

# The Negative Impacts of the Cultural Ban and Oppression of Human Rights on the Afghan's Psychological Condition in Khaled Hosseini's Novels *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

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## ABSTRACT

*This article discusses two of Khaled Hosseini's notable novels, namely *The Kite Runner* (2003) and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2007). These novels describes the story where Afghanistan is affected by the negative impacts of the long-running conflicts and the other social problems. The purpose of this article is to discuss the negative impacts of the cultural ban and the violation of human rights on the characters' psychological condition. By applying the qualitative method and the psychoanalysis theory, this article would explain how the case of cultural ban and human rights violation affected the characters in the novels. The writer would also use several additional references to strengthen the evidences in this article. The findings of this article are related to the characters' stresses in dealing with their respective problems in each novel. In *The Kite Runner*, the discussion focuses on the Hazara characters named Hassan and Sohrab, with the latter being the most-discussed one. Both are the victims of Taliban atrocities where Hassan was killed by the officials, and his son Sohrab was captured and forced to be a bacha bazi (dancing boy) by Assef, the antagonist of the novel, which reflected the negative impact of violations towards his psychological development. The next result is found in the second novel titled *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, which focuses on the story of Mariam. In the plot, Mariam is shown to be oppressed by both his temperamental husband Rasheed and the strict regulations of Taliban, which also at least prevented her to gain her rights and triggered her stress.*

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## 1. Introduction

Literature has become one of the most-discussed topics in various media. It is described as an artwork written in the form of texts that contains the values of beauty, aesthetics, and history. The purpose of literature is typically associated with entertainment because of the beautiful texts written to attract the readers' interests, although there are also some works that are made to reflect the historical values based on the authors' respective backgrounds and experiences, which allow the readers in the present day and the future about the historical values of certain events. Eagleton (1993) in his opinion explained that literature is a fictional work written on a paper based on what the author imagined in his or her mind.

Arafah & Kaharuddin (2019) in their article defined literature as something that exposes the historical backgrounds and events, which allowed the authors to inform the readers about the historical values from the past. Although most of the literary works are fictitious, there are actually some of them that reflected the real-life events and values, albeit in an exaggerated way in order to distinguish the contents from the scientific works (Rahman, 2018).

Meanwhile, Onuekwusi (2013) in his writing explained that literature is a work that is made in various forms, either textual or oral, which refers to the historical values where literature initially started from the oral tradition before the introduction of the alphabets and writings.

In terms of the narrative texts, P. Amir (2015) in his article categorized the definition into two parts known as the narrating event, and the narrated event. The narrating event refers to a certain plot that occurs and explains the progress of story, while the narrated event is related to another event being mentioned in the story of a work.

Talking about kinds of literary work, novel is listed as one of the common examples. Novel is defined as a book that is made from the gathered long stories that contains many complex plot and timeline (Arniati, 2019). There are many kinds genre that can be used in the novel depending on the authors' backgrounds and experiences. Most of the novels are fictitious, although there are also some kinds that reflect the real-life elements, especially on the side of history, albeit in an exaggerated manner in order to combine the realistic and fictional values at the same time. According to Wellek & Warren (1948) and Fairuz, et al (2022), novel is a form of narrative text that is inspired by an author's experience, and the diction serves as the explanation of the imaginary things in the text.

In this article, the writer chooses two novels written by an Afghan-American author named Khaled Hosseini, namely *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The first novel is *The Kite Runner* (2003). It tells the life of an Afghan boy named Amir, who lived under the situation where his homeland had been invaded and conquered in a certain war. The second novel is *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2007), which focuses on the story of Mariam, an Afghan girl who is ignored by her people due to her status as an illegitimate child, and she must deal with the harsh condition in her daily life in order to live a better life.

The reason why the writer chooses the novels *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* as the subjects of the analysis is due to the plots containing several issues related to various social and cultural problems in Afghanistan, especially on the sides of psychology. In these novels, Hosseini also demonstrated how the continuous wars changed every sector of Afghanistan's life while affecting the psychological development of its people, hence the issues found in these novels would become the primary discussion within this article.

## **2. Methodology**

There are two methods that will be applied in writing this article, namely the qualitative method, which focuses on the analysis of the internal elements within Khaled Hosseini's novels (*The Kite Runner*, and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*). The writer would like to read the books carefully and find out the primary hints that will be used as the keywords of the analysis.

