



# Traumatic Experiences: An analytical study of Oliver Twist or the Parish Boy's Progress by Charles Dickens and Coolie by Mulk Raj Anand

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**Abstract:-** A traumatic event is a horrible, hazardous, or brutal event that poses a warning to a child's life or physically integrity. Witnessing a traumatic event that endangers life or physical safety of a loved one can also be traumatic. This is extremely significant for adolescent as their feeling of security relies on the perceived protection of their attachment pictures. Traumatic experiences can provoke powerful feelings and bodily responses that can remain long after the event. Children may realize anxiety, helplessness, or uncertainty, as well as physiological responses such as heart ache, spitting up, or loss of bowel or bladder control. Children who encounter a incapacity to insure themselves or who required security from others to resist the outcomes of the traumatic experience may also feel devastated by the emphasis of physical and sensitive reactions. Although parents work hard to protect children secure , destructive incidents however occur. This threat can come from exterior of the family for example a normal accident, vehicle accident, or community violence or from within in the home, such as family turmoil, physical or sexual assault, or the sudden loss of a loved one. This research paper aims to analyse the protagonists of the novels Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens and Coolie by Mulkraj Anand from the perspective of Childhood Trauma.

**Keywords:-** Child Labour, Trauma, Psychological condition, The Poor Law (Amendment) Act of 1834

**Introduction:- "Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it. It enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and provides; and in this respect, it irrigates the deserts that our lives have already become."(C.S.Lewis)**

As C.S.Lewis describes that the main objective of writing of a book can enable us untangle and recognize the reality we live in. Our modern experience is complicated, and often can be confusing to us. Books express the inexplicable complications modern humans face; literature books illustrate the difficult options that society must make or the several ways of loss they encounter in their lives. The prominent writers Charles Dickens and Mulkraj Anand accurately follow this concept in their writings. Their book's aim was to reform and improve the situation of the society. Childhood Trauma or Traumatic Events is also one of the most severe and drastic problem of the society. Both of them present this issue in their writings through the characters.

If we talk about the Charles Dickens's writings he wrote many book such as The Pickwick Papers, Nicholas Nickle, A Christmas Carol, David Copperfield, Bleak House, Little Dorrit, A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations but Oliver Twist is his magnum opus. His main objectives for writing Oliver Twist were to raise awareness about the conditions that some children had to live in. By creating the character of Oliver, Dickens presented the real situation of his contemporary society. Oliver Twist, or the Parish Boy's Progress, Charles Dickens's second novel. It was published as a serial from 1837 to 1839, and as a three-volume book in 1838. It is a social novel. Dickens satirizes child Labour, domestic violence, the recruitment of children as thieves, and the attitude of street teenagers. The book may have been motivated by the story of Robert Blincoe, an orphan whose description of laboring as a child laborer in a cotton mill was widely examine in the 1830s. It is likely that Dickens's own experiences as a youth provided as adequately. In Oliver Twist ,Dickens provides the reader a really miserable illustration of childhood. Children are routinely exploited, harmed, and compelled to survive in horrible circumstances by those presumed to practice a responsibility of supervision toward them.

The psychological aspect of an abused adolescence in Oliver Twist is an extremely significant characteristic of the story. A recurring element in Oliver's vicious childhood is bullying. Whether it's by Mr. Bumble, Noah

Claypole, the undertaker's beginner, or the evil culprit Bill Sikes, Oliver is subjected to bullying by a number of adults in the book.

**'Please, sir, I want some more.'**

**The master was a fat, healthy man; but he returned very pale.**

**'What!' said the master at length, in a faint voice.**

**'Please, sir,' replied Oliver, 'I want some more.'**

**The mater aimed a blow at Oliver's head with the ladle; pinioned him in his arms; and shrieked aloud for the beadle.**

**The board was sitting in solemn conclave, when Mr. Bumble rushed into the room in great excitement, and addressing the gentleman in the high chair, said, 'Mr. Limbkins, I beg your pardon, sir! Oliver Twist has asked me for some more!'**

**There was a general start. Horror was depicted on every countenance.**

**'For more!' said Mr. Limbkins. 'Compose yourself, Bumble, and answer me distinctly. Do I understand that he asked for more, after he had eaten the supper allotted by the dietary?' 'He did, sir, replied Bumble.**

