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Marxist Analysis of Racism in “Behold the Dreamers” By Imbolo Mbue: Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract:

This research focuses on Marxist analysis of racism through textual references and their alignment with Sustainable Development Goals specified by United Nations. The goal of this research is to highlight racism, class struggle, labor and exploitation of immigrant black Africans and the factors that resulted in the migration of these Africans. Racial hegemony is analyzed through Cameroonian family, who migrated to New York in the midst of financial crisis of 2008, unraveling inequalities, racial discrimination and economic struggles keeping in mind the historical clash of Africa and America. This study reveals these factors by delving into the characters' experiences, illuminating the unequal dispersal of resources and opportunities based on race and class. The qualitative approach is used based on textual references for the Marxist analysis and the interrelation with sustainable development goals. This research highlights the significance of addressing racism to accomplish SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong institutions). In order to lessen racial inequities and accomplish sustainable development, it highlights the necessity of tearing down institutional obstacles and promoting fair access to social justice, economic resources, and education.

Key words: *Marxism, class struggle, racial hegemony, immigrant group, labor and exploitation*

Introduction:

The historical legacies of colonization and the slave trade, which profoundly impacted the connection between Africa and America, are the foundation of the racial conflict between the two continents. The number of Americans and Caribbean residents who identify as being of

African heritage is estimated to exceed 200 million. Many more people are not in Africa. They comprise some of the poorest and most marginalized communities, whether they are more recent immigrants or the descendants of those who were slaves during the transatlantic slave trade. The effects of colonialism and slavery resulted in the marginalization of people of African heritage for generations. An increasing body of evidence suggests that persons of African origin have been disadvantaged in numerous facets of public life due to racism and racial discrimination. They are frequently "invisible" in official statistics and have faced poverty and marginalization.

Imbolo Mbue wrote her first book, *Behold the Dreamers*. Mbue is a Cameroonian-born American novelist. For this book, she was awarded the 2017 PEN/Faulkner Award. It's interesting to note that she is the first writer from Africa to receive this honor. Mbue draws inspiration for her writing from her personal experiences as an immigrant in the United States. This novel is basically about a migration of black African couple to America in search of better life and fortune, but ultimately they have to return to their native land Cameroon as America was unable to provide them a healthy life due to their identity. The reason for their migration was poverty they were facing in Africa. People of African descent are primarily affected by structural factors that contribute to poverty. The unequal access these groups have to essential services is clear discrimination. African frequently face disadvantages in a variety of areas, including technology, markets, healthcare, education, and loans.

Historical materialism is the main focus of Marxism, but this theory also deals with the issues of class struggle and alienation. Marxism prefers communism over capitalism. The novel *Behold the Dreamers* however, portrays a capitalist society. According to a number of Marxist academics, capitalism bears some of the blame for the plight of Blacks. According to Perlo, racism is both an inherent characteristic of capitalism and a particular consequence of it. For labor costs to be reduced, capitalists want racial inferiority. Because racism was profitable for capitalists, who were primarily white, it developed and prospered. In order to maximize profits for capitalists, black workers earn lower wages than white workers. Through the use of this racial technique, capitalists benefit from reduced wages, which in turn lower production costs and increase surplus value for all laboring people (Willhelm, 1980).

Class relations, the history of class struggles, the ups and downs of colonial/capitalist expansion, and the establishment of imperial hegemony provide the raw ingredients from which "race" is produced (San Juan, 2003). The 2008 financial crisis serves as the backdrop for the novel's events, offering a striking opportunity to examine the relationship between institutional racism and economic systems. Marxist theory offers a strong framework for analyzing the complex layers of racism interlaced across the lives of the individuals in "*Behold the Dreamers*," because it places a strong focus on the role that socioeconomic circumstances play in forming society dynamics. The goal of this research is to uncover how economic and racial inequality is entwined, sustaining cycles of marginalization and impeding the pursuit of sustainable development.

