



## A Thematic Analysis of *Yellow Leaves* by M. R. Gohar

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### Abstract

Gohar is an emerging voice in Pakistani literature. He focuses on multiple issues and problems of Pakistani society. Hence, this study sought to make a thematic analysis of ten representative poems from *Yellow Leaves* by M. R. Gohar, focusing on their description of the Coronavirus epidemic that impact the psychological wellbeing. Through a qualitative, descriptive approach: poems were systematically sampled and the content analyzed in terms of themes. This study finds that *Yellow Leaves* is a rich literary exploration, which incorporates the author's own personal experiences into broader stories of society in response to this global crisis. Gohar captures variety of themes so elegantly that we, the readers, can enjoy them and experience them all with our hearts. This research is of great importance for showing that literature plays a crucial part in both reflecting and forming the sense of shared interest characterizing collective consciousness during times crisis, as well as providing an excellent starting point from which to further examine this plethora.

**Keywords:** *Yellow Leaves*, M. R. Gohar, Covid-19, psychological wellbeing, thematic analysis, qualitative study.

### Introduction

M. R. Gohar is a distinguished Pakistani poet. He belongs to Gujranwala in Punjab, Pakistan. He touches upon variety of themes and issues in his poetry. His poetry is characterized by realism, simplicity of language, and musicality. His writings are the outcome of his keen observation of the society, culture and civilization. His several works like *Metaphors*, *Inside Out* (chapter forthcoming), *Yellow Leaves & Images: A Breadth of Knowledge for the New Pandemic Era* deals with the COVID-19 pandemic. The global literary response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been a deep exploration of what it means to be human when faced with such unprecedented challenges. Gohar's predominance in the realm of Pakistani literature is apparent. Haider, et al. (2022) in their study of contemporary Pakistani poetry observe that Gohar's work is rich thematically.

Literature is a dynamic force of record of modern culture. Munawar et al. (2021) highlight that artistic expression is also our tool to chart new routes among this multi-faceted crisis

conditioning lives around the today's world. Gohar plays a key role his collection poems by portraying experiences of individual from child to man, poor to rich.

Gohar presents the pandemic within a cultural context, Hassan et al., (2023) reveal how Gohar's representation of the pandemic is conditioned by its setting and explore where it intersects with personal experience to create an overlay of collective identity. Further, Rana (2020), in her comparative analysis of pandemic literature from within the Pakistani context, notes not only common themes but also unique contributions which can be ascribed to the vastly different literary landscape.

Gohar's regional identity cannot be ignored in connection with his artistic expression within the body of Pakistani literature. Choi, (2023) helps us understand Gohar's earlier works, such as *Metaphors* and *Inside Out*, which form a background from which we can appreciate the thematic continuity in and development of this work. This places it firmly within the Pakistani literary tradition. By doing so, his take on pandemic-psychological related themes becomes clearer through his poetry.

In exploring the socio-cultural impact of pandemic from Gohar's poetry in Pakistani context, Furman et al., (2007) provide us with a theoretical underpinning for their cultural studies and literary theory. This framework is a reference point for examining the broader contribution of *Yellow Leaves* to that conversation on how COVID-19 has been portrayed in Pakistani literature. This demonstrates the importance and impact of Sigvardsson's work as a cultural artifact in today's current Pakistani literary environment. The *Yellow Leaves*, too, is recognized by M. R. Gohar for its influence within the local literary community. It is hoped that this exploration will make a small contribution toward expanding the field of pandemic literature within the Pakistani context, helping readers appreciate M. R. Gohar's poetic reaction as an inspiring and dynamic response to our changing world in crisis.

### **Statement of Problem**

The portrayal of COVID-19 in Pakistani poetry is a multi-faceted challenge for literary scholars and critics. Although a large body of literature has already been written about the broader implications for human culture and life in literary works which record humanity's response to these global crises, there is still much we do not understand about how poets from different countries deal with specific aspects of this global phenomenon within their own cultural traditions. The scarcity of comprehensive studies on Gohar's contributions to this discourse leaves unanswered questions about the thematic richness, poetic techniques, and cultural resonances embedded in "*Yellow Leaves*." Furthermore, the cultural reception and impact of pandemic literature within the Pakistani literary landscape are underexplored, and there is a need to decipher how Gohar's work resonates with readers, contributing to the ongoing cultural dialogue surrounding the pandemic in Pakistan. This research seeks to address these gaps by providing an in-depth analysis of Gohar's poetic representation of COVID-19, thereby contributing to the broader understanding of pandemic literature within the context of Pakistani poetry.

