

Chapter I. Growing in War Times: Cases of African and Srilankan Civil War

This project argues upon impact of the war on children who lose their rights and bear affects in their psychology in Uzodinma Iwealas's *Beasts of No Nation* (2005) and Shyam Selvadurai's *Funny Boy* (1994). The novels project war affected stories on the background of the West Africa and Sri Lanka respectively. A war is a critical situation in which human beings practice of killing each other. Human beings expose animalistic behaviours and cross moral, social and human boundaries. It is beyond harmony and it is a chaotic situation. This situation infers the question of humanity and the fundamental rights of any individual. By presenting child protagonists, the novels try to portray both physical and psychological effect on children. The authors of the respective novels portray the psychological reality of the children involved in war. The society where war happens is definitely affected. A war affects both physical and mental status of human being. Warlike situation creates psychological fear, horror, and terror in children's mind. The research hinges on several aspects of war which are destructive to children's psychological status. In particular, it shows the impact of war on children psychology and overall upbringing status of the children in both novels. This research aims at exploring the children and issues associated with them caused by the war in the society. The novel *Beast of No Nation* draws a picture of an armed child who unwillingly takes part in a war. *Funny Boy* portrays scenario of the civil war period of Sri Lanka between the Tamil and Sinhalese ethnic groups.

The novels *Beasts of No Nation* and *Funny Boy* reflect impact of war on children psychology and socio-economic status during war and post war situation. In particularly, the novels dig out children section of society and exposes children's affected psychology. War itself is associated with a negative aspect that brings adversity and suffering. The both novels scenario

of socio-political is war affected which is reflected by child protagonists during war and post war situation.

A war is a conflict situation in which one harms to another so no person can be unaffected by war. The research, in particular, discusses children's psychology when the children grownup at war situation and post war situation. Having experience of war, children can create knowledge about war and its nature. But, their experience and knowledge developed a dark image of human being and society. It leads them toward a destructive mentality and engages in immoral activities. Particularly, it harms in children psycho-social aspect of them in society. Many ways children are affected by war.

A war is a conceptually anarchism in which system of rule and other social values are violated. In the war situation, power is used and vulnerable persons are made victims of war. In war children and old people are more targeted and manipulated in the society. Children are accessible group of people in the society so that they are forced to take part in the war by fighter groups. It kills their life and derived from their basic rights. War creates anarchy in the society which cannot developed and prosperous. This physical violence and destruction are visible during war but the invisible destruction is psychological problems which will be last long harmful to society. Because children are more sensitive and defenseless group of society they are makers of our tomorrow; they are fuels of society in future to run society in right path with right vision. They are emerge leaders of countries and fillers of brave new world. But if children are in traumatic condition they cannot enjoy their rights and developed individualism.

Iwealas's *Beasts of No Nation* portrays the scenario of African civil war. Africa has an experience of a long history an internal and external war. It has different causes for war but the main reasons are ethnic and religious diversity, a high level of poverty, economic dependence on

natural. Due to the war African countries are affected of social order and economic growth. African Civil war took thousands peoples' life and makes homeless. Children are more used in war as a child soldier like a protagonist of a novel *Beast of No Nation*. It portrays the painful and miserable condition of children who involved in war. African civil war is killing innocent children and civilian and it is affecting in children's psychology and the socio-economic status of the society and the whole system of the country.

Funny Boy consists of six stories in chronological order, told by the Tamil narrator child protagonist Arjie. When the novel begins, the scenario of novel is Srilankan civil war. Sri Lanka has a bloody history, full of war and ethnic conflict. Sri Lankan war was very hard to handle. On the 25th of July 1983, a date which is also known as "Black July", groups of Sinhalese civilians brutally attacked the Tamil community, provoking numerous deaths, fires and robberies. This is commonly considered the beginning of the civil war, which has officially ended 26 years later, In May 2009, In Sri Lanka civil war about 70.000 to 100.000 people deaths. Another emphasized problem is the situation of the internally displaced persons. Out of 300.000 people, who had to leave their house, tens of thousands still do not looks by any organization for their permanent accommodation and many have not returned to their homes because the fear of war is still mined.

Iweala's novel *Beasts of No Nation* is about a West African boy named Agu, who is forced to become a child soldier. At war, he was physically, psychologically and sexually abused by his commanders. He wants to be a doctor and an engineer in his life but unfortunately war makes him a serial killer. However, he never likes being a soldier, because war takes thousands of people life. He is a child, he want to stay with his family and friends but he is playing with guns and bombs in the jungle with the corrupted commanders. This fighter group uprising culture brings out negative development in them and it affects the psychology of children and the

socio-economic status of the country. At the end of the novel, Agu's fellow child soldiers revolt against the chief of troops and end up in rehabilitation centers.

Funny Boy and *Beasts of No Nation* portray the wartime children psychology and its brutality, cruelty, and corruption in Sri Lankan and African civil war. Arjie is seven years old child protagonist of novel. He is affected from civil war of Srilanka. He has to leave school and sit inside the room because of terror situation of war. Moreover, war has also positive impact upon Arjie's Childhood. During the war Arjie could get to know himself and his sexuality because of War. He has interest to wear female dress and having sexual attraction with Sinhalese boy make him funny in the Hindu conservative society but actually he is different. Arjie has internal and external war situation. He is worried of both war but his internal war is against Tamile society for rights of his gender but traditional Hindu society does not accept his activities and gender but war situation gave an opportunity to know his gender.

War has positive and negative effect but generally it is taken as negative force with disaster. It causes massive destruction of different sectors of country. Children and women are mostly affected by the war. At war children are forced to be child soldiers because they are defenseless group of society. During war children are given alcohol and drugs to kill fear. They are ordered to kills ordinary people and raped

Women but this is horrible culture it makes the child cruel, rude and aggressive. This kills humanity and gives negative development on children. Children are sexually and physically abused by their commanders. This is like a beast culture which brings a beast upon them this makes them animal in human skin. It could be the great disaster for the societies and countries. This is the ugly face of war. Children rights should be preserve which will guides them in the right way and have to think seriously about war impacts in children psychology before going

through the war in the country.

The primary objective of the study is to bring the impact of the war in a psychology of children and socio-economic status. Through critical analysis of physical, sexual and psychological abuse of children at war by their commanders, it has raised beast culture. Moreover the study also aims at establishing the importance of education for the child soldier for the resettle in the society.

This study makes a significant contribution, mainly in three areas of concern. First, this study brings the children's psychology and socio-economic status. Second, this research makes a significant theoretical connection between the portrayal of Sri Lankan and African civil war. And lastly, this will open up views areas for the understanding of civil war and its impact upon children and ultimately the failure of the nation.

1.1 Civil War in Sri Lanka and Africa

The novels *Beasts of No Nation* *Funny Boy* and *Funny Boy* discuss war and political power during war. Power is exercised in war but it ignores vulnerable aspects of society. It is a condition in which society undergoes restlessness and injustice. Only power, weapon and wild nature are practiced. Mostly adult groups use their power upon the vulnerable group. War is a kind of game in which victory is practiced. The study is about war-affected children who are psychologically affected in war. Both novels are about war and its socio-political condition of African and Sri Lankan society. Every society is affected by the war because a war breaks social progress and societal culture. Due to the war, human morality and ethicality is lost. The research takes two societies Sri Lanka and Africa. Although the novels of Uzodinma Iweala and Shyam Selvadurai are related to Children literature they raise multiples issues about the children Asian society and African society.

Arjie is a boy but his behavior is not like a normal boy. Conservative Tamil society does not like the behaviors of Arjie, having relationship with Sinhalese boy and wearing female clothes. His parents do not allow him to play with the female. His behaviors use to take as a "funny". Moreover, His sexual relationship with male makes him away from his family and society because having sex with same gender is not acceptable in Hindu religion and his orthodox society. And this causes the war between the conservative society of Tamil and Arjie. His father's word, "funny" and his experience of different has been taken as a racial of his sexually. He has sexual relationship with his first lover a Sinhalese boy which leads toward a separation from his society. which reflects his country's ugly division.

Greg A. Mullins explores:

Shyam Selvadurai offers a thorough exploration of persecution on account of ethnicity and sexuality at the nexus of the family. His novel *Funny Boy* explores the childhood and adolescence of Arjie, who comes into a consciousness of his sexuality in the midst of mounting ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka in 1970s and 1980s. Arjie belongs to an urban, prosperous, middle-class Tamil family that seeks a quiet, peaceful accommodation with the majority Sinhalese in Colombo. (158)

The meaning of family and domestic security cannot be separated from the exercise of politics in the public realm. The private and public realms cross with special intensity when an individual in love seeks marriage and contemplates sexual reproduction. Arjie first becomes conscious of how ethnic political impinge on an affection relationship when his aunty Radha dates a Sinhalese man name Anil and Arjie falls in love with a Sinhalese boy, breaking norms of sexual orientation as well as ethnic allegiance. None of these relationships can flourish in ethnicity-conscious in Sri Lanka.

Katherine Bell explore, " I see *Funny Boy* as a testament both to the cost of belonging to the type of ideal childhood that an adult often seems to want for children joy and anguish of being released from such borders into an estranged freedom" (257). Parents always want children to be obedient; follow the social rules and norms and respect their culture, adult, accept and follow as they said, then only child be a civilized child. If any child disobeys the social rules s/he is not an ideal child.