Objectives and significance:

The main objective and goal of this study is to provide an analysis of racial aspects, class struggle and economic structures revealed at different instances in the novel *Behold the Dreamers*. Moreover, the interrelation of these aspects of novel with the sustainable development goals, like 'No Poverty', 'reduced inequalities', 'Quality education' and 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions' is also the area of interest for this research.

Behold the Dreamers encapsulate a wide range of elements like class struggle, white supremacy, hegemony, labor and exploitation. There are various researches on the portrayal of death of American dream as well as issues of class struggle and migration in this text but a significant gap is left on the notion of racism that is evident through different events of the text. In addition to this, a handsome gap is left in the field of sustainable development goals, as they can be linked with various aspects of this novel. Hence, this study provides an insight into racism as well as different factors that fostered the migration of the protagonists and the relation of these themes with SDGs. It will help people to explore Africans and Americans racial clash as well as the development goals that can be associated with the text.

Statements of problem:

1. In what ways does a Marxist analysis of "*Behold the Dreamers*" illustrate how the text integrates racial discrimination and economic exploitation?
2. How are the events manifesting racism in "*Behold the Dreamers*" aligned with sustainable development goals?

Literature review:

Peter Moopi and Rodwell Makombe (2023) in their book about African diasporic literatures said that; "African migration to the West occurs in the context of a Western modernity that frames Africa as a primeval continent of economic adversity, cultural and epistemic deficiency, ontological deprivation and political disorder."

In a strange way, the capitalist method of production connected "race" with class. Although the rural lifestyle's decline imposed a rigidity based on race or caste on the peasantry, the capital's ever-intense exploitation of labor to accumulate wealth could not so easily "discriminates" the wage- workers of a given nation due to the alienation of labor, unless specific physical or cultural traits could be used to divide the workers or make one group an outcast or the meantime excluded from the realm of "free labor." African, Mexican, and Asian bodies—or, more accurately, their labor force and their reproductive efficacy—were colonized and discriminated during the capitalist growth of American society (San Juan, 2003).

The American Dream, which serves as the country's national motto, has given everyone in American society, including immigrants much hope for the future. Over the years, a large number of immigrants have come to this country in an attempt to better their lives, drawn by the promise of prosperity and happiness. The comfort immigrants can obtain in terms of economic advancement is the biggest attraction of the American Dream for immigrants. Immigrants choose to come to the United States because there are better jobs available than in their home countries, and the wages are also higher (Alfanuari, Muhd, Al-Hafizh, 2016). The Jonga family in *Behold the Dreamers* aspires to live out their dreams while preserving their

African identity in their ideal nation, American society. It is discovered that although escaping poverty might be the main motivation for leaving Africa, the typical African immigrant would return home to protect his or her racial identity (Onuoha, 2019). There are many challenges that immigrants encounter in achieving the American Dream as a result of the country's capitalist economic structure. Ideological power, alienation, inequality, and exploitation are some of the negative aspects of capitalism that prevent immigrants from realizing the American Dream. Since the employer class frequently places restrictions on immigrants, the American Dream only partially guarantees a better life for some, particularly for immigrants who are already at a disadvantage in terms of their socioeconomic status. Paradoxically, the capitalist economic system which is seen as a way to realize the American Dream creates obstacles that prevent immigrants from achieving this goal (Alfanuari, Muhd, Al-Hafizh, 2016). Regardless of how the Jongas fare as a family, the American dream ultimately comes to an end with their expulsion from the country. Since the simultaneous collapse of the World Trade Centre in 2001 and the global financial markets in 2008; which has been made worse more than ten years later by the recession brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic, it is the portrayal of economic anxiety and xenophobia that has not decreased. The Jongas are thus added to the growing number of imagined immigrants who are deported from the United States and other Western European countries because they are black or brown in skin (Toohey, 2020).

