intellectual, and moral conditions that society as a whole and the immediate social context require of the kid. It acts as a catalyst for social transformation. It is in charge of passing on values, culture, expertise, and skills from one generation to the next. Education not only educates a person but also moderates the ethical rules of society's behavior. It raises basic awareness about social issues such as human rights and duties, as well as public behavior standards. Most importantly, it creates a positive future for all people in a society, which is critical for instilling social change.

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