

The Impact of Industrial Revolution in William Blake's "London" and Elizabeth Barret Browning's "The Cry of the Children"

Deborah Oyindamola TADESE¹

Inioluwa Mayokun EZEKIEL²

^{1,2}Department of English and Literary Studies, Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria

¹tadesedeborah98@gmail.com, +2347087110668

²inioluwamayokunezekiel@gmail.com, +2347068115369

Abstract

The Industrial Revolution was a period in which fundamental changes occur in agriculture, textile and metal manufacture, transportation, economic policies and the social structure in England. The Industrial Revolution began in Britain from around the 1750s around 1830. This then began to spread to other countries. During industrialization, manual labour was replaced by mass production and there is great economic growth. As well as an increased division of labour, technology was used more to provide solutions to problems (rather than relying on people to solve the problems). While Industrial Revolution led to economic advancement, it also brought about increase in economic hazards, poverty, unemployment, child labour and sexual exploitation. This paper aims to examine the impact of the Industrial Revolution while analysing William Blake's "London" and Elizabeth Barret Browning's "The Cry of the Children." A content analysis of these poems will be used to examine the relevant points of view of the poets on the positive and negative effects of industrial revolution. The study found that the industrial revolution not only eradicated poverty, but also increased it. It also led to child labour, hunger, death, disease and social stratification. Therefore, this study will focus on the negative aspects of the industrial revolution.

Keywords: Industrial Revolution, Child Labour, Poverty, Unemployment, Suffering, Social Stratification, Sexual Exploitation

Introduction

The first industrial revolution started in 1760 with the invention of the steam engine. The steam engine allowed the transition from farming and feudal society to the new manufacturing process. This transition included the use of coal as the main energy while trains were the main means of transportation. Textile and steel were the dominant industries in terms of employment, value of output, and capital invested. The second industrial revolution began in 1900 with the invention of the internal combustion engine. This led to an era of rapid industrialization using oil and electricity to power mass production. The third industrial revolution started in 1960 and was characterized with the implementation of electronics and information technology to automate production. Under the old ways, making things involved screwing or welding lots of parts together. The fourth industrial revolution now involves computer generated product design and three-dimensional (3D) printing, which can create solids object by building up successive layers of materials. Now a Fourth Industrial Revolution is building on the Third, the digital revolution that has been occurring since the middle of the last century. It is characterized by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres. There are three reasons why today's transformations represent not merely a prolongation of the Third Industrial Revolution but rather the arrival of a Fourth and distinct one: velocity, scope, and systems impact. The speed of current breakthroughs has no historical precedent. When compared with previous industrial revolutions, the Fourth is evolving at an exponential rather than a linear pace. Moreover, it is disrupting almost every industry in every country and the breadth and depth

of these changes herald the transformation of entire systems of production, management, and governance (Schwab, 2015).

The Industrial Revolution was a period of significant economic, technological, and social change that occurred primarily in the 18th and 19th centuries. It began in Great Britain in the late 18th century and eventually spread to other parts of Europe, North America, and the world. The Industrial Revolution was fuelled by a combination of factors, including technological advancements, such as the invention of the steam engine, and changes in agriculture and transportation. These developments led to increased productivity, population growth, and urbanization. As Industrial Revolution progressed, it had a massive impact on almost every aspect of society. In many ways, it improved society and made people's lives easier. However, it also had negative impacts in many areas as well. Here are some of the more lasting and influential effects that industrialization had on society.

While the Industrial Revolution created economic growth and offered new opportunities, that progress came with significant downsides, from damage to the environment and health and safety hazards to squalid living conditions for workers and their families. Workers faced harsh conditions at work as well as at home. Men, women, and children laboured long hours for low wages in dangerous conditions with no job security. The government made little effort to find a solution to these humanitarian problems or to protect the working class. During the Industrial Revolution, child labour was prevalent and widespread. It refers to the employment of children in various industries and factories during the 18th and 19th centuries, particularly in Europe and North America. The Industrial Revolution brought about a significant shift from manual labour to machine-based manufacturing, leading to the emergence of factories and the need for a large labour force.

