

## **The Social and Intellectual Milieu of the Victorian-Era Industrial Revolution: The Rise of The Machine**

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**Abstract:** The study's goal is to shed light on the Industrial Revolution's impact on literature from the Victorian era. It is said that Victorian literature has suffered a long-term decline due to these impacts. How do machines affect the lives of humans positively or negatively? According to this study, the Industrial Revolution impacted Victorian literature. This thesis argued that the Industrial Revolution would also profoundly affects society as a whole. This study also mentions how the Industrial Revolution impacted people's faith and beliefs.

**Keywords:** Negative and cheerful, the Victorian era

### **The Emergence of the Industrial Age**

The Industrial Revolution began in the middle of the 18th century and lasted for more than a century before it ended. Initially, Britain became more prosperous than any other country on Earth, but at a high price. The industry's rapid growth in urban areas created enormous social problems that had to be dealt with first.

At this time, England was steadily progressing toward being Europe's most stable and prosperous nation. As a result of the industrial revolution and the ensuing railway and shipbuilding eras, steam engines became widely employed in various settings. Small villages were morphing into smokey manufacturing hubs as a result of the growth of the sector. To top it all off, the only people who could vote or hold office were those who were either born into riches or had made their fortunes in business. England remained largely agrarian despite the factories, mills, mines, and workshops built throughout the Industrial Revolution. Everyone's life was intertwined with the English countryside. Poor people were compelled to live and work in new towns' mills. Factories were only beginning to feel the effects of the industrial revolution, which included filth and misery and crime and disorder. Women and children were routinely overworked and underpaid, with no recourse for the mistreatment they suffered at the hands of their employers. The country's social structure was essentially feudal. The landlord or lord of the manor, to whom tenants of farms or cottages paid rent, nevertheless ruled over a small agricultural community. Except for the local parson, pharmacist, or surgeon, no one else in the little rural village held much power.

### **The Progressive Role of the Industrial Revolution**

#### **It expanded employment**

In the wake of the Industrial Revolution, more individuals were able to find work. Before the modern age, a person's employment depended on what they learned in school,

what their parents taught them, or what they were naturally good at. People were able to make a living in ways they had never been able to before because of the construction of factories all around the world. It was a chance for the average individual to reshape their destiny.

### **Levels of production went up.**

Many things were built or manufactured by hand before the industrial revolution. Because the designer had to dedicate so much time to this, mass production was out of the question. That was all altered by the industrial revolution. The invention of the factory allowed large groups of individuals to be more productive than a single individual. Better products and services could be created as a result of this. Since goods and services were more readily available, people were able to improve their quality of life.

### **The Rapid Advancement of Medical Science**

Various medical advances were propelled forward by the Industrial Revolution. Industrialization made scalpels, microscopes, test tubes, and other medical equipment more swiftly. Refinements to these instruments could be distributed more quickly to doctors who required them if machines made them. Improvements in medical care were made possible by the rapid dissemination of information about novel treatments and cures for disease, thanks to advancements in physician-to-physician communication.

### **Increasing the Average Person's Financial Security and Well-Being**

Ordinary people were able to save money and grow their wealth because of the mass production of essential tools, clothing, and other home goods, which cut their prices. Additional job opportunities resulted from the invention and construction of new manufacturing machines and facilities. Thanks to industrialization, personal prosperity is no longer based solely on land ownership. Because of the growing demand for manufactured goods, city dwellers were able to make a fortune working in factories and supporting industries, earning higher pay than those associated with farming. As a general rule, people could save some of their salaries, and many had the chance to invest in productive businesses, thus increasing their family's "nest eggs." There was a rise in the middle class in the United Kingdom and other industrialized countries, which meant that the influence of the aristocracy was being eroded. Laws were amended to better meet the needs of an industrialized population because of their increased purchasing power and social status.

### **Specialty Professions' Evolution**

More and more rural residents moved to the metropolis in quest of better jobs in the factories as the process of industrialization continued. Worker specialization was instituted at the plant level to boost productivity and take advantage of new market opportunities. They divided their personnel into different groups, each of which was responsible for a distinct task. Some groups were responsible for securing and transporting raw materials (such as iron, coal, and steel) to factories, while others were responsible for operating various machines. Some workers were responsible for repairing malfunctioning machinery, while others were responsible for improving the factory operation. Additional teachers and trainers were needed as factories increased and workers became more specialized. Cities and towns grew in response to factory workers' housing, transportation, and recreational needs. Government bureaucracies expanded in response, and new divisions were established to deal with various

aspects of public infrastructures, such as transportation, sanitation, and taxation. As more and more contractors, doctors, lawyers, and other professionals were hired to meet the new people's diverse demands, other towns' companies also grew more specialized.