Iwealas depicts impacts of war on children's psychology and their socio-economic status in *Beast of No Nation*. Regarding Iwealas's novel, *Beast of No Nation*, John C. Hawley states in Iwealas's novel, the rape of the young child soldiers, by their commander is frequent but there is no one in charge and raises voice against their leader because leaders are in power. If the child soldiers cries afterward they have beaten with hosepipes. Iwealas demonstrates the child's exploitation by giving drugs, gun and ordering to shoot. This uprising culture to the children brings out beast instead of human upon them and this will bring disaster in children life. The emerge leader are like this then socioeconomic status of the society will be in danger. In the same way, Allison Mackey explores:

Highlighting the "beastliness" of human behavior forces the reader to question how, and even whether, it is possible to regain one's humanity in the wake of such brutal violence.

In this narrative, Agu finally decides to question authority and act out of conscience instead of fear: If they are ordering me KILL, I am killing, SHOOT, I am shooting,

ENTER WOMAN, I am entering woman and not even saying anything even if I am not liking it, I am thinking that I cannot be doing this anymore. (110)

Agu is ordered by his commanders to kills and shoot the ordinary people and he kills them and that makes him a killer and their uprising culture bring beast upon Agu. He has become "animal

in human skin" beast by their commander and there was no existence of humanity in them.

Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* adopts a more global worldview to explore the child from another perspective that of human rights. Iweala's formidable novel exposes the ravages of war on children, from the brutal first-person perspective of a child soldier. It follows the life of child soldier Agu detailing the terror of his capture, the trauma of his first kill, or the many cases of abuse he suffers at the hands of the rebel leader who rapes Agu repeatedly. At the same time, the novel describes Agu's transformation into a vicious serial killer who participates in innumerable village raids, ruthless slaughters and rapes because of education he has got in war. Iweala's deft use of language and his penetrating child's perspective, the adult reader not only witnesses the graphic, gory violence of war, but also viscerally experiences Agu's victimization, trauma, or remorse. The novel concludes in a rehabilitation camp, questioning the possible future of such child soldiers. As intimated in the title, *Beasts of No Nation* refers to Fela Kuti's renowned song about political leaders who metamorphose into "animals in human skin" and dash us human rights.

The study mainly applies war theory which focuses on the impacts of war on society and human being. The war theory basically examines physical violence and destruction and psychological factor. War directly and indirectly affected on children's psychology which will mentally disturb and tortures. This will takes to children in traumatic condition. A society is constituted by many visible and invisible aspects. However, children cannot be socialized in war time due to impact of war in their psychology and the society is also totally destructed by the war. This will brings adversity and creates the brutal and cruel world.

Physically war upsets human feeling, emotion, and sentiment. Human emotions are overcome by torture, pain, violence and brutal nature of human beings. Every aspects of society

are threatened by tropes of war. War creates an indelible picture of the human mind which remains a traumatic experience. In particular, children are more sensitive group of people in case of war. Children after war find problems and show unusual and uncommon behavioral patterns. In this way, children are more harm during war when they face brutal war. War takes the society in disorder, anarchy, and emotional agony which distort the environment of society.

In the same way, the novels present war affected society. The particular society faces many emotional shocks when there undergo war. *Beast of No Nation* discusses a typical war in which a child character is recruited by an army. He is forcefully used in war. He practices killing culture in the war which creates a negative sense of war. In the same way, in novel *Funny Boys*, the major character faces political restlessness in Shrilanka where war has massive destruction. In such a political situation the boy feels horror, terror and psychologically wounded. Due to terrorism and war, children are targeted and terrorist abduct and kill children. So, the war situation spread an impending horror. This kind of horror tortures human beings. During war and post war situation children cannot get their rights and society cannot run in calm and go smoothly. Children are affected than other demographics because of helpless group of society. So, Children are always haunted by fear which cannot allow them do work and study.

War affects human being along with the entire aspects of society. In the context of the novels, child characters that have been used in war and employed as child army. During the war, both representative characters undergo a dark scenario and forcefully take part in the war. While taking part in a war they feel suffocated. Their experience of killing each other makes them cruel and harsh. They are unable to go beyond bloodshed battlefield where they experience the cruelty of war. Being away from home, family, and relative, they only use gun and bomb in order to kill

the enemy. Moving around the jungle with army command, they can see only massacre and bloodshed. This shows the gloomy and sad picture of children who involved in war.

1.2 Victimization of Children in War

The novels even discuss the aftermath of the war, which shows the socio-economic effect on children. The children who were used as a child soldier cannot be free from negative culture of war. They always see bad dream of war. Due to the uprising culture of fighter groups children suffer from psychological problem. War teaches to kill, to shoot and to rape women rather than to give life to other. After the war child soldiers cannot be free from war mentality. They want to be like their bad leader and want to possess power to control and exploited the society. They are not mentally free from the horror of war because they have lost family and individual life. Therefore, they are unable to free mentally. Similarly, the socio-political condition is also much affected from war. The society loses social norms and values and other ideology of the society.

As the study aims at exploring the war-time children psychology and socio-political status, this research will be the idea of *Human Rights and children Literature* by Jonathan Todres and Sarah Higginbotham. This concept advocates children rights during war. Kendra E. Dupuy and Krijn Peters concept of *War and Children* talks about the impact of war on children during war and post war situation and it affected in socio-political status. These concepts will frame the idea of these two Sri Lankan and African Civil War novels and its impacts in the psychology and socio-economic status of children. They generally argued that war impacts ordinary people but especially children are more victims of the war in the society. The research will contribute to children study and the existing knowledge alone the status of children during civil war and post situation of war.

Regarding children's psychology is in constructive shaped and modeled on the basis of

society and activities they involved. Children's mind is sensitive which can be vulnerable and quickly affected by negative forces. War itself destructive force which can affect children faster when they involve, use and experience war. Jon Pedersen and Tone Somme felt argue:

In order to understand transitions of children from one state (or situation) to another, data production on children affected by armed conflict should take account of the full range of situations that children may occupy. This necessitates a comparative perspective on these different states. (251)

Physical and psychological development of children are sensitive their behaviors start to change; they do not want to live under the control of their parents and society. They are different than the adult regarding lifestyle and behaviors but society is not ready to accept them. They want to revolt against the society. In this situation children can easily be diverted and manipulated by others and they can develop negative insight and impression in mind. Child's psychology is receptive and adaptable to whatever they experience. The very learning phase, their mind is active but a war scenario brings a picture which disturbs their psychology.

In particular condition, a society experiences a negative and destructive world and it is true that a warlike situation develops a negative impression to children including manhood. Most children are used and abused. Katherine Beckett argues:

Society has experienced waves of concern-even panics-about various threats to children, such as kidnapping, murder, abuse, neglect, and incest. A coalition of claims-makers, including parents, feminists, professionals, and government officials, has expanded the domain of the "parent concept"-physical, non-sexual child abuse-to include other related problems such as child neglect and mistreatment. (59)

The arguments show violation of social rules in which human being show bestial behaviors and

exposes cruelty. In such a situation, children are in a vulnerable position therefore, they could be affected by destructive war.

Furthermore, Jon A. Shaw discusses the relationship between society and human psychology aftermath of war. In fact, war destroys social norms and values along with humanity. War affects every sphere of society and destructs physical and human. In addition, it comparatively creates a negative impact upon child psychology as he discusses ahead:

Children exposed to war-related stressors experience a spectrum of psychological morbidities including posttraumatic stress, mood disorders, externalizing and disruptive behaviors, and somatic symptoms determined by exposure dose effect. Specific questions for future research are identified. (237)

Normally children have an open mind, sensitive thought, and constructive mind but war abuses children's mind. It destroys their constructive psychology. Most children are used and abused during the war which sharpens the dark side of children mind.

War is an armed conflict between two groups which uncovers naked humanity and barbaric human character. It is always against human civilization and ideal world. Multi-aspects of society are affected by war and it is regressive which brings the civilized world back. Shaw argues:

A community-wide wartime experience in which there is massive and severe disruption of the community. War-related stressors may include shelling, bombing, the destruction of homes and villages as well as exposure to the wounding and killing of family members or loved ones, the brutal rape and torturing of innocent victims, malnutrition, starvation, and disease. In some instances, children may be kidnapped and forced to participate as child warriors in violent acts under the threat of losing their own lives. (237)

Shaw analyzes war in relation to any society wherein no factor remains untouched during the war. War activities create a horror among people and destroy peace around society. It breaks human emotional relationship and forced to be cruel and merciless. The brutal situation no more appeal to humanity and sense of morality. In battlefield suffering and crying exist.

The protagonists of both novels are children. Arjie in *Funny Boys* and Agu in *Beast of No Nation* are children and both of them are victim of war. The novels depict war time situation and how human life is affected by the remaining of world war. The socio-political condition of post-war remains shocking and offensive when the war leaves indelible images and picture in the human mind. In addition, children cannot consider war situation however they are defeated in war after involving war. War is destructive forces though it may change at the end. The physical war can be defined within certain time framework but psychological war remains impact in their entire life. A war effect is fatal which destroys human psychology by giving torture and painful wound. The society engages in distress, social problems and political unrest. The war leaves a fatal stressful circumstance in which no one can feel rest and safety.

