

Exploring Social Class Inequality in Daniyal Mueenuddin's 'In Other Rooms, Other Wonders'

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Abstract

This study aims to reveal the Social Inequality issue experienced by the lower class characters in Daniyal Mueenuddin's In Other Rooms, Other Wonders. This study is investigating the struggles that were experienced by the characters. To analyse the problems in the novel In Other Rooms, other Wonders, Weber's social class theory is used. A qualitative and descriptive approach applies in this study that presents the analysis in the form of essay. The results of this study discovered the cause of Social Inequalities, which spreads through the private and public Society. Power, wealth, or status are shaping the unequal chance across the society. Thus, the issue affects the character lives as the lower classes are limited by the unequal chance that applies in their society. The limited power the characters have sets up an uneven playing field for those in the lower class and thus making it even easier for the upper class to control the lives of the lower class.

Keywords: *Social Inequality, Social Class, Social Class Inequality in Daniyal Mueenuddin's "In Other Rooms, Other Wonders."*

A. Introduction

Social creatures such as human are organised in a hierarchies that shows inequalities between beings. Searching for social segregation caused by upper class hierarchies in order to demonstrate dominance. Social Inequality is characterised by the unequal opportunities for other social positions within a group. For instance, Social Inequality is interpreted to be some kind of phenomenon of an unfairly spread of resources or a right for human rights. In countries with an uneven spread of logistic distribution, the places that have enough logistic distribution will be much better fundamentally and socially. For instance, Buerk (1984) from the BBC reported that back in 1984 in Ethiopia, where the northern provinces had a low rainfalls records that made the crops failed. In order to avoid the famine, the people of the Northern Provinces transported to the various regions in the Southern side of Ethiopia.

The inequalities in social group are characterized by the existence of domination by the much more superior social class or exploitation by one social class towards the others. According to Gottdiener (2015, p 67) in an unequal society, the

opportunities or rewards for the respective social class are unequal. It can come in many forms, such as; Education access inequality, Wealth or Income inequality, different treatment by the law enforcement system, among others. Conditions Inequality refers to the unequal distribution of goods, wealth, and income. Furthermore, Gottdiener states that Social Inequality can be seen from the Housing system, the bottom pit of the system is the homeless, the low level is the one who lives in a council housing project, and the upper class or the top of the hierarchy is living in their luxurious mansions. Furthermore, There are poor communities around where the people are economically unstable, full of violence, and does not really have a great income, or in other words, poor. While the ones who sit at the top of the hierarchy have secure and happy surroundings in their area, the unequal opportunities depict the uneven spread of education, health care, and the law enforcement treatment. Berger (1998) states that normally people think that ability leads straight to rewards. However, in an unequal social system, this might not be true. There are certain factors that would be an obstacle to reach the rewards. Social class, where do you live, which school did you enroll in, and what race are you? This might count toward the unequal share of opportunities in a socially unequal system.

The illustration of a Social Inequality can be seen in a literary works such as (not limited to) Novels. Furthermore, as a literary works, novel is a reflection of what is happening in the real world as a result of imaginary process of the writer whose story material can not be separated from real life experience. One of the novel that discuss about Social Inequality is "*In other rooms, other wonders*" written by Daniyal Mueenuddin. Daniyal Mueenuddin is a Pakistani-American author. Mueenuddin was born in Los Angeles, United States of America, but spent his time growing up in Pakistan. Mueenuddin moved back to the USA when he was thirteen. In the US, he took up higher education. Before he focusing on writing, he took up varied jobs such as a journalist and a lawyer.

The novel *In Other rooms, other wonders* tells a story about a variegated society where a person's social class (or status) and expectations are shown to influence every decision in the characters' lives. The book itself brought up how the Social system works in Pakistan in the days where Mueenuddin spent his critical part of his life. From the Background of the study above, it can be said that Social Inequality could affect a person's life depends on their Power, wealth, or status. The social events in the novel *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* are in line with Max Weber's theory of Social Inequality. Inequalities happened in which people judge each other according to their power, status, or wealth (Weber, 2020, p. 87). Hence, the writer conducted this study titled "Social Class Inequality in Daniyal Mueenuddin's *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*" in order to showcase the Inequalities that happened in the novel

B. Method

The qualitative approach is being used in this study since the writer tries to examine the social issue in the descriptive form. Qualitative research is an approach to investigate individual or group meaning that is related to social or human problems

(Cresswell, 2014). The data is gathered in the setting of participants. The approach is applied in essay form since there is no numeric or quantitative form included

Data sources taken for this study is from "*In other rooms, other wonders*" narrations, dialogues, and the actions that is done by the characters. This novel is written by Daniyal Mueenuddin in 2009. The writer is interested in analyzing this novel since the writer found that this novel has a story of social inequality that is endured by the characters by applying the concept of *Social Class* by Max Weber. To get the necessary data, there are steps that the writer done. First, read the novel several times to understand the story. Second, examine the narration texts and the conversations or dialogues that were supposed to depict the Social Inequality. Third, highlighting and collecting the narrations and dialogues rom the novel, and referring to the issue. Fourth, identify the data of the context. Finally, by studying the reasons behind the Social Inequality by applying the theory that had been chosen. The data were collected from the narrative and dialogues from "*In other rooms, other wonders*" novel. After the data were collected, the writer verifies it through the dialogues and the narrations written on the texts perfectly fit the theory. After that, the data were classified into Social Inequality concept. The whole of the data are explained in the study.

