

Journal of Development and Social Sciences www.jdss.org.pk



RESEARCH PAPER

Analysis of The Psychological Impact of Class Inequality on Individual Identity in Jamal Abro's Peerani

¹Bisma Hyder, ²Dr. Saima Yousaf Khan and ³ Dr. Saman Salah*

- 1. BS English Scholar, Department of English Language and Literature, The Shaikh Ayaz University, Shikarpur, Pakistan
- 2. Lecturer, Department of English Literature, University of Balochistan, Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan
- 3. Assistant professor, Department of English, Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan

samanmkn@gmail.com *Corresponding Author:

ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to investigate the social class conflict in Jamal Abro's *Peerani*. The research is qualitative in nature and utilizes Marxism as a theoretical framework. Through its narrative the story tracks individuals who represent different economic levels to reveal how diverse backgrounds shape their dealings and objectives. Through Peerani the author presents conflicts that emerge from social stratification since this is a fictional village facing economic inequality. Through his storytelling Abro depicts the feelings of separation which people in bottom social groups face while showing the full costs of social class conflicts. *Peerani* demonstrates the urgent need for compassion and knowledge to address social class issues through its excellent presentation of unity and opposition alongside the pursuit of equality. The authors conclude by urging many voices to work together in restoring community solidarity and increasing awareness about the existing war based on social class.

KEYWORDS Psychological Impact, Class Inequality, Individual Identity, Jamal Abro, *Peerani* Introduction

Social class conflict persists as an important issue in modern times due to fast technical development and globalization processes. The novel "Peerani" written by Jamal Abro presents an analytical examination of the numerous societal difficulties which affect people in hierarchical systems. Thru each portion of storytelling and societal discussion Abro delivers readers comfort by presenting the true dimensions of social class disparities in Peerani's setting. This fictional village expresses the complexity of life during modern times. This social conflict refers to the opposing forces that emerge from different economic status groups. These confrontations emerge from unequal distributions of power and resources and access to opportunities due to structural barriers which defend both unjust and unequal treatment. In Abro's work the author demonstrates how class distinctions manifest daily and alter public thinking as well as personal aspirations and social identities and social group preferences. Through suggestive storytelling and deep character development, "Peerani" illustrats the complex dynamics of class strife and its significant effects on social cohesiveness.

Class inequality stands as a fundamental discussion point in academic studies because researchers have analyzed its economic social and psychological consequences for many years. The psychological effects that result from economic class differences serve as important subject matter for sociological research and psychological and political scientific investigations. The existing research about class difference psychological effects on selfperception and mental health and social identity statuses receives comprehensive analysis in this review.

Studied research indicates that class inequality impact people's perception of themselves and their processes of personal identity development. Kraus et al. (2012) demonstrated that people from low socioeconomic groups tend to experience decreased self-esteem together with reduced sense of empowerment from systemic obstacles. Restrictions that deprive people of quality education and employment opportunities along with social advancement create deep feelings of inferiority (Destin et al., 2017). The research confirms that experiencing economic differences leads people who want to rise in social standing to develop feelings of inadequacy and imposter syndrome (Manstead, 2018).

Culture-driven narratives that appear in media communications create public understanding about class unbalances while shaping how people define themselves. Mantsios (1995) argues that mainstream media shows poverty as individual deficiency instead of recognizing it stems from systemic problems which perpetuate derogatory images of poor people. Media representations of lower-class people contribute to internalized classism because working-class individuals adopt the negative attitudes held by society towards their own group (Lott & Bullock, 2007). Such social interactions deepens psychological problems while blocking the path toward social advancement.

Strategies must be developed to ease the psychological side effects of class inequality. The minimization of class inequality-induced psychological manifestations requires policy reforms as well as ancillary community assistance programs. Destin and Oyserman (2009) presented research which proves educational programs can develop growth mindsets for promoting resilience in low-income groups. Research supports that whereas cognitive-behavioral therapy aids economically disadvantaged people by reducing their stress and building their self-confidence (Lund et al., 2010).