A war disrupts and dissolves constant social atmosphere. After all everything is influenced and affected by war. It is seemingly physical destruction and deformation of appearance. It is calculative and apparent loss of war but psychological loss and destruction can have more disturbance and affective. In case of children, it is fatal to them. The resettlement of society after war is painful and difficult. Post war traumatic experience is painful enough to adjust in society. Kendra E. Dupuy and Krijn Peters argue:

The considerable physical damage to civilian infrastructure, such as homes, schools, roads, and health clinics all too often deliberately inflicted not only brings the need for a long and costly postwar reconstruction process, but also has significant and long-term

implications for children and young people as individuals and therefore for societies as a whole. Experiencing armed conflict and its traumas during a phase when one is still developing both physically and psychologically will likely have long-term detrimental psychosocial consequences. (2)

Children having armed conflict and war cannot be normalized as unaffected group. Its impact upon them is regressive, uncreative and impotent. Children's active mind is changed into dullness. As normal war affected children cannot adjust in society. Their psychological experience, impression of war and cruel mindset of human being change their psychology.

Post war period remains terrible when children resettle in society. Unlike healthy and normal child, their mindset, thought and perspective are different. A rooted negative impression in their mind also results negative output. Their thinking and perceiving way is different from others. Dupuy and Perters remark:

One of the relatively new dimensions of such conflicts has been the unprecedented use of large groups of children and young people as combatants. This appalling phenomenon changes the nature of societies, communities, and cultures during and after a conflict—probably for decades to come. There are myriad facets to look at in order to understand the impact of the use of children and youth in war. (7)

In this regard, a war has multi-facets ramification and fallout which has long-term impact. From many perspectives and dimensions, its impact can be found but the impact hardens children to be harmonized in progressive society. Their psychological makeup during war instructs them on their behaviors. Thus, without making them competitive, socialization and adjustment are challenge for victimized children.

A war mitigates and lessens social bonding in which the society is divided. A divided society misleads and corrupts society. Due to the destructive nature of war, society is defiled. Children are sensitive and vulnerable group during and after war. For this reason, children should be kept away from war. It is matter of fact that, Children's Rights concerned groups reinforce Children's Rights and raise voice of in favor of children. Because children are to be affected in war, Children's Rights activist groups focus on Children's Rights. Dupuy and Perters consider:

When war breaks out it brings about chaos, physical destruction of places, separation of families, and psychological exposure to horrors that will scar the memory of people, communities, and societies forever. Armed violence often undermines societal and community norms. Ethical and moral standards and traditions are shattered and all that is left is the uncertainty of whether things will ever change for the better. Added to this already dramatic situation is the loss of belief in the very innocence of children and youth, as they are forced to bring horrors to their own communities. (7)

A society is constructed by different aspects in which an individual has linked and connected to be socialized. But war brings chaos and adversity in harmonious society. After war broke out, societal existence is scattered and dispersed. For this reason, children including other members of society are more or less affected.

Children's Rights issue fortifies their uprising and protection, but war brings chaotic situation in which children are abused and exploited. The children who involve in war are isolated and alienated from society instead of being socialization because children are mentally disturbed and affected. They cannot feel freedom and open mind because the war picture frequently haunts them in reality. In the process of resettlement in society, war affected children

are unable to carry on existing norms and values because of psychological torture and torment affect them.

Chapter II. Violation of Children's Rights during War times

Every child has rights of family, education, health, economy and individuality and it is essential for them to be socialized. But, children are cannot get these substantial rights during war moreover they do not have a safe position. A war is always disruptive for entire human being which distorts and disrupts social civilization. In this situation, children are mostly used and rendered to be victim of violence. A war creates exhortation, violence, crime and kidnapping and children are mostly affected and it violates Children's Rights and exploits them. As the concern in this research are Children's Rights and its violation during the war. A war is a situation in which everyone is influenced and affected. The situation violates the normal order of a society in which human beings show their brutal and wild nature. War brings uncommon and abnormal situation from which everything is affected. The study mainly focuses violation of Children's Rights renders and its condition in war.

2.1 General Concept of Human Right and War

The idea of human rights is known as the inborn rights and it is inalienable to every individual. A person is ensured and ascertained to be used each and every rights in the world. To be fully used to human rights, the political situation is a requirement for a society. Democracy and peace are preconditions to be used for human rights. Tordes defines human rights as, "Human rights education during childhood furthers that idea of integrating human rights standards and rights-respecting behaviors into children's daily lives" (16). It is the practice of humanity and human behaviors. In contrast, the war is an optimum violation of human rights as well as violation of social codes and conducts along with brutal and cruel manifestation of human emotions. In other words, war is a complete violation of human rights. Johan M.G opine, "War is a species in the genus of violence; more specifically it is collective, direct, manifest,

personal, intentional, organized, institutionalized, instrumental, sanctioned, and sometimes ritualized and regulated, violence" (1). According to him, war can occur in different forms but violence is a manifestation of war. War shows its form in many ways however it is against humanity and peace.

This is the first condition of child right that has been discussed in *Human Rights in Children Literature*:

Early childhood is a stage during which most children emerge from the private sphere, the family, which historically has been largely beyond the reach of the law, and into the public sphere, beginning with school, and in some cases preschool. This is a critical transition for children, which also occurs as they start to explore stories on their own.

(12)

One of the most important aspects for children is a family value which is considered as primary socialization of a child. A child learns social and cultural values from family. Moreover, children learn moral, personal and particular attributes. Children can make all background which determines the child future career. A family handed down all cultural attributes and humanistic values like love, kindness and sharing.

The term human right and war are incompatible. It is normally unwanted situation in which everyone is influenced and destroys all family, moral values, cultural, social discipline and normal practice. In this regard, a war in violation of human right in which condition human beings ignore human rights and existing norms and values.

2.2 Children's Rights and War

Children Rights are oriented to the children. Children are considered as a vulnerable section of society because of that they are more sensitive in case of human right violation. One of

the crucial aspects of war is Children's Rights because children are a sensitive and defenseless group so they are used in war. Every child is entitled to have Children's Rights along with birth. In course of being a member of a society, every child should learn and perceive social practices. Many aspects existed in society for the socialization process. Children have to be familiarized with family, society, culture and community. To get a proper upbringing in society Children's Rights are inevitable. If children do not get a proper environment in society, the child cannot adjust and fit in the society. Therefore the first founding values of Children's Rights are to get a proper family environment. But this right can be violated in war because the family may not be together and members of a family should involve in war involuntarily. It is a serious issue that children are unable to ensure their rights to have parents and family during the war.

Human being is a social creature. A society is a group of peoples and a child is socialized to be a good member of society. Each and every child should learn social, political norms and values of society. Therefore, socio-political rights are equally significant for children to make them capable and qualified. If a child is ensured by socio-political rights only the child struggles and fights against obstacle in career and social life. It is the main process of socialization when they are taught socio-political rights and responsibility. Having good knowledge of the socio-political condition, children can understand society. They can raise their voices against exploitation and suppression. Every time they stand against social injustice and unfair practice, but before making them able, every society preserves and ensures their rights.

The concept of human right encompasses even Children's Rights. Children's rights are part of human right. The concept of human rights is absolutely related to human beings. It insists that every individual should get all kinds of individual, natural, social, cultural and economic rights in society. An individual should get right to live being a human being.

Children's rights are a part of human rights. Obviously, it studies Children's rights and their issues in society. Regardless of human rights, children's rights are more sensitive and significant issue in society. Children are a vulnerable section of society; therefore, their rights should be strongly raised. Only by providing their rights, they can defend themselves. If children's rights are not strong in society, they are used and exploited in society. Even child right ensures and stimulates human rights as well. If a society cannot ensure children's rights, even human's rights will be fragile. Human right begins along with the birth of a child therefore child right is a primarily significant concept which is defined by committee on the rights of the Children:

Children's rights are not detached or isolated values devoid of context, but exist within a broader ethical framework which is partly described in article 29(1) and in the preamble to the Convention.... Thus, for example, [Article 29, which outlines the aims of children's education,] underlines the importance of respect for parents, of the need to view rights within their broader ethical, moral, spiritual, cultural or social framework, and of the fact that most children's rights, far from being externally imposed, are embedded within the values of local communities.⁽⁴⁾

The excerpt defines every children have to get individuality, however it is relative according to different social norms and values. A child has to be ensured by own natural including other social rights.

However, these inborn rights of children are violated during war and war brings the adverse situation in which children are not ensured by their rights. **The relation** between war and children's rights is incompatible because children are not ensured and ascertained during the war. A war is an extreme manifestation of wildest nature of human beings. In such situation a children cannot use own rights. Children have to get proper development and progress in society but it is impossible during the war. Committee on Rights of Child further clarifies:

A detailed articulation of the range of rights children possess. This includes traditional civil and political rights that extend to all persons, such as the right not to be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, the right to be free from various forms of exploitation, the right to freedom of expression, and the right to access information. It also includes core economic and social rights, including health and education rights, and cultural rights. (5)

The above-mentioned description makes clarification that every child is entitled to have all kinds of rights and should be free from every kind of exploitation. Children has much potential, they have to enjoy and consume their rights. But, these inborn rights may not exist during the war.