The impact of unemployment during the Industrial Revolution varied depending on various factors such as location, industry, and timeframe. One of the significant consequences of the Industrial Revolution was the mass movement of people from rural areas to urban centres in search of employment. As mechanization and factory-based production increased, traditional agricultural jobs became less prevalent, leading to a surplus of labour in the countryside. However, the urban job market was not always able to absorb the influx of workers adequately, resulting in high levels of unemployment and underemployment in cities. Prostitution during the Industrial Revolution was a prevalent and complex social issue. These changes had a profound impact on the lives of individuals, particularly women who were often drawn to prostitution as a means of survival or economic opportunity. Urbanization and the growth of industrial cities during this period led to overcrowded and unsanitary living conditions. Many people migrated from rural areas to cities in search of work, which created a large labour force. However, job opportunities were often limited, and the wages were generally low, especially for women. As a result, some women turned to prostitution as a means to earn a living.

Literature Review

The term "child labour" generally refers to children who work to produce a good or a service which can be sold for money in the marketplace regardless of whether or not they are paid for their work. A "child" is usually defined as a person who is dependent upon other individuals (parents, relatives, or government officials) for his or her livelihood. Ann Kussmaul's (1981) research uncovered a high percentage of youths working as servants in husbandry in the sixteenth century. Boys looked after the draught animals, cattle and sheep while girls milked the cows and care for the chickens. Children who worked in homes were either apprentices,

chimney sweeps, domestic servants, or assistants in the family business. As apprentices, children lived and worked with their master who established a workshop in his home or attached to the back of his cottage. The children received training in the trade instead of wages. Once they became fairly skilled in the trade they became journeymen.

Once the first rural textile mills were built (1769) and child apprentices were hired as primary workers, the connotation of “child labour” began to change. Charles Dickens called these places of work the “dark satanic mills” and E. P. Thompson described them as “places of sexual license, foul language, cruelty, violent accidents, and alien manners” (1966, 307). Although long hours had been the custom for agricultural and domestic workers for generations, the factory system was criticized for strict discipline, harsh punishment, unhealthy working conditions, low wages, and inflexible work hours. The factory depersonalized the employer-employee relationship and was attacked for stripping the worker’s freedom, dignity and creativity. These child apprentices were paupers taken from orphanages and workhouses and were housed, clothed and fed but received no wages for their long day of work in the mill. A conservative estimate is that around 1784 one-third of the total workers in country mills were apprentices and that their numbers reached 80 to 90% in some individual mills (Collier, 1964). Despite the First Factory Act of 1802 (which attempted to improve the conditions of parish apprentices), several mill owners were in the same situation as Sir Robert Peel and Samuel Greg who solved their labour shortage by employing parish apprentices. After the invention and adoption of Watt’s steam engine, mills no longer had to locate near water and rely on apprenticed orphans – hundreds of factory towns and villages developed in Lancashire, Manchester, Yorkshire and Cheshire. The factory owners began to hire children from poor and working-class families to work in these factories preparing and spinning cotton, flax, wool and silk.

Liiban Ali (2019) on the impact of industrial revolution in marketing, uncover the transformative impact of innovation in advertising exercises. Marketing activities have first emerged after the industrial revolution and as technology has developed, marketing has converted into Marketing 2.0, Marketing 3.0 and Marketing 4.0 respectively, aligns with the changes in industries, markets, and costumes. It is called attention to that the centre focuses, fundamental destinations, and usage of each showcasing ideas are unique in relation to each other. Particularly, information and communication technologies have induced a substantial change in both marketing concepts and marketing mix elements Digital technology is one of the main drivers of world economic development. Almost all countries are competing to observe digital transformation quickly. It does not mean that industry 4.0 is without challenges. The increasing unemployment rate caused by the reduction in human services, increasing factory waste, and decreasing socialization are among the particular concerns of the community. This change brings us to the fourth wave industrial revolution or Industry 4.0, which is the latest trend in the world of such sophisticated technology. It is inevitable where technological changes reach all the activities of human life to make everything more effective and efficient in a relatively short period.