Abro has envisioned a microcosm of modern society along with its environmental dilemmas through Peerani and her situation. Multiple social backgrounds need to function in this community because social disintegration and economic difficulties exist within. Abro skillfully captures the barriers and hardships of underrepresented communities, highlighting their search of respect and acknowledgment in a society that constantly ignores their achievements. The emotional and psychological costs of living in a divided and parted society, where prejudice and institutional barriers make the goals frustrated and reflects in the characters' travels.

Abro examines that how an individual experience cultural and it's norms and values that often lead everyone to face inferiority complexs and isolation. Author also writes about the lower social class that how an individual struggle with their self worth and to be accepted by the society and through his own experience he illustrate that the society keep high expections from them that left them out. Characters that struggle with their identities, face narratives that influence their sense of self and through that they face the challenges internally and externally.

In "Peerani" the author also focuses on the social structure and system including social, economic and cultural institues and these systmes treat the specific groups differently and how they deal with people belong to the different classes. The author portrats even the value of strong matches and comprehension in resolving social injustices by explain differnet kind of themes of resistance and unity throughout the story. The protagonists' way to self-determination illustrates how resilient the human spirit can be, when faced with difficulties and hardships.

"Peerani" is an strong picture that how class struggle transforms the society as a whole and changes the personality as an individual. Jamal Abro's writing encourage people to think over the serious issues that are faced by an individual in the society and to critically analyze that how economic system treat differently the people belong to different classes. Through Peerani's ideology, the story not only highlight on the difficulties faced by underrepresented communities, but it also gives a deeper comprehension of the human condition universaly. This narrative emphasize readers to critically analyze their own ideas of different classes and their part in creating a clear perspective and th struggle moving in pages.

Literature Review

Literature and psychology have extensively studied class inequality because experts want to understand its effects on the development of personal identity. Social stratification produces psychological effects that affect characters mainly through shaping how people perceive themselves and their connections with others (Bourdieu, 1984) within postcolonial and indigenous literature. The short story Peerani by Jamal Abro effectively portrays the hardships faced by people who experience strong class distinctions in the Sindhi society.

Class Inequality and Identity Formation

The research about social statuses demonstrates how economic divisions result in deep psychological turmoil between people. Erikson (1959) demonstrates that identity development fundamentally interacts with socioeconomic patterns because people find their personal identity through social interactions of their status. The rigid system of class boundaries leads people from lower socioeconomic positions to develop decreasing self-esteem while also bearing psychological hardship (Fanon, 1963).

Through Peerani Abro shows a social structure dominated by class which projects predestined roles for people while sustaining distinct social order groups. Character mental breakdown results from their unwilling submission to their designated social level which represents a widespread battle between internal beliefs and external requirements. Following Marxist analysis these narratives display the discriminatory practices of capitalist economies that turn exploited members into accepting the system of dominance (Eagleton, 1991). Research in psychology supports that ongoing financial difficulties produce emotional strain together with growing anxiety alongside a project failure that intensifies social class identity friction (Sennett & Cobb, 1972).

Postcolonial and Marxist Perspectives on Class Struggle

According to postcolonial theorists colonial heritage creates sustained class social disparities which shapes identifying processes. Fanon (1963) states postcolonial individuals develop fragmented identities because European-colonial social organizations push them toward separation from their native origins. The rigid class system in Peerani operates as a mechanism of social governance which prevents lower-class people from achieving their dreams.

Literature functions as a powerful tool that Marxist readers use to expose economic inequalities according to their perspective. Through his narrative Abro displays a social system which parallels Marxist-inspired conflicts between social classes to show how upper-class elites uphold power through economic control and ideological manipulation (according to Gramsci 1971). The psychological effects of oppressive rule create feelings of despair together with a submissive attitude and occasionally lead to resistant behaviors that exist commonly in postcolonial literature (Spivak, 1988).

