

Sudan University of Science and Technology
College of Graduate Studies

**The Negative Perception of Women Status in the Victorian Society as
Portrayed in Some Novels of Thomas Hardy**

النظرة السلبية لمكانة المرأة في المجتمع الفكتوري كما صورت في بعض روايات توماس
هاردي

A Thesis Submitted in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree
of Ph.D in English Language (Literature)

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2019

Dedication

I dedicate this work to my family

To my friends

And to those who helped my completing this thesis

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my supervisor Dr. Mahmoud Ali Ahmad for his tiredness efforts without whom this thesis would not have been possible. I also send my sincere gratitude to all friends and colleagues who provided me useful guidance in preparing this thesis.

Abstract

This study aimed at investigating the negative attitude of the Victorian society towards women status which let the women to face tragic circumstances at the end. It mainly deals with the ill-treatment of women at the time, thereby literally analyzing the way the Victorian writer “Thomas Hardy” adopted in portraying the negative attitude prevailed. The researcher in doing so adopts a descriptive analysis of the two novels through collecting the data from the relevant tools of the previous studies such as the books, journals, and the novels under the study as primary sources. Having analyzed the novels, the researcher reached to a finding that Victorian women were severely made to face tragic fate out of the negative perception of the society and its ill-treatment of women. Having arrived at findings; the researcher recommends that the Sudanese society should develop ways to eliminate all forms of the negative attitudes and ill-treatment of women.

المستخلص

هدفت هذه الدراسة الي التحقق من النظرة السلبية تجاه النساء من قبل المجتمع الفيكتوري والتي ادت الي ان تواجه النساء ظروف ماساوية في النهاية , حيث تقوم الدراسة اساسا علي تحليل سوء معاملة النساء في ذلك الوقت مستخدما تحليلا ادبيا للطريقة التي قام بها الكاتب الفيكتوري توماس هاردي لتصويره لنظرة السلبية السائدة.ومن اجل القيام بذلك, سيقوم الباحث بتبني اسلوب الوصف التحليلي للروائيتين وعبر جمع البيانات ذات الصلة بموضوع البحث بالدراسات السابقة مثل الكتب والمجلات وكذلك من خلال الروائيتين قيد الدراسة كمصدرين اساسيين.وبتحليله للروائيتين توصل الباحث الي اكتشاف ان النساء الفيكتوريات اجبرن لمواجهة المصير الماساوي بسبب النظرة السلبية للمجتمع وسوء معاملته للنساء.وبوصوله لنتائج,يوصي الباحث بان يجب علي المجتمع السوداني تطوير طرق عملية للتخفي المواقف السلبية تجاه النساء وسوء معاملتهن.

Definition of Key Terms

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1-0 Background

The Victorian Era of British was the period of Queen Victoria's reign that started from 20 June 1837 until her death on 22 January 1901. It was a long period of peace, prosperity, and refined sensibilities as well as complete national self-confidence for Britain. The Victorian period was thus, the period that synchronized and coincided with the reign of Queen Victoria in 1837 (Wolffe, 1997).

The era was characterized by many changes and inspiration that took place which made the reign of Victoria as the most progressive period in English history (Fletcher, 2002). The changes that took place during the era were varied some of which were of economic, social, political, and cultural; as well as in the character of the English itself, all of which contributed and affected the life standard of the people in general.

Of the changes took place in this era, there witnessed a great change in the industrial Revolution that made England known as top nations, in terms of progressive development in trade and industry (Herbert, 2009). The era also considered to be as a new world to the Victorians which affected their daily life as well as it considered as the most transformative age of human life in the history of England and its people. Clearly speaking, England had witnessed many innovations and in different fields such as science, philosophy, and Technology. For instance, railway lines that connected England's major cities such as Liverpool and Manchester opened the first public railway in the world.

In terms of the economy growth, England developed free Trade of industries that become more competitive in the exportation arena, due to the growth of the materials, Coal mining, Iron, and Cotton. As a result Industrial roads were built to facilitate transforming the commodities and to reduce the distances between the cities, a matter which increased and fastened the movement of the populations from the country sides to the big towns. In addition to, England became powerfully self-confident after the industrial Revolution that flourished its economy generally, as most of the country side people of the working class left their villages to become factories workers in the bigger cities.

As to the social aspect of the era, it's to be noted that the status of women in the 19th Century Victorian Era was not as same as that of men. Women as individuals in this very era underwent and passed by some kind of complete misrecognition by men, and were obviously ill-treated as secondary citizens compared to men in the society. In such away, women were explicitly suppressed and ill-treated from the society through imposing the most unfair social traditions which predefined norms that greatly limited and hindered women roles in the society.

It's noted also that the 19th Century period was a great age of the English Novels; the term novel arose at the end of the eighteenth Century, and was the most ideal form to describe contemporary life issues. This type of literary works flourished since there was an increase in literacy, as the middle classes literacy increased. Therefore, the Victorian Novels were greatly known for their concern on current problems, and became the fundamental form in the Victorian age (Carter, McRae, 2001).

Because of the above facts, Victorian writers tried to describe and portray their day-to-day life issues and dilemmas through such literature lenses, so that they show the Victorian reader about all the societal discrepancies that prevailed in the community. One of these great writers is Thomas Hardy, who was one of

the eye witnesses to the history of England, especially the Victorian era. Due to this, most of Hardy's Novels either portray conflict between man versus man or represent a clash between individual against a society.

The writing of women tragedy was popular in the 19th Century Victoria. Thomas Hardy as novelist was among those writers who devoted to write about women sufferance .Because the negative view on women was a prevailed social phenomenon during the period, Hardy had the reason to bring those challenges through the literature lenses. As the causes of women tragedy are varied, the one triggered by the social influences considered a major reason behind women tragic end. Therefore, previous novelists always attempted to mirror those social failures in their literary fictions.

According to Howard (1960:1) tragedy in literature is an event that describes a series of tragic events in the lives of the main characters which leads to a tragic end, as a result of either a flaw or weakness of the character or as a result of a social circumstance. When Thomas Hardy started to write about tragedy, he used an old tradition. A recall of the traditional theory and practice of this genre clarifies Hardy's philosophy and usage of literary technique Howard (1960:1).

In Hardy's novels "*Tess of the D'Urbervilles*" and "*The Return of the Native*", the society whether through ill-treatment of women or their exploitation plays a major role in bringing about women's tragic end. Literature is an important area of study as it explores peoples' behaviours and ethical dilemmas in the societies. Hardy's reflection of women tragedy remains a controversial issue. His work often mirrored society's faults in ill-treating women.

One of the key issues in Hardy's selected novels is the ill- treatment of women by society which leads to a catastrophic conclusion. Hardy was thus fascinated by women a affair that is why he had the reason to reveal those discrepancies in

this fictional works. In this regard, Regan (2001:344) says “*Thomas Hardy repeatedly shaped his characters and plots to show his sympathy with women and his awareness of the disadvantages society laid upon them*”.

Therefore, the writing of women was a popular trend during the late 19th Century Victoria and Hardy has been among the writers who followed the same trend. Hence, most feminist critics would agree that women are the central figures in Hardy’s literary works. In this regard, Spiridon (2011:138) says, “Hardy focuses primarily on the feminine”. And also, Miles (1979: 23-24) observes that women constitute Hardy’s “*starting point*” that they are “*the summit of his highest endeavor, his initial inspiration and his ultimate goal*”.

Generally, in literature it can be said that there are two types of tragedies – that of old Greek drama, in which the characters suffer because of the will of Gods and the Shakespearian tragedy where the characters suffer because of their own fault Spyridon (2011:138). Although critics view that Hardy’s novels as having the latter type of tragedy, in the researcher’s view the society plays a major role in contributing to the tragedy of the characters. In order to explore to what extent the novels’ tragedy are of society faults, a thorough analysis of the novels will be made, exploring the major causes of the main characters’ tragedy. Therefore, the aim of this thesis is to analyze and present a portrayal of women status in 19th century fictions through tracing the social history of the period and examining Victorian England of the second half of the nineteenth century.

The researcher concentrate in this regard on women as a unique body, their social status, rights, and analyze the differences between women of various social classes as well as to examine the prejudices and the role of parliament that particularly affected women’s lives, in addition to highlight some concepts and terms used by the society to undermine women in general, such as the concept that “Women as the Angle in the

House“ (Patmore,2011) and the term “Pater Familia” which means the husband as the head of the household ,and finally the women as “The household general(Isabella,1861).All these terms and concepts are in details provided as they are frequently used to define both women and men roles separately.

In chapter two, the researcher will further present elaborately the major events and changes that contributed to the idea of women inferiority within the society as well as the social, economic, and cultural factors that shaped the male dominance attitude.

As to the significance of Victorian Era, the researcher will define the Victorian Literature, its general characteristics, its role in introducing the novel as a genre for the first time, and present some Victorian women novelists and their intellectual suppression they faced during their literary career, which was nothing but because they were women.

In regard to chapter three the researcher will discuss and analyses the two selected novels through tracing women portrayal in them. Before doing so, biography of the novels’ author would be presented in advance so that to capture the background and traces his literary profile and presentation of the different depictions in both Thomas Hardy’s Novel “The return of the Native” and “Tess of the D’Urbervilles” respectively, based on issues such as women situation in a completely male dominated society, their anticipation from the marital life, their disillusionment, and their response to those disillusionments.

In this connection, the selected novels’ characters such as “Eustacia” and “Thomasin” in the Novel “*The Return of the Native*”, and “Tess” and “Joan” in the Novel “*Tess of the D’Urbervilles*” will be analyzed and studied, so that to reflect and present the historical context in which

they were created, tracing the Victorian era as the relevant period concerned, and in which women saw the social discrepancies and ill-treatment out of the negative perception of their social status.

The above particular novels were carefully and specifically chosen because both Novels dealt with the theme of ill-portrayal and representation of 19th century Victorian type of women, through presenting many women disadvantages within the society believed negatively that women were inferior to men. The portrayal of these female characters gives a clear insight to trace and look into the historical background of the women concerns in the context of the contemporary social related issues.

Finally, this thesis also focuses on outlining the intellectual and industrial transformation that designed women's position in the 19th century in the context of the prevailed differing roles of women and men in the society. Also the desire of marriage and its outcome were in details provided in these novels, which aid to draw a picture of women dilemma. As the institution of marriage is one of the recurrent theme of the novels, the analysis also focuses on the women's disadvantages in their life such as restriction of female education in general, restriction in vocational chance and social progress, women's anticipation of marital life and their distresses and responses. For the purpose of compare and contrast, this thesis further discusses the negative portrayal of women status within the society the two novels had, and the representation of the characters and the denouement they create for the women in each novel.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

In the 19th Century Victoria, women as individuals were severely made to face tragic circumstances due to the ill-treatment they faced. Therefore, Literature is one of the lenses through which tragedy of women are looked through, especially by the novelist “Thomas Hardy” who through his literary fictions brought those social discrepancies prevailed at the time. In doing so, Hardy in “*Tess of the D’Urbervilles*” and “*The Return of the Native*” clearly portrayed women tragedy out of the society’s fault, and rather than just by the characters faults themselves Yuan-Yuan (2018:1). Owing to the fact that tragedies are of types whether it’s of character’s fault or of misfortune, in the researcher’s analytical perspective represented in the society and the family play the key role in bringing about the tragedy in Hardy’s novels. With such tone, Thomas Hardy wrote novels which are deeply influenced by social factors in an attempt to correct them. While doing so, he gives much attention to the position of women in society and worked to reflect it through literature angle in order to create sympathy in the reader.

1.2 The Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of the research is meant to answer and address the research questions above .In this regard, the researcher through literary analysis of the selected novels traces the representation of women as they were viewed in the Victorian era ,and identifies the impact of the society on women status in general. Also this research will aid the common readers to explore other issues literarily and their relation to the social context.

1.3 Research Questions:

1. How did the Victorian society view the women as individuals generally?
2. How did some of the Victorian women novelist face challenges during their literary career as part of intellectual suppression forced?
3. How did the Victorian women respond in the face of the negative attitude perceived and what was the outcome?

1.4 The Hypotheses of the Study:

The hypotheses of the research are as stated below:

1. Women during the Victorian Era were negatively viewed by the society.
2. There were some Victorian women novelists who did face intellectual suppression due to the negative attitude of the society.
3. Women tried hard to bring those challenges to the public attention thereby able to make their cause recognized.

1.5 Significance of the Study:

The outcome of this research would enrich those interested in literature in exploring the past eras and their relations to the contemporary period with:

First how great novelists who lived the different periods presented their previous life events literarily as well as to present through analysis of the selected Victorian novels the most social issues prevailed in the era; such as marriage institution, treatment of women, purpose of marriage, and the traditional conventions and their impact upon the individuals. To the extra, this

research would encourage all the readers generally to explore and look into the relations between the past and the present and how they are related.

1.6 The Methodology of the Study:

The methodology which used in pursuing this research is descriptive analysis approach. In doing so, the researcher will use relevant tools to collect the data which are first from the novels under the study as primary sources, books, and the journals. The data might be analysed literarily and critically throughout preparing this thesis as well as through analytical approach.

1.7 Limits of the Study:

This study is limited on how women are portrayed in the Victorian era. The portrayal meant in this study is that how women as individuals were viewed and treated in the eyes of the society, as well as tracing the life they had in the context of a male dominance attitude. In order to meet the research objectives, the researcher specifically deal with the portrayal and representation of the Victorian status in the two selected novels of Thomas Hardy “The Return of the Native” and “Tess of the d'Urbervilles”. The reason which let the researcher chose these novels is that both novels share the similar issue of the current concern which is the negative attitudes towards women status, a matter which worth to be explored, especially women question has become a controversy. The researcher will analyse how women were represented in these novels as well as their status as individual generally.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms:

“CEDAW”The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

“The Angle in the House” *meant that Victorian women were perceived to be angles so that they look for the house vigilantly.*

“The household General” *meant that Victorian women were considered to act like army generals in commanding their household.*

“Pater Familia”*Latin means the father of the family or the owner of the family.*

CHAPTER TWO

Literature Review

2-0 Background about Victorian Era

The Victorian era according as the name tells was the era of the Queen Victoria who preceded Georgian era and followed by Edwardian era. The Queen Victoria ruled England during the period from 1837 until her death in 1901. She had been in the throne for a period of 64 years before she dies, a period which considered the longest compared to the other successive periods in the history of England one of its better characteristics was that the era witnessed much peace prevalence, prosperity, and common self-confidence for all Britain (Wolffe, 1997).

Within this long period of reign, there had been many changes and developments took place throughout the period, a matter which made the era as remarkable and unique in terms of social progress and development for the Britain people in general, despite it had some social ills and bad habits that prevailed throughout the period which became a controversial in many Victorian literary works that portray and represent those ills as part of the Victorian Literature recurrent themes.

In relation to the Victorian era there also comes the concept of Victorianism which has different connotation from the Victorian era as an age. Within the fields of social history and literature, Victorianism refers to the study of late – Victorian attitudes and cultures with a special focus on the highly moralistic, idealised behaviour of Victorian morality (Wolffe, 1997). Therefore, most Victorian writers such as Thomas Hardy, Charles Dickens, George Elliot ...to

name just few; focused in their writings on the portrayal and representation of the social discrepancies that existed in the society.

In fact, the era was characterized by many changes and inspirations that made Queen Victoria's age the most progressive in the English history (Fletcher, 2002). There were many changes that took place during the era, and in many aspects and fields which were of social, economic, cultural, and political, as well as changes in the character and the personality of the English people themselves, all of which played together and contributed to changing the general life standard of the England people.

As far as concern the cultural development there was a transition away from the rationalism of Georgian period and toward romanticism and mysticism with regard to religion, social values, and arts. Other important change occurred in the 19th Century Victoria was that, the age witnessed a great change in the Industrial Revolution which had a very fundamental role, in making England known as top among nations with respect to the progressive development in the trade and Industry activities (William, 2004).

Also, Victorian Britain was very popular in terms of an entertainment which also considered one of the main characteristic of the period. These sorts of entertainments were varied among the social classes. The period was likely similar to the other periods that preceded it, all of which much interested in literature. Of literary figures people got interested in were authors such as Charles Dickens, Arthur Doyle, Charlotte Bronte and her sisters who became life examples in this regard. Furthermore, theatre, arts, music, and drama were also widely attended and admired by the Victorian people.

Going further, one of the great changes of the Victorian era was in the education aspect. Education worked well for the Victorians as they were greatly impressed by the science and progress accompanied a matter which latter impacted the

exploration of great technologies, thus making the people had better societal development means as they had the technology improved in the same way. This great achievement in technology made Britain a pioneer in the world for advanced engineering and technology, with designing style railways construction of high demand in the world atmosphere.

Concerning the political aspect of the era, it's known that Queen Victoria became a queen in 1837, a period when her age was 18 years old until the year 1901. This long period generally characterized by peace prevalence and prosperity, as there were no longer wars launched and upheavals experienced in the continent, a period which England chanced to become more developed than ever, and reach its peak in terms of economy, cultural, political, and diplomatic power.

Due to the this progression and development the Victorian era seen, historians had characterized some earlier period of the Victorian era (1850-1870) as Britain's "Golden Years" (Porter Bernard). There was complete peace within England and abroad. The leaders of the democratic Movement (Chartists Movement) moved and shifted to other affairs and activities such as trade unions and cooperative societies. And the working class group ignored the foreign upheavals and joined in celebrating the prosperity and the Golden year.

As to the social aspects of the 19th Century Victoria there was changes in social side happened during the time, which were wide-ranging and fundamental, thus leaving their impact not only on United Kingdom, but also on other parts of the world under Britain's influence. It can be therefore, even argued that these changes had had their direct effect on the later period of 20th Century, as many developments the 20th Century seen had its roots in the 19th Century.

In this regard, the technology of the industrial Revolution had the greater part of impact on the society. The inventions the 19th Century witnessed did not only

introduce new industries for employment, but the products and services produced also pushed and activated the society. Mining works to extract the coal and other raw materials needed to fuel the industrial Revolution was a major new industry.

Other important social aspect of the Victorian era was the social Hierarchy. The Victorian Society was thus divided into classes which were the Upper Class, the Middle Class and the Working Class. The Victorian Upper Class consisted of the Aristocrats, Nobles, Dukes, and the other wealthy families working in the Victorian courts (Joshi, 2016).The Upper Class had the powerful position, giving them authority and better living condition and other facilities.

The hereditary aristocratic families thus by the early 19th Century had taken much interest in the industrial sector. Due to this changing nature of the basic living standard of the people, there emerged nobles and wealthy class who considered to be the climax in the society's structural pyramid. In terms of education sector, also those belonging to this class (the upper class) had better education and tutors who provided them with better education, a matter which this status distinguished them from the other two classes. The reason for their better status was due to the fact that Upper Class considered royal family class which gave them an advantage and better facilities that was not easily reached by the other classes.

Truly speaking, the family was considered to be of paramount importance during the Victorian age. Women's main purpose in the life during the era was to find a husband and to manage internal affairs such as domestic affairs. Having restricted with such internal circle, they were completely treated harshly by the society based on a stereotypical view towards women status.

The Middle class on the other hand was the next in the social hierarchy system. The Victorian period was very prosperous for the middle class as well. These

middle class people also owned and managed big business enterprises and factories. The important Industrial Revolution in the mid-century of the era brought about many changes and developments in the standard of living for the Victorian Middle Class people. This Industrial Revolution opened the doors for more jobs opportunities, and earned a remarkable decent living condition for them, a matter, which emphasizes the important of the Industrial Revolution to the economical growth of era, and the individual income improvement, which in turn had a positive impact on the child education too.

The third and the lowest class in the society was the lower Class. This class was considered to be a working class, as the term working class connotes to the great efforts they must exert to earn living condition. This class was remained needy and always hostile to the political process of the country. This working class was further categorized as skilled workers and the unskilled workers. Due to the revolution, the skilled workers got jobs whereby improved their living conditions as they were to some extent skilled than the other category.

However, the unskilled workers who were placed and categorized below the skill level remained unemployed, and thus were vulnerable to the exploitation and harsh living condition. The working class was the worst affected class in the Victorian times, resulted further negligibly to food supply as one of the basic human needs. For some working families, the living conditions were so miserable that they required their children to work in order to bring home some extra survival supplies.

One of the remarkable notorious aspects of Victorian era was the employment of the children. The era became so exploitive and notorious for the employment of this category in factories and mines plus chimney sweeps (Emma, 2015). Child labour which brought about by the economic hardship, played an important role in the Industrial Revolution from the very beginning. Charles

Dickens, for example, worked at the age 12 in the blacking factory, while his family was in prison due to debts among others debtors.

Child labour was thus widespread throughout the period, and with a greater extent. A major reason attributing to it was the fact that the families did not earn much, and the food prices had increased for certain duration. This made it difficult for the workers to earn enough money to buy the basic needs, and satisfy their requirements of the family. Also, the family structure which comprised of grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles was heavy and unaffordable. This harsh condition and circumstances forced families to send their children to work and bring some more money. However, despite working for long hours, the children were underpaid, and as a result their living condition was hardly improved. Woman's position as an important part of the society was another question. There was a change in the condition of the status of the Victorian Women. According to the traditional family pattern, the women were supposed to look after the houses and take care of the children, while the men struggle to earn money. There was a strong believe in male dominance attitude in the society. Women were conventionally made to obey what men told them to do, and were of having no words to be heard, within a society only believed men superiority and women inferiority.

The Industrial Revolution was worked well for the women. The revolution gave the women an opportunity to work and earn money, as well as changed the old beliefs prevailed. Working women not only shared the burden of earning money, but also it gave them a sense of security. Their lives were no longer restricted only to the house and children, as women question brought to the level of attention, and became a controversial topic debated in the public arenas, during the years followed the social restriction of women the era witnessed.

2.1 The Role of Patriarchal System in Shaping the Victorian Society

Patriarchy is a social system in which adult males hold primary power and predominance in the political leadership and had the moral authority, social privilege, and control of property. In the concept of family's domain, the fathers (or father figures) hold the complete authority over the women and children as another privilege some group had on others such as the dominance of men and subordination of women (fedwa,2007).

Some patriarchal societies are also patrilineal, which means that the property and title are inherited by the male lineage through the male line, sometimes to the point where significantly more distant male relatives take precedence over female relatives, thus the system focuses completely on male and bypasses the women illegibility to takeover. And historically, patriarchy has manifested itself in the social, legal, political, and economic organization of a range of different cultures (fedwa, 2007).

According to the Kathy, (1999) Patriarchy literally means the rule of the father. The word came from the Greek (patriarkhes) which means "father of a race" or "chief of a race" word which compounded of the word (patria) which means lineage and descent" and the word "Pater" which means father. Thus, the fully stands for "father line".

In the 19th Century Victoria, England witnessed a sort of social class segregation firstly based on the social class such as male or female and secondly in terms of sex and gender. During the era, the British monarch had played a greater role in introducing this phenomena of grouping the society into polar. Whereas the whole Victorian Society was divided into social classes, with a different status of each, there was also separate and distinct world for both male and female. The latter was the most concerned group the Victorians mattered,

and its implication later on beard what was called “Feminist Ideology” those purpose was to calling for equity between the males and females in all aspects of daily life.

In relation to the above, Wojtczak, (2009) in her is “History of women” states that:

“In the Ancient Greece, Athenian women were given no education and were married at puberty to grown men. They lived in segregation and could not leave the house a chaperone. They could not buy or sell land”.

She goes further to say that *“under Roman law the power of the husband as absolute; he could chastise his wife even-until the later Roman period”.*

The above two quotations explain that English law and culture during the 19th century Victoria was clearly influenced by and derived much from these ancient cultures which were existed before it.

Historically, Victorian society had formally what has been termed as “Victorian morality” which was the core of the moral views of the people living at the time and of the moral standard of the 19th century United Kingdom in general, which compared greatly to the morality of the previous Georgian period. These moral values were to the far predefined code of conduct whereby all people of the era must have been abided by; as they were (Values) thus supported even by the British monarch as it’s the supreme authority, given the fact that the British monarch officials were from the society itself. Therefore, many of these values spread throughout the British Empire. Today, the term "Victorian morality" can best be described as any set of values that espouse sexual restraint, low tolerance of crime and a strict social code of conduct (Merriman, 2004).

It’s to be noted that in any society, the most common way to characterize a society at a given time is to divide it into social classes and evaluate the differences between these groups. Typically, the Victorian society was such an

example where the whole society was controlled by a powerful society as well as empowered by other social norms and conventions that enforced by the England Monarchy under the name of the “Victorian values” to be adhered to by all based on their sexual attributes rather than gender differences. Based on this, the Victorian society during the 19th Century period was greatly affected, especially the women.

In relation to the above, the Victorian era in England which was from 1837 to 1901, witnessed strange polarized gender roles. Unlike the sexual functions which could be attributed based on the different functions assigned to men and women or what is to say; biological functions. The gender was dissimilar; as it means both male and female should be treated equally, thus avoiding interpreting sex in relation to whether one is a man or a woman socially. This clear explanation draws best illustration of meaning of both sex and gender which are confusing terms nowadays. In such away, Victorian society set clear distinction between a man and a woman, in which the women generally faced isolation.

Finally and as per these socially predefined rules, there had been that termed “separate spheres” which parallels also the term two world. With this idea in mind, the Victorian society established two separate spheres or domains. The first one was women –specific which was (the private sphere) and the other was male-specific (the public sphere). According to these two separate spheres and due to the fact that men possessed the capacity for reason, action, aggression, independence, and self-interest, they assumed belonged to the public sphere which means going out to work publicly with the other out- goers which requires physical exertion. On the other hand, because Women possess qualities of femininity such as emotion, passivity, submission, dependence, and selflessness, they assumed that they belonged to the private sphere which is the home. (Kent, 1990).

With such principles and negative attitude of the people's mentality, the society allowed the men by virtue of their intellectual strength to fully control the women who were expected to conform strictly to the social norms as they were regarded as irrational, sensitive, and dutiful. In this connection Kent, (1990) observes that:

“Women were so exclusively identified by their sexual functions that 19th Century society came to regard them as ‘the Sex’”.

The above Kent observation clearly illustrated the very idea of classifying the concept of gender role based on the biological differences rather than social, economic, and cultural attributes.

2.2 The Social Hierarchical Structure Made by the Monarch

Victorian era like the other preceding eras did not survive from the social class hierarchy and structure. During this era, the issue of class and class hierarchy was considered to be one of the main characteristics of the period, a matter which had its current implication on the present day Britain. This means that the history had its direct impact on the social aspects of the people which some believed to be changing or at least the barriers between the classes are getting narrower. The social structure of Britain therefore has historically been to a greater extent influenced by the concept of the social class and division. In this regard, the society was traditionally (before the Industrial Revolution) divided hierarchically within a system that specially predefined and introduced (Harman, 2008).

Despite the definitions of social class in England are varied and very controversial, there were many factors such as wealth, occupation, and education that determine a specific unique social group as to their social aspects and life. Until recently the Parliament of the United Kingdom was organized on classes basis, with the House of Lords represents the hereditary upper class, and the House of Commons represents every average in the society. The British monarch was usually viewed as being at the top nations that believed in social class pyramid (John, 2004).

Based on the above notion, the Victorian Society during the 19th Century period was structurally divided into main three social classes (Joshi, 2006). Since these three social classes were of different nature and status, they enjoyed also the benefits differently, a matter which draw us a clear differences between these groups. Therefore, each of these classes had of benefits either advantaged from, disadvantaged, or had hard times based on the specific social backgrounds.

The Society in this regard was divided to Upper Class, middle Class, and the working class. Although there had been clear and obvious differences between these social classes in many aspects, it's to be noted that also there had been some changes took place with respect to the social structure, and the benefits they got in their unique daily life, especially after the industrial Revolution (Joshi, 2006).

As far as concern the three different classes, it's natural that the first classes in this hierarchal system was the Upper Class, who considered had the most advantages among the social classes. This was due to the fact that this group was consisted of the Aristocrats, Nobles, Dukes, and, the other wealthy families who were working in the Victorian Courts. The Upper class was thus, the most powerful in the social and economical arena, whereby the family of this class by the early 19th Century Victoria had taken a keen interest in the industrial sector (Joshi, 2006).

Following the Upper class in the social pyramid, the second class that preceded it in the hierarchical structure was the middle class. The Victorian period as an era was very prosperous for this group as well. This was due to the fact that the middle class people also owned and managed kind of huge businesses, as the industrial revolution in the mid-Century brought with it an obvious changes in the standard of living of this middle class(Joshi, 2006).Those industrial revolutions opened the doors widely for more jobs opportunities. And with this advantage the group earned better living conditions, which in turn had a positive impact on the education sector for the children particularly.

