

## Human Rights In The Novel Half The Sky By Wudunn And Kristof (Sociological Study)

Zhafirah Farah Rizqikah<sup>1</sup>, Dahlia D. Moelier<sup>1</sup>, Asyrafunnisa<sup>1</sup>

English Literature Departement, Letters Faculty Bosowa University<sup>1</sup>

\*Email: zhafirahfarah20@gmail.com

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### Abstract

*This research intends to analyze human rights violations and social conditions which affect human rights violations portrayed in the novel "Half the Sky" by Wudunn and Kristof. The research used descriptive qualitative research method with sociological study. There are two sources of data which are primary and secondary data. The primary data was taken from the novel "Half the Sky". Meanwhile, the secondary data were taken from journal, theses, and article. The researcher used a sociological study to describe the social conditions that affect human rights in the novel "Half the Sky". The result of this research, the researcher found the author's way portrayed the kinds of human rights and the social conditions which affect human rights violations in the novel "Half the Sky" by Wudunn and Kristof.*

**Key words:** human rights, sociological study, and novel



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is the work of verbal and written creation regarding the author's intentions which communicated and is referred to as being aesthetics. Literature has three subjects; drama, poetry, and prose. The prose is divided into two, namely fiction prose and nonfiction prose. Fiction refers to literature created from the imagination. Mysteries, science fiction, romance, fantasy, crime thrillers are all fiction genres. Meanwhile, nonfiction refers to literature based on fact, including biography, business, cooking, health, languages, religion, art, and music, history, etc. (Cuddon, 1998, p.471).

One of the social problems that has been the subject of literature is human rights. Human rights are one of the elements of the concept of the rule of law, human rights are basically a right that is owned from birth or a basic right that is owned by humans as an individual beings. His view states that human rights are basic rights given to humans to shape their lives in accordance with freedom, equality and respect for human dignity as individual beings (Nijhoff, 2003, p.1).

Human rights are rights that are naturally inherent in humans, without which humans cannot live as humans. Human rights are based on the fundamental principle that all human beings have natural dignity regardless of gender, skin color, language of origin, nation, age, political belief and religion. Human rights are basic rights that are naturally inherent in every person which have basic and universal. (Alimi, 1999, p.13). One of the novels that talks about human rights is Half the Sky by Wudunn and Kristof. Half the sky begins by outlining the most egregious ways in which human rights are violated trafficking and slavery, prostitution, rape and honour killings, and maternal morality. By a story which is described by Wudunn and Kristof, the researcher will focus on analysed more about the human rights especially the violations of human rights that portrayed in the novel and the social conditions which influences human rights violation.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

In conducting this research, the researcher used several previous studies as a reference and to support the research

### **2.1. Previous Studies**

There are many researches that have relation with human rights in literary works, Colaguori (2010) with the title Symbolic violence and the violation of human rights continuing the sociological critique of domination. Analysed about the conceptual underpinnings of Pierre Bourdieu's concept of "symbolic violence" as a recent entry in the sociological tradition that was concerned with the critique of domination. The purpose of this research explained the conceptual underpinnings of Pierre Bourdieu's concept of "symbolic violence" as a recent entry in the sociological tradition that is concerned with the critique of domination.

This research also considers the usefulness of the concept in examining forms of domination emerging in the present crisis phase of post 9/11 neo-liberalism, and calls for the application of the concept in analyses of human rights violations. It was also proposed that there is a dialectical relationship between symbolic violence and the perpetration of repressive physical violence. Both symbolic violence (soft) and concrete (hard) violence are understood sociologically as forms of social control, and not as biological or psychological expressions of human aggression. In the process of collecting data, this research belongs to the type of qualitative research using descriptive methods. This research reminds the reader of the various challenges in defining violence more generally and also that the way we understand violence has implications for its amelioration.

Another previous study was arranged by Potts et al. (2011) with the title Measuring Human Rights Violations in a Conflict Affected Country: Result from a Nationwide Cluster Survey in Central African Republic. From the analysis concluded about Measuring human rights violations is particularly challenging during or after armed conflict. A recent nationwide survey in the Central African Republic produced estimates of rates of grave violations against children and adults affected by armed conflict, using an approach known as the "Neighborhood Method". This experience showed it is possible to collect representative, population-based estimates regarding the occurrence of grave violations in difficult and politically unstable settings. However, it was exceedingly difficult to calibrate innovative approaches to measuring grave violations when no gold standards exist. While it is likely that all events suffer from under-reporting, there is evidence that these events are occurring, particularly in the north of the country.