C. Findings and Discussion

This chapter discusses about Social Inequality experienced by the characters in Daniyal Mueenuddin's *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*. This chapter also reveals the character's struggles against the Social Inequality. *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* tells a story about a society with various background where one person's social status can influence the decision in the character's lives. As a Lower Social Class, the characters tend to do anything to get money or income. The Punjabi Proverbs in the beginning of the book: "*Three things for which we kill, Land, Women, and Gold*" really captures the essence of the struggles and tough condition that the characters needs to endure in order to live, or survive.

The stories that are in Mueenuddin's *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* really takes the reader through a maze of Social Inequality issues. There are things that the characters of *In Other Rooms, other Wonders* did were not a good things to do, for instance, stealing from their landlord/bosses or committing adultery, it is not hard to understand why they do it. For the characters that came from lower social classes, they found it that they have no other choice other than those options. "*Saleema's mother slept around for money and favours, and she herself at fourteen became the plaything of a small landowner's son.*" (Mueenuddin, p.14, 2009)

The data were collected after the writer read the novel *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* and gathering 30 data. The aforementioned datas were then provided in the thesis which will show how the characters in "In Other Rooms, Other Wonders" struggle with issues of social inequality.

Social Class Inequalities in *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*

Social Class Inequalities in terms of Power

“Two days later, K.K. Harouni flew to Rawalpindi, to attend a meeting of the board of governors of the State Bank – one of the few positions he still held. Harouni and other eminences unknowingly acting to camouflage self-serving deals and manipulations.” (In *Other Rooms, Other Wonders*, 2009: 27)

The quotation above shows that the upper-classes, which has the power on their hands, tends to do things as they please. They could've tried to give back to their communities, or try to improve the life quality of the less-fortunate. However, they still try to make things go their way using the power that they had. It can be seen from the statement “Harouni and other eminences unknowingly acting to camouflage self-serving deals and manipulations.” Due to the fact that Harouni, with his power as the governors of the State Bank, does shady manipulation dealing with his own good. In this case, Harouni's associate also does manipulative dealing with using their respective power to boost up their wealth.

In a society where an Inequality still happens, the abuse of power are being “normalized” because those who's doing the abuse of power always have stronger power than those whose protesting it. The lower-classes simply can't do anything about it. They can only just watch those upper-classes doing their thing for their own good, making the rich even richer. Eventhough in this novel, Harouni employs the lower-classes as his daily worker, Harouni, as an upper-class with his hunger for more wealth and power, keeps looking for more for his own personal good.

“One of my indulgences, now that I am a member of the judiciary, is to allow myself airs with people who need favors from me.” (In *Other Rooms, Other Wonders*, 2009: 70)

From the quotation above, it indicates that those whose got a power in their hands, in this case, a member of the judiciary, thinks that the people need him to help with their problems. This shows that the power of ‘power’ to have the final say in some problems. Those who doesn't have the privilege, in this case, the lower-classes, always try to ask those in the higher-ups to help them with their problems. Furthermore, the character, shows that being a judiciary, makes him feel that he is superior than other people, as shown in the statement “[...]is to allow myself airs with people who need favors from me.” The upper-classes tends to see the lower-classes as a people of lower level, they think that they are the superior class, the better one. The Social Inequality phenomenon can be seen by how the upper-classes looks look at the lower-classes, they always see them in a condescending way.

“Mustafa said, ‘My sister just fled back from Rawalpindi. Leaving her husband there. He works as a peon in a bank. You were good enough to get him that post. But she couldn't stand the city. Let my sister cook for you and keep the house. If she doesn't do well, then please let her go.’ (In *Other Rooms, Other Wonders*, 2009: 43)

In the quotation above, Mustafa, a lower class, was asking Jaglani, the upper class, for a favour. In this case, Mustafa was asking Jaglani to help her sister by employing her as a housekeeper in Jaglani's house, as shown by the statement "Let my sister cook for you and keep the house. If she doesn't do well, then please let her go." Furthermore, Jaglani, as the man of the upper class, can do whatever he wants regarding on who is he going to employ or fire, as shown by the word "If she doesn't do well, then please let her go." For someone that has the money and power to employ other people, they always seem have the final say who's on the payroll and who's not.

For quite some time, the person/group that has the money tends to have the power too. Not only exclusively in the business sector, but also in the government sector too. Thus, the upper class took the liberty on doing things as they wanted to do it. They can hire people as they like, and they can also hire people as they like. In a society where inequality occurs, the lower classes tend to beg for the upper class for some favour. With that, the upper class can do what they want towards the lower class. As the lower class don't have anything, they will do what they've been told to do by the upper class, as they need the money from the upper class to live, as long as they're paid, the lower class will do it.

"Once or twice he had slept with the wives of peasants in the village, when the women threw themselves at him. Then he would give the husband a job." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 46)

From the quotation above it elaborates more on how the lower class would do anything for the upper class. It indicates that the upper class have the absolute power of anything after looking at the fact that the lower class would give anything for a favour. Since the lower class needed the job that the upper class has, they tend to please the upper class so that they, or their relatives, would get that job. Since the upper class have the power and control, they can do illogical things to the powerless, in this case, the lower class. It shows how the upper class have the power and freedom to do things as they like because of their wealth, power, and status.