The lowest and last social class in this social hierarchy of the Victorian era was the working class .As the name suggests, this group was considered the one which was less benefited within the group, as well as had very hard times in meeting their living condition to the best, if compared to the others. Because the work at that times requires certain skills to perform, this group further been categorized into skilled and unskilled workers (Joshi, 2006).Due to the industrial Revolution, those skilled workers got more jobs to perform, whereby improved their living conditions.

However, the unskilled workers who were ranked below the skilled were experienced the hardest times, as a result remained unemployed and exploited. And that why many authors during the era described the real conditions of those days, especially Thomas Hardy, as a concerned author of this thesis. Thomas Hardy as an author in fact was one of the authors who described the hard times the working class had throughout the Victorian era in his novel “Hard Times in which he named working class as “the Hands” meaning unskilled workers. In this regard Hardy’s novel “Hard times” for the difficult time was also clear indication that Victorian era was not that easy, especially for those unskilled or “The hands” as he called them in his mentioned novel.

The working class on the other hand was the most affected class in the Victorian times. For this group, the lack of money had its toll on their sufferance, and this resulted further in not getting the food supplies they needed. To stress on this more, for some working group of this families, had even the worst living conditions, a matter which at sometimes required from them to send their children to work, so as to bring home some more support for surviving(Joshi,2006).Because of this unethical behaviour of child labour which the era was notorious of, this misbehaviour further brought troubles to the society as the issue of (the Child labour) became a controversial topic, with its consequences in the years followed the period resulted in many child labour laws imposed and passed.

In addition to the above, the traditional norms had also played a greater role in enhancing and shaping the people into a hierarchy system within the country ,town, or in cities, bearing that those classes were lived in separate areas, a fact which also signify that they were of different nature in several social aspects. Victorian England, based on the above mentality of separate world, and as believed that each class had its own standard which the people were expected to conform and restrict to the roles as defined by the society they were part of.

It was therefore, the issue of the social class system was sharply an edge during the 19th Century Victoria, a reality which had its implications in the modern period. This means that it's believed that the Victorian England Social class system is still believed alive in the present day societies, especially in the country, the mother "Britain". This fact was emphasized and assured by Tomido ,(2004) in his research which he conducted recently, and in which he stated that the social class differences is still a matter of fact in the present day England. In this connection, and recalling his statement:-

“I lived in England for twenty years, first completing my M.phil and Ph.D degrees and then working for Sheffield and Edinburgh universities as a lecturer. During my stay there, I experienced and observed class differences”.

The 19th Century Victorian’s society was thus classes based. It’s to be noted that not only the issue of class was solely conceded in this very era, but there was also one issue even far more concerned about by the Victorian society, and which became a controversial to the present day societies. This issue represents firstly the question of the Victorian Women in particular and secondly women of all types generally, while the Victorian women were only used as symbol. In fact, Women as part of the society and social class system faced a lot of dilemmas during the Victorian era. Victorians especially (The men) had notoriously negative attitudes towards Women generally, because they viewed and regarded Women as inferior than men, a matter which laid heavy demands on females within a society fully dominated by male. Based on this notion and stereotypical view, Women were oppressed, neglected natural rights, and made an isolated creatures through cornering them in a private internal sphere “the Home “where the Victorian society much believed as best place a woman supposed to be in (fedwa, 2014).

2.3 The Patriarchal Women Laws & their Impact on Women Roles

The Victorian period which falls within the period from (1837 to 1901) was a period of much discrepancies, especially for the Women as identity compared to their male partners. While this period witnessed many developments and human progress in many aspects, there were also prevailed some kind of social ills and bad habits that affected some part of the society, representing the women

specifically. The Victorian era of England was often associated with oppressive social rules that impacted all classes. The social life was thus governed by some strict and socialized rules that became as a code of conduct.

Though men and women shared some of the same responsibilities during the era, Victorian customs and laws still enforced male dominance and female dependency. Based on this, there was always different roles that played by both sexes in many social daily life. It's to be stressed that there was an external forces that played a key role in enforcing certain rules against the Women on one hand, and in the interest of the men on the other. In this regard, the most external force that played this key role was perceived to be the Patriarch, or in other sense, the society itself as the Patriarch represent the society itself.

Despite the Victorian era was symbolized by the reign of a female British monarchy, representing the Queen Victoria, women did not have the rights to many aspects of the natural advantages (Alfred,2005).Although, the Queen Victorian herself was a female, thus the matter concern her as well, Women generally held tight with the most enforced and restricted social rules and laws that hindered their roles and advancement in an environment where completely believed man was superior to women based on some negative presumptions.

Victorian era was therefore, considered to be one of the eras in which Women faced hard times, and the hard times faced was nothing, but because they are females as the females had to conform to the societal norms regulations. One of the stereotypical fixed believe of the Victorian society towards women was that the Women were belong to the “Domestic sphere” (Alfred, 2005).From the connotation of the phrase, it implies that they belonged to the internal circle (The home) which was considered a private place, compared to the external sphere which outside home. This also signifies that in the 19th Century Victoria, there were two socially defined spheres; the Domestic sphere “the Home” and the external sphere “outside Home”. Based on this interpretation, it's

imaginatively presumed that there as if were two worlds, one for men (the Public sphere) and the other for Women (The private sphere).

The idea of separate spheres in the Victorian was the product of the society who held the Women tight with some ideal values to be followed by all type of women. Separate spheres was an ideology that defines and prescribes two separate spheres as stated above, and its culturally present in both Europe and North America (Randi, 2000).The idea was considered as distinct ideology during the industrial Revolution that the Europe Witnessed, especially Britain. The idea of the separate spheres states that men, based on their biological nature (as they were male) as well as the will of God supposed to stay in the public sphere, where every man can go freely and discuss issues pertaining to the daily social life affairs. Since the Domestic sphere (the inner world) had been reserved for women, based on their biological attributes, the domestic sphere represented (the Home), and thus women with this restriction have a clear role of just focusing on the domestic affairs such as raising their children, providing their husband a clean home, and lastly a ready food on the table for the husbands to eat (Alfred, 2005).

In addition to the above, and beside women had been restricted internally, they also lost many rights as a result of this restrictions, where they had limited access to the outer means. And with this limitation in place, they lost many advantages. Victorian women status was very strange during the Victorian era, a matter which posed many questions and became controversial. Ironically and according to the marriage law which was supported by the monarch itself; the couple which is (the man and the women) became one person or entity. With this integration of the two separate bodies of the couples, the women's entity will be dissolved and men's were visible figuratively means only the man had the true character which was the voice within the house. This symbolism further

indicates that the man has the full control and grip over the family, based on the negative view that the man is superior and the women are dependent.

As the couples become one person as stated also by Blackstone, (1765) in his “Commentaries on the Laws of England” that:

“By marriage the husband and wife are one person in law: that is, the very being or legal existence of the woman is suspended during her marriage...”.

Blackstone with this statement meant that with this embodiment, the two persons became one person, and it's only the man is that person. Moreover, also when a Victorian man and woman married, the rights of the woman were legally given over to her spouse, thus the law enforces the man and make him in full control overall properties, earnings, and the money they get. In addition to losing the money, and all the goods to their husbands with marriage, Victorian wives further became property themselves to their husbands, giving them rights to what their bodies produced (Alfred, 2005).

According to Blackstone, (1765) on the status of property after the marriage was as stated below:

“On marriage, the control of woman's real property and income from woman's real property that is, property held in the form of freehold land, passed under common law to her husband”.

In such a way, rights and privileges of Victorian women were very limited. And with this in mind, it's important to be noted that both single and married women had hardships and disadvantages they had to live with, though there were some different rules applied to each woman individually , whose marital status

whether single or married. Bearing this in account, Victorian women had disadvantages both financially and sexually, resulted enduring inequalities in their marital social status, whereas the men were provided with more stability, financial status and power over their homes and their wives.

Furthermore and according to Irene, (2002) the concept of marriage was by far just a matter of contract between two individuals which was difficult to terminate during the era. While some women's rights groups exert some efforts to change the status of the women to a better level, many Victorian women themselves stayed negative, and thus endured their husbands control and cruelty with an awkward silence (winter, 2007).

As to the issue of divorce and the custody of the children, the Victorian women law was very rigid and harsh to the married women, especially concerning the divorce and the custody of children (Blackstone, 1765). Thus, divorces could only be obtained in England through a cumbersome process in which involves a suit by the husband against another man for 'criminal conversation. However, there were great changes in the situation of women that took place in the 19th century, especially concerning the marriage laws and the legal rights of women to either divorce or to gain custody of the children.

One of the changes that took place was the passing of the Matrimonial Causes Act in the year 1857. The Matrimonial Causes Act of 1857 was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that reformed the law on divorce, and moved litigation from the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts to the civil courts, thus establishing a model of marriage based on contract. And by this changed legislation, wives were not as a slave as they thought, or property belonging to the husband. Rather they were recognized as an independent and a separate person (Rachael, 2015).

As far the Custody of the children, the change also helped the Women to gain some rights which were not granted previously. For this reason, the parliament passed a bill on the status of the children, especially with regard to the women. Therefore, The Act of Custody of the Infants was passed which titled “The Custody of Infants Act of 1839”, which gave the mothers a powerful character in accessing their children, in the event of separation or divorce. In addition to, the Magistrates further authorized protection orders to wives whose husbands had been convicted of aggravated assault or violence against them.

Finally, those previously existed laws (Before Divorce and Child Custody Act passed) were greatly limited and hindered women roles as individuals. Because the Victorian society, especially the men negatively believed on the ideals of the Victorian women as the ideals were stipulated in their manuscript, they wanted those ideals to be adhered to by all the Women in general.

As per this said Victorian ideals, women’s education was not that welcomed. The society believed that a woman should only be allowed to educate about soft science, such as education about how one had to be a good Mother. It was therefore important also for a well-educated woman to soften her knowledge with graceful and feminine manners, so that they were pure, circled in within the home, and caring for her children.

Thus, by restricting the Women domestically and internally, women’s roles were held tight, hindering their support to the society which the men were part of it. It’s also to be remembered that Women as individuals had played a pivotal role in many fields such as science, literature, arts and education. Worth to be mentioned is that women were also denied in writing literature which constitutes an intellectual suppression by the sense. In this respect, there were

examples of such obstacles women faced, especially George Elliot whose real name was “Mary Ann Ivan”. “Mary Ann Ivan” used this pseudonym because it was very difficult for a woman to have intellectual potentials, as this considered against the ideals the society liked the women to have. Therefore the ideals the society set as debts on women had negative impact on the women roles, as the women actually required to meet the demands.

2-4 The Sarcastic Attitude on Women Role as the “Angle in the House”

Being a woman during the 19th Century Victoria was a real dilemma. The social influence on the female was tight as they had to meet the demands. The society thus laid some ideals which every Victorian woman must have to meet in order to attain the positive description of a true woman that the society, especially the male liked the woman to have.

It's to be noted that there were many concepts that used by the society in order to manipulate and control the women entirely. One of these concepts was the term “Pater Familias”, which means the husband as he male, was to be the head of the household and the moral leader of the family (Lisa, 2000). This term “Pater Familias”, was coined from the Roman period, in which the pater Familias was the head of the Roman family and the oldest living male in the household, and thus had the complete control of all family members.

In addition to, the Victorian society generally had fixed ideas that culturally entrenched into the society's culture. With this ideology in mind, the men during the 19th Century era believed that a wife's proper role was to love, honour and obey her husband according to the marriage statement (winter, 2007). Added to that, and viewing the woman as secondary to the man, Victorians also believed that the main duties of a wife was to attend to her

husband and properly raise her children, the roles which considered as cornerstone of the social stability and well-being of a stable family.

Though, the Victorian had what was called “ideals model” “those ideals represented the essential cores all women must have to confine to, otherwise they were negatively viewed or unwelcomed by the men .In this respect, the Women were badly considered as the “Angle in the House”, the popular poem by “Coventry Patmore” that published in 1884 (Coventry, 2011).Therefore, the ideals the society wanted were typically like that Patmore poems recommended which says:

“Man must be pleased; but him to

Please

Is woman’s pleasure; down the gulf

The poem above was the main source of the Victorian Society’s attribution to the women status as “The Angle in the House”. The poem exemplifies the best ideals of the womanhood Patmore established, which considered as a touchstone of British culture, in which Virginia Woolf, who was feminist writer and who had criticized and satirized the ideals of the femininity depicted in the poem, in her lecture to the Women’s Service League held in 1942 under the title of “*Killing the Angle in the House was part of the occupation of a woman writer*” (Woolf, 1996).

Based on the above reference, Woolf alternatively better describes the angle as:

“Immensely sympathetic, immensely charming, utterly unselfish. She excelled in the difficult arts of family life”.

Woolf goes further to explain that she (the woman) beside intensely sympathetic, immensely charming, utterly unselfish, she excelled in the difficult arts of the family life; Stressing that if there was a chicken, she took the leg; and if there was a draught she sat in it. Above all she was pure (Woolf, 1996). This Woolf description of a required woman further informs of women's status as they were desperate; and as they paid huge sacrifice during the Victorian Era, because of the prejudices the society laid upon them because of being a woman, thus neglecting the gender role.

Moreover, Woolf adds that she "*bothered me and wasted my time and so tormented me that at last I killed her*".

Hence, the Victorians had such a negative view of a woman as the "Angle in the House". Based on above ideology, the woman's perfect womanhood was best believed to be achieved through being such a moral, yielding, and domesticated. According to the Victorians, women should be confined to the "Home" the private sphere in order to better protect themselves from the external immoral influences of the world.

Finally, with these restricted social rules in place, the Victorian society representing in men, played a less positive way in oppressing the women, and in so many social aspects. Since the woman supposed to be confined to the Domestic affairs as the society required, she lost key social life benefits that only the male had them and enjoyed. Aspects such as education especially, was not recommended by the society for the women to attain, which considered as unsuitable and unemotional field. Victorians society believed that the best education for the women was that related to emotion and the domestic affairs, among them areas such as learning how to raise their children, cook meals, and following the Victorian Women etiquettes.

According to the elegant woman book published in 2009 that during the Victorian times, having manners and etiquette were as important as being educated. Based on this, a person's etiquette was associated with his or her status as well as wealth especially the women. In the women case, the issue was even more complicated and seriously taken. Therefore, women who did not have such manners and etiquette were looked upon, and hardly get married as they considered lacking the very important ideals of a perfect woman "the good manners". Therefore, women during this era passed by harsh and hard times, as their status was less positively viewed as inferior within the society.

2-5 The Concept of Women as "The Household General"

The Victorian era seemed like another world if compared to the other eras. The period was full of social discrepancies and ills that earlier came to the attention of many literary writers of the period such as Thomas Hardy and Virginia Woolf; to name just a few. In terms of the social aspect, while there had been great developments and changes as far as concern the social progress, there was also some gaps and challenges experienced by some groups especially the Women, which hindered their fundamental role as part of the society, a matter which if they were given a chance, they could benefited the society with the potential they had.

One of the social remarkable thing in the 19th Century Victoria was the status of the Women and underestimation they encountered. Worth to be mentioned was also the Simile phrases used by the society from the men in exemplifying the Women roles with some ironic words. Beside the Women been regarded as "The Angle in the House" as stated above, they were also regarded as "The Household general". "The Household General" is both a concept and term

invented in 1861 by Isabella Beeton in her Manuel "*Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management*" (Isabella, 1861).

In describing the Women's role, she explained that the mistress (who is the woman) of a household is comparable to the commander of an army or the leader of an enterprise. With such enriching the idea of women status and position figuratively (as they were considered as Household generals), the women had over load of demands on their shoulder to download for the society, so that they were a true women by the strong sense of the meaning.

In order for the women to be a successful commander-like, run a respectable household, and guarantee the happiness of the families and their well-being as described by Beeton, they must perform their duties intelligently and gracefully. Some examples of those duties were for instance they had to organize things, delegate and instruct others such as their servants, which was not an easy task, as some servants were not reliable. Women were resembled as commanders of an armies who organize their armies for better success, and lasting victory in the battles. Women were thus supposed to have a commander quality in running their family and servicing their husbands.

In addition to the above, Victorian Society also had complements on what was required from the Women to achieve such as "Domestics", a staff required supervision by the mistresses of the house (Isabella, 1861). Ironically, Beeton also goes on in advising her readers "who were of course the Women", as the Manuel was only meant for them to read" to maintain a housekeeping account book in order to track the spending, and recommend entering the daily transaction as well as checking the balance monthly, a matter which emphasize the stresses the society laid upon the Women. The society wanted the women as positive leaders who able to run "The home" and its contents effectively.

Moreover, there were a lot of expectations the women required to meet. In order to achieve this, Beeton's prepared a Manual for the mistresses that details with a table of domestic servants roles and their daily payment scale such as expression referring to an employer which provide a domestic employee with meal and work uniform in the past, especially in Europe (Isabella,1861).Hence the Victorians believe that such expertise in logistical matters would benefit the mistresses of the house to become a good general as figuratively used in Beeton's Manual , or as a good Victorian idealized woman whom the society welcomed and approved of.

While all women in the Victorian society never survived of the negative attitudes prevailed, the manual also meant for the women of the upper classes, considering the fact that there were also different classes with regard to women in the Victorian era. In this regard Beeton indicates that the full list of servants in the table she prepared would be expected also in the household of the wealthy noblemen. Women were just such organized leaders who look after all aspect of better management and organization of their business or (their Homes) where they supposed to be.

Victorian society's treatment of the women in such a way was due to the negative attitude the people had with respect to the status of women. All is to say that women's roles were circled just around the house, in such a way as someone who is trapped inside a circle, unable to go out of it, as the outer part of the circle considered a public domain which women were prohibited to expose. Women were thus had domestic role to play such as supervising the education of children. Stated in Beeton Manual was just to reinforce the idea of the women's best place the "Home" as well as the domestic duties the women required to handle.

It's to be noted also according to this ideology, the social activities as individual were not that important than the household management, and thus

only socializes their husbands' companions. Social interactions with others were strictly limited to just certain degree. In this, Beeton states in the Manual that:

“After Luncheon, morning calls and

Visits may be made and received...

Visits of ceremony, or courtesy...”

According to the above statement, chances of women's exposing themselves to the public sphere were thus limited, and they only perceived to be creatures of an internal domain. With this in view, they were faced the most social restriction rules the society enforced, because the women were according to the society inferior to men.

2-6 The Establishment of Separate Spheres

There had been many issues concerning women as individuals. While the women during the later part of the period gained some recognition as far as concern their status, they faced negative isolation within the society based on their sex rather than their gendered ideology. The Victorian society with this ideology which also backed by the patriarch, neglected women's potentials and capabilities as they also had their own personal intellect. There was Victorian ideological divide between the two sexes, based on cultural perception which the women greatly suffered of, and endured the impact.

Based on the above notion, the 19th Century Victorian's society was culturally divisive with what notoriously known during the period as “Separate Spheres”. Because the society generally view the women as inferior to men, based on certain sexual characteristics, the society established and adopted separate

spheres, which one reserved for the men and the other for the women. This means that there had been similar to two world, or two polars in which each group inhabit in, and thus restrict the other group to approach.

Separate spheres is an ideology that defines and specifies two separate spheres for women and men ; or what is to say two worlds or fields. Culturally, the ideology was prevailed in Europe particularly England during the 19th Century Victoria and it emerged as a distinct ideology during the Industrial Revolution (Randi, 2000).

This notion of the separate spheres states that men, based primarily on their biological creation as well as the will of God, inhabit the public sphere such as doing with the world of economy, commerce, and law; or rather doing with all those enterprises which require physical efforts and endurance. As for the Women, the proper sphere which fit them was believed to be the private sphere. According to this ideology, women inhabit the domestic life, child raising, housekeeping, and religious education which also an ideology presumes that women and men are inherently different , and that distinctive gender roles are natural (Ashlyn k, 2003).

According to Amanda, (1993) the history of this idea that women should inhabit a separate or domestic sphere has been existed in Western thought for centuries, dating back to the ancient Greeks. In this regard, Aristotle as stated by Hanna, (1958) that there were two separate spheres in Greek society, the home which was the private sphere and the city which was the public one. Women were based on this, confined to the private sphere kingdoms the men occupied the public sphere one. Clearly speaking, this ideology of separate spheres prevailed for some time until the middle of 20th century, the period when historians and feminist began to take more critical stance toward the separate spheres ideology,

highlighting its impact on women's lives and role within the society. The separate sphere phenomenon was thus drew two very restricted different world for both the men and the women alike (Linda K, 1988).

According to this culture, women were supposed to be pious, pure, submissive, and domestic. Domesticity, in particular, was regarded as an ideal world as the home was considered a woman's proper sphere (Barbara, 1966). Unlike Tocqueville, (1840) who had different point of view on the ideology of separate spheres as he states as a positive things to adopt.

In so far as concern the evolution and development of the ideology, Christopher, (2009) states that the idea was emerged during the Industrial Revolution. However, before the Industrialization of the Western world, family members used to work side by side, and the workplace was located mostly in and around the home. With the new shift from the home based system to the factory production, men left the home to sell their products, while women stayed at home to perform domestic works. Thus, the ideology of separate spheres was a result of this system of co-working that was prevalent at the time (Michele, 2011).

On the other hand, the idea of separation sphere between the females and males was thus influenced by the biological differences (Anupama, 2005). This idea refers back to the concept of the sex and gender which are considered to be two distinct notions with a differing interpretations and definitions. Thus, the biological differences or biological determinism that specifies which sphere each group belongs to determines that women and men are by nature suitable for different social roles because of their biological and genetic differences (Sheryl J, 2010).

Moreover, the biological determinism as stated above, was also popular during the “Age of Enlightenment” especially to great thinkers such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who argued that women were inherently different from men and therefore, should devote themselves to reproduction and domesticity (Anupama, 2005). Accordingly, women were considered passive, dependents, and were not suitable for life and work outside the domestic world, which naturally best place for the men ; as they are biologically strong ,and have much endurance to the physical efforts then women.

Stressing on this more, Rousseau goes on to describe women’s primary duties in “Emile, or On Education” which describes the nature of education stating that: "*women's entire education should be planned in relation to men*". According to this negative attitude on women status, and in devoting the idea of separate spheres, the best education for women was believed to be on how women enrich themselves with womanhood ideals, such as how to please men, to be useful to them, to win their love and respect, to raise them as children, to care for them as adults, correct and console them, and make their lives sweet and pleasant. (Anupama, 2005).

This popular belief about inherent biological differences remained concrete and popular even for other periods such as progressive Era. However, by the early 20th Century, some dissident anthropologists and other social scientists began to challenge the idea of biological determination of human behaviour, thus revealing many similarities between men and women, suggesting that many sex differences were in fact socially constructed and established (Rosalind, 1982). And Despite these new challenges accompanied by the social and economic changes such as women's entry into the labour force, still the ideology of separate spheres did not completely disappear.

In addition to the above, there was also more support from other group such as domestic feminists for the idea of separate sphere who depended on the biological determinism as the basis to draw line between the men and women. Accordingly, they argue that women were unfit for exposing themselves to the public sphere (Susan E, 1986). At the same token; also some fundamentalists went to the same direction with the Domestic feminists in supporting the idea of separate spheres, and opposing women being exposed to the public sphere. Of other effects to the idea of separate spheres (Cathy, 2006) in her paper "Separate Spheres or Shared Dominions" suggests that the separate spheres ideology had its negative effects on women's lives. She argues that while the women were supposed to be subordinate and, thus the home was their best place, the separation of spheres enabled women to link to other women in sisterhood and worked in bringing the women question to the public.

Explaining more, the ideology of separate spheres also further contributed to the resistance to coeducation system as well as emergence of gendered educational institutions such as the female seminary and women's college in higher education, as well as the woman's club in continuing education. In this respect, the ideology of separate spheres resulted that the profession of teaching being as a woman's best profession, as they came to be regarded as uniquely skilled at classroom management which itself is very private domain as to home-like environment.

In order to put more emphasis on this, there also was what called coeducational universities in the late 19th century Victoria. In connection to this, the separation of spheres contributed even further the emergence of "Home economics" as a field of advanced study on the woman's sphere, and whose dean was a woman with high-ranking administrator in coeducational institutions (Arthur, 1997).

Despite the fact that women were also mindful, and thus talented academically, the separation of spheres provided an excuse for keeping women domestically, as a result many talented woman scientists were circled inside “Home”, though they were better fit at being in the outer world in parallel with men, and provide their talents which could have been contributed greatly in the several aspects of the daily life.

2.7 Women’s Reaction in the Context of the Suppression Faced

The 19th Century Victoria was an era recurrent theme of conflict of man virus man .That is to say; it’s an era where there had been a constant clash between man, representing the society with all its social laws and restrictions, and the other man representing the women. Therefore, women as sex in this very era faced and experienced the most suppression from the male regarding their status on one side and their role on the other.

The status and the position of women in the society were based on negative assumption that they were naturally inferior to men. This attitude, was not only implanted in the mentality of the male sex, but also the authority with its law enforced ,thus forming the unjust laws against the women who could but abide by and compliant to, with all its consequences. With this law enforced, Women identity was melted after marriage. This means that a woman after the marriage had no existence; or rather her status was not recognized. It was only the man who had the title and name after the marriage, because a according to the law the man and the woman was considered only one person, and the man was that person (Alfred, 2005).

In addition to the law, women's lesser and unimportance status reflected evidently in the literature as well. Thus, the novels were both portrayed and proofed the prevailed ills of women dilemmas as unequal to man. In addition to this, women during the 19th Century Victoria were not only considered as an identity without status, but also they were tight with the most strict societal values, ideals, and virtues that attached to them, and which made them powerless in the face of the demanding society of those standards.

The society based on the above values, ideals, and virtues demanded the women a strict compliance, which in turn negatively had their implications on both the woman's personality and mentality. As per this ideology of the era, those moral virtues were considered as most sacrificing and self-purifying trait that all women must had to stick to so that they achieve the full description of the "perfect woman" as the perfect woman means a woman who made the ideals and virtues made.

In relation to the above and with women achievement, Coventry Patmore in his domestic epic titled "the Angle in the House" clearly stated that being a perfect woman that accepted and approved by the society was not an easy task. Being such a perfect woman at the time required much sacrifice from one's self. According to the epic, in order for a woman to a achieve idealism; she must fulfil the functions of both wife and mother as the nature assigned to her, and thus becomes like an angelic figure who devotes her life to the service of her husband and children (Harrison, 1848).

As far as concern the women in general with regard to the above stated stereotypical view were of two kinds. One type of women interestingly played an indirect role in enhancing the idea of women's angelic role. Foster, (1985) in her Victorian "Women Fiction's: Marriage, Freedom, and the individual" argued that:

“There were many women in the period who apparently not only accepted this view, but actually sought to make it widely known. Many Nineteenth Century female writers, for example, earnestly stated their believe in an exclusively domestic standard of womanly excellence”.

While there were women writers who recounted the excellence women a achieved in general, there were other women who felt suppression from the male and who felt they should have to move in order to make the scale balanced in an equitable level. It was because of this movement of these kind women, there appeared what was called Feminism as a research for and fight for women suppression from the male dominance in all aspects of the daily.

2-8 The Evolution of Feminism

The term "Feminism" or "Feminist" first appeared in France in 1872 and in Great Britain in the 1890s, a period within the Victoria era. The definition of feminism is somewhat challenging, however its commonly defined as a broad interpretation that includes the acting, speaking, writing, and advocating on behalf of women's issues and rights and identifying the imbalance in the social status between men and women which recently the ideology of gender has resulted .

The history of feminism thus involved the story of feminist movements and of feminist thinkers in general which dealt with the women question specifically. Depending on the time, culture and the country, all feminists around the world have sometimes had different causes and goals. Therefore, most western

feminist historians confirm that all movements that concerned with women's issues should be considered as feminist movements, even if they did not apply the term to themselves ⁽¹⁾. In addition to, there are other historians who assert that the term feminism should be limited to just the modern feminist movement and its descendants. This type of historians used the term "protofeminist" to describe earlier activities of women carried out before the evolution of the feminists' movement.

In addition to the earlier term of word proto-feminism which concerned the earlier activities before the feminism comes into being, there were also modern historians who categorized modern activities of feminists as Post feminism. Thus, there were two types of feminists' category as labelled depending on the time, culture and the country. The variant between these two terms were of periodic. While activities related to women question that began before the full attention was given labelled as proto-feminism, the modern name "Feminism Movement" as commonly known was labelled as post-feminist. This latter activity was officially visible after the women question came into public and discussed worldly.

with the above illustration, the history of the modern feminist movements is divided into three "waves" Each wave of the three dealt with and described different aspects of the same feminist issue which all were recently has given "women question" as a general name to connote all issues pertaining to women, such as women suppression, violence against women, and all social restrictions the women faced in the context of male dominant world. With this in mind, the first wave of the three refers to the movement of the 19th through early 20th centuries, which dealt mainly with issues such as working conditions and educational rights for women and girls.