Besides the book, the writer is also going to add the evidences by finding out the secondary references either from the other printed media, articles, or the credible websites on internet.

There are four techniques that would be applied in writing the analysis of this article. The first is literary study where the writer would analyze the main points of the novels and find out the keywords that can be used as the hints. Second, the writer would continue to the process of interpretation where the writer has to find out the contextual meanings of the keywords found in the novels. The third technique is relating, which means that the writer should relate the intrinsic elements of Hosseini's novels with the real-life backgrounds that influence the stories. Lastly, after completing the process of analysis, the writer will eventually expose the findings and explain every single point based on the analyzed subjects as a whole, and the data taken from the novels will also be described in a detailed manner.

## **3. Literature Review**

### **3.1. Previous Studies**

In this section, the writer is going to discuss the previous studies and the other reviews that are going to be used as the references for this article.

The first study is found in Hardiansyah's thesis (2016), which focuses on the novel written by Gayle Forman titled *If I Stay*. The thesis discussed the main protagonist of the novel, namely Mia, and analyzed the character's experience on the side of psychology. By applying both qualitative method and psychoanalysis theory, Hardiansyah analyzed how the negative factors of social life and anxiety cause a negative impact on Mia's mentality and psychological growth.

For the next study, Ilham's thesis (2017) described *The War of the Worlds*, a novel written by Herbert George Well. It focuses on the points related psychology and emotion, which is found in the development of the main protagonist. In the story, the protagonist must find a way to survive from the conflict between humans and extraterrestrial beings from Mars in the late 19th century, and the plot would demonstrate the protagonist's psychological and emotional development, and Ilham would use psychonalysis to analyze the novel.

The third reference is from Fildzha's thesis (2019), which topic discussed the behaviours of youths in Winston's novel *Cloudstreet*, as well as how the psychological factors influence the characters' personalities, and Fildzha also applied the psychoanalysis method in the research about the development characters' behaviours.

In the fourth reference, Sakti's thesis (2020) discussed three short stories, namely Mark Twain's *Cannibalism in the Cars*, Edgar Allan Poe's *The Black Cat*, and Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Case of Lady Sannox*. In her research, Sakti also discussed the paradox related to the concept of "id", "ego", and "superego".

### 3.2. Theoretical Background

In writing an analysis, the theoretical background is required as the primary reference as there are several scientific theories that can be used as the evidences to strengthened the research.

#### a. Psychoanalysis Theory

Psychoanalysis theory is defined as a hypothetical method that is made to analyse the psychological factors of human being. It was first introduced by an Austrian neurologist Freud (1914), in which he described that psychological factors are born from an individual's memory about his or her experience in the past.

Freud in his first book (1917: 71-72) explained that the psychological factors of a human are resulted from the unconscious state, in this case, the dream. Whenever someone dreams about something, whether it is a good or a bad thing, the process of dreaming itself will result his or her current psychological traits.

Meanwhile, Freud in his another book (1923) had also established a new concept that would later be known as the concept of "id", "ego", and "superego". The "id" refers to the factors that affect people's mind and the process of the psychological development without opposing the real-life elements, the "ego" is related to the process of how an individual develop their psychological traits that can affect the life in this world, and the "superego" has something to do with the reactions that are resulted by factors of id, although it may oppose the choices at the same time.

The concept of *id*, *ego*, and *superego* has implied that the real-life backgrounds and the other factors are also involved in establishing someone's psychological and emotional qualities, as well as his or her own will to choose.

#### b. Psychology

Psychology is known as the field of science that focuses on humans' minds and behaviours, as well as their emotional traits. In terms of etymology, Lahey (2009) explained that the word "psychology" is made from two Latin words, *psyche* (mind) and *logia* (knowledge), hence it is known as the "science of mind".

The field of psychology is commonly associated with the learning of how someone develop their emotional and mental traits, which sometimes lead people to a misconception in which the definition of psychology itself will often be related to mental health, especially in the case of insanity. However, the definition of psychology actually refers to the process of developing the emotional and behavioural elements, and it has nothing to do with someone's sanity (Rahman, 2011).

On the side of literary topics, Aras (2015) stated that literature is a work that also reflected the emotional elements of humanity as those are also one of the necessary components in writing the phrases. In fact, there are some of the works that contain the psychological element in the plots, and the psychological genre is also listed as one of the major genres.

