

The Critique of Mainstream Modernity in Collins' *The Hunger Game: Mokingja*

Abstract:

This research project looks at Collin's The Hunger Games: Mokingjay from the prospective of defective consequences of mainstream modernity in the modern western city. This novel makes strong criticism of the philosophy of conformist modernity. In this novel, the writer tries to sketch the chaos, devastation, and uncomfortable situation born in the society because of the unscientific welcoming of modernity. In the novel, the fictitious country Panem fails to address the problems of the ordinary citizen. Most of the civilians are forced to live under the despotic rule of totalitarian state. All the means and economic resources are under the control of capital. Famine is surrounded all over the state. The general requirements of civilians are not fulfilled by the government. Instead of rewarding people requirement, the state is using its power to hold people's voice. Thus, due to the tremendous suppression and control of the state civilian are losing their tolerance and they are lurching revolution against the capital. People from the different districts of the state are getting-together to fight against the conspiracy, exploitation, and mistreatment of state. As a result, the state changed in to a combat zone. Murdered, heartrending laceration, bloodshed and massacre are common in the state. Common people and youth are living in chaos, anxiety, turmoil, disorder and devastation. The state is moving ahead in the misty trail, Peace, harmony and prosperity are nowhere to observe and experience. The Mainstream modernity is mocking common recognized norms like humanity, morality and democracy at all.

Key Terms: *Modernity, devastation, chaos, paranoia, democracy, youths, war, injustice, technology, identity, horror.*

The research work entitled “The Critique of Mainstream Modernity in Suzanne Collin’s *The Hunger Games: Mokingjay*” focuses on cultural chaos and unrests generated by modern science and technology in the modern society. Collin’s narrative comments the floating of welcoming western concept of liberal thought, modernization and scientific advancement digging both physical and psychological impacts on the youths. It uncovers the politics of power that inflicts individuals and society. Due to the unwelcome conflict and extreme pressure of new socio-political space, most of the characters in the novel are deviated from the cultural root and individual identity. The changed atmosphere has kept the people in confusion, anxiety and terror. The sense of humanity, kindness and dignity is nowhere to be found. People from margin are living more miserable life than in the nomadic age where at least they use to enjoy some short of freedom than in the modern society. The western thought like political liberalism, feminism and human right is supposed to provide happiness, prosperity and equality in the society. However, it distorted the test and attitude of young generation and pushed them into the bizarre world. The westernized thoughts of modernity and democracy were supposed to direct the society in harmony and peace but it fails to fulfill its promises. As a result, the society of Panem plunges into the maelstrom of chaos, political unrest and anarchy.

This research aims to show that *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* could be seen as critique of Modernity of today’s United States. The main quest of the research work is to represent, how the use of science and technology, mass media and capitalism affect in the society. It makes the view upon the terrifying vision of political power and its support to spoil the individual and their identity. This project discusses the political elements parallel to the contemporary American society where the reader encounters elements like political unrest, cultural chaos, cruelty and

hostility in the modern state. Far from doing betterment of Katniss, modern scientific development has put the seed of rift and chasm including anxiety, fear and paranoia in her life, so the optimism of the redemptive power of science has resulted in to dystopia. Reflecting such reality author is trying to quest the major problems of mainstream modernity and its defect in the marginalized youths, female and children of the modern society.

This research project concentrates on how the undesirable welcoming of western concept of modernity leads to the virtual disintegration and dilapidation of Panem, one of the imaginary states of United State. *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* most eloquently raises the issue of the use of science and technology from the beginning to the end. The narrative offers an oblivious attitude towards science and technology. Because technical means used by both the state and reveling side is not creating soothing effect in the society. Rather it helps to destroy traditional norms, values and break the connection of people with their conventional source. This ultimately shows adverse effect in the modern society. In such a mode Collins' *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* demonstrates how dystopian view and disillusionment affect the lives of youths in Panem.

The main character of the novel, Katniss Everdeen belongs to young generation female of American society, who is strong and independent. She is a resourceful hunter and source to feed her family. She is also bold, fearless and determined girl of seventeen years. Katniss is so artistic, and clever that she can catch every skill and idea in short time. As an active child living in the modernized city, gets influenced by the science and technology, consequently she becomes a skillful and derogative hunter in her small age. At her small age, she is overloaded with several responsibilities due to the death of her father in unfair war. Katniss is also eye

witness of civil war, political unrest, murders and mysterious underground insurgency in an imaginary state called Panem. She is witness of the death of her father and burning her house in district 12. These all events devastating situation negatively influenced her young mind. As a result, the sense of revenge and hatred transformed her skill of hunting into murder and violence.

Similarly, another character Peeta is also in regular search of food to avoid hunger in advance modern city. Peeta forgets his real name, cultural identity, and his own background being lost in the mist of western techno-centric world. He gets serious tortured in the capitol camp and being hypnotized by the armed force for slaughtering his girlfriend Katniss. These are only the representative characters to expose the brutality and cruelty faced by youths in *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay*. In fact, Collins as a modern writer and social critic is not afraid to expose the youth character as a part of confrontation because she is trying to portray the true picture of her world where she is living. She is trying to show how dystopian view and disillusionment affects the life of American people in the modern days. Her work of fiction reflects the political scenarios of the modern American society of around 2010. The writer makes interpretation of the fact that the obsessive search for the western cultural model in America resulted crisis, conflict and perpetual unrest in the society.

Literature has used as a medium for social criticism for a great part of literary history, this popular fiction is also making effort to raise the issues of unjust, corrupt and imbalanced social relation that is welcomed by the modern American socio-political culture. It is supposed to work as a warning to read that if today's society does not effort to change it than the future would be the horrible place to live in. In the novel, protagonist Katniss and all the American youth enthusiastically attracted to the modern socio-political environment. It seems that they are supporting to the

western thought like democracy, enlightenment, rationality universal human right, and gender equality. But it changes its color along with the development of time and becomes fully problematical at the end. Finally, it proves that these all elements are only the effective tools for head of state to control over the marginal people. The totalitarian government utilized all these facilities to impose its principle. As a result, every hour in Panem promises the new horror. Citizen is forced to live almost exclusively under the horror of bombardments and nuclear attack. The situation creates fear, anxiety and hopelessness in the society.