Psychological Trauma and Socio-Economic Constraints

Researching the impact between economic status and psychological well-being shows that social class differences amply create emotional stress. Wilkinson and Pickett (2010) found that economic differences create feelings of social exclusion together with inferiority which results in depression and anxiety problems. The characters in Peerani

exhibit psychical trauma through their struggles with the social standings society has imposed upon them.

Downloaded data from Seligman (1975) reveals that economic disadvantaged people tend to accept their lower social ranking through learned helplessness principles. A psychological condition typified Abro's characters through their limited circumstances which express wider effects of class-based social domination.

Health professionals have repeatedly documented how social class differences produce negatively impacting mental health results. According to Wilkinson and Pickett (2010) increased income inequality in societies leads to higher anxiety and stress and depression among people with lower income. Individuals who experience financial insecurity and social exclusion develop ongoing psychological distress since stress affects their total well-being according to Layte (2012). People from lower socioeconomic backgrounds develop learned helplessness based on their repetitive experience of economic difficulties because this causes them to feel powerless over their life situations (Seligman, 1972).

Social identity theory establishes that people build their self-concept through the social groups to which they belong according to Tajfel and Turner (1986). The psychological experiences people experience depend heavily on their sense of class membership. The work of Ridgeway (2014) demonstrates how class discrimination causes marginalized group status which separates people and minimizes their personal worth. Bourdieu asserts (1984) that human capital in the form of high-social class linked knowledge and skills operates as a social status divider which deepens class separation while strengthening identification with social groups.

In Peerani the psychological effects of class inequality on personal identity coordinate with theoretical concepts found in postcolonial studies as well as Marxist criticism and psychological research. The story illustrates how financial and social barriers combine to create inner wounds which plunge characters' psychological wellness. Future academic work should focus on examining the similarities between struggles from classbased identity due to their presentation in various literary traditions throughout both regional and global spaces.

Material and Methods

This research adopts a qualitative approach to analyze social class struggle in Jamal Abro's " Peerani." The research examines how social class dynamics impact the story structures and communal behavior alongside shaping individual personality traits by applying literary analysis methods and thematic discussions. The following sections describe the research method together with data collection strategies and analytical methods applied in this study.

Design of Research

The researchers then employed Qualitative methods to gain lucid insights into social problems and user testimonials regarding particular circumstances. Through the examination of character detail and story structure analysis this research evaluates all themes that appear in Jamal Abro's writing. The analysis through this methodology allowed an effective investigation into written texts by illuminating their social and cultural setting especially those aspects related to class conflict and societal effects.

Framework for Analysis

Multiple social class conflict theories form the foundation of this analysis to explore the work "Peerani" effectively. Karl Marx and Max Weber had a great contribution in the field for social class theory, and their insightful examinations of power, inequality, and class conflict still influence debates today. Marx's historical materialism theory have a strong impact on how economic systems shape social connections of people belonging to different classes and contends that the bourgeoisie and proletariat are inherently contradictory, which leads to class conflict. In Jamal Abro's short story "Peernai", people from various socioeconomic backgrounds represent the conflicts resulting from power dynamics and resource distribution, demonstrating this basic but important concept of class struggle.

By adding the great ideas of status and party in one frame, Weber broadened the definition of class and proposed that social stratification, that is impacted by social and cultural elements in the context to economic capital. His multifaceted and thoughtful approach acknowledges the interaction between people, belonging to the different class and status in forms of capital and offers a comprehensive view of class difference and class conflict. This intricacy is reflected in Jamal Abro's portrayal of people in Peerani, which shows how identification and status along with financial circumtances influence the individual experiences and social interaction.

