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Social Inequality on Women in Khaled Hosseini's "A Thousand Splendid Suns" Novel

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ABSTRACT

The research aims to explain the causes of social inequality on women, the effects of social inequality on women, and the types of social inequality on women in Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The analysis uses literary theory sociology. The primary data used is a novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. This research uses qualitative descriptive research. Descriptive research involves collecting novels and answering questions about the complications consistent with the problem statement. As a result, internal causes that occur in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* are low education and gender inequality. The external cause is due to the patriarchal system. Then, the positive effect of social inequality on Mariam is that she can be patient and tough. At the same time, the negative effect is that she often gets violence and oppression. Laila's positive effect is that she becomes a brave woman who does not give up easily. The negative effect is that Laila often experiences violence and oppression. The social type of inequality in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is the Existential type, meaning the unequal recognition of the human individual as a person. The findings from this analysis can help us understand more about the patriarchal system and make Laila a woman who is even more courageous in voicing rights related to gender equality, especially women's rights.

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1. Introduction

There are so many social inequalities that can occur in society. Social inequality is a social problem due to an imbalance in people's lives. Social inequality can also happen in terms of income, education, employment, or parental leave. At the same time, examples of violence include feticide (female genocide), rape (war rape), honor killings,

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sexism, female genital mutilation, common abortion, human trafficking, and sexual bleeding. These are categorically cruel crimes at the time that they can lead to societal imbalances. According to Kerbo (2003), social inequality is a condition in which a person has unequal or commensurate access to valuable resources, services, and social positions; it is also a form of gender inequality.

Gender inequality is a form of unequal treatment based on gender specificity (Blackburn, 2008). one of them in terms of restrictions. Injustice within the scope of society, especially women, and favoritism regarding lists that lead to violations of human rights and matters of access regarding discrimination between men and women. Women and fundamental rights consist of the social, political, economic, cultural, and educational fields (Widanti, 2023). Oppression of women also includes the problem of social inequality, namely, women still often get unfair treatment from society, especially men. Additionally, there is a perception that women's power is still below men's in various aspects such as politics, education, work environment, etc. This view permeates into an element of culture, where society still believes in the sole control of men in many fields, resulting in unequal access and opportunities for women to advance in these fields. Gender inequality can manifest itself in various forms of injustice: the process of economic poverty, the perception of subordination or political irrelevance, and the portrayal of people resulting from stereotypes or misunderstandings. The latter is the predominant form of violence experienced by women, because patriarchy still exists (Fakih 2001, p. 12). Many women are in unfortunate situations, for example, Afghanistan women situation. The social inequality that occurs among women in Afghanistan is very concerning. Many women there do not get the right to education or even the Freedom for them to do activities outside the home. At that time, women were often the target of various forms of gender-based violence (UN Women, 2021).

In this research, researchers are focusing on examining the literary work written by Khaled Hosseini. This novel tells the story of a child named Mariam as the main character. Mariam is a girl who has a sad story. Her mother is a servant from a wealthy and respected family in the area. One day, Mariam's mother, Nana, was harassed at work by Jalil, an employer of Nana's mother. After nine months, Nana gave birth to a beautiful daughter named Mariam. Nana gave birth to Mariam alone. Mariam grew into a friendly and kind little girl. One day, Mariam found out that he was an illegitimate child and the son of Jalil's biological father.

Mariam and her mother live in a small and simple hut. Every day, if Mariam wants to meet Jalil, Mariam must wait in front of his house because Mariam is not allowed to live in the same house by his father. Mariam's mother every day always talks about her father's ugliness to Mariam so Mariam that Jalil's father is not as good as Mariam thinks. Until one day, a problem arose. Jalil has not visited Mariam for several days, so Mariam feels sad and curious about visiting Jalil's father. Mariam asked her mother for permission to visit her father, but her mother did not allow it and threatened to kill herself if Mariam was determined to go. At that time, Mariam became worried about her mother's words.