Collins' *The Hunger Game: Mockingjay* exhibits the bitter reality of mainstream modernity, which generates disillusionment, hostility and terrorizing effect in the society. People are not free to enjoy their individual right. Almost all mechanisms and operators of state are under the control of tyrannical leader. Even, the media is not free to foreground the truth and suffering of civilians. In reality, media is working like a teddy bear of totalitarian rule. It twists the truth and helps to sensationalize the dazzling truth in the dangerous way. It is mocking the widespread thoughts of human right and democracy in the name of modernity and scientific and technological advancement.

Collins' *The Hunger Game: Mockingjay* represents the profundity of thought and philosophy imbued with severe criticism of the history of human cruelty from the beginning of the novel. It creates the historical senses which serve to portray the painting of plight of the individual from the various periods of civilization. And it brings the question in the ground that what a civilization is it? Paralleling the dystopian myth of Roman innocent gladiator of human sacrifice Collins resembles world of Panem with the past Roman Empire. She means to say that the modern democratic state of Panem is parallel to the Roman savage and barbaric history. The

advancement of technology in the modern state supposed to provide freedom, emancipation and liberty in the society. But, these elements are become mere tools to exploit trivial group of people.

The supporters of modernity claim that, project of modernity efforts to develop objective science, universal morality, law and ordered in the society. They believe that modernity leads the society to the universal endeavor and universal emancipation of human being. However, beside their proclamation in *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* the reason and knowledge are merely used to enslave and control the people from the bottom. In other word, it provides alternative ways to promote society, which employed coercion religion and natural authority to achieve social domination. The development of science and technology negatively influence youths and lead the society in disintegration, fragmentation and isolation. It forcefully pushes the youths in certain understanding of time and space where there is only the existent of frustration, hopelessness, chaos, and anxiety. The novel illustrates the desperate world where human right, democracy modern secularism, political liberalism, gender equality and individual's autonomy is entirely busted. The districts are changed into ash due to atomic blast, corpses are scattering because of fire bombing in the city. The citizens under the totalitarian rule are mentally ill due to the extreme pressure of change socio-political condition. The condition is like an insect being trapped under the bowl filled with steaming air.

In *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* the mainstream modernity is entirely problematical. It is declining from its original value and dignity. In the modernized city, people are being compelled to tackle with multiple problems generated by power politics. The major character Katniss and all other American youths are being victim of political unrest and social upheaval. It is bearing clash between the citizen of

Capital and other districts of the state. The capitol which is exceptionally powerful in the comparison to other remaining districts is exploiting the people mentally, physically and economically.

Furthermore, modernity represented in this novel has lost the loyalty to democratic ethos and attained the characteristics of a tool of deception practice by the rule of Capital. Collins' narrative foregrounds the dwindling role of modernity. It is falling from its commonly accepted norms and philosophy. The technology and other advance equipment like media, knowledge is not accessible to the people of all class, race and gender. In fact, these are only available for wealthy and economically advance class people and they are strengthening oppression and deception practice by totalitarian state. So, observing the cultural barbarity and cruelty that is transferring its nature and making its strong hold in the change context of sociopolitical dimension Collins tries to find out the occurrences vice by modernity.

In *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay*, American youths are highly fascinated with newly invented technology and science. However, their association with the new socio-political space is nonproductive and infertile. It is directing them negatively toward degeneration, anxiety, frustration and violence. It seems that the new cultural environment is leading the society in the dystopian nation, where the American youth categorically rejects the sovereignty and the unique supremacy of western ideals like universal human right and democracy, modern secularism, political liberalism gender equality and individual freedom. The book is set in the grey zone, where native youth like Peeta is lost in emptiness and hollow of modern scientific development. He is deviated and hangs in several problems.

The Hunger Game: Mokingjay is the preventative of people's history, a bottom-up rather than top-down view of country in flux. Collins' novel moves back

and forth in time and focusing on small events and everyday people. To address the issues, she employs the model of western modernity to as a means to satirized phenomena in the socio-political relationship that could help Collins to enforce the idea of peace and justice in the strength of the people of her generation and generation to com. These constellations of questions evoked under the dystopian sky of Collins' imagined world, inspire the research to pounder in to Collins' premonition: social evil that are within our system out to be curved.

Collins is a leading dystopian writer of United States. Her novels and others short fictions are broadly admired. The world renowned writer for children and began her writing career in 1991 focuses her writing to expose the bitter reality of American political events and its upcoming effects in the new generation. Basically, her work of arts addresses the mystery, philosophical dilemma, political propagandas, cultural conflict and the shifting trend in the United State of America. Her novels are exceptional for the representation of socio-political issues of modern-day. The novel *The Hunger Game: Mokinjay* has received wide range of acclaims and accolades. Different critics and reviewer have analyzed the novel from different angles and approaches.

Most of the characters in *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* are deviated from their cultural root and individual identity. American youths lose their connection to the root of American values relying on their false consciousness on the modern scientific modernity. Collins is the prominent author of the contemporary America. Collins is largely considered as the novelist with vigorous longing for politico-cultural realism. She has criticized several social and ideological bigotries. She always stands for the progressive transformation of society. Angela Carter makes the following remarks about the novel, *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay*:

The Mokingjay personalizes the political and social changes in his country over the past few decades in this novel disguised as autobiography—or vice-versa. Unlike most historical narratives from USA, which are pegged to political events? *The Mokingjay* representative of people's history, a bottom-up rather than top-down view of a country in flux. By moving back and forth in time and focusing on small events and everyday people, Collins breathes life into history by describing the effects of larger-than-life events on the average citizen. (12)

According to Carter, the political and social issues are merged and modified in the novel. In a sense, *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* Collins tends to reflect upon the history of modern America. Modern America has come a long way since the last few decades. Yet it still has to face countless number of challenges and troubles. Collins is of the opinion that contemplation upon history gives profound insight to those who want to alter the course of history of modern America.