#### c. The Correlation between Literature and Psychoanalysis

In some works, psychological elements would become one of the primary topics that can be involved in building the plot, especially when discussing novels. The most common themes of literature that often involve the psychological elements are those having the theme of wars, social problems, or family, as these three themes would often demonstrate the negative sides that may affect certain characters in the process.

The writer in this article chooses the two works of Khaled Hosseini titled *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The intrinsic elements within these novels involve the psychological elements where the plot exposes the harsh situation caused by the long-running wars and the impacts on the characters' psychological development. The novels indeed have connections to the actual psychological issues as every social problem is obviously reflected in the internal components of the stories.

#### d. External Factors

External factors are subjects that are based on an author's background and experience in the reality, and these things will be used as the inspirations in writing the stories before assembling them into a single book. External factors are typically associated with the events in the past, although the imagination may be listed since there are also some authors

that imagining the events that may occur in the future, which allow them to write some literary works that “predict” the further events that may come in the next eras, (Rahman, 2019)

There are many external factors that are used as the reference for the further discussion in this article, and those are also related to the real-life factors that inspired Khaled Hosseini in writing his novels (*The Kite Runner*, and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*). The most-noticed experiences in this case are wars and the negative impacts such as the cultural ban, or the violation of human rights.

Discussing the definition of war, it is defined as a fight between two or more factions or nations, and they would involve military and weapons in the event. Upeniece (2016) in his opinion described war as a terrible event that threatens mankind and bothers their peaceful life, as well as causing a crisis in many societies. The most common reasons behind the beginning of a war are typically related to the political conflicts, negative ambitions, and extremism.

Since this article also focuses on Afghanistan, it has been known as one of the countries where many wars are still on going, which would also cause the other sociocultural crises. The war did not only affect the psychological development of the Afghans, but also affected their cultures and society, especially during the middle of 1990s in which Afghanistan was fallen into the hands of an extremist group named Taliban, who oppressed the people’s rights and ban most of their traditional cultures (Rahman, 2018).

Talking about the meaning of a culture, it is described by Schein (1990) as a method in comprehending the quality of an organization and the process of sharing the same mind-set, which refers to how people with the same belief share their ideas while initiating their new tradition at the same time.

Meanwhile, Sugiyartati (2020) also stated that culture is a habit resulted from the complex process of people sharing their ideas and beliefs as the process itself is also one of the major components in humanity’s life. If people within a community were able to share what they believe in their minds, therefore they will be able to establish their unique culture.

The next issue that will also be discussed in this article is the violation of human rights. This case refers to the actions that are against people’s rights in the life such as theft or murder, and if the crime is more atrocious, therefore the case of violation will be related to the more serious actions such as looting or genocide.

In terms of the definition, human rights are defined as the elements that are required and important to someone’s life as human, and this is the primary factor that affected an individual’s wish to live. (Donnelly, 2013).

The case of human right violations is also common in Afghanistan, and it still continues until this day. Ever since the Soviet-Afghan war in the late 1970s, the conflict between two factions have been listed as one of the violations, and the Hazara massacre incident during the middle of 1990s under the Taliban Regime would become the next serious violation in the history of Afghanistan.

#### **4. Result**

In this section, the writer would like to analyse and expose the topics that will be discussed, namely the topics about the cultural ban and the violation of human rights in Khaled Hosseini’s novels, namely *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

For the first finding, the writer is going to discuss the topics related to Hosseini’s first novel titled *The Kite Runner*, in which the conflict part mentioned the ban of kite fighting and the massacre of Hazara people in the 1990s when Afghanistan was conquered by Taliban,

“A few weeks later, the Taliban banned kite fighting. And two years later, in 1998, they massacred the Hazaras in Mazar-i-Sharif.”  
(Hosseini, 2003:191).

The word “banned” in the text above revealed the moment where the kite fighting tradition was strictly prohibited, although Sohrab was never mentioned to fly a kite before the final part of the novel. In Afghanistan, the kite fighting is one of the traditional games played by the youth where they would fight each other with using their kites until one of them is defeated when the string of the kite is cut off. Prior to the decade 1990s, the kite fighting tradition was common until it was banned by Taliban due to being regarded as an “un-Islamic” culture.

Based on the explanation above, it is revealed that the prohibition of the kite fighting tradition in Afghanistan lasted for 5 years until 2001, but most of the Afghan youths were still terrified by the experience of living under Taliban, which

made them unable to play at the time due to the severe punishment should they violate the law.