During war the atmosphere is mess and chaotic in which children are used and exploited. They are manipulated and tempt in the army and sent to war. The innocence children are used. Children's rights are violated in war but protection is only possible in a peaceful and harmonious and democratic society, otherwise, human rights or children's rights are under threat. Regarding Children's rights many conventions and treaties under UN and human rights have forcefully raised such issue: One of the major documents as to children right is the convention on the rights of the Children states:

Children's rights more generally, challenged the idea that children are mere wards of the family. The treaty recognizes the complex and critical nature of childhood by acknowledging that children are ideally protected within the family but also individuals in their own right. (36)

The convention enforces implementation of children's rights because its claim is to show that children are a vulnerable group of the society. Children must be protected and should give them a proper environment in society. It is further reinforces:

CRC repeatedly emphasizes the essential role that parents and families play in the lives of children, acknowledging the importance of parents and families in nineteen substantive provisions of the treaty, requiring states parties to respect parents' rights and duties in childrearing, and calling the family "the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children," the treaty recognizes that children have a distinct right to be heard. (35)

Children are vulnerable and accessible group of people in the society therefore, children are intentionally used. Either they are enforced to take part in war or they are sexually or physically abused. Regarding the concept of war and child rights, Theresa S. Betancourt and other scholars critically discuss children use in war:

The conflict involved direct attempts by rebel groups to destroy relations between young abductees and their families and communities. This was done by forcing many young people to commit atrocities (killings, assault) against loved ones and neighbours under the threat of death. This violent indoctrination into fighting forces was intended to sever ties that might lead abducted youth to attempt escape and return. (1077)

Children's rights and social norms are impracticable at the time war. If children cannot be taught by society, children are unable to fit into the society as civilized children. Without proper socialization, children cannot grab the opportunity and overcome the challenge. If children do not have participation in society, they are physically and morally dominated. It always discourages children from equal participation and competition.

2.3 War and Its Impact upon Children

Many aspects in society are significant for children to be a civilized child. Health and open environment are equally important for a child to grow in society. A healthy and mental

fitness is also Children's rights having a strong healthy position. Children can fight and struggle in society. If a child does not get a balanced diet and enough diet for physical and mental development, the child loses full-fledged development and opportunity in society. Physical and mental health is basic and primary needs as well as the rights of every children. However it is uncertain to have rights of health in war. If children involved in the war, they are unlikely to get a balanced diet. Children do not get mental freedom and a healthy environment in war. A war involved child cannot be ensured own rights in war. Dupuy and Peters say here, "armed conflict affects children and young people. In many war-affected countries, children and young people make up the largest section of the population" (2). In fact, children are most affected in war because they cannot resist actively therefore, they have to be victim of war.

Generally children are raised by families in the community which normally take the responsibility for the well-being and development of young people physically, psychologically and intellectually. Where young people are socialized, learning about the beliefs and values prevalent among the group. They are also socialized into the adult roles that they will eventually assume. One manifestation of the enormous impact that war has on society is the scattering and separation of families and communities. Depuy and Peter draw picture of war and its impact upon children here:

Most children and youth in countries experiencing armed conflict are affected by it, but to varying degrees. And the specific ways children and young people respond to situations caused by armed conflict also vary, depending as much on the nature of the person as on external circumstances. The majority of children and young people in regions experiencing armed conflict just try to survive, in their communities, as internally displaced people in camps, or abroad as refugees. (2)

Children are directly and indirectly affected from war in many countries, having different experience of their circumstances. The targeted destruction of homes and villages and massive displacement makes extreme difficulty to retain some form of normality to raise and socialize young people. The transmission of culturally-specific knowledge and practices is often disrupted by war and can thus fail to be passed on to younger generations. In some cases, these practices are replaced by more violent versions, such as when the widespread cultural practice of initiation rites. Which regulate the transformation from childhood into adulthood is adapted by armed militias to transform abducted children into loyal fighters. Respective for the ancestors, the gods, and the elders are often ridiculed by armed fighting groups. In short, armed conflict often brings social reformulation and reordering, with social structures, positions, identities, and ideas contested and changed. Depuy and Peter show impact of war upon children:

Children are in many ways dependent on adults for their survival needs, such as food and water, and child-parent separation is a real danger during situations of armed conflict. Children and young people are still developing physically and psychologically. The consequences of war, such as mental trauma and physical injury, can thus have a very long-term impact on their development and growth into adulthood. (23)

Living a meaningful and dignified life in society every child needs education. It is inalienable and inevitable right of the child. In contrast, war brings interruption in children's rights. Due to war involvement, children lose their personal development and always remain weaker in society.

Education is another inevitable right of the children and every child should be ensured by the right. Education can only empower and socialized to children. If education is not provided children cannot empower themselves in society. Education imparts moral strength and power which help children to societal changes. But war deprived children from rights of education and

cannot make them capable to fight in an adverse situation in society. Moreover, children cannot reestablish themselves after they involve in war. Many physical and mental developments depend on socialization though some are natural as well. If children are deprived of the socialization process, cannot equally socialize them.

Children cannot get freedom and cozy environment during the war. A child is separated from family and society. When a children deprives from family and social values, they cannot develop own personality. A child cannot learn to love and kindness, therefore children nature will be rude and cruel. When a child involves in war, the child only sees and experiences cruelty and brutality. They assert:

It is generally a period of great social, economic, and cultural disruption. The social order can be heavily disturbed as family members are killed, injured, or separated, and can even be turned upside down when friends become enemies or armed children command their former teachers or village authorities. The norms of society are broken and the rule of law is often absent, with people of all ages and walks of life committing acts of violence for which they may never be punished. (24)

Children being a vulnerable part of society, they are used in war so that children should be kept beyond war because they are abducted and used in war. This situation violates child rights as they have to face violence. Every child needs family protection and love but children used in war create violent nature of children. Children and young people bear the brunt of the impact of armed conflict. War destroys the socio-economic and foundations of society which is needed for children to grow up into healthy and productive adults. The effects of war on young people are multiple and wide-ranging: they can separated from their families and communities, they could

be unable to access schooling and health services, and they suffer from trauma as the result of witnessing or sometimes participating in atrocities.

Chapter III: Impact of War in Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* and Shyam Selvadurai's

Funny Boy

The comparative study on *Beasts of No Nation* by Uzodinma Iweala and *Funny Boy* by Shyam Selvadurai discussed children's rights and its violation during the war. Children get deprivation from good education, healthy life, memorable childhood, culture, civilization and parental care during a war. This impact on children psychology and which takes them in a traumatic condition. Children are also affected by socio-economic growth during the war because due to lack of education they will not get a good position and an opportunity in society. Children are unfamiliar with socio-cultural and social rules and civilization during a war which make them unfamiliar in society and cannot stay as a cultured and civilized child, as a result, they will be difficulties to settle and resettle child soldier in the society.

The novel *Beasts of No Nation* portray a story of a child soldier of the African country. The protagonist, Agu portray a story of a child soldier and his experience in war. The novel indeed shows the pitiable condition of a child who involves in war. When the western African country involved in civil war and most of the people and villages affected from war. Abu, being a school-aged boy, is forced to join in the war. He is an innocence boy however he is forcefully enlisted in the war. The novel reflects a scenario that a boy unknowingly involves in war and experiences it. By involving in war, he is unable to experience his own self and independent life.

The novels *Beast of No Nation* and *Funny Boy* have depicted psycho-social impact of war on children. The protagonist of both novels loses their basic children's rights due to the ongoing war. Not having a proper environment and uprising in society, they cannot develop and do progress in their lives. By affected by war, both of them undergo cruelty and violence. Due to the

war, both protagonists are not safe and unaffected. Every child has rights to live and have ownership rights in society but the ongoing war shadows their rights to live in society.

In contrary the novel, *Beast of No Nation* presents the child protagonist who was forced to be a child soldier. He has bitter experienced of war and he is mentally disturb and living in rehab center whereas the novel *Funny Boy* presents the child protagonist who has faces many problem from war and he has experience of fear of war and he is affected by civil war in Sri Lanka. He does not participate in the war being a child soldier but the ongoing war affects his life and even he loses his child rights. But, Abu in novel *Beast of No Nation* takes part in the war and he experiences it. Forcefully participating in the war he never experiences his personal life and freedom whereas he spends his valuable time in the war. However, both novels discuss children experiences in war and how war affects children lives. Mostly it is discussed from the Children's Rights point of view.

The novel *Funny boy* has depicted a typical war affected society and how war creates psychological stress on children lives. A seven-year-old boy experiences of war between Tamil and Sinhalese's in Sri Lanka where many people were displaced during the civil war. Undergoing the war the representative character Arjie has bitter experience of war. The protagonist does not get the proper environment and his grownup in society is not justifiable when he has to compromise his own freedom. The war created horror and terror in society, therefore everyone has to be scared.

Children must get the proper environment to grow up in a healthy and peaceful society but they do not get freedom and fearless environment during war as a result the child undergoes psychological problem in future. A child gets birth in a family where he is expected to grow with

all social and cultural practice to compete in the society. It is a fundamental value of Children's rights that every child should get an amicable environment during a childhood stage.

Beast of No Nation portray Abu's story who is forcefully involved in the war. Due to the war involvement he is unable to be familiar with family and society. In his early age he is taken to war though he does not know what actually war is. He is an innocence to war but he has to involve in war by carrying a gun with others armies and he undergoes a crucial war. The armed society cannot give him family values whereas he learns only killing the enemy. His experience in war creates a darkness and frustration when he lives dangerous life there.