**'That boy will be hung,' said the gentleman in the white waistcoat. 'I know that boy will be hung.'**

**(Dickens, 1838: 15)**

All of this bullying harms Oliver psychologically, giving rise to him badly nervous, withdrawn, and lacking in dignity. As the child hero of a melodramatic book of social revolt, Oliver Twist is implied to dispute more to our emotions than to our academic realities. On several phases, Oliver is not a reasonable personality, because although he is brought up in criminal environment his innocence and morality are absolute. Everyplace in the book, writer employs Oliver's personality to question the Victorian belief that paupers and delinquents are already terrible at birth, asserting rather that a criminal setting is the reference of offense. At the similar time, Oliver's incorruptibility weakens some of Dickens's statements. Oliver is surprised and stunned when he watches the Artful Dodger and Charley Bates snatch an outsider's pocket and also when he is compelled to join in a burglary. Oliver's ethical qualms about the sanctity of estate appear inborn in him,

just as Dickens's adversaries believed that corruption is inborn in poor people. Similarly, other pauper children use tough Cockney slang, but Oliver, oddly enough, speaks in proper King's English. His grammatical fastidiousness is also unaccountable, as Oliver probably is not well-educated. Even when he is abused and manipulated, Oliver does not come to be furious or irate. When Sikes and Crackit compel him to promote in a robbery, Oliver barely implores to be enabled to "run away and disappear in the fields." Oliver does not present a complicated image of an individual torn between good and evil—instead, he is goodness incarnate. Because of Oliver

Twist's deficiency, the outcomes are attained. Because of his unfamiliar parentage and slavery, Oliver Twist comes to be an innocent child who is ignorant that he is being abused by the councils. He also becomes a revolutionary boy after his mother is improperly embarrassed, and ultimately he comes to be a heroic boy after all of the inadequate emotions he has encountered, he is put up with a new possibility that his life has only just begun. His newfound ambition to begin a family materializes.

Similar theme presented in the novel *Coolie* by Mulk Raj Anand. It was first published in 1936. The book strengthened Anand's status as one of India's leading English writers. The book is extremely significant of British rule in India and India's caste system. The story revolves around a 14-year-old boy, *Munoo*, and his difficulty due to deprivation and exploitation assisted by the civil and political hierarchies in area. Anand here strives to smash the conventional way of life. Munoohero of the novel becomes orphan at the age of fourteen. His father had committed a suicide as he was not able to compensate the deficit of the landlords. After someday he lost his mother also. Now Munoo settles with his uncle and aunt. They expect that currently Munoo have to earn money. His aunt always admonishes him and insults him. He frightened from his aunt extremely. His aunt always yells at him. One day he urges food and is beaten by his uncle. He cries:

**“oh, don't beat me, please don't beat me, uncle. I only want food.”(216)**

Here we can find a similarity between Oliver and Munoo. Both are striving for food and love and they're physiologically harassed by their own families and society. In his childhood Munoo suffers very much when he has to labor as a housekeeper in Babu Nathoo Ram's bungalow. Bibi Uttam Kaur often abuses him. She

abuses him every time and misbehaves with Munoo. Munoo learns that even upper caste class people if they have no wealth have to slave for their residence. In the next stage of his life Munoo is in Daulatpur. Prabha Dayal, the possessor of the pickle factory and his wife are polite to him. But Prabha Dayal's collaborator Ganpat's behaviour is extremely bad towards Munoo.

**“It was a dark and evil life. Munoo rose early at dawn before he had his full sleep out, having gone to bed long before mid-night”. (230)**

Ganpat cheats his partner and the pickle factory is sold out. As a result Munoo has to work as a Coolie - first in the Grain Market and then in the Vegetable Market. In the Grain Market there is tough competition between the starving coolies. Munoo suffers very much here. In the Vegetable Market Munoo is given money very short earnings and there is a tough competitor of hungry coolies. In the next phase of novel we see the he worked at a railway station, in a cotton mill and rickshaw puller also. The miserable Munoo have to work hard, to pull rickshaw uphill for long hours till his stamina is fallen and he begins to cough and blood. At last he died in the arms of his friend Mohan. He suffered throughout his life.

### **Conclusion:-**

To conclude we can say that Oliver and Munoo were treated very bad in their lives. Their life experiences were no so good and we can get the true picture of the society through their life events. They are psychologically shattered and devastated. Their childhood traumatic events torture them throughout their lives.

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