Howard Goldblatt is another critic of Collins. He is critically aware of Collin's limitations or strength as a novelist. He enumerates how Collins has injected her own anecdotal experience to portrayal of society. Goldblatt argues:

One cannot say that Collin has not criticized America in her portrayal of the society. Rather than exploring the darker undercurrents of society or the depths of the characters, she seems to make it his goal to stay on the surface. Much of the energy of the novel is spent on long and sensuous descriptions of the fatal impact of ultra-modernity. There are too many episodes when the reader has to witness this or that character urinating, and to endure long descriptions of the urine. (27)

Whether Collin has been successful in portraying the characters in their organic form or not, it is not clear. But one thing is undoubtedly clear that daily activities are described in a vivid and vigorous way. The real charm of Collin's literary aura is that she is skillful in describing the common incidents of life.

Joanne Arnett is celebrated critic and author as well. She looks Collin's literary representation from the western eyes. According to Arnett *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* is characterized more by the features of memoir and less by the striking characteristic of novel. She reveals the following value in the novel, "*The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* is barely a work of fiction. This is essentially a dystopia. In contrast to Burgess's often expensive novel it describes events spanning four decades from 1969 to 2009. While amounting to a memoir, Burgess is selective in what he presents" (37). Writing this novel in the form of dystopia, Collins launches frontal attack on the transitional politics of American society. The constantly shifting scenario of America has affected the common pattern of American youth. The modernization of America is both subversive and uplifting as well. Both the rosy and seamy side of modernizing America is brought to the focal point.

Douglas Willson is another critic of *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay*. He has tresses his view that why the brutal act of hunger game does not come in ending. Why citizen of Panem are taking part in the barbaric history of scarifying their children. He mentions his thought bellow to expose the issue of survival in the inner level of the text in the following way:

One of the most pressing questions for the readers is wondering why no one stops the hunger games. Obviously, they are the savage ceremony mean to cause intimidation, but why do the citizen of Panem take it? The answer is survival. This aspect shows that society and

communities are often willing to accept heinous things in order to survive. The twelve remaining districts saw what happened to district thirteen and they fear the same fate. (15)

According to Willson, the question of survival is deeply rooted in the text. People of Panem are under the great fear of capital. They are unable to help beside following every activity announced by the tyrannical ruler only to save their life.

Manohla Dargisnov is eminent critic of *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay*. She has made close reading of both novel and the film of hunger game trilogy. She argues that Collins has challenged the traditional gender role giving the female character a prominent role in the battle field. Traditionally women were considered weak, emotional, shy to expose in the public arena, unlike she presents her heroin as a courageous, violent girl who is ready to fight every situation what comes in front of her family. She has opined the following remark regarding the gender role and identity creation:

Katniss escape the old binary it is because Collins created the character, who exist outside the traditional confines of the feminine-masculine split and because the movies has stayed true to the original conception. At once the hunter and the nurture, Katniss is tough and teary, stoic and sentimental, which gives her layer that that reflect her changeable inner state as well her public identities as daughter, sister love and leader. It is instructive that she is the worn her most overtly glamorous-girl outfit as part of the farcical role forced on her by the totalitarian government that rules Panem, having been dolled up with makeup and smiles for the televised sideshows that accompany the

murderous game of the series title. She is since graduated to basic
 battle black or unisex that is suggestive of a Dystopian Gap. (no. pg)

According to her Collins' heroin is a resourceful, multi-talented and dimensional character. She is not a stereotype girl to be confined with the traditional gender role only as mother and sister. She is an individual with self-reliant, hope full and autonomous attributes. Her story on paper and film also illustrates several key themes of Appalachian existence, particularly self-sufficiency batten, boldness and loyalty to kin. Katniss' hunting skill and the fact that she has been her family's sole provider since her father's death is the best example of her resourcefulness. However, her potency and creativity is misused by both the rebel group and capitol as she herself was in great illusion of freedom. The socio-political environment of the state changed her good quality in to the destruction damage and violence act.

Lynn Wagner is the eminent critic. She has sought to discover the element of social justice, demanding the equal entrée in the means and resources of the state. She further explains the ominous consequence of economic diversity in the following way:

Mokingjay has little to mention of the ethnic diversity. However, because of the distribution of wealth, there is definitely even still, these characters are able to help and uplift each other. For example, thought made, the mayor's daughter has had an extremely easy life; she gives Kitniss a token of help her in the hunger game. (19)

The characters from the book rage from background of extreme poverty to extreme wealth. Growing diversity between the citizens of the state is serious problems in the western industrial nation at present. The economic gap between the citizens is

showing complex problem in the society. It welcoming social and cultural conflict and the conflict is the main cause degenerating human civilization.

Katie Roiphe a famous critique of *The Hunger Game: Mockingjay*. In her thinking, root cause of dystopian unrest and despair in Panem is injustices created by the mechanism of government. The state witnesses the civil war, political unrest, murdered and mysterious underground insurgency which leads the human life in chaos an anxiety. Katniss a sixteen years old female character is being exploited in war motif. Another character Peeta is imprisoned by Capital. She postulates her thought in the following way:

Katniss the participant of annual “Hunger Game” finally saved from the game and delivered to revolutionary forces to become their figurehead, would offer some redemption, but it turns out the rebels are just as morally ambiguous as Panem’s leader. The full-scale revolution is sold on television to the disheartened and oppressed district, in carefully produced spot with labels like. Because you know who they are and what they do. (9)

According to her, not only the rural of state is immoral to play with the youth's sentiment but also the so called revolutionary leaders are equally responsible to ruins the future of American youths. The rooted truth of the revolution is to gain power and authority by the means of common civilian. It shows that life of common people is entirely controlled by the politician by one way or another way.