The novel *Beast of No Nation* describes a dark and gloomy picture of war. The narrator depicts a naked picture of war. A war is always destructive in both physically and psychologically. In fact, war reveals human cruelty and brutality. The protagonist of the novel, Agu faces war situation when armies moves in his village here and there. Even he does not know why those armies frequently move around the village. Agu never realizes freedom and confidence because of unusual activities around the village. It creates fear within his heart and mind. This destruction horrifies him to be free in society. He explains the ongoing situation around the village:

I am watching him move from truck to truck. The truck is so old that the paint is falling off and the tire is so low that when he is kicking them, they are pressing in and out. The other entire soldier is following each movement he is making; even all the one holding their gun ready to shoot is shifting his head to be watching him looking at every truck. He is moving slowly like an important person to make sure that everybody looking at him knows he is chief. The other entire soldier is staring at him like he is king. I am staring also. (5)

The village is already affected by the war. It has become a battlefield. Every day soldiers move around the village with guns and bombs. All the villagers are afraid of the activities. This situation is unfavorable for children who are unable to feel free. A kind of horror always makes them quiet. Due to the movement of soldiers, the society experiences the dark side of human life.

Every child needs an open and free environment to live life freely and then they can enjoy their rights. Otherwise, they feel suffocated and hide their desires. They cannot enjoy their rights because of the threatened environment, they feel uneasy and insecure. For this reason, a child stays reserved. Agu in his early age encounters a war situation. However, he does not know about war and he is an innocent boy, so he got shocks going at war situation. It was quite abnormal and unusual for him because of unusual activities of war and their soldier activities are different. Abu himself explains the situation there:

Do you want some water, he is saying softly, but I am not answering because I am floating on top of my body and just watching. The world is changing in many colors around me and I am hearing the people speaking, but it is like a different language. I am floating away like a leaf in water until KPWISHA! I am feeling cold and wet and then how my body is so heavy all around me.(8)

In fact, the boy does not know who they are. All the time, he encounters them moving around his village. With guns and ambush, the people would march pass around there. It is the way they would do activities. The innocent boy is unable to understand. However, it creates fear within him.

The protagonist of the novel *Funny boy* is affected by civil war in Sri Lanka where Tamil and Sinhalese underwent in war. The novel depicts a picture of Sri Lanka when the civil war was going on. The novel brought a destructive picture and many people from Sri Lanka displaced

from own country because of unending war. In particularly, the research focuses on the violation of Children's Rights during the civil war and its effects on children psycho-social aspects. Arjie is a representative character who represents all of the children from Sri Lanka. Arjie has not been enlisted as an army but undeclared war of Sri Lanka creates fear and horror among children. Due to fear of war Arjie sit inside the room because he had heard firing of guns and bombs. If he goes outside house he could be a victim of war. Arjie discusses the situation with his aunty as:

Because I said and my voice trailed off. I did not want to tell her the truth for fear that she would laugh at me in the way the other adults had done. Because I don't want to I added quickly. She looked at me keenly and smiled as if she didn't believe me. (48)

When Arjie's aunty asked him about his problem not going to outside he cannot express his problem with his aunty due to the terrific situation of war. War creates fear in his heart and affected on his psychology, so that he remain reserved and silent with in the family member. Due to impending war and sudden attack of fighter groups make many people homeless and taking life of people. As a result, Arjie family decided to move Canada due to the war going on in Sri Lanka. Even Arjie is separated from his family in his early age. His father lives in Europe because of the tension of civil war.

Except Arjie's mother other family members leave the country due to the threat of warrior groups. But he cannot leave the country because he has strong connection with his house, society, environment and school so he lives with mother in Srilanka. Even he is not free from the horror of war. Tamil and Sinhalese war is forceful because it is destructive and terrible for all Sri Lankan people. It is describes as:

There was a group in Jaffna called the Tamil Tigers. They wanted a separate country and the Sinhalese were very very angry about this. Ammachi often talked about the Tigers.

She was on their side and declared that if they did get a separate state, which they would call Eelam, she would be the first to go and live in it. My father told her she was mad.

This made Ammachi even angrier and they had many disputes about the Tigers. (61)

The condition of Sri Lanka of Tamil are in war against the Sinhalese group because Tamil want separate state. This news has creates fear upon children and other demographic. Tamil are kidnapping and killing the people against them and destructing the village. This has given the people mental torture and illness.

Every child has rights to an education, rights to a language, rights to a religion, rights to a culture, rights to a freedom and rights to be an individual. These rights help children to be developed physically and mentally. When children are deprived of these rights then children cannot be fit. They lose all kinds of ownership rights. The children have to be a victim by psychological horror. It is a long-term psychological disturbance which restricts the child to be free and enjoy in society. Here, Muttukrishna Sarvanan than shows a terrific picture:

Child combatants are a sign of frustration and bankruptcy of political legitimacy of the armed group they belong to. Besides, children are useful for espionage and logistical duties, as the enemy would least suspect them. Therefore, one of the criteria that can be used to distinguish 'terrorists' from 'freedom fighters' is whether or not they recruit children to fight their war. (1)

The children involved in a war can never restore mental freshness instead; their mind is engrossed by dark images of war. In spite of being free from war, the children cannot be free from psychological torture, fear, and memory of the war. It ultimately becomes a traumatic and psychological disease for them.

At the early age of childhood, every child should get the open environment to live. If a child gets an improper environment they cannot develop oneself. Abu and Arjie, protagonists of novels feel pressure and stress due to the movement of unknown people having gun and ambush. This situation never let him feel free. A kind of fear always threatens him. Every child wants to play and feel free during early childhood. Children do not get any worry and fear of anything because they remain in a reserve. This kind of situation does not let them be happy and free. It is right for children to have a good environment. Similarly, Agu expects a good environment to have a playful life. But, due to the war and its movement he cannot be free. Abu lives with his father when his mother and sisters and brothers were taken to the capital city for safety. But, Abu was not taken therefore he lives in the same village with his father. By dint of separating from his family he did not feel good. Similarly Arjie want to live his life with his father and family members but he get detached during war. Both protagonists feel uneasy and depressed.

Agu loses his father, mother, brother and sisters company in his early age in village. His father and brother were slaughter in front of him. He feels alienated and deprived of his mother kindness and family ties and living stressful life. He was shocked of killing and separation of family member. When arms group chase him he became success to save his life and reached to jungle but he is found by battalion. And he was forced to be a child soldier but actually he does not have any idea of war. A commander threatens him. And used and abused him during war. Due to the activities, he loses his peaceful life. How Agu is lured by the commander describes as:

He is saying, well that is no problem. If you want food, you will eat. And if you want a drink, you will drink, but that has to wait until you are telling me your name. How can I be sitting down to eat with a man whom I do not know his name? Are you hearing me? I

am nodding to him again, but word is not able to be coming from my mouth. (8)

The commander indirectly threatens Agu from his loud voice and indirectly forces him to join his battalion for food. He does not want to join war and he is fear by the appearances of soldier and their guns. He often hears unusual sounds of gunfire's as well. It horrifies him. In this regard, he further adds that only negative thoughts control their mind and leads to the dark side. Affected child never enjoys as a normal child does because the previous stricken pressure frequently controls psyche and scares the child. He still makes clearer:

A stress an accumulation model suggests that children affected through repeated and exposure to severe trauma or a series of events that exceed an individual's threshold level of stress. Such exposure to stressful events can lead to a prolonged activation of biologically based coping strategies that, when repeatedly activated, may compromise individuals' capacity to readjust, leaving them increasingly susceptible to physical or psychological problems throughout the life course. (1077)

The above excerpt clearly shows a psychological impact on children after taking part in the war. Their psyche mindset during war prolongs the traumatic experience. As they memorize glimpses of war, their mind is disturbed and tortured. As such pictures often psychologically attack them. The similar psychological stress is repeatedly activated in their psyche.

Inconsequently, they cannot live a stress-free life in reality.

Arjie gets indirectly threaten in life from war though he lives in own house. He is unable to have freedom and individual life during war. The country is undergone with kidnap, killing and torture. Everyone is scared of social upheavals. Arjie, being a small child, cannot be free from threats and unwanted war. After detached from his family members he faces tortures and torments as he mentions:

After they had been on the verandah for only a few minutes, I heard them raise their voices. They were arguing about politics and I learned that there was a war going on now in Jaffina between the army and the Tamil Tigers who were fighting for a separate state. War to me signified guns and soldiers and armored cars, and I had seen no evidence of this in Colombo. (100)

Arjie always feels torture and fear in life during war. He scares from ongoing war around here and there. Anytime war could happen there, therefore, he is protected from his family members. Though he gets schooling and education, he can learn nothing due to the ongoing war.