Africans are fleeing the continent in large numbers due to unfavorable political and socioeconomic circumstances. Individuals who are leaving their country in search of better opportunities elsewhere see a dark future for themselves if they stay in their homeland. In an attempt to find a better life, many Africans have immigrated to Western nations, particularly the United States. However, most of the time, they discover that their expectations are not met when they arrive. Some people return home, but others are unable to do so because of embarrassment over not succeeding financially or for a variety of other reasons. Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue delves into this concept (Odey, 2022). Behold the Dreamers primarily tells the tales of two families, which serve as typical representations of wider social groups. The Edwards, who are descended from earlier European immigrants, are archetypes of the typical white upper-class American family. The Jongas are the main characters. The family represents the modern-day experience of Cameroonians who leave their country of origin and migrate abroad, settling in groups in the United States and other nations. International perception of the United States as a place where everyone has access to plenty of opportunities and where dreams come true is shaped by several American narratives that have been sent overseas. Africans and all people of color, in general, saw the ascent of a black man such as Barack Obama to prominence in politics as a message of hope (Braga, 2020). Mbue is too skilled for this to be a tale of good immigrants fighting the evil banking class. Although there are few true affectionate ties between the Edwards and the Jongas, Edwardses are nonetheless conceited and self-centered. The Jongas, on the contrary, are sophisticated Africans who reject materialism and are imparting to the Edwardses the art of leading a happy life. Jende and Neni both embrace American consumerism and all that capitalism has to offer (Onozu, 2017). Jende learns that "without any treatment, his back stopped aching" when he makes the decision to go back to

Cameroon. Thus, the suffering is psychological rather than physical, and it goes away as soon as he decides to go back home. Therefore, for the returning immigrant who feels traumatized in a foreign land, thinking of home brings healing (Odey, 2022).

The novel by Imbolo Mbue can be interpreted in light of what is sometimes called "Afropolitanism." Scholars and authors from all over the world have been discussing writer Taiye Selasi's use of Afropolitanism to describe young, intelligent, and somewhat "hip" black diasporic identities since the publication of her article "Bye-Bye Babar" in 2005. The interwoven, harmful dynamics of late capitalism's increased emphasis on individualism in addition to material gain, as well as the precarity of migrants, are depicted in Mbue's novel. By doing this, Behold the Dreamers overuses and exploits the dream motif to expose how its main characters, Jende and Neni Jonga, damagingly and repeatedly idealize the American Dream. In the end, the American Dream is relocated as an internalized belief that moves from the US to Cameroon with the Jongas as an idealized fantasy (Wacker, 2021). A group of over one hundred African writers came together in June 2020 to release a statement expressing their support for the Black Lives Matter protests that erupted globally following George Floyd's murder. This statement makes a number of claims about the growth of Black internationalism and solidarity as well as the uneven and occasionally tense relationship between the larger, global violence of colonialism today and the violence of white supremacy as it is manifested in the United States (Krishnan, 2022).

Searching for a place where happiness can be found is always synonymous with trying to retrieve happy memories. Immigrants always face dangerous and difficult journeys in their quest for happiness, demonstrating that overcoming cultural barriers is more difficult than overcoming physical ones. Immigrants ultimately lose their sense of self, their identity, and their place in the world while searching for a new "home" (Abdelmounaim Khanfri, Farida Saadoune, 2022). It is not surprising that African writers are penning an increasing number of English-language works of fiction and non-fiction about what it's like to be an immigrant or a member of a minority in Western Europe or North America, given the rising rates of immigration from African countries to the US over the past few decades. A Squatter's Tale by Ike Oguine, Foreign Gods by Okay Ndibe, Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue, We Need New Names by No Violet Bulawayo, and A Bit of Difference by Sefi Atta are a few examples of Anglophone novels. The books A Squatter's Tale, Foreign Gods, Inc., We Need New Names, and Behold the Dreamers are particularly concerned with capturing the feelings of alienation, loneliness, and cultural bereavement of the immigrants (Rezaie, 2021). Mbue makes a connection between the struggles that many of us encounter in our pursuit of the American Dream and the story of African immigrants in Behold the Dreamers. Like the main characters in Mbue's story, we can all find ourselves in similar situations. But what makes us unique is how we get over these obstacles. Behold the Dreamers gives a voice to immigrants who are frequently marginalized in contemporary America, even though it may not be the definitive story for every immigrant. Behold the Dreamers is a dream that belongs to everyone, not just immigrants (Frederick, 2016).