Results and Discussion

In the sophisticated study presented by Jamal Abro in "Social Class Conflict: Peerani" the author investigates complex patterns of social class that affect personal lives while shaping community relationships. This part provides an exploration of Abro's modern-class strife insights by analyzing the characters, themes, and narrative methods in his text following a detailed literary interpretation. Analysis of Characters This book centers its narrative around multiple individuals who express separate life perspectives resulting from their social economic standing. The main character depicts the broad-reaching effects of social class tension while representing someone who belongs to an underprivileged group. Through their road to self-creation and self-realization the characters demonstrate the restrictive barriers which restrict social advancement. The novel presents the protagonist's difficulties alongside the privileged world which its rich characters inhabit without awareness about their blessings. Through this comparison society exposes how social classes get different capabilities along with different ways to advance themselves. Through the staged interactions among his characters Abro demonstrates how people suffer emotionally and mentally within a class-based social system that repeatedly hinders their aspirations with money troubles. The depiction of shared community experiences requires secondary characters to be present. The story depicts unity across adversity through its portrait of character relationships among these individuals. The established sense of unity becomes most apparent when major characters unite for shared challenges thereby proving that collective efforts can defeat structural oppression.

Class Conflict Themes

The narrative revolves around the main theme of social class conflict manifested through three major types of divide: wealth gap between social groups and cultural disconnects and interpersonal differences. Peerani clearly depicts the economic disparities that lead to marginalized status for certain communities according to Abro's depiction. Research on economic disparity demonstrate the increased separation between wealthy citizens and those from lower income brackets. Throughout the story the characters experience challenges from social discrimination which stems from their social class affiliations and cultural divisions play an essential role. Through his work Abro emphasizes how different forms of cultural wealth influence identity growth since members of different financial levels encounter distinct barriers when they attempt to create value. The characters who come from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the psychological consequences of economic inequality through their developed feelings of stigma.

Storytelling Methods

Through his storytelling approach Abro makes the characters' lives accessible to readers because their stories deepen their understanding of class conflict. Using different perspectives works particularly well because it demonstrates the complexity behind social class interactions. Through multiple narrative viewpoints Abro showcases all the aspects of Peerani customary life in a complex narrative structure. Throughout the story dialogue functions as a vital means to display how the characters see the world and what social rankings they hold. Abro demonstrates classroom dialogue strategies to present the subtle aspects of classroom interactions by showing how prejudice and prejudice act as foundations for partnerships develop. Through genuine representations readers establish emotional bonds with characters that struggle in their lives. Through his language descriptions between wealthy and poor neighborhoods Abro develops an impactful image of the community. Through this immediate visual contrast the story underlines its economic disparities to force readers into consideration about the social impact of such divisions upon their community. Several important conclusions from the study of "Social Class Conflict: Peerani" advance our knowledge of class struggle in modern society: Through its narrative the story represents how economic status creates substantial influence on a person's sense of self and their understanding of who they are. The characters belonging to wealthy families demonstrate entitlement but lower-class characters constantly deal with feelings of unworthiness. The study calls for better research on self-concept development in relation to class because it matches recent debates on personal identity formation.

The marginalized characters utilize solidarity as a strong way to resist oppression. The characters display how collective action works as a method to fight against structural oppression when they unite against common problems. The investigation shows community backing serves as a key force for reducing social stratification while building strength. Through his story Abro conducts an analysis of how structural frameworks maintain class conflicts. Multiple dimensions of interpersonal conflicts and economic challenges and ethnical barriers demonstrate the complex nature of social classes as well as demonstrating the need for holistic solutions to resolve these challenges. The study's concluding arguments stress the need for equity and justice promotion because this requires societies to restructure their fundamental values. The analysis demonstrates empathy as the essential key to bridge social class stands. Transformation of relationships becomes possible because certain characters show willingness to understand diverse individuals through their connections. Research reveals that developing empathy between different social classes enables better solutions for class conflicts along with improved social cohesion. The novel "Peerani" presents multiple ways how social class shapes relationships between communities and affects personal lifestyles. Through outstanding character development and deep analysis and effective storytelling methods Abro creates substantial understanding of modern social class conflicts in his writings. The study results show how empathy and solidarity emerge as essential elements alongside systemic fairness improvement and complete identity development comprehension. The end product of "Peerani" explores social class strife while challenging readers to reflect upon their social position while dedicating themselves to social justice. The developing plot demands our acknowledgment of economic disparities and fierce resistance for a society which embraces equal rights as well as inclusivity for all.