In comparison to the human stages of life, a childhood is more sensitive and significant. The childhood is precious and it determines future of children. A child having a proper environment, love, grownup and culture can have a better life. Primarily, a child has to get the proper environment to be developed as a normal citizen. They must have education, economic and cultural rights which make an individual a good social being and each child is entitled to have these rights. In contrary, a war situation totally violates Children's Rights. Children cannot be ensured by such social as well as social rights. Children abuses and violence are common phenomena in war. Katherine Beckett explains the violation of Children's rights as:

The image of children to harm intentionally inflicted by others has taken precedence over all other children Since the "discovery" of (physical) child abuse and "battered syndrome," he argues, society has experienced waves of concern-even panics us threats to children, such as kidnapping, murder, abuse, neglect, and incest. Claims-makers, including parents, feminists, professionals, and government officials, and the domain of the "parent concept"-physical, non-sexual child abuse-other related problems such as child neglect. (59)

Children during war often face inhuman and unjustified treatment in society. A child has to be grown in the family, with parents but forcefully separated children cannot learn the family culture, society and social relation. Along with societal rights, children are deprived of other rights like economic, and cultural rights as well.

At the age of eleven Agu has to live in house with his family members and play with friends but due to the war he is living in jungle and playing with guns and bombs. He cannot even speak with them because all of them have guns. He assumes that he may be killed if he speaks in soldiers group. It was suffocation for him but he could not do anything against them. He only listens to them whatever they say. He explains what he faces during war in jungle as:

I am wanting to cry and I am feeling like I am having to go to toilet, but I am knowing if I am doing this, he will be killing me just like that so I am shaking my head and looking at his red eye until I am remembering just like that how in my village everybody is calling me Agu because that is what my father is calling me. I am whispering Agu, my name is Agu because it is hard for me to be talking and then I am seeing how Commandant is taking his hand from his gun and smiling. (9)

Agu wants to cry, he does not like the troop and friends so he remembers his village and father. He has no right to speak and say something. He wishes he could speak and say something. Memory of village playing with his friends and family always haunts him. But it is far from him to meet family. Basically, Agu has been deprived of basic rights of children.

Regarding children's rights act it is found that every rights should be ensured by children. Because of excessive manipulation and exploitation of children throughout the world, the children's rights act was declared as mandatory act and should be implemented it. If children cannot be ensured by the given rights, the children never develop themselves. Because children

are the future of the world and they are treated well. Even in war and disaster, children should be rescued. Due to the proclamation of Children's Rights, many children have been rescued throughout the world.

A war brings critical situations in a society. A war cannot be in favor of human beings from children rights perspective. A child along with birth gets rights in society and so children rights are inborn and some of them are achieved after birth. In this way we can discuss many aspects of children rights and the research will discuss fundamental rights of children. In addition, the research analyzes violation of children rights during the war. Primarily a child is entitled to have all human rights along with birth. It is naturally created right which comes along with anyone's birth. The basic value of children rights is to get a respectful and dignified life which should be equal for all. The thematic line of child rights creates many aspects in society.

During the civil war of Africa Abu loses his family rights. He is detached from his father, mother, brothers and sisters. He is not as happy as he should have been. If a child does not get family culture and upbringing, the child is rude and uncivilized. As a result, Abu cannot learn the good culture and social manner. He is unable to think about his situation. Neither he can speak nor weep in front of them. He is muted by the armies. After leaving his all family members, he is forcefully joined in a battalion. He has only his old experience there. He shares his experience after joining in the army as:

I am thinking of before war when I am in the town with my mother and I am seeing men walking with brand-new uniform and shiny sword holding gun and shouting left right, left right, behind trumpet and drum, like how they are doing on parade and so I am nodding my head yes. (10)

Agu think the situation before he joins the battalion, where he would see a soldier's activities and parade in the village. At that time, he was unknown about war. But he came to know when he joins in soldiers. All the time, he has to take part in their groups and should do what they say. It is a painful situation for him to live with the soldier but he does not have any option as well.

Arjie is a victim of ongoing civil war in Sri Lanka so does not feel safe and comfortable situation around his village. He partially loses his family. Because of war, he cannot get family love and culture. Even the mother gets threaten from warrior groups. Even no involved in the war, Arjie is faces and experiences same psychological problem as Abu experiences in the war. Having tortures and torments, Arjie is in traumatic situation. Every time he has to be scared of kidnap and torture from them. He is not free from mental suffering and fear. Even going school, he does not feel secure and comfortable, he explains here:

I began school the next day. After such a long period of freedom, school, with its rigid timetables, cantankerous teachers, and irritating boys, should have been unbearable, but it was a relief. Amma was to pick me up after school for the next few weeks because I was not considered well enough to cycle home with Diggy. That afternoon Amma arrived at the school with Dary uncle. Seeing him made me feel a sense of death. II got into the car; I could tell that they had been fighting. (120)

Arjie is surrounded by critical situation so his schooling is affected and he rejoins after schools opened. Arjie actually does not know what is going on around; however; even he can experience explosion, kidnap, murder and uneven phenomena around there.

Agu loses everything after joining in a child soldier. He loses own personal, family, social and communal life. His freedom of living life is snatched. After leaving his family, he experiences a different turn in his life. It was an emotionally bitter moment for him because he

had to be separated from mother and siblings. He did not want it but it was a forceful act. He becomes helpless and hopeless. This condition creates psychological stress within him. It darkens his life he does not know what is a war but he is forcefully taken. He has to do some work given by them. The soldiers behave him rudely and uncivilized way. Due to fear, he is unable to defend their behaviors; he expresses his difficult condition as:

I am learning as a soldier. I am learning to march, left right, left right; how to hide in the bush and stay very still so nobody can be seeing where I am, how to be walking one foot in front of the other so nobody is hearing me; running, jumping, rolling around on the ground and singing all of the soldier song that we are singing when we are working or marching. (13)

At the age of living with family, Abu is compelled to play parade as soldiers. He plays with a gun and a knife. He is taught how to play with a gun and weapon. The innocent boy does a parade with a gun. It is sufferable for him. He is too weak to carry a gun but he has to carry it.

Agu's condition is unwanted for children. Therefore, the children right act advocates children freedom. If children face stressful pressure, they are unable to face it and the result will be bad negative. In the same way, children cannot perceive society, culture and manners of society if they do not have the good and open environment. Though children have human rights, they are used and exploited in war and any critical situation. It is legally against human rights and it has been established in society.

A war is indeed destruction of physical and psychological status. War-affected generation ever faces both problems. The economic aspect is also influencing factor which ensures freedom and mental relief. If a child undergoes hunger and insufficient food then the child never develops

own personality in society. Instead, children are mental, sick and undergo different disease. The following excerpt by Betancourt reflects similar points as:

We found that post-conflict experiences of discrimination largely explained the relationship between past involvement in wounding/killing others and subsequent increases in hostility. Stigma similarly mediated the relationship between surviving rape and depression. However, surviving rape continued to demonstrate independent effects on increases in anxiety, hostility and adaptive/prosaically behaviors after adjusting for other variables. These findings point to the complexity of psychosocial adjustment and community reintegration in these youth and have a number of programmatic and policy implications. (17)

In this way, children in post-war situation undergo numerous problems and it is difficult to readjust and resettle children in society. Actually, war creates a mess and chaotic situation in which children are threatened physically and psychologically.

A war is an abnormal situation of human society and it happens when humans are guided by the bestial drive. It means human being show their wild nature in war. It is a practice of killing each other. The situation which created by war is unfavorable for entire beings. It is physically destructive and mentally effective. Every individual is affected during the war. The war demolishes social order, practice, norms and values and creates the chaotic world. In such a situation, the vulnerable and defenseless group are directly influenced. Among such groups of a society is a child who is used massively and its futuristic impact is dangerous. In many ways, a war causes damages and makes victim to weaker groups.

Every an individual has human rights, children rights is a part of human rights so children has some rights. Along with the birth of a child, the child is entitled to get many inborn rights. In

addition, the child gets familial, cultural social and personal rights. Every child should get the opportunity to consume the rights. It is a basic value of Children's Rights, however; children are being mistreated and exploited it. These basic and fundamental issues have been raised in children's rights law.

From the perspective of children law, Abu has lost all his rights. His family rights to be together with parents have been violated. Due to the abnormal war situation, he has been a victim of the society. Agu himself narrates his story during the war. How the war turned into a pathetic condition for him. He undergoes suffering and painful situation in war. Along with his family separation, he never enjoys his life ahead. He has to participate in the war with the older and mature people. He explains his pathetic condition after he joined in soldiers as:

I like the older men and how they are carrying a gun and always looking so tough like they are in the movie and I am trying to be acting like them, but sometimes I am thinking of my home and my mother and father and sister and I am adding. And I am thinking about Strika and asking myself why he is not even saying one word in this whole time I am a soldier. If I am asking him question, then he is only shaking his head yes or no. (13)

Agu tries to convince his own psychological torture after he entered in soldier group. He is emotionally torn up. He imagines his past life with his family. It is extreme torture for him to live there and he always missed his family. His family members are away from him but he cannot forget them. Every minute with soldiers is painful for him. However, he does not have a way out. Therefore, he has to surrender with them.

Civil war of Sri Lankan horrified people who take place around the village and urban area. By threatening possible accidents and violence, all people get afraid. All the time they do not feel comfortable and safe even inside houses. Therefore, all people in the village were silent

and hidden from kidnapping and physical tortures. There could be a war anytime and anyway. Even being a small boy, Arjie can experience such a fearful situation. He shows it as:

Then, one evening, while Amma was at a party, we heard on the radio that trouble had broken out in Jaffina. A policeman had been killed by the Tamil Tigers and the police had gone on a rampage. They had burned the headquarters of the opposition party, the Tamil United Liberation Front, as well as the house of a member of parliament. As I listened to what was happening there, a frightening thought entered my mind an idea what had not occurred to me before. (121)

Everyone is affected from war, it would better have a safe position but justice is accessible for all. Among them, children like Arjie are in a dangerous position when terrorists would use them for donation and ransom. Mostly children were not safe in civil war. Children's Rights and justices are totally violated during the war.