Mbue made an effort to draw attention to the difficulties Nigerian immigrants face and how these affect the way they form their identities. Being a native of Nigeria, she was able to contrast African immigrants, known as the Jongas, with Native Americans, known as the

Edwardses, in order to illustrate the frailty of African immigrants. She attempted to delve psychologically into the heads of her characters. Mbue gave a thorough account of the stages African Dreamers go through and their naive belief that everyone in America gets their fair share of milk and honey. Additionally, Mbue was successful in capturing the African American subject's inferiority complex, subservience to white people, and humiliation at having to return to their native countries in the event of failure. Her main characters, Jende, Neni, and Mr. Edwards, demonstrated this for us. They all firmly believed in an America where everyone could achieve wealth and happiness, but they regrettably came to realize that the American Dream is actually a nightmare full of falsehoods and a mirage of a better life and, consequently, a better home (Abdelmounaim Khanfri, Farida Saadoune, 2022).

In order to move closer to the 2030 SDGs, the UN, member states, multilateral organizations, and NGOs must acknowledge their overt and covert discrimination against marginalized groups as well as their demeaning micro aggressions against them in the workplace and in society at large. Economic systems can violate human rights by, for example, refusing marginalized workers opportunities for advancement and promotions, failing to acknowledge their intellectual contributions, or acting with cultural humility. The leadership of the organization is permeated with ethnocentrism. Power, a sense of superiority, and encouragement of contemporary neo-capitalists who support policies that continue to produce more working poor, poor women and children, and little assistance for the disabled, children, and people of color, these practices must stop immediately (Kutisha T. Ebron, Cheyenne Luzynski, Carolyn S. Nath Komanski, 2023).

Theoretical Framework:

This research was grounded in a qualitative analysis of racism as represented through textual references, aiming to uncover the underlying structures of power, inequality, and exploitation reflected in the selected text. The study is framed within the Marxist theoretical perspective proposed by Karl Marx, which emphasizes the dynamics of class struggle, economic determinism, and ideological hegemony that perpetuate systems of social and racial oppression. Marxist theory serves as a lens to explore how racial hierarchies and economic inequalities intersect, illustrating how capitalism not only sustains class divisions but also reinforces racial and colonial exploitation (Eagleton, 2011). Through this framework, the study interprets racism as a socio-economic construct, shaped by material conditions and historical legacies of colonialism and slavery. Marxist criticism enables an understanding of how racial discrimination functions as a form of economic and ideological control, maintaining dominance over marginalized groups and sustaining capitalist production (Said, 1993). The analysis highlights how the text embodies themes of alienation, exploitation, and hegemony, linking racial oppression to broader economic systems and class-based inequalities. Furthermore, this theoretical framework aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those focused on Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), No Poverty (SDG 1), Quality Education (SDG 4), and Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16). By connecting Marxist critique with the SDGs, the study not only examines racial injustice within a literary context but also situates it within the global discourse on social justice and equitable development. The integration of Marxist theory with SDG objectives underscores

the need to address structural inequalities and foster critical awareness through education and cultural discourse. Ultimately, this framework allows the study to interpret racism as a systemic outcome of capitalist and colonial ideologies, while also advocating for transformative action through the pursuit of justice, equality, and sustainable human development.

Discussion:

Racial discrimination and Economic Exploitation:

Jende Jonga, an immigrant from Cameroon residing in Harlem, came to the United States to give himself, his wife Neni, and their six-year-old kid a better life. In the fall of 2007, when Jende gets hired as a driver for Lehman Brothers senior executive Clark Edwards, he can hardly believe his good fortune. Clark expects loyalty, discretion, and punctuality, and Jende wants to satisfy. Neni is even allowed to work part-time at the Edwardses' Hamptons vacation residence by Clark's wife, Cindy. With these changes, Jende and Neni may finally establish themselves in America and look forward to a better future. But, the world of enormous wealth and power reveals unsettling secrets, and Jende and Neni soon discover the holes in the facades of their employers. The Jongas, whose marriage is on the verge of disintegrating, are desperate to hold onto Jende's employment when the financial world is rocked by the failure of Lehman Brothers. Jende and Neni are forced to make a difficult decision as all four lives are drastically turned upside down.