The plot of *The Kite Runner* also mentioned the violation of human rights, in this case, the massacre of Hazara people. This was one of the worst events that occurred in Afghanistan during the late 20th century, where many Hazara people were murdered and massacred by Taliban supremacists, especially in Mazar-i-Sharif. The novel itself introduces two major characters who are from Hazara origin, namely Hassan, and Sohrab. These characters are revealed to be family where the latter is the former's son, and both of them were mistreated by the antagonists of the story. However, Sohrab would lose his father Hassan when he was shot by Taliban as cited from this script,

“--and shot him in the back of the head.” (Hosseini, 2003:195).

The word “shot” refers to the moment when Hassan was killed by a Taliban member, and it would lead Sohrab to a terrible psychological development should he know about his father's death at the hands of a killer.

In the further chapter, Sohrab was captured by Taliban and forced to work as their dancing boy known as *bacha bazi*. One of the Taliban members who enslaved the boy is turned out to be Assef, the main antagonist of *The Kite Runner*. There are some scenes in the novel that exposes the story of Sohrab, and this is the first scene telling his status as a *bacha bazi*,

“Sohrab raised his arms and turned slowly. He stood on tiptoes, spun gracefully, dipped to his knees, straightened, and spun again. His little hands swiveled at the wrists, his fingers snapped, and his head swung side to side like a pendulum. His feet pounded the floor, the bells jingling in perfect harmony with the beat of the *tabla*. He kept his eyes closed.” (Hosseini, 2003:245).

The text above revealed that Sohrab was forced to dance only to “entertain” Assef and his members, much to the former's embarrassment. The words “raised his arms” and “spun gracefully” implied that Sohrab is forced to move in an inappropriate way and perform a bizarre dance before his tormentors, which actually affected both the development of his psychological condition and mindset in the process.

Besides his status as a *bacha bazi*, Sohrab is also a victim of sexual abuse as Assef also touched and harassed him in an abusive manner as cited from this scene,

“The Talib spun the boy around so he faced me. He locked his arms around Sohrab's belly, rested his chin on the boy's shoulder. Sohrab looked down at his feet, but kept stealing shy, furtive glances at me. The man's hand slid up and down the boy's belly. Up and down, slowly, gently.” (Hosseini, 2003:246).

In this text, Assef did not only force Sohrab to dance. He also touched and groped him in an abusive manner. The word “He locked his arms around Sohrab's belly” refers to Assef's action of groping, which has something to do with sexual harassment. Being a child, Sohrab would easily remember what happened to him in this story, and his psychological development will only be worsened as he is somehow traumatized by Assef's abusive demeanor. What happened to Sohrab in *The Kite Runner* also represented the reality where many children also became the victim of Taliban's atrocity, especially in the case of sexual abuse.

Being a Pashtun supremacist, Assef's motivation in joining Taliban is actually just to express his hatred toward Hazaras, as he only saw them as the most inferior group in Afghanistan. Ever since he was younger, he would show his hatred to Sohrab's father Hassan, even to the point of abusing and raping the latter in the earlier part,

“Assef knelt behind Hassan, put his hands on Hassan's hips and lifted his bare buttocks. He kept one hand on Hassan's back and undid his own belt buckle with his free hand. He unzipped his jeans. Dropped his underwear. He positioned himself behind Hassan ...” (Hosseini, 2003:61).

This evidence revealed that Assef did not only use physical and verbal method to bully Hassan, but also using the sexual harassment when raping the latter, and he would also commit another abuse as an adult when capturing Sohrab. However, it is unknown whether he or the another member who killed Sohrab's father, but he is still count as an antagonist of the story.

Discussing the topic about the relationship between Taliban and Hazara, Hasrat (2019) explained that the conflict between both factions would only lead the Hazaras to a persecution, as well as genocide where most of the Hazara people were killed. The novel also mentioned the Mazar-i-Sharif massacre incident, which actually implied that the officials of Taliban had committed a serious violation of human rights as they killed a large number of the Hazaras out of hatred. Being a group of Pashtun supremacists, Taliban considered Hazara people the most inferior ethnic group in Afghanistan, and they would mistreat them due to their lowest social status, as well as eradicating them under the reason of "ethnic cleanse".