Children rights activist Jonathan Todres and Sarah Higinbotham argued essential value of family for children if children cannot learn and perceive psychological softness or dedication, the children would be rude and abusive. Therefore, they should be cultured and mannered in family or society. He furthers argues as:

Children as young as four years old can develop empathy and understand that people can have needs and feelings that differ from their own. This sense of empathy—of perceiving the emotions of others—is vital to human rights, both individually and globally.

“Empathy plays a crucial role in pushing public sentiments toward fundamental rights.

(9)

It shows softness and a sensitive case of children. If children do not learn their future would be crude, uncultured, abrupt and bad-mannered. For this reason, children should be well cultured.

Our society cannot expect a good society if children do not have a good upbringing. It is essential to growing them up properly.

Agu did not get to live a peaceful, enjoyable and caring and loving life. He is forced to be child soldier in his early age. So that he loses all family values and cultured society. The soldiers wanted to make him abrupt and violent because a good-natured man cannot involve in war. All the time he takes part in parade and training to be a warrior. Gradually, he became changed though it was forceful action. Even he does not have any chance to escape from there. So he has to accept whatever he is said. His condition is poor. Soldiers use abusive language for him, he puts forward here:

Bloody fool, he is saying to me. Come here and bring that machete. But I am still not moving. Commandant is stepping to me and grabbing my neck. You idiot, he is shouting. Come here! Come here right now! He is dragging me to the enemy soldier. Do you see this dog! He is shouting. Do you want to be a soldier? Well—kill him. KILL HIM NOW!
(18)

When commander scold and ordered him to bring weapon and kills the ordinary man but he did not response his commander. He is unable to speak against them. The commander gave him physically torture. He was napped and beaten. No one supports him. He is scared of them; therefore he is unable to defend against them. They abuse him with rough and mean words. Even they threaten him to killed. Being detach with family and friends, he drowns into human cruelty in which situation, he is unable to think besides war. His mind is engrossed with fear, horror and terror which mindset cannot imagine beyond howling and groaning situation in war. By observing and involving in war, Abu's mind is changed, and he is trained to do so.

Agu gets physical and mental torture. As such scary experiences are deeply rooted in his mind. Having psychological tortures and torments, children never get free from psychological wounds. Even after war children cannot free from the emotional blow. It remains last long and creates indelible images. It has long-term impacts on their minds and its impact is always negative.

Similarly, Sri Lanka drowns in violence, extortion, crime, kidnap and unsocial evil deeds due to the revengeful conflict between Tamil and Sinhalese for years. Due to the long run war in Sri Lanka, all common people underwent physical and mental suffering and the war created unending horror and terror among people and they never experience peace and harmony during the war. Among them, children were mostly used during the war because children are a weakness of parents. By using children during the war, both sides of enemies made them a weapon to surrender each other. In other words, both Tamil and Sinhalese used children to fulfill their demands. The country was under debris and destruction of war. Even Arjie can experience it from his perspective. He observes reality around him and presents it:

The next day, after school, Amma was waiting for me. As I got into the car, I saw the expression on her face and felt afraid. The Jaffina library was burned by the police this morning. Ninety-five thousand books were set on fire. She started up the car. I want to go to his house and see if he is there. (122)

As Arjie describes his school life, it shows that even school like the holy place is not safe from war. Fighters burn the books of library and parents should have guided them to school they could be kidnapped. This kind of situation cannot ensure children's rights. This situation shows a violation of children's rights their lives at risk.

In fact, children need a pleasant and harmonious environment where they can learn the positivity of life. If children have a negative impact on their psychology that will effects an individual development. Therefore children are much sensitive in case of their psychology. In this regard Tordes and Higinbotham opines:

Other aspects of civil rights are such as juvenile justice rights and the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. It examines how punishment and accountability are portrayed in children's literature, using juvenile justice as a case study. Accountability is the responsibilities side of the rights/duties coin. It is an important concept for children to appreciate as part of developing a holistic understanding of human rights and their roles and responsibilities in their community.

(23)

He reiterates juvenile rights define children's rights however children have been used during the war. Even in war children have to be saved because the war does have atrocity upon children. It afflicts children psychology which is fatal to children. Children must be saved from as such catastrophic situation otherwise; children are expected to be lost their psychological development.

Although he has an attachment with family and friends he is involved in war but he intends to escape from soldiers but he cannot escape from their capture. However he innocently carries a gun and he does whatever his commander orders him. The unusual practice in him surrounding making him beast but he cannot understand their activities. Every day he participates in the parade but without understanding and being silence he practiced. It is questionable to him. He explains his condition when he sees physical punishment to the enemy:

I am starting to cry and I am starting to shake. And in my head, I am shouting NO! NO!

NO! But my mouth is not moving and I am not saying anything. And I am thinking, if I am killing, then I am going to hell so I smell fire and smoke and it is hard to breathe, so I am just standing there crying, shaking, and looking. Then I am seeing, just like that, one enemy soldier is trying to run for the bush. (18)

Abu shocked when he sees physical torture given by battalion to an enemy. It is pathetic and cruel which he could not see it. Being a child he cannot see it because the commander seems so unkind that he nearly died to torture. Abu is forcefully kept in front of them but he hardly sees it. As such brutal scene shocks in his mind. Abu experiences barbaric and cruel humanity around him. He has never seen as such merciless and ruthless humanity. But this situation hurts him and he suspects in human beings. Regarding the context of children rights it a complete violation of Children Rights because it advocates that children are to be kept away from war and bloodshed. If they involved or saw as such an atmosphere, it creates a negative image in the creative mind.

M.C.B. Plunket and D.P. Southhall opine as:

It is required of parents that they provide a safe, nurturing environment in which a child can grow play and learn. They are not permitted to abuse their children physically, emotionally or sexually. The statutory bodies that oversee child welfare have considerable powers of sanction if it is felt that parents willfully neglect or abuse their children. In countries in conflict, which are also usually disadvantaged, with parents trying their utmost to provide a basic level of care for their children in an environment that is anything but safe and nurturing, effective assistance from their own leader? (211)

It is the essence of children rights in children life but they are deprived from their rights when they are entrapped in conflict, battle and uncommon situation. This kind of situation upsets them and their impeccable mind which is affected by the negative and adverse picture. Each and every

one keeps them away from such a situation. Children are provided with a peaceful and harmonious situation in which they can learn about humanity, morality and peace. This leads them toward a civilized and mannered society. This is needed for children and it is their inborn right as well.

When children are forced to involve in war, they are emotionally misguided. They have to play with guns and fires, it affects their psychology. So Children playing with a gun and weapon have a negative impression and it destroys their creative desires. Children's' desire of remaining free and open always pave the way toward positivity and creativity. If children lose their desire environment around the world, it pricks their aim in life and perspective of the future. Fuaad Mohammed Fresh opines on war effects on children as:

Exposure to war trauma and terror has clearly been found to cause high levels of stress among children which have been associated with the development of a wide range of psychological problems. However, it is impossible for children to go through upheavals of this kind without showing their effect in difficult behavior and in variations from normality. Infantile nature has certain means at its disposal to deal with shocks, deprivations and upsets in life. (1)

As he argues, those children who are affected by war and their psychology is negatively developed when they involved in the war. Involvement in war brings upheaval in their thinking and nature. They often undergo psychological problems and never free from a kind of redundant thought in their mind. Every child has an individual effect which is unsocial. Their thought and mindset stop them from socializing.

At the early of childhood, Agu involve in war where he learns war education. And they are deprivation from educational and societal norms and values. A war does not educated

children to be a civilized person in society. If children get a proper environment and culture they can handle and civilized societies. This is rights of children having education and learns the social culture. But it is violated during the war. Most children are enforced to take part in the war. Agu has been a victim of the same society. Though he does not have a sense of war nevertheless, the soldiers make him go this is explain as:

I am vomiting everywhere. I cannot be stopping myself. Commandant is saying it is like falling in love, but I do not know what that is meaning. I am feeling hammer knocking in my head and chest. My nose and mouth are itching. I am seeing all of the colours everywhere and my belly is feeling empty. I am growing hard between my legs. Is this like falling in love? (22)

All happening around Abu makes him suffocated. It is an uneven experience in his life. Even being a child he cannot be seeing the war but it is his obligation to observe it. To make face war situation, soldiers enforce him to see it. Even they use him to kill the enemy. Agu does not know who is enemy and relative. His innocence only knows a human being. He finds all of them are equal but he does not get as he expectaton. The battlefield's atmosphere is different than normally expected.