Discussion

In Jamal Abro's Peerani the author constructs a fictional village with class conflicts to reflect wider relevant sociocultural issues of today. Through its compelling narrative and compelling characters the story addresses themes of social equality as well as the formation of personal identities and group alliances. This talk thoroughly tests its subjects while presenting the outcomes that show how modern society deals with class conflict. Social class and Identity Formation Character identity and personal sense of self undergo many transformations because of socioeconomic status according to Peerani. Through this social

interaction different characters from various economic backgrounds demonstrate the ideas of Pierre Bourdieu who shows that social class shapes both financial capital and social and cultural resources. The narrative presents its characters experiencing life through public ideals while navigating what their actual resources permit them to achieve. Inside each character runs an inner struggle because they question the social structures which determine their worth in life but that ultimately reveals their mental state from living in a divided society. The perceptions shown by Abro create multiple self-definitions and generate diverse wishful desires among his characters. Characters belonging to affluent families demonstrate a mix of protective security and legal empowerment which creates identity performance suited for their social class status. Those from lower-class backgrounds experience persistent undervaluation in their place of residence which leads them to seek recognition while feeling disconnected and unimportant. The dense connection between intersectionality exists with the growth of personal identity. In his essay Abro investigated how characters respond to their both ethnic origins and gender identity alongside their class standing and cultural background. People gain superior insights into how multiple aspects of identity combine to influence lives when they use an intersectional perspective.

Resistance and Solidarity Mechanisms

Peerani notices that marginalized people unite to defend themselves during their struggle with class disparities while this development proves essential. The group faces institutional challenges rather than personal hardships while it works towards resolving structural issues according to Abro. Strongness emerges from shared life experiences as people create bonds which extend beyond social class limitations through various types of shared achievements and solidarity practices. Today's social equity movements make this issue essential for current societies. The Fight for \$15 and Black Lives Matter along with other environmental justice campaigns demonstrate that fighting mechanical injustices depends fundamentally on group unity. Real-world collective actions find their universal value through the story of Abro that reveals how group action helps combat the obstacles sustaining class antagonisms. In Peerani's portrayal unity emerges as the force which proves that united people fighting to protect their normal interests produce the most effective social change. Since characters discover commonalities between them their isolation dissolves and they begin to share feelings of connection. Changing their approach grants them additional power and serves as motivation for creating larger-scale social transformation. According to Abro group resistance requires individual strength as well as group relationship development to successfully solve class issues.

Systemic Inequality Critique

Throughout the story the author succeeds in debunking the widespread belief that achievement and effort bring success. Through his narrative Abro demonstrates how the cruel system supports privileged classes while characters shown pursuing better status within the system. Someone who attempts endless efforts to rise in life status may still encounter insurmountable barriers because access to social networks or employment or schooling opportunities remains inaccessible to them. Modern studies demonstrate that meritocratic systems lack success in dealing with systemic social inequality. Through his narrative structure the author pursues policies which enhance criticism regarding structural injustice. Through different perspectives he provides to readers comprehensive knowledge about how social class conflict affects various community members. Through this narrative approach readers are motivated to inspect their social class-related prejudices together with achieving empathy towards others. The comprehensive background of each character shows that social equality exists through real lived experience rather than theoretical abstract principles. The content analyzed in Social Class Conflict: Peerani generates multiple implications regarding modern social justice movements. Reading Abro's story motivates readers toward social justice system evaluation and encourages reflection on their roles in developing a fairer world. The attention on empathy

and knowledge as important features in resolving class differences allies with the expanding understanding of the importance of intersectional approaches to social justice. Societies need to understand how various social movements connect because they face economic inequalities. Relegated groups encounter problems which form part of a bigger fight for justice and equality.