Jemes Blasingame is another critique of *The Hunger Game: Mockingjay* he argues the totalitarian ruler and its guiding principal is responsible to lead the state in the war. The situation has not left any alternative approach to escape from fighting, besides taking part in war against the capital that is why youths are forcefully engaged

in the brutal conflict. According to Blasingame arguments Katniss is not joining the war willingly but it is her compulsion:

Katniss is deeply saddened to see most of her home district flattened by bombs and the bodies of her friends scattered. She feels responsible, as if her refusal to bow down to President Snow was the cause of so much death and distraction, ...Katniss agree to play the role of Mokingjay a contrived mascot for the rebellion. (465)

According to him, Katniss became the parts of war and politics due to the torture and atrocities of Capital where President Snow negatively influence the youths mind to take part in vicious war. The picture of the painful death of friends and relatives diverts the mind of innocent youths towards conflict. As a result, Katniss as well as other American youths jumps on the battle field hoping to take back their peaceful past, like a butterfly being attracted in the flame of fire hoping light of life.

Amber M. Simmons a celebrated critique of Collins' Hunger Game trilogy floats her thought in the article entitled Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy. She makes comparison between elements of fictional work with the modern world. She finds that *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* is the first novel to introduce reader to Panem, a country in North America that is controlled by the wealthy area referred to the Capitol which is dependent on 12 poorer districts to supply its inhabitants with the necessary resources to maintain their political dominance and luxurious life style. Her article address the elements of social injustice in our world matching to the Panem where starvation, prostitution, abduction, child trafficking, involvement of child in the war is very common. It suggests and encourages the reader to look at current issues of violence and domination in our world, relating them to the injustice faced by the 12

districts of Panem. Simmons expresses her thoughts regarding the elements of dystopia in *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay*:

The Hunger Game and starvation experience by district can relate to the issues of the hunger in the United State by comparing the Capitol's wastefulness to the United State population. The forced labor in the district correlated with various involuntary employments around the world. The idea of children set against one another in combat is relevant to the use of soldier in the many African countries. And Finnick's description of how victors are sold as sex objects is the means for revealing the booming sex trade and sex slave industry that occurs in the major countries even in the United State. (24)

According to Simmons, focusing on the dark issues Collins is trying to unmask the bitter reality of the modern world and the negative influence of modernity in the countries all over the world. It also uncovers the ideological and hegemonic discourses adopted by the modern western world. Furthermore, it also reveals the bitter reality that violence and brutality towards children is not fiction but fact of the modern state. Hunger is not only the problem of the citizen of Panem, but forced labor, violence and sexual exploitation are also daily truths for those living in the district. These all the above stated elements reveal the harsh reality of modernity in the western as well as non-western countries in the world.

Although all these critics have examined the novel *The Hunger Games: Mokingjay* from different perspectives, none of them concentrated upon critique of mainstream modernity. Collins is of the opinion that the importation of westernized modernity in the mind of youth creates dystopia and disillusionment. The issue of worry and disillusionment created by modernity is extensively dealt with in this

novel. In the fictitious world of *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* much vaunted western thoughts like political liberalism, egalitarianism, welfare economics, universal democracy and universal human rights as well as gender equality are portrayed as enfeebled and counterproductive. In the peculiar world of America, the western thoughts turn out to be the source of despair. Hence, the issue of the critique of westernized modernity is really justifiable and pertinent from the research viewpoint. By using the perspective of alternative modernity, the researcher makes the thorough analysis of the text.

To conduct the research, the present researcher makes the use of criticism of modernity as the major theoretical tools. It adopts idea from some postmodern critics whose concern is about the fragmentation and destruction brought from modernity project. The thoughts and idea of Janet Wolf, George Simmel and Michel Foucault are cited as the basic for the theoretical framework. In addition, suitable and pertinent suggestions will be collected from other professors, researchers and teachers.

Laying on Semmel's prospective the deepest problems of modern life deprived from the claim of individual to preserve the autonomy and individuality of his existence in the face of overwhelming social force of historical heritage, of external culture, and of the technique of life. Simmel's project makes critique of blasé attitude of metropolis. This attitude results the rapidity and contradictoriness change of psychological state of children. The sense of humanity and moral values are totally overshadowed by money economy. He asserts "this circle is closely coherent and allows its individual member only a narrow field for the development of unique qualities and free, self-responsible movement" (45). Furthermore, Simmel argues that due to the restriction and control over the private life metropolitan develop the new tendency of social life where the public gather in their identical group.

The Hunger Game: Mokingjay exposes the injustice policy of state, where the foundational guiding principle of state is promoted gap between wealthy and poor to manage control by the stronger of society to weaker segment. The state is missing the moral principle and belief of social democracy and equality in the process of policy formulation which is supposed to bring delight and contentment to the public of all class, cast and gender. Nevertheless, people of weaker parts of Panem have no power to raise voice against the injustice and inequality created by the state. People are made control by the state by using all means and resources like media, technology and weapons. It shows that the ruling principal of Panem believe in control of conflicting force or desire. In spite of addressing people disagreement and dispute over the country, government is misusing its power by kidnapping and murdering the innocent citizen. It makes obvious that the modernity is complex in the state called Panem, which gives the glimpses of dystopia, the world more degenerated and horribly gone worse than any other sates in the present world. Due to the unrestrained cult of modernity, the long-established and original norms, values and rituals are almost departed. It seems that youth are lost in the mist of new space and time. The majority of the youths are not finding their original identity. They seem as they are in great dilemma either to go with distorted identity or to restore original identity which they have brought from their family. That is why the youth of Panem are at lost in new-fangled time and space. As a result, the difficult situation placed in front of youths that pilot them to take part in the war, destruction, hostility, and crumbling. It was theorized that uncritical and unrestrained implementation of modernity makes the progressive transformation of state. Contrary to this exception Panem plunged in to the miserable condition. The state faced the political unrest; cultural clash and

annihilation because of public plan to lunch revolt against the totalitarian rule, and in the response the irresponsible government mercilessly attacks on rebellious group.

Michel Foucault articulates that exercise of power in itself is an evil act where everything is dangerous. In his view the government is trying to hybridize the tradition and modern technological power to control over people which is similar to the Geek tyrant. It is reason that is intrinsic to the state and practices of governing, not derived from the transcendent rule of wisdom or justice, and not assimilated to convention of custom or tradition of which legitimate sovereign rule. Furthermore, Foucault characterized the features of liberal democratic government and explains that individual right, constitutional government rule of law where the government uses resources achieves its ends, more particularly accepts that the govern will is to govern less. According to him modern scientific technologies are no helping to make the life of modern European easier and comfortable rather it has been used by the stat to gain power to control over subaltern people.

