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| Title of Thesis:         | “Social Issues in Modern Arabic<br>Poetry (An Analytical study)”                            |

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This study sheds light on the important role played by the Arab poets of renaissance era in social reform of the society in their respective countries and it also studies the evolution of social poetry in modern times and how the poets used it as a weapon to uproot the evils of society and to expose the tyrants and corrupt rulers.

The social poetry started to evolve at the end of nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century after the Arab society underwent the drastic changes due to the political, economic and social developments resulting from the interaction between the Arab world and the Europe and because of the ongoing conflict with the French and British colonial powers that the poets realized the importance of their role in society and felt their responsibility towards their countrymen. This was the driving force which made them stand up and participate in the process of reform and nation building and launch the scathing attack against injustice, tyranny, poverty, backwardness, moral deviations and the suffering of women. They strongly believed that the ultimate objective of literature is to benefit the people and to guide them towards the building of an ideal society and that why they devoted their lives and work for the welfare of mankind.

**Following are the some important findings of the study:**

- The evolution of modern Arabic social poetry in content and form was the result of intellectual currents coming from the west after the beginning of the cultural exchange between Europe and the Arab countries in nineteenth century which had great influence on Arab poets of renaissance era. This intellectual exchange invoked in them

the sense of importance of human rights and that's why most of them devoted their poetry to treat the issues bothering their fellow countrymen and to demand freedom, justice and equality in order to build an ideal human society.

- The poverty of the masses was the most important issue that grabbed the attention of the poets of that era irrespective of their background, and there was a great similarity in their approach to this issue as the most of them dealt with it as a natural difference in fortune and didn't address it deeply to find out its cause and possible solution. The only solution they suggested to solve this issue was the voluntary charity based on zakat and donations.
- The issues of women were one of the most controversial issues that divided the poets into several teams all of them with a very different point of view on this issue, and all of them have their share of contribution in the process of liberation and empowerment of women.
- There is a vital difference between poets in their approach to social issues due to the difference between their social, economical, and literary background. For example poets who belonged to the wealthy class of the society didn't show much interest in addressing the issues of misery, poverty and deprivation, on the other hand poets who were highly educated had keen interest in education of masses, and they handled the issues of illiteracy and educational ignorance and backwardness with great passion.
- Most of the poets in their desire for reform were not influenced by the religious sentiments but were affected by ideas of reform coming from the west.
- The poets from Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon had quite different approach from each other while dealing with the social issues, for example the Egyptian poets like Ahmad Shauqi and Hafez Ibrahim preferred moderate approach while handling social problems. On the other hand Iraqi poets like Jameel sidqi Alzahawi and Maroof Alrusafi often showed rebellion against the evils of the society. Unlike them Syrian and Lebanese poets were forced to use symbolic language and fictional characters because of the strict control of their governments on journalism and literature.
- In their social poetry the poets preferred the use of simple and easy language because this kind of poetry was meant to address the common people who had very low literacy rate at that time.