### **Research Objectives**

This study has two research objectives to be achieved:

- To conduct a thematic analysis of the selected poems of *Yellow Leaves* written by Gohar.
- To investigate the representation of the Covid-19 pandemic in *Yellow Leaves* by Gohar.
- To assess how poems captures the emotions to express traumatic experiences, fear of separation, isolation, digital aggression and collective coping mechanism in artistic way.

### **Significance of the Study**

This study holds significance in its dual exploration of Gohar's *Yellow Leaves* through thematic analysis and the lens of the COVID-19 pandemic effects on the wellbeing. Through Gohar's poetic craftsmanship, the research enriches our understanding of the thematic depth within *Yellow Leaves*. The study of Gohar's depiction of this pandemic in his verses provides a timely and culturally attuned perspective for engagement with broader literary debates concerning how poets negotiate global crises from within their immediate local aesthetic domains. Apart from raising admiration for Gohar's contribution to Pakistan literature, this study also illuminates a special function of poetry in reflecting the contradictions and ambiguities involved when reading contemporary literature.

### **Literature Review**

The COVID-19 pandemic rapidly took over the World. "The impact of pandemic COVID-19 is observed in every sector around the world". (Jena, 2020). "COVID-19 has become a huge worry for the Globe that increase anxiety, depression and social isolation. The social and economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic will be far reaching and devastating for all. In this globally connected world, every country will get impacted by the devastation caused by the pandemic" (Kaushik & Guleria, 2020). "The need for poetry and poets in society has been debated since Plato's age. But at no time perhaps, its significance can be questioned as much as it has been during a crisis that demands immediate and concrete solutions and aid, like a pandemic. However, on the contrary, the current coronavirus pandemic necessitating social isolation and countrywide lockdowns has witnessed a sudden surge in the production of 'social-media poetry'. The legitimacy of such poetry has often been debated but their popularity has proved that they are far from irrelevant" (Sreejata, 2020). Gohar, a Pakistan's distinguished poet has made some fine contributions to literature and COVID-19 pandemic with works like *Metaphors*, *Inside Out* and *Yellow Leaves*. According to Kumar (2020), we need to appreciate the social and cultural environment in which such works were written. "During the global lockdown imposed by governments on people due to the outbreak of coronavirus – COVID-19, human beings were forced to stay home and follow tough restrictions; they turned to poetry for self-recollection and introspection as it provides them with an escape from their panic and anxiety. Approaching poetry was a panacea against the fatality of the disease; it had an enormous impact on their hearts and souls" (Acim, 2021). M. R. Gohar's work is so relevant to Kannaley et al., (2019) assertion that the nature of metaphor is explored as a way to express complex feelings level-headedly. M. R. Gohar's work consist of metaphoric language capturing the essences and sensitivities in describing the nature of COVID-19 pandemic that appears in *Yellow Leaves*.

Jusslin and Höglund (2021) look at how global developments influence thematic trends in poems by Pakistani poets. They shed light on the forms of expression and creativity of poets like Gohar have adapted in order to face global crises.

Haider et al., (2022) offer glimpses of readers' perceptions and how pandemic writings play role in Pakistan's literature. For instance, reading how readers have acquired Gohar's poetry is an essential step closer to figuring out the extent to which it captures pandemic related collective studies and emotions. The dialogue by way of Munawar et al. (2021) about cultural identification in Pakistani literature is specifically applicable whilst considering Gohar's depiction. The poet's nearby and cultural background offers his depiction of the epidemic in *Yellow Leaves* in depth. Pakistani literary grievance has diverse theoretical frameworks, where Hassan et al., (2023) require more precise approach in literature which integrates form and content material. We shall examine Gohar's poetic methods and thematic choices writing about the COVID-19 Pandemic through those frameworks.