The story of *The Hunger Games: Mokingjay* projects the precarious society where American youths are compelled to engage in war against capitol in order to come out from famine take revenge of the murder of their family member and their friends who were lost their life in the war. Katniss is young and energetic girl of seventeen years she is skillful hunter and only a single source to feed her family. However, because of adverse situation youth like Katniss are deviated from the traditional norms and values because of influence of science and technology. Far from doing betterment of Katniss and other characters, modern scientific development has put the seed of rift and chasm including anxiety, fear and paranoia in her life, so the optimism of the redemptive power of science has resulted disordered environment in *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay*. The new born setting is leading the society in the dark

and gloomy environment where people are hopeless and desperate about upcoming future.

An unorganized and lawless culture characterize the features of chaos, disharmony and conflict between the opposing values of the society where freedom is withered and social living a nightmare, and ends in with the possibilities of further conflict between the opposing groups. Here Simmel states:

The metropolis has always been the set of the money economy. Here the multiplicity and concentration of economic exchange give and important to the means of exchange...they share the matter-of-fact attitude in dealing with man and with things; and, in this attitude; a formal justice is often coupled with an inconsiderate hardness. (412)

This is the root cause of the conflict. Against this convection protagonist expresses dissatisfaction. People from weaker district had hope that scientific advancement and development has thought to bring prosperity and happiness in the society. However, it is leading the society in the conflicting track next to its promises. Modernity, thought to bring happiness and emancipation in the society.

The narrative of *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* reflects insecure society where the adult are compelled to fix in the war for survival in the state ruled by the tyrannical rural of capital. Fascination to science and technology and individuality generates conflict in the state Panem. American youths are facilitated with advance technology and equipment but the government is disappointment to organize sentiment of youths to lead towards progress through this means. In the novel Katiness' skill is making use for degeneration the civilization. That is why, the society stirring towards disorder and crime. These all elements of the fiction create strong satire upon modern America.

The modern city Panem provokes the dissonance factors in the society. No one seems to follow the term and condition of the state. It seems that individual's loss the self-control, centeredness and harmony to contemporary world. The youths are psychologically and physically turmoil. They have loss mental and physical strength. They are living with the ill psychology. One of the critics of modernity Partha Chatterjee states:

These days, we mean the modern age, the age of new civilization inaugurates under English rule, then is the consequence of that modernity a decline in the health of people on ethics, religion, sociability and such other spiritual matters there could conceivably be some scope of argument. (5)

The situation in the Panem is parallel to the thought of Chatterjee. The youths like Katniss are living in the vacuum; they are missing their established norms and values and still not fond of in the new environment. The society is fragmented due to the political war. In the new environment, no one belief on any one, everyone seems to look other with the doubtful eyes. Spirituality, humanity, cooperation, compassion and emotional connection of customary organic society are nowhere to found in the modernized state.

Modernity has made people conning, devious, selfish and ungrateful. People in Panem are compelled to live under the oppressive ruling principal of Capitol. Its coercive force that Panem believes is to be the sustaining mechanism disregarding the wishes of people. The promise made by the American democracy is fails to work here. In the American dream, every person has equal right to enjoy their freedom and to live happier life, the world of Panem believes in the suppression of opposing force. Katniss narrates the situation:

The citizen lives almost exclusively underground. You can go outside for exercise and sunlight but only at very specific times in your schedule. You can't miss your schedule. Every morning, you're supposed to stick your right arm in this contraption in the wall. It tattoos the smooth inside of your forearm with your schedule for the day in a sickly purple ink. 7:00- Breakfast. 7:30- Kitchen duties. 8:30- Education center, room 17. And so on. (18)

After the bombardment of the district, the survivors are living in a narrow house in the district 13, under the high sensor rule and regulation of despotic rule. The situation in Panem is not far better than the time of Hitler's reign in Germany. People are living in a timid environment, every time they are being watched by "Big Brother" the media. They are not free to make their daily routine on their own requirements. People are dejected and depressed because of the dystopian atmosphere generated by war and use of atomic weapons.

The aspiration and expectation of the citizen in the modern city appears to be bogus in Panem. It was supposed that modernity is the era of democracy, freedom, happiness, technological advancement, and the time without obstacles and taboos. As the expectation, the youth feel flat, they gradually plunged into dystopia and disillusionment. Modernization has subverted and displaced some of the substantial norms and traditional culture. Unlike its assumption, it gave birth to totalitarian rule under the advancement of atomic weapons. The scientific invention and advancement on one hand provided unrestricted power to rule over the marginal. On the other hand, it disconnected the youths from the traditional roots and pushed them into the new sensibility of time which is more compressed, condensed and complex. As a result, youths find their identity in crisis so that they are vehemently engaged in the war demanding their

position, and value of existence in the society. Youths have strong hatred against the autocratic rule of capitol, they are aggressive and fierce. Katniss narrates Gale's emotion sharing with her, "Katniss, I'm not arguing if I could hit the button and kill every living soul working for the Capitol, I would do it. Without hesitation..." (31). It is not people's weakness to revolt against the state for their right but it is state to lead the society the in the war, disintegration and chaos. The ruling standards of state and its mechanisms are going in the wrong track, which are allowing insurgency, fragmentation, isolation and devastation in the state of Panem.

As historical category, modernity refers to a period marked by a question or rejection of tradition; the prioritization of individualism, freedom and formal equality. "It develops people's faith in inevitable social, scientific and technological progress and human perfectibility" (Hebermas 411). It is supposed to enhance the society toward the open market economy, industrialization, urbanization and secularization through rationalization and professionalization empowerment people.