On the other side, Hazaras are believed to be Shia, which is also the other reason why Taliban despise them. In this case, Taliban's "anti-Shia" doctrine would also lead them to slay Hazara people, and this is also another violation as they recklessly killed people whose faith were different from theirs'.

The reality of how Taliban persecuted and massacred Hazaras in Afghanistan is somehow related to how Hassan and Sohrab deal with Assef the tormentor while developing their psychological condition. Hassan as a child is told to be traumatized by the moment when Assef harassed and raped him, which cause a serious trauma to his memory, while his future son Sohrab also share the similar experience when he was forced to become a bacha bazi and dance in front of Assef, who has become a member of Taliban in the further chapter. The plot also revealed that Sohrab is apparently embarrassed and terrified by Assef's mistreatment, especially when the latter groped him in an abusive way.

For the next finding, the writer would move to Hosseini's second novel titled *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, and analyze the story of the main protagonist named Mariam, as well as the impact of the cultural ban and violation of human rights on the character's psychological development. In this novel, Mariam is introduced as an illegitimate child, which leads her to be ignored by people in her society. Her status also prevented her to gain her own rights to live a better life, and she had to struggle and deal with the harsh condition.

Much like *The Kite Runner*, the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* also did mention the cases of cultural ban and the violation of human rights, especially in the case of women as their problems are the most-discussed topics within the plot. The case of cultural ban in this novel occurred in the moment when Afghanistan was conquered by Taliban in the 1990s.

In the case of cultural ban, there are several texts that serve as the evidence. The first is the ban of music and dance,

"Singing is forbidden.

Dancing is forbidden ..." (Hosseini, 2007:177)

The website *Salaam Times* (2021) recorded an answer from someone where he and his friends were once punished by the Taliban officials for playing a musical instrument and one of them have the fingers being cut off.

On the other side, *ABC News* (2012) also reported that Taliban also killed and beheaded some singers and dancers at a party, which eventually traumatized people who witnessed the incident. As a result, most of the Afghan people will be traumatized when hearing the words "music" and "dance" as they would only remember the moment where Taliban brutally killed the musicians and dancers.

Next, the other cases that are still related to cultural ban in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* are also the ban of artwork and literary, with the former has a connection to the figurines and the depictions of living beings as cited from this text,

Writing books, watching films, and painting pictures are forbidden."  
(Hosseini, 2007:177)

It is implied in the novel that Taliban also banned the art and literature-related things and activities they found such things deviated the Islamic values. In reality, there are various fatwa related to artworks and depictions of living beings where the moderate *ulama* allowed them with some regulations, and the fundamentalist ones would strictly forbid the things.

Meanwhile on the side of literature, Taliban also prohibited the local from writing and publishing various books unless religious as they only demanded people to live the "Islamic" lifestyle and avoid the corruption from the outsiders' media. However, what Taliban expected had actually violated the truth where people needed books to improve their literary knowledges. The website *Fair Observer* (2014) reported that Taliban had burned many books and the other printed media due to their "awareness" of the foreign threats, especially toward the religion.

Although Taliban expected an Islamic method as a way to establish a better life, what they did to people has actually gone too far as they recklessly declared their own idealism and policies without discussing to the local inhabitants and the authorities, and their prohibition towards art and literature would only cause a stigma where Islam will only be labeled as an “art-unfriendly” religion, while there are various fatwa from the ulama depending on the condition in the different locations and their different schools known as mazhab. What Taliban did only reflected the extremism in expressing opinions.

In terms of the violation of human rights and the negative impacts, the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* did mention some cases in the plot, either during the normal situation and the Taliban Regime era. The first example is found in the story where Mariam had married to a man named Rasheed, who is introduced as a temperamental and abusive man, and Mariam had to deal with his rage and her stress at the same time as implied in the quote below,

“Over the years, Mariam had learned to harden herself against his scorn and reproach, his ridiculing and reprimanding. But this fear she had no control over ...”  
(Hosseini, 2007:151)

The words “reprimanding” and “fear” in this text refers to how Rasheed's wrath affected Mariam's psychological development, which triggered her fear in the process. Despite being a verbal action, Rasheed's anger would also suppress Mariam and prevent her to express her feelings and rights as his wife, as well as a woman in general.