Rana (2020) showcases how poetry can become an instrument of cultural analysis, going from the poets themselves to a broader societal reaction to disasters. In this case, one cannot but look at Gohar's *Yellow Leaves* from the perspective of some broader cultural conversation on pandemonium. Choi (2023) examines pandemic literature through a comparative South Asian framework provides an ideal model for thinking about how unique were the Pakistani poets. We can get an insightful view of the unique themes and stylistic elements portrayed in Gohar's depiction of the pandemic by contrasting her work with that of writers from all around.

Gohar's work has made an important contribution to the portrayal of COVID -19 in Pakistani poetry. His poems, especially *Yellow Leaves* indeed go quite deeply into the intricacy and richness of the world crisis. Gohar's work, with its multi-thematic perspectives and different theoretical frameworks as well as cultural reflections of his poetic verses offer us a complete understanding of how the pandemic play role in the society's perspective.

### **Methodology**

This descriptive and qualitative study was conducted on the selected poems. The researcher selected the poetry book *Yellow Leaves* written by Dr. Muhammad Riaz Gohar. The book has 40 poems. However, the researcher selected 10 poems to conduct this research study. Every 4<sup>th</sup> poem in the books was selected by applying systematic sampling method (n<sup>th</sup>). Thematic analysis involves identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) within the data. So, the selected poems were identified, analyzed, and reported on the themes. The themes were discussed accordingly. To achieve the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> objectives the selected poems are discussed to show the representation of the Covid-19 pandemic throughout the world explained in the poems. The results are then presented, and the findings are written. Based on the findings the study was concluded, and the recommendations are written accordingly.

### **Data Analysis**

The research presents the thematic analysis and then discusses how the book *Yellow Leaves* represents the stressful experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic throughout the world.

### **Thematic Analysis**

#### **1. Love amidst Pandemic**

The poem *Love in the Time of Coronavirus* explores the theme of love in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, delving into the challenges and altered expressions of affection in the face of social distancing measures.

*Let's meet from the distance; Hugs no more  
Kisses forbidden,  
Try the language of gestures, like lovers in primeval times for pouring inside  
out.  
You write me in emoji Of flowers and heart.  
I will reply too  
in emoticons and abbreviations as  
\* \* and XOXO.*

*Love in the Time of Coronavirus* explores the theme of love amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic. The very first scene embodies the physical limitations of social distance, adding thematic tension between people 'desires for love and traditional methods to express it with a need to keep bodies distant. The theme of distanced intimacy sets the mood for the narrative of poems, capturing something paradoxical in that longing for closeness amid separation. In face of such limitations, the poet says life lived in gestures or a language of gestures can carry on life. There is always love in life. The thematic thread which runs through this is the invincibility of humanity's spirit of love. It reminds us that even during disaster, one thing can symbolize a

great number in little things. The poem moves on to technological affection, in which digital space is used as a substitute for physical closeness. The wordplay reflects on how attachment needs are satisfied in different situations, highlighting the conflict between the need to maintain distance and one's desire for closeness in person. As a theme, this situation represents today's reality of e-securing. It is bitter sweetly how human relationships are altered.

### **Weekend Escapades**

Weekends at Pittsburg realistically captures the lively escapades and carefree festivities that unfold during weekends. The poem focuses on the universal desire for leisure and revelry as a means of temporarily escaping the challenges of the workweek.

*The still lanes of the downtown The Great Pittsburg  
Start yellin' and tellin' that it is the weekend.  
The guys can't be indoors. They will have their fun In the dance halls and sun.  
The flickering lights the hearts like balloons  
Of millions and billions, Keep on bouncin'  
At the thrilling gestures  
Of the celebrity at the stage She keeps on throwin' the heat. The heat heaps up  
and up  
To drown their senses in the acopa in hands. It is the time to rid The labor of the  
week and even to forget Who is who!*

*Weekends at Pittsburg* depicts the lively theme of exuberant escapades during weekends in the bustling city of Pittsburgh. The poet captures the anticipation and liveliness of downtown streets coming alive as the weekend approaches. The overarching theme of weekend escapades is emphasized through the energetic atmosphere described in the poem, where once still lanes transform into a vibrant hub of activity.