Another previous study was arranged by Singh et al. (2012) with the title Human Rights Violations Among Sexual and Gender Minorities in Kathmandu, Nepal. From the analysis concluded that Nepal has experienced sporadic reports of human rights violations among sexual and gender minorities. Our objective was to identify a range of human rights that are enshrined in international law and/or are commonly reported by sexual and gender minority participants in Kathmandu, to be nonprotected or violated. This research

represented different socioeconomic classes, occupations (sex workers, government employees, students), and residence status (local residents, migrants from India, some displaced as a result of the conflict). Quotes from the participants and parenthetical explanation for unfamiliar words. Sexual and gender minorities in Nepal experienced a range of human rights violations. Future efforts should enroll a larger and more systematic sample of participants to determine frequency, timing, and/or intensity of exposure to rights

violations, and estimate the population-based impact of these rights violations on specific health outcomes.

Another previous study was conducted by Scorgie et al. (2013) with the title *Human Rights Abuses and Collective Resilience among Sex Workers in Four African Countries: a Qualitative Study*. Analyzed that Sex work is a criminal offence, virtually throughout Africa. This criminalisation and the intense stigma attached to the profession shapes interactions between sex workers and their clients, family, fellow community members, and societal structures such as the police and social services. explore the impact of violence and related human rights abuses on the lives of sex workers, and how they have responded to these conditions, as individuals and within small collectives. These analyses are based on data from 55 in-depth interviews and 12 focus group discussions with female, male and transgender sex workers in Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Data were collected by sex worker outreach workers trained to conduct qualitative research among their peers. In describing their experiences of unlawful arrests and detention, violence, extortion, vilification and exclusions, participants present a picture of profound exploitation and repeated human rights violations.

This situation has had an extreme impact on the physical, mental and social wellbeing of this population. Overall, the article details the multiple effects of sex work criminalisation on the everyday lives of sex workers and on their social interactions and relationships. While criminal laws urgently need reform, sex work self-organisation and community-building support are key interim strategies for sex workers' human rights and improving health outcomes protection in these communities. If developed at sufficient scale and intensity, sex work organisations could play a critical role in reducing the present harms caused by criminalisation and stigma.

Another study was conducted by Aisyah et.al (2021) entitled *Rebellion In The Poem Howl By Allen Ginsberg*. In analyzing the data, the writer used a qualitative descriptive research method through a sociological approach. The data were obtained by using reading, collecting, and analyzing techniques and to classify the types of rebellion principle in the poem by Jhon Lewis Gillin and Jhon Philip Gillin's theory. The result of this research were 26 data that contain types of rebellion principle where 7 data of assimilation, 2 data of accommodation, 2 data of acculturation, 8 data of contravention, 4 data of competition and 3 data of conflict. There are 6 types with 26 data and an explanation of rebellion portrayed in this research poem, but the types and portrayed that are more prominent are negative because the researcher finds a lot of war, capitalism, consumerism, deceit, torture, and murder physically and mentally. Evil America has turned the lives of the lower classes into a terrible and nightmare.

Another study was conducted by Abeid et al. (2014) with the title *Community perceptions of rape and child sexual abuse: a Qualitative Study in Rural Tanzania*. Rape of women and children is recognized as a health and human rights issue in Tanzania and internationally. Exploration of the prevailing perceptions in rural areas is needed in order to expand the understanding of sexual violence in the diversity of Tanzania's contexts. The aim of this study therefore was to explore and understand perceptions of rape of women and children at the community level in a rural district in Tanzania with the added objective explored of those perceptions that may contribute to perpetuating and/or hindering the disclosure of rape incidences. A qualitative design was employed using focus group discussions with male and female community members including religious leaders, professionals, and other community members.