There is a long racial history of Africa and America beginning with colonization of Africa and slave trade. Moreover, economic stability is the main factor that leads to racial inequality. Black people particularly in Africa are less exposed to better living conditions so; they prefer migrating to countries that offer healthy living to these people. The foundation of capitalism is the private ownership of the means of production and their use for financial gain. Under capitalism, lower class is exploited and is used for the profits of upper class people. They manipulate lower class people and brainwash them in such a way that lower class is unable to differentiate capitalism from communism, their own benefits and the gains of the capitalists. 'Behold the Dreamers' reveal a capitalist society where Jende and Neni being blacks and related to lower class are exploited in a way that will benefit whites; Mr. Edwards and Cindy. It is also a revelation of dependency of black Africans on white Americans.

"You think a black man gets a good job in this country by sitting in front of white people and telling the truth? Please, don't make me laugh. I just didn't want to tell you beforehand and get you even more nervous."

The novel portray that people migrate from Africa to America and other western countries to ensure better future and to live peacefully. First and foremost, the immigration of Africans is complicated for them because they are not easily allowed to live and work in America and if they are given the work permit they hardly get their green card to live peacefully in America. In this sense, Africans are always in danger of exile from the country. Jende is living in America for three years, still he is not provided with green card as he is black in color. Jende Jonga was worried about his green card because if it was denied, he could not realize his dream of living in a great nation America and could not convince Mr. Edwards of his honesty.

"And how long will it take for you to get this green card?" Clark asked as he put down the BlackBerry. "I just really don't know, sir. Immigration is slow, sir; very funny how they work."

"But you're in the country legally for the long term, correct?" "Oh, yes, sir," Jende said. He nodded repeatedly again, a pained smile on his face, his eyes unblinking. "I am very legal, sir. I just am still waiting for my green card."

It is to be noted through this text that the Africans and blacks are given minor jobs like dishwashing, job of chauffeur and females get the jobs like housekeeping, caretaking and baby-sitting as in the case of Neni Jonga. Hence, it is manifestation of class difference and hegemony. No doubt, Native Americans are welcoming and provide a handsome salary to their employees as Mr. Edwards provided a good salary to Jende, but they will give them cheap jobs despite of their higher qualifications and achievements. Jende also worked day and night for three different jobs in order to get visas for his wife and son. This shows that how little wages were provided to blacks that they have to continue more than one job at the same time to meet their basic needs.

In case of Neni, she had a dream to live in America and prosper with healthy living conditions. She was extremely delighted at her arrival in America. She also wanted to get a pharmacist degree in America as there was no suitable course in Africa. Thus, besides healthy wages, better education can also be the main cause for Africans to migrate towards western countries as they provide them with higher education, but Neni was unable to complete her pharmacist degree as they were always in threat of exodus from America. Later on, after the collapse of Edwards Empire, she has to undertake the job of housekeeping to secure her financially and there was no other suitable job for her because of her skin color.

She had a dream besides marriage and motherhood: to become a pharmacist like the ones everyone respected in Limbe because they handed out health and happiness in pill bottles. To achieve this dream, she had to do well in school, and she was doing just that—maintaining a B-plus average.

Racism is also evident through societal hierarchies and class differences between Edwardses and Jongas. After return from first day of work, Jende told Neni about the living style of the Edwardses. He said;

Edwardses' apartment was big and beautiful, he said, millions of dollars more beautiful than their sunless one-bedroom apartment..... The place looked like one of those rich-people apartments you see on television..... "And Mrs. Edwards," she went on, "what does she look like?" "Good-looking," he replied. "Just like a woman with a rich husband should look. Winston said she's one of those food people."... "People in this country, always worrying about how to eat, they pay someone good money to tell them: Eat this, don't eat that. If you don't know how to eat, what else can you know how to do in this world?"