On the other hand, Mariam could not stand her longing for her father. Without realizing it, Mariam decided to continue to insist on seeing her father. He left quietly. When she arrived at his father's house, Mariam could not meet her father because her father was on duty out of town. Finally, the following day, Mariam came home to meet her mother, but she saw her mother had hanged herself on the tree. Mariam feels sad and feels guilty for disobeying her mother. Finally, her father came when he discovered that Mariam's mother had hanged herself. Then Jalil invites Mariam to live with him and with another wife. Mariam is still feeling sad every day.

Mariam just lay in bed in her room, lamenting the departure of her mother. Until one day, Jalil called Mariam to come downstairs and wanted to talk to Mariam about something. How shocked Mariam was when she heard Jalil say that she was going to be set up with a widowed man who owned a shoe shop. At that time, Mariam was very angry with Jalil because Mariam felt that at the age of 15, Mariam was required to get married. One day, Mariam obeyed Jalil's father's words, but Mariam immediately said that she would no longer want to meet Jalil. After a few months, Mariam was abused by her husband. Mariam is in pain every day. She gets physically and verbally abused.

Based on the explanation above, this current study aims to analyze the causes of social inequality in the novel *Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini and also to find the effect of social inequality and the types of social inequality in the novel *Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

2. Theoretical Framework

Social inequality can occur on the basis of several things, such as gender, race, and economic ability. The differentiation in society also marks a superior group over another group, which leads to social classes as a hierarchy. In Marxist theory, social stratification (social inequality) is created because of differences in ability starting from the economic side of society and still having something to do with the means or factors of production. In society, there are two classes. Those who own some of the factors or means of production, and those who sell the work they do, that is, their labor in the production chain, to those who own the means of production of their labor, are both called the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. However, the concept of social hierarchy serves as one of the central concepts of sociology. From the term hierarchy, we can see that social inequality leads to the ranking of a person or a group in a society (Anurin, 1995). However, social inequalities can emerge during this period, as different classes of society give unequal status and income to the lowest strata.

Hiraide (2018) states, "Social inequality leads to unequal distribution of resources and some leads to differences in power, wealth, income and opportunity (e.g., in relation to health, education, and employment)." However, Crossman's definition of social inequality is more applicable to sociology research in which he asserts that "Social inequality stems from a society that has been organized based on class, race, and gender hierarchies. These people gain access to resources and acquire rights that are unequally distributed. It can happen in various ways, including income and wealth

inequality, then unequal access in terms of educational and cultural resources, and finally, namely discriminatory treatment by government officials such as the police and courts. Social inequality is very closely related to social stratification. Thus, this research still attempts to comprehend the idea or concept of social inequality through the theory of Sociological.

Then, Hiraide (2018) divided social inequality based on gender, ethnicity, and age. Feminists propose social inequality based on gender. It is a kind of feminist approach to seeing gender inequality in the middle of a patriarchal society. Gender-based on social inequality is an opinion that feminists, especially women, believe that the system of government that exists in society is still patriarchal, where men have more rights and power within the family, politics, and the workplace and are generally less dependent on things like wealth and status. They received a bigger share of fortune than girls. Inequality based on Ethnicity is a form of inequality based on ethnic group; it is certainly related to the case of racism. Where Afghans, especially women, get unfair treatment and seem to be only enslaved by men during the patriarchal government. The last is inequality based on age. This kind of inequality stresses the term Response to age (prejudice/discrimination based on age) and the phenomenon of child labor (Hiraide, 2018).

a. Causes of social inequality

In social inequality, there are two causes: external causes and internal causes. External causes are caused by cultural, manufactured factors such as unfair economic policies, corruption and collusion, and world economic order that is biased towards group benefits certain communities (Baswir, 1997). Low levels of education, stupidity, and apathy of people with low incomes towards all government policies cause internal causes. Besides that, because of age, social class, and gender, there are still frequent differences in justice between men and women (Munawir, 2016).

b. Effects of Social Inequality

The impact of social inequality can be in many dimensions, including the economy, education, health, and attributes of people's daily needs, such as food, fashion, and households. Is there an influence of the inequality index itself due to the fusion of her three social classes in society? Whether or not the lowest class is the worst has a different impact on each class (see d'Hombres et al., 2012; Kraus et al., 2017). The economics aspect illustrates where money is indeed an important determinant of social class, because of its role in providing an overview of one's family background and way of life. Money is, therefore, the factor that determines social class into sources and types of income, and indicates his family background and possible life paths. Besides the economic aspect, another major aspect of social class is work. Certain work environments and experiences are important measures of social class, as many other aspects of life are related to work. In life, the impact of social inequality on aspects of work plays an important role as it affects a person's livelihood economy. In other

words, all kinds of work are part of a different way of life than other kinds of work. Jobs can thus provide direction or information for determining a person's social class. Another aspect that determines a person's social class is education.