The discussions centred on causes of rape, survivors of rape, help-seeking and reporting, and gathered suggestions on measures for improvement. Six focus group discussions (four of single gender and two of mixed gender) were conducted. The focus group discussions were recorded, transcribed verbatim, and analysed using manifest qualitative content analysis. The participants perceived rape of women and children to be a frequent and hidden phenomenon. A number of factors were singled out as contributing to rape, such as erosion of social norms, globalization, poverty, vulnerability of children, alcohol/drug abuse and poor parental care. Participants perceived the need for educating the community to raise their knowledge of sexual violence and its consequences, and their roles as preventive agents. In this rural context, social norms reinforce sexual violence against women and children, and hinder them from seeking help from support services. Addressing the identified challenges may promote help-seeking behaviour and improve care of survivors of sexual violence, while changes in social and cultural norms are needed for the prevention of sexual violence.

Another study was conducted by Arulrajah & Steele (2018) with the title UK Medical Education on Human Trafficking: Assessing Uptake of the Opportunity to Shape awareness, Safeguarding and Referral in the Curriculum. Analysed that Human trafficking is a serious violation of human rights, with numerous consequences for health and wellbeing. Recent law and policy reforms mean that clinicians now hold a crucial role in national strategies. 2015 research, however, indicates a serious shortfall in knowledge and confidence among healthcare professionals in the UK, leading potentially to failures in safeguarding and appropriate referral. Medical education is a central point for trafficking training. We ascertain the extent of such training in UK Medical Schools, and current curricular design. Freedom of Information requests to the 34 public UK medical schools, which included a preliminary question on education provision, supplemented with follow-up questions exploring the nature, delivery and format of any education, as well as future curriculum development. Medical education on trafficking in the UK is variable and often absent. To produce future clinicians who are competent and capable, there is a need for expanded education on trafficking and research into optimal curriculum design. The UK's new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner should work with medical schools to develop an educational strategy urgently to fulfil the UK Government's plans and commitments. Both in the UK and around the world, human trafficking education presents a critical opportunity to address human rights and safeguarding to a generation of new doctors.

Based on some previous studies, this current study will analyzed Wudunn and Kristof novel Half the Sky. This topic is still urgently investigated because Wudunn and Kristof is the author of Humanism who are asked to be seen. In this study it is some different object from the research in a previous study, this research will be more focused on Human rights. This research will be more directed to the human rights violation and the social condition which affect human rights violations.

## **2.2. Research Theory**

In analysing a literary work, it should use theoretical framework to give a depth explanation and to understand the phenomena. In this cases, to challenge and extend existing knowledge within the limits of critical bounding assumptions. In this case, the researcher uses sociological approach in analyzing a novel through social conditions in certain time portrayed in literary work.

Sociology and literature are related each other, consequently all the elements of the content of fictional literature relation to the existance of a social reality, Goldman (1975, p.8). In the content of fictional literature, the author emphasizes that sociology is the

scientific study of man and his society, social interactions, social institution and process, and the structure and system of society. For example, a novel as a kind of literary work is necessary both biography and social chronicle. A particularly important fact is that the situation of the writer in relation to the world has created, in the novel different from the situation in relation to the world of any other literary form.

Literature and sociology are always dependent each other. The most important of this interdependent relationship is that literature is the social institution and it uses the medium of language, a social creation. Meanwhile, sociology depicts life and life is a social reality in literary work, Wellek and Warren (1985, p.94). Sociology as the science of social relations studies the society and gets its subject matter from different sources, literature being one of them. Literature, like sociology, critically examines the realistic picture of human life. Therefore, it has known as the mirror and controller of the society. Sociology tries to study the literary facts and their impact on social relation. In this study, the researcher used one of the concepts of the sociology of literature approach by Wellek and Warren. This concept is considered the closest in researching the novel *Half the Sky* by Wudunn and Kristof. The core of this theory, literature and sociology are interconnected to create literary works. Literature, like sociology, critically examines the realistic picture of human life, such as in the novel.

### **3. METHODS**

In analyzing the data, the researcher used descriptive qualitative data. To interpret the social conditions which affect the human rights violations, the researcher will use sociological approach, theory by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren then the researcher interpreted the data and then draw conclusion based on the analysis.

