DEMORALIZATION IN THE SLUMS AS SEEN IN
STEPHEN CRANE'S MAGGIE: A GIRL OF THE STREETS

Demoralisasi di Perkampungan Kumuh seperti Tampak dalam Karya Steven Crane: Magic= A Girl of the Street

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INTISARI


Penelitian ini adalah penelitian ke-4 yang dilakukan dengan menggunakan pendekatan interdisipliner, yang merupakan suatu ciri khas Anthology Studies, yang dalam hal ini melibatkan ilmu sejarah, sosologi, psikologi dan sebagainya.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pada era industrialisasi di akhir abad ke-19 di Amerika, yang dikuasai oleh prinsip Darwinisme, yang kuat yang menang, kaum miskin dianggap sebagai kaum yang lemah yang tidak mempunyai bersaing dengan mereka yang kuat atau layak. Kebanyakan kaum miskin ini adalah buruh rendahan, yang menerima upah yang sangat kurang, yang tidak cukup untuk memenuhi kebutuhan mereka setiap hari. Mereka sepertinya sudah tidak bisa keluar dari kondisi mereka yang miskin dan tidak lagi sempurna penghasilan untuk kehidupan yang lebih baik di masa depan. Macam-macam mereka hanya bisa memikirkan bagaimana bisa bertahan hidup dari hari ke hari. Kondisi yang demikian membuahkan banyak kaum miskin yang menjadi jatuh dan tidak berdaya. Akibat situasi yang demikian, mereka menghadapi suatu dilema. Mereka harus memilih apakah mereka ingin memperbaiki hidup mereka dengan ilmu terlibat didalam cara yang tidak baik, seperti kejahatan, kekerasan, prostitusi, atau pada sisi yang lain mereka tetap miskin, tetapi tetap mempertahankan moral mereka yang baik. Dalam hal ini, Crane menunjukkan bahwa pada masa itu, banyak kaum miskin yang tinggal di daerah-daerah kumuh terlibat pada demoralisasi seperti kejahatan, kekerasan, dan prostitusi.

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INTRODUCTION

Poverty is one of the oldest social problems. It exists in both country and city. However, the situation for the poverty stricken is worse in the city than in the rural areas. As Barnes and Ruedi (1971 : 770) said, in the country, usually there is a greater personal interest in welfare, and neighbors help unfortunate families. Nevertheless, in the city, the impersonal and unsympathetic attitude of the city dwellers tends to worsen the situation for the poverty-stricken there.

Crane’s Maggie: A Girl of the Streets, depicts the poverty in American society in the late nineteenth century. The novel describes the life of the poor family, the Johnsons and other families who live in the Run Alley Slum of New York City. In other words, Crane wants to reveal the life and the problem of the poor who lived in the slums of New York City in the late nineteenth century. At that time, it seemed that the rich were getting richer and the poor were getting poorer. Moreover, it seems to the writer that Crane tries to highlight the life of the poor in New York City in that era since at that time, there was a tendency for people to ignore the poor, especially in the city. The people there tended to be impersonal. As Sills stressed that “The lower poor is generally taken for granted” (1968 : 339).

Thus, the industrial development in the late nineteenth century America, on the one hand, gave prosperity for American society, but on the other hand, the prosperity was not shared by all American people. Balkzll in Frazier’s The Private Side of America History, insists that during the period between 1870 and 1900, wealth became increasingly centralized in the hands of a few (1983 : 88). In other words, there was a social disparity. It could be seen from the huge difference in their dwelling. As Purlog, et al. mentioned, people who became wealthy from factories and railroad lived in the better parts of the cities. Their ornate homes, their elaborate furniture, their decorative clothing, their lavish parties were described faithfully in the newspapers of the time. Contrarily, many city dwellers lived under entirely different conditions. These were the unskilled factory workers who received very small wages. Many of them were immigrants. These people lived in overcrowded, wretched sections called slums. They earned barely enough to provide for food and clothing. Furthermore, they asserted that in New York City, in 1890, about half a million people lived in the slums (1963 : 365).

Maggie’s family lived in the Run Alley slum tenement which was located near the river. It was situated in a gloomy area with dirty surroundings and bad buildings were too close to each other. Of course, such kind of unsanitary and unsafe tenement buildings were not good for people, nevertheless, the poor had no choice, since they had no money to move to better places. Crane described the bad situation in the slums as follows.