The poem sets a vibrant scene with imagery of dance halls, flickering lights, and a metaphorical portrayal of millions and billions of hearts as balloons creating an atmosphere that anticipates and celebrates the exuberant festivities about to unfold. The poem depicts a picture of a dynamic cityscape filled with the promise of energetic and lively weekend celebrations. The poet conveys a sense of collective joy and celebration during weekends, highlighting the communal experience of leisure and revelry. The description of the celebrity on stage, throwing heat and creating a thrilling ambiance emphasizes this theme. The notion of the "heat heaps up and up" captures the escalating excitement, immersing the revelers in an experience that transcends the mundane routine of the workweek. Since people find enjoyment and fulfillment in leisure activities, this theme correlates with motivation theory, especially intrinsic motivation. It also promotes the psychological advantages and stress reduction of taking breaks from daily work.

### **Sincerity and Relationships**

*All that Matters...* roots the significance of sincerity in relationships, emphasizing the need to bridge distances and cherish connections even as time passes, relationships evolve, and ties face the challenges of life.

*All that matters is sincerity Stay wherever you may And say whatever you say  
Distances are the inner boundaries They are to be bridged  
With gigantic leaps With hopes like heaps And there will be a time To cherish  
the ties  
That are getting loose With the gentle pace  
And the swift race of time. Retreat is just an illusion But the onward is the face  
With bigger scores to trace....*

The poem *All that Matters*... presents the theme of sincerity and relationships, emphasizing the paramount importance of genuine sincerity in fostering and preserving meaningful connections. The poet encapsulates the essence of sincerity as the central pillar on which relationships stand, stating unequivocally that it is what truly matters. This theme is highlighted through the repetition of the phrase “All that matters is sincerity,” signifying its crucial role in the poet’s worldview.

The poet addresses the challenges presented by distance in relationships, portraying them as inner boundaries that necessitate bridging. The thematic thread of distances as inner boundaries suggests that the emotional and physical gaps in relationships must be overcome through significant efforts. The poet uses potent imagery, portraying the process as demanding ‘gigantic leaps’ and ‘hopes like heaps.’ With the pandemic effecting social cohesion, community awareness, and cultural identification, this theme relates to the concept of social identity and shows how people get a sense of belonging as well as identity by belonging to a group. This theme emphasizes the notion that sincerity acts as the bridge spanning these distances, linking individuals and strengthening the ties that bind them.

### **Exploration of *New Horizons***

*New Horizons* depicts a picture of renewal and exploration, capturing the freshness of experiences, the optimism for lasting connections, and the absence of fear in the face of the unknown.

*Fresh is the taste Soft are the rays With the new mate on the vast bays.  
Vigor and flavor Hope you cherish Press and savor No fear to perish.  
Cozy are the bights Smart are the ways Canded are the nights Perfumed are  
the days.  
Days have to pass Nights linger on enticing is the bass All in short gown.  
Perhaps you forget The chill and heat Long talk and bet And memories sweet.  
I still stand and wonder All in rain and thunder; The choice you availed And  
silently sailed!*

Exploring the thematic exploration of new beginning, *New Horizons* portrays a subtle foretelling that comes with exploring uncharted regions in life. The poet sets the mood by saying that taste is fresh, and says of light: ‘And rays are soft,’ so that an air of novelty and brightness infects everything. The image of the ‘New mate on the vast bays’ reinforces in this way the overarching theme behind all these Explorations opening a new chapter, or new relationship.

The poet merges the themes of vitality and optimism with the exploration of new horizons. This blending of themes reflects the poet’s portrayal of the experience as not just a journey into the unknown but as a vibrant and hopeful venture. The lines “Vigor and flavor / Hope you cherish / Press and savor / No fear to perish” convey a sense of energy, hope, and the invitation to fully experience the freshness of these unexplored realms. This thematic focus on the positive aspects of new beginnings serves as a guiding principle, encouraging the reader to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead without the fear of loss or failure.

### **Dreamlike Reveries**

In *Reveries*, the theme revolves around storytelling and creating a dreamlike atmosphere. The poem suggests an escape into tales of distant lands and the warmth of shared moments, portraying a sense of perpetual joy and comfort.

