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RESEARCH ARTICLE

PAIN DOES NOT A MATTER TO A MAN”- HE HAS TO FIGHT AGAINST THE ODDS TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL SURVIVOR.

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Abstract

World wars were an enormous loss, because it collapsed and shook the entire world upside down. As a consequence, people lost their identity, there were lack of food, they were homeless and hopeless, everything seen as barren, alienation, emptiness and absurdity, survival become a big puzzle for them. This study is an attempt to show the obstacles faced by the people in the first half of Twentieth Century with reference to the novels of Earnest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, Saul bellow's *Dangling Man* and *Seize the Day*. These are well known works that depicts the effects caused by the world wars. However, the style of writing may differ to one another; but their only intension of writing is to show the confused state of world after the wars.

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Introduction:-

Twentieth century ushered in an era of moral perplexity and uncertainty. There was a rise of scientific spirit, but on the matter of religion, it gave raise to questions and doubts. The Second World War (1939 to 1945) marked the remarkable beginning of 20th century. The worldwide military resulted in the death of numerous people and destruction of cities. After the Second World War, peace and harmony in the society had been collapsed in the capitalist world and the people were homeless, these caused them the sense of loss, insecurity and anxiety.

The confusion strained the authoritarian pattern of family relationship and increased tension and frustration. Economic depression, unemployment, over population and acute shortage had increased the hardship of life caused stress and strain.

People were unable to cope up with the changes that roused from the confusion that followed the world wars, there began the trauma of existence among every people. This makes the writers of twentieth century to focus on the generalized theme of Existentialism, struggle to survive, fear and quest for life, victims etc. Apart from fiction, most dramatists focused on the theme of victimhood, a best-illustrated drama through the theatres of absurd such as, Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godott* (1952) and Horald Printer's *The Birthday party* (1957) were the theme of absurdity, bareness, nothingness and emptiness reflects the effects of world war.

Besides absurd and chaos, the novelist of 20th century, focused on the theme of existentialism that resulted in the question of survival. Existentialism is nothing but it emphasizes on individual existence, the popularized existential themes are such as dread, boredom, alienation, the absurd, freedom, commitment and nothingness.

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Existentialism: people feel that they have been victimized hence, searching to find out who they are and what they are throughout their life as they make choices based on their own experience, beliefs and outlook. After the world wars, the entire world was collapsed and in the confused state of world people felt that they were victimized and how they try to get out of it, have been clearly sketched by the writers Saul Bellow, Daniel Defoe and Earnest Hemingway's novels.

Likewise, postmodern American novelist like Barth, Pynchon, Miller, and Saul Bellow appropriately demonstrates the chaos and confusion that resulted out of the world wars. The postmodern American writers provide a vision of people under pressure and aggression as emotion with the description of violence of war.

The aim of this paper is to show how people were victimized, and why everything became a puzzle for the people belong to Twentieth Century. To sketch out the clear vision of victimhood, metamorphosis, a struggle for survival with reference to the novels have been mentioned; Saul Bellow's *Dangling Man and Seize the Day*, Earnest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, and Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe. Waiting for Godott and The Birthday Party* resemble the sufferings, emptiness, and barrenness after world war. The important factors of postmodern writes to picture the characters in the form of confused state are to 'believe or not to believe'. It is an attempt to show the complicated state of the characters like Old Man, Santiago, Robinson Crusoe, Joseph, Tommy Wilhelm whether they are in the phase of victimhood or in the phase of survival.

Analysis and Finding:-

In *The Old Man and the Sea*, the story appears to be a very simple; an old Cuban fisherman, who catches the huge 'Marlin' and losses it again. The Old man wants his own identification so he sails far to fish but unfortunately he is unsuccessful at the end. Once he catches the big 'Marlin', he would not carry it along with him to the shore; he has lost his luck at fishing. He fears that, "if sharks come..." and "God pity him and me" (OMS 77). He struggles without food and companionship it shows his isolation and alienation, anything may happen to him that he was alone for three days in his skiff.

He looked upon the sea and knew how alone he was now. But he could see the prisms in the deep dark water and the line stretching ahead and the strange undulation of the calm. The clouds were building up for the trade wind and he looked ahead and saw a flight of wild ducks etching themselves against the sky over the water, then etching again and he knew no man was ever alone on the sea. (OMS 68)

The old man must battle both physically and mentally against the nihil, once he carries the great 'Marlin', he fights against sharks to save himself and 'Marlin', to prove him as a successful survivor. "Man is made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated" (OMS 31). He continuously muses that "Man can be Destroyed, but not Defeated; this shows that everyman can be destroyed, but not to be defeated in his life by anyone under any circumstances.

Whereas, Robinson Crusoe is considered as the first novel of its kind in English literature and the major portion of the novel describes the protagonist, Crusoe's adventures on an uninhabited island. He is alone; his first task consists in his obtaining plenty of stores from the shore. He wants to lead his life, he builds a habitation for himself; he built a hut on the ground. He starts to cultivate his own crops of barley and rice; makes food out of it. When he suffers out of his illness, he turns to God and prays for mercy.

The deeper meaning in the adventure of Crusoe is it stands to show that the protagonist is victimized and he struggles for his survival. He believes that the solitary life of Crusoe on the island is God's punishment for his great sin; disobeying his father's wish. Crusoe spends his two years in a state of slavery.

They asked what I was, in Portuguese and in Spanish and in French, but i understood none of them; but at last a scots sailor who was in board called to me; and answered him and told him I was an Englishman, I made my escape out of slavery from the moors at sale; then they made me come on board and very kindly took me in, and all my goods. (RC 37).

Then he escapes from the state of slavery. This also shows that he has been victimized and wishes to get out of it and wants to prove his self-identity. He is companionless and resourceless and he would have to help himself with

regard to both shelter and food. To lead his life he becomes a cultivator and build his own hut; his proper habitation. This states that he has been alienated from the world which he knows and becomes an alien to his current world.

I had great reason to considered it as a determination of heaven that in this desolate place and in desolate manner I should end my life; the tears could run plentifully down my face when I made these reflections, and sometimes I would expostulate with myself why providence should thus completely ruins this abandoned, so entirely depressed, that it would hardly be rational to be thankful for such a life. (RC 65)

Saul Bellow's *Dangling Man* deals with the man who finds himself unsteadily dangling between civilian life and his desperate waiting for the military call up. He was jobless; he leads his entire life with the help of his working wife. He spends his entire day in a single room, reads newspaper and writes his thoughts about everyday happenings in the form of journal.

In the city where one has lived nearly all his life, it is not likely that he will ever be solitary; and yet, in a real sense, I am just that. I am alone ten hours a day in a single room. As such places go, it is not bad, though there are the standard rooming-house annoyances: cooking odors, roaches, and peculiar neighbors. But over the years I have become accustomed to all three. (DM 10)

If man is to live without money, he has to face abuses and insults in his day-today-life just as the same way how Saul Bellow pictured his protagonist to face many obstacles and backdrops. Some of the incident, which makes Joseph to react very aggressive, is:

Myself, I would rather die in the war than consume its benefits. When I am called I shall go and make no protest. And, of course, I hope to survive. But I could rather be a victim than a beneficiary. (DM 84)

In *Seize the Day*, Tommy depends on his father Mr. Dr. Adler. He is seen as an unpromising son and his estranged wife demands money. His father never wants to help his son and says that 'why Tommy is not a successful man?'

His father said, "I can't give you any money. There would be no end to it if I started. You and your sister would take every buck from me. I'm still alive, not dead. I am still here. Life isn't over yet. I am as much alive as you are any one. (SD 55)

The value and the need for money make readers to feel that the protagonist has been victimized and he tries to get out of it, every time he tries to raise his standard he has to face many obstacles in every situation.

"My dad is something of a stranger to me, too," said Wilhelm, and he begun muses. Where the similar person he used to be? Or I used to be? Catherine- she won't even talk to me anymore, my own sister. (SD 93)

The four characters: Santiago, Crusoe, Joseph and Tommy face many struggles, obstacles, alienation, insults and trauma in different aspects. The struggle, which they face, may be different, but the only intension or focus for them is to become self- identified persons and successful survivors. Santiago, Crouse, Joseph long for companionship as they are alone in different situations and environment in which they need to survive. Each of them knows that they have been victimized but would not get out of it.

I, in this single room, separate, alienated, distrustful, find in my purpose not an open world, but a closed, hopeless jail. My perspectives end in the walls. Nothing of the future comes to me. Only the past, in its shabbiness and opportunities lie; they break prisons and cross whole siberias to pursue them. One single holds me. (DM 92)

Conclusion:-

The novelists show how their protagonists have been victimized and how they struggle for their survival. The obstacles they face in the form of searching for identity and need for money shows that their only motive is to survive. This state reflects the effect caused by the world wars. This highlights that the writers themselves faced or affected by the consequences of the world wars. They reflected those experiences and emotions in their writings on their own style. The novels that are discussed in this paper deserve to be read and analyzed. Moreover, it is perfect for the present scenario where people need money, self- identity; they struggle to survive in the modern dominated society.

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