As Machin and Vignoles (2004) pointed out, parental income and social class are major factors when it comes to cognitive development, which is very important. The second is that seen from the type and level of education also affect the level of social class because when someone has a high level of education, the higher the costs and motivation they have to spend. Gaps in education can also affect human development. Social inequality in the world of education is usually caused by a low level of education where a person only gets a low level of education or is only limited to standard knowledge that can affect a person's way of thinking. People with low education will tend to be lazy, pessimistic or give up easily, and will also take actions that can harm many people. So, it ultimately affects the economy and jobs.

c. Types of Social Inequality

There are three types of social inequality, the first is vital Social Inequalities. The above type of disparity is not limited to a purely biological dimension, as the concept of vitality includes social, economic, and even cultural factors that vary depending on the geographical sense and also the degree of human development that is distributed equally within and between nations and regions (Costa, 2018). The second is asset social inequalities, which refer to unequal resource distribution (social, economic, and cultural). They specifically include income and wealth disparities, education and professional qualifications, cognitive and social skills, organizational hierarchies, as well as accessibility to social channels (Costa, 2018). The third is existential social inequalities. In this case, inequalities are caused by oppressions and restrictions on individual and collaborative freedom, forms of discrimination, stigmatization, and humiliation, as exemplified by occurrences such as patriarchy, slavery, or racism (see also Fuchs, 2017).

d. Theory of Sociological

In fact, materialist sociologists of literature, as well as abstract idealists who claim this same utter and total autonomy of artistic and textual creation, are incapable of comprehending and defining an occurrence such as superficial literature. Idealists ignore the complicated relationship between poetic creation and social reality, and they approach esoteric and perfect literary works in a manner in which they achieve the absolute soul while moving away from social reality. People deny any connection between literary works and historical and social phenomena. The sociology of literary works is an essential component of books, literary works, and reading, all of which are evaluated and researched in the fields of book sociology, literary creation sociology, and reading sociology (see Ahmadi, 2021; Goldmann, 1992).

3. Method

This research focuses on women's social inequalities in Khaled Hosseini's novel "A Thousand Splendid Suns." This research uses qualitative descriptive research. Qualitative research is a means of inspecting and understanding the definition of specific individuals or groups in social or human affairs. Descriptive methods are also used to analyze educational programs. Descriptive research involves collecting novels and answering questions about the complications consistent in the problem statement (Gay et al., 2012; Zaim, 2014).

This study uses an extrinsic approach in analyzing women's social inequalities in A Thousand Splendid Suns novel. The extrinsic approach is "a category of approach that focuses analysis on aspects other than the literary work, such as sociology, psychology, also history" (Wellek & Warren, 1977). In literary sociology, sociology is essentially the experimental and objective study of community in society, the study of social institutions and social case. It analyzes according to what associations are possible, how they function, and why. It seeks to answer the question of whether it will survive (Swingewood, 1987).

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 The Causes of Social Inequality on Women in A Thousand Splendid Suns

A. Internal causes of social inequality in Mariam Thousand Splendid Suns

Mariam is a little girl who has a sad life. She experiences injustice that she encounters. Mariam gets unfair treatment around her. At that time, Mariam lives with her mother, who is only a maid. Mariam also experiences violence in the form of words that do not please her for the first time. For the first time, at the age of five, Mariam receives the nickname of the illegitimate child from the residents. Not without reason, this is because she is the result of an unlawful relationship. Mariam begins to experience injustice in the form of social inequality that she encounters. The first cause of social inequality experienced by Maryam is when she is born into an illegitimate relationship and becomes an illegitimate child.

She understood then what Nana meant, that a harami was an unwanted thing; that she, Mariam, was an illegitimate person who would never have legitimate claim to the things other people had, things such as love, family, home, acceptance (Hosseini, 2007).