The second wave was of the period from 1960s-1980s, which dealt with the discrepancies in laws in the interest of the male dominance, as well as cultural role of women in the society in general. Last and the third wave of feminism was of period between late 1980s and early 2000s. This third one was perceived to be as continuation of the second wave and a response to the perceived failures of the society in respect to the women question and improvement.

From the feminism periods above, mattered was the period that fall under the 19th Century feminism which Victorian was part of it. It's known that Victoria era was an era of women suffering in many aspects of daily life. Therefore, Victorian Feminists not only responded to the societal discrepancies they saw, but also against the stereotyped negative image of the women role and their designed sphere. During the era, men and women were believed to be two different creatures with two different roles and spheres as described in Victorian "conduct book 1799–1872) by Sarah Ellis as well as Coventry Patmore's "The Angel in the House" (1854).

Therefore, in order for the Victorian writers to describes the worst ills of the their period related to the women question, they divulged in representing what they had seen from the society they were part of it ,and through writing novels and fictions. In this connection, feminism in fiction during 19th Century was widely earned fame as they clearly fact, female writers such as "Jane Austen" clearly portrayed the restricted lives women faced in the early part of the century in her book "pride and prejudice" as well as other writers such as Charlotte Bronte, Anne Bronte, and Elizabeth Gaskell who depicted women's misery and frustration in their works'

Beside female writer's contribution to the feminist question, there were also male writers who played the same role in providing their contribution. Those male authors also from their part recognised the injustice women faced, because

of the negative attitude the society had on the women generally. The novels of “George Meredith”, “George Gissing” and “Thomas Hardy”, including plays of “Henrik Ibsen”, were all outlined the status of women in the 19th Century.

As far as concern the feminist waves, the first women interaction of 19th Century was labeled as the first wave. This was because the 19th century witnessed the emergence of organized women's movements, which, by the 1920s had strengthened the relations between women, widened their opportunities and forced the issue of their rights, come into shine, with the efforts of interactions they made. In respect to the Victorian era, many historical changes that characterized the Victorian period motivated discussions about the nature and the role of women in the society. This was what the Victorians called “The Woman Question”, connoting to all ills and discrepancies the women faced and which formed question that need an answer. Therefore, women felt that their question was of constant negligence, therefore was worth to be brought into attention of all.

Despite the fact that the word “question” seems a single question, the word in fact understood in broader sense than what it entails. This question includes group of debates about the physiological nature, the moral character, and the place of woman in the society in general, a matter which this question has more to do with. As far as the word “question” concern also, the question of women was also discussed at the level of everyday life, because women naturally disapproved the limitations society placed on their education, their property rights and their status in marriage and family ties (Aileen, 1965).

Added to the above, the idea of the feminists directly originated from Enlightenment and nineteenth-century theories, especially through Mary Wollstonecraft’s “Vindication of the Rights of Woman” as well as John Stuart

Mill's "The Subjection of Women", which both shared the human prejudices among men and women and the prevalent social injustice involved in their unequal treatment, based on some predetermined differences.

As to the difference and change made by the those feminists, starting from the Victorian era up to the 20th Century, feminist movements played a great role in making a real difference, which are still continuing to answer the women's question as a result of the oppression, and which resulted in creating a gap that led to many disadvantages for women, as their voices silenced.

As Esther, (2016) notes: The Victorian era was a conservative period in which women were raised to cook and clean as a natural role as men thought, neglecting the potential the women could have in providing support to the society, while at the same time, men were taught to pursue jobs in the public sphere. In addition to, during this time, women were just considered properties of men, and were notoriously limited in a certain corner, as the society had already specified women role as of motherhood, husband's moral lifters and doing domesticity, while at the same time, men were accepted in the society as household leaders who have the families' door key without whom it could not be opened.

Therefore, such environment and situation women were as stated above, triggered the woman's minds with something missing in respect to their status as women, as a result motivated the women for change which was a natural phenomenon as women related more than before in this contemporary period. The efforts of feminists of the Victorian era directly affected the 1920s as well, a period much known as the birth of "New women" By this time, women were lastly allowed to express their opinions openly in public as part of recognition.

Although the influence of the Victorian ills still alive, the image of successful women was becoming increasingly visible (Esther, 2016).

While women had suffered a lot from the negative attitude, and the stereotypical view of men could with great efforts made and still being made to make a little difference, in comparison to the past. With their continuing social interaction, especially in the 19th Century, which considered as a modern feminism, women managed to make the change possible. As to the achievements made, the efforts also helped women to gain self-confidence, which in the previous periods lost. Of the outcomes attained, at present, women are no longer thought to be as just housewives or mothers as they used to be. Additionally, they became recognized individuals who had equal talents in parallel to men, and thus have abilities to achieve much in professional and self-realization fields as men do (Kezia, 2015).

In such a way, Feminism as movement managed to completely change the way society saw women. The change was not only in gaining an opportunity to participate in social life, but also gained legal protection from different kinds of abuses, such as violence against women.

2.9 Conclusion

The social restriction on Women in 19th Century Victoria was one of the main characteristics of the period. Females during this period faced the most societal unfair stereotypical view in respect to their status, as well as negative attitude towards women's abilities and potential. While the Victoria herself was a woman, whose after the name was suggested, women were still had faced the same men mentality that they were less inferior to men.

In addition to this, the society in the Victorian era ,believed that Women’s best place was the “Home “which justified their ill-treatment to the females as they intended with this believe to restrict them internally and privately. Interestingly, this mentality was even enhanced further with the aid of religion as part of Victorian religious aspect.

Due to the fact that women generally, irrespective of whatever women could be were negatively seen and viewed as less inferior than men, this study was focused on in order to trace back the past social ills and discrepancies, especially in the western culture, and particularly the 19th Century Victoria taken as an example whose literature clearly portrayed much on the social negative attitude on women’s status.

In addition to the above, women during the 19th Century Victoria were severely portrayed and viewed negatively. The society believed that the best place for the women was the “Home”. This male mentality caused the women greatly disadvantage many aspects of the daily life in parallel to men whose sphere whose advantages were granted.

In further limiting their roles, the society suppressed the women with some kind of social conventions that hindered their importance as females .In this regard, women were forcedly supposed to be ideals and their best place to achieve this idealism was believed to be the “private sphere” which was the very “Home” itself as mentioned above.

Since this issue of Victorian women position fall under the contemporary gender issue that specifically defines the roles of both women and men, it’s justified that this negative attitude of women position is the outcome of the past eras which Victoria was one of them. Hence, the researcher in this thesis will explore how the society in the past treated women as individuals through tracing

the Victorian women status within the society, their role that separate their sphere uniquely from the men's.

In this connection, the queen Victoria who was a woman and ruler during the period could not also disapprove the society's negative attitude on women. She herself played an iconic role by serving her husband and bearing the children, abiding by the social norms and conventions. This was considered a complete monarchical support in shaping the Victorian society.

Moreover, the social class and structure was one of the reasons that led to the idea grow further as people were kinds and of different spheres. Furthermore, the monarchical law played the greater part in reinforcing the negative attitudes on women status, with a sarcastic mentality such as women as "the Angle in the House" and women as the "household generals".

It was based on the above mentioned that woman's education was considered not necessary, and that education was only believed to be mens' domain as they considered belonged to the public environment .Interestingly, not all women's education subjects were not necessary, there were subjects which considered too be of women's suitability. With this in mind, the society rather wanted the women educate themselves with only subjects such as how to cook, raise children, and act as army generals in commanding their domestics in the same way armies command their forces.

2.1.0 Victorian Literature

2.1.1 Definition of Victorian Literature

The Victorian literature is the literature that produced during the reign of Queen Victoria within the period from 1837 to 1901. This means that there are many

genres of literary forms which constitute the Victorian literature such as the novels, Children's literature, poetry, drama, prose, and short stories. The Victorian literature forms and constitutes a link and transition between the romantic period and the different literature of the 20th century.

Understanding Literary Periods is key in understanding the literary movements and their characteristics which are distinguishably different from time to time and from period to period. For example every period has its own traits and characteristics that make it unique and distinguished, considering that writers of each period focused on some aspects of their life in drawing the life issues prevailed during the time. Thus, the Victorian literature together with the Romantic Literature, 20th Century literature; to name just few are all considered scholars endeavours to help readers understand and classify literature from different time periods or that had been written in different styles.

In so far as concern the Victorian Literature, the characteristics of the period were likely similar, because writers and artists of the period were inspired both by the art that came before them and the events occurring during the time that they were working. So, something can seem Victorian, but not have been written in the Victorian era, or something written in the Victorian era might not actually seem Victorian. For example, Charlotte and Emily Bronte wrote "Jane Eyre" and "Wuthering Heights" in what would be considered the Victorian era, but those novels have much more qualities of the Romantic period.

While in the preceding Romantic period (the period before Victorian) poetry had been the dominant and most popular genre of literature, it was the novel that was most important and prevailed in the Victorian period. Some of the most considered writers of the period were Charles Dickens (1812–1870) who dominated the first part of Victoria's reign. Charles Dickens was in fact the most famous Victorian novelist due to the great popularity and good traits he possessed for his writings. Of his best writings comes "The Pickwick Papers"

(1836), which was written when he was twenty-five, and which the work acted as his masterpiece and great start up point and success for his all subsequent and followed works that sold extremely well ⁽³⁾.

Moreover, Dickens was also a pioneer in writings comedies as one of his first novel has a satirical motive and this pervades his writing. Dickens further worked hard and explored to produce other entertaining writings that the public and the common wanted, as well as writing commentaries on many social problems and ills that existed in the period as well as status of the poor group and their oppression. His most important works in this respect include “Oliver Twist”, “Christmas Carol”, “David Copperfield” (1848 - 1850), “Bleak House” (1852) “A Tale of Two Cities” (1858 - 1859), and “Great Expectations” (1860 - 1861).it’s to be noted that there is a gradual trend in his fiction towards darker themes which mirrors a tendency of “darkness” like much of the writings of the 19th century a matter which stresses the Victorian aspects that changed the society and which enhanced by the industrial revolution too ⁽⁴⁾.

Another famous writer of the period is William Thackeray who was Dickens' great rival in the first half of Queen Victoria's reign. William had to some extent a similar style as that of Dickens, but a slightly more detached, with an obvious satirical view of his characters. He also tended to depict and portray a more middle class society than Dickens did. He is best known for his novel “Vanity Fair” (1848), subtitled a Novel without a Hero, which is an example of a form popular in Victorian literature; and a historical novel in which recent history is depicted.

Victorian era is not tired of offering us more talented and famous writers who highlighted the period with a brilliant literary works. Here comes Anne, Charlotte and Emily Bronte who also produced notable and remarkable works within the period, despite that their works were not immediately appreciated and welcomed by Victorian critics. In this connection, Wuthering Height (1847) as

Emily's only work was an example of Gothic Romanticism from a woman's point of view, which examines class, myth, and gender. Jane Eyre on the other hand by Emily's sister Charlotte was another major nineteenth century novel that has gothic themes as well as Anne's second novel "The Tenant of Wildfell Hall" (1848), that written in realistic rather than romantic style, was also mainly considered to be the first sustained feminist novel.

In addition to the above and later during the period, George Eliot whose real name was Mary Ann Evans published the novel "The Mill on the Floss" in 1860, after which her most famous work "Middlemarch" produced after. Like the Bronte did, George Elliot wrote these novels under a masculine pseudonym, because there was a negative perception and view towards women status as a concerned issue this research in hand explores. Women in this very era were in fact ill-treated by the society whereby allowing the female writers avoid public sphere that was only designated for male. In the last part of the Victorian era Thomas Hardy was the most important novelist who enlightened the era with his best novels. Some of the Hardy's famous works include "Under the Greenwood", "Far from the Madding Crowd", "The Mayor of Casterbridge", "Tess of the d'Urbervilles", and "The Return of the Native".

As for as concern the prose writing, Victorian era was well known for the emergence of several literary genre and the prose is one of them. Victorian literature was varied in terms of genre. Writers often wrote poems to express their daily life affairs and express them in writing. Thus, the Victorians loved the heroic stories of knights of old and they hoped to regain some of those nobilities, and courtly behaviour in order to impress people both at home and in the wider empire. The best example of this is kind was Alfred Tennyson's "Idylls of the King", which reclaimed the stories of King Arthur, particularly with contemporary concerns and issues.

According to Brewster, (2014) in his book “Children’s Books in the Victorian Era” mentioned that Victorians were much concerned about child and child labor. In fact, child labor was very common during the period a matter which brought attention to the public. In order to stop this phenomenon (the child labor) Victorians worked and exerted great efforts towards this end as well as introduction of compulsory education for all children. Once children began to be able to read, children’s literature for young people started to grow and popularized. In this respect, it’s not only famous writer Dickens who produced children literature with his “A Child's History of England” as one, but also there were group of dedicated children's authors who participated in this arena such as Lewis Carroll, and Anna Sewell.

Moreover, and related to the Victorian literature, it’s to be stressed that Victorian era was very remarkable in terms of the development of science. Thus, the Victorians had described this development literally and classified the entire natural world through this very literature. One obvious example was the book titled “the Origin of Species” written by Charles Darwin still remains famous book in this part. The book in fact dealt with the theory of evolution; a matter that shook many of the ideas the Victorians had about themselves and their place in the world.

2.1.2 The General Characteristics of Victorian Literature

Victorian literature is the literature that produced during the reign of Queen Victoria from 1837-1901. The Victorian literature thus, forms a link and transition between the writers of both the romantic period and the different literature of the 20th century. The era was named after the reign of Queen Victoria who ruled England during the time, and who was represented as an icon of a female ruler (Adelaide, 2016).

Before the Victorian era, the preceded era in the framework of the successive English literary periods was the “Romantic period”. In this preceded period (the Romantic) , poetry had been the most dominant genre in terms of readership and interest (tucker, 1999).This means that during the Romantic period, people tended towards writing and reading poetry more than the other literary genres, a matter which made the poetry a dominant in the literature arena.

However, during the Victorian period, people’s interests shifted from the previous dominant poetry to the novel. In addition to, literature in the Victorian era was marked by this shift due to the shift in the poets’ attitude and mentality on one hand, and a shift in the popularity from poetry to the novels on the other, as novels dealt with many social interests such as social, economical, and cultural.

Thus, the novels in 19th century become the most leading form of literature in English. In this regard, of the famous writers of this era who dominated the most part of the era was Charles Dickens. Dickens as a writer had been the most prominent and important writer of this period. He produced the most works that touched and highlighted the current issues of the time such represented in his first novel “Pickwick papers” which was published in 1836 as well as “Our Mutual friends” published in 1864(tucker, 1999).

Besides Dickens, there were also famous writers of the period who were purely Victorian like William Thackeray, especially his works such as “Vanity Fair” (1848) as well as Bronte sisters (Charlotte, Emily and Anne) who published significant works in 1840s.Other important female writer of the period was George Elliot who had taken the name (Mary Ann Evan) as a pseudonym name because of the society’s disapproval of the females literary endeavours because of the negative attitudes from the society on women intellectual capabilities.

This male attitude forced some women, George Elliot as an example to use pseudonyms name to in an attempt to remain unidentified and disclosed.

Besides the novel as the most leading literary form during the period, there was also a form of literature during the period which was the Children literature. Hence, the Children literature form was also one of the Victorian fond and aspirations. Of the form they fond of, the Victorians were in greater extent concerned with children affairs, in an attempt to stop the child labour on one hand, and the introduction of compulsory education on the other.

Victorians children were thus suffered during the period due the harsh work condition they were in. When the society drew attention of this fact of child condition, it set about inventing those facts, so that child labour was stopped. Therefore, the child labour was considered one of the society's glitches in the 19th Century Victoria, a matter which worth to be posed in literature as a concern.

When the children started to read, this literature of the young people became popularized and familiar among Writers. This meant that it was not only there had been many writers produced children works such as Dickens' "A child History of England", but also strikingly, there had been many dedicated and talented children writhers among authors. Considering this, writers such as "Lewis Carroll" and "Anna Sewell" wrote mainly for children, though they had also written adults ones. Other similar authors were "Anthony Hope" and "Robert Louis Stevenson" who wrote mainly for adults, but their adventure novels are now classified as children (Adelaide, 2016).

With the same interest given to the novels, there was also much interest in poetry. After the instability in the Romantic period, the Poetry in the Victorian era became a habit and part of it. In this direction, Alfred Tennyson was a

pioneer for over forty years in this respect. Moreover, poetry was also highly used as a powerful voice of criticism during when Tennyson fiercely attacked the military blunder with his “Charge of the light Brigade”.

There are more to come from the Victorian literature, and in this time the Drama speaks .Drama as an entertainment type of literature played also a vital role during the period. Of its much common, farces, musical burlesques, and comic operas competed of Shakespeare productions and the other related dramas. Worth to be mentioned also gothic tales as literary genre were seemingly used to some extent. It’s to be noted that the eighteen Century period had inspired the Victorians much with some of its traits.

The inspiration copied was remarkable especially after the eighteen Century Gothic tales left its footsteps on the 19th Century, and which the Victorian readers had their pleasant taste for their mysterious tales. Those tales often centred especially on characters such as Sherlock Holmes, Sexton Blake, phileas Fogg, as well as other fictional characters of the era such as Dracula, Edward Hyde, and invisible man.

Progressively speaking, the Victoria period was well known for its discoveries of science which highly regarded as the Age of development, compared to the other periods. In terms of its general characteristics, there were many traits that this very era of literature characterizes. Firstly the literature of this age tends to come closer to the daily life which reflects its practical problems and interests, which mean that writers of this period tended to describe the real world they witnessed both its progression and deterioration.

The aspects of the progressed world were the descriptions of the economical growth and industrial Revolution the era witnessed, while the deteriorated world represented in the ills and discrepancies the era passed by, such as

emancipation, child labor, environmental challenges due to the industries, and women's ill-treatment. Secondly, the morality was also considered one of the key characteristics of the Victorian literature. In this respect, The Victorians were highly considered moralists in terms of conduct and behavior, and that why there had been a form of literature that was solely made to correct the moralities and restrict matters that considered immoral (Adelaide, 2016).

In addition to the moral purpose, Victorians were also considered Idealists. This idealism was very clear in their treatment of women, in which women domesticity became core of one's idealism. The social prejudices against the women were fact during the era. Thus, women idealism was strictly recommended, because of this Victorians had reservation for all those women who considered not idealists.

Despite the fact that the period was characterized as practical and materialistic at same time, most of the writers experienced a purely ideal life. Thus, the era was idealistic per excellence, where the great ideals like truth, justice, love, and brotherhood were much emphasized by poets, and novelists.

2.1.3 Victorian Era & its Role in Introducing the Novel as Literary Genre

The 19th Century Victoria was an era of arts represented in Literature. English literature passed by several successive literary developments started with certain genres and forms in which the society showed different interest for every individual period .Hence, during the period, English literature was reached its peak, because of the reality of the growth of literacy and readers in general throughout the period. Therefore, the novel as a genre had a specific focus, as the people shifted gradually from the previous genre “the poetry” to the new form “the novel”.

The Victorian period was therefore an important period among the other literary periods. This was due to the fact that the era synchronized the reign of Queen Victoria, who was an important figure herself, which became women icon. The importance of the Victorian era also lies in the fact that it forms a link and transition between the writing of the Romantic period, the modern literature of the 20th Century.

In addition to the Victorian Literature was a literature that perceived to be evolutes during an age witnessed by several changes, as well as it reflected many live events, such as dealing with the most question pertains some groups statuses in general, its laws and historical ideals. Clearly speaking, the basic purpose of literature could be questioning the social problems that prevailed, and to raise the people's awareness with respect to the social challenges (Fletcher, 2002).

For these reasons literature in this period gained a higher point in terms of significance bearing many factor affected the people. Besides the fact that the Victoria era was the first era to introduce the novel as a literary genre, the importance of the literature in this very era was because it was a source of many historical facts and current issues that the period witnessed, which relied much upon a realist portrayal of the events went by.

Furthermore and as mentioned earlier, the Victorian era was an era of development and progress in science. With those changes happened at the time, the Victorians exerted great efforts in exploring issues related to their historical and social context Therefore, issues such as industrialization ,rural urban life, and the status of women and children were much portrayed and represented in the 19th Century Victoria.

For the above reasons, Victorian literature was characterized by powerful societal related events, because it offers a critique of social circumstances, the

conflict between classes, and women's status. In addition to, it tends to speak the daily life of people and their discrepancies, via reflecting their inner feelings and external circumstances in better realistic way than fictional. As part of literary technique, realism was one of the narrative techniques used in Victorian literature that tried to portray the real life of people, unlike the romantic period where idealization was much applied (Mulder, 2012).

Thus, themes such as industrial revolution and its effect on the Victorian society were the main issues many writers dealt with, because of the social changes that triggered by the industrial development that played role in developing such literary realism. That is why there were many novels that treated issues such the influence of the Industrial progress on children whom forced to work in bad conditions of mines and the environmental hazards as they exposed to. One of the example of this was the story portrayed in the novel “Hard times “written by Charles Dickens, in which he depict the difficult life of Iron Mills, which concerned the poor people who were working in the mills to produce iron product.

Added to the above, there are also representation of a state of poverty and bad working conditions. Worth to be mentioned too, was the women status as a unique individuals, whose conditions were of the major concerns, especially for Charles Dickens as a writer. Dickens portrayed and represented in his many novels the total influence the Victorian society had on the women generally, their depiction as the fallen women, and finally the account of women endurance and exploitation as well as oppression faced. Therefore, Victorian Literature was unique with multiple-facet themes presented as well as it styles (Mulder, 2012).

As far as concern the evolution of the novel as genre, 19th Century Victoria was considered the birth for the novel as a genre (Ghazali, 2009). With this in mind, the term novel arose in the end of the eighteenth century, and it was the main

form to describe contemporary issues, and the conflicts between the individuals versus individuals as well as of environmental hazards and its bad effects on the human being.

Furthermore, the greatness of the novel during the 19th Century Victoria is illustrated by Merizig, (2012) in her study “The Status of Women in the Nineteenth Century Victoria” by recalling Henry James’ statement meaning the novel that:

“An intricately wrought aesthetic and psychological design and a subtle balancing of formal and moral tensions”

Thus, the interest in novels and their spread in 19th Century Victoria began since there was an increase in literacy. And the Industrial Revolution British witnessed and its effects later on became a corner stone in making the Novel the most fundamental means in portraying real life, with its both social and moral values (Wynne-Davies, 1990).

While the era seen some social, economical, and cultural developments, those developments, in turn had their ills and bad effects on the Victorian society itself. Women, as a sex had the greater part sufferance, based on some negative attitude the society had, as well as based on the society’s stereotypical view on the women in general. All these social discrepancies were clearly represented by many Victorian writers, among were Thomas Hardy, George Elliot, and the Bronte sisters, to name just a few; so that they reflect how events were going on.

2.1.4 Victorian Women Novelists

Charlotte Bronte:

Women during the 19th Century Victoria played a very important role for the society. Though, being a woman in Victorian era required much sacrifice and endurance, women of this era were capable of showing both the sacrifice and endurance in turn, through overcoming all obstacles and the male negative attitude placed on them, just for being a woman.

The 19th Century era was known for its birth of many important female writers. These female writers contributed much firstly to the growth of the novel as genre, and contributed to the promotion of the women question, in respect to their many rights, and their position within the society.

In terms of their contribution to the literature, there were many female writers who did well to adding more taste to the English literature. However, their endeavors and sacrifice in this regard conflicted with the most social restrictions the Victorians women had as individuals. In the view of this, while some Victorian women writers published their works using their real names as a mark of authorship, some others took interest in using male pseudonyms to mark their work, as it was very difficult for a woman, especially of the lower and middle class to divulge in what was believed as male dominant literary world (Alexander, 2000).

As history tells, women's literary works were very popular, because they dealt with the most touching issues of the time, as witnessed by the writers themselves. Thus, one of the important women novelists of the Victorian Age was Charlotte Bronte. Based on records, the three Bronte sisters Anne, Charlotte, and Emily collectively known as "stormy sisterhood" who took the England of their time by storm, and who were shy and isolated girls with uneventful lives.

The three sisters above as all of them died while young, and of tuberculosis did great in contributing .They were daughters of a strict father who made them lead

a special life. As novelists, the sisters reflected purely their inner life through the mirror of the literary works that made them famous. This fact asserts that the Brontes were belonged to class of writers whom it was difficult to understand, except through their biography. With this in mind, Samuel C. Chew observes:

“The three Bronte sisters have been overlaid with so much biography, criticism, and conjuncture that in reading about them, there is danger list their own books left unread”.

In addition to, Charlotte Bronte wrote four novels. They are “The professor”, “VUlette”, “Jane Eyre”and “Shirley”. The first two novels were based on her personal experiences, while her third one detailed about the heroine who was the governess resembles her sister Anne in their affairs. The third novel” Shirley” describes the story of intimate emotion during the time of the industrial disturbances.

Emily Bronte:

Emily Bronte was both English poet and novelist, and was best known for her only novel “Withering Heights” which considered a classic of English literature. She was the third eldest of the four surviving Bronte children. She was one of the women Victorian writers who wrote under a pen name Ellis Bell (Merriam, 1995).

Concerning her writing, and because she wrote “Withering Heights with such a violence and passion tone, the novel led the Victorian society and may reviewers to think that it had been written by a man. In This respect, Juliet Gardiner, the historian states that:

“The vivid passion and power of its language and imagery impressed, bewildered and appalled reviewers”

With the statement above in view, the book received a mixed reviews when first came out, and was often condemned for its portrayal of much passion, whereby the book afterwards became an English classic. Although, there had been letters from her publisher indicates that Emily had begun to write a second novel. However, the publisher's claimed document had never been found. It was also believed that the claimed documents might be destroyed even if it was existed, when she was prevented by illness from completing the book.

Emily finally died of health problems. She was attacked by harsh local climate and unsanitary conditions of environment. Bronte thus caught a severe cold which quickly developed into inflammation of the lungs and led to tuberculosis that led to her death (Rebeca, 1988).

Mrs. Elizabeth Gaskell

Elizabeth Gaskell often referred to as Mrs. Gaskell, was an English novelist and short story writer. Her novels considered of having a detailed representation of the lives of many classes of Victorian society, including the very poor, and are of interest to social historians as well as lovers of literature in general. Her first novel, was "Mary Barton" which published in 1848, and "The Life of Charlotte Bronte" which considered the first biography about Bronte. In addition to, the novel "Cranford" was known as Gaskell's best novel, beside "North and south" and *Wives and Daughters* (Nancy, 2007)

Mrs. Gaskell was not of the passion and frustration of the Bronte sisters. She was the wife of a quiet clergyman in a town, considered Centre of English industry, with seven children. Gaskell had been a woman with high sense of humor and deep human sympathy that shape her character. There was always differences in Gaskell's novels if compared to the other female's sisters.

Therefore, what distinguishes Gaskell novels is her deep social awareness that mixed with a compassionate observation of the life around her. Her novels divide themselves into two well-defined categories (⁶).

With this in view, there are two categories her novels set to. Firstly both her novels “Mary Barton” and “North and South” dealt with social and industrial problems that brought by the workmen masters struggles. Being as one of the resident of the key industrial town of Manchester, Mrs. Gaskell became a witness to the good benefits the Industrial Revolution had offered to the Victorian Society. The second categories of her novels is like that of “Cranford”, “Ruth”, “Wives and Daughters”, which all describe the industrial challenges witnessed at the time. Therefore, the sympathy, the keen observation, and the gentle humor with which the small affairs of a country village was described made “Cranford” one of the most interesting stories in the English language.

George Eliot:

Her real name was “Mary Ann Evans” who was an English novelist, poet, journalist, translator and one of the important writers of the Victorian era. Alternatively "Mary Anne" or "Marian"), known by her pen name George Eliot. Thus George Eliot was not her real name. It was a pen name used by her so that to remain unidentified, bearing that being a woman writer at the time triggers the society’s challenges towards criticism (Frederick, 1995).

George Eliot wrote seven novels which are “Adam Bede ”“The Mill on the Floss”, “Silas Marner”, “Felix Holt, “The Radical”, “Middlemarch”, and “Daniel Deronda”; which all were set in provincial England. There were other reason behind George Elliot using this male pen name. She used this male pen

name so that her works would be seriously taken, and that she wanted to escape the stereotypical view of women status as they were oppressed by men.

In addition to the above, also one of the reasons that led Elliot using a pen name may have been a desire to lock her private life from public criticism and to prevent scandals attending her relationship and married George Henry Lewes, with whom she lived for over 20 years.

During her professional and personal life, George Eliot became an effective icon of women who challenged the most difficult social expectations of femininity in the nineteenth century Victorian. She was by the sense intelligent woman, did not afraid to speak out clearly against the most dominant social conventions of the time. With her identity disclosed under the pen name George Eliot, she could able to write some of the century's most significant works that directly touched the most issues going on around her.