Apart from a luxurious apartment and beautiful lady, Mr. Edwards owns a limousine. Limousine is a lavishing car and a symbol of upper class people. Through these lines, the societal hegemony is obvious, how the upper class societies maintain their image in the social façade and they use their subalterns for the maintenance of their personal face. Here lies the reason of racism and the impact of capitalism on lower class as well as blacks and racial inequalities arise

through these instances. Jende came to America aspiring financial security and quality education for his wife and child and he was inspired by Barack Obama. He said;

"America has something for everyone, sir. Look at Obama, sir. Who is his mother? Who is his father? They are not big people in the government. They are not governors or senators. In fact, sir, I hear they are dead. And look at Obama today. The man is a black man with no father or mother, trying to be president over a country!"

In addition to this, there is an instance in the novel that suggests the availability of police only for the whites and Native Americans. Bubakar, a friend of Jende advised him to stay away from police because police is only for the protection of Americans. This instance can be traced back to historical and racial clash of Africa and America. Bubakar said;

Stay away from any place where you can run into police—that's the advice I give to you and to all young black men in this country. The police is for the protection of white people, my brother. May be black women and black children sometimes, but not black men. Never black men. Black men and police are palm oil and water.

Mbue handles American's racial landscape deftly, as when Jende, during his interview, glimpses The Wall Street Journal headline, *"White's Great Hope? Barack Obama and the Dream of a Color-Blind America,"* or later, when a white woman informs him that it's illegal for Liomi to sit in the front seat and Jende *"graciously"* responds *"yes, it was, he knew, thank you so much madam."* Through Jende and Neni's prospects for citizenship and financial security, as well as the outcomes of minor characters like Leah, Clark's secretary for fifteen years, who will be five years away from obtaining Social Security benefits upon Lehman's failure, race is more prominently portrayed. Put otherwise, there is a great deal of collateral damage.

One character says, "Why does everyone make it sound as if being in America is everything?" The longest section in which Neni considers what her children will gain and lose if they are forced to leave contains the closest thing to an answer. Every parent has the desire to give their kids the best possible life that is full of opportunities. Whether America can still live up to that promise is the true question. The dreams of both Neni and Jende of luxurious life and quality education were shattered after the collapse of Lehman Brothers as they were left without any job and they could not pursue another job because of their black identity and the rejection of green card. Thus, they had to return to their homeland Africa. When they arrived in Cameroon, they read a quote on the signboard; ***"Welcome to Limbe, The Town of Friendship"***, and internalized the fact that Africa is the only home for them.

Hence, from these textual references we come to know that blacks in America cannot enjoy a healthy life because they are exploited by labor and imposed with strenuous jobs by paying them a handsome amount of money. Moreover, any African immigrant finds it difficult to travel to America because the immigration process is slow for blacks and they are not granted with permanent residency. In addition to this, racism dominates the country as blacks are not granted their equal rights and there is also a lack of protection for them as Jende was frightened of the police when he was attending Mr. Edwards's son on the back seat of the car. The police will mistook him that a black person is kidnapping a white kid. To cap it all, the capitalist system

prevalent in the country is the main cause of racism, class hierarchies, labor and exploitation. Marxism finds its way by critiquing capitalism and residing in communism.

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals:

In "Behold the Dreamers," class struggle unfolds as a central theme, shedding light on the intricate relationship between racism and sustainable development goals. The novel captures the struggles of the Jongas; that are the immigrants aspiring for a better life in the United States as illustrated earlier, exposes the disparities inherent in social classes. The manifestation of racism in class struggle aligns with **SDG 1 (No Poverty)**.

First goal is to **end poverty in all its forms**. "Eradicating extreme poverty for all people everywhere by 2030 is a pivotal goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Extreme poverty, defined as surviving on less than \$2.15 per person per day at 2017 purchasing power parity, has witnessed remarkable declines over recent decades. Poverty has many dimensions, but its causes include unemployment, social exclusion, and high vulnerability of certain populations to disasters, diseases and other phenomena which prevent them from being productive."