*Keep on telling the tales The tales of the distant lands  
Of the towers small and grand Of the ways windy and smooth  
You will stop not  
I will be bored no more My head in your lap Forever in rest*

*To make me smile In joke and jest Keep on lulling dear  
The fingers in my hair Like the reap of joys And culling of love You carry on in  
brisk Wait not for the winters  
Summer is chilly with you.*

*Dream* weaves the dramatic thematic view of ‘Dreamlike Reveries’ through its evocative language and vivid imagery. The main theme revolves around the act of telling stories and creating a dreamlike atmosphere. The poet asks the listener to “Keep on telling the tales,” transporting them to distant lands and imagining "towers small and grand" and "ways windy and smooth." In this dreamlike realm, where the boundaries of reality are transcended and imagination soars the dialogical nature of dreams is emphasized by the words “You will stop not / I will be bored no more.” The captivating power of text, suggesting that the listener escapes from the monotony of reality and enters and participates in. Imagining “head in your lap / forever in rest” adds a sense of comfort and peace, contributing to the dreamlike quality of dreams. The poet’s plea to “Keep on lulling dear” and the tactile image of “fingers in my hair” enhances the dreamlike atmosphere and creating an emotional connection then beyond the mere act of storytelling.

### **Reflections on Global Suffering**

Waiting for *Godot-II* depicts the global suffering stemming from war, oppression, and *societal injustices*. The poet uses striking imagery in the poem to illustrate the repercussions of conflict, emphasizing the universal plea for mercy and justice.

*Butchered bodies, scratched faces, All who were killed in undue cases; The ones  
hanged for nothing in war, Or were slaughtered in lands afar.  
The ones put in the murky cell like jar, Brains dashed out with bullets in car.  
Naked skeletons buried without coffins, thrashed chests by the unkind ruffians.  
The souls suffered from dirty smoke, small kids in trash with hands in rope.  
Scratched chests of virgins in croft, gallowed in Delhi, hung aloft.*

*Godot-II* reflects on Global Suffering by providing a vivid picture of the darkness that individuals throughout the world have suffered through. The poet skillfully describes the suffering with stark imagery like ‘butchered bodies’ and ‘slaughtered in lands afar. In inter-conflict’s impact on human lives, the poem highlights the voicelessness of victims enduring unimaginable atrocities. The theme of ‘Injustices and Human Rights Violations’ becomes palpable through depictions of unjust hangings, murky incarcerations, and the ruthless suppression of those advocating for their rights. The portrayal of innocent children in dire situations and the image of ‘ambushed babies of mothers ‘mum’ emphasizes the vulnerability of the most marginalized in the face of global suffering. Introducing the allegorical figure ‘Godot,’ the poem symbolizes apathy, indifference, and divine mockery. The theme of "Apathy and Mockery in the Face of Suffering" suggests that powerful entities, whether nations or individuals, remain unmoved by the plight of the oppressed. The poet critiques empty promises of mercy from those in authority, exposing the hypocrisy in claims of love and justice. The allegorical representation of a microbe causing havoc serves as a metaphor for microscopic yet potent forces capable of wreaking global havoc, causing suffering and social upheaval.

### **Nature’s Resilience**

*Roses in Rain* poetically express through the image of roses braving rain that nature is ceaseless until the ending of the world. The poem praises the natural elements, saying thank you for new growth, moist soil and beautiful surroundings.

*Roses in rain  
Look bold and brave The petals drink water To their fill*

*The rest drops down Drop after drop Like a rosary.  
 The birds in the nest Mutter silently  
 Seem praying on the rosary They chatter in low tones And twitter in treble voice  
 As saying praise to the Lord;  
 Thanking Him  
 for the fresh breeze For new buds  
 For moist soil For fruitful toil  
 And for every thing That forgets to thank.*

In this ‘Creation for Change’, nature-inspired imagery intertwines with the theme of global suffering, symbolizing beauty and resilience through the metaphor of roses in the rain. The poet asserts that in the same way as roses survive after rain, both people and communities can find strength and survive after pandemics. Rain represents nourishment for livings and renewal of life. It comes to replenish energy and cleans away impurity. The drops of rain, like a string of beads or rosary, suggest that growth and decay over time is meditative consideration in the cycles around which life revolves.

### **Symbolism of Masks**

*The poem MASKS* in this pandemic, serve the sole utilitarian purpose. It offers up the differences that arise in social encounters when facial expressions are hidden.