As far as concern her literary work, the year 1857 was the beginning of her official literary shine, with publication of many of Clerical Life. Of her best known novels are "Middlemarch", "Adam Bede", "Daniel Deronda", and "The Mill on the Floss" to name just some. What is striking was that each of Eliot work is a reflection of a unique achievement in its own right, starting from her early rural works such as in "Adam Bede" and "The Mill on the Floss" and the study of history as in "Daniel Deronda". In order to achieve these literary task, Eliot researched very much all the themes her fiction reflected, and each work was characterized by a bank of knowledge consisted subjects such as religious, philosophy, science, history.

In order for her to be considered and her works judged, she adopted a male pseudonym to remain unidentified as female writer, as did before her predecessor Charlotte Bronte. Elliot thus believed that, this was the only way to give herself the chance to be judged against her literary efforts. Elliot fictions

were a reflection of the contemporary questions such as women, their nature, social status, education opportunity, and the effects of moral and immoral to the society as a whole.

Elliot novels' female characters were of stereotypical nature. Her female characters were always seemed unwelcomed from a feminist point of view. The pattern world is never found in her novels such as a model of a perfect woman who satisfied and blessed in her life. Therefore, all her female characters were always either compromised or restrained in some way by the society on one hand, and by the male on the other. Hence, female characters such as "Dorothea" in (*Middlemarch*), "Gwendolen" in (*Daniel Deronda*), and "Maggie Tulliver" in (*The Mill on the Floss*) are all considered characters that lack the ability to free themselves from social conventions and rules (Mathieson,2015).

It was for these reasons that Elliot fiction are only of female rights recognition nature, for multiple problems related to women's lives and status. It's noted that the necessity of women's education, for instance, is frequently a topic of concern, a matter which proof the theme of individual versus the nature conflict existed; or individual versus another individual theme.

2.1.5 Women Literary Careers Suppression Faced

Clearly speaking the Victorian Era was characterized by a remarkable advancement and progress in the field of literature. Taking this fact, at the beginning of the 19th Century, female authors were increased by mastering the male authors who believed that women had no adequate intellectual skills to present a qualitative literary works to competing with. However, the beginning of the century brought with it changes in many aspects such economics, cultural, and the social hierarchy, which opened door for a chance of better

education for women. As the time goes by, women awareness in respect to the gender inequality has risen as well as their oppressed role and position in the society.

Thus, women role in the 19th Century was very limited and constrained. They were oppressed in a way or another by the society's most predefined rules and conventions. While there was a double standard applied to men and women in different ways, in respect to many aspects some of which of social, cultural, and economical, women were also suppressed in terms of intellectual property representing in publication. Therefore, all women endeavors to publish written works were made with misjudgment in the first stages. However, later on women could manage to make their works recognized and judged after using certain methods such as writing under pseudonyms. (Frederick, 1995).

In light of the above, and in order to have a space in the male- dominated literary environment as well as stand alongside with them, female authors used personal unidentified methods to make their work considered .In doing so, women opted to use male pseudonyms and wrote their names anonymously so that to avoid being misjudged by the critics. As the century progressed, and in adopting this breakthrough, women with this endeavor abled to break the social, legal, and traditional constraints that imposed on them by the society. As a result, there had many social reform endeavors tried by women who demanded equal rights for men and women, and to proof that women were not only supposed to be viewed from such physical point of view.

In addition to the above, women with this endeavors wanted to show the significance changes , at least in the field of literature, as well as to leave a good impression on the society, so that it accept women with their self-expression and the right to intellectual property. What was striking is that women endeavors constituted the beginning end of the male dominant attitude. In a counting the challenges and endurance the women had due to the double

standard played upon them, Victorian writers such as (Both Kate Chopin) and (Charlotte Bronte) in their novels “The Awakening” and “Jane Eyre” respectively; illustrated the hardships and struggles women had to exercise so that to get a space within what was called “The male dominated arena”. And while Kat’s “The Awakening” portrayed the rejection of stereotypical women’s roles, the Charlotte Bronte’s “Jane Eyre” formulation of the marriage protocol such as equality and independence before the marriage was presented, a case which both novels illustrate the prevailed situation of the 19th Century society (Frederick, 1995).

In illustrating the above further, while in the present day it’s possible for a woman to have the choice in many social aspects not existed in the Victorian Era, women could make a breakthrough in the modern time. Because, according to the Victorian common view, a woman had only one role within the society, and that was to stay at home, take care of her family and maintain a comfortable atmosphere in the home for her husband to relax and rest. Due to the stressful condition exposed to in meeting the life while adventuring. Victorian society strongly believe that there usually present two spheres; one (the external sphere) for the men, and second (the internal sphere) for the women. According to this view of Victorian ideology, women were belonged to the “domestic sphere which means the internal sphere”, while men belonged to the “public sphere which is the external sphere (Linda, 1988).

As part of women a wakening to the hard situation they were in, they used literary fiction in order to send their voices and communicate their inner feelings. In this regard, Sarah Grand, who was a writer and public speaker, introduced into the fiction a new term called “New Woman” which was used to describe a woman who rejected the role of a stereotypical Victorian woman”, and joined the line of those who labelled as new, empowered, with more masculine characteristics (Blackstone, 1765).

In relation to the above, there had been a collection of essays entitled “The New Woman in Fiction and in Fact: Fin-de-siecle Feminisms, by Richardson Angelique and Chris Willis all of whom portrayed the type of the New Woman represented as independent, masculine, educated, and intelligent woman who were both reluctant to the negative view, and compliant at the same time. Thus, the character of the New Woman became a protagonist of every literary work written by a woman. And in them the women frankly criticized the discriminatory Victorian stereotypical view as well as the gender roles and the position of women in the society in general (Richardson, Willis, 2001).

Moreover and as per diniejko in his The New Woman article states that:

“New Woman fiction dealt frankly with issues such as marriage as well as women’s desires for independence and fulfilment. Many New Woman novels strongly opposed the idea that home is woman’s only proper sphere”.

According to the above statement, female authors in their novels, reflected the real situation of the oppressive society, and described to the public the desires and attitudes the women wanted, which they could not spell out. Therefore, themes such as independence and relation are presented through the employing the marriage and love became more entertaining to the readers, who required more novels every day. Thus, the huge demand from the public increased the interest in more production of female novels of this kind, a matter which enhanced the female author’s popularity that a real difference.

However, when the production of novels by women writers became to rise, the male authors felt that they were threatened because of the strong competition

from the female, as the men feared that the women will “invade men market”, and distract the attention of young lady readers. In order for the men to curb the women literary advancement, especially from the (patronizing male reviewers), they did criticize and belittle every piece of fiction written by women. The male reviewers believed that such skillful writings were only characteristics supposed to be possessed by men (Andrzej, 2015).

Beside the women literary potentials, male reviewers believed that female literary fictions were just a personal diary of an over emotional woman who was subjective and lost in her own thoughts. . It was due to this negative assessment of women literary capabilities, female authors were forced to use male pseudonyms or either written their names anonymously to avoid critical devaluation of their works based on their physical characteristics. Of those females who used pseudonyms in this respect was Charlotte Bronte who used the pseudonym of “Currer Bell” when she published her novel (Jane Eyre), thus to avoid any focus on her femininity rather than on her literary value of the book she published (Thompson, 1999).

Added to the above, and in relation to the high value of the Charlotte novel “Jane Eyre”, which highly considered due to its vivid content that surprised readers who began asking who its real author was. They were delighted with the novel when it was published, but after the identification of the author, the public reception and criticism of the book changed negatively. Showalter, (1977), who was a prominent literary critic and feminist in her book “A Literature of Their Own: British Women Novelists from Bronte to Lessing “states that:

“The presentation of female and human passion disturbed and amazed readers. If Currer Bell was a woman, they could not imagine what sort of woman she might be”.

It was based on the above quotation that female fiction in the nineteenth-century was viewed as trivial and silly, and that female authors were lack the ability to produce such highly valued literary works of art .However, women were so fortunate that they could bring those social issues to the public attention through the literature, and thus made the society to accept the unavoidable fate of changes towards its negative attitudes.

Despite the fact that the literary works were considered only men's business, women benefited from the much interest for the fiction by the common, and began producing even more novels that spoke about the actual woman's status in the prevailing Victorian society. Therefore many male critics thought that a novel by a woman should be feminine in term of its theme, so that women's proper sphere and domestic related issues could be sufficiently contained. However, this devaluation and criticism made women inferior which they sought afterwards to correct the negative attitude of the men. Hence, women through using characters of their heroines in their literary works, could able to draw a sharp portrayal of the women status in the society in general.

In the same token, while women characters in the novels played better role of a new woman a according to "Richardson Angelique and Chris Willis, the men characters in the novels played the opposite role in demonstrating their negative attitude towards women less status. Hence, most themes of the female authors during 19th Century Victoria dealt with issues related to male independence and rejection for the societal customs and traditions that hindered women's positive role in the society.

In Thomas Hardy's novel "The Return of the Native" for example portrays a story of the main character "Eustacia Vye" as stereotypical restless and dissatisfied female who sought for adventure and excitement outside the expected nature of women. Also in other Hardy's Novel "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" Tess as the main character may also be seen as a victim of a

member of different societal group with ill-treatment and prejudice towards the Victorian society. Tess's misfortune was related to the male dominance and the concept of superiority that adopted. Her unbearable pressures come from male dominance, represented in "Alec" and "Angel", characters that Tess came in contact with, during the course of the events. Therefore, the male mastery phenomenon was well-illustrated in the Victorian novels. In putting more emphasis on this, in "Tess of the D'Urbervilles", when Tess tells Alec after his seduction as she said "*See how you have mastered me*" is clear example of showing obviously the theme of male dominance as part of the Victorian era characterises of male superiority and women subjugation.

2.1.6 Conclusion

The Victorian era, though it was an era of social progress and development for the Britain people in general, it also an era of social imbalance between individuals, especially as far as concern the women as sex .This social imbalance was well portrayed and represented by many Victorian writers who, through their fiction took readers back to the era itself to show them how the Victorians were looked like.

Of the very important writers who wrote about the Victorian era in portraying the negative attitude of men towards women status was Thomas Hardy. Because of the fact that in the Victorian era women were negatively viewed as inferior to men, and that their best place supposed to be the "Home", they were stereotyped with this view which limited their development and individualism equal to men. There available many literary works that drew what was going on in the 19th Century Victoria, especially about the social restrictions and unjust rules imposed on women.

Speaking about Thomas Hardy as the writer of the era, Hardy wrote many novels that portrayed the societal ills and discrepancies existed. Thus, many of his novels clearly illustrated this stereotypical view. While Hardy did not directly demonstrate how women had been during the time, she cleverly demonstrated the way the society had the fixed ideas about women, which forced them to conform to the social rules applied to both men and women which were sharply different.

In his novel "The Return of the Native" for example, Hardy illustrates that characters such as Thomasin and Mr. Yeobright both as submissive and motherly female as the Victorian society wanted them to be. On the other also the novel's character Eustacia Vye stand up against the traditional view of women by the male dominant society. Furthermore, Victorian era was also an era of patriarchy by the sense. This patriarchy aided some social issues concerning the class, a matter which indicates that the Victoria period was the era of social classes and social hierarchy.

Because the era was such patriarchal by the word, that patriarchy played additional role in enhancing the ideology of women inferiority. Therefore, being a woman during the 19th Century Victoria was unluckily bad. The social influence on the female during this era was such trouble and women had never got a fresh air to breath due to the too much societal criticism and demands the women required to meet with respect to their moral and behaviour. Ironically, women were sarcastically made nothing, through calling them either by "Angle in the House" or "The Household Generals".

With this in view, women and men sphere was also another question. Victorian society believed that men and women spheres supposed to be different. That is to say; men by virtue of they were men, their sphere was supposed to be external, such as going out to look for works in order to meet the needs. Women on the other hand by virtue that they were female (as they were weak and

emotional), their sphere supposed to be internal the “Home”. Thus this idea of separate sphere ideology was well established in the Victorian believes.

Worth to be mentioned is that issues such as marriage and divorce were another dilemma for the women. For a woman to be a wife or mother was supposed to be one of the great achievement Victorian women could made, as the marriage considered one of the moral adaptor, especially women as weak and emotionally their nature was . Thus, the unmarried woman was seen less feminine than her domesticated and married one. It was also of economical importance that a woman to get married, as its considered as socially importance in preserving the idealism for an idealized women the Victorian approved. For this reason, marriage for Victorian women was of great purpose and mission, which females were supposed to seek after with all means.

After difficulty in marriage matters and coming to the divorce, women were also suffered from separation. The Victorian society had double standards towards separation. The difficulty of getting marriage and getting separated after the marriage was ironic, especially regarding women rights and the right to separation. Therefore, it was only the man who had to initiate the separation, without which the woman had no choice. The double standards applied signals that women as individuals were not equal with men, and that there was prejudice towards the social status of both sexes.

Moreover, women were also ignored both the employment and knowledge in general. This was a clear as the society believed that women education was useless especially learning subjects that require much thinking and that the brain get tired of. Alternatively, the society wanted the women educate themselves with subjects that make them a true housewives, such as how to be a better wife as well as learning about how to distress their husbands. Employment was not less than education in terms of negligence in it. Because of the fact that women’s sphere was believe to be internal, they denied access to the external

world in parallel to men. These areas were considered as social taboos which regarded as No –woman- land.

It was therefore, because of these social injustices and prejudices against the women, especially female writers, women through employing literature addressed the challenges they faced throughout the period. In doing so, several writers such as Charlotte Bronte, and George Elliot as female writers, Thomas Hardy as a male writer came up with novels that dealt with various themes of conflict between man versus man representing the conflict that existed between women and the male society.

Emphasizing the challenges the women faced, while the said female writers initiated their writings, their works were misrecognized and criticized. Nothing but because they were women. This intellectual suppression also one of the other suppressions the women experienced a matter which eventually let the women employ pseudonyms while publishing their literary works, to avoid being criticized by the negative society. With these struggles, women could able to send their message with such indirect method and thus brought their concern into the attention of all.

Hence, feminism as women association came into being which played a great role in addressing various issues pertaining women, in which the concept of gender as an ideology and concept felt nowadays globally.

CHAPTER THREE

DISCUSITION & ANALYSIS

3.0 Introduction

The 19th Century Victoria was one of the eras in which women as individuals became a cause and a question to the Victorians, and currently to the modern world which really needs a response. It's in this very era the concept "*The woman question*" was named in relation to the social change in the latter half of the 19th century, and thus making the Victoria as the first era to bring attention to the Women Question. The concept of "*The women Question*" is one of the clear signs that there was something behind the women having a question, and thus this women's question became a controversial later on until reach the level of being true question that needed an answer.

The question was that the Victorian society was well known for its prejudices against the women in favour to the men. Women as individuals during this Era were treated as secondary citizens as men considered principal, in respect to several social aspects which had their negative impacts on the women part. These negative aspects represented in the denial of social, economic and cultural rights; to name just view. Based on the above reality, women were very restricted within their classes and were even more restricted in the work place.

In the 19th Century Victoria, women lived a period characterized by presence of negative attitude from men towards women, which led to the negligence of females basic social needs. As a result, women were denied all legal and social rights that they were expected to had, and hence remained dependent to their husbands who strictly controlled all their aspects of daily life. The Victorian society in this respect, had a one stereotypical view on women status; that was

they were inferior to men (Appell, 2014). With this attitude in males mind, women were made to restrict themselves to their house pursuing minor activities that greatly hindered their advancement and progress in several social aspects.

The status and position of women in the Victorian society was hence based on the negative perception as the women were seen by nature inferior to men. But this view was taken mistakenly by the society, through which women faced the most social inequalities between men and women, respect and denial of individuality, as well as the denial of the basic needs such as education.

Worth to be mentioned also is that this common view of the women was supported even by the supreme authority represented by the monarch via imposing certain unsocial laws with respect to the social status of women in both within the society in general and within the family in particular. In order to enhance this male ideology of men superiority and women inferiority, the society set constraint ideals for women to follow without which the women were viewed negatively, or rather they were considered no women as per their true definition of Women.

Thus, the Victorian era was the most era that believed women supposed to be ideals. They believe that a woman supposed to be an ideal by showing those signs of idealism, and they believe that the best place to achieve this idealism was the “Home”. The society in this respect much concerned about the different spheres or environment where the man or the woman supposed to dwell.

In order to separate both sexes, the society created separate spheres between men and women, the society had in fact something in mind; in as far as concern the ideals women required to possess. While purity and Chastity were highly considered of moral, the society wanted the women to be in a separate sphere the private one so as to achieve the idealism required, and not the public one

which loses that idealism and which considered of men. Thus the concept of separate spheres came to be known which establishes two different spheres. The public sphere or the outer sphere (this sphere was for men in which men tend to interact publically with others). The other sphere was the private sphere or the inner sphere which was one's own home. Thus women were required to be in their homes doing only domestic activities such as looking after the children, preparing a nice meal for their husbands, and act as housekeepers.

Besides the women kept internally within their homes as part of preserving the purity and morality, women were also denied the basic rights of a man, represented in the social rights. They were thus undermined socially and made a toy within in the face of the unequal rules the society set forth for them to abide by. With those social restrictions in place, Women were denied self-ownership especially during marriage.

As part of denying the basic social rights as well as per the norms, when a man and a woman marry, the husband and the wife considered to be as one person, and the husband is the only that person. Thus, this embodiment makes the woman loses her true existence after the marriage (Buckner, 2005), in which the integration into one soul represents the negative attitude and misrecognition of women personality and individualism, a matter which enhance the very idea of man superiority and women inferiority.

Besides denying the status of women, the Victorians society also denied women access to their own properties. With this taken into account and by marriage, the control of woman's real property and income were missed, and automatically passed into her husband per the law, nevertheless he (the husband) could only dispose of with her consent.

When it comes to the issue of divorce, women's situation was not less than a woman possession of her personal belongings. The Victorian women's law had badly affected the married women, particularly with respect to the aspect of issues such as divorce that considered legal separation (Blackstone, 1765). Therefore; divorces could only be obtained in England through a cumbersome process in which involves a suit by the husband against another man for 'criminal conversation. However, there were great changes in the situation of women that took place in the 19th century, especially concerning the marriage laws and the legal rights of women to their divorce or their custody of the children.

Women's status in the 19th Century Victoria was thus such tragic, and thus the tragedy of the events encouraged several Victorian writers to explore the dilemmas women passed by in their literary works. It was therefore, most of women stories portrayed by writers who seemed factual despite the characters chosen and setting selected seemed fictional. For the purpose of making the events public, those the writers through literature recounted how events and situation of the time looked like.

Women were therefore, ill- represented and portrayed due to challenges they faced and because of the predefined social rules and conventions they had to abide by prescribed by the male dominant rules. While women faced ill-treatment and denial of access to many social rights, they kept responding to the ill-treatment through recognising their basic rights, in parallel to men.

3.1 The Women Question in 19th Century Victoria

In studying and exploring the status and position of women in a society, especially with respect to their rights, the term "The Women question" was

always a matter of concern to every explorer and researcher. The woman question was thus a phrase often used in relation to many social changes in the latter half of the 19th century. With this fact in place, the Victoria era particularly considered the birth place of phrase as there were many issues the phrase addresses such as the basics roles of women in the Western industrialized countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, and Russia.

Related to the above, there were issues such as women's suffrage, reproductive rights, bodily autonomy, property rights, legal rights, medical rights, and marriage all of which dominated the cultural discussions of Victorians society during the Victorian literature. While many women were supportive of these changing roles, they did not agree unanimously to the oppressive intent of it.

Contextually, "The woman question" originally referred to an academic field in the 1530s as to whether women should be allowed to study in the universities or not. In the years that followed, many people took the opportunity to comment on the goodness of women in general, and also considered whether it was good for a man to marry. Bearing in mind that, Victorians males had negative view on women's Status in the society as they believed its best place is home, women suffered a lot with centring themselves into this restricted environment, whereby lose many basic rights, because of the society's adaptation of this restricted ideals and rules for the women to abide by. Besides this, women having being cornered within the home, they looked upon as inferior to men with regard to social status, which because that they presumed to occupy what had been known as the best place "the Home".

In addition to the above, the term was first used in France under the title "Querelle des femmes" which means "the question of the women. In the years witnessed the beginning of the reformation, marriage itself as institution became

a question which was later on became part of the women question among other several issues related to their social status and position within the society.

Gisela and Margarete, (2002) in their "*The European Querelle des femmes*" translated "*the European question of women*" state that men in society were not oppressing women because of some natural laws, but because they wanted to keep their social power and status on the level, which in turn resulted in long literary quarrel. On one side of the quarrel, many argued that women were inferior to men because the man was created by God first, justifying that he (the man) as he male stronger and more important physically than woman.

Added to the above also, much of Christianity throughout the ages, has viewed women as the Daughters of Eve, the original temptress responsible for humanity being expelled from the Garden of Eden (Monique, 2013). As to the other hand of the quarrel, many believed that Eve was the deceived, not the deceiver. Therefore, some like Agrippa, (1929) argued openly that the nobility of women, who thought that women were created better than men.

Related to the above, he goes further to argue because women were being made better than man received better name as result. In explaining this more, while the man was called Adam, which means Earth; the woman was Eva, which is by interpretation means Life. In addition to the fact that the man was created from the dust of the earth, while the woman was made from something far purer. Thus, Agrippa's metaphysical argument was that creation itself is a circle that began when God created light and thus ended when he created the woman. Therefore, women and light occupy adjacent points on the circle of creation, and must thus have similar properties of purity which women deserved.

As far as the Victorian era, the term "Querelle des femmes" or the "Question of women" in English was used in England during the Victorian era as triggered by the Reform Act of 1832 and 1867. The Industrial Revolution the era

witnessed brought with it hundreds of thousands of lower class women into factory jobs, presenting a real challenge to traditional ideas of a woman's place with the society Hudson, (2010).

Due to all above, the woman question was raised in many different social arenas. For example, in the second half of the 19th century, in the context of religion, extensive discussion within the United States took place on the participation of women in church. In the Methodist Episcopal Church, the woman question was the most striking and pressing issue in the 1896 conference (Sarah, 2009).

It was there The Woman Question in 19th century Victoria saw very importance in the development of the women place in English society. While many women would increasingly demand more legal rights and greater economic and social opportunities, the period also saw the increasing identification of women with the domestic sphere. In this respect, Coventry Patmore's poem "*The Angel in the House*" published in 1854, helped to consolidate this ideal of the domestic angel, such as the idea that the perfect woman supposed to be submissive to her husband, powerless, and deeply spiritual.

Thus, the woman question in Victorian era meant the various debates and concern about the women's place and status in the society, together with voices stressing the necessity of women to have greater economic, social opportunities or the idea that women as per their suitability belonged to the home as caretaker to her family. In this respect, Queen Victoria herself became an iconic figure for these two sides of the question, as she was often depicted and represented herself as an ideal wife and a perfect mother, though she was the queen (Lynn, 1883).

For all the above, motivation that led the women question became such question and such central was of many factors, but mainly can be referred back to the radical changes in English society itself, which brought about by the

industrialization and the development of capitalism. In illustrating this fact, the industrialization brought new types of grinding work and urban poverty at the same time.

Therefore, many types of industrial works could be done by women as by men, and with prejudice against women, often could be employed for less money than men could get. Thus, the widespread development of women's labor in industrialization challenged the existing traditional idea of the woman supposed to be restricted to the home and she is economically inferior. At the same time, the expansion of wealth and leisure linked with the opening of some educational opportunities, even as women continued to be prohibited from higher education.

With the above in mind, and due to the social and legal prohibitions and the established traditions about women's physical and mental limitations, even the most educated women had great challenge in practicing profession such as the law and medicine. Therefore, in the second half of the century, there began to see some changes in favor to the women. In this regard, a first women's college was opened in 1848. With this new development in place, women were firstly granted as a physicians, with much struggle to maintain this right for all the long way (Lynn, 1883).

Moreover, the Women question during the Victorian era was such a debate by the sense. In this regard, Ellis, (1812) in her the "Women Question" essay states that:

"The greatest social difficulty in England today is the relationship between men and women. The principal difference between ourselves and our ancestors is that took society as they found it while we are self-conscious and perplexed. The institution of marriage might almost seem just now to be upon trial".

According to the Ellis, the term “Woman Question” is more than just mere simple question. The woman question is thus encompassed of many issues. The mixed opinions of Queen Victoria itself illustrate some of its different aspects. For her, believing in education for her sex, she gave support and encouragement in establishing a college for women in 1847. As she mirrors the women’s icon during her reign, she herself happily married despite that fact that she was aware of some sacrifices marriage requires from women, (Ellis, 1812).

Finally, the women question was such an issue yet to be addressed. The negative views that the ideal Victorian woman was the *"angel of the house"*, her place was in the home (which prohibits them from exposing themselves publicly) alongside prohibiting them from attaining perfect education equally with men, were all what has been termed as Woman question. Victorian women did not have the same rights as men. Women had limited education and, therefore, limited employment opportunities as a result. Therefore, women social imbalance and prejudice against them was key in contributing to the new concept of women question which contemporary debate is a reality of nowadays.

3.2 Thomas Hardy’s Background

Thomas Hardy (2 June 1840- 11 January 1928) was an English novelists and poet. As a Victorian realist in the way of other novelist George Elliot, he was fascinated both in his novels and poetry by romanticism; especially of William Wordsworth (Dennis, 1986). He was also much of critical nature towards the Victorian society, especially with respect to the deteriorating status of rural people in Britain, particularly those of his native South West England.

While Hardy wrote poetry throughout his life and considered himself firstly as a poet, his first collection was not published until 1898. Therefore ,he became

famous and renowned author of novels such as “*Far from the Madding Crowd*”1874,” “*the Mayor of Casterbridge*”1886,”*Tess of the d’Urbervilles*”1891,and “*Jude the Obscure*”1895 (Cedric,2007).

What is striking is that most of Thomas Hardy’s novels concern with tragic characters struggling against their passions and social circumstances in which represented the ills that were prevailed in the Victorian society. Most of his novels were also set in the semi-fictional region of *Wessex*, initially based on the medieval Anglo-Saxon Kingdom. Therefore, two of his novels, “*Tess of the d’Urbervilles*” and “*Far from the Madding Crowd*” were listed among the top 50 on the BBC’s survey “The Big Read” (the Big Read, 2013).

Life and Career

Thomas Hardy was born on 2 June 1840 in higher Bockhampton, England, where his father Thomas worked as a stonemason and local builder, and married his mother Jemima towards the end of 1839.His mother Jemima was well-educated to play a key role in educating Thomas until the latter went to his first school at the age of eight. While he was there attending school, he managed to learn Latin and demonstrated academic excellence (Claire, 2007).Due to the fact that Hardy’s family lacked the means for a university education, his formal education ended at the age of sixteen, as he apprenticed to James Hicks, a local architect.

Hardy firstly trained himself as an architect before moving to London, where he enrolled as a student at King’s College London, and where he won prizes from the Royal Institute of British Architects. His designs were discovered at All *Saints’* in August 2016 (Alison, 2016).Unfortunately, hardy never felt at home while in London due to his sensitivities towards class divisions and his social inferiority.

During this time, he became interested in social reforms and the works of John Stuart Mill. He was also introduced to the works of Charles Fourier by his friend Horace Moule which opened his eyes. Because of health condition, Hardy returned to Dorset, and dedicated himself to writing. And while in the architectural mission to restore parish church of St Juliot in Cornwall, Hardy fall in love with Emma Gifford whom he married.

Although they were separated, Emma's death had a traumatic effect on him and after this death, Hardy made a trip to revisit places linked with their courtships, thus his poems 1912-13 reflect upon her death. In 1914, Hardy again married his secretary Florence Emily Dugdale who was 39 years his junior. However, he remained preoccupied with his first wife's death and tried to overcome his remorse by writing poetry.

3.3 Thomas Hardy as Victorian Novelist

Thomas Hardy as novelist was one of the best-known authors of the Victorian era during the period from 1871 to 1897. In his literary career, he wrote about 15 novels of which fourteen of them were published. Because of his rural nature, he became well known for his personal engagement to the rural areas of western England where he named Wessex. Of his literary style Hardy much used to concentrate basically on describing the rural area of Wessex's landscape and the working class people inhabiting the area (Ingham, 2003).

Despite the fact that Hardy was obviously much concerned about the vanishing agricultural community and showed some kind of personal interest in certain social issues, he is rarely called a social novelist in the fuller sense, and for that reason as Ingham, (2003) puts:

“It would be misleading to classify him as “a chronicler of social conditions like Charles Dickens or Elizabeth Gaskell”.