The Jonga family's journey mirrors the global challenge of poverty, emphasizing how racial dynamics contribute to economic disparities. The characters' experiences underscore the interconnectedness of racial injustice and economic hardship, advocating for a nuanced approach towards achieving sustainable development. The reason for the migration of the Jongas resides in poverty that is evident by the answer of Jende to Edward on the question of immigration:

"Because my country is no good, sir," he said. "It is nothing like America. I stay in my country, I would have become nothing. I would have remained nothing. My son will grow up and be poor like me, just like I was poor like my father. But in America....I can become something. I can even become a respectable man. My son can become a respectable man."

Economic determinism, as portrayed in the novel aligns with **SDG 10 Reduced Inequality within and among countries**. Throughout the world, there are still inequalities in wealth, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, color, class, ethnicity, religion, and opportunity. Long-term social and economic progress is threatened by inequality, which also undermines efforts to reduce poverty and undermines people's feeling of fulfillment and self-worth. Crime, illness, and environmental damage can then result from this. If individuals are denied the opportunity to live better lives, we will never be able to accomplish sustainable development and improve the earth for all living things. Hence, the focus of this goal is not only to reduce inequality in a single country but worldwide. Africa is land facing many inequalities by different countries because of their black race and for this purpose they lack basic rights, economic opportunities and are pushed towards poverty. The characters, particularly the Jonga family, grapple with the impact of racial dynamics on their economic opportunities, highlighting the inter-connectedness of racial injustice and poverty. Analyzing economic determinism through the lens of SDGs underscores the urgency of addressing racial disparities to achieve goals related to poverty eradication and reduced inequalities. The novel is the portrayal of inequalities faced by the blacks in America in terms of low paying jobs, allotment of identity card and protection specified by police.

SDG 4 that is about **Quality Education** can also be interlinked with the novel. Sub-Saharan Africa has the most difficulties in providing basic educational supplies. At the elementary and lower secondary levels, the situation is severe since less than half of the schools in Africa's sub-Saharan region have access to computers, power, potable water, and the Internet. If the digital gap, or the difference between less connected and more digitalized nations, is not addressed, inequality will likewise get worse. Furthermore, this dilemma is particularly affecting women and girls. About 40% of nations still lack gender balance in elementary education. These negative effects on schooling also result in young women having less access to skills and job possibilities. This was the reason Jongas migrated to America aspiring better education for Neni and their son. If there had been the quality education in Africa, they would not have travelled to America, yet it was one of the main reasons.

This manifestation of racism aligns with **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)**. The novel underscores the importance of dismantling racial hegemony to establish just and inclusive societies. By challenging dominant racial narratives, the text advocates for the creation of institutions that promote equality and justice, aligning with the core principles of SDG 16. For the promotion of this goal, we should make use of our liberties about information freedom, to hold our elected representatives accountable, and express our opinions to them. Encourage tolerance and acceptance of individuals with diverse racial, religious, gender, and sexual orientations as well as differing viewpoints. By scrutinizing economic determinism within the framework of sustainable development, the research paper contributes to a holistic understanding of how racism impedes progress. It emphasizes the necessity of dismantling discriminatory economic structures to achieve SDGs, acknowledging that sustainable development cannot be realized without addressing the root causes of racial injustice.

Conclusion:

This study has highlighted the racial elements in the novel through Marxist analysis and their relation with sustainable development goals. Marxist analysis of racism illuminated several instances from the novel that divides the class of black and white like economic factors, living conditions, and opportunities for employment and protection rights. These aspects are analyzed through textual references and alignment with sustainable development goals. Africa is a land of poverty. People lack facilities for education and employment and for better opportunities they are compelled to migrate towards West where they encounter difficulties because of their race. The novel not only portrays the harsh realities of racial injustice but also prompts reflection on how addressing issues such as class struggle, exploitation, racial hegemony, and economic determinism is crucial for achieving a sustainable and equitable future. It underscores the necessity of integrating anti-racist practices into the broader discourse of sustainable development to create a more just and inclusive world. This novel is interlinked with SDGs like no poverty, reduced inequalities, quality education and peace, justice and strong institutions and a way out is provided to cope with these challenges based on SDGs of United Nations.

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