Unemployment in industrial society has various causes and process. Industrial society has very complicated relationship between the industries and society and between employers and employees. Agricultural technology developed sharply with the emergence of the industrial revolution and by the time a big portion of people in the country side had nothing to do and gathered to the cities where manpower was mostly needed during the period. The flow of labour into the city fulfilled the jobs of the factories and some of the people could not get employed. However, as time passes by and the industrial society was stabilized, many

laws and actions were approved by the congress and the industry varies.

Materials and Methods

The poems that will be used for the analysis of this work are William Blake's "London" and Elizabeth Barret Browning's "The Cry of the Children." The analysis of the work will be carried out using a qualitative content analysis. A stanza-by-stanza analysis of the two selected poems will be used in examining the negative impacts of industrial revolutions in this research work.

The Theoretical Framework

The impact of the Industrial Revolution in William Blake's "London" and Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "The Cry of the Children" involves examining these poems through the lens of a dramatic setting, where societal issues are portrayed as scenes on a stage to effectively convey the human experience amidst industrialization's upheavals.

By the investigative findings of the literature review in this respect, most international scholars have paid much more of their to the biographical and empirical explorations of William Blake as much as his other poetic texts while fewer of them have made a mention of this poem London in their studies. Among them, six representative studies have been addressed to the true-to-life description of the city of London in this poem according to the studies of Martin Price, Harold Bloom, Sayers Janet and Monin Nanette, Pramod K. Naya, Zengin Mevlüde as well as Almasalmeh Bassel respectively. To show their understanding of and comments on this poem, their representative studies in this respect will be given below one after another.

The study in this respect is associated with the academic view proposed by Martin Price who has maintained that in London, this pattern of externally imposed suppression has taken the shape of the swaddling bands of the infant as much as the binding with barriers by the priests in black gowns or the internal self-imposed repression that has been seized with the armed fears of the virgin and the secret love of the rose has generally become a general condition whose profound implication meaning seems to be evident only to the visionary poet, for it is he alone who sees and hears everything that has been taking for granted in the studies of other scholars (Price, 1969). In "London," Blake constructs a stage-like setting where the city itself becomes a theatre for the presentation of societal struggles. He uses vivid imagery to depict various scenes within the cityscape, portraying each stanza as a different act or tableau. The streets, rivers, and institutions are painted as stages upon which the woes of poverty, exploitation, and moral decay are performed. This theatrical arrangement creates a visual and visceral impact, allowing readers to witness the unfolding drama of societal degradation caused by industrialization.

Furthermore, Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "The Cry of the Children" is a passionate indictment of child labour in 19th-century industrial England. First published in 1843 and later revised multiple times, the poem captures the immorality of exploiting children as workers and condemns both the people and societal institutions that uphold child labour as a practice. The poem was criticized then and is still sometimes viewed today as a deeply sentimental work, relying on stark stories of children's suffering to tug on readers' heartstrings. In "The Cry of the Children," Browning employs a dramatic framework to illustrate the suffering of children labouring in the Industrial Revolution's factories. Each stanza serves as a distinct act, narrating the tragedy faced by these children as if they were scenes in a play. Browning's vivid descriptions and poignant language transform the poem

into a stage where the cries and anguish of the children echo through each "act," heightening the emotional impact on the audience.

The use of theatrical elements in both poems serves multiple purposes. It provides a structured format to depict the societal issues arising from industrialization, allowing the poets to present a sequence of poignant scenes that capture the grim realities faced by individuals affected by the Industrial Revolution. Moreover, the dramatic framework helps evoke empathy and emotional resonance by drawing readers into the scenes as if they were witnessing a live performance, amplifying the impact of the poems' messages.

Lastly, the poets emphasize the public nature of the societal struggles. By portraying these issues as dramatic performances on a stage, Blake and Browning bring attention to the visibility of these problems within society, urging readers to confront and address them.

Analysis of the poems

Analysing "LONDON" By William Blake as the Impact of the Industrial Revolution

"London" is a poem by William Blake that reflects his observations and feelings about the city of London during the late 18th century. The poet speaks about the suffering of the masses during the industrial revolution.