Based on the above, his last two novels, (*Tess of the d'Urbervilles*) and (*Jude the Obscure*) in other aspect differ in some extent from the author's prior works. The differences found in the latter can be argued that they, especially in (*Tess of the d'Urbervilles*) and (*The Return of the Native*), the concentration mainly shifts from Wessex and the people inhabited it to a contemporary concerns, such as injustice in the treatment of women that later on mattered.

From this shift in concern it could be assumed that Hardy was becoming increasingly aware that there was something seriously wrong with the society he lived with itself, and his doubt about the status of the situation in the rural area of Wessex redoubled his concerns in his last two novels (Ingham, 2003).

As to the Victorians of Thomas Hardy, Williams, (1976) in his preface to Hardy explains that:

“Hardy is called a Victorian because he lived most of his life in the nineteenth century, and it was the century which formed many of his beliefs and ideas. He was not, however, a typical Victorian. He, for one, found it difficult to accept some of the most cherished beliefs of the period, such as Providence, and he seemed to possess a more modern and questioning attitude which only came into literature around the turn of the century.”

According to above William's statement above, Hardy was believed to be a lonely figure throughout his life, unlike many of his contemporary colleagues who were more attached. Furthermore, he was not involved in the great public

debate about Victorian society. In this respect, Williams continues to show more elaboration on this, and goes further to say that the author (Hardy himself) often claimed that the opinions which he might seem to express in his works were just inner impressions, and that he arguably had views about society which he portrayed in his various works.

Because of the above facts, Thomas Hardy as Victorian novelist appeared to be the spearhead in literature during his time, and in several aspects while writing towards the end of the nineteenth century, particularly in his anticipation with respect to the breakdown of the laws concerning women identity and ill-treatment. Hardy's passionate female characters in his novels always triggered much criticism from conservative Victorian readers who were surprised by his unprepared vision of the changing role of women in the society (Kramer, 1999).

Accounting to the above, Kramer, (1999) states that

“Despite the fact that Hardy was greatly admired by many of his contemporary readers for his forthrightness, he personally only seemed to listen to those who criticized his work”.

Due to the fact above, Hardy announced in 1896 that he had given up fiction and turned to write poetry. Also it's noted that from his novels that there is a tendency of and theme of rebellion in Hardy's novels whose characters

always seemed to clash with the world. The noticeable aspect of Hardy novels, therefore, are enriched with theme of conflict between an individual versus the society as the case in “Tess of D’Urberville” as well as in “The Return of the Native” with issues such as ill-treatment of women and prejudices against them as imposed by the society. Explaining further Peck, (1987) notes that:

“The majority of Hardy’s main characters are rebels, but they are not willfully so; there is simply something in their nature that makes it impossible for them to fit in”.

It is also worth noting that Hardy in his novels does not sound to blame his characters. Rather, he stands with them and suitably puts the blame for their actions on the shoulder of the contemporary rules. This kind of pattern of rebellious behavior could be found especially in *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* and *The Return of the Native* (Peck, 1987).

Despite the bigger part of the contemporary criticism was against the two mentioned novels because of the way women were treated in them, it can be argued that the real reason which made them of fruits according to Hardy’s contemporary critics is the picture Hardy portrayed of his female characters’ as well as the role of women in the society. It’s to be noted as well Hardy placed the examination of social status and relationships at the Centre of the novels and made the tragedy turn on Women as an individual.

4-0 The Novel “The Return of the Native”

Thomas Hardy’s novel “The Return of the Native” considered to be one of the most popular novels that published in 1878. As per its preface to the 1895 volume, the entire of the story just covering one year. The setting of the novel is Egdon Heath, which Hardy created typical to the Egdon real environment where he lived and recounted the events. One of the best Hardy’s techniques of characters was that, he could able to make Heath itself as a character, the gloomy and tragic presence of which is felt ever scène. With this in view, the setting (the Heath itself) viewed to be as a character.

The story begins with the failure in the marriage ceremony of Damon Wildeve and Thomasin Yeobright, who planned to celebrate together, but failed due to some unknown and ambiguous reasons. And Eustacia Vye, who was taken to the heath years ago to live with her grandfather, was the romantic protagonist heroine of the story. Eustacia Vye as a middle class girl, hates life on the heath (as per the novel’s plot), and dreamed of cosmopolitan living pleasures (Harvey, 2003).

In addition to the above, Clym Yeobright as an idealistic young man character, returns to his hometown from Paris, with the intention of providing assistance to the people through founding a school, thus giving up his career as a jeweller’s merchant in Paris where he used to be. The two, Eustacia and Clym, get married with the different anticipation for the future, the result of which lead them to part ways in tragic end. In the novel, also there are subplots in the story recounted, such as that of Damon Wildeve, who Eustacia loved formerly, as well as Thomasin Yeobright, who is a rational girl that surrenders to the circumstances. In addition to Diggory Venn, the heath’s reddleman who travels

with his van to sell the dye to the people to mark their sheep, is secretly in love with Thomasin, looking after her as well as tries to protect her are all subplots that further confuses the whole plot with several interrelationships. At the end, Venn and Thomasin marry which bring the story's denouement.

Thomas Hardy's Novel "The Return of the Native" "has something common with other sensational novels of the 19th century period such as of Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary" and Leo Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina". The Return of the Native is a pattern novel due to its presentation of a wide range of issues such as vital decisions on women and marriage, nature versus society debate, and society versus society conflict which all will be analysed in the light of the interpretations of certain critics such as C. Sengupta, Hillel Matthew Daleski, Rosemarie Morgan, Merryn Williams and John Peck (Harvey, 2003).

Despite the fact that feminist critics always criticize writers who portray women as submissive, angelic housewives or, independent dreamers, in the stereotypical male-dominated world, society in fact do value the submissive woman as revered in Coventry Patmore's "*The Angel in the House*" in which women perceived to be angles in maintaining their internal affairs. In this respect, Rosemarie Morgan explains that:

"With the advent of adulthood and a fully awakened sexual consciousness, every exploratory move towards self-discovery, self-realisation and sexual understanding [by the female], meets with obstruction in a male-dominated world intent upon high-ranking the docile woman over the daring, the meek over the assertive, the compliant over the self-determining, the submissive over the dynamic".

Due to the fact that the negative view of women as explained above by Morgan hinder the development of one's own individualism and respect, especially for

females, Critics especially the feminist's condemned authors who seem to encourage those negative views.

Unfortunately as a fact, many of Thomas Hardy novels' female characters directly describe one of these stereotypes as explained in the Coventry Patmore's "The Angel in the House", but what is obvious from Hardy's style of narration is that he does not tend to demonstrate how those women should be, rather he demonstrates them by means of how the society put pressures on women to conform to the unfair submissive rules.

With the above in mind, and in the face of the constraint rule imposed upon them, those women who surrender themselves to the predefined roles, will achieve direct approval from society, while those who follow their own way or reject the societal rules as defined were faced with social condemnation from the society. Hardy portrays those issues with ambiguity the stereotypical view as plot progresses in each novel, thus explaining the only inescapable doom of women suitability and fitness into a specific domain.

To stress on the above further, Elizabeth Langland in her "*Becoming a Man in Jude the Obscure*" explains that:

"Thomas Hardy's representations of women, by and large, exceed the simple stereotypes scholars initially identified as characteristic images of women"

Recalling the above Langland's statement, Hardy's tendency toward this progression and constant ambiguity both triggers and motivates feminist critics.

Related to the above, with respect to the characterization, there always been a question with his characterization style that concerned the modern readers and critics but also concern his contemporaries who struggled with it as well. On

this, Margaret, (1993) goes further to hints that Hardy's works in fact triggered the social stagnant waters of gender roles in the society as well as his engagement in clear social unrest that disturbed the stability to gender classifications.

Similarly, with the same token, Margaret, (1993) explains that:

“In an age when political, social, and literary challenges were being counted to Traditional gender roles, Hardy tested and subverted constraining gender definitions to an unusual extent. He certainly would not have wanted to privilege women over men or men over women in the analysis of systems of social representation”

As per the above statement, while the majority of characters who naturally follow society's approved role of women in the novels are considered minor characters and as well as detached from reader's sympathy, the female characters who do not easily conform to the approved roles better win the reader's sympathy through their restlessness, confusion, or suffering. The tendency of Hardy's works from professionally influencing the society to fortnightly condemning the gender roles and marriage discover his strong motivation to change the Victorian society needed.

To exemplify how Hardy's novels female characters are typical to a submissive mothers, in “The Return of the Native ”Thomasin and Mrs.Yeobright both play the role of submissive female ideals, but also both play minor roles in the novels to some extent. As a result readers remain emotionally distanced from them.

On the other hand, Eustacia Vye stands against the traditional view of women and dreams of living in Paris with passion. Just as she fascinates the heath

people, she convinces readers that she is a victim of enduring the pressures for the sake of conforming to negative views of women. When she come to know that she cannot escape her disastrous marriage or experience, she suddenly dies, illustrating the futility of becoming someone other than one's true self (Hardy, 1878).

The setting of the novel is Egdon Heath, which Hardy created typical to the details and environment of the real Heath he lived, which made the story seems of omnipresent narrator who lived the events himself.

One of the techniques Hardy used in his this very novel was the Setting (The Heath) which itself portrayed as a character itself, represented in the gloomy and tragic presence of which is felt in almost every scene. As in the typical nature of some Hardy's well-known novels of marriage, at the centre of *The Return of the Native* also lies a love and marriage story. And in most of them the characters portrayed faced with some social discrepancies and marital dilemmas.

4.1 Women's Lower Rank of Status in the Society

Historical Background

Queen Victoria once comments in a letter to her eldest daughter on the institution of marriage in which she says:

“All marriage is such a lottery –the happiness is always an exchange –though it may be a very happy one –still the poor woman is bodily and morally the husband slave. That always sticks in my throat. When I think of a merry, happy, free young girl –and look at the ailing, aching state a young wife generally is doomed to – which you cannot deny is the penalty of marriage”.

The above Queen's letter clearly signifies to the degree of dilemmas of being a woman, owing to the physical and moral restrictions such institution imposed on women at the time. What makes the above Queen's statement of more emphasis is that it was written in the second half of the 19th century and that it had its effects even beyond the periods of (1837-1901), as the Queen Victoria herself was a female ruler as considered the icon with her morals and way of life as a Victorian woman who herself got married and bore nine children.

Despite the fact that there is much Victorian echo in both the historical context in which the writers lived and the background of the novels written, the focus of the study is the 19th century. The reason is that the time period of the settings of the stories in these novels start with 1840s in *The Return of the Native* (1895) and extends to the end of the 19th century with *Tess of The D'Urbervilles*, whose setting is the 1880s and 1890s.

Moreover, the entire era cannot be regarded as part of the series of events of the previous centuries which led to women's awareness of their lower rank and the lack of the social rights that culminated to the evolution of the women's famous organization (the Feminist Movement), which had greater effects that extended to the 20th century. For these whys and wherefores, this century (The Victoria) will be studied in close link with both the eras preceding it and following it. In order to set these novels in a social and historical context, it is of paramount importance to present the social, economic, and cultural background of the century that shaped the author's frame of mind. Thus, the characteristics of the society and women's place as portrayed in the selected novels should be analyzed and studied.

To get into the essence of the issue, it's known that British women were being gradually emancipated from many patriarchal restricted rules during the 19th century, and by passing certain laws amongst "The Child Custody Act (1839)", the Matrimonial Causes Act (1857), the First Married Woman's Property Act (1870), and the Second Woman's Property Act (1882).

Clearly speaking, the 19th century as a period was very controversial and difficult for British women as a whole. Historically, women's lower status in the social ranks as well as their occupation of a secondary position was not new to this century. However, the era could be regarded as the wakeup and renaissance era, as many norms and bad traditions driven by the previous centuries were still fresh and active. And most importantly it was an era where people's awareness especially women increased as a result of certain social and economic transformations in the country (Hughes, 2014).

Bringing the roots of the matter to the 17th and 18th centuries and extending to the 19th and even early 20th centuries, there were some major events and changes occurred in Europe, and those changes brought about some new conceptions of the world and societies, all of which directly or indirectly contributed in shaping the women's place in the British society as a whole. Among those changes was the French Revolution in the year 1789, which had a considerable effect in terms of recognition of individuals and the concept of individualism (Rendall, 1993).

Added to the above, the main stimulant of the French event of 1789 was the view of the Enlightenment from the enlightened. Thus, the period from the late 17th century to the late 18th, the most dominant mentality for the intellectual domain in the western European countries was a tendency towards optimism, especially with respect to what was known by "the potential of individual

human reason” as well as the “possibility of understanding the natural environment of humanity” (Rendall, 1993).

Therefore, the basic idea central to the Enlightenment world view was the issue of questioning the already-accepted, traditional customs and institutions thoughts. As a replacement of these thoughts, there happened to be a strong sense and tendency towards rationality and trust in the science more than others. Due to this fact, there emerged a number of pioneering thinkers amongst were John Locke and Isaac Newton in Britain, Thomas Paine in the United States, Voltaire, Denis Diderot and lastly D’Alembert in France all of whom worked to challenge those institutions and systems of thoughts that made citizens deprived of basic individuals social needs ((Rendall, 1993).

By recalling the above Enlightenment thoughts of John Locke, Voltaire and Thomas Paine, and the others, the fundamental thought was centered on the idea that it’s necessary one had to understand the natural environment of humanity. They believed that this shift in self-awareness had to be free of all traditional restrictions of the concept of individualism through removing all the hinderers. It was thus believed that social restrictions with its entire means had no place for the understanding the physical world and therefore individuals had to be free of traditional and custom restraints of (Leeb, 2004).

Due to the new thoughts of the mentioned enlightened, women were motivated and much desired to have their share in this new system of thoughts as the new thoughts speaks the core principle of recognition representing in the natural rights that is free from artificial social restrictions pre-existed societies imposed on women, bearing that the women rights awareness appeared during the period from the 18th century which is the Enlightenment period itself.

However, this Enlightenment view in question was elapsed and turned out to be contradictory with respect to what concerned women. And for these reasons, while the said view encouraged kind of model of family relationship, promising the women as a unique body free of social and moral restrictions, the view is also attempted to polarize men and women by placing them in two different spheres; which were the public sphere and the private sphere. Therefore, the woman's position in this system of thoughts was of two-sided.

Motivating by the French events, the British society continued to adopt the thoughts and develop its socioeconomic from the time when the French move evolved, which started in the late 18th century and progressed making major new changes in the 19th century. Of the changes made, some of them were even experienced within the family and in the wider society alike. Nevertheless, the changes made were of different ranks of the society, professional, and cultural terms.

Worth to be mentioned is that the concept of family was very important for the 19th Century's society. As Shiman, (1992) asserts with respect to the meaning of family:

“Medieval and early Modern England was a corporate world, a society in which men and women were defined according to their associations. While membership in towns, guilds, and other associations was important, the basic social unit was the family”

According to the above statement, the family was considered to be as the core social and economic unit as well as family-stabilizer like institution. On the other, the concept of marriage was considered to be an alliance of powers owning to financial and power capabilities a family could possess within a

society. With this in view, the marriage rather perceived to be a private affair of an individual, and it became a general concern of the whole family and community.

With the appearance of new industrial societies, there were new changes took place. The shift was occurred to what was considered most important. In this respect, money replaced land as the basis of power. There also emerged the middle-class people who were considered of great wealth. With such inescapable de facto status, the women of the new middle-class faced a new type divided of labour. They felt the separation of the two spheres which were the public and the private (Hall, 1989).

It is therefore, important to clarify that beside the restructuring effects of the new industrial world and the intellectual movement of Enlightenment, there was some deep-rooted ideas concerning women identity which were hard to change. Thus, the reasons that surrender women to subordination status basically arose from the biological and religious assumptions for both sexes men and women.

It is based on this biological view; women were inferior to men, considering that the man was a muscular in terms of his physical attributes and his possession of a memory capacity of intellectual faculties. This was believed to be a major reason that placed men and women in two different poles. As the physiologist walker, (1840), asserts his view on the issue related to the biological differences as he says:

“It is evident that the man, possessing reasoning faculties, muscular power, and courage to employ it, is qualified for being a protector: the woman, being little capable of reasoning, feeble and timid, requires protection. Under such circumstances, the man naturally governs: the woman naturally obeys”

As per the above quotation, the thinkers of the Enlightenment explained this in terms of natural roles attributed to both sexes because of their de facto supposed physical and mental differences. In view of what is called biological *superiority* and capacity, men were defined as intellectual and rational human beings, while women based on their incapability of reasoning, as they were of emotional nature, they considered inferior. In such a way, the separation between the two sexes became like separating the “heart” and “head” as two different organs.

In such a way as stated above, many female characters in Thomas Hardy’s novels obviously portray a kind of the Victorian stereotypes of viewing women; that is proper, submissive housewife or independent dreamer. Hardy in his novels does not demonstrate how women were they, but rather how the negative society pressures women to accept the bad image of them. In doing so, he attempt with openly criticizing the society, as the case in “The Return of the Native” or does condemning gender roles and marriage as in *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* (Notgrass, 2004).

Finally, characters such as “Thomasin”, “Mrs. Yeobright”, and “Grace Melbury” in the “*Return of the Native*” clearly illustrate those who submit to society’s expectations while “Eustacia Vye”, “Felice Charmond”, Tess Durbyfield, Sue Bridehead, illustrate the stereotypical strugglers. In addition to, Hardy’s female characters also seem to face harsh or condemning circumstances due to the social expectations and situation they placed on. These bad conditions usually make readers have sympathy and work to create awareness about the danger of the traditional limiting views of women status in general.

4.2 Eustacia Vye

In Hardy's novel *The Return of the Native*, female subordination and lower status has a different form. As per the Novel, both Eustacia Vye and Thomasin Yeobright are limited by their surroundings where they live, as well as by people's opinions to some extent. But, their perception towards the limitations reveal that they are different. Therefore, the way they respond to the treatment they face due to the defined roles and values clearly tell each personality's trait, and allow for more compare and contrast between them by the reader.

Eustacia is a nineteen-year old, middle-class girl who is the daughter of a bandmaster from Corfu, who brought to Egdon Heath and raised by her grandfather after the death of her father. As described in the Novel "*The Return of the Native*" "It is clear that Eustacia had a reasonable amount of education because of her father's great efforts made.

The grandfather seems to have bought the house especially because it was at a very low price. However, Egdon Heath is considered to be one of the Eustacia's unease and disappointment. She cannot adjust to the new environment of Egdon Heath where thought a woman of her sort should not had to live in. She believed that Budmouth is where she was born and it was for her as a "native better place" than Egdon Heath due to it is fashionable seaside resort which had better comfort and happiness (Hardy, 1891). In this respect, the Novels describes this situation with message below as quoted from the Novel:

"But he did his best; made Budmouth permanently his home, took great trouble with the child's education".

Also:

"The girl was left to the care of her grandfather, who, since three of his ribs became broken in a shipwreck, had lived in this airy perch on Egdon, a spot which had taken his fancy because the house was to be had for next to nothing,

and because a remote blue tinge on the horizon between the hills, visible from the cottage door, was traditionally believed to be the English Channel.”

In addition to the above and according to the description Eustacia does not feel any sense of attachment and clicking with the heath environment. The narration in this respect begins with a detailed description of it:

“A Saturday afternoon in November was approaching the time of twilight, and the vast tract of unenclosed wild known as Egdon Heath embrowned itself Moment by moment The face of the heath by its mere complexion added half-an-hour to eve; it could in like manner retard the dawn, sadden noon, anticipate the frowning of storms scarcely generated, and intensify the opacity of a moonless midnight to a cause of shaking and dread”.

Hardy’s descriptive technique also worth to be mentioned. In his narrative style, he described Heath as having existence of its own, both independent and the people. With this in mind, Dobree as she quoted from (Sengupta, 1994) points out that:

“The plot...of the Return of the Native would not be what it is but for the character called Egdon Heath. Which streaks the whole tale”.

Hardy was very famous in portraying the negative impact the society had on female. While the Feminist literary theory often criticizes authors who portray women as submissive, angelic housewives or independent dreamers, the stereotypical male-dominated society always values the dependent and compliant woman, as revered in Coventry Patmore’s “The Angel in the House” which states:

“With the advent of adulthood and a fully awakened consciousness, every exploratory move towards self-discovery, self-realisation and understanding by the female, meets with obstruction in a male-dominated world intent upon high ranking the docile woman over the daring, the meek over the assertive, the compliant over the self-determining, the submissive over the dynamic”.

The above quotation clearly tells something about the restriction the male set on female which undermined their social status. Due to the fact that such views of women hinder the individual progress and respect for females, feminist critics often condemn authors who always tend to reinforce these views in their writings.

Unfortunately most of Thomas Hardy’s novels female characters are typical to what feminist unwanted and welcomed; that is reinforcing the idea that women are submissive as well as they are “The Angel in the House”. In achieving this way of style, Hardy portrays in his novels those women who follow the society’s accepted roles for women as great achievers and thus got approval from society, while those who follow their own course were blamed and scorned. Stressing on this further As Elizabeth Margaret, (1993) explains that:

“Thomas Hardy’s representations of women, by and large, exceed the simple stereotypes scholars initially identified as characteristic images of women”

In his novel “The Return of the Native”, Eustacia based on her hate and rejection, was ironically described as an unavoidable figure of the heath and its environment, without whom the heath seems to be lacking an element; which both the Heath and her act as “chain” and form a “unity”. Thus, throughout the

novel, the heath is described as reflecting the inner feelings, confusion, and imminent bad fate of the characters (Schwarz, 1995).

Showing the dislike and hate to the Heath environment as a place, Hardy goes on to describe that for Eustacia, the heath is “her Hades” and her “hell”. Which connote to a bad place a human being to be at. Thus, for Eustacia she feels limited, and the awareness of such limitation restricts her more, and blocks her advancement to any possible development. In describes these Hardy states that:

“But celestial imperiousness, love, wrath, and fervor had proved to be somewhat thrown away on nether ward Egdon. Her power was limited, and the consciousness of this limitation had biased her development. Egdon was her Hades, and since owing there she had imbibed much of what was dark in its tone, though inwardly and eternally unreconciled thereto”.

Thus, there is always character clash in Hardy’s novels. Therefore, the antagonism between the Heath as an environment and Eustachian a human being can be attributed to the style of Thomas Hardy’s fiction in which nature and society are portrayed in opposition and never click. In this respect, John, (1987) in his *How to Study a Hardy Novel* mentions the recurrent presence of two opponent forces in the writer’s novels. On this, he says:

“In a Hardy novel you should always be able to find evidence of a society versus nature tension at the heart of the material”

According to the above, Eustacia sees the heath as an obstacle to her freedom and her chance to fulfil her desires. The heath is presented as a representative part of the bigger wild nature over which humans have no control.

Hardy goes on to better describe Eustacia's beauty as a beautiful woman in the sense that her beauty is mostly associated with a sense of dignity, and with a particular uniqueness of her own. Although Eustacia has been on the heath for many years, her desires and posture seems as if she does not belong to the heath.

Also one of the characteristics of Eustacia as a person is that she is a girl of romantic aspirations. Accordingly, she blames the society and sees that heath is considers one of her obstacles to achieve better freedom, ease of mind, and a chance to fulfill one's own desires.

It is clear from the narrator's recount that Eustacia does not conform to the norms of the society at all. She is self-led kind of person who wants to be according to her own personal needs, and the intrusion of other external forces in her own life sounds for her a kind of divulging into others internal affairs . That why he shows hates both towards heath and its people, as she comes to perceive that achieving her wishes becoming difficult.

Thus, the rebellious tendency in Eustacia's character is always there, as description using words implying darkness and mystery are recurrent in the novel. Her association with darkness images and the gloomy fate also points to her isolation too. She isolates herself from other people as she understands that she is the only person on the heath who seems dissatisfied of being there. The long walks Eustacia exercises, especially at night can also highlight another example of her independent nature.

Finally, Hardy as a writer in his literary works always suggest to his readers that people need to make their own life, instead of feeling obligated to conform to pressures from society as social influence .In the case of the "*The Return of the Native*"Eustaciafollows her own plan or desire, and the result is disaster or

pain. While many of Hardy's characters suffer from emotional dilemmas, the female characters especially seem to experience harsh or condemning circumstances because of the social expectations placed upon them.

4.3 Thomasin Yeobright

Thomasin is also one of the Characters of Hardy's Novel "*The Return of the Native*". She is the niece of Mrs. Yeobright and cousin to Clym Yeobright. As for her traits, she seems somewhat of more realistic vision, and of a balanced state of character with modest expectations. In the Novel, Hardy makes readers introduced to Thomasin earlier from the very beginning when the Character of Thomasin is being taken home by Diggory Venn, the reddleman who loves her, after her failure to marry Damon Wildeve who she was to marry but there was "irregularity in the license" which hinders their marriage and gains success (Hardy, 1878).

Thomasin as a character is a fragile and hash despite she is of gentility nature coupled with realistic vision mind towards judging things. Despite she falls in love with Damon Wildeve and desires to marry him, she is also aware of her aunt's disapproval of this intended marriage and their union in general. Moreover, she is conscious that Mrs. Yeobright had set obstacles for their marriage, the main reason why she feels more ashamed in the presence of Mrs. Yeobright on her return. The extract below describes the statement above:

"Thomasin looked as if quite overcome by her aunt's change of manner. 'It means just what it seems to mean: I am – not married,' she replied faintly. 'Excuse me – for humiliating you, aunt, by this mishap: I am sorry for it. But I cannot help it.' 'Me? Think of yourself first.'

'It was nobody's fault. When we got there the parson wouldn't marry us because of some trifling irregularity in the license.'

'What irregularity?'

'I don't know. Mr. Wildeve can explain. I did not think when I went away this morning that I should come like this.' It being dark, Thomasin allowed her emotion to escape her by the silent way of tears, which could roll down her cheek unseen”.

Thus, as came in the above extract from the Novel, Thomasin apologizes to Mrs. Yeobright because of the unexpected embarrassment of her aunt. Rather than thinking over her own misfortune and get distressed of, she feels the pain of embarrassing her aunt. In addition to, she knows that she cannot aid herself by loving Damon and marry him, though she feels unable to surrender loving Damon. In this respect, she says:

“I know how wrong it was of me to love him”

It is evident that Thomasin loves Damon, however, she is not that of such passionate feelings like her counterpart Eustacia. She is a bit sensible and rational, as well as keeps in check the balance of passion quantity in her. In spite she is aware of such feelings, she is fully mindful of her mistakes and the possible interpretations of the heath people, including her aunt, on her failed marriage.

It's to be noted that Thomas Hardy had not put the theme of marriage at the end of his novel as a final resolution or denouement as the case in many Novels' writings style. Therefore, the theme of marriage for many characters starts at the beginning of his fiction, thus presenting a reversal mode of readers'

expectations. As an example of this shift in reversing mode, the moment readers are introduced to Thomasin from the onset, are faced with the Character's marital problems. The conversation between Damon and Thomasin in private can be interpreted as a reversal of romantic expectations:

“Damon, what do you mean to do about me?”

Do about you?

Yes. Those who don't like you whisper things which at moments make me doubt you. We mean to marry, I suppose, don't we?’

‘Of course we do. We have only to go to Budmouth on Monday, and we marry at once.’

‘Then do let us go! – Oh, Damon, what you make me say!’ She hid her blushing face in her handkerchief. ‘Here am I, asking you to marry me; when by rights you ought to be on your knees imploring me, your cruel mistress, not to refuse you, and saying it would break your heart if I did. I used to think it would be pretty and sweet like that; but how different!’

‘Yes, real life is never at all like that’.

Thus, Thomasin is a girl of good intention about people. Despite the fact that it was made clear that Damon Wildeva has tricked her in their expected failed marriage which ruined by the irregularity in the license documents, Thomasin seemed still trust Damon.

5.0 Anticipation from Marriage

In the novel *“The Return of the Native”* Thomas Hardy created his characters personae with a mixed qualities that differ in expectation and anticipation with respect to the meaning of marriage and Life. And the outcome of this characters

‘expectations from marriage further mirrors their inner expectations from life as well. Therefore, the result given by Hardy as an author tells two of his characters with two different traits, especially concerning Eustacia Vye and Thomasin Yeobright.

Taken the above fact into consideration, characters with the modest and sensible makeup have moderate expectations whereas characters of illusions are more vulnerable to disappointment and distress. Eustacia Vye and Thomasin Yeobright have very different expectations from life, which is reflected in their expectations of their own marriage as they expect differently.

5.1 Eustacia Vye

Eustacia Vye as a character maintains a certain fixed anticipations about marriage. Her personal romantic pursuers introduce and tell her relationship with the men she often constructs relationships with. Also her strong desire to be loved to madness as well as live a passionate love seems driven by the need to get away and distance herself from the heath and its people.

Thus, Eustacia’s anticipation makes her mind scatter into different direction of affairs within the novel. In this respect, the first time Eustacia seen throughout the Novel is that she presented as the person who first lights the fire on the heath as a signal. And the signal light was of course for Damon Wildeve, an engineer who “was brought up to be better things”, as per the Novel, and also who keeps an inn called “The Quiet Woman” as well.