Eventually they entered into a dark region where from a careening building, a dozen gruesome doorways gave up loads of babies to the street and the gutter. A wind of early autumn raised yellow dust from cobbles and swirled it against an hundred windows. Long streamers of garments fluttered from fire escapes. In all unhandy place there were buckets, brooms, rags and bottles in the street infants played or fought with other infants or sat stupidly in the way of vehicles (Crane, 1979 : 6).

Further, Crane also points out the demoralization in the slums in his novel, Maggie, since the poor were forced by their miserable life. In addition, they tended to be powerless, so they were easily tempted by their corrupt surroundings in the slums. This study then is focusing on the problem of the demoralization in the slums of New York City in the late nineteenth century America.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

This research is conducted by using the qualitative method. The study makes use of library research in collecting data concerning the social and historical background of the novel, and the other data taken from books and essays, papers, articles, the biography of the author and other sources taken from the internet. Finally, the analysis of this research is presented in a descriptive way.

Moreover, this study is written under the discipline of American Studies which emphasizes interdisciplinary studies. It means that this study is done by integrating some academic disciplines which are correlated with the subject being discussed, such as history, sociology, literature, and psychology. Meredith asserts that American studies make up an interdisciplinary study which involve culture as the core, and therefore it must be supported by other disciplines such as history, social sciences, anthropology, literature, and so forth (1969 : 1).

Thus, dealing with this study, the writer applies historical approach, sociological approach, literary approach, and psychological approach. Dealing with the historical approach, the writer is going to find out the data in American past which support the subject being discussed. A sociological approach is used to see the social condition in American Society in the late nineteenth century, specifically concerning the demoralization in the slums. Dealing with the literary approach the writer tends
In other words, in order to fulfill their daily wants they were forced to do everything, even that which was dishonest or bad.

According to the need theory of motivation, human beings are motivated to act because of the urge to fulfill some needs such as physical needs (food, water, home, clothes), emotional needs (approval, praise), and cognitive needs (to solve a problem, to gain knowledge). Psychologists believe that human beings act to satisfy all these needs (Yelon and Weinstein, 1977: 296 – 298).

Abraham Maslow, a humanist psychologist, proposes a hierarchical relationship among needs as adopted by Buck. It starts from the basic needs up to self actualization (1988: 32). The hierarchical relationship can be seen as follows:

**Self - actualization**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The need to fulfill one's unique potential</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern needs: to achieve, be competent, gain approval and recognition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belongingness and love needs: To affiliate with others, be accepted, belong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety needs: to feel secure and safe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiological needs: hunger, sex, and so forth</td>
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Maslow emphasizes that the basic needs must be satisfied before people satisfy other higher needs. Then, the satisfaction of one need leads people to satisfy another. In connection to the description above, Herbert J. Klausmeier quotes the explanation given by Maslow, namely:

Obviously a good way to obscure the higher motivation and to get a lopsided view of human capacities and human nature, is to make the organism extremely and chronically hungry and thirsty. Anyone who attempts to make an emergency picture into a typical one, and who will measure all of man's goals and desires by his behavior during extreme physiological deprivation, is certainly being blind to many things. It is quite true that man lives by bread alone when there is no bread. But what happens to man's desire when there is plenty of bread and when his belly is chronically filled? At once other needs emerge and these in turn are satisfied, again new (and still higher) needs emerge, and so on (1971: 227).
It is clearly stated that the physiological needs come first, because people can do nothing if they are starving. In other words, most satisfy the basic needs before there is a motivation to do anything else. So, if the people are chronically hungry and thirsty and really in need, they tend to be blind toward everything and tend to do everything in order to satisfy their physiological needs firstly.

Referring to the statement above, it can be understood that there is a close relation between poverty and moral degradation. It is not always the case that the poor are basically nasty but the situation that impedes them is because the poor are not able to succeed by the standards of society. Dye further explains that the inability to succeed by the standards of the society leads the poor to defy the norms of the society (1993: 276). As it could be seen in the novel, Maggie was raised in society (1993: 276). As it could be seen in the novel, Maggie was raised in society (1993: 276). In the novel, Maggie was raised in society (1993: 276). In the novel, Maggie was raised in society (1993: 276). In the novel, Maggie was raised in society (1993: 276). In the novel, Maggie was raised in society (1993: 276).