I wander through each chartered street,
Near where the chartered Thames does flow,
And mark in every face I meet
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In this stanza, Blake describes walking through the streets of London, which are marked by official charters and control. He observes that the people he encounters all bear signs of suffering and unhappiness. He sees the weariness and turmoil the people are facing. This sets the tone for the poem as a critique of the city's social and political conditions.

In every cry of every man,
In every infant's cry of fear,
In every voice, in every ban,
The mind-forged manacles I hear.

Here, Blake emphasizes the pervasive suffering in London. He hears the cries of men, the fears of infants, and the voices of authority figures, all of which convey a sense of oppression. The "mind-forged manacles" suggest that these sufferings are products of human-made systems and constraints.

How the chimney-sweeper's cry
Every blackening church appalls,
And the hapless soldier's sigh
Runs in blood down palace walls.

This stanza highlights the specific plights of different individuals in London. The cries of chimney-sweepers, who were often children forced into harsh labour, are juxtaposed with the corrupting influence of the Church. The sighs of hapless soldiers, possibly returning from war, are contrasted with the opulence of the palaces, suggesting the contrast between poverty and wealth.

But most, through midnight streets, I hear
How the youthful harlot's curse
Blasts the new-born infant's tear,
And blights with plagues the marriage hearse.

In the final stanza, Blake focuses on the moral decay of the city, as he hears the curses of young prostitutes and the tears of their newborn children. This leads to the idea that these

curses "blight" marriages and turn them into "hearses," symbolizing the death of love and happiness.

"London" is a critical and sombre poem that explores the grim social, political, and moral conditions of the city during Blake's time, conveying a sense of the dehumanizing effects of urban life and the consequences of a society that values commerce and authority over compassion and empathy.

Gbosi (1997) defined unemployment as a situation in which people who are willing to work at the prevailing wage rate are unable to find jobs. Unemployment is a result of the inability to develop and utilize the nation's manpower resources effectively, especially in the rural sector (Fadayami, 1992; Osimubi, 2006). Unemployment in industrial society has various causes and processes. Industrial society has a very complicated relationship between industries and society and between employers and employees. Agricultural technology developed sharply with the emergence of the Industrial Revolution and by that time a big portion of people had nothing to do and gathered in the cities where manpower was mostly needed during the period. The flow of labour into the city fulfilled the jobs of the factories and some of the people could not get employed. However, as time passed by and the industrial society was stabilized, many laws and actions were approved by Congress and the industry varied.

William Blake's poem 'London' serves as a poignant critique of the societal issues arising from the Industrial Revolution, particularly concerning the theme of poverty. Blake's portrayal of London during this era reflects the grim realities faced by the lower classes amidst industrialization's rapid urban expansion. In 'London,' Blake uses vivid and evocative imagery to depict a city entrenched in poverty and despair. The repeated references to "marks of weakness" and "marks of woe" suggest a pervasive sense of suffering and vulnerability among the populace. The mention of "hapless soldiers' sighs" and "every blackening church" underscores the pervasive despair and bleakness that permeate society. This highlights how poverty and its associated woes have infiltrated every aspect of life, from the commoners to the institutions, leaving no space untouched by the harsh realities of the time.

Moreover, the poem's focus on the "mind-forged manacles" illustrates the psychological impact of poverty and societal oppression. The metaphorical idea of mental chains forged by society suggests how poverty isn't merely an economic struggle but a mental and emotional imprisonment imposed on individuals by the oppressive social structures of the time. The inhabitants are figuratively enslaved by their circumstances, limited in their opportunities, and burdened by their hardships. Blake's choice of words, such as "chartered" streets and "youthful harlot's curse," emphasizes the commodification of human life and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. The use of "chartered" signifies the controlled and restricted nature of the urban space, where every inch is owned and regulated, leaving little room for those struggling in poverty to break free from their circumstances. The mention of the "youthful harlot's curse" further highlights the desperation and degradation faced by the marginalized members of society, particularly women and the young, who were often victims of exploitation and abuse in impoverished conditions.