## **The Negative Effects of Industrialization**

### **Cities and Industrial Towns are becoming overcrowded.**

Migrants were drawn to cities and industrial towns by the promise of higher earnings, but these places were unprepared to deal with the influx. While construction booms and modern structures gradually replaced tight shantytowns containing shacks and other low-quality dwellings, they developed first in many regions. As a result of the unexpected inflow of people, local sewerage and sanitation systems were overburdened, and drinking water was frequently contaminated. There was a perfect storm for the spread of diseases, including typhus, smallpox, cholera, and tuberculosis, because of the tight quarters and contaminated water. Many industrialized cities' current building rules, health laws, and urban planning grew out of the necessity to address these and other ailments in metropolitan environments.

### **Environmental maladies**

With only a few notable exceptions, the Industrial Revolution was primarily responsible for today's global environmental issues. There was a significant reduction in the planet's stock of valuable natural capital due to the transformation of natural resources to fuel and sustain the production of all manufactured goods. We can trace the causes of today's global problems, including widespread water and air pollution, dwindling biodiversity, the destruction of wildlife habitats, and even global warming. There will be an enormous ecological transformation as more countries industrialize in search of their prosperity. For example, before 1750, atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations were between 275 and 290 parts per million by volume (ppmv). By 2017, those concentrations had risen to more than 400 ppmv. More than 40% of Earth's land-based net primary output, a measure of the rate at which plants transform solar energy into food and growth, is also consumed by humans. It is becoming increasingly difficult for plants and animals that provide ecosystem services (clean air, clean water, etc.) to obtain the resources they need to thrive as the human population grows. More people seek the material benefits of the Industrial Revolution.

### **Child Labour**

In exchange for a small amount of money, children were made to work in factories all day and night. Some of the worst working conditions were for young children. Workdays could last anywhere from 10 to 14 hours, with just brief breaks. Injuries and even deaths were expected in factories that employed minors. Little ones' fingers, limbs, and legs may quickly become entangled in machinery that is moving at such a rapid pace. In addition to the machinery, the surrounding environment poses a health risk to youngsters due to the emissions of toxic gasses. Chronic illnesses or diseases are very likely if children breathe them. Those children who worked in remote locations had a difficult time. It was usual for these children to work for lengthy periods harvesting crops in harsh heat.

In contrast to industrial work, agricultural work was less strictly regulated. Even though youngsters were expected to carry their weight and more in producing and handling dangerous instruments, farm work was not considered harmful or superfluous. In addition to

the issue of safety, there was a lack of educational opportunities for youngsters who worked long hours. Children were frequently denied the opportunity to attend school since many families were dependent on the individual incomes of all members of the household. School attendance was typically limited to a few weeks or just a few days each week for those fortunate enough to be accepted.

Many street children were orphans who had no one to look after them. This is what Charles Dickens wrote about in his novel *Oliver Twist*. In this story, Dickens criticizes both the humorous and tragic consequences of industrialization. Many contemporary social ills are highlighted in the book, including the Impoverished Asylum, where the poor must work, and the use of minors as offenders.

### **Unhealthy Habits are on the Rise**

People's physical activity decreased as more cheap labor-saving technology became accessible. Tractors and other specialized vehicles for tilling the soil, planting crops, and harvesting them made the challenging farm work much easier and safer. Still, other cars, such as railroads and automobiles, lowered the number of healthy exercises individuals participated in daily. As a result, many outdoor jobs that required a lot of physical exertion have been replaced by sedentary office labor. The rise of television and other passive entertainment has led to increased sedentary behavior at work and at home. Food processed with salt and sugar to better preserve it or reduce cooking time is also a contributing factor. Obesity-related disorders, such as heart disease, diabetes, and several cancers, have increased due to these developments.

### **Relationship to literary novels**

Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem "The Cry of the Children" depicts the plight of children working in mines and factories. Some of the worst working circumstances were for young children, as she said

*"Do ye hear the **children** weeping, O my brothers, Ere the sorrow comes with years? They lean their young heads against their mothers, which cannot stop their tears. "*

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"Tales of Two Cities" and "An Inspector Calls" are two of Charles Dickens's most famous works depicting industrialization's impact.

In *Hard Times*, we see that it wasn't just the economy that was affected by the Industrial Revolution; it also had a social impact. Economically, it resulted in an increase in factory output at a cheaper cost to the producers.

*Mary Barton*, a novel by Elizabeth Gaskell, belongs to a genre of Victorian literature known as the industrial novel. With pity, Gaskell depicted the victims of this new world but expressed worry that the working class would one day destroy the economic system that had oppressed them.

The work "The Condition of the Working Class in England" by Friedrich Engel, analyzed by G.Clark, is a classic in social history and a masterwork of devoted reporting. As well as describing the devastation caused by industrialization, he also has a plan to remedy the situation. As part of the communist manifesto of 1848, he and Karl Marx argue that revolution is the only way to deal with Industrialist Capitalist society's disparity.

### **Conclusion**

The culmination of the Industrial Revolution was the development of a significant number of inventions that enhanced the capacity for production within various industries and contributed to the economy's expansion. Consequently, there was an increase in poverty and unemployment caused by a decreased reliance on physical labor.

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