*Masking the faces  
 is more a need than fashion; Covering nostrils and mouth The only inlets in  
 front Allow no particle to enter No particle of dust  
 No smoke or smog No virus or bacteria No hot or chill air The colored masks  
 With patterns and names Printed in all the shades.*

The poem *MASKS*, which develops this theme of masks in modern society acting beyond a mere means to protect the person from disease or injury. Therefore, the central theme says: masks aren’t just a fashion fad; they are an essential protection against all manner of elements. Emphasizing that masking faces is more akin to need than fashion, the poet tags this theme *The Protective Functions of Masks*. This theme emphasizes its importance in protecting individuals from such external particles as dust, smoke, smog and bacterial agents. Therefore, the poem itself reflects masks’ significance in a context of public health and safety.

In her poem *MASKS*, she explores the theme of *Social Dynamics and Differences* as it relates to masks, unravelling its complexities in a slow burn. Thus the focus on eyes and gazes becomes a metaphor for communications breaking down between masked faces. Eyes, pitch and accent are all little differences within a person. This theme implies that although masks can protect, they add a degree of mediation into social relations and how people see others.

Masks are the order of the day, and this poem further examines how adaptable and resilient society can be. People--including little kids wearing masks with a sense of valor--can see from the thematic focus on ‘Bravery and Fearlessness’ that war is being glorified. The poem implies that even though people have to wear masks because of the COVID-19 pandemic, young and old alike deal with this new world order courageously. The thematic exploration extends to the idea that these individuals, masked yet undeterred, can navigate through various challenges, whether they be germs, jerks, or the broader uncertainties of life.

### **Virtual Warfare**

*Keypad Warriors* targets the modern scourge of conflicts in virtual space. It captures words being thrown around online, and how much they can change things.

*A war of words*



*A war of emotions.  
A fierce fight of hatred Goes on and on Bullets are loaded Guns are aligned  
Straight at the target Bombs in hands  
Pins are to pluck up  
Tanks stand naked under the blue sky.*

In *Keypad Warriors*, the poet describes ‘virtual warfare’ and makes a keen observation about battle taking place through digital agents. The central concept is a war fought not with conventional weapons, but rather words and emotional or virtual interchanges. However, the opening lines set the tone for this imagery: one of a war of words and emotions. This can be seen from a thematic perspective; that physical spaces were being gradually replaced by their virtual counterparts in which enemies engage each other with weapons not only brandished on either side but fueled more by hatred than reason.

This imagery of loaded bullets, lined-up guns and hand in hand with bombs turns imaginary exchanges into actual scenes from battle. In the digital landscape, all instruments of war are now metaphorical. The poet points up the different character of modern warfare, in which combatants fight not with arms but pen and tongue. This is relevant to mental health because it emphasizes how virtual contacts and emotional exchanges can elicit strong psychological reactions, much like traditional warfare does.

### **Fauji Foundation and Social Commentary**

*Fauji Foundation* comments on societal priorities, suggesting that the foundation and strength of a building, analogous to societal structures, lie in the collective efforts of its individuals. The poem carries a tone of satire, critiquing the lack of concern for the maintenance of societal well-being.

*The first row of bricks  
In the construction of a building Is significantly significant  
We rarely ignore its strength Some one senior or a saint Makes a start of the  
structure. It is a ritual, a ceremony  
A good omen, a sign of unity The load of all pillars  
The burden of all floors Rests on the very first brick Or on the sacred hand.*

The poem *Fauji Foundation* intertwines themes of social commentary and the role of institutions, particularly the military foundation, in shaping society. The central theme revolves around the significance of the foundational elements in societal structures, using the metaphor of the “first row of bricks” in the construction of a building. This thematic layer of “Symbolism of Foundations” suggests that the initial steps in any societal endeavor are crucial, and the strength and stability of the foundation set the tone for the entire structure. The poem underscores the ritualistic and symbolic nature of this process, highlighting its importance as a good omen and a sign of unity. The poem’s deals with critical scrutiny of social attitudes and conduct. The portrayal of ‘dwellers’ who live luxuriously, is a sardonic comment on social apathy. The poet points out the decay and neglect that follow, seen here in chipping paint, crumbling masonry walls thick with mildew, overflowing taps (as clean water is no longer technically available), smashed-in lawns. Poet pinpoints that through the theme of “Societal Neglect and Apathy,” we can also understand why people, after initially experiencing a symbolic unity in being gathered together for the foundational ceremony then fall back into indifference.