Ultimately, through 'London,' Blake offers a scathing commentary on the dehumanizing effects of poverty exacerbated by the Industrial Revolution. The poem reveals a society plagued by systemic injustices, where poverty isn't just a lack of material wealth but a pervasive condition that shackles the mind and spirit of its inhabitants, leaving them trapped in a cycle of despair and hopelessness.

Exploring Elizabeth Barrett Browning's 'The Cry of the Children as the Impact of the Industrial Revolution

The Cry of the Children is a poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, written in response to the terrible working conditions of child labour during the 19th century.

Do ye hear the children weeping, O my brothers,
Ere the sorrow comes with years?
They are leaning their young heads against their mothers, —
And that cannot stop their tears.

In these lines, the speaker immediately draws attention to the cries of suffering children, addressing the readers as "brothers" to evoke a sense of shared responsibility. The children are crying before they even fully comprehend the sorrow that will come with age. The image of children leaning on their mothers for comfort illustrates their vulnerability, but even the mothers' embrace cannot alleviate their pain.

The young lambs are bleating in the meadows,
The young birds are chirping in the nest,
The young fawns are playing with the shadows,
The young flowers are blowing toward the west—

In this stanza, the speaker contrasts the natural world with the plight of human children. They describe the idyllic scenes of young animals and flowers, highlighting the joy and vitality of the natural world. This contrast serves to emphasize the stark contrast between the innocence of childhood and the harsh realities faced by these children.

But the young, young children, O my brothers,
They are weeping bitterly! —
They are weeping in the playtime of the others,
In the country of the free.

The speaker continues to emphasize the sorrow of the children, now characterizing their weeping as bitter. The children are crying during the playtime of other more fortunate children, highlighting the injustice of their situation. The phrase "the country of the free" suggests that the suffering children should have the same freedoms and happiness as their more fortunate counterparts.

Do you question the young children in the sorrow,
Why their tears are falling so? —
The old man may weep for his to-morrow
Which is lost in Long Ago—

Here, the speaker questions whether anyone asks these young children why they cry. The tears of old men for their lost youth are mentioned, drawing a parallel between the sorrow of children and the regret of old age. The suggestion is that the children's suffering is stealing their future just as effectively as time steals the past.

The old tree is leafless in the forest,
The old year is ending in the frost,
The old wound, the old sore,
The old grief has found a voice.

In this stanza, the speaker further compares the plight of the children to the cycles of nature and time. The old tree losing its leaves, the old year ending in frost, and the emergence of old wounds and sorrows are all metaphors for the suffering and loss experienced by the children. Their pain has finally found a voice in this poem.

Tilly and Scott (1978) Children of poor and working-class families had worked for centuries before industrialization – helping around the house or assisting in the family's enterprise when they were able. The practice of putting children to work was first documented in the Medieval era when fathers had their children spin thread for them to weave on the loom.

Children performed a variety of tasks that were auxiliary to their parents but critical to the family economy.

Pessimists such as Alfred (1857), Engels (1926), Marx (1909), and Webb and Webb (1898) argued that children worked under deplorable conditions and were being exploited by the industrialists. A picture was painted of the “dark satanic mill” where children as young as five and six years old worked for twelve to sixteen hours a day, six days a week without recess for meals in hot, stuffy, poorly lit, overcrowded factories to earn as little as four shillings per week. Reformers called for child labour laws and after considerable debate, Parliament took action and set up a Royal Commission of Inquiry into children’s employment. Optimists, on the other hand, argued that the employment of children in these factories was beneficial to the child, family, and country and that the conditions were no worse than they had been on farms, in cottages, or up chimneys. Ure (1835) and Clapham (1926) argued that the work was easy for children and helped them make a necessary contribution to their family’s income. Many factory owners claimed that employing children was necessary for production to run smoothly and for their products to remain competitive. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, recommended child labour as a means of preventing youthful idleness and vice. Ivy Pinchbeck (1930) pointed out, moreover, that working hours and conditions had been as bad in the older domestic industries as they were in the industrial factories.