The quote above describes the figure of Mariam, who tries to understand how she experiences unfair things in her life. Mariam also tries to understand or digest the words her mother always throws up about the phrase haram, which she thinks has a wrong meaning.

Furthermore, Mariam experiences social inequality due to the age factor. At that time, men treat women as they please. It proved in Rasheed's treatment of Laila, who orders him around when Rasheed has a second wife. Rasheed treats Mariam like a maid who can be called upon at any time. She insults Mariam to his heart's content just because Mariam looks old and not pretty to Rasheed anymore, as explained in the quotation below.

She's too young, you're too old. This is nonsense." "I am too old. Too old for you to do this to me, "Mariam said, balling up fistfuls of her dress so tightly her hands shook. "For you, after all these years, to make me an ambagh (Hosseini, 2007, p. 186).

Third, Mariam experiences social inequality because she does not have adequate knowledge. Since childhood, she does not get a proper education like another woman. When she heard the news of war and political issues on the radio, she was confused about what the word meant. Finally, Rasheed explains to her the meaning of the news. However, her husband's explanation still makes her confused. Not long after, Rasheed's words seem to insult her a little and make her not dare to go on her husband because of her lack of knowledge, as explained in the quotation below.

Rasheed chortled and shook his head, but Mariam thought she saw uncertainty in the way he crossed his arms, the way his eyes shifted. "You know nothing, do you? You're like a child. Your brain is empty. There is no information in it (Hosseini, 2007, p. 88).

B. Internal causes of social inequality in Laila Thousand Splendid Suns

Laila is a little girl who is nine years old. She is the son of a father who works as a teacher in Kabul. Every day, he goes to school with his father named, Babi. She has two older brothers. Her life is different from Mariam's. She still has a complete family and parents who love her, including her father. However, her life is also sad. She receives unfair treatment from her mother. Her mother loves her two older brothers more than her. Every day, she is only ordered by her mother to cook, wash, and clean the house; sometimes, she is not even allowed to leave the house by her mother to play for a while. Unlike her older brother, her mother often praises her brother in front of her, which makes her heart very sad, as shown in the quote below.

Laila had to shoulder more of the chores. If she didn't tend to the house, she was apt to find clothes, shoes, open rice bags, cans of beans, and dirty dishes strewn about everywhere. Laila washed Mammy's dressed and changed her sheets (Hosseini, 2007, p. 124).

From the quote above, one can see the form of injustice experienced by Laila, where she is always seen as weaker by her mother than her two older brothers, whom her mother loves. In this case, the form of social inequality can also be seen in Laila's family environment.

C. External causes of social inequality in Mariam Thousand Splendid Suns

Then, the external factors cause social inequality, namely when he is a teenager. Eventually, she marries and lives with Rasheed in Rasheed's house in a different city from his father, Jalil. In the early days of her marriage, He receives perfect treatment and even seems romantic to her husband. Finally, she gets pregnant. While she is pregnant, her husband loves her more and more every day. Rasheed hopes for a son.

Nevertheless, unfortunately, after a few months of her pregnancy, she miscarriages, and because of this, she starts to experience bad things, namely bullying and violence from her husband, Rasheed. Almost every day, she gets physically abused by her

husband. Just because of a small thing, she gets beat by her husband.

Mariam was afraid she lived in fear of his shifting moods, his volatile temperament, his insistence on steering even mundane exchanges down a confrontational path that, on occasion, he would resolve with punches, slaps, kicks, and sometimes try to make amends for with polluted apologies and sometimes not (Hosseini, 2007, p. 88).

In this case, it is also why women often even get unfair treatment from men because, at that time, the form of government still adhered to a patriarchal system—being under patriarchal leadership, which causes men to get the full right to treat women, including their wives. Many men still consider women as objects to satisfy their lust.

D. External causes of social inequality in Laila Thousand Splendid Suns

The external cause of social inequality in Laila is when Laila marries Rasheed, Mariam's husband. Laila marries Rasheed. After all, she has to do this because her mother and father died because of the war that hit Kabul. So, there is no other choice but to marry Rasheed, the person who helps Laila when a war bomb hits Laila. In this case, Laila also receives threats that if she does not want to marry Rasheed, Laila has to leave her house and allow her to be raped by other men and could even be killed by men on the street that were waging war, as explained in the quotation below.