However, the claim goes, but the result in the Panem is adverse to its universal faith. Modernity has become the cash cow only for the people who are in power. The people of ruling class only benefited from the changed time and space. It has created gap between the poor and wealthy people. The ruling class of Panem is making control over all the means and resources. They are living luxurious life. On the other side the poor are living very miserable life. There is no good farming, nor can they use their own resources to buy food in exchange of coal. The poor people are forbidden even to enter in the jungle in search of food and hunting for survival. As a consequence, they are suffering from deep famine, poverty, depression and despair. The situation shows that president Snow the head of the capital is a person without sole like Hitler in the history of German. Simmel asserts that "the modern men who

live in city react with head rather than his heart” (412). Accordingly, in the crowded city of Panem, people do not prioritize humanity, emotional attachment, love and affection to one another. They value one another only in terms of profit and loss. Human are not treated as human in the modern city. They something other like goods which can be and sell and obtain in the commercial market.

Robert Kuttner argues that, “whatever the national mood, there is no escape from the responsibilities of citizen. American—especially democrats – will either grasp that sooner or pay the price of reckless war, an unstable economy and a dwindling democracy” (no. pg). It helps to bring the debate on ground regarding the flaw of democracy in modern American states. In the modern industrialized American city government is fail to implement democracy successfully.

The Hunger Game: Mokingjay unfolds the story of desperation and the ecological disorder. The desperation and environmental turmoil arises due to human act of atomic war and bombardons in the city. Ash powder is covering entire the city, corpses are scattering on the street. Living inhabitants are suffering from various diseases. It seems that people are helplessly waiting their turn for dying. On another side, the state is enforcing the dehumanizing use of entertainment as a means to terrorize the individual and the society what makes the world of Panem dystopian that thrives on the worst treatment of individual. Collins narrative makes unfold issues of such politics which makes this world more dreadful and horror to live.

War and violence is the root cause of evil which engulf peace and progress. Likely, the modern state of Pannem is suffering from this evil fate. Collins’ narrative self- reflectively warns that if the state is continued to promote the culture of war and bloodshed, the entire humanity will suffer forever. Simmel comments that “the city sets of a deep contrast with small town and rural life with the reference of sensory

foundations of psychic life. The metropolis exacts from man as a discriminative creature a different amount of consciousness than does the rural life..." (410). New environment in city developed the sense of hatred with one another. The practice valorizing of money economy and competitive attribute demolish the traditional religious, moral and warm organic values of rural life and gave birth to cold, harsh and ruthless value. In order to warn the world, she infuses an emphatic voice in her heroine who shares her pathetic condition as an individual being in the worthless battle. Katniss expresses her pain of losing her father and her struggle to support her family in his absence. It is time and tide that make Katniss to take responsibility of her family in her soldier. Like Katniss her sister Prim is another miserable character in the novel. She is younger sister of protagonist who has responsibilities to care her mother in the absence of her sister. She is unripe and innocent to hold this duty. Here, Katniss flows her sympathy to her sister, "time and tragedy have forced her to grow too quickly" (33). The situation has taught the youth to be aware with new sensibility of time and socio-political situation at last to save their life in this difficult time.

According to analytical concept and normative ideals, modernity is closely linked to the ethos of philosophical and rational democracy. It was believed to flourish representative democracy, social justice, and participative bureaucracy in this fertile field. However, western doctrine of modernity and its political belief that gives birth to dark and hectic society. The political scenario of *The Hunger Game: Mockingjay* reflects black picture of modern state, where the state wants to maintain status quo. To control the individual's activities the government uses technology as surveillance apertures spying over the individual's activities and actions. The secret police as a surveillance apparatus employ terror tactics to control the citizen. Tight security is maintained in the street of the city. In democracy people have no any

restriction, and objection to gather together, express their thought and revolt against the government demanding right provisioned in the constitution. But, contrasting to the idea of social democracy ethos the government in Panem is implementing frightful law every time police marched to make control over citizen. In one point Katniss narrates that, “if he misses curfew, he will be lock out. If he causes any security problems, he’ll be shot immediately...” (39). The circumstances raise the question that what a democracy is it? It is government duty to maintain peace and security in the democracy. Government is legally responsible and accountable for people’s right in democracy.

Next level of observation of *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* is to expose the nature of modern state where the power is altered by the ruling privileged group. To ensures the political system and sustain principle of domination the government is misusing science and technology. After Enlightenment, it was thought that the scientific discovery and evolution ascend to the society towards the human perfection, social equality and harmony. J. Andrew Kirk reflects his thought in the following way:

The enlightenment view of things, knowledge was intended to be the great emancipator, the way of liberating humanity from darkness of ignorance, prejudice and superstition. By the light of reason, employing the tested method of science and the manifest truth of the intellectual, one would be able to forge a new society, built on the virtue of equality and respect from the freedom and right. (150)

According to the promises made by enlighten theory people were hopeful to live in egalitarian society where equal opportunity, admiration and self-determination can be ensure. Nevertheless, the human cruelty Panem exposes the dark reality of society

where enlightenment history of west comes to be the conclusion that the potentially liberating force of reason has turned out to be the oppressive and destructive one. It has been made the tool for the elite and ruling class people to exploit marginal people of state. Behind the support of reason and knowledge; economically benefited and privileged class started to dominate the people of the floor of the society. Individual become the mere object of commodity in the grip of totalitarian government.

Moreover, in modernity resourceful people try to make control over all the means and resource. For that, they do not feel guilty to perform any evil act. At this time, they turn out to be unkind towards all things what comes between them and their endeavor and they cross the boundary of social norms, values and set of laws. Here, Krik has characterized the nature of man in modernity,

... modern man has sought conquer nature (in the name of utility) other people's territories and culture (in the name of economic liberalization and growth) and space (in the name of Military superiority). All these have been justified rationally by the benefits they will bring all humanity. However, the resulting exploitation, destruction and obliteration of non-technical values have been either rationalized or explained away. (151)

The situation in Panem is parallel to feature stated by the Krik. Money economy and the intellect are intrinsically connected. They share matter of fact dealing with men and with things, and in this attitude; a formal justice is often tied with the inconsiderate hardness. And the result is deep confusion appears in the mind of civilian and youth. Katniss here expresses the condition "I'm breathless and dizzy" (52). Suggest that citizen in modern American state of Panem are confusion about the direction in which the society is heading or ought to be heading. And the situation is

ultimately reflecting pessimism, gloominess, frustration and anxiety in the society. By product of this uncomfortable condition youth like Katniss and Peeta unenthusiastically connect in war against Capitol.