Blake showed that in the industrial age of the late nineteenth century America, many people were demoralized by slum life and gave up trying to support themselves and relied on charity (1952: 479 - 480). Moreover, Risa Blake estimated that some 14,000 homeless men, women, and children were roaming the New York streets even during the depression. They drank and ate in 10 or 15 cent lodging houses or in alleys, halftimbered bushes, or police stations when they were penniless. In addition, he asserted that one product of the slums was the crime boys who played even more dangerous to the community was the criminal boys who played in the streets and learned to steal from the sidewalk stands or others.

They were under the influence of criminals in saloons, in lodging houses, or in gangs having their headquarters in Five Points. Mulberry Bend, or part of gangs having their headquarters in Five Points. Mulberry Bend, or Poverty Gap, Hell's Kitchen and other slum sections (1952: 479).

Poverty Gap, Hell's Kitchen and other slum sections (1952: 479).

The conditions in New York were largely duplicated in other great cities. Concerning Chicago, a journalist, George Kubbe Turner in Blake wrote:

In the center of Chicago are now two small cities of savages, self-regulating and self-protecting, in one of these there are thirty-two thousand people in the other, thirty thousand [...]. The adults neither labor regularly nor marry; the other, thirty thousand [...]. The adults neither labor regularly nor marry; the other, thirty thousand [...]. The adults neither labor regularly nor marry; the other, thirty thousand [...]. The adults neither labor regularly nor marry; the other, thirty thousand [...]. The adults neither labor regularly nor marry.

Half of the men are beggars, criminals, or floating fishermen; a quarter are engaged in the sale of intoxicating beverages. A third of women are prostitutes in the sale of dissipation, and a third of women are prostitutes in the sale of dissipation, and a third of women are prostitutes in the sale of dissipation, and a third of women are prostitutes in the sale of dissipation, and a third of women are prostitutes in the sale of dissipation, and a third of women are prostitutes in the sale of dissipation, and a third of women are prostitutes in the sale of dissipation, and a third of women are prostitutes in the sale of dissipation, and a third of women are prostitutes in the sale of dissipation.

Thus, it is clearly stated that life in the slums among the poor was like life in the jungle which did not recognize civilization. It meant something wrong was there. It was the impact of poverty which existed in the slums in New York or in other big cities at that era.

Cranes' life in the slums in New York in the new era of industrialization in his work, Maggie: A Girl of the Streets as manifested in:

Alcoholism

Nowadays, in American society, alcoholic beverages are widely available. They are openly advertised and sold, regularly stocked in many homes, and used in a variety of social contexts. Moderate drinking for pleasure, recreation, and social purposes is an acceptable and integral part of American culture. Nonetheless, the use of alcohol is clearly disapproved of when it becomes abusive. Drinking becomes deviant if it is done regularly and habitually and it becomes too much, excessive, heavy, or alcoholic (Akers, 1986: 147 - 143).

It is mentioned that Maggie's father, mother, her brother, Jimmy, and their neighbors like to consume intoxicating beverages it is as if they release and forget their burdens by consuming such liquor and being drunk. It seems that it is a common way for slum dwellers especially for those low working class people to forget their unpleasant and depressing life. This situation is reflected in the quotation below, when there is a crowd of wearisome workers who are taking a rest after a hard, long day at work.

The vast crowd had an air throughout of having just quitted labor. Men with calloused hands and attired in garments that showed the wear of an endless drudge for a living, smoked their pipes contentedly and spent five, ten or perhaps fifteen cents for beer. There was a mere sprinkling of kids - gloved men who smoked cigars purchased elsewhere. The great body of the crowd was composed of people who showed that all day they strove with their hands (Cranes, 1979: 22).

In accordance with the statement above, Akers states that alcoholic or serious problem drinkers tend to come from the lower socioeconomic strata or among lower class people, and all the national studies about drinking and the extent of heavy drinking seem to point to an increase in drinking with the degree of urbanization and industrialization of a region and community. In this sense, Cranes' life in the slums and the slum dwellers are included in the lower socioeconomic strata who are involved in frequent drinking.