The term child labour generally refers to children who work to produce a good or a service that can be sold for money in the marketplace regardless of whether or not they are paid for their work. A child is usually defined as a person who is dependent upon other individuals (parents, relatives, or government officials) for his or her livelihood. Ann Kussmaul's (1981) research uncovered a high percentage of youths working as servants in husbandry in the sixteenth century. Boys looked after the draught animals, cattle, and sheep while girls milked the cows and cared for the chickens. Children who worked in homes were either apprentices, chimney sweeps, domestic servants, or assistants in the family business. As apprentices, children lived and worked with their master who established a workshop in his home or attached to the back of his cottage. The children received training in the trade instead of wages. Once they became fairly skilled in the trade they became journeymen.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem "The Cry of the Children" serves as a poignant protest against the brutal exploitation of child labour during the Industrial Revolution. The poem vividly portrays the suffering and anguish of children forced to work in factories, mines, and mills. The poem portrays the dire consequences of industrialization on children, highlighting their physical and emotional anguish. She describes their misery, exhaustion, and the toll of endless labour, emphasizing the loss of innocence and the denial of a proper childhood.

Furthermore, according to P. Bianchi, S. Labor (2018) the Industrial Revolution led to the rapid growth of factories and the demand for cheap labour. Children, often as young as five or six, were employed in hazardous conditions, enduring long hours and dangerous work environments. Browning's poem brings attention to this inhumane practice, showcasing how industrialization commodified children's lives for profit. Through her powerful verse, Browning calls for societal reform and urges readers to recognize the cruelty of child labour. She advocates for the abolition of such practices and demands a change in the treatment of children, emphasizing their right to a proper education and a nurturing upbringing. Browning's poem is emblematic of the broader societal critique during the Industrial Revolution. It exposes the darker side of progress, highlighting the human cost and moral degradation brought about by industrialization's relentless pursuit of profit.

"The Cry of the Children" serves as a poignant portrayal of the devastating impact of the Industrial Revolution on innocent lives. It sheds light on the horrific realities of child labour, amplifying the need for societal awareness, empathy, and reform in the face of industrialization's dehumanizing effects. The poem emphasizes the stark contrast between the purity of childhood and the harsh reality imposed by industrial labour. The innocence of these children is shattered by the exploitative nature of the factories, leaving them physically and emotionally scarred.

The Critical Interpretations of William Blake's 'London' and Elizabeth Barrett Browning's 'The Cry of the Children'

The Critical interpretations of William Blake's 'London' and Elizabeth Barrett Browning's 'The Cry of the Children' have evolved, reflecting changing perspectives on the portrayal of the Industrial Revolution in literature and its impact on society.

William Blake's 'London' in 1794 has been subject to various interpretations. Early analyses often focused on Blake's critique of the dehumanizing effects of urbanization and industrialization. Scholars emphasized the poem's condemnation of societal ills such as poverty, exploitation, and moral degradation resulting from the rapid changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution. Over time, interpretations have expanded to include discussions on the psychological impact of industrialization, highlighting how it not only reshaped the physical landscape but also imposed mental and emotional constraints on individuals.

'The Cry of the Children,' written by Elizabeth Barrett Browning in 1843 has similarly undergone diverse interpretations. Initially, it was seen as a passionate outcry against the horrors of child labour during the Industrial Revolution. Critics highlighted Browning's indictment of the exploitative nature of the era, emphasizing the loss of innocence and the plight of children forced into hazardous labour. Later, analyses expanded to consider the poem's feminist elements, examining how Browning addressed gender issues, particularly the exploitation of young girls in the workforce.

Both poems have been perceived as powerful indictments of the societal injustices stemming from industrialization. Scholars have drawn parallels between the poems, noting their shared emphasis on the human cost of progress and their condemnation of the callous treatment of vulnerable members of society, whether it be the impoverished masses in Blake's 'London' or the exploited children in Browning's 'The Cry of the Children.'