Likewise, modernity sorely wounded, could not profit society and the world of Panem becomes more mystify. Principle like justice, mercy forgiveness does not present as self-evidence truth of the rational mind of elite people of the city especially the totalitarian rural of the state youth are forced to fight to the death. They are going in the arena just for the amusement of elite people. That is their annual custom tributes arrange to please the head of state to prevail over famine. For example, Katniss reflects her misery here “I guess I’m defending anyone who is treated like that for taking slice of bread” (54). It means youth are getting furious and taking part in war because of individual suffering in the society. It is not the desire of people to be part of revolution but it is policy of state and its activities which is forcefully pulling the innocent citizen in the battle zone.

Jennet Woolf argues that modernity is the matter describing the fleeting, anonymous, ephemeral encounters of life in the metropolis, mainly accounts for the experiences of men. It ignores the concomitant separation of public and private spheres from the mid-nineteenth century, and the increasing segregation of the sexes around that separation. Her critique of the *flâneur* in the literature of modernity is also brought to question phallus centric modern literature. For instant Katniss main character of the novel is exploited by the mechanism that is ruled by male.

Another part of criticism in the novel is the crisis gender equality. Collins novel reflects gender identity in miserable situation of female in the modern city. As a female writer, author has given chief role to the female character named Katniss Everdeen. Katniss is employing the role of narrator as well as major actor of the book.

But, according to horror and exploiting situation faced by her suggest that Collins motif is to show the miserable condition of women in the modern city of the United State. In reality, by employing the female character under the political and social pressure, she is making strong satire upon the social democracy and modernity of America. Jurgen Hebermas outlines the feature of democracy:

The instructional design of modern democracies brings together the elements: first the private autonomy of citizen, each of whom pursue a life of his her own; second, democratic citizenship, that is the inclusion of free and equal citizen in the political community; and third independent of public sphere that operates as an intermediary system between state and society. (412)

According to him in democracy citizen of all class, race and gender are equal in the democracy. They are free to enjoy their sovereignty and independent to do activities ensured by the constitution of the nation. However, the modern state of Panem is violating the social democracy. People in this state are not independent. They are not allowing chance to meet one another without the permission of government. While preparing the hunger game, Katniss suffer from loneliness. Being isolated from her boyfriend Gale, she feels increasingly alienated and estranged. She remembers the past day that she has spent with her boyfriend. But, now she is kept in the close camp in district thirteen and preparing training to fight against Capitol. In fact, she is being used by the president of district thirteen in order to gain economic and the political power from the hand of President Snow the head of Capitol.

Moreover, violence and sex crime are other threatening areas aspect that Collins reflects in her narrative. In the novel Katniss and other female characters are deeply suffers from the fugitive nature of male dominated society. Her sister Prim

encounters sexual violence. She too is exploited in the battle zone like a prey. The situation is very challenging and terrifying to take part in battle with the boys only for the sole purpose of getting bread. Here, Janet Wolff a renounce a renounce critic of modernity project postulates her thought, “it is appropriate to talk of this world as a ‘male’ world, for two reasons. First, the institutions were run by men, for men (owners, industrialists, managers, financiers) and they were dominated by men in their oppression and hierarchical structure ...” (142). According to her the main reason for exploitation of women in the modern society is the lack of enhancement and opportunity of women in the financial sector and ruling class. The economic and political power in the society is controlled by male. So, that female is being exploited in the society. For instant Katniss narrates the situation that, “...I lost the bread during the struggle with the boy” (151). It shows the miserable situation of female in the capitalist, male dominated modern society of United State.

As Andrew Milner notes that the dystopian society the state creates such program to which the dweller on it cannot resist to the hive-like society. The reason that cannot resist may be that they are even aware of the mechanized mind of themselves. Milner observation in many dystopian works the trope of resistance:

The situation is far different in resistance dystopias and novels, films, and stories. In such works, the hive of machine or machine-hive becomes an important feature of setting of the work. The hive of machine is essential of human life. to resist to hive or machine is to rebel again the entire social system, and as often as not, the protagonist is crushed, destroyed or rendered trivial. In such works the hive of machine becomes the symbol for things in human social life that can render us helpless, insignificant, and inhuman. (49)

The strange of *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* comes from the fact that it has employed dystopian technique to address the distressing issue of contemporary society. It makes strong satire upon the modern mass phenomena where youth are being exploited in the war motif. It also shows the several signs of dystopia where the totalitarian government employing its mechanism to create gap between poor and rich, marginal people are dying of hunger, they are banned to raise voice against the system. People are victimized due to the brutal war between the Capital and marginal people of the state, war and violence is the cause of individual suffering in the society. Katniss tell the grim side of the battle exposing horror image of the war. It's is horrifying sensation being pinned against the wall as the bomb rain down. What was the expression my father used for easy kills? *Like shooting fish in a barrel*. We are the fish, the street the barrel" (93). With this unfairness created by the Capitol Katniss and other youth of the state show their rebellious attitude towards the cruelty made upon them by the state administration.

This violence in *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* is outcome of extreme pressure, unequal distribution of economic sources, frustration, and alienation that is manipulated by the government where people find their identity in risk and revolt against the state demanding their respected position in the society. Youth in Panem are fighting against totalitarian government in order to establish social democracy, social justice, gender equality and freedom. In the response of Gale's question Katniss replies, "we are going to form a republic where the people of each district and the capitol can elect their own representative to be their voice in the centralized government" (84). Youth do not desire the rule of Capital they are dying to change the system which ensure their identity and right as a social being. Arjun Appadurai a prominent critic of modernity postulates his thoughts:

The hypothesis about violence in relation to treachery, intimacy and identity is meant to account for the transformation ordinary people into killer, torturers and rapist and the re-presentation of friends, neighbor and coworker as object of deepest hatred and rage. (155)

Panem's youths are not likely headed in the brutal war of life giving and taking. However, the brutal aspect of the choice made by the central government of economic exploitation is the root cause of violence. The capitol manages all means and recourses in such a way which only benefits the citizen of Capitol. No food and treasures left for the producer of other district which creates famine and misery in remaining districts of Panem. That is why civilians including youths force to fight against State head. In fact, they are peace loving creature who never desire to involve in such brutality and murdered.