Actually, Maggie's father and other laborers are people who like to
who, then, becomes an alcoholic and likes to fight when he grows up.

After the death of her father, the attitude of her mother becomes worse. She tries to release her burden by drinking excessively (Crane, 1979 : 21). Because of the bad condition of her mother, Maggie and her brother, Jimmie, have to support themselves. Maggie grows up to be a nice girl who does not imitate the bad behavior of her parents, but Jimmie grows up to be a wayward son who likes to fight, to drink and to make problems. He is frequently arrested by the police for committing many crimes, and he takes comfort in drinking alcohol.

Momentarily, Jimmie was sullen with thoughts of a hopeless attitude where grew fruit. His companion said that if he should ever meet God, he would ask for a million dollars and a bottle of beer. Jimmie's occupation for a long time was to stand on street corners and watch the world go by, dreaming blood-red dreams at the passing of pretty women. He menaced mankind at the intersections of streets (Crane, 1979 : 13-14).

Concerning the quotation above, it can be inferred that Jimmie's bad attitude is caused also by the hopeless feeling because of his instability to escape poverty. This is parallel with the circumstances being faced by his mother or others in their surroundings. In other words, the poverty dominates them, and forces them to act badly since they are influenced by their despair.

From the behaviorist psychologists' point of view, they believe that people behavior are influenced by the condition in their environment (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1981 ; 13). In accordance with the behaviorists' point of view above, Crane wants to show that the bad environment tends to shape an individual to be bad also. This is true of Jimmie who has been influenced by the bad morality in his environment in the slum. Since he was a little boy, he associated with those who were alcoholics and he helped them to buy beverages in the saloons. In other words, his bad surroundings shape him to be a wayward man. The quotation below tells of the time when Jimmie is asked by an old woman who is a beggar in order to buy a can of beer in a saloon.

"eh, Jimmie, it's cursed shame," she said. "Go now, like a dear son, buy me a can, sir, 'if yer mudder raises 'ell all night yeha can sleep here." Jimmie took a tendered tin—pail and seven pennies and departed. He passed into the side door of a saloon and went to the bar (Crane, 1979 : 10).

Jacob Riis in Gullason explained the situation in the slums in the late nineteenth century that there were many children who roam the streets in East Side. Tenement at night, and they slept in the streets. Sometimes, the officials found little boys who drank beer in the hallways. They ad-
violence and Crime

It has been mentioned that demoralization of the poor happened in the environment of the slums. Moreover, people tended to be alcoholics as a way of compensation for their depressing life. Violence and crime were also other problems in the slums.

Maggie's family was like other poor families in the slums in New York City or other big cities in the new industrial era in the late nineteenth century. They had limited income to support their life. They could not think about their future. In other words, they worked just to maintain their life in order to survive. As asserted by Dye, the working class toil for work to maintain their life and for the present. Working class individuals work to maintain themselves with the present. Working class individuals work to maintain themselves with the present. They do not look at their jobs as a means of getting ahead (1963: 82).

In fact, it has been mentioned that at that time, not all poor people could control themselves and accepted the reality of life as it was. Many could control themselves and accepted the reality of life as it was. They quarrel and blame each other. Thus, they tend to be aggressive. They quarrel and blame each other. Sometimes, the children become the place to release all their abusive feelings. When Maggie breaks a plate, her mother becomes angry as if she had a big mistake which has been committed by Maggie (Crane, 1979: 9). On another occasion, the parents are fighting just because Jimmie tears his clothes and his mother beats him severely.

Why do the blazes don't you try to keep Jim from fighting? I'll break yer jaw, she suddenly bellowed. The man wrinkled with drunken indifference. "Ah, who'd deh hell. W'as' odds? W'ho' makes kick?" because he
**Prostitution**

It is known that prostitution nearly exists in every society. According to Gebhard (1971) in Akers, a prostitute is an individual who will engage in sexual activity with strangers or other persons with whom the individual has no affectional relationship in exchange for money or other valuable materials that are given at or near the time of the act. Moreover, valuable materials are not considered as a low level or semi-skilled but relatively high paying occupation in which one regularly sells or lends to provide a sexual service for a monetary return. Many of the prostitutes are recruited from the poorest educated, lower class, and minority groups. Thus, the main reason to be a prostitute is because of the economic reward (1985: 204 – 206).