In the Inequal society, the concept of human as social creature that they need each other to live are biased towards the upper class favour. They would use their wealth, power, and status to exploits those who doesn't have any of those in their lives. Furthermore, the upper class believes that lower class are the ones that need them, not the other way around. As shown in the quotation above, the upper class have the freedom to do things while the lower class can't complain about it.

"Please, Chaudrey Sahib, you and I grew up together in Dunyapur, we played together as children. I beg you, don't take what's mine. You have so much, and I so little.' 'I have so much because I took what I wanted. Go away.'" (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 51)

In the quotation above shows the abuse of power that the upper class did towards the lower class. As the lower class begs to Chaudrey Sahib, the upper class, didn't even think twice for his action. The issue of abuse of power by the upper class is not a secret anymore, as they think they were better and superior than the peasants or the lower class. Furthermore, this quotation proves that the lower class is

completely powerless against the upper class. If the upper class wants something, they can take it however they like. Even when the lower class finally have something to be proud of and can be called as theirs, the upper class, with their greed, could take it all away. As they think they were the superior class, the upper class doesn't even hesitate to take something to fulfill their ambitions and can take it with ease.

Since the lower class were considered as the inferior ones, the upper class treats them as the weak ones. Thus, making their mindset clear, that the upper class is the powerful ones, the quotation is showing the moment where their mindset comes on. Chaudrey Sahib uses his power against the lower class while all they did were begging to Chaudrey Sahib to not take it away from them. Moreover, Chaudrey Sahib knew that the lower class wouldn't do anything, and he was sure that they couldn't do anything too, as they don't have the ability to resist against the power of his.

“One of Jaglani's first acts on entering office had been to move the ferry crossing from another spot five miles downstream to a little bay on the river immediately next to Dunyapur, over the protests of those who found the original situation more convenient. (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 55)

The quotation above shows how the upper class would abuse their power. Jaglani would do anything within his power for his own personal benefits. Jaglani's action did not take any consideration about the drawback that would be endured by the lower classes. Though the lower class were protesting Jaglani's decision, he simply ignores the lower class' opinion. As the one whose in power, Jaglani only cares about his own benefit and his relative.

“ ‘Let me tell you a story. You may remember Jam Rasheed, the famous Chief Minister of Sindh. He ran an entire province more strictly even than your father ran Dunyapur, with a whip made of good thick buffalo hide. Top to bottom everyone obeyed, and the one who didn't died in police encounters or disappeared or lost their lands or their factories.’ ” (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 66)

In this quotation, it shows how the power abuse was functioning. As shown by the statement *“Top to bottom everyone obeyed, and the one who didn't died in police encounters or disappeared or lost their lands or their factories.”* In this case, people need to obey those in power, the lower class were forced to obey, or they would lose anything. It showcases further how the upper class would do anything just to gain their own benefits. It happens through the unequal power that spreaded across the society. Those whose in power would do anything just to keep their power unharmed. Those who resist, will be silenced. The totalitarian state of the upper class happens throughout the history, the upper class is so powerful that the justice and law enforcement system can be bent towards their favour, making it impossible to take them down and take their power away from them.

“At that time, in the 1980s, the old barons still dominated the government, the prime minister a huge feudahl landowner. (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 82)

In the quotation above, it shows that the abuse of power issue was one of the main issue of a Social Inequality. From the passage above it shows how the people in power will try to keep maintain their respective power in any way possible. Furthermore, any people can't hold any power, they need to came rom a respective nobility, as potrayed by the statement "*the prime minister a huge feudal landowner.*" Feudalism is a system that maintains the noble family to holds the status of the ruler of the land. Furthermore, in the feudalism society, the lower class were forced to oblige and honour the landlord. This emphasizes the issue of Social Inequality. The lower class doesn't have the same chance as those upper class to control their own lives. Thus, the upper class will always try to keep the lower class under control and maintain their social status.

Furthermore, the quotation "*Peasants bringing their buffalos back from watering at the canal stood aside and saluted.*" (*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 43*) shows that how the upper class were regearded highly by the lower class. The lower class knows that their lives are dependent on the upper class. Therefore, they need to "respect" the upper class so that they can keep their lives. Despite the fact that the lower classes were discriminated and being oppressed by the upper class, they don't want to fight and bring the class gap down. The upper class is their main source of income, they don't want to upset them. Indeed, what the upper class did to the lower class was a common occurrence in an unequal society. The higher status, wealth, and reputation that the upper class have the more powerful they are. And the lower class won't have the power to fight against it. Therefore, the lower class in the novel "*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*" were just simply don't put up a fight against the upper class as they are powerless against the upper class.

"The villagers! They knew the first night. They leave me alone because they're afraid of you. It's nice, it's a proof of just how much they do fear you." (*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 47*)

The quotation above shows that the lower class were afraid of the upper class. They wouldn't touch what's belong to the upper class as they are afraid of the consequences of doing so. As the lower class, they realises that they are the inferior class, they don't want to upset the upper class. Furthermore, the upper class realise the power and control they have over the lower class, so that they know that the lower class wouldn't do anything to them. The inequal influence over the society are showcased in the inequal society, as the higher-upper class would do anything and the lower class. Hence, making the lower class even more inferior and powerless against the upper class because of their status and reputation.