It’s noted that from the Novel’s narration, Eustacia used to love Damon who is depicted to be a womanizer, an adjective applicable to a man who does not have any desire to get married, but who pursues affairs with a lot of women. With

illustrating the womanizing of Damon, Hardy describing Damon in his novel with:

“He was quite a young man...The grace of his movement was singular: it was the pantomimic expression of a lady-killing career. Next came into notice the more material qualities, among which was a profuse crop of hair impending over the top of his face, lending to his forehead the high-cornered outline of an Early Gothic shield; and a neck which was smooth and round as cylinder. The lower half of his figure was of light build. Altogether he was one in whom no man would have seen anything to admire, and in whom no woman would have seen anything to dislike”.

As per the above description Damon was such a young man with a graceful personal trait that tell something of his womanizing nature. In addition to this characteristic of him, his physical qualities also suggest the same personality. Moreover, Hardy in his narration depicts story of mixed attraction of lovers, plus jealousy feelings among them, especially from Damon who often uses Thomasin as a means to make Eustacia more jealous. While in such situation, and having learned that the marriage was failed, Eustacia sets a bonfire so as to attract Damon’s attention and make him come to her. And the below extract states the reason why Eustacia set the bon fire:

“I have come, said the man, who was no other than Wildeve. ‘You give me no peace. Why do you not leave me alone? I have seen your bonfire all the evening”.

Hardy’s narration gives a clear indication of previous mixed lovers. This is the case with EustaciaVye and Damon, which stated by the narrator in his novel as below:

“Of course you have seen my fire,” she answered with languid calmness, artificially maintained. ‘Why shouldn’t I have a bonfire on the fifth of November, like other denizens of the heath?’ ‘I knew it was meant for me.’ ‘How did you know it? I have had no word with you since you chose her, and walked about with her, and deserted me entirely, as if I had never been yours’”.

It’s to be noted that the above extract of the novel clearly informs that there has been previous affairs between the couples. It also reveals that Eustacia is too proud to admit that she lit the fire for Damon, so that she makes Damon’s attention diverted. In addition to, her sounds agitation and tension, nevertheless she tries to hide her feelings and remain normal. As a result, Eustacia became angry with Damon on the account that Damon chose Thomasin, and deserts her (Hardy, 1878).

Furthermore, Eustacia views the prospect of marriage between Thomasin and Damon as embarrassment to her bearing that she sees that Thomasin is inferior and less worthy than her, as well as her knowing that Damon is not a man to marry. Although Thomasin and Damon could not get married because of a problem in the licence, she reads the whole event as proof that Damon’s love for her is stronger than that for Thomasin.

On the other hand, according to Eustacia’s statement, the connotation is that she still loves Damon, though he did her wrong before himself, thus he seems not the person she was looking for. Despite all these contradiction, she wants Damon back to her and be with her neglecting all his wrongdoings together with the fact that he is not the person she looking for. In hoping achieving so, she says as per the narration:

“Damon, you are not worthy of me: I see it, and yet I love you” Also

“She knew that he trifled with her; but she loved on”.

One of the traits of Eustacia character is her personality make up. As a woman she looks imperfect especially with respect to choice matters, though she has potential reason to distinguish between what is good and what is bad of things and people. Therefore because of Eustacia’s irrational of mind, it’s evident that from the narration that Damon occupies a place in Eustacia’s life, that is to say; Damon gained importance in her world justifying that there is no other man that she seek to replace. In describing this fact Hardy narrates:

“At moments her pride rebelled against her passion for him, and she even had longed to be free. But there was only one circumstance which could dislodge him, and that was the advent of a greater man”.

Moreover, there is always something imaginative in Eustacia’s mind, especially with respect to an ideal marriage with an ideal suitable partner. With this imagination, Eustacia often wished for a glorious association with someone reliable. Her romantic ideals thus prevent her from estimating things, and direct her to higher demands about love and whom to marry thereafter. Though she does not see someone particular in her surroundings as a future husband, her ideals have built the image of an ideal marriage in her imagination. On this the narrator says:

“Eustacia had got beyond the vision of some marriage of inexpressible glory; yet, though her emotions were in full vigour, she cared for no meaner union. Thus we see her in a strange state of isolation”.

Based on the facts above, Eustacia has high hopes and wishes about marriage. However, because of the fact that she needs a true man by sense to meet and

attend these wishes of her in her life, she fails to go beyond the ordinary expectations of a girl. Since Eustacia is liable to have romantic visions about marriage, her imagination is thus becomes easily triggered and aroused.

Related to the above, while once the local workers were bringing together the furze-faggots and building them into a stack for Eusacia's grandfather, Captain Vye. She overhears their conversation from the house, as they were mentioning that Clym Eyebright has been working as a diamond merchant in Paris and that he is about to come back home. However, the conversation between the local farmers (Humphrey and Sam), affects Eustacia very deeply, as they think that Eustacia and Clym would be suitable couples. The below quotation describes the very this fact:

"I say, Sam," observed Humphrey when the old man was gone, "she and Clym Yeobright would make a very pretty pigeon pair – hey? If they wouldn't I'll be dazed! Both of one mind about niceties for certain, and learned in print, and always thinking about high doctrine – there couldn't be a better couple if they were made o' purpose. Clym's family is as good as hers. His father was a farmer, that's true; but his mother was a sort of lady, as we know. Nothing would please me better than to see them two man and wife".

Besides the passage above indicates the suitability between Eustacia and Clym as imagined by conversers, this unexpected opportunity of someone special waited to come to Heath creates many illusions in Eustacia's mind, which in turn recreates and reshapes her thoughts and action again.

Moreover, the farmers' conversation further triggers the romantic fantasies in Eustacia's mind which becomes a turning point and a new phase opened in front of her. Thus, without Eustacia being aware about the fact of Clym, what she overhears move her inner dreams about ideal love she longs for. And excitedly,

Eustacia feels as if she was coming from heaven as stated by the narrator, as well as her colourless afternoon is animated and decorated suddenly. Since the day she overhears about Clym his arrival becomes very much to her (Hardy, 1891).

To put more emphasis on the above, Eustacia's thoughts are directed towards Clym, without even seeing him. In order to ascertain her direction to the new man she never seen before, she decides to go to Blooms-End, a place where Clym was born and where his mother still lives (Hardy, 1878). Therefore, as stated in the Novel "*The scene of a daydream is sufficient for a pilgrimage at nineteen*" ironically indicates Eustacia's fantasies. Therefore, when she goes to the Eyebright's' house to see the awaited for in the first time, she greeted him with word "Good Night" as she turns extremely excited and chilled.

With all the above in mind, Clym Yeobright becomes the Centre of fascination for Eustacia. And because of her constant obsession about him, every act she does is meant and intentionally directed at him and of course on purpose. Added to this, owing to her longing about Clym, Eustacia always sees him in a dream without even knowing his face. And in relation with this point, Hardy (1878) explains that for a girl like Eustacia, who considered to be of high hopes, and who also of limited life experience, the dream of such kind gives her great excitement.

Emotionally speaking, the obsession about Clym, and the dreams she has especially at the end of it, makes Eustacia see herself dancing with of course "*a man in silver armour*" as described in the Novel. Thus while dreaming, and the moment she is almost see his face comes, she a wake interrupted by cracking noise caused by the window shutters. She at once links the face she sees with Clym's.

Eustacia makes several trials to face Clym. In this respect; the narrator suggests that if Eustacia happened to be more rational in her mind, she would have surrendered chasing such romantic illusions earlier before they are appeared. And also if she had been less proud and courageous enough to show her interest, she would have gone to the house. It is to be noted that Eustacia has captured a picture of unarranged meeting in her mind, and this is a clear reason why she always keeps close to the house with the hope of making that meeting real.

As the above events passes by and having Eustacia hears rumour that Clym is not staying longer on Egdon Heath, she feel distressed and upset. And thus after several failed attempts to see Clym, Eustacia finally plan to see him using different method. In achieving this plan, she comes to know through local people that there will be a Christmas party in the Yeobrights' house, to celebrate Clym's presence (Hardy 1878).

With such intention, Eustacia sees Clym's face in the party in which of course the locals will perform the traditional play called "*mumming*". With this event coming a head of her ,Eustacia thinks she can take the opportunity and play the part of "*Charley*" who is young man working for Eustacia's grandfather. With this plan in which she benefit others role in the party, Eustacia manages to plays his part in the party, and thus able to see Clym's face clearly for the first time. After she sees him, her first feelings in his presence is the sign of love. This is due to the fact that she has already prepared her mind to love him in advance .The below description states the irrationality of Eustacia in making choice for her marriage:

"She had undoubtedly begun to love him. She loved him partly because he was

exceptional in this scene, partly because she had from the first instinctively determined to love him, chiefly because she was in desperate need of loving Somebody...Once let a maiden admit the possibility of her being stricken with love for someone at some hour and place, and the thing is as good as done”.

As stated above, Eustacia as a woman is irrational and romantic by the sense. There of course something to do with Eustacia’s nature which makes her to make marriage plans without knowing Clym closely. She is in absolute need of falling in love, no matter who the person is. What triggers her love from the first time is the fact that she is always predetermined to enrich passion for him (Daleski, 1997).

Added to the above, Eustacia is a girl of one angle look in her definition of happiness. She always forgets that those whom she dreams to love them are also different people and thus have their own personalities and expectations from life and marriage. She is typically as what stated in the novel that “*to escape was her great and immediate desire*” and she is more than ready to justify any means to reach her end.

Therefore, due to the fact that Eustacia has been divulging too much into Yeobrights affairs, she is quickly manages to put herself in Mrs. Yeobright’s theatre and guess thereafter Mrs. Yeobright’s hints of possible endeavors in making Thomasin and Clym married. In order to hinder such move to happen and thus make her loses the chance of associating with Clym, Eustacia steps to break up her relationship with DamonWildevve permanently. In doing so she sends him a note of impossibility of their near rendezvous.

Therefore, because of the above interference and interrelated competing matches between the lovers, there stand Ms. Yeobright’s role as a mother who has key to her son’s future. Mrs. Yeobright is a strong willed woman. Sh is

often concerned about her son's future, and does not want him to stay on the heath and deform his future. As Eustacia guesses that she might lose chances of uniting with Clym, Ms. Yeobright also feels uncomfortable when she guesses that Eustacia might be the cause of ruining her son's future (Hardy, 1878). The below passage clearly describes the uneasiness of Yeobright for any Eustacia-Clym unity:

“When I think of you and your new crotchets,” said Mrs. Yeobright, with some emphasis, ‘I naturally don’t feel so comfortable as I did a twelvemonth ago. It is incredible to me that a man accustomed to the attractive women of Paris and elsewhere should be so easily worked upon by a girl in a heath. You could just as well have walked another way’.

As per the above description, Mrs. Yeobright states that she would strongly reject any kind of approaching between Eustacia and Clym, because she thinks that her son's delay in going back to Paris (the place where he works) is disturbed by this unwelcomed relationship. At the same time, she is surprised and incredible that a man like her son who is accustomed to attractive women of the urbanized city of Paris could easily be diverted by a girl from the countryside Heath.

In as far as concern their expectation. As for Eustacia, she is considered to be irresponsible and a woman of romantic motive. With respect to Clym, he himself also seems more practical than her counterpart Eustacia. He is a man of practical reasons with the full sense of the meaning towards the concept of marriage. That why with the different expectation he has for the marriage, Eustacia will be a better partner in providing assistance because of her better education opportunity.

Hence, Clym's primary purpose is not to just get married of the common romantic motives, but his expectation is more than that as he means to find an educated companion who could be of better assistance to him to do his schooling project. This fact also clearly justifies the misconception of Mrs. Yeobright's fears in which she believes that her son's staying in Heath is because of Eustacia. It is in fact not Eustacia the reason behind his staying, but it is his school project (Hardy, 1878).

Further to the above, Pierre, (1930) comments on the different expectations both characters have. Taking this consideration, the Eustacia steps irrationally to furniture love feeling towards Clym, while Clym rationally focusses on his aim in finding a suitable partner who could help him with his education project he planned to establish. Therefore, the expectations of the two are not similar as both have different ends to achieve.

Worth to be mentioned is that doubt was always there for Eustacia, even before their marriage. This is clear from point that Eustacia is reluctant to any kind of rejection to their marriage, particularly that rejection which might come from Mrs. Yeobright. In addition to, the following description illustrates more on the differences the two have for each other:

“Ah, you don't know. You have seen more than I, and have been into cities and among people that I have only heard of, and have lived more years than I; but yet I am older at this than you. I loved another man once, and now I love you.”
‘In God's mercy don't talk so, Eustacia!’ ‘But I do not think I shall be the one who wearies first. It will, I fear, end in this way: your mother will find out that you meet me, and she will influence you against me!’ ‘That can never be”.

The above conversation between the two prior their marriage is key in understanding their differed expectations. From the conversation made, Eustacia seems so obsessed with fact that Clym is a man of better experience in terms of city and urban life. Therefore, this reality of Clym creates a kind of fear in her and makes her look things differently. It's from this conversation also Clym clearly understand Eustacia's true nature. Based on this, what understood by Clym is that Eustacia as a woman is such frantic with blind feelings towards reality. This is due to the fact that when he proposes the idea to her, Eustacia shows more interest in the things that marriage will bring her, rather than the idea of being married to the one she loves. This fact is clear when Eustacia says in one of her speeches:

“At present speak of Paris to me. Is there any place like it on earth?”

On the account of the above analysis, the two characters have two different and contrasting expectations for the concept of marriage and life. For these reasons, as Eustacia dreams of luxury and comfort in a big city like Paris, Clym, recalling that having been and experienced these stuff Eustacia fond of, is much prepared to be and have afterlife a hermitage. Eustacia's response can be seen as misleading in this sense. Having knowing Clym's different expectation, Eustacia acts clever with misleading response in one of her conversation, says:

“Don't mistake me, Clym: though I should like Paris, I love you for yourself alone. To be your wife and live in Paris would be heaven to me; but I would rather live with you in a hermitage here than not be yours at all”.

5.2 Thomasin Yeobright

Thomasin Yeobright is considered a unique a character in the Novel. She is always differing in her expectation for both the concept of marriage and life.

Thomasin also considered somewhat stable based on Hardy description of her, especially with regard to her position as a woman. In analysing her personal attitudes in judging things, she is unlike Eustacia in many different ways. Thomasin has modest expectations for the marriage and the life despite the fact that she knows the areas of weakness in her fiancé's personality (Hardy, 1878).

In one of the conversations between Mrs. Yeobright and her, she obviously shows her mindful approach towards things. She tries to defend Damon for safe happy marriage between them. In addition to this, Thomasin as individual is fully aware of Heath people's impression about her as well as how she perceived by others. Therefore, the potential goodness in her is only that she wants to be perceived and viewed as a woman with good intentions par excellence.

In her trying to be of such good intention as she knows Damon is seen as a "profligate" by stereotypical view of people in general, she tries to assist him and protect him from the public gossip poured on him, so that they have a happy marriage if it comes to success. This good intention of her is described by the narrator in one of conversation between Mrs. Yeobright and her as comes in the Novel:

"That weak girl- how is she going to get a man to marry her when she chooses?" But let me tell you one thing, aunt: Mr Wildeve is not a profligate man, any more than I am an improper woman. He has an unfortunate manner, and doesn't try to make people like him if they don't wish to do it of their own accord".

In addition to the above, Thomasin also seems unoptimistic and enthusiastic about marrying Damon, a matter which Mrs. Yeobright herself recognizes. This fact is described in the novel when Mrs. Yeobright says:

“I have long had a suspicion that your love for him has changed its colour since you have found him not to be the saint you thought him, and you act a part to me”.

With the above statement in place, Mrs. Yeobright is in recognition of Thomasin’s great feeling and the possibility of marriage between them. She also thinks that Thomasin is pursuing her plan of marriage with Damon just because of her previous promises to her aunt and in order to put an end to the gossip created by the previous failure. When Mrs. Yeobright asks Thomasin whether she agrees to be his wife or not, she leaves without response, a matter which confirms her suspicions (Hardy, 1878).

6.0 Between Disillusionment and Happy Life

Thomas Hardy’s novel *“The Return of the Native”* is one of the novels with several interrelated relationships. In the Novel, the concept of disillusionment is always a recurrent theme among the couples. This disillusionment is either because of the different personal attitude and the inabilities of partners in understanding the differences in attitude exist, or because of their ignoring certain weaknesses which might lead to bigger problems during the course of their relations. Therefore Eustacia’s illusions lead her to disillusionment at the end; While Thomasin becomes irresponsible for her disappointment.

6.1 Eustacia Vye

One of the striking characteristics of Hardy's Novel is the varying interpretation of the characters the concept of both the marriage and life. This is very clear from the way every two couples dream and expect with the intention to meet their own ends. In relation to this, for Eustacia Vye and Clym Yeobright as couples, they begin to feel the sufferance of their unhappiness just a short while after their marriage. The cause of their unhappiness is due to the fact that each has a different dream to realize while ignoring the other partner's one.

In addition to, the two couples face dilemma of uneasiness and unhappiness even during their union, a matter which the narrator himself describes the couples' union as living in "*monotony which was delightful to them*"(Hardy, 1878). Therefore, the word "monotony" as described by the narrator implies that there is boredom and repetitiveness in their marriage from the very beginning. However, the impact of this boredom has more impact to Eustacia than Clym because of the fact that Eustacia finds the Heath as boring, and that only she makes out of Clym a means of escaping the boring state of her. In illustrating this reality, the narrator describes:

"Now, Eustacia's dream had always been that, once married to Clym, she would have the power of inducing him to return to Paris. He had carefully withheld all promise to do so".

As per the above quotation, the first aim of Eustacia marrying Clym is to persuade him to move together to Paris. This fact is clear when she openly talk to Clym about their movement plan after they marriage. In spite the fact that Eustacia is well aware about the fact that Clym makes no plan to live in Paris, she has reflected their plan as if they were about Paris. From this point,

Eustacia's illusions are obvious, as she ignores the reality and go on believing her own imagination towards a future plan to live in Paris.

Moreover, Eustacia Vye and Mrs. Yeobright become enemy towards each other, and this enmity is clear when Mrs. Yeobright asks Eustacia the money she was given to Christian Cantle to hand it to both Thomasin and Clym and in which she shows anger (Hardy, 1878). In another occasion also when she is asked whether the money has been given to her by Damon Wildeve, She misinterprets the intention of the question, and thus becomes defensive. In addition to, she thought that Mrs. Yeobright with this question knows their past affair with Damon.

With the above questions hanging in the air, the inability of Mrs. Yeobright in conveying a clear message, and Eustacia's reaction to the questions asked, there arises Eustacia's motivation in reviving the previous pursuance of her going to Paris. This of course make her neglect all consequences of moving their at all cost and at whatever occupation Clym would get, and finally even via accepting whatever living condition they will have in being to Paris together . Taking this into account, the narrator explains this part with:

“Yes, take me to Paris, and go on with your old occupation, Clym! I don't mind how humbly we live there at first, if it can only be Paris, and not Egdon Heath”.

It's to be noted that there is contradiction in Eustacia's response to the previous Clym's position of his desire to stay in the Heath and serve its people. Therefore ,Clym became surprised when Eustacia bring back the issue of going to Paris again, though he has already stated his plan to her beforehand, which is staying in the Heath and builds a school and serves its people.

While Eustacia seems accepting Clym's decision before their marriage, now she is more stick to her demand because of the fact that now she is his wife and that they have to share life issues together as well as the feeling of her right to oppose or change plans as shared phenomena . Therefore, these differences in looking things with different angles bring the first blue of disagreement between the two couples (Hardy, 1878).

Furthermore, this issue of bringing back the question of Paris further prove the insincerity of Eustacia to Clym about her expectations, a matter which this discover the true intention of Eustacia towards the end of the marriage, that is only to live in Paris and escape its environment, with all cost. Also Eustacia believes that she better utilize this quarrels justification to achieve her dream of going to the city. The narrator in this respect describes the disagreement and confrontation between the two with following:

“It was the first time that he had confronted the fact of the indirectness of a woman's movement towards her desire”.

In addition to the above challenges, there a rises a new a challenge represented in Eustacia's new fears that affected her soul. These Eustacia's fears get worse by the expected sight weakness that Clym might experience due to his excessive night reading, which contributes to sight loss, or weakness, bearing that he suffers “acute inflammation” (Hardy, 1878). Thus, the narrator describes Clym's Health status with:

“Suppose he should become blind, or, at all events, never recover sufficient strength of sight to engage in an occupation which would be congenial to her feelings, and conduce to her removal from this lonely dwelling among the hills? That dream of beautiful Paris was not likely to cohere into substance in the presence of this misfortune”.

According to the quotation above, Eustacia becomes disappointed as she expects a deterioration of one of her partner's physical organ (the eyes), which this might hinder her own plans, should this scenario of sight weakness turns to a complete blindness, which further result in prospects failure for her. Also this lack of sympathy shows Eustacia selfish nature which proofs her concern on her own desires and fears, and neglecting husband's Heath condition.

Furthermore, things becomes even worse for Eustacia as Clym inform her that he will do "furze-cutting" for a living due to his weak sight. This decision for Eustacia works disgraceful as it works "no absolute grief" for Clym in their responses. In explaining their contradictory behaviours towards each other, One day, the level of tension between the two rises when Eustacia finds Clym singing during furze-cutting. What makes Eustacia feels the pain with Clym satisfactory feeling with the job which she sees as shameful, and which she sees rather to starve than to do it (Hardy, 1878).

Because of circumstances mentioned above as the days goes by, the meaning of Love for Clym degrades gradually because of unfulfilled failed dreams in their marriage which finally she regret rendered failure. Thus, Eustaica's feeling for Clym is to great extent impacted by the outcome of the misfortune accompanied. In this respect, the narrator describes the degradation of the love between the two with:

"Well, I married you in spite of it, and don't regret doing so. How cold you seem this afternoon! and yet I used to think there never was a warmer heart than yours." "Yes, I fear we are cooling- I see it as well as you," she sighed mournfully".

As per the above passage, the two emotional tendencies to each other reduce its level because of their interest clash of the two. And for Eustacia compared to her previous fancies, she considers the one who gives up loving, owing to the fact that she gets frustrated first as result of unfulfilled demands and failure in bringing her dream into reality, and thus gets disillusioned. Clym on the other hand, also begins to feel that this new attitude of Eustacia as based on the thought that her “chances in life are ruined”, of course by marrying in haste an unfortunate man (Hardy, 1878).

However, it's to be noted also that Eustacia shows less life experience than Clym shows. In this respect, Clym as experienced man always tries to explain to Eustacia the fact that the city life itself as imagines by Eustacia is not as perfect as it seems. Based on these experiences, Clym says to Eustacia what came in the passage below:

“The more I see of life the more do I perceive that there is nothing particularly great in its greatest walks, and therefore nothing particularly small in mine of furze-cutting”.

But for Eustacia, owing to both her values and inexperienced nature prevent her to see things with such different angle which is opposite of Clym's. In parallel to this reality, Daleski, (1997) in his novel “*Thomas Hardy and Paradoxes of Love*” recounted through using (a reinforced figure of metaphorical blindness on both sides that marks the coming together of this mutual pair). Thus, Clym and Eustacia each see the other through a different window based on their own individual interest need. Therefore, Eustacia's passion for Clym is just because of her blindness interest in making her dreams success. Thus, the end there are two different windows through which each sees things through.

6.2 Thomasin Yeobright

The prevalence characteristic of Thomas Hardy's female Characters is disillusionment which the characters become because of their failure to deal with what they encounter during the course of their life. While this is the case for Eustacia, it's also the case for Thomasin Yeobright. As discussed previously that Eustacia's responses to her disillusionment accounted to be senseless and careless, for Thomasin's, her responses are different in many ways than Eustacia's responses.

In as far as concern Thomasin's case, she also in the same token suffers and pass by hard challenges that finally leads her to a state of complete unhappiness as a result of several reasons. However, the way she responds to her unhappiness is not such unexpected to her. Damon Wildeve, Thomasin partner as described in the novel is "unreliable person", "flirtatious" man. When it comes to their marriage, and it's known that the marriage between Damon and Thomasin occurred so quickly than usual. Therefore, this marriage happens so quickly because of Damon's intention to hit Eustacia's emotion due to the fact that she happened to leave him alone when once they were partners (Hardy, 1878).

On the other hand, Damon also wants with this quick movement to take revenge on Eustacia who acted unfriendly during the time they were couples. Hence, the marriage between Damon and Thomasin is not based on the ground of a mutual love. It rather based on some personal interests or a strategy which could be understood as men tactic in making women jealousies which Damon adopted.

Because of the above fact of lacking emotions and communication between the two couples, there arose relationship problems during the course of their fake Loves. For these reasons, Mrs. Yeobright, Thomasin's Aunt attempts to know

how the two couples are feeling towards each other, and asks Thomasin as came in the below extract:

“How is Damon?” ‘He is very well.’ ‘Is he kind to you, Thomasin? Pretty fairly.’ ‘Is that honestly said?’ ‘Yes, aunt. I would tell you if he were unkind.’ She added, blushing, and with hesitation, ‘He- I don’t know if I ought to complain to you about this, but I am not quite sure what to do. I want some money, you know, aunt- some to buy little things for myself- and he doesn’t give me any. I don’t like to ask him: and yet, perhaps, he doesn’t give it me because, he doesn’t know”.

Following the this conversation between Thomasin and her aunt Mrs. Yeobright, the latter observes the first from where she could not perceives, which made the aunt clearly recognizes the uneasiness Thomasin feels within herself. In addition to, the conversation above further explain that Damon does not give any money to Thomasin to meet her needs, and Thomasin neither matters with him nor acts differently and dishonestly to her aunt(Hardy, 1878).

The logic behind Thomasin’s demonstration of such humble attitude is due to the fact that she is differ than her counterpart Eustacia in many ways. In comparing between the two characters, while Eustacia seems blinder in her behaviour and attitude with relationships issues and thus inconsiderate even to her husband, Thomasin is far from being reckless to her husband in contrast. Therefore, this good attitude of Thomasin better justifies the state of submissiveness and passivity the Victorian society want women to show.

Taking the above into consideration, the ordinary marriage between the two fades away and scatters, as well as the breakup further enhanced by Damon's reactivated passion for Eustacia again which caused relationship chaos. Thus, in one of unexpected meeting between Eustacia and Damon, Diggory Venn goes to Thomasin's house to ask if Damon is at home. Thomasin innocently answers, "*Husbands will play the truant, you know*". This rebuke is clear indication of Damon's habitual absence from home, and leaves Thomasin alone to stay at home. In addition to, it also justifies that 19th Century Victoria women's sphere was very limited and restricted that caused by the negative attitude of the society during the era.

Moreover, despite the fact that Thomasin has no bad intention in showing dissatisfaction with her marriage, the message she send with joke to Diggory Venn is to highlighter boredom which she suffers as a result of her loneliness caused by Damon's un-attendance continuously .With all these came together as causes, the meetings between the two becomes rear and seldom, which in turn leads to them to lose communication. This lack of communication further makes the two couples stay aside .As Thomasin goes through all these dilemmas of Damon negligence, start to become hash in manners, especially concerning Damon's constant absences. The narrator describes the absence as well as Thomasin rebuke with the following passage:

"Damon, where have you been? I was getting quite frightened, and thought you had fallen into the river. I dislike being in the house by myself.' 'Frightened?'" he said, touching her cheek as if she were some domestic animal. 'Why, I thought nothing could frighten you. It is that you are getting proud, I am sure, and don't like living here since we have risen above our business. Well, it is a tedious matter, this getting a new house..."

The above extract from the Novel is a clear indication of the fact that Victorian women faced harsh conditions dilemmas in past because of the way men used to treat them. Thomasin's question for Damon comes after she observes recurrent mis-behaviour from the male side; and that the idea of woman stay alone inside the house is considered Hardy's strong proof to the negative view that women's best place is the home.

In addition to the above, the narrator further portrays that women were inferior to men, and that sentence "*touching her cheek as if she were some domestic animal*" is a reflection of Damon's inconsideration and disrespect towards his wife's feelings as well as undermines her identity as a woman. What ironically enhances the disrespect is Damon's response to Thomasin's rebuke when he replies with:

"Why, I thought nothing could frighten you".

Moreover, in terms of compare and contrast between the two women, there is an obvious contradiction between the two characters. Based on this, Damon treats each one differently on the account of the differences of their characters' traits. To put more emphasis on this, while Eustacia is more passionate, self-assertive, and submissive to some extent, Thomasin is submissive and always seems hesitant in taking her own decisions.