Crane depicted clearly the life of prostitutes in the late nineteenth century America in his novel, Maggie, The Girl of The Streets. They usually operated in saloons, on the streets, and in other places. The life of the prostitutes on the streets can be seen in the quotation below:

> A girl of the painted colors of the city went along the street. She threw changing glances at men who passed her, giving smiling invitations to men of rural or untaught pattern and usually seeming sedately unconscious of the men with a metropolitan seal upon their faces (Crane, 1979: 32).

It can be said that to escape from the weariness of the working days and the strained situation in the tenements, many people needed entertainment and relaxation. Moreover, Chudaoff said that the saloon served inner city needs for relaxation more than any other institution. So, many adults went there (1981: 123). Furthermore, he explained that the saloons became the centers of immorality. It was estimated that the inner city neighborhoods contained too many saloons. By 1898, many city districts had one saloon for every fifteen or twenty adult men. Because many city districts had their saloons for every fifteen or twenty adult men. Because they were a competition among the saloons, many saloons offered extra services such as gambling and prostitution. Thus, such temptation from services as gambling and prostitution. Thus, they tended to become lowly laborers with low payment. They also had to compete with men in looking for jobs. Furthermore, the wages of men were higher than the wages of women for the same work.

Actually, like other American people, women workers also had a dream to have better life. They did not wish to remain in poverty. As Maggie did, they struggled in order to survive in the harsh competition of that era which was dominated by the principal of Darwinism, the survival of the fittest. Many of them worked hard in the factories or other places. Moreover, they had to endure many obstacles such as the poor conditions of work place, and long hours of work which greatly influenced their health. However, all their efforts contributed nothing for their betterment. Such conditions made many of them feel hopeless in facing the poor reality of a life like that. They realized that their dreams were beyond their reach.

Elizabeth B. Butler in Kerber and Mathews stated that the situation of the women workers in the late nineteenth century was very poor. Many of these women worked at wages below the cost of subsistence, for hours longer than the measure of their strength, in poor buildings and at ill constructed machines which could injure their health, both body and mind (1982: 219). Here is another example of the misery life of a young woman who worked in the manufacturing department of a Broadway house in 1990.

It stands for a hundred like her own. She averages three dollars a week.
loons, concerts and dance halls, dime museums, low-class theaters and dives, cheap lodging houses, and pawnshops in the Bowery (1979 : 22). Moreover, Weisberger said that the Bowery, the center of New York’s theatrical district had fallen on evil days in 1895 (1982 : 48 – 49).

It can be said that many poor women were surrounded by the bad forces from their environment as mentioned in the quotation above. Such improve their life by being prostitutes. In other words, Crane wanted to one. Moreover, he revealed that at least, poverty could be a force statements, above. Laver, when he described the relationship between the poverty and prostitution in the big cities in America in the late nineteenth century also mentioned that:

The problem of dealing with the boys was as nothing compared with the problem of dealing with young girls in a similar state of poverty and destitution. For while the boys resorted to thieving, the girls resorted to prostitution (1966 : 90).

Thus, it can be inferred that at the time, many poor women encountered a dilemma. They had to choose whether on the one hand, to do one thing, or to gain material success by being involved in immoral deeds by being prostitutes. This meant also that they lost their good morals. In fact, Crane pointed out that like Maggie who chose to be a prostitute, many women workers at that time were forced to choose a way of living by being involved in prostitution.

The experience of many poor women workers in America specifically those who lived in the big cities could best be like Maggie’s experience. For the young girls like them, the offers of their corrupt environment, follow the wrong way could easily influence them if they did not have a strong will to keep their purity and good morality. As Laver assured, in mid-nineteenth-century, American girls who were tired of working hard at that time was widespread in America as it was in England and France, specifically in the big cities such as New York and Chicago. Moreover, he asserted that many poor girls such as underpaid and over worked will (1966 : 103 – 104).