Social Class Inequalities in terms of Wealth

"Nawab received a brand-new motorcycle, a Honda 70. He even managed to extract an allowance for gasoline. The motorcycle increased his status, gave him weight, so that people began calling him 'Uncle,' and asking his opinion on world affairs, about which he knew absolutely nothing" (*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 4*).

The quotation above shows that Nawab, one of the character one of the characters, is getting his social status raised by owning a motorcycle. In the Weber's Social Class theory, Weber believes that owning a property can bring a prestige, which

can increase the property owner's social status. In this case, the character, Nawab, gets his social status increases by owning a property, a motorbike. It is shown by the passage "The motorcycle increased his status." The society also regard Nawab highly just because of his new motorcycle, as shown as in the "...So that people began calling him 'Uncle,' and asking his opinion on world affairs, about which he knew absolutely nothing." These passages implies This passage implies that the wealth of a person in the society will make or break a person's status or class. As a matter of fact, the society regards Nawab highly, and asks Nawab a complex question such as World Affairs, which he knows nothing about, just because Nawab owns a property, a motorcycle. Whether Nawab likes it or not, that's how the society works in a society where inequalities still happen.

"Maybe you are a poor man Nawab, but I'm much poorer than you. Make them fix me, ask them and they'll do it" (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 12).

In the quotation above, it shows that because of his increased Social Class, the poorer character asked Nawab to ask the doctor to "fix" him. It implies if the poor character asks that if the poor character ask the doctor, they won't heal him. But if Nawab asked them to heal the poor character, they'll do it, as it shown by the word "...I'm much poorer than you. Make them fix me, ask them and they'll do it." This showcase on how the lower class will ask those in the higher class for favour. It implies that the lower classes can't do anything even just to fulfill their life necessities just because they are poor and lower class. Those are in the lower classes will always ask them in the higher class just to fulfill their daily necessities.

"I was brought up with kicks and slaps and never enough to eat. I've never had anything of my own, no land, no house, no wife, no money, never, nothing." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 12)

The quotation above shows how owning property and having wealth have their own place in society. Since properties and wealth are an integrated part of how the society class works, when a person don't have their own land, their own house, and money, they will automatically fell into the lower class. The poverty issue itself can be traced back from the preceding generations, as shown by the word "I was brought up with kicks and slaps and never enough to eat." It shows that the character born and grew from a poor family, which already gave them the poverty issue. The poverty issue of the character continues until they became an adult, as shown by the word "I've never had anything of my own, no land, no house, no wife, no money, never, nothing." It shows that the character has already grown. It shows that the character already grow up, but their issue is still the same, having no property and stuck in the lower class because of poverty.

"She stood by me, she kept my house, my honor. It has always been perfectly safe in her hands." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 34)

The quotation above shows that a property, in this case, a house, counts as the owner's honour, a lifting leverage for someone's social class. The character's social class is higher than the other just because he owned a house. Thus, he trusted it to

someone that can keep it perfectly, in this case, his wife. In a society, someone's wealth is directly proportional proportional with their respective social class. With that concept, in that society there will be a situation where an Inequality happens. Those who have the wealth will try to improve their wealth in hope that it will raise their social class even more and keeping a distance from the lower-classes who doesn't have any wealth. In this case, the character's house is his wealth, and he'll try to keep it so that his social status will stay the same or even will try to increase his social status.

"Her mother slept around for money and favours, and she herself at fourteen became the plaything of the landowner's son" (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 14)

The quotation above shows the character's mother doing everything she can, even doing an adultery committing adultery just to live and fulfill the daily needs, shown by the word "Her mother slept around for money and favours." This shows that the poor or the lower classes will always do absolutely anything to survive their life. Sadly, this opens up the chance for the upper class to exploit the lower class, as the upper class needed something that is dependant to them, and the lower class needs something from the upper class. This issue can be generational, as shown by the word "and she herself at fourteen became the plaything of the landowner's son," the mother's character has already resorted to adultery just to escape from poverty, which makes her daughter do the same just for one thing, getting paid or favours from those in the upper class that will exploit their shortcoming.

"What shall I say? I was brought up with slaps and harsh words. We had nothing, we were poor. My father sold vegetables from a cart, but when he began smoking heroin he sold everything. Once a man gave me a little watch, my father pushed me to ground and took it from my wrist." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 28)

The quotation above indicates that being addicted to drugs doesn't help the family to escape from the poverty, it even made the family even poorer, as shown by the statement "What shall I say? I was brought up with slaps and harsh words. We had nothing, we were poor. My father sold vegetables from a cart, but when he began smoking heroin he sold everything." Furthermore, in a poor family, money or property are above everything, even if it means forcing to take something from your own family. The father takes the watch from his daughter, as shown by the word "Once a man gave me a little watch, my father pushed me to ground and took it from my wrist." This indicates that the father didn't care about how his daughter would feel or even her well-being, as long as he has something, in this case, a watch that was given to his daughter. This happens because the issue of the lower-classes that they don't have anything, no money, no wealth, no power. When there's a chance to improve their wealth, they will take it, no matter how.

"Her mother found out about the money and wheedled day and night. Saleema kept the money in a pouch that she wore under her shirt. Late night, she woke to find her mother stealthily untying the pouch with thin practiced hands." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 32)

The quotation above emphasizes even more on how lower-class people would do anything to take anything to gain something even if it's taken from their family, as shown in the statement "Her mother found out about the money and wheedled day and night. Saleema kept the money in a pouch that she wore under her shirt. Late night, she woke to find her mother stealthily untying the pouch with thin practiced hands." As the daughter, Saleema, had something that the mother doesn't have, the mother will do anything to take it away and make it hers.