### **Embodiment of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Poems**

M. R. Gohar’s *Yellow Leaves* contains a number of poems about the Covid-19 pandemic which offer up many unique views and feelings.

### **Love in the Time of Corona**

The poem describes the meaning of love in a time like this, touching on difficulties brought about by social distancing. The addition of emojis and memories from a bygone era as well, make you feel like nostalgia is creeping into your body. In the face of such constraints, this poem proclaims love remains possible even in fear's presence.

### **Weekends at Pittsburg**

This poem is a picture of the vibrant pre-pandemic social life and provides an eye opener for what life is really like now the image of the dance halls, flashing lights and warm weekend captures that bursting vitality which has been subdued by Covid-19. The theme implies a collective desire to escape the pressures of work for a day or two and forget about those caused by the pandemic.

### **All that Matters...**

The poem, with sincerity and relationships at its center, traces the internal boundaries in this time of pandemic. The plea for 'gigantic leaps' and 'hopes like heaps' underscores the resilience required to bridge emotional distances. The poem suggests that, despite the challenges, relationships can endure and even strengthen over time, emphasizing the significance of sincerity in human connections.

### **New Horizons**

This poem introduces the theme of exploring new horizons during the pandemic. The freshness and softness described in the verses evoke a sense of hope and renewal. The poet encourages cherishing moments and overcoming the challenges presented by the pandemic, symbolized by the "new mate on the vast bays."

### **Reveries**

*Reveries* tells dreamlike tales of distant lands, providing an escape from the harsh realities of the pandemic. The poem suggests finding solace in storytelling, lulling each other with memories and jokes. The reference to summer being "chilly with you" implies a source of warmth and comfort amid the pandemic-induced isolation.

### **Waiting for Godot-II**

This poem offers a stark portrayal of global suffering during the pandemic. It describes the atrocities and injustices faced by various individuals, drawing attention to the widespread impact. The reference to waiting for Godot, who claims to love but remains indifferent, symbolizes the helplessness and disillusionment experienced by many during the pandemic.

### **Roses in Rain**

"Roses in Rain" captures the beauty and resilience of nature amidst the pandemic. The imagery of bold and brave roses drinking water symbolizes the ability to thrive despite challenges. The birds in the nest praying in low tones express gratitude for the simple joys, emphasizing the importance of appreciating life amid adversity.

### **MASKS**

Addressing the need for masks during the pandemic, the poem explores the societal shift where faces are covered, and differences are made through the eyes. The poem reflects on the challenges posed by masks while highlighting the bravery and fearlessness of individuals, especially children, facing the pandemic head-on.

### **Keypad Warriors**

This poem offers the virtual war of phrases and feelings, representing the heightened tensions and conflicts at some point of the pandemic. The employment of army imagery and the allusion to the art of war accentuates the intensity of on line battles, mirroring the emotional toll of extended isolation.

## **Fauji Foundation**

In *Fauji Foundation*, there may be an observation on societal structures and the function of institutions, in particular focusing on the military basis, during the pandemic. The poem underscores the importance of preliminary steps in societal endeavors and introduces a layer of social remark on forget and decay within society. This is juxtaposed with the active position of establishments in keeping order. Those poems together make up a multifaceted exploration of the effects that Covid-19 has wrought on various aspects of life. Kicking off from the non-public to society and ultimately international, this poem offers a pretty snapshot of all sorts of stories along with challenges unleashed by way of this plague.

## **Findings**

The thematic analysis of ten selected poems from M. R. Gohar's *Yellow Leaves* reveals delicate explorations into the impact on many facets of human life caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown in Pakistan as well, including public safety or lack of it. Gohar portrays the emotional and social dimensions of this unprecedented pandemic. Everyone in Covid-19 experiences numerous changes and tribulations, and Gohar depicts in *Love in the Time of Coronavirus* how everyone--from regular residents to government officials, from spouses to wives has experienced various transformations in these unusual times. *Love at the Time of Coronavirus* beautifully describes the need for physical intimacy in the face of limitations. Emoji and snap photos are creative replacements that aim to overcome emotional gaps. *