Chudacoff (1967 : 188) further relates that at that time, there were people who used prostitution as their business and gained benefit from
in tell illegal business. Because of this, in the early 1900s, reformers in several cities established vice commissions to investigate prostitution and immorality, and to recommend legislation. They attacked primarily those individuals and institutions like saloons, bordellos, cheap hotels, dance halls, and red-light districts. Moreover, they recommended the follow-

- labor legislation to improve working conditions for women so they would not be lured by adversity into prostitution;
- education campaigns to alert the public to the dangers of venereal disease;
- neighborhood recreational facilities to replace vice centers;
- nuisance and abatement laws by which private citizens could obtain court orders to close down offensive establishments.

Thus, based on the statements above, it was the poor economical condition of women which became one factor that forced them to be tempted to be prostitutes. Therefore, it was considered important to improve their economical condition in order to prevent them from following the wrong way.

In summary, it can be said that actually in the era of industrialization in the late nineteenth century, poor women encountered a dilemma since they were influenced by internal and external forces. Internal forces were those such as physical necessities which needed to be fulfilled or the need to have things which were out of their reach. The external forces were those bad influences from their surroundings in the slums like from saloons, bars, or bad associates. Moreover, the poor situation in their place of work was another factor that forced them to feel hopeless and tended to lead them to work as prostitutes.

Based on the point of view of Crane which was previously mentioned, he believed that external forces played a great influence in the attitude of the poor since they were weak as the result of their limited abilities and socioeconomic barriers. Thus, there was a tendency for the poor to easily become involved in immoral deeds if they lived in a corrupt environment.

CONCLUSION

Industrialization in the late nineteenth century, one the one hand, gave prosperity for American society but on the other hand, the prosperity was not shared by all Americans, since there was a great social disparity between the rich and the poor. The rich could enjoy luxurious living and all the vehicles, transportation, entertainment and other things. As results of the development of science and technology in that era. On the contrary, the poor lived in a miserable life with social and economic barriers.

This was depicted by Crane in his work, Maggie: the girl of the streets. He tried to highlight the life of the poor in order to bring about governmental and public concern dealing with the problems in the slums.

Usually, most of the slum dwellers were the workers in factories or other industrial sectors. They lacked education and tended to be unskilled and bad working conditions. Those were some problems of these workers in Maggie: A Girl of the Streets. He pointed out that such poor conditions were made in the slums. They tended to be powerless and hopeless. Their inability to succeed by the standard or norms of the society led the poor to defy such as alcoholism, violence, crime and prostitution.

From the point of view of the naturalists, men were weak under the control of their surroundings. In this case, the poor were powerless, so they were easily controlled by their corrupt surroundings in the slums. Moreover, this view was in accordance with the point of view of the role in determining the behavior of someone. In this case, Crane pointed out that the bad surroundings in the slums gave negative moral influence on the slum dwellers, specifically on the poor women who were desperate because of their poor condition of life. So, because of the strong influence of such bad surroundings and their poverty, many poor women workers at that time became involved in prostitution.

In other words, the poor women workers faced a dilemma. They had to choose between two undesirable possibilities which were not expected by them. They had to choose whether to stay in poverty and maintain good morality or to have better life but lose their good morals because they broke the norms in the society by being prostitutes. In this case, Crane revealed that at that time, many poor women workers tended to choose the latter.

Apparently, nowadays, Indonesia also faces the problem of poverty. There is a great disparity between the rich and the poor. It is possible that of industrialization in America. Thus, based on the American experiences in the past, it can be understood that actually poverty is not always
The result of laziness or a lack of effort on the part of the poor to improve their lives out, in fact, sometimes they are also controlled by external forces such as economic, social, and political forces which are beyond their reaches.

At least, there are some factors that can be taken into consideration to help resolve the problem of poverty. The first, to take precautionary actions towards natural problems such as poor or exhausted soil, floods, and other calamities; second, to give support to those who have physical disabilities like physical handicap; third, to create an economic system which avoids the exploitation of the low-class workers in order to gain great benefit for the owners; fourth, to provide a political system that provides a good atmosphere in reducing poverty such as corruption, collusion and nepotism in the government, and in private businesses; fifth, to create an educational system which enables the graduates to meet the needs of work in the community.

Furthermore, the most important thing, the poor should realize that the improvement of their life also depends on themselves. Thus, they should stay motivated to work hard, and to avoid the feeling of being powerless and hopeless which can lead them to demoralization.

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