Poverty brings the worse of a person, in this case, the wrongly action of the mother towards her daughter happened because of the poverty issue the family had. After the mother unable to persuade Saleema to give her the money, she forces to take it away from Saleema when Saleema was sleeping. In other words, the mother tried to steal Saleema money.

"The other servants milled around the kitchen, no one spoke. The household rested on Harouni's shoulders, their livelihoods. Late that night he died. The daughters from New York and Paris that hadn't returned to Pakistan in years, flew back. A pall fell over the house. Already the bond among the servants weakened." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 36)

The quotation above shows how the servants, which is the lower-class people, depends their livelihoods solely on someone in the upper-class whose employs them, as shown by the word "The other servants milled around the kitchen, no one spoke. The household rested on Harouni's shoulders, their livelihoods." They have nothing to fall on, hence, when the employer is gone, there's no job anymore, their livelihood is no more. Furthermore, in an Inequal Society, one of the things that brings bring people together is money, when there is no money anymore, they will go their separate ways, as shown in the statement "Already the bond among the servants weakened." Their employer is no more, so that there's no reason to stay together for any longer. No money will come to their pockets anymore. This system makes money or wealth as the tool to unify people, or worse, it can control people too.

"Rafik sought her out. He came to her room, where she sat on the bed, contemplating the emptiness of her future." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 37)

In the quotation above, it shows that after their employer is gone, they don't know what to do. Their future is looking bleak. For an employee, they only think that doing their job is the only thing they can do. Day in day out they're doing what are they being told by their bosses, they don't think about saving their money, all they care is that how are they gonna earn money today. For these people, when their sole income has gone, they don't have any alternative. This is an issue in the lower-class society where they only think how to survive.

As time goes by, people started to see that they need to have an alternative option so that when the unexpected happens, they already have their back up plans. The people from the lower-class also starting to realise this issue too. However, not all people from the lower-class acknowledge this. In fact, they don't have the time to learn the issue because they are busy trying to earn their money just to survive today. But still, the issue of Social Inequality is not an easy task to get rid of from this world.

Even if all of the people would have the same income, Social Inequality would still happen. They still won't be treated as the same as those who have power.

"Within two years she was finished, began using rocket pills, which she once had so much despised, lost her job, went on to heroin." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 38)

In the quotation above, it shows that 2 years after the character just lost her job, she resorted to using drugs. The lower-class people always deep in the poverty hole, the financial struggles tends to escalate the risk of drug addiction. The character was stuck in the poverty hole, which tends to stressed out the person itself. For the lower-classes, finding a job is a challenge itself. Thus, as they were jobless, with no income, they began to feel stressed out. To release their stress after worrying about how to eat, live, or to fulfill their daily needs, the lower-classes turn to drugs to help them for the time being. In the lower-class, they don't have anything to distract them away from their problem; they don't have their own safe net to help them in their tough times. The lower-class are too busy struggling and thinking how would they survive the next day, they can't resort to something that the upper-class would do in the tough situation, such as having a vacation or a holiday.

"Mr. K. K. Harouni was forced to endure a conversation about a Rolls-Royce coupe recently imported by one of the Waraiches, a family no one had heard of just five years before, and the mention of it inevitably led to a discussion of the new Pakistani industrialists who at that time were blazing into view." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 40)

From this quotation, it shows how a property, in this case, a new imported car (Rolls-Royce Coupe) can boost up someone's social class, as shown by the statement *"K. K. Harouni was forced to endure a conversation about a Rolls-Royce coupe recently imported by one of the Waraiches, a family no one had heard of just five years before."* To own something very expensive is a privilege in a society. Thus, owning an expensive property can increase the Social status of someone, as they were seen as someone who have a big amount of money on their pockets. In a society, those who have expensive property that belongs to them can counts as an upper-class. Hence, if a person just bought something expensive, such as cars, house, or jewellery, their social class is increasing.

Furthermore, the upper-classes notices when someone from the lower-class is moving up into the upper-class, as shown by the word *"and the mention of it inevitably led to a discussion of the new Pakistani industrialists who at that time were blazing into view."* The new addition in the upper-class will be noticed by those old upper-classes, as they will try to make them a friend/colleague, or a foe that threaten their place in the upper-class society. The friend or foe move is to ensure that the newcomers won't disrupt the upper-class society. In this case, the Waraiches were unknown, thus making the upper-class curious of their background.

"The next evening, Jaglani returned to Dunyapur at dusk. Peasants bringing their buffalos back from watering at the canal stood aside and saluted. Only Jaglani's house had electricity." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 43)

From the quotation above, it shows that how the upper class tends to be highly rated by the lower class, as portrayed through the word *"Peasants bringing their buffalos back from watering at the canal stood aside and saluted."* The upper class were treated as a King or a ruler of a community, as they were the one that can make changes. The word *"stood aside and saluted."* Indicates that the lower classes, or as the writer wrote it, the *peasants* stopped all of their activities to greet the upper class, in this case, Jaglani. Furthermore, the inequality is exposed through the statement *"Only Jaglani's house had electricity."* It shows that the only one who has the electricity privilege was Jaglani, the upper class. Thus, Jaglani's social status went through the roof. Due to the fact that Jaglani's social status are high above the peasants in his village, he was treated as a king on his village. For the upper classes, they believe that they are supposed to be treated like a king, or someone superior than the other people, as they think that their wealth, power, and status are the superior ones.

