



SUFFERING OF THE CHILDREN DURING THE TALIBAN REGIME IN DEBORAH ELLIS' "THE BREADWINNER"



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ABSTRACT

The present paper aims to analyse the unbearable suffering of the children of Afghanistan in Taliban regime reflected in the novel "The Breadwinner" by Deborah Ellis. Through this novel, Deborah Ellis portrayed the fact of life of the children of Afghanistan during the Taliban regime.

In The Taliban regime people were dominated in many ways but among all those children suffered a lot. The fundamentalist in Afghan forbade children from going to school, women were banned to go to work, wandering anywhere without a male companion from family, forced to wear the burqa. Many people lost their lives in blast by the Taliban who were the head of the family. The Muslim communities have a patriarchal tradition, men run their families. With the killing of the head of the family, the real suffering of the children took place on large scale. The women and the children were helpless.

They had lost their shelter. In some of the families, there were only girls, no boys to earn and take care of the family. In such families, there was a question of their livelihood as no one was there to earn or even to go out to bring the daily needs.

Having no breadwinner left in the family, lack of income the family started to suffer economically and was unable to fulfill their basic needs, children died in starvation. The fundamentalist Taliban forced childhood marriages, Taliban soldiers exploited the young children, many children became the victim of the terrorist attacks and were handicapped, and several children became orphans as well as lost their childhood and happiness. So there was no end to their suffering in the Taliban regime.

KEYWORDS

Breadwinner, Child Marriage, Child Exploitation, Taliban Regime, and Fundamentalism