### **4. RESULTS**

In accordance with the objective of this study, the researcher divided the data finding into four parts

#### **4.1. Human rights violations portrayed in the novel *Half the Sky* by Wudunn and Kristof.**

##### *4.1.1 Rape*

Data 1:

Based on the sentence “Finally they drugged me: They gave me wine in my drink and got me completely drunk.” Then one of the brothel owners raped her. It could be classified as rape. Meena was frustrated and tried to fight the customers who came to the brothel, but every time she fought Meena was hit with a belt, stick, and iron so Meena gave up and stopped fighting the customers. Violence against women was not only a crime, it was also a form of gender-based human rights violations that result in physical, sexual, psychological pain or suffering to women, including threats, coercion.

Data 2:

Based on the sentence “An essential part of the brothel business model is to break the spirit of girls, through humiliation, rape, threats, and violence.” Data 2 could be classified as rape. Once a girl was crushed and frightened, all hope of escape was squeezed from her, strength may no longer be needed to control her. The victim factor an important role in being able to overcome or resolve this rape case, this requires courage from the victim to report the incident to the police, because in general the victim experiences threats of raped again from the perpetrator and this makes the victim afraid and traumatized.

#### *4.1.2 Trafficking*

Data 1:

Data 1 represented trafficking, the sentence “Yet it’s not hyperbole to say that millions of women and girls are actually enslaved today. The term that is usually used for this phenomenon, “sex trafficking,” is a misnomer.” Death was prone to occur in the late twenties due to AIDS. There are many factors that cause trafficking, one of which was public ignorance of this human trafficking, because most of them are from poor families who come from rural areas, those with limited education and knowledge, who are involved in serious economic and social problems, family members who are facing economic crises such as loss of husband's or parents' income.

Data 2:

Data 2 described trafficking, the sentence “In those places, brothels do not lock up women, and many women work on their own without pimps or brothels. Nor is the problem exactly “trafficking,” The horror of sex trafficking can more properly be labeled slavery.” Explained how women sell themselves without pimps. In brothels, there are no strict rules so many women come to offer themselves as sex slaves. The definition of trafficking due to forced prostitution does not always depend on a pimp, so many women sell themselves.

#### *4.1.3 Prostitution*

Data 1:

Data 1 represented prostitution, the sentence “Meena is an Indian Muslim who for years was prostitute in a brothel run by the Nutt, a low-caste tribe that controls the local sex trade. The Nutt have traditionally engaged in prostitution and petty crime, and theirs is the world of intergenerational prostitution.” Prostitution was something that was considered despised by some people or something that was considered taboo by religion, but it should be noted that some women did this because they did not have enough income for their families, the state should be present as a good job provider. Meena was a mother who has to fulfill her responsibilities towards her children and that was her right as a free human being even though it was against her conscience or her religion. The state must be presented to protect the rights of every citizen or even facilitate it.

Data 2:

Based on data above, the sentence “Australian prostitute who slipped Sheryl into the locker room of her “men’s club” to meet the local girls. We certainly didn’t think of prostitutes as slaves, forced to do what they do, for most prostitutes in America, China, and Japan were not truly enslaved.” Prostitution is something that women may do for opportunism or because of economic desperation. Some people choose prostitution as a shortcut to fulfilling their economic needs. The dominant factor that causes a person to choose prostitution as a source of income was the difficulty of finding employment, low levels of education. Low economic pressure is a factor for someone to fall into prostitution.

#### *4.1.4 Kidnapping*

Data 1:

Data 1 represented kidnapping, the sentence “I was eight or nine years old when I was kidnapped, Meena begins.” Meena begins. She came from a poor family on the Nepal border and was sold to a Nutt clan, then taken to a rural house where the brothel owner kept prepubescent girls until they were mature enough to attract customers.” She was from a poor family on the Nepal border and was sold to a Nutt clan, then taken to a rural house where

the brothel owner kept prepubescent girls. Meena think that it was better to die than live like that. Meena jumped from the balcony, but nothing happened event break a leg.