"Jaglani reached around her waist, wanting to be reconciled. 'You never ask for anything. Let me give you some money. You can buy clothes.'" (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 46)

The quotation above shows that the upper class would use their wealth to fix a problem. As shown by the statement *"Jaglani reached around her waist, wanting to be reconciled. 'You never ask for anything. Let me give you some money.'" Due to the fact that he thinks what the lower class always wanted is money, he would give some money to turn things into his favour. This exposes the abuse of wealth by the upper class. As they were the one who has the wealth to control things, the upper class would think that anything can be fixed with money, anything can be bought, even someone else's pride.*

The upper class are free to do things as they like. However, the lower class doesn't have the privilege or the chance of freedom of choice and do things as they would like. Since the upper class believes that they were the superior class and have the important role in the society. Hence, they were the one that decides what can be done and what can't be done. If things didn't go as what they were planning, they would use their wealth to bend things to their favour.

" 'Her family paid the police to beat him, but we also paid, so they've done nothing so far but kick him around a bit.' " (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 72)

In the quotation above, it indicates that how money could turn things around for people. Those who had money can bribe the law enforcement to minimise their sentence or to make someone else suffer. This showcased the issue of wealth inequality. The issue of wealth inequality can create an endless poverty circle for the lower class. Furthermore, wealth inequality can turn things around. The one that was at fault can go freely if they pay enough money to the judicial system or to the law enforcement. The quotation above shows that those with money can make others suffer, as shown by the statement *"Her family paid the police to beat him."* This passage relates to Weber's Social Inequality statement that if someone had the status,

power, or wealth, they can get something to go to their way even though at first it was going against them.

“The judge, no matter how well they are, will need to be oiled if he is to work. And then you’ll need a lawyer, court fees, tips to the judge’s readers, and most of all, something really magnificent for the police.” (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 72)

The quotation above shows even further the issue of how something can turn into their favour using money. The character was explaining how to win a court case. It exposes how deep the social inequality runs inside the society itself. The system that was created to serve the society, i.e. Judicial and The upper class turns law enforcement into a corrupt, biased, and controlled department. This reveals the wealth inequality that exists in society. The wealth of the upper class was enough to make things go their way. However, the lower class was struggling, as they didn’t have the resources to make it go their way. Thus, the conflict between the social classes were inevitable. The passage above confirms that social status and the economic resources dictate how people life would change.

“When I returned punctually at five from the office, my wife called me into the living room, where she sat with an old lady, one of her projects, someone from whom she wanted something. Judging from the guest’s enormous Land Cruiser parked in the verandah, she must be the wife of a big fish.” (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 73)

In the quotation above, it shows how a property have an effect on someone’s social class, as shown by the statement *“Judging from the guest’s enormous Land Cruiser parked in the verandah, she must be the wife of a big fish.”* After the narrator saw the old lady’s car, he instantly thought that she was the wife of a very rich and very important person, the *big fish*. He wouldn’t thought that she was from the lower class, as the lower class doesn’t have the resources to buy a luxury car. The unequal wealth in the society creates the problem that people can judge someone else’s status and wealth by looking at the things that they own, such as cars, clothes, jewellery, or a house. The upper class have the access to such things because of their money. Thus, the wealth inequality phenomenon became clear, those who has a property counts as the upper class and those who don’t have any property, counts as the lower class.

Social Inequalities in terms of Reputation and Status

“Husna was silent for a moment, then narrowed her eyes, collecting herself. ‘In this world some families rise and some fall,’ she said. ‘And now I’ve come to you for help. I’m poor and need a job. Even Begum Harouni agrees that I should have a profession. My father can give me nothing, he’s weak and has lost his connections.’” (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 81)

From the quotation above it shows that Husna, a member of the lower class, is begging for some favour to the upper class, as shown by the word *“And now I’ve come to you for help. I’m poor and need a job.”* This showcased how the lower class is being dependant towards the upper class. As the lower class needed the job to support their life, they need to ask for a favour from the upper class. Furthermore, the passage

above also indicates how the status can decide if someone is a lower class or an upper class, as portrayed in the statement *"My father can give me nothing, he's weak and has lost his connections."* It indicates that once upon a time, Husna's father had the connection and the status that would help their family. Once he lost the status, he lost everything. The families fell into poverty. Hence, making Husna beg for jobs. Husna, as a member of the lower class, can only provide her labor to survive. The lower class's position is that it lacks privileges and resources due to having less or no wealth than other classes, forcing them to look for and beg for work from the upper class.

"She laughed humorlessly. 'The villagers! They knew the first night. They leave me alone because they're afraid of you. It's nice, it's a proof of just how much they do fear you. If you dropped me they would call me a whore out loud as I walked down the street.'" (In *Other Rooms, Other Wonders*, 2009: 47)

The quotation above shows that the villagers were afraid of the upper class. As the one with power on their hands, the lower class wouldn't do anything to the upper class and their relatives as the consequences would be hard for the lower class. The upper class can take their job away, take away their sole income. In an unequal society, the lower class needs to treat the upper class in a specific way. They need to 'respect' them and bend down for the upper class. This quotation shows how the lower class looks towards the upper class, and what the upper class give to the lower class, Fear. As the upper class controls everything, all that the lower class can do is obey and oblige the upper class. The action of obey and oblige would spread fear to the lower class, as they don't want to treat the upper class wrong so that they would keep their job and income safe.