Besides the above, also when Eustacia is considered such selfish, who only wants to fulfil her dreams of living in Paris at all cost, Thomasin does not concern about where she lives. Rather she shows more concerns about why Damon is always absent in the evenings and stays away from the home. Another difference between Eustacia and Thomasin becomes clear in below conversation .as Thomasin likes the heath and perceive it as "*a nice wild place to walk in*" Eustacia finds it unbearable and boring:

“No – I don’t mind waiting – I would rather stay here twelve months longer than run any risk with baby. But I don’t like your vanishing so in the evenings. There’s something on your mind – I know there is, Damon. You go about so gloomily, and look at the heath as if it were somebody’s gaol instead of a nice wild place to walk in”.

7.0 Responses to their Disillusionment

Most of the female characters in Thomas Hardy’s Novel *“the Return of the Native”* encounter some kind of disillusion because of their failure to meet their own wills. While being failed is a normal phenomenon of human beings, the way of failure accompanied for both Eustacia and Thomasin is of different forms. Thus, as far as concern experiencing the state of failure, it’s to be noted that both the female characters had disillusionments in the same way. However, the way they respond to these disillusionments are very different, which clearly demonstrates their self-ability or inability to cope with the society and adapt to the inevitable changing circumstances.

7.1 Disillusionment of Eustacia Vye

Having failed to bring her dreams to the success and after the great efforts exerted in trying achieving them, Eustacia’s reaction and responses to her unhappy marriage makes her completely reluctant and thus keeps herself away from her husband Clym, as she realizes that the husband will not make her happy the way she wants and dreams of. This unhappy state finally causes her

to return back to her previous state of isolation which she experienced once before her marriage.

Of the first examples of Eustacia isolation is her wish to go to the village picnic, ordering “*gypsying*” a word which related to dance in East Egdon culture. Eustacia with this isolation wants to forget the unhappiness she experiences throughout her interaction with the many couples, especially with Clym Yeobright and Damon Wildeve respectively. Therefore, she shows dislike being in the presence of Clym as his presence reminds her of her previous disillusionment (Hardy, 1878).

However, happened to meet Damon as well, Eustacia’s psychological condition levels up a bit by this meeting, as with latter the relation is somewhat excepted and not similar to his counterpart Clym who ill-treated her. As one’s own emotional experience, it’s to be highlighted that the meeting between Eustacia and Damon does not only bring relieves to her, it’s also a great time to compare relations between two men as she encounter with them in her life. As the time goes by, Eustacia recognizes her unhappiness with Clym’s profession. On the other hand, Damon as well understands Eustacia’s disappointment, a fact that caused by Clym’s non- going back to Paris and take Eustacia with her, though she makes several trials to go together.

In addition to the above, Eustacia’s marriage and life passes by many woes. It happens in this respect that, one day Mrs. Yeobright while on her way back from a reconciliation endeavour she had, is bitten by “an adder” “a type of a poisonous snake”. Because of the too long walk as the distance is so far, she die. This sudden death of Ms. Yeobright, works worse on Eustacia’s psychological state, as this makes her feels guilty as she believes that the cause of the death lies upon her.

After some time passes, Clym brings the pieces that led to his death and finally learns that Eustacia was who caused death (Hardy, 1878). Because of this, the two have a big argument as Clym began to blame her for her mother's death as well as for his own unhappiness. On the other hand as a response, Eustacia replies to Clym's anger as she mentions that she her selfish already in a state worth to be miserable and equal to death the marriage itself. In relation to this with respect to Eustacia's response, Jagdish as he quoted from Sherrick, (1998) describes that Eutacia's character as "*revolt*" because of her inconsiderate nature to the people.

Thus, Eustacia's response to her disillusionments is always hash and triggers sentiments because of her impulsive and depressed nature, as well as she is seems a girl of passionate feelings. To put more emphasis on the impulsive nature of Eustacia, it happens also when she is at her grandfather's house, she always thought of suicide act as she sees a group of pistols hanging near the head of her grandfather's bed. Seeing this disillusion, Eustacia says in her inner mind the following extract:

"If I could only do it!" she said. 'It would be doing much good to myself and all connected with me, and no harm to single one'".

The above quotation clearly infers that Eustacia becomes more decisive in making up her mind to kill herself. But that does not happen on the account that, the pistols are locked in the stable by a worker.

Furthermore, Eustacia's selfish nature is revealed also from her usual attempts to escape from outcomes of her marital choices, which always become of unhappy nature. Thus, in escaping these consequences, she makes her last resort plan to run with Damon. In so doing, and when Damon asks her how she needs to be assisted, she responds by "getting away from here" referring away from Heath. The decision of Eustacia's escape tells the fact that she lost hope and expectations, and thus living only with guilt feelings of previous woes she is blamed caused (Hardy, 1878).

Worth to be noted here is that the difference between the couples becomes clear to this extent. In as far as concern Clym as a husband, he is not like Eustacia in any way. He feels missing as well as wonders why Eustacia does not take initiative in reconcile the difference and return again. With his own initiative tried, Clym decides to send her a letter, but the letter never reaches her as the grandfather does not give it to her until she departs. Thus, Eustacia determines to escape Heath as she wish and make sign to Damon to get her.

During escaping the house at night, the situation Eustacia feels and things she sees are well portrayed by the narrator which describes the state with the following:

"The gloom of the night was funereal; all nature seemed clothed in crape...The moon and stars were closed up by cloud and rain to the degree of extinction".

The allusions described in the passage above create sort of unpleasant feelings, and the dark thoughts often refer to upcoming unhappy end according to the biblical and many religions believe. Therefore, the state that there is no light as well as the night is funereal are all connote to something unwelcome lies ahead. As Clym waiting for a sign of return from Eustacia, sees Thomasin, who comes

to his door in panic telling him that Eustacia and Damon are planning to escape. After hearing the news, Clym chases them, followed by Thomasin and Diggory Venn (Hardy, 1878).

And as they chasing the escapee, a sound of water heard with somebody falling into it. And as Clym and Diggory jump into the water, they discover that Eustacia and Damon are already dead. However, Eustacia's death remains unknown whether it's an act of a suicide or an accident. Perceiving this difficult incident, Clym begins blaming himself for the death of Eustacia as he did before to his mother.

Finally, In terms of dreams fulfilment, it's to be noted that both Eustacia and Clym fail to respond properly to each other. Neither Eustacia understand that Clym wants to stay in Heath with his dream in place, nor Clym does understand that Eustacia dislike being in Heath. Therefore, there is a tragic fate both characters have, as they fail to answer each other's' demands which finally leads their relation to a catastrophic ends.

7.2 Disillusionment of Thomasin Yeobright

Thomas Hardy's female character ThomasinYeobright is one of the positive characters in the novel. Thomasin whose beauty is described as fair, sweet and honest is truly a lady deserved to be the description. Thomasin as a character is obviously different from the other Hardy's mentioned heroines. As a woman, she does not make a lot of demands on life and fancies as Eustacia does. They are totally different in their nature as well as their interpretation of the things.

Therefore, it's to be noted that it's only Thomasin who has a child from the marriage she enters into, in which she always becomes happy, with accepting the life the way it's, making her a positive wife and mother. In addition to, Thomasin's life is less disastrous compared to Eustacia's, who suffers series of dilemmas throughout her life. When in relation previously with Wildeve, this relation ends up without a trouble caused, a matter which gives Thomasin freedom to marry Diggory Venn, who demonstrates kind of loyalty to a woman who does not love him (Williams, 1972).

In addition to the above, with respect to Thomasin's personal traits, Williams, (1972) states that Thomasin is a humble girl with realistic expectations from life. Based on this, she does not have many dreams of Eustacia which are difficult to achieve or fulfill. Therefore, there is no room for disillusionment in any way. Added to that, Thomasin does not show any impulsive behavior towards Damon, despite that Damon mistreat her. And in terms of her response to the problems, she also never reacts and responds angrily as Eustacia does when faces negative expectations from her dreams (Hardy, 1878).

One of the friendly behaviors Thomasin demonstrates in her difficult situation she faces is when she comes to know that Damon meets Eustacia at interval in which she never reacts negatively, and in which she is always calm and passive with no hints of anger shown. It's to be noted also Thomasin is such a forthright woman. Based on this fact, the most forthrightness moment of her is represented in the moment when she resorts to Clym, after she recognizes that Damon and Eustacia are about to escape together. Before this, she tries to hide her knowledge about them from Clym, so that she considers his feelings. And this is one of the examples of her good nature as a character.

In relation to her personal characteristics as a woman, Thomasin is such a loyal wife per excellence. With this in mind, she always feels others' pain and tragedy. This is clear from the point when she gets traumatized at her husband's sudden death; nevertheless she is well aware of the fact that husband mistreats her as a couple. Despite all these she accepts her husband's ill-nature event when badly.

In order to create a balance between an experienced success in life and failure, the narrator clearly presents the marriage between Diggory and Thomas in as a gift for Thomasin self-sacrifice, persistence, and patience. Therefore, Diggory Venn's loyalty and continuous love for her represents a reward to Thomasin good behavior that enriched with patience and endurance to her husband who treats her negatively. With this reward, Thomasin feel relieve and feel as if found her exact partner with at least of some similar good personal traits (Hardy, 1878).

On the other hand, Diggory Venn plays an important role in improving Thomasin's pains with his always positive treatment interaction such as sympathizing, loyalty, and persistent love for her. With such treatment and caring provided, Diggory able to balance the scale between the previous trauma Thomasin experiences and the positive treatment she receives which considers a turning point for her as this takes her from the previous failed marriage memories to the current successful marriage.

Moreover, Diggory acts as a remedy to Thomasin as he always respect her and prevent her life getting ruined with the sole purpose of making her happy and positive. One of the remarkable behaviour of Diggory's good nature of personality is that he accompanies Thomasin as she goes out to search for Damon and Eustacia at the night of their escape. Hence, he shows exemplary

love reflecting considering others as a good value of human nature. This is clear when he always values and considers Thomasin's interests.

It's to be noted that Hardy as narrator is well known in playing the emotional part of human kind. Taking this into consideration, Tyagi, (1995), in his *"Treatment of Love in the Novels of Thomas Hardy"* confirms that:

"Hardy conceives love as a destructive force but, as a realist, he does not negate that love leads to happiness in a number of cases".

One of the referenced cases of the above quotation is the relationship between Thomasin and Diggory whom are happily married despite the emotional destructive effects on Clym and Eustacia.

Lastly, it's to be analysed that from the recurrence of the concept of marriage Hardy set marriage as dominant theme throughout the novel, as well as provides the reasons which lead to the characters' happiness or unhappiness, bearing that both happy and unhappy marriages are represented within the Novel. But the unhappy marriages that end with tragic denouement occupies the greater place in his works. Hardy's attempts in portraying marriage theme with the purposes of representing sociological aspects of the Victorian's society which he witnessed and lived. Accordingly, Tyagi, (1995), explains Hardy's approach for the concept of love and marriage as quoted below:

"Hardy deals with tragic love in detail in his novels and shows that in certain cases something does happen in the life of the married couple, which results in misery and misfortune. Some lovers in his novels are happily married to the partners of their own choice and seem to be eminently suited to each other. But

Hardy does not deal with their married life in detail. He allows them to be happily married at the end of his novels. Since he seems to have a pessimistic attitude towards life, some of the critics think that their happiness cannot last”.

As per Tyagi’s statement above, the marriages of both Eustacia and Clymon a side, and Thomas in and Damon on the other are much stressed on than that of Thomasin and Diggory. In addition to the core message conveyed with respect to human being nature of failure and success in every life, ending up with fact that there is always success thereafter failure . And the case of Diggory and Thomasin marriage is clear indicator of a successful happy marriage in that respect.

Thus, Hardy’s main purpose in his novels was to portray the negative attitude of the societies towards certain social aspects of human beings such as the negative perception of women status and how the societies view women as sex based on gender prospective. However, as mentioned earlier, the main purpose of Hardy’s Novels, especially the Novel in question “*The Return of the Native*” was to reflect and present 19th Century Victoria’s bad habits through detailing and providing the negative attitudes of the society.

Worth to be noted also is that Thomas Hardy considers to be a master of characterisation. This was because based on the social ills of past class division witnessed during the Victorian age, he chose his characters from the most lower class of society with the purpose of representing how Victorian dealt with the concept of gender based on the negative attitude they had on women in general.

In addition to the above, Hardy aims with this portrayal to reflect the negative attitude on women status as Victorians society always viewed Women as lower in rank concerning her social status. Hardy also never forget to portray his

readers the sufferance the women endured during the time in the context of what was known the “*Institution of marriage*” whereby women suffered a lot, due to the social laws imposed on them.

Furthermore, Hardy’s work is also rich with theme of human endurance, especially from women whom challenged the life difficulties of all sort until they find happiness and the end in some cases. With this in view, while Thomasin shows a pattern of a strong women, she also represents kind of women the Victorian society always liked (the submissive, angelic house wife) as per Coventry Patmore’s “*The Angel in the House*”.

8.0 The Novel “Tess of the D’Urbervilles”

Tess of the D’Urbervilles is Thomas Hardy Novel ranked twelfth in sequence that published in 1891. This novel was called the greatest according to Westminster Review (the platform where writers post their comments on articles) in which viewed the book as “*one of the greatest novels of this century and the greatest since George Eliot died*”.

In Tess of the D’Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy through solid description challenges the society via presenting the negative attitudes on women status exacerbated by patriarchal norms and male dominant mentality that contributed to the wrong believe on women status as individual. Having presenting the ills that existed in the Victorian society, Thomas Hardy at the end presents a moral lesson out of the novel capable of touching the readers’ emotions with inevitable sympathy towards the heroine of the novel (Tess) who is presented as a victim of societal negative norms and traditions (Hardy, 1891).

In the Novel, Hardy recounts that Tess Durbeyfield the eldest daughter of the poor rural family in Marlott joins the traditional day of the time called “*May Day*” (where people gathered during the month of May) together with other village girls. At the same time, her father John Durbeyfield came to know by an informant that as a family is belongs to descendants of the same Norman family of D’Urbervilles based on the historical background of the family.

Taking into consideration the new news of the family’s descendants, Tess works to trace the footage of the new news of their belonging to that said family and goes to get a job on the D’Urbervilles estate near Trantridge so as to improve the family’s financial situation which is worsen by the killing of their horse accidentally. Noted is that the targeted family had a son named Alec Stoke D’Urbervilles, who is known as “*idle libertine*” connoting to his misbehaviour throughout the family. As Tess reaches the said family’s house, their mentioned son Ale attracted to Tess and later exploits Tess and finally has a baby she names “*Sorrow*” who remains unbaptized by the Vicar as always, and later be baptized by mother, and the child get sick and dies (Hardy, 1891).After that Tess got into great worries from the mistake she committed which considered to be shameful within the society.

Having recovered from long distress, Tess begins working as a dairymaid at Talbothays where she meets Angel Clare, the son of a vicar as a second man she encounter. Angle and Tess fall in love in which Angel proposes her to get married. Upon receiving this marriage request and bearing that she was mistaken before as well as had a baby, Tess fears about the disclosure of this secret, but she agrees to marry him nevertheless. It’s to be noted here is that both Angel and Tess have their own past mistakes. Based on this, as Angel’s confesses of his past affair in London, Tess as well confesses the mistake with courage and tell Angel’s about her past mistake.

As Angel knows of Tess's past, refused to forgive her, though she forgive Angel's, a matter which lead Angel to deserts Tess as consequence. After working in the farm for some time getting the family runs, she makes her mind to go to Angel's parents' house, where she overhears Angel's brothers speak badly about her. As Tess leaves the house where she was working, suddenly meet Alec D'Urberville, who tries to convince her that he has changed to become a preacher (Hardy, 1891).

Alec again returns Tess to him after convinces her that Angel will not come back to take care of Tess's family. When Angel returns to England, he realizes that he was mistaken and heartfelt. At the end he finds Tess in a boarding-house together with Alec. In the hope of Angel's interest in winning her back again, Tess rejects him as she sees that it's too late. As Angel part a way, Tess feels devastated and blames Alec for all the woes she passed by, and finally kills Alec with a carving knife. After she murders him, Tess runs after Angel, where they meet somewhere and run away together. However, after few days of the murdering, they are discovered and Tess is arrested and executed for Alec's killing.

8.1 Women's Lower Rank in Status in the Society

Women's lower rank in status in the society stem from the fact that the male themselves had played the role of making this lower rank status enforced by stereotypical mentality. In Thomas Hardy's Novel "*Tess of the D'Urbervilles*" women as identity suffered a lot and had to bear the most suppression from the male partners compared to men sufferance and in various respects. During the Victoria times, men had to believe that women are lower

rank in status compared to women. The worse was that this male view to a great extent supported even by the patriarchal society which represented the supreme authority of the time (Ronald, 1966).

In conveying his message with solid representation of the tragic events, Hardy's message in his Novel "*Tess of the D'Urbervilles*" is clearly and cleverly represented through detailed description of the scene as well as the protagonist of the novel (Tess Durbeyfield) who represents women's dilemma of the Victoria in her single figure. In this portrayal, Tess represents the Victorian women as general as she represent the mirror of the women in general. With this in view, the fact that Tess goes through different hardships conveys that Victorian women were mostly if not generally faced society's negative attitudes of the males. In order to isolate women and hinder their social progresses, the social rules and restrictions imposed on women play an important role in enhancing the idea of lower rank and upper rank (Barrett, 2013).

Female Subordination during the 19th Century Victoria considers one of the male causations that exacerbated further by some restricted laws concerning women status. In addition to, Hardy enrich his message conveying with the different societal ills that existed during his life time. Out of those societal issues comes the issue of class and class division, especially with respect to women category as they suffered a lot from the predetermined social rules and prejudice imposed upon them and enacted by force.

Hardy also focussed in his portrayal of women sufferance from the lower category of women class, which he did on purpose, as he wanted to convey the message of class and class division the era concerned. Therefore, the quality of a lower rank family chosen by the author is best example of bad habits ,and thus author aimed to put more emphasis on the intended message to be conveyed as well as to create readers sympathy with the concerned victim.

As the issue of class and class division was one of the social ills existed, Thomas Hardy in his novel "*Tess of the D'Urbervilles*" portrays how the society was divided as well as the effect this division had on the entire people, in terms of their attitude and perception of each towards other. In this respect, Williams, (1972) in his "Thomas Hardy and Rural England" states that:

"Tess Durbeyfield, over and above her qualities as a person, is portrayed as a representative of her class and her sex".

In proofing the trueness of the above statement, Hardy himself describe this with his own words as he says "*Tess is a fine, handsome, working-class girl with an impoverished family living in the village of Marlott*" as well as that "her father is a small dealer, and her mother is responsible for looking after six children except for Tess". Thus, from his description it's to be noted that lower class status representation was due to the fact of existence of class division during the period which authors through literature recounted the social ills prevailed (Hardy, 1891).

One of the striking notices to be taken into consideration with respect to Tess is that her social condition is well defined as a precursor and triggering factors that finally leads her to a tragic situation. Thus, Hardy's description of Tess as belonging to the working class as well as choosing her sex to be a woman are of the two beings that a lucky person wishes not to belong to either. This is because in the 19th Century Victoria, being either of the two considers one of the sufferance itself attributed to the concept of social class division.

In addition to the above, fate obstacles are also well-presented for the purpose of better emphasis on the circumstances Tess passed by which contribute to the overall tragic fate she encounters. On the account of this, Hardy describes Tess as an intelligent young girl who had “hoped to be a school teacher “as she was successful in school in which she passes the sixth standard in the National school under a London-trained mistress “but the fates seemed to decide otherwise” as happened to her when she never becomes a teacher as she wished.

Compared to her family members in terms of education as they are ignorant, Tess considered to be enlightened to some extent as she attends school till the sixth standard (Hardy, 1891). Because of reaching this level of education, it is understood thereof Tess is a woman of reasonable education and potentials which would have enabled her to be a teacher if fate had offered her the chance. However, because of the fate that she is the best assistant to her mother and bearing her responsibility as income generator restrained her from fulfilling her dreams.

Beside the above, Tess speaks two languages which could be additional assets for one like her. Therefore, with regard to her knowledge, Terrence, (1987) in his “Tess of the D’Urberville” comments that; Tess stands at a transitional point in the nineteenth century because of her education level of Sixth Standard at school which makes her a unique and different from other uneducated. Also Tess’s education is better clarified in a comparison between her and her mother as per the novel description:

“Between the mother, with her fast-perishing lumber of superstitions, folk-lore, dialect, and orally transmitted ballads, and the daughter, with her trained

national teachings and Standard knowledge under an infinitely Revised Code, there was a gap of two hundred years as ordinarily understood”.

Therefore, recalling the passage above, the generation gap between the mother and the daughter is stressed clearly through the differences in their learning opportunity entrusted to each. In this respect, while the mother has potentials of hearsay and superstitious knowledge of such issues as folkloric, oral transmission, the daughter on the other hand is educated and guided by attending schooling which enables her to have potentials knowledge. Furthermore, Hardy draws the gap between the two with a gap between two different ages in similar to a gap of two hundred years.

Thus, on the account of the fact that Tess has some education background, this potential asset understood as both enabler for her success as well as for her critical thinking, especially towards issues of her family life standard (Hardy, 1891). For these reasons, Tess’s education makes a difference in viewing things which is the soul benefit of her better education. Because of such education, Tess finds herself becoming more than she expects herself to be; that is being a mother, yet she is a girl (Handley, 1991).

In addition to the above, the circumstances also played its negative role in making Tess bear the bigger burden of her family life. Therefore, her doomed circumstances never stopped playing negative on her. In considering this, she goes on to bear her parents’ failure and the irresponsibility. Hence, Hardy criticizes the irresponsible parents, John and Joan Durbeyfield who fails to meet their expectations for the children, a matter which persuades Tess to take up their responsibility instead.

Hardy also goes on to criticize the failed parents, who are incapable to challenge life hardships such as disasters, starvations, and diseases and who make their family as a result suffered the outcomes of their failure. . Beside, Hardy ironically comments that there is always a theme of fate which is the main cause for all the difficulties faced. To illustrate it more, the fate of the birth of these innocent children itself considers a fate itself, as they doomed the birth and face their life difficulty from a failed parents.

One of the remarks in the novel is that there is a recurrent theme of fate. On this account, Williams, (1972) states on the difficulty and impossibility of Tess in having free will and space as described below:

“Her destiny is not chosen but forced upon her by the circumstances which Hardy calls Fate”.

According to William’s comment above, it’s the circumstances representing in the fate that chosers Tess’s destination and orientation, rather than her own choice. Based on the above challenges, Women during the 19th Century Victoria faced the most social suppression that lowered their status and undermined their identity as women.

Therefore, men and women during the 19th Century Victoria both had different status and role within the society. If compared with the pre- Victoria eras, the 19th Century Victoria was quietly different than the previous eras. During the previous eras, it had been common for women to work with their husbands and brothers in the family business, thus assisting the families in serving the customers (Hughes, 2014).

As the times goes by in the 19th Century, men dominated the external field and left the women stay internally doing domestic roles that were supposed to be done by the servants. With these two different roles of men and women, there a rose what is called the “Ideology of Separate spheres” which empowers men with upper status than women. The ideology of “Separate spheres” defines the natural characteristics of women and men, based on the fact that women were physically weaker and thus they were best suited to be in the domestic sphere, while the men, because they were strong, assumed to occupy the external affairs (Hughes, 2014).

For that reason, due to their lower rank in status, the society believed that women’s education is not important; especially learning what was called “Hard subjects” such as subjects that requires mental exertion that women could not afford. With this idea in view, it was believed that a well-educated women should soften herself with a graceful and feminine related subject to avoid being what had been termed (women of blue stocking), or women who pursue intellectual affairs which were not welcomed by the society as considered men’s.

Finally, it is based on all the above fact, women lower status in the society was negatively perceived to be a fact of the time. Women as they half of the society were undermined through enforced social laws that existed during the 19th Century Victoria. Restrictedly speaking, the society believed that the best place for the women was the “Home”. Keeping them in the home, the women with this limitation forced to lose public interaction and remained indoors and isolated from the outer world. Moreover, the marriage policies for women was purposefully framed to make the distinction wider between the two sexes.

8.2 Male's Attitude of feeling Superiority & Women Reactions

Despite the fact that Tess experiences challenges of being a woman in many aspects as she suppressed by men, the submission followed could be understood as a tragic fate Victorian women were always faced. And Tess's misery in being dominated by two men in her life can be divided into two parts; her relationship with Alec d'Urberville on one hand, and Angel Clare on the other hand. Thus, both male dominant has its own way of control over Tess in different ways,

As far as concern her first relationship, Tess's departure from home to Trantridge to meet the D'Urberville family constitutes the beginning of a new phase in her life which she will be dominated later by the family's son "Alec D'Urberville". In meeting her fate, she firstly meets Alec D'Urberville who was a young man and the son of a merchant called Simon Stoke, and the outcome of which becomes surprising when they discover that the surname "D'Urberville" does not belong to Alec's family himself, rather his father Simon Stoke bought the title either (Hardy, 1891).

In his characters description of both Tess and Alec, Hardy portrays Alec as a handsome man coupled with his dangerous capabilities as character, as well as Tess as having "*a luxuriance of aspect, a fullness of growth, which made her appear more of a woman than she really was*". These descriptions of both characters act as foreshadow later on to disclose the inner parts of the both characters.

With respect to their meeting which perceived to be” *the ill-judged execution of the well-judged plan*”, is of ill-fate, which means whereas God’s plan is perfect and problem-free, humans are imperfect, and thus lead themselves to failure with their own actions. In such interpretation, Alec’s appearance in Tess’s life is not a perfect match, or they do not in match in any way, which again remind of the fate issue mentioned more often. (Hardy, 1891).

Hardy present Tess’s upcoming misfortunate through using foreshowing as a means of ill fate awaiting Tess. In doing so, while Tess on her way to home, Hardy describes that “*at horn of the rose remaining in her breast accidentally pricked her chin*” indicates that Tess’s thought with the accident was an expectation of an “ill-omen” foreshadow of something unpleasant coming a head.

The 19th Century Victoria was an era of discrepancies and prejudices against women .The male had a stereotype view on women status and position within the society, a matter which writers Hardy included brought into the attention of the ills existed and had the women suppression documented for the future record.Thus, Hardy worked to portray a clear picture of a desperate innocent country girl who becomes a victim of Victorian patriarchal society and social laws that women suffered from because of their identity. With this in view, while some women accepted and surrendered themselves to the male’s negative attitudes which their husbands are part of , others refused and waked up against the ill-treatment, a fact which this rejection played a key role in bringing up Women question to the level in our contemporary (Hardy, 1891).

One of the first mistakes made against Tess is represented in the Tess parent’s attempts in sending their daughter to Alec family, in search for better life opportunity, neglecting her beauty as she is so beautiful, decorated with

peasantry nature and innocent character that lacked all familial protection. It's to be noted that Tess's innocence is the very reason that makes her subject to exploitation as she is of a pure nature as a girl.

Thomas Hardy's novel *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891) describes an unfortunate innocent country girl who becomes a victim of Victorian society. Having being victimized by Alec D'Urbervilles and going through many traumatic experiences, Tess faces helpless life due to her innocence and self-pureness. In his novel, Hardy attacks the negative attitude of the society prejudiced against Women. While there is no protection umbrella for Tess, the actual cause of her sin remains untouched by the law; which this poses legal question between the victim and the victimizer (Hooti, 2011).

In *Tess of the Novel*, Hardy openly discusses a well-known problem of the contemporary with respect to the ill-treatment women faced, based on their social status. In justifying Tess's case, Hooti, (2011) goes on to argue that "despite Tess had mistaken and considered fallen women at the same time, she should not be judged by her fall alone". Thus, issues such as her own intentions, nature, and the circumstances that forced her to be in such position should be taken into consideration. In justifying this, he (Hooti) states that Tess was too young when victimized, and for this reason there was no particular intention or even romantic attachment to Alec. There left no way except submission to the will of her victimizer, Alec, taking into account the circumstances surrounded.

In addition to the above with respect to explaining the violence committed, Nye, (1988) observes that:

"Brownmiller, in her influential Against Our Will placed rape at the threshold of human history as an exercise of male power over women".

Therefore, taken above quotation into account, the basic argument about Tess's story is a story about moral value. The justification of lack of moral and presence of immorality stem from the fact that Tess is firstly a pure in herself, innocent, and finally ignorant at the same time for not having informed of blood suckers from human kind, as her parent never care on this at all. Furthermore, Hardy as novelist strongly believed that he is feminist writer, owing to the criticism he made on the way the Victorian society followed in ill-treating women, and that his defending the rights of women and sympathy he showed in his literary works constitute strong proofs of his connection to feminist novelists.

Related to the above, also in the preface of his first edition, Hardy wrote:

“In respect of the book's opinion and sentiments, I would ask any too genteel reader, who cannot endure to have said what everybody nowadays thinks and feels, to remember a well-worn sentence of St. Jerome's: If an offence come out of the truth, better is it that the offence come than that the truth be concealed”.