Data 2:

Data 2 described kidnapping, the sentence “Solution really to kidnap Nepali girls and imprison them in Indian brothels? The officer shrugged, unperturbed. “It’s unfortunate,” he agreed. “These girls are sacrificed so that we can have harmony in society.” Explained how social conditions affect the occurrence of prostitution that occurs in Nepal. Men who are young to adulthood, when unmarried, men think they will kidnap Nepalese girls and put them in brothels and become victims of prostitution. There are not many parties involved in protecting children's rights and taking concrete steps. Likewise, efforts to protect children's rights that are violated by the state, adults, or even their parents, do not pay much attention to the interests of the children's future. Children are soulmates, images, and mirrors of the future, family assets, religion, nation, and state.

## **5. DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 Human Rights Violations Portrayed**

Rape culture affects every woman. Rape of one woman was degradation, terror, and restriction for all women. Most women and girls limit their behavior because of rape. Most women and girls live in fear of rape. Men, in general, no. Thus rape serves as a powerful means by which the entire female population was placed in a subordinate position to the entire male population, although many men do not rape, and many women have never been victims of rape. This cycle of fear was the legacy of the Rape Culture. The depiction of rape by all characters in the novel showed 8 data from 8 sentences.

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide. It happened in any community and victims could be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paid jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations. The depiction of trafficked by all characters in the novel showed 5 data from 5 sentences.

Prostitution, the shelled of sexual services, was yet another controversial sexual behavior. Many people, and especially those with conservative, religious views, believe prostitution is immoral because it involves sex for money, and they consider prostitution a sign of society’s moral decay. Many feminists believe that prostitution was degrading to women and provides a context in which prostitutes are robbed, beaten, and/or raped. These two groups of people might agree on little else, but they both hold strong negative views about prostitution. The depiction of prostitution by all characters in the novel showed 5 data from 5 sentences.

Kidnapped was the unlawful detention of a person through the use of force, threats, fraud or enticement. The purpose was an illicit gain, economic or material, in exchange for liberation. It might also be used to pressure someone into did something or did not something. The depiction of kidnapping by all characters in the novel showed 4 data from 4 sentences.

### **5.2 Social conditions affect human rights violation portrayed**

Mania Sociology as a science of social relations that studies society and got was subject matter from various sources, one of which was literature. As a social product, literature reflects society, human relations, and the world in which we live, interact and move. Literature, like sociology, critically examines the realistic view of human life.

Therefore, it is known as a reflection and controller of society. While Sociology tries to study literary facts and social relations.

The data showed that the social conditions that influence the occurrence of human rights violations are due to various backgrounds. Such as rape and kidnapping occur because someone's social circumstances are urgent for a reason. As was the tradition in Ethiopia, if someone was unable to pay a dowry to marry a girl, then the solution was to kidnap and rape the girl who will be married because of Ethiopian tradition, the perpetrator of kidnapping and rape must marry the victim.

Social conditions influence the occurrence of trafficking and prostitution, such as in a region in Nepal due to weak economic conditions in which mothers sell sex and raise their daughters to do the same. Traditions such as selling children into prostitution are common in Nepal. Trafficking occurred in one area in Poipet, Cambodia, one of which was because he was trapped with one of the jobs offers that promised to get a job at a hotel but what happened was instead been sold into a brothel to be used as a sex slave.

## 6. CONCLUSION

It could be concluded that The novel Half the Sky by Wudunn and Kristof showed human rights violations portrayed, they were rape, trafficking, prostitution, and kidnapped. From the novel half the sky, it could concluded that human rights violations coul happened to anyone regardless of social status, occupation, economic status, ethnicity, and religion. From the finding of data, there were 8 data of rape, 5 data of trafficking, 7 data of prostitution, and 4 data of kidnapping.

Based on the data, the social conditions affect human rights violations portrayed in the novel Half the Sky, Based on the data, the social conditions that affect the human rights violations described in the novel Half the Sky occur with various social conditions, cases of human rights violations in the form of rape and kidnapping occur because of the social conditions of the Ethiopia people who have a tradition of married the perpetrators of kidnapping and rape crimes with their victims, so that men who do not have enough money to pay the dowry prefer to kidnap and rape women to make it easier for men to marry women who are victims of crime. Based on the data, it could be concluded that trafficked and prostitution occur due to low economic conditions so that mothers would raise their daughters and sell them to prostitution brothels.

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