The domestic violence itself also violates the law of human rights as a family member, usually the husband or father, should not express his aggressive personality before the others. Should a man commit some violent actions such as beating or insulting toward his wife or children, the actions are just the same as stealing the family rights. Jewkes, et al (2019) also stated that the patriarchy in a family is the main factor that often causes a domestic violence, which is related to the relationship between couples. An abusive man will not hesitate to abuse his wife either in a physical or verbal method, which directly affected her psychological condition as she develops fear and stress. The parents-in-law can also do the same thing towards the wife, which only worsens the household.

The household problem between Mariam and Rasheed had reflected the case of domestic violence in which the former, who is unable to defy the latter, is obviously affected by his mistreatment, bothering her psychological condition in the process. As Mariam is unable to fight back, she will only become stressed by the verbal insults while dealing with her problems at the same time.

In the next point, the writer is also going to discuss the Taliban's violation of human rights in the further chapters of the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Not only banning the local cultures, Taliban also announced some restrictions that must be obeyed by people, especially women, as found in this page,

“Girls are forbidden from attending school All schools for girls will be closed immediately.

“Women are forbidden from working.” (Hosseini, 2007:178)

Taliban's rules in the text above are believed as a step to subjugate the local women from doing the outdoor activities or gaining the education, which also indirectly affected Mariam in spite of her status as a housewife, who is considered “safe” from the restriction and punishment. However, considering Mariam is married in this story, she can only go outside if she is with his husband, even though the strict rule would affect her will in finding her rights as a woman. Taliban's restriction is rather paradoxical as it was made to protect the women's pride, but it also prevented them in gaining their freedom of education and occupation as they will be punished should they go outside alone.

What happened to the Afghan women in this case brings to mind the Aborigin women in the past. Mokoginta, et al (2021) in their article mentioned that the Aborigin women during the colonial era were also subjugated by the British colony who decided to claim the Australian continent as their territory, and what happened to the Afghan women under Taliban's policy is actually similar to the Aborigins.

In the further part of the conflict, the plot revealed that Mariam managed to overcome her stress by turning against Rasheed and killed him, only to be imprisoned by Taliban without following the trial,

“At night, the cell Mariam shared with five women and four children was dark.”  
(Hosseini, 2007:235)

The word “cell” reflected the moment where Mariam, who had been imprisoned for her action, developed a stress

due to being sentenced without following the inappropriate process, and the situation inside the cell would even bother her psychological condition again. Mariam would deal with this problem until the day of her execution comes, and she would eventually accept her fate at her final moment while accepting her condition.

## 5. Discussion

In this section, the writer would like to discuss the results of the findings in the previous section. The writer could expose that the cases of cultural ban and the violation of human rights in the Afghanistan reflected in Khaled Hosseini's novels (*The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*) would give a significant impact to the characters' psychological development. In *The Kite Runner*, the problems are found in the Hazaras Hassan and Sohrab, where both of them became the victims of the violation's committed by Taliban, with Sohrab being the most-focused in the plot as his psychological condition is revealed to be affected by the mistreatment from Assef, who forced him to become his *bacha bazi*, and the ban of kite-fighting is also mentioned in the novel, although Sohrab is never shown to play kite before the final chapter. However, the mistreatment towards him in the conflict of the novel did reflect the negative impact of the human rights violation on psychological growth.

Mariam from the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* also share the similar experience where she also felt the life under the oppression and violation of human rights. Mariam's abusive husband Rasheed, who often scold and harassed her, represented the case of domestic violence, and Mariam was unable to express her rights and stop her husband's temper. What Rasheed did to his wife would affect her psychological condition as she developed fear and stress in the process. The further chapters also described the moment where Afghanistan was conquered by Taliban, who ruled people, especially women, with strict and harsh rules, and Mariam is also affected by the policy, albeit indirectly. However, in the case of another impact of the human rights violation, which refers to Mariam's imprisonment for killing Rasheed, she would also be stressed again as she is imprisoned without following the lawful process as Taliban just sentenced her.

## 6. Conclusion

Based on the discussions in the previous section, the writer concludes that the cultural ban and the violation of human rights can affect the development of people, especially on the side of psychology. The characters' from Khaled Hosseini's novels (Sohrab from *The Kite Runner* and Mariam from *A Thousand Splendid Suns*) served as the representative of the affected victims as both of them developed their significant stresses while dealing with the similar problems in their respective stories. What Sohrab and Mariam felt implied that the violation of human rights would only lead people to a social problem where they are unable to gain a proper life.

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