There is another option, "he said, scratching the sole of one foot with the calloused heel of the other. "She can leave. I won't stand in her way. But I suspect she won't get far. No food, no water, not rupiah pockets, bullets and rockets flying everywhere (Hosseini, 2007:186).

After Laila and Rasheed get married, the atmosphere at home is very different. Rasheed Mariam's first wife was destitute. She is treated differently by Rasheed. Mariam talks to serve Laila all the time for no reason because Laila is still young and could give birth to Rasheed. After a few months, Laila became pregnant. Rasheed is pleased to hear the news of Laila's pregnancy. Rasheed also hopes that Laila bears the boy he has wanted for a long time. However, Rasheed's treatment of Laila is very possessive. Laila is not allowed to leave the house alone and is only allowed to go out when Rasheed drops her off. In this case, Rasheed also looks like he is controlling Laila's life too much. Rasheed thinks that he is the one who has the right over everything to manage his wife, Mariam and Laila.

I ask that you avoid leaving this house without my company. That's all. Simple, no? If I am away and you need something urgently, I mean absolutely need it and it cannot wait for me, then you can send Mariam and she will go out and get it for you (Hosseini, 2007, p. 194).

4.2 The Effect of Social Inequality on Women in A Thousand Splendid Suns

a) The Negative Effect of Social Inequality in Mariam

The impact of social inequality in Mariam's life is that she does not enjoy life in general; when she is a teenager, she has to live in poverty. She lives in a small hut and has only a few shabby clothes. Even though her father is an influential and wealthy man

in the city, she has never felt genuine affection from his father. Even when she lives with her father, she feels tremendous pressure, starting from not seeing her teacher, who taught him the magazine daily so he could be bright. Then she dislikes and is even bullied by his father's other children and wives because it is inappropriate to live there. Because they think she is an illegitimate child or a child who is dirty and has no self-esteem. She also needs a proper education like his father's other children, who could attend well-known universities. Because of this, she decides to live with his recitation teacher, Mullah Faizullah, but other family members do not allow it, as explained in the quote below.

He's so old and weak," Khadija eventually said. "And what will you do when he's gone? You'd be a burden to his family (Hosseini, 2007, p. 47).

The second impact of social inequality experienced by Mariam is that after she marries, her life becomes immensely complicated. Moreover, at that time, she lives in the city of Kabul, which is the worst city during the war. This city has a stringent government. She then follows her husband to live in Kabul and feels a striking difference. Kabul and its surroundings at that time adhered to a rigorous patriarchal system, starting with women does not allow leaving the house. Then, women must be required to be able to take care of the household, and women cannot talk to other men or even see the law. If anyone finds out, then the woman will be severely punished. The same goes for him, too. Every day, she has to prepare for Rasheed's needs, from going to work until he comes home. She has to serve Rasheed. She is just a maid. The impact of social inequality in the form of gender inequality must continue to be experienced. At night when Rasheed wants to vent his lust, Rasheed would fuck her roughly like a private prostitute of her husband and has no pride. Indirectly, her life is in Rasheed's hands ultimately. All she can do is surrender to her life as she feels she does not know what else to do but serve her abusive husband, as described in the quote below.

He ate, smoked, went to bed, sometimes came back in the middle of the night for a brief and, of late, quite rough session of coupling (Hosseini, 2007, p. 84).

In addition, Mariam is a powerful figure in the face of bad treatment from her husband. Even though she experienced oppression in her household, she survived and served her husband well. She always speaks in a gentle tone toward her husband. Even Mariam always tries to do her best so that her husband, Rasheed, will not abuse her so cruelly, as described in the quotation below.