Hardy with the above statement meant to defend his views strongly, and attacks his critics logically and rationally, based on such logical rather than emotional facts.

Moreover, Hardy presents Tess as an independent and soulful woman. And that the relation between Tess and Alec as represented is not based on romantic background as it seems. Rather her unwanted relation is because of her mother,

Joan Durbeyfield will who resembled Grace Melbury of the Woodlander in being opportunist via exploiting her daughter. In the way Grace became a victim of her father's carelessness, Tess also becomes a victim of her mother's, who facilitated in sending Tess to Alec's family (Hooti, 2011).

Beside mother's opportunist attitude on her daughter, there exist complete negligence Tess encountered, especially from her mother who fails in making her daughter having self -protection strategy, because her mother is such interested only in obtaining better rank and fame even at the expense of her daughter. Therefore, Tess's mother was one of the causes of bringing miseries to her daughter Tess. Thus, Tess blames her mother with following rebuke as quoted from the Novel:

"Why didn't you tell me there was danger in men-folk? Why didn't you warn me? Ladies know what to fend hands against, because they read novels that tell them of these tricks; but I never had the chance o' learning in that way, and you did not help me!"

One of the significant point concerning Alec D'Urberville's role in the novel is that he does not show any human sympathy at all, which this proof the idea of neglecting others identity. Therefore, Alec relationship with Tess is just based on interest sought after through employment opportunity, where victimization occurs as result. What makes things worse after Tess victimization is her birth of a child and its death which brought sufferings and pain to her.

Beside Alec who spoils Tess's life and makes her misery, there also appears the second man, Angel Clare who is considered another responsible of Tess's tragic fate. Having shown his love to Tess, Angel enters into a marriage with Tess, nevertheless she was cautious about such his love. When plan to marry, and as confession to their past relations, Tess forgives Angel's previous affairs with strange women he had relation with. But Angel never forgives her victimization committed by Alec which she confesses in return of Angel's confession.

Taking the above into account in as far as concern the social prejudice prevailed in Victorian society, Angel non-forgiveness constitutes a clear proof of societal prejudice in favour of the men, which emphasizes the negative attitude that men and women are not equal in status, that men and women should be judged differently (Hooti, 2011).

In order to put more emphasis on the above, MacGregor, (1987) points out that:

“A wife might without any loss of caste... condone an act of adultery on the part of the husband, but a husband could not condone a similar act on the part of a wife, and for this among other reasons . . . that the adultery of the wife might be the means of palming suspicious offspring on the husband while the adultery of husband could have no such effect with regard to the wife”.

It was based on MacGregor point that prejudice against women forced women to experience the most suppressive and negative attitude male had on women.

Finally, male dominance in Victorian society is presented in a way that in *Tess of D'Urberville's*, the society constitutes the very hindrance of women development. To justify this idea, Terence, (1987) states that:

“Tess may also be seen as a victim of a member of a quite different societal group—subjected to the ill-treatment and prejudice of a society whose values and assumptions are those of the opposite sex”.

Based on the above, Tess's misfortune is linked firstly to the male dominance attitude enforced and the extension of male superiority concept spread in the society. For these reasons. Thus, the sufferings and pressures Tess encounters are due to the male dominance attitude existed in the person of Alec and Angel whom Hardy employed to represent the 19th Century Victoria's male negative. On the account of this, and in showing how she controlled, Tess in one of the occasion rebuke Alec with *“See how you've mastered me!”* a matter which indicate the way men treat women based on their superiority (Hardy, 1891).

With the above full control of women in place ,the 19th Century Victoria came to be known as the period of men per excellence .This is because the society regarded men as the superior sex while women as inferior based on the fact that men were believed to be stronger than women, both physically and mentally. In addition to, it was considered to be unhealthy for women to participate in any activities that would make them physically and mentally tiresome and fatigued.

Because of such restrictions applied, women's activities were thus limited, and their personal progress within the society remained undeveloped socially. For that reason, the concept of separate spheres was established to help women to adopt to their own domain which is the domestic sphere, while men could participate in the public sphere (Alfred, 2005).

However, that prejudices imposed was not left unquestioned .There were many women who challenged this ideology prevailed, and among those were the women writers who from the very beginning took the initiative. One of their first initiative and move taken in this respect was moving through literary works in conveying the ills existed within the society as well as transform the social prejudices prevailed to the public.

Of the women who challenged the 19th Century social ills was Barbara Leigh Smith who in 1857, wrote her “*Women and Work*”. In this book, she states that:

“Cries are heard on every hand that women are conspiring, that women are discontented, that women are idle, that women are overworked, and that women are out of their sphere. God only knows what the sphere of any human being”.

Added to the above, there was also who used pseudonym to escape the male overlook in their writing the discrepancies and restriction imposed upon them was George Eliot, whose real name was Mary Anne Evans. In order to bring the women question to the public level, female writers thus worked hard to convey their message to the public. In so doing, Anne Bronte, wrote her “*The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*” which considered as *Shedding Light on Women’s Rights*. In such a way, women did not surrender completely to the male kingdom of suppression; rather they challenged and worked hard, the result of each the contemporary feminist question which is currently one of the global issues debated on.

8.3 Tess as A victim of her own Family

One of the nature facts in life is that one cannot decide which family he or she is born into or belong to. These facts are of almighty decision and choice. The innocent Tess thus cannot be blamed for being born into a poor family as well as ignoring her own family background. Based on this fact, Tess becomes subject to several types of victimizations. In this respect, she is firstly a victim of her own family's upbringing and establishment, representing in her parents' carelessness. It's to be noted that throughout the novel, the father is known to be careless and the mother as opportunist who does not make her daughter aware and educated to protect herself from the human evils.

Of the nature fact also, Tess in being the eldest of her family as well as being a girl brought a lot of troubles for her. Thus, in being the eldest of the family children, firstly he had to support her poor family in order to meet the life needs. And in being a girl (which is a dilemma itself especially in 19th Century Victoria), she had to bear the male ill-treatment of her, and the social prejudice the society imposed against women in favour of men (Holmberg, 2010).

To put more emphasis on the above, Perkin, (1995) in his *Victorian Women* says:

“Girls learned early in life that they were less important than boys, and the welcome a girl could expect when she was born depended to some extent on social class. The vast majority of English girls, however, were born to working class parents, who, accepted whatever God sent, but were somewhat disappointed if it was a girl. Any child was an extra mouth for a poor family to feed, but also a potential wage-earner”.

It was based on the above, Tess acts as the family's income earner and thus had to work and support her family's finance, bearing all challenges that her Family consist of seven children, a drunkard father and an opportunist mother. While Tess family is always penniless, it happened that her father is told by a parson

Tringham that he belongs to ancestors who were once rich. This good news excites him as he think of how they could have become if they were.

The initial facts above shows how Tess is oppressed by her family intentions. One of the striking discrepancies related to Tess's Mother was that she herself happened to experience such oppression before, but she did to dare to tell or instruct her daughter to protect herself from the human evils. Taken this into account, Tess sees that she is not supposed to blame for all her sins, rather it's her family's mistake which failed to keep the daughter informed and learned.

In addition to, the horse which is the family's only income generator is another cause for Tess victimization. Therefore, Tess feels responsible when she causes the horse to die in an accident. Believing the Horse is what a ssist the family with gaining income, and bearing that the horse is died, there is no way remains to the family except to send their daughter to Trantridge to bring something.

In relation to this and having felt that she is the only the elder who can support her family, Tess makes decision to do something to fill the gap left by the horse's death. In this connection, Albert, (1969) states that:

“She goes to Trantridge despite her apprehensions of danger, in an effort to do something about a situation with which neither she nor her family can cope in the old ways”.

As per this family's interest and ill-intention, Tess becomes a true victim of her own parent's treatment, both seeking family's support and mother's intention in seeking marriage for the same support too. Hence, the parents as a family does not protect and preserve the daughter rights from the human evils.

However, what is intended for by the family turns negative and opposite to their daughter as well for their family alike. Of the negatives to their daughter firstly Alec exploit Tess and rape her where finally cause her to return back to her parents 'house. And while Tess in her house, she is pregnant coupled with the

general feeling of the family to what happened to her, the shame brought and who caused it.

After committing the sin, Tess mother starts to blame her daughter in which she says:

“You ought to have been more careful if you did not mean to get him to make you his wife”.

Tess in response to above her mother’s questionable tone says:

“O mother! How could I be expected to know? I was a child when I left this house four months ago. Why didn’ you warn me? Ladies know what to fend hands against, because they read novels that tell them of these tricks; but I never had the chance o’ learning in that way, and you did not help me!”

Hence, Tess becomes angry because her mother did not tell her in advance to protect herself as commonly did. The surprise in this is that her mother blame her when she should have warned her in advance, which also Tess consider as justification for not being educated to protect herself. For these reason, Tess innocence of the human evils acts is another indication of the lack of education for the working class women.

As for her father, while he supposed to play a positive role in upbringing, he too is not concerned about her. He is much concerned about trivial things like going to the public house, daydreaming, and talking about his noble background. In addition to, the father is irresponsible who drinks too much and who does not provide any support to his family (Hardy, 1891).

Moreover, Tess also becomes a victim of her family when she is oppressed and forced by the mother not to tell her past to Angel Clare when they proposed to get married. As seeking advice regarding the marriage proposal, Tess writes a

letter to her mother asking whether she should tell her past to the new suitor or not. However, her father replies her that she should on no account tell her past to him as this had never happened before, considering that many women had such troubles of her.

One of the remarks concerning Tess's personality is that she is a pure woman and of good nature. This is because being sincere and honest considers ones of the good personality traits Tess personality embodies. And this fact is obvious when Tess agrees with Angel's proposal, and decides to tell him her past trouble, in becoming sincere, Tess sent a letter of confession to Angel, but that letter does not reach Angel. Finally, as a result of the sin, Angel leaves Tess alone, not approving her confession about her past mistakes, in which Tess leaves miserably. However, Alec again pursues her later in an attempt to support Tess family and win her back. But his endeavours turn useless.

Finally, Tess's victimization by her family lies in the fact that the family's situation led Tess to be in tragic fate. Throughout running of the events, Tess is frequently responding to the family's needful situation. In doing so, after Angel return back in an attempt to forgive, she shows surprise when she see Angel returned. Having being astonished in meeting him, she at once kills him, and ask Alec to escape together. Knowing that she will be hanged for murdering Alec, she asks Angel to marry her younger sister Liza-Lu in order to maintain the family's support plan, which this in turn justifies the fact that Tess is a victim of her home situation. (Hardy, 1891).

8.4 Tess as A victim of her Church/Religion

During the 19th Century Victoria, being a woman or a poor was a real problem by the sense. This is due the fact that, society expect religious institutions such as Churches help people who live under difficult situation. But that is not the case in Tess's situation. Owing to the fact that women in the Victorian society suffered a lot from the social laws and religious constraints, this restriction is not only of nature, but also of man-made as well.

As far as concern Tess, the situation is different as she is not a married woman who has an illegitimate child. Considering herself a good Christian, Tess does what the church expected her to do. Though, she has her own justification for her sin when her rape occurs and later has an illegal child that resulted from illegal relationship. Tess in trying doing the norms of the religion requirement by both baptise her child and bury him in the Churchyard, the Church refuses her both doings. This act of refusal constitutes the very oppression from the Church.

In addition to, Tringham who is the representative of the Church who tells Tess's father about their ancestors inform the father about what they can do with ancestors' news with the reality that he only except chasten himself with the thought of "*How are the mighty fallen*". This response has a clear tone of oppression from the Church.

Furthermore, in order for Tess to help her parents during the difficult situation they face, she always avail self bear her shoulders all the responsibilities. It's to be noted that, Tess does every things the religion requires her to do in terms of taking care of the parents. Moreover, when Tess is exploited, she often visits the church every Sunday. However, she always sits at the back of the Church, recognizing her place, and to avoid being seen by the others.

As part of general view on her when in the church, Tess at the back of Church

observes that people turn their heads and whisper, as she comes to know what the whispers are about. Having been in such difficult circumstances, Tess feel the pain at the heart after which she decides not to come to the Church and stay away. Furthermore; the parishers of the Church also fail to aid her situation as expected, and as per as the Bible which says: “*Do to others what you wish others to do to you*”. On such account, Tess further becomes a victim of the parishers who fail to protect her too (Hardy, 1878).

Added to the above, Tess became a victim of the Church in the sense that her Child is neglected when it need to baptized by the parson. Therefore, this situation enforces Tess to baptize her Child later on by herself, a matter which constitutes the very victimisation itself. It's to be noted that the fate left with Tess, later on makes her feel sinful and guilty of something uncommon to the society.

Also when the Child dies and Tess goes to see the Parson in an attempt to ask for the burial, when asked, the parson tells her that it can't be married on consecrated ground. Based on this rejection, the Child later buried at the place where un-baptized and drunkard infants buried an action which brings a great sorrow to her mother (Hardy, 1891).

In connection to the said above, Tess also becomes a victim of her religion in terms of the way she is treated by Angel's family who ill-treat her. In showing ill-treatment, the family does not accept that Tess as a simple dairymaid or good to their family. When Angel leaves the country after their separation, Tess decides approach Angel's parents in seeking assistance from them. However, as she goes on the road, she overhears Angel brothers' conversation, which they welcome Tess with a cold shoulder as she approaches.

Finally, the evidence that Tess becomes a victim of the society represented indifferent aspects, both of the family and the religion. Knowing that she is a woman destined to be in the Victoria era, Tess tries to do all the rights things as per the norms, and that she does not intent to break whatsoever rules prevailed. But due to the circumstances encountered, she is destined to be in such difficult and challenging situation without other options left. The fact that the family fail to make her knowable and educated to protect herself from the evils is not met by her parents, together with the poorness background which are the main causes of her tragic fate.

With respect to human sympathy, while Tess is in need of sympathy after having bear the illegitimate child, especially as she is the irresponsible of the sin, the soul entity (The Church) fails as well to do it part as a regulator . Therefore, the parisher's refusal of baptizing the Child is ones of the clear message of the non-sympathy. In connection to this, the burial site of the Child also brings the idea of double standard Victorian society applied when buries children. All in all, Tess as a Victorian woman severely victimized by both her own family and Church in the same way.

8.5 The Impact of Victorian Era on the Current Modern Feminism

Recalling the stereotypical view of the Victorian era which view and perceive women as inferior to men, this stereotypical attitude if investigated, the outcome will be that what was interpreted by the society especially from the male is found to be baseless. While it's true that domesticity and motherhood were considered as soul tasks of women, they too have without doubt their own potentials which could be utilized for the benefit of the society good.

However, the Victorian society was believed that the best place for a woman is the “Home”, which meant that they should be kept indoors, and have only internal sphere to live in as opposed to external sphere which was devoted only men. This negative perception of the Victorian society played a greater role in hindering the women development as a unique identity, and based on this ideology, the women lost many social rights, amongst the right to education, work, and finally the rights to their own properties (Alfred, 2005).

Because of the mentioned male dominant attitude, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) in his poem “*The Princess*” conveys the strong Victorian belief in the domination of men over women and the inevitability of the separation in their spheres which are the internal sphere (as it was devoted for women) and the external sphere (which was devoted for men), in which the idea of separate sphere came into being.

Because of the existence of superiority and inferiority concepts, that considered to be of the societal ills directed against the women .Victorian writers tried to describe and portray those ills and other societal related issues through writing literature. It’s known that writing was the strongest tool in making things public, as people used to focus on writings a lot. However, the decision to write itself was a challenge during the era, making literary work a real challenge, especially for the women writers who were the category restricted in this respect.

One of the history points in the Victorian era is that, women as individuals took a positive role in English literature. The 19th Century as a period was well known by the emergence of many female writers, who participated in the growth of the novel as most prominent form of literary works during the era. With such contribution women contributed in promoting the status of women in general, and to participate in making their question and concerns public.

With this initiative of women literary works, the question of women, and their status was first brought to the attention, which considered a corner stone and starting point for women to stand up. However, women writings were not essay as it seemed. Many women writers faced persistence male reluctant of their literary works as the men had negative view that women should not focus on what they believed (hard subjects) , as they make women look men and harsh which is contrary to the women idealism.

Based on male reluctance while some Victorian female writers published their works under their real names for proofing their authorship, others preferred to use male pseudonyms to do. This avoidance was due to the fact that women were viewed and criticised so negatively and was thus difficult for them to enter into what was perceived to be male domain (Carter, 2001).

Because of the mentioned above, feminist criticism as an ideology came into being during the evaluation of literature. And It has its origins in the struggle of women's rights which emerged in the late of 18th century (Cuddon, 1998). Throughout its long history, feminism has focused on the negative beliefs of the society which undermined the gender equality. The concept of gender developed as an important tool to shape and frame women's rights platform with an emphasis on social, and economic challenges.

The Impact of Victorian Era on the Current Modern Feminism is that starting from the Victorian era through the 20th century, feminist movements played a crucial role in the world History by advocating for equal rights, considering many women were oppressed by men who believed they were superior compared to women, resulted in creating imbalanced effect that led to many disadvantages for women in many social aspects.

While gender inequality could be felt up to now, women's interaction in this respect started during the Victorian era that played a positive role in achieving some rights of previously lost rights. Though, there has been some changes in this respect, women are still continuing to suffer the social negative view which greatly hinders their development.

Therefore, the outcome of the women's interaction was the birth of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women abbreviated as (CEDAW). According to Yang, (2016) in her *Feminism: featuring Victorian era to present day* states that The Victorian era is a conservative period in which women were made to cook and clean, while men were taught to pursue jobs in the workforce, as well as women were considered properties of men.

In connection to the above, she goes on further to say that "for a young woman, marriage considered to be the only thing to seek after as there is no other choice". Thus, Yang with this wanted to highlight that Women were very limited during this Victorian age as the society had already stereotypical view that women's main role was the motherhood. As per this view, the Victorian era could be considered of greater impact on the Current Modern Feminism which has been shining in the entire world.

8.6 Conclusion

Women as individuals especially in 19th Century Victoria faced a real challenge by the men. Having been oppressed and suppressed by the society, the women on their part never kept silence on the challenges faced, and were played an active role in making a difference, though there were some who accepted the double standard applied on them. Based on these facts, the concept of "Women

question” came into being as a real tool adopted by feminists to bring attention the social errors existed and still felt everywhere.

Therefore, Thomas Hardy considered one of the Victorian novelists who contributed to great extent to bring women question into public through his literary works. In doing so, Hardy wrote many novels which amongst the two selected novels under investigation, in which women question are clearly raised in them. It’s through such literary works, Hardy could portrays the society’s discrepancies that existed in his era where he lived and witnessed all the social prejudices against women. Hence, his two selected novels “*The Return of the Native*” and “*Tess of the D’Urbervilles*” meant to explore women issue of the Victorian era, and to reflect on how far the their social status reached as part of respecting the other sex.

Chapter Four

Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendations

9.0 Introduction

Societies especially the male in everywhere in the world have a stereotype view on women social status and position. They believe based on the said stereotypical view that women as inferior to men, and that they are less in status and place within the society. Unfortunately, this negative outlook towards the women played a negative role in hindering women's development and progress, especially with respect to taking advantages in many social aspects such as the right to education, employment, and finally respect for their identities.

The purpose of this thesis was to explore the influence of the society on the individual as represented in women as considered the most vulnerable disadvantaged group in the societies where many social necessities are lost. In order to present how societies in the past played such negative role in undermine women roles and the effect they have on their development, an analysis methodology has been followed with respect to on one of the English period (The 19th Century Victoria), through focusing on literary works of Thomas Hardy as Victorian Novelists who reflected in his writings women issues, and who presented in his writings the most social discrepancies prevailed.

In achieving this goal, two Hardy's novel in relation to males' influences on the female have been studied, which were "The Return of the Native" and "Tess of the D'Urbervilles". In both Novels, Hardy portrayed women's sufferance,

endurance and victimization based on social prejudices and restrictions imposed upon them in the name of the so called “Ideals of womanhood”.

It's known that the best tool to reflect the social related issues during the past eras was through writing. Thus, Thomas Hardy as Victorian novelist managed to publicise to this readers the history's ills and the societal hindrances of woman kind. In doing so, Hardy focussed on females as subject matter in his characterisation, so as to present their dilemmas encountered. Women question was one of Hardy main concern during the Victoria era. In order for him to bring women question into the attention, he used his pen to portray to the readers what he witnessed and lived during the time.

For this reason many female characters of Hardy clearly represent and portray kind of the Victorian women suffered, nothing but because the society played a negative role in neglecting their identity and individualism as women, in which women lost many social advantages. Hardy in his presentation of women question, never failed to provide two women kind in his literary works. While he presented some submissive women to the social negative view, he also presented some women who walked up against the society's attitude, the result of which this latter contributed to the women association.

Therefore, in this thesis, both kinds of women, the submissive and the reluctant ones have been illustratively discussed to reflect the different expectation each kind had in response to the male attitude against them. In addition to, discussing how the negative perception of women status was undermined during the 19th Century Victoria with especial focus on two selected Thomas Hardy's novel “The Return of the Native” and “Tess of the d'Urbervilles” , as they clearly speak the women status in a society known to be prejudiced to the male.

9.1 Summary of the Research

Women are considered an important group in our society. Their importance can manifest itself in the way that every woman has her own role in the family which she plays to make the bond of the family concrete and coherent. What is known is that Women life is very unique and complicated compared to men in many aspects. A woman has to take care of her children and at times helps to make the family's needs met by working outside home.

However, women were and are still perceived to be lower in status than men in many ways, an attitude men always show to undermine them. While men and women are same in terms of mental potentiality, thus they were much overlooked and restricted in the name of social rules and "ideals of womanhood" that greatly contributed to their disability to discharge the best potential entrusted to them.

On the other hands, society which women are part of; played and still playing negative role in lowering a woman status below the man. The society from males in this respect, believes that women are supposed to be kept at home, and thus do minor works, such as cooking for their husbands and looking after the children. While it's true these responsibilities are of innate nature concerning women, the worse is the negative attitude towards women's advantage such as look of education for women based on the fact that their education is unimportant.

Therefore, the focus of this thesis was presenting the negative perception of women status in the 19th Century Victoria as an era in which women suffered due the male negative attitude and social rules that hindered women development in several social aspects. Upon selecting the 19th Century Victoria as the subject period, the researcher focussed on Thomas Hardy who was Victorian novelist himself and who through literary works presented the

negative attitude of the Victorian society on women status . In this respect, two of Hardy's novels in relation to the women question has been selected as part of this study. They are "the Return of the Native" and "Tess of the d'Urbervilles". The researcher in this respect, through analytical method, presented the negative social ills of the Victoria era towards women, and to reflect how societies had undermined women as identity, and how women looked today in the context of the suppression faced in the past eras.

This study also mirrored the current women question perceived everywhere, their social status, suppression, and subordination which seems almost unstopped in many societies that believed women's lower status in the fuller sense. In doing so, the researcher firstly illustrated the historical context and background about the Victorian Era, enhanced by the literature reviews in connection to the subject in question. In addition to, presented were the social institution negative roles played on women as other dilemma such as the concept of marriage, the role of religion, and the patriarchal system and laws in shaping and enforcing those negative roles.

To illustrate how women were treated by men during the time, a light was shed on the sarcastic attitudes on women's role such women were "Angle in the houses as well as "The Household Generals", explaining the hidden meaning of terms. In addition to, illustrating women isolation as part of rejecting being equalized to men, where separate spheres are created differentiate men and women domain.

Moreover, a detailed description of how women were treated and suppressed are incorporated, which made a toy out of women as individuals. Having in details explaining all these, this thesis also described how Victorian women responded to ill-treatment as well as harassment faced during their contribution in literature career which Victoria society believed as men domain. In order to illustrate how women were treated in Victorian era, characters such as ThomasinYeobright

and Eustacia Vye in novel “the Return of the Native” and Tess in the novel “Tess of the D’Urbervilles” have been analysed in order to reflect what situation they had passed by considering the society’s negative view on women status as a whole.

Finally, in order to link the past with the present, this thesis illustrated the historical impact of the women’s ill-treatment of the Victoria which has had its aftermaths, as women never kept silence of the suppression faced whether of the previous eras or of the current, which became and termed “Women question” in the context of gender related matter.

9.2 Conclusion

Having studied and analysed the two novels ,hardy in both novels had clearly reflected the most social related issue the Victoria Era concerned represented in the ill-treatment women a category faced during 19th Century Victoria. This means that the current women question of gender of the contemporary is rooted from the past and not considered something new as it seems.

In every society and every community, women as part of it have being going through difficult men mentality with respect to their status as individuals. And that the society from the male side often have negative attitude towards the women social status; which this attitude exacerbated women’s situation compared to men. Based on this, men wants women isolated and outlasted form many social rights which they believe the idea are ruined if women allowed to be equal to men.

Therefore, reflecting the history is considered one of the best way people now their present as well as their future. Accordingly, this thesis was an important study of the societal ills that existed in the 19th Century Victoria which could consider as reflection of other Eras concerned with the same issue in hand. And in order to illuminate and erase the negative aspects of societies, social issues of such kind would help solve many social related issues, especially of the vulnerable groups such as women and children as they are the most disadvantaged category worldwide.

As women, children and aged are the most vulnerable group neglected and ill-treated; the focus of these groups was always place of attention even with international organizations. The man-made misbehaviours has always raised alarm to the communities of the need of erasing and illuminating all sort of ill-natures of the man and to protect the said group of being subject tragic fates. As the case with women issue, studying what they passed by in the previous eras and evaluate with the current, reflect to what extent people have reached with respect to the changing behaviours. It's for these reasons; the contemporary societies left no stone unturned to correct the negative behaviours of the man, as the case with women's situation.

Because women status and importance are perceived to be less important by many societies, such negligence had and still having bad effects in advantaging many social rights, such as the right to education and employment ; to name just few. It is because of these social imbalances between men and women, certain institutions and organisations adopted advocacy programmes such as "Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women" abbreviated (CEDAW) so that to illuminate the ills existed. However, despite all these interactions, women status is still a place of concern in many societies where they are perceived to be just less important.

And therefore, women question was a concern even to the pervious Eras, the 19th Century Victoria included. Because women's sufferance was a fact in Victorian times, Thomas Hardy, as one of the Victorian writers concerned in his literary works with these social misbehaviors prevailed ,which is still going on in in most parts of the societies. Hardy's novels "The Return of the Native" and Tess of the D'Urbervilles soundly spoken about the Victorian women sufferance as well as how they are represented that reflected the past.

However, despite great efforts are being taken by many social groups both national and international level to protect women from being suppressed, more strict efforts are needed to encourage the least developed societies to make them aware of the consequences of suppressed women, especially the violence against them and their discrimination based on gender perspective. Thus, making concrete steps will aid and illuminate the negative attitude of males and boster a positive well- being that bring a well-constructed families with less sufferance and healthy family members.

9.3 Recommendations

Having focused and studied one of the social related issues, and in order to contribute in correcting the human ill-behaviours and social discrepancies, and in order for the societies to benefit the outcome, the researcher came up with the following recommendations so that to help build a constructive, healthy and productive community that is free of the negative attitude on women status. Therefore, the researcher meant to study the society's relations among themselves, and how they interacted in the context of the inevitable presence of odd societies who disrespect the most weakened group of the communities

represented in Women. Therefore, the points below are of the researcher's recommendations:

1. There is strong need of focusing on literary works that speaks and addresses social related matters which could benefit the whole societies. Considering that history is the best informative of the present, studying social related matters of the past would better tell of the present as they are linked together. Therefore, students are encouraged to focus in correcting societies through highlighting the wrong behaviors and how that affects the human kind.
2. As literature was the best way of describing and portraying the human-ills prevailed, especially with respect to society, those interested in literature in general and student majoring it in particular should concentrate in literature especially with relation to the social works that written by many English writers. This because by studying social related topic, the researcher would benefit the community indirectly through thematic message that enrich readers and encourage the common to interpret the good message incorporated practically.
3. Those interested in Literature and students taking it as a major are required to pursue and research on social related failures, especially with respect to the most vulnerable group of the societies such as children and ages. While women are considered one of the most disadvantaged group in societies, the two (children and aged) are also worth to be researched on, as there are many literary works that present their concern.

9.4 Suggestions for Further Studies:-

This research studies one of the social related question represented in 19th Century Victoria as a historical context that shape the current debatable social related dilemmas of the contemporary age societies much concerned about worldwide . As women are both disadvantaged and still lacking social rights in the past and nowadays, further studies need to be sought for researching in as far as concern to what extend changes have been made owing to the ongoing social interaction and attention brought by the women themselves in erasing and illuminating all forms of discrimination against them, as the research in hand has analyzed all aspects labeled as negative in respect to women's individualism.

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