Through storytelling people review how society sets its priorities. Meritocracy combined with individual achievement serves as a distraction against structural societal inequality. Social responsibility combined with group welfare inspires readers to promote laws and processes which create justice and equality throughout society. Through Peerani Abro explores every aspect of class conflicts within a fictional town. The story investigates the topics of social inequality and group unity and personal identity growth because it creates deep thematic connections and multiple layers of interpretation. Through its story the text provides necessary insight about critical social justice matters which also serves as an emotional reminder of enduring class struggles throughout modern times. Through his work Abro promotes an analytic mind to recognize unifying elements between different social battles and demonstrates why collective efforts are essential for fighting structural cruelty. Peerani makes readers question their perception of class structure as well as how class unity establishes a just and equitable society. The work of Peerani exists as a commemoration to human perseverance when faced with challenges while demonstrating an internal drive for social acknowledgment.

Conclusion

The authors demonstrate how social identity factors with social status and community stability in the setup of this hypothetical town called Peerani. Through multiple characters Abro tells the complex story of class conflict while illustrating that human interaction and social unity result from societal position divisions. The narrative generates an extensive contribution for modern discussions about social equality and injustice by presenting relevant findings that translate to existing social inequalities. The analysis provides multiple significant understandings about how the story explores social class battles. Social circle plays a fundamental role as one of the principle motifs within this text.

References

- Bourdieu, P. (1984). Distinction: A social critique of the judgment of taste. Harvard University
- Destin, M., & Oyserman, D. (2009). From assets to school outcomes: How finances shape children's perceived possibilities and aspirations. *Psychological Science*, *20*(4), 414-418.
- Destin, M., Rheinschmidt-Same, M., & Richeson, J. A. (2017). Status-based identity: A conceptual approach integrating the social psychological study of socioeconomic status and identity. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, *12*(2), 270-289.
- Eagleton, T. (1991). Ideology: An introduction. Verso.
- Erikson, E. H. (1959). *Identity and the life cycle*. International Universities Press.
- Fanon, F. (1963). The wretched of the earth (C. Farrington, Trans.). Grove Press.
- Gramsci, A. (1971). *Selections from the prison notebooks* (Q. Hoare & G. Nowell Smith, Eds. & Trans.). International Publishers.
- Kraus, M. W., Piff, P. K., & Keltner, D. (2012). Social class, sense of control, and social explanation. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 102(6), 998-1014.
- Layte, R. (2012). The association between income inequality and mental health: Testing status anxiety, social capital, and neo-materialist explanations. *European Sociological Review*, 28(4), 498-511.
- Lott, B., & Bullock, H. E. (2007). *Psychology and economic injustice: Personal, professional, and political intersections.* American Psychological Association.
- Lund, C., Breen, A., Flisher, A. J., Kakuma, R., Corrigall, J., Joska, J. A., & Patel, V. (2010). Poverty and common mental disorders in low and middle-income countries: A systematic review. *Social Science & Medicine*, 71(3), 517-528.
- Manstead, A. S. (2018). The psychology of social class: How socioeconomic status impacts thought, feelings, and behavior. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, *57*(2), 267-291.
- Mantsios, G. (1995). Media magic: Making class invisible. In G. Dines & J. Humez (Eds.), *Gender, race, and class in media: A text-reader* (pp. 100-109). Sage.
- Ridgeway, C. L. (2014). Why status matters for inequality. *American Sociological Review*, 79(1), 1-16.
- Seligman, M. E. P. (1972). *Learned helplessness: The psychological basis of depression.* Freeman.
- Seligman, M. E. P. (1975). Helplessness: On depression, development, and death. Freeman.
- Sennett, R., & Cobb, J. (1972). The hidden injuries of class. Knopf.
- Spivak, G. C. (1988). Can the subaltern speak? In C. Nelson & L. Grossberg (Eds.), *Marxism* and the interpretation of culture University of Illinois Press.
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1986). The social identity theory of intergroup behavior. In S. Worchel & W. G. Austin (Eds.), *Psychology of intergroup relations* Nelson-Hall.
- Wilkinson, R. G., & Pickett, K. E. (2010). *The spirit level: Why greater equality makes societies stronger*. Bloomsbury Press.