"Zainab asked Jaglani 'Would you like me to press your feet?' This became part of the routine. Jaglani would lie on a charpoy in the shadowed courtyard of his house, smoking a hookah, leaning on one elbow, while she massaged his legs and feet, patiently. Inevitably, one evening he reached for her and took her inside. Now often they would make love before she went home. She did this uncomplainingly, giving him whatever he wanted." (In *Other Rooms, Other Wonders*, 2009: 45)

The quotation above shows how the lower class would do anything to please the upper class. Zainab, as one of the assistant of the house, were doing adultery with Jaglani. Since the lower class would do anything for the upper class, Zainab did it without any complaints. As portrayed by the statement *"Now often they would make love before she went home. She did this uncomplainingly, giving him whatever he wanted."* Jaglani exploited Zainab to serve his pleasures, and ask her to do whatever he wanted. Thus, the exploitation of the lower class would go as long as the upper classes wanted to. Since Zainab were not complaining Jaglani's action, Jaglani would ask her to do as such. The fact that Zainab, as the lower class didn't complain shows that how powerless the lower class in the eye of the upper class, as they can't complaint, they were afraid that the upper class would fire them if they are not doing things as they were told.

The lower class have this uphill battle to escape from the illogical minds of the upper class. The lower class were taught to treat the upper class in any way

possible, and expect to please the upper class. The weight that lays on the shoulder of the lower class were so heavy, they have family to feed, they have to fulfill their daily necessities, and they have other responsibilities to take care of so that they would please their superior 'uncomplainingly'.

"She cradled the little boy in her arms, holding him up to the windows of cars. And then, soon enough, she died, and the boy begged in the streets, one of the sparrows of Lahore." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 38-37)

From the quotation above, it shows that the issue of Social Inequality is a generational issue which can be inherited from the parents to the future generations, as shown by the statement *"And then, soon enough, she died, and the boy begged in the streets,"* indicates that the character's son continuing what his mother did, begging in the streets. As someone born in a lower-class family, the little boy already has an uphill battle against poverty. The boy has nothing to rely on, except for the sympathy of the passerby on the street where he begged for money. Furthermore, the issue of Social Inequality can be seen on the statement *"one of the sparrows of Lahore."* Sparrows is a slang word for someone that isn't important to the society. The issue of being the lower-class is that those who are in it tend to be seen as a degenerate, or insignificant to the society. As the lower-class doesn't have anything to be proud of, the other member of the society doesn't rate them highly, which is the main issue of Social Inequality.

"In the Old City where she grew up, the neighborhood pointed with shaming fingers at women from less than respectable families." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 86)

From the quotation above, it shows that a person's dignity is decided by their social status. If a person comes from an upper-class family, people tend to respect and regard them highly. However, if they come from less fortunate families, if a person comes from the upper class families, people tend to respect them more and regard them highly. However, if they come from less fortunate families, they would be shamed, as shown by the word *"The neighborhood pointed with shaming fingers at women from less than respectable families."* The character came from the lower class, which made her a less-important person in a society. Thus, the upper-class would always be looked at as a saviour in a society where an inequality happened. The lower-classes would act that people from the same lower class are not important enough for them to deal with because that the lower-class wouldn't give them money, job, or opportunities whereas the upper-classes would give them opportunities, money, or job in hope that they would increase their social status.

"I Am a sessions judge in the Lahore High Court. I should tell you at the start, so that you understand my position regarding these events, that despite my profession I don't believe in justice, am no longer consumed by a desire to be what in law school we called 'a sword of the Lord'; nor do I pretend to have perfectly clean hands, so am not in a position to view the judicial system anything except a degree of tolerance. I rendered decisions based on the relative pressures brought to bear on me." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 68)

From the quotation above shows how people with power tends to benefit those in that what's best for them. Potrayed by the statement "*I rended decisions based on the relative pressures brought to bear on me.*" Showcased the ability from the upper class to create or make the rules so that it would favour them. Moreover, the upper class "offer" to bend the rules for the people that needs it. This act would create an inequal power that spreads over the society. Thus, making those in power, can abuse their power to keep their respective power over the society. Furthermore, the prevailing system of power abuse was created for the sake of manipulation by the upper class and their power to allow them to maintain their controlling power.

The Social Inequality phenomenon which includes the abuse of power concept can create an inequal opportunity for the society to know which one is right and which one in wrong. Those upper class with their power will always be right, as they are the one that decides in this matter. In the quotation above, the narrator himself is a judge in the Lahore county High Court. With the power that he had, the narrator can control who was right and who was wrong. The power inequality that looms over society creates suffering for those who don't have the power, in this case, the lower class.

Main Characters Struggle Against the System

In the novel "*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*" by Daniyal Mueenuddin, it showcases the issue of Social Inequality. From Power Inequality, Wealth Inequality, or Status Inequality, the lower class characters of *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* went through on their daily life. The depiction of the Social Inequality issue were showcased by the conversation and the interaction by the characters which were divided by their class, the lower class and the upper class. At that time, being in the lower class means that the characters doesn't have equal access to their daily needs, such as, but not limited to, inequal access to justice, inequal access to employment, and inequal access to represent themselves in the parliament. The upper class however have the unlimited access to those that were unavailable for the lower class due to the fact that they were the one that controls it.