Another level of commentary of negative impact of modernity in *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* is the hidden tale of torture by the state towards its citizens. In one of her interview Collins floats her thought, "twenty-four boys and girls who most fight to the death for the entertainment of Capital are also call tribute, like the Athenian youth... a ruthless government that force people to fight to the death and use this fights to the death as form of popular entertainment" (726). The novel draws the unimaginable height of suffering in one of the imagined modern state of Panem. Thought the nature of the battle in *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* and real world is different in the ground that the present world where technology is profoundly use for human profit rather than loss. The world of Panem ruined because of Capital's hidden motive to make use of these technological tools not to enhance the life of citizen but to suppress them there by ensuring its own power of exploitation. As a result, people of the state come to the decision to revolt. George Lukas point out that, "if a man

loses hope and no aim in view, sheer boredom can turn him in to beast....” (332). Brutality, atrocity and all other factors in the state is creating a kind of hopelessness and depression in the modernized city of state. “You should have been the Mokingjay. No one would’ve had to feed you lines” (Collins 221). That’s why each and every youth is losing their passion self-control and becoming fierce to force to uproot capitol’s government, only to establish equality, justice and to avoid hunger from the state.

In *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* technology has been used as opportunity for wealthy people to make control over the population of whole districts. Mainly the media is playing the prominent role to create terror in citizen. With the help of media and technological supports one segment of society runs oppressive rule over other segment of society. Theodore Adorno and Max Horkheimer jointly states that:

No mention is made of the fact that the basis on which technology acquires power over society is the power of those whose economic hold over society is great. A technological rationale is the rationale of domination itself. it is the coercive nature of society alienated from it.

(230)

In the novel, the unnatural political power of Capital creates unrest among the people of the state. The comments of the novel seem to portrayal the deep reality that technology itself does not help humankind or havoc. Its vice or virtue depend on how and for what purpose they are exercise. If they are handled unconstructively they have nothing do for human virtue. The intellect use of technology only can lead the society toward peace and prosperity not so its push the society in disorder and chaos like in Panem. Benjamin has made deep understanding of about modern society. He argues that, “the destruction of war furnish proof that the society has not been matured

enough to incorporate technology as its organ, that technology has not been sufficiently developed to cope with elemental force of society” (262). As Benjamin has claim the modern city of the Panem is being victim of on wise and unscientific use of technology. Both the civilian as well as ruling class of Panem are making use of technology fruitlessly. As the consequence, the state is facing the problems like political unrest, mass murdering, hunger and dissatisfaction. It gives the sign of dystopian future and degeneration of society in Panem.

In *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay*, American youths are living in the modern technocratic world. Their condition is full of fear, anxiety, and paranoia because of infertile and degenerative effects of science and technology. Scientific advancement promises to give happiness, pleasure, and emancipation to American youths. However, science and technology generates chasm and rifts in the life of youths due to fear of atomic weapons, mechanical hounds, and genetic development. Most of the characters in *The Hunger game: Mokingjay* are deviated from their cultural root and individual identity. American youths lose their connection to the root of American values relying on their false consciousness on the modern scientific modernity.

In the modernized city of Panem, youths are going through numbers of trial and hardship only to come out from the cruel totalitarian rules of Capital. Modernity, as the fashionable filling, the way of living and experiences of life has risen several problems characterized disintegration, fragmentation, chaos and disorder. It involves the youth in certain new understanding of time and space of speed mobility of communication, travel dynamism, chaos and Cultural Revolution. It has increases division between the poor and wealthy people inherent in modern production in the state. The unequal distribution of economic sources and unbearable suppression of state towards the citizen leads the state in political unrest where marginal people are

dying of hunger whereas economically strong people are living luxurious life. It results frustration and depression in the modern city, which is the core cause of conflict in the state of Panem.

The novel is associated with attempt to render human subjectivity in a way more real than in realism. People were hoping that modernity would lead to the society towards progress, prosperity and liberation. However, it gave birth of unkind dictatorial system where people of margin enforced to live miserable life. In fact, the youth subjectivity, self-reliance and identity got challenged in the new atmosphere. Knowledge, reason, science and technology are merely used to enslave and control people in alternative ways to promote society, which employed coercion, religion and natural authority to achieve social domination in the metropolitan city. The narrative represents the consciousness, perception and emotion of individual's in the industrialized city and their hater towards the state head.

In *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay*, modernity has not frosted individual autonomy. It has not provided meaning to the world and spiritual life. It merely employs to reduce human subjectivity cutting his/her bond from traditional root and identity and made emotionally, psychologically technologically dependent. The traditional values like humanity, mutuality, cooperation love and affection are lost in the fog of new atmosphere.

Moreover, modernity has made people unkind, cruel, self-centered and greedy. Along with the progress industrial space capitalist ideology started to take people as an object of commodity. For economically and politically strong people other low standard citizens of the states are not more than the source of entertainment. In the context of *The Hunger Game: Mokingjay* Katniss and other marginal character are not more than the objects of utility for President Snow the Head of Capitol. They are

exploited in the war motives in one way or another way by both the leaders of rebel group and Capitol just for hoping to gain power. In today's society, universal democracy and universal human rights as well as gender equality are portrayed as enfeebled and counterproductive. In the peculiar world of America, the western thoughts turn out to be the source of despair. Hence, the issue of the critique of westernized modernity is really justifiable and pertinent from the research viewpoint.

Finally, the researcher comes to the conclusion that the promises and claim made by western modernity appears to be bogus. As the expectation, the youth fill flat, they gradually plunged in to dystopia and disillusionment. Modernity has subverted and displaced some substantial norms and traditional culture. Thus, to recover from this disperse, alienation, inequality, conflict, pessimism and hopelessness. Modernity should be redefined to make it more justifiable and inclusive for the people of all class gender, race and group of people.

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