

RJPSSS

**RESEARCH JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY
& SOCIAL SCIENCES**

A Peer Reviewed International Journal

**DICKENS HOUSEHOLD WORDS AS THE CRUSADE SOCIAL JOURNALISM OF
ENGLAND DURING VICTORIAN PER**

Suman Mishra*
Research Scholar
J. J. T. UNIVERSITY, Jhunjhunu
Rajasthan
Suman.tatva1@gmail.com

Charles Dickens was a famous English novelist of Victorian period, a prominent writer who also targeted social evils of society, injustice and hypocrisy. He was born during new Industrial period in Land port, Hampshire on February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth. On the southern coast of England, His Father was a naval clerk. His full name was Charles John Huffman Dickens and was well loved British author of numerous works. In 1814, Dickens migrated to Chatham where he explored and educated himself. Dickens started working at a blacking factory London.

During his early days Dickens started freelance reporting for Law Courts of London. In 1833, he started making sketches under the pseudonym ‘Boz’, for various magazines and newspapers. Before being famous for his fiction, Dickens was an accomplished reporter who was concerned with various social issues. In year 1850, he became the editor of a weekly publication ‘Household Words’. When Household Words came in midst of Common Era, it was of great success. He remained the founder and editor of Household Words from (1850 -59) till his death in year 1870. He became the editor of his own weekly magazine Household words dealing with topical features, essays, poetry and short fiction by various writers even Elizabeth Bernot Browning was a part of it along with Wikkie Collins and Mrs. Gaskell, but unfortunately there was some dispute between publishers and Dickens and also his separation from his wife in 1859, the publication breathed its last.

On coming back to London, Dickens published his first episode of ‘Hard Times’ in Household Words, that was in April 1854. Hard Times was all about the hero Stephen Black pool, who was a power loom weaver in a factory in Coke town and all he wanted to marry twenty years his junior. Dickens earned 1,500 from this issue and his circulation were also doubled. In the remarkable view of George Orwell and The writer of Charles Dickens; His serial journalism

(1986), *Hard Times* is about the problems faced by an industrial mass. It is a tale of the conflict between the master and the workers in the mute society.

In year 1850, Dickens decided to publish the journal *Household Words* along with his publisher, Bradbury and Evans and John Forster, one of his good friend. He himself became the editor and William Henry Wills, a journalist, with whom he had earlier worked on the *Daily News*, became his helping hand as his assistant. Wills was a very intelligent and also a gentleman too. For Dickens, Wills was an ideal man for this team and a man of “Boundless Energy”. Wills proved his best for the edition part along with correspondence part.

Dickens took a place on rent 16 Wellington Street North for the office of *Household Words*. It was small and congested but Dickens described it as pretty and full of light. The aim behind the journal was to uplift those who are neglected and deprived of various things to improve the society. He insisted that it is very important to improve society where infancy was treated as ugly, painful and maturity is compared with old age and pauperism is in vain without hopes everyday this main motif was to set an example of justice & humanity to London people and the whole Empire. He also invited Elizabeth Gaskell for *Household Words* on 30th March 1850, Gaskell ‘Lizzie Leigh’ were published in the first issue of *Household Words*. It depicted a story of a prostitute who was from Manchester; it was twenty four pages and was published mainly on Wednesday.

According to Claire Tomalin, It was a strong step to give a prominent place to journalism in midst of crowd of commoners. It was a journalism of common issues like sanitation, housing, and accidents in factories, education, workhouse and right of the poor’s. John forster was the leading writer for *Household Words*. Famous writer like Willkie Collins, Eliza Lynn Linton, Henry Morley, Blanchard Jerrold, George Augustus Salg and Percy Fitzgerald also contributed a lot for *Household Words*. Dickens father in Law, George Hogarth, compiled the *Household Words* narrative of current events.

House-Hold Words

It was published every Saturday from March 1850 to May 1859. Each number cost is mere tuppence and it ensured a wide readership. It was entitled ‘A Preliminary World’. According to Dickens in his own words- “We all want to live in Household affections”.