The upper class in the novel "*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*" were shown as the class that would exploits anything for their favours that will create even more struggle for the lower class. Furthermore, in the novel "*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*" the upper class will try to get their hand or take something from the lower class so that they would get what they wants. The upper class will only care about the lower class if it has something to do for their profits. However, in the novel "*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*" the lower class don't have the choice.

The lower class character in "*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*" are depicted as the oppressed and inferior class. Thus, their actions are ruled by the upper class. Furthermore, the lower class character are asking the higher social class for some help or favour. As the lower class needed the upper class favour just so that they can survive the day and get paid from their occupation.

"And now I've come to you for help. I'm poor and need a job." (*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*, 2009: 81)

The quotation above shows how the lower class character were asking a favour from the higher upper class. In this case, they were asking for a job. The system that were applied in the inequal society forced the lower class to beg and asking from the

upper class, as the upper class were the one that has the control of the money and the employment. Furthermore, the lower class character don't have other choice other than begging the upper class for their favour. Thus, making the upper class more powerful and indirectly controlling the lower class.

In an inequal society, the lower class are the ones that needs the job. Furthermore, the upper class are considered as the ones who controls the lower class. Furthermore, in addition in their daily struggles, the lower class are also struggling to make their life better with the inequal chance of jobs. The upper class has the absolute control of who are they gonna employ, that makes the inequal chance of work towards the lower class who doesn't have a connection towards those upper classes. Thus, forcing the lower class to begs to those upper class so that they are being choosen to work for the upper class.

"Please, Chaudrey Sahib, you and I grew up together in Dunyapur, we played together as children. I beg you, don't take what's mine." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 51)

Since the majority of the lower class doesn't have nothing to own, once they had something, they will try their hardest to keep it. However, as the lower class were seen as the oppressed class, the upper class would take anything from the lower class if they like it. It can be property, money, or even someone that is close to them. In this case, the lower class character is begging for the upper class, Chaudrey Sahib, to not to take his wife away from him. However, as the upper class that has the power, they can and they will take something from the lower class if they feel they like it. Thus, making the lower class vulnerable towards the upper class, as they are never safe from their greed. The word *"I beg you, don't take what's mine"* emphasizes more on the vulnerability of the lower class from the upper class.

"The villagers! They knew the first night. They leave me alone because they're afraid of you. It's nice, it's a proof of just how much they do fear you." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 47)

The quotation above shows that the lower class were afraid of the upper class. They wouldn't touch what's belong to the upper class as they are afraid of the consequences of doing so. As the lower class, they realises that they are the inferior class, they don't want to upset the upper class. Furthermore, the upper class realise the power and control they have over the lower class, so that they know that the lower class wouldn't do anything to them. The inequal influence over the society are showcased in the inequal society, as the higher-upper class would do anything and the lower class. Thus, making the lower class even more inferior and power-less against the upper class because of their status and reputation.

"Peasants bringing their buffalos back from watering at the canal stood aside and saluted." (In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, 2009: 43)

In the quotation above it shows that how the upper class were regearded highly by the lower class. The lower class knows that their lives is dependent from the upper class. Therefore, they need to 'respect' the upper class so that they can keep their life. Even though the lower class were discriminated and being oppressed by the upper class, they don't want to fight and bring the class gap down. The upper class is their main source of income, they don't want to upset them. As a matter of fact, what the

upper class did towards the lower class were a common occurrence in the unequal society. The higher status, wealth, and reputation that the upper class have, the more powerful they are. And the lower class won't have the power to fight against it. Therefore, the lower class in the novel "*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*" were just simply don't put up a fight against the upper class as they are powerless against the upper class.

D. Conclusion

Social Inequality that is portrayed in Daniyal Mueenuddin's *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* showcased how the Social Inequality being applied in the society. Furthermore, the inequalities in the society affected the lower class characters' position in their respective lives. The lower classes in this novel are being classified as the inferior, powerless one. The characters in *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* were forced to do things that the upper classes want them to do in order to gain any benefits or salary just to survive in their daily lives. It makes the character lives being limited to just working due to the unequal situation they live in. Due to the fact that the lower class characters in *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* were treated as the inferior, they don't have the same chance to succeed in their lives. They are stuck to work for the upper class. The lower classes indirectly being controlled by the upper class. In addition, the Social Inequality system creates a gap in the social hierarchy so that the lower class were born with disadvantage by default. Furthermore, because the power is on the upper classes hand, the lower class can only obey and oblige to those in the upper class. Thus, making the lower class facing an uphill battle against the upper class. Furthermore, as the lower class needed a favour from the upper class, the upperclass gained power or control over the lower class. It creates an absolute control of the society for the upper class. The unequal system treats the upper class as the one who has the final say on something. Also, the upper class has the privilege in the social hierarchy that makes the lower class should oblige and obey to what the upper class wants. Since the lower class counts as the inferior class, every aspects of the lower class lives are controlled by the upper class and they don't have other choice than to follow the upper class' wants. Henceforth, the unequal system limits what the lower class could do. The upper class exploits the lower class vulnerabilities to keep making them richer and superior.

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