War violence the basic rights of human being. Agu undergoes different problems during war. Which he does not get nutrition food properly, good sleeping but no one asks him for food. Even his health is not good, nevertheless, he has to take part in the war and follow the commander orders. In this way, Agu has been a victim of the war. At the time of schooling and socializing, he involves in war. During his participation in the war, the soldiers teach him to be cruel, brutal and violent. He loses opportunities to develop himself. His age of learning and socializing is adverse at present. Tordes and Higinbotham argue as:

There are potential benefits to fostering child participation in educational settings as well. Various studies and projects have found that enabling children to realize their right to participate can have a positive effect on buy-in to the curriculum.³⁹ Allowing children input enables them more control over their education and permits them to learn at their own pace and in a way that comports with their own learning styles.⁴⁰ Teaching children about their rights and giving human rights in children's literature them opportunities to exercise their right to participate and related rights has been shown to lead to a decrease in harmful behaviors among peers. (48)

According to them education is a basic needs or essential value for every child which creates a congenial environment to live in society. It gives children the moral strength to voice injustice and infringement. It is an infallible power of human being which facilitates human being to be socialized. If children have better socialization, the children get a better future and leads a society. Education is essential to be good human being in society. But if children have bad socialization the children becomes terrible and fierce for society. Therefore, education is a string by which human beings are tied. It controls human bestial and violent nature to an outlet in society.

Agu, having a pure, innocent soul of children, he sees a naked picture of war. But it was unknown for him to identify war. This sudden involvement in war makes him stare. He finds a tormenting picture where soldiers kill each other. He sees the cruelty of human beings when an army kills another without showing sympathy. All are hungry for killing each other. He describes it as:

Kill him, Commandant is saying in my ear and lifting my hand high with the machete.

Kill him oh. The enemy is saying to me, please don't kill me oh. Please, I bygone. Please.

God will bless you. And each time he is talking he is spraying saliva and blood everywhere. Then he is starting to piss and he cannot even be stopping himself. (20)

Agu is ordered by commandant to kill a man but he is not really ready to kill because he has humanity and pure heart so he denies order. But he continuously orders to kill. After seeing it, the situation makes him depressed and shocked. He does not know what war is and how come it is done. But, he is unable to see it. The soldiers torture enemies in that way, he cannot tolerate it. Whatever Abu faces it is intolerable for him to face with killing each other.

After involving in war people lose their common sense in society and war changes human perspective and very nature of social beings. Moreover, a child never adjusts in society because children never experience the socialization process. Fresh further discusses:

Some become emotionless like an automaton. Some emotional outbreaks of the hysterical type have also been reported. However, in general, sooner or later the child returns to good relations with the outer world. The recovery time depends on some factors like the extent of damage, treatment in the post-traumatic period, the coping capabilities of the child. (2)

When Agu is trained as a child soldier he gives companions to other child soldiers. But seeing their activities he even suspects human civilization and humanity because he can see bestial practice. His experience of living with family and society was different. He never imagines human beings are like an animal but he sees the same situation there. He explains it:

The man is screaming, AYEEEEIII, louder than the sound of bullet whistling and then he is bringing his hand to his head, but it is not helping because his head is cracking and the blood is spilling out like milk from coconut. I am hearing laughing all around me even as I am watching him trying to hold his head together. He is annoying me and I am bringing

the machete up and down and up and down hearing KPWUDA KPWUDA every time and seeing just pink while I am hearing the laughing KEHI, KEHI, KEHI all around me.(23)

Abu never feels mental relief in the battlefield; he finds crying and painful human condition. It definitely creates a dark picture of war. He never comes out from fear and horror of war. He never feels happy by seeing it because as such fearful images in his mind frequently haunted.

Arjie experiences of impact of war on psychologically when he finds and encounters an uneasy situation. The war brings an uncommon situation in which everyone is affected. The situation is insecure and unsafe for everyone. In such a situation, children are sensitive enough to be saved during the war. Children are a comparatively vulnerable section of the society. A child does not know everything in society but a society teaches everything to the child. Arjie manifests his experience as:

That evening I found it difficult to concentrate on my homework. All I could think about was Daryl uncle and the state in which we had found his bedroom. I recalled the conversation I had overheard the second time he visited us. I shivered slightly when I thought of the way he had described torture how the victims were hung upside down and made to breathe chili fumes, how honey was spread over their bodies and red ants allowed to eat at them. (126)

It shows undergoing situation in Sri Lanka where no one is safe. Arjie can never continue his study during the war and he is scares from people who move around the village. He cannot escape from the memory and mindset. The activities happened around village creates mental pictures. Therefore, he gets afraid of it. The fear always hunts in his mind.

Beast of No Nation and *Funny Boys* discuss the violation of Children's Rights during the war. Abu and Arjie are child age protagonist of novels exploited in war. Having tortures, both of them are unable to experience freedom and safe life in society. Every child has inborn as well as social rights and the rights speak for children education, socialization, upbringing and a dignified life. But these rights must be violated during the war. Children do not get opportunities to participate freely in society. As Abu and Arjie children are used in war. Children's open mindset is destroyed by war and children are ultimately violent and oriented to disruptive mentality. The overall impact of war distorts children psychology.

Beast of No Nation reflects a war mongering situation and the protagonist Abu involves in war. The war where involves is a bitter experience for him. He loses his family life and separated from all his family members. During the war, he has to bear exploitation, violence and domination and he has to tolerate all situations. Even after the war, he never frees from psychological tortures. Though war is ended, he cannot settle in society. Therefore, he joins in the army. As being a child, he loses all opportunities and his rights to participate in social activities. With reference to children rights, Abu never gets and experiences his inborn rights. He is deprived of children rights. After involving in war, he cannot complete his education, socialization in own society.

The novel *Funny Boy* protagonist undergoes conflict between Tamil and Sinhalese. Due to the movement of war Arjie schooling is disturbed. Even going to school, he cannot learn properly because of the massive impact of ongoing war. Even he has to lose his family members. These all happening creates a negative mentality in his life. His parental right is lost in his early age. Though he lives with the mother, he cannot experience family life there.

This research has discussed the impact of war on children psychology and children are a vulnerable section of a society. They are used, abused and manipulated in war. Children are deprived from their rights during war and their lives are unsafe during the war so Children are considered as a vulnerable and sensitive section of a society. When children cannot enjoy their rights cannot be physically and mentally fit so to keep a child healthy we should care of their rights. Moreover, children are a emerge leaders of new world and fuel of society so we should give good culture, civilization, education and make them socialized instead of upraising them in war culture, making uneducated and asocial being. Because war culture makes a human being cruel and serials killer so it will give the birth of fascist leaders instead of good and visionary leader. Child soldier will face difficulties when resettling in society and they cannot readjust in the society because of their deprivation of their rights of civilization, educated, health and parenting. They are familiar with war culture and education. Their cruel behave, involvement in killing, raids and murder cannot give them to live like a common people, they always dream of war, and they always in aggressive nature so they should be keep in rehabs center for treatment of psychology.

Chapter IV. Infringement of Children's Rights in War

The research has discussed over war and of its adverse effect upon children's lives and their rights in *Beast of No Nations* and *Funny boy*. Both novels have typically portrayed a picture of war and its aftermath impact in society. More importantly, this study narrows down its lens in children violence during war and its aftershock. Children in society are sensitive and accessible groups who are much affected. Children rights and their protection are totally violated during a war. The study much focuses on the adverse effect of war upon children and its result in their entire life is indelible and fatal to grow and socialize in society. Being deprived of Children rights, children cannot develop all aspects of individual development. Children rights for children are important to ensure their social as well as personal development. Children are kidnapped, abused, got violence and mistreated during war because they are a vulnerable and unable to resist. Children are unsafe and insecure during the war. A child psychology is immature and unconditional which is sensitive enough to be negatively affected. A child has to be socialized having rights of the family, education, economy, and many aspects which are urgent for them to grow along with society. Both of the novels expose war's reality and its brutish affect upon children.

Agu is a child age protagonist of novel *Beast of No Nation*. He involves in war and loses all his potentialities and possibilities in his life after he leaves his house. Being a child, at the early childhood he has to socialization, learning and schooling. But, he loses as such opportunities. A child must get proper socialization and it is natural and political rights but the child is away from it during war. Due to the horror of war, Agu's family is dispersed, and he loses own family in the village. His experience of war is cruelty, inhumanity, bloodshed and brutality. He involves the bestial practice of human beings. The innocent boy, with gun and fire,

fights against the enemy. A child should get at least basic children rights and it is the fundamental voice of concerned authority. However, children are badly used during the war while they lost their rights but most important thing is that children have to be deprived of own social as well as personality development.

The major character Arjie of novel *Funny Boy* is affected by civil war in Sri Lanka. Due to having horror and terror of war, he has to drop his school. All the time movement of people with gun terrifies him, therefore, he has to stay within close room. By affecting the war, the father has to leave his country. Due to the ongoing war, he has to compromise with his developing career. By being away his educational rights, even he has to be away from his fundamental rights as well. First society for a child is society but Arjie never feels secure and comfortable within family because of frequent war around the society. He has to be victim of the impending danger of insurgent groups.

During war and post war situation children are unsafe and insecure. Under the uncommon and abnormal situation, children cannot learn and socialize. As such war creates horror and terror among them. In such a situation, they cannot have the proper environment to be a good human being. This kind of adverse effect ruin children entire life and negative picture of war engross in their mindset. Children find murder, killing and brutal war. Due to the reason, he cannot get education properly but his learning about society is negative when he finds cruelty and brutality of human beings. Not involving in war, he is able to feel and experience social restlessness and violence. The study concludes that Children's Rights are violated during the war because children are vulnerable who are unable to resist and counterattack a war.

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