Furthermore, interpretations of these works have also evolved in tandem with changing socio-political landscapes. In the contemporary era, these poems continue to resonate as cautionary tales, relevant not just to historical contexts but also to ongoing societal issues. They serve as reminders of the lasting impact of the Industrial Revolution on humanity, urging readers to reflect on the consequences of unchecked industrialization, the importance of social responsibility, and the protection of human dignity.

Ultimately, critical interpretations of Blake's 'London' and Browning's 'The Cry of the Children' have evolved from early analyses centred on industrialization's adverse effects to more nuanced discussions encompassing broader themes of human suffering, societal neglect, and the enduring relevance of these works in highlighting the ethical dimensions of progress and its impact on individuals.

The Industrial Revolution, which began in the 18th century and continued into the 19th and 20th centuries, brought about significant advancements in technology, manufacturing, and economic growth. However, it also had a range of negative effects, many of which continue to influence society to this day.

During the early stages of industrialization, factories and mines had harsh working conditions. Long working hours, low wages, and unsafe environments resulted in injuries and health problems for workers. Child labour was also widespread during the Industrial Revolution, with many children forced to work in dangerous conditions instead of receiving an education. Although child labour laws have improved, child labour still exists in some regions.

The rapid growth of industrial cities led to overcrowding and slum conditions. Lack of sanitation and proper housing caused health issues, including the spread of diseases. For example, today, a lot of traffic congestion and accidents occur due to overcrowding in the cities. Industrialization led to economic disparities, as a wealthy class of industrialists emerged alongside a struggling working class. Income inequality persists today in many parts of the world. In today's world, traditional craftsmanship and skilled labour declined as mass production techniques became dominant. This loss of craftsmanship is still a concern in some industries. An instance is the gradual of Artificial intelligence (AI) with content writers and robots replacing humans in restaurants and banks. This had greatly led to unemployment, just has machine replaced manpower in industries in the 18th to 19th century. The disruption of traditional agrarian societies led to social dislocation and the breakdown of close-knit rural communities. Although societies have adapted, the effects of this dislocation continue to resonate in various ways.

In the early industrial era, poor working and living conditions led to high mortality rates and health problems. While health care has improved, modern industrial societies still face health challenges, including lifestyle-related diseases. Industrialization led to a heavy dependence on non-renewable resources like coal and oil, contributing to resource depletion and environmental issues that persist today. The industrial revolution of financial systems and the development of markets contributed to economic bubbles, such as the Great Depression, and financial crises like the 2008 global financial crisis.

Conclusion

"The Impact of the Industrial Revolution in William Blake's 'London' and Elizabeth Barrett Browning's 'The Cry of the Children'," holds immense significance due to its exploration of how two seminal literary works reflect and critique the societal repercussions of a transformative historical period.

The Industrial Revolution stands as a pivotal era that reshaped the fabric of society, economies, and human experiences. By delving into these poems, one gains a nuanced understanding of the profound changes and challenges brought about by industrialization. This topic allows for a deep exploration of the human cost of progress, shedding light on the suffering, exploitation, and societal upheavals that accompanied rapid industrial growth. Through Blake and Browning's lenses, the project unveils the harsh realities faced by different segments of society, offering invaluable insights into the social, economic, and moral implications of the Industrial Revolution.

Moreover, the relevance of this project extends beyond historical analysis. It serves as a bridge between past and present, allowing contemporary audiences to draw parallels between the societal issues depicted in these poems and modern-day challenges. Themes of exploitation, poverty, and societal neglect remain ever pertinent, making these literary works. Industrial revolution brings many changes in human life. the Industrial Revolution, which began in the 18th century and continued into subsequent centuries, brought about transformative changes to society, technology, and the economy. While it marked a period of innovation, economic growth, and increased living standards for many, it also had enduring

negative effects that continue to influence our world today. These negative consequences include poor working conditions, child labor, income inequality, environmental degradation, and unemployment. The rapid urbanization and social dislocation of the time led to overcrowding and health issues. The government and other parastatals should find a way to create better opportunities and lifestyle for the society. It is expected that in the future, that the Industrial 4.0 era provides progress and great value to humanity.

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