His powerful hands clasped her jaw. He shoved two fingers into her mouth and pried it open, then forced the cold, hard pebbles into it. Mariam struggled on him, mumbling, but he kept pushing the pebbles in, his upper lip curled in a sneer (Hosseini, 2007, p. 84).

b) The Negative Effect of Social Inequality in Laila

Laila is a woman who is brave and more intelligent than other women at that time. However, most men still consider her weak because she is a woman. At that time, she comes home from school with her friends. When in the middle, she found herself seduced by men. Some men even insult her by saying she is a prostitute. She runs away,

and after arriving at her house, she meets Mammy, Laila's mother. Again and again, she has to get Mammy's less-wearing words. Every day, her mother always makes her two older brothers proud. After all, her two sons were fighting to uphold the justice of her country from the Soviet Union. She realizes that she is only a woman whose only job is to cook, wash, and clean the house, and even women do not get higher education than men at that time. However, as time goes by, she becomes used to being mistreated by her mother. She still obeys and respects her parents, as proved in the following quotation.

The walls of Mammy's room were covered with pictures of Ahmad and Noor. Everywhere Laila looked, two strangers smiled back. Here was Noor mounting a tricycle. Here was Ahmad doing his prayers, posing beside a Sundial Babi and he had built when he was twelve (Hosseini, 2007, p. 107).

The second impact of social inequality felt by Laila is about the freedom of her life. The point is that Laila lives her life under government regulations that make it difficult for women. Since her marriage to Rasheed, Laila has mostly stayed at home. Since then, Laila's life has been entirely control by her husband, Rasheed. It starts with her daily activities. Her husband arranges even her pregnancy. Every day Laila's activities after becoming a wife and a mother, she has to serve her husband and only care for her child. He does not allow out just for a walk. If she goes out, Laila has to wear a veil, and no part of her face sees except for her eyes. However, Laila does not remain silent about her husband's actions, especially since Laila often sees Mariam being tortures by Rasheed.

Every week, since Aziza's birth, she pried his wallet open when he was asleep or in the outhouse and took a single bill. Some weeks, if the wallet was light, she took only a five-Afghani bill or nothing at all, for fear that he would notice. When the wallet was plump, she helped herself to a ten or a twenty, once even risking two twenties. She hid the money in a pouch she'd sewn in the lining of her checkered winter coat (Hosseini, 2007:107).

The quote above explains that Laila is trying to rebel against her husband because she wants to experience a life in peace and without torture. On the other hand, he wants to show that he can also fight to get a better life.

4.3 The Types of Social Inequality on Women in A Thousand Splendid Suns

The existential type in question is a form of violence that occurs because of a patriarchal culture in political life where this culture is still very detrimental to many women, starting from matters of education, health, and even relating to women's lives, which men fully control.

A patriarchal culture is one in which men attend a higher position than women. In this culture, there are considerable differences current the efforts and roles of women and men in social life, especially in the family. Patriarchal ability aspect differences in behavior, condition, and authority between men and women in society against bearing directed toward bearing, which chain reaction chic gender inequality, accept board a certain add every administration of economic resources and every common division of

labor within the family. In conclusion, women have less access to the public sector than the armed forces.

a) Mujahedeen government politics a thousand splendid suns

The system of government experienced by Mariam starts with the mujahidin government system, where, at that time, men had to carry out jihad and were allowed to have more than one wife. In this government system, Mariam and Laila's life experiences become painful. At that time, Mariam is in her teens, has to be married, and cannot get a proper education. In this government, many men treat women as they please. At that time, Mariam is walking and then sees a group of mothers who are outside, and they are talking about their respective husbands. Many of them complain that their husbands are rude and irresponsible to them. Many women experience distress due to the actions of their husbands. Mariam finally wonders why so many women suffer misfortune even after marriage and why so many women regret their choices, as described in the following quotation.

This endless conversation, the tone plaintive but oddly cheerful, flew around and around in a circle. One it went, down the street, around the corner, in line at the tandoor. Husbands who gambled. Husbands who doted on their mothers and wouldn't spend a rupiah on them, the wives (Hosseini, 2007:61).

b) Taliban government politics a thousand splendid suns

When the Taliban government, Mariam first heard from Rasheed. The Taliban is a guerrilla force consisting of Pashtun troops from families who fled Pakistan during the war between the Mujahedeen forces and the Soviet Union. Finally, after two years, the Taliban won and success in reclaiming the country of Afghanistan and are now the leaders of that country. The government adheres to the Sharia system, whose leader is a mysterious man with illiterate eyes. When the Taliban government, everything became complicated; many people on the street were killed and beheaded due to not obeying the rules given by the Taliban.

During the Taliban government, many regulations were detrimental to women, such as women not being allowed an education. Women do not allow leaving the house unless a man accompanies them, and women are not allowed to work even though they are widows. As a result, many women cannot support their children. Besides that, boys are kidnapped and forced to join the war and become members of the Taliban. The Taliban have killed many innocent Muslims. At that time, Mariam, Laila, and Rasheed listened to the new regulations by the Taliban government via Rasheed's radio. However, Rasheed's thoughts were very different from those of Laila and Mariam. Rasheed is proud of the leadership of the Taliban because, for him, it benefits him. Because he finally has total power over his wives. Day after day, the actions of the Taliban troops are inhumane. He continues to torture people who, in his opinion, did not do the right thing according to the sharia given by the Taliban.

Laila heard of men being dragged from the streets, accused of skipping namaz, and shoved into mosques. She learned that Marco Polo Restaurant, near Chicken

Street, had been turned into an interrogation center. Sometimes screaming was heard from behind its black-painted windows. Everywhere, the Beard patrol roamed the streets in Toyota trucks on the lookout for clean-shaven faces to bloody (Hosseini, 2007:246).

After how many years, things get worse; crime continues to increase, even the oppression of women is getting bigger. Until Mariam's act of killing her husband is an unforgivable act. Even though Mariam explains that her actions were solely used to protect Laila, this is not justified. Rasheed's actions by her husband have accursed all this time, a disgraceful act because he tortured his wives almost daily. The day when Mariam was given the death sentence Mariam, without worry, her life already felt lucky because she helped Laila escape from Kabul.

The following year, Laila lives and marries Tariq. He comes out of Kabul and lives in Pakistan. Her life is lovely and different from when she lived in Kabul. She often goes on holidays with her two children and Tariq. One day, Laila saw on television that troops from various countries, such as troops from America, China, and coalition forces, had successfully expelled the Taliban from Afghanistan. After listening to this, Laila felt very happy and grateful that Afghanistan was finally not colonized again. Eventually, he plans to return to his country of residence, namely Afghanistan, to be exact, in the city of Kabul. Finally, he starts his life again in Kabul, feeling sad and happy, as depicted in the following quotation.

Then one warm night in July 2002, she and Tariq are lying in bed talking in hushed voices about all the changes back home. There have been so many. The coalition forces have driven the Taliban out of every major city, pushed them across the border to Pakistan and to the mountains in the south and east of Afghanistan. ISAF, an international peacekeeping force, has been sent to Kabul. The country has an interim president now, Hamid Karzai (Hosseini, 2007:338).

5. Conclusion

Gender inequality can be seen in various ways, starting from the government system to the family system (see Afzali et al., 2020; García & Sánchez, 2017; Hosseini-nezhad et al., 2022; Jones, 2022; Moreno-Murcia et al., 2017; Moughalian & Täuber, 2020; Quisumbing et al., 2022). The social disparities experienced by Mariam occurred because of differences in status, the patriarchal culture adopted by her husband, and the government system that seemed to demean her and even made her live a painful life. Then, in this case, it is also explained how Mariam struggles to get justice for herself even though she ultimately has to die to fight the oppression she has experienced for years.

Laila is described as a brave woman, unlike Mariam, who often rebels and dares to fight the oppression she experiences. She often gets some unfair treatment from her mother, but Laila still receives an education from her father. Then, she also experienced social inequality in the form of oppression by her husband, Rasheed. Not only there, but Mariam also experienced and often received violence from the Taliban because she often rebelled. The findings from this analysis can help us understand more about the

patriarchal system and make Laila a woman who is even more courageous in voicing rights related to gender equality, especially women's rights.

The writer would advise readers to use the results of this study as an additional reference to analyze every article. Works and also to use feminist theory in reviewing this research. As for other things, the author also allows readers to compare this research with new research. The writer also hopes that further research can find out more about how the social inequality that occurs in the novel reflects a more significant phenomenon and makes the story historical.

Conflict of interest

The author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest.

Authors' contribution

Author made substantial contributions to the conception and design of the study. The authors took responsibility for data analysis, interpretation and discussion of results. The authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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