It was all about poor and working classes. Dickens was mentioned as ‘conductor’ in the journals. Dickens acquaintance, writer and poet Richard Henry Home was appointed sub-editor at a salary of “five guineas a week”, later on due to dispute between the publishers and Dickens publication was ceased and then *Household Words* was replaced by ‘All the Year Round’. Dickens was how more confident about his publication. It is a journal, mainly was a mixture of fiction as well as notification. Elizabeth Gaskell become one of the prominent writer and she published many stories of the Huguenots, Morton Hall, My French Master, The Squires story, Company Manners, An Accursed Race, Half a Lifetime Ago, The Poor Clare, My Lady Ludlow, The Sin of a Father

and the Manchester Marriage and her novel North and South appeared in Household Words in 1854 in form of a serial. North and South truly portrayed realities of a capitalist society.

Dickens 'Bleak House' also appeared in Household Words in twenty parts. According to Claire Tomalin - it was one of the most powerful novel of Dickens. It talked about corruption, abstraction, sloth inhumanity and physical illness of England. It dealt with London and about sick governance. Dickens aim behaved this was to explore parliament reform. Household Words became a big commercial success.

Charles Dickens and his publishers Bradbury and Evans started Household Words which was a weekly magazine and its aim was to motivate people. It contained different articles mainly complied with information articles and also entertaining too; it also dealt with public education. It was published on every Wednesday from 27 March 1850 to 28 May 1859 at No. 16 Wellington Street North an appreciated & welcomed by a big mass and targeting middle class. Charles Dickens appeared as a 'conductor' for journal. The magazine was valued a lot a acted like a social reformer. It provides various information regarding emigration from London to Australia.

(Bentley et al, 124). There were mainly six to ten items published in each issue. It contained twenty four pages or 22,000 words in length. It was also enriched through "Madam Busque's" by George A. Sala and "The Saucy Aretha USA" by Grenville Hurray. Chapters 29 & 30 of Gaskell's North and South and also one more "The Great Red Book" also by Sala. The best part of it that it was not dominated by journalistic language although it was journal. It also included writer's old and young veteran survivors of Romantic age to writer of twenty century. Dickens invited people of all social classes -from workers to sophisticated people even drivers, barristers, medical men, naturalist, sailors and army men. They also welcomed people not from Britain but also from the empire like- India, Australia, and Ceylon. Some ninety women also contributed.

'The Quiet Poor', the article appeared in April 15, 1854. The article talks about the hardships endured by Victorian Urban poor people and a healthy sanitary condition when they were forced to live.

Rumors spreaded that Dickens had an affair with Georgina Hogarth, his own sister-in-law. According to divorce Act, divorce can only be given to husband only when there is any evidence of bigamy, incest or cruelty. Dickens gave his statements that he is facing some domestic trouble. The statement was published in 'The Times' and Household Words. Dickens was suffering from his marital disaster and also risking his reputation is public and became a scandal. During this period Dickens was in great stress. Year 1858 spring, witnessed the separation of Dickens from his wife.

SUMMARY

Household Words was a great success among the commoner and came out with flying colors. Household Words was cheerful full of information, colorful and the best part of it was

readable. According to Sala, Dickens was full of magnetic power, he used to spread the sparking word of his own here & there and it was magical touch. Dickens was famous among his contributors for his systematic payer habits and thus his relation was good among them.

Household came out with various facts about Charles Dickens and his personality. Dickens separated from his wife Catherine in May 1858 and he was blamed for adultery. To quash the rumors, he wrote a full page in the 1858, 12 June issue in his own support. Soon Dickens wounded up the magazines affairs and in-corporate into his new weekly 'All the year Round' Household Words was cheerful, innovative and more readable.

REFERENCES

1. Ackroyd . Peter, *Dickens*, (2002), Vintage, ISBN0099437090.
2. Bentley, Nicolas, Michel Slotter and Nina Burgis. *The Dickens Index*. Oxford and New York: Oxford U.P., 1990.
3. Davis, Paul. *Charles Dickens A to Z: The Essential References of His Life and Work*. New York: Checkmark and facts On File, 1999.
4. Fido, Martin. *The World of Charles Dickens*. Vancouver: Raincoast, 1997.
5. Fitzgerald, Percy Hetherington (1913), *Memories of Charles Dickens with an account of "Household Words" and "All the years round" and the contributors thereto* Bristol, England JW Arrowsmith, pp.120-121, retrieved 3 Sept 2013.
6. Kitton. *Frederic G. Dickens and His Illustration*, 1899. Rpt. Honolulu: U. press of the Pacific. 2004
7. Sehlicke, Paul. *Oxford reader's Companion to Dickens*. Oxford and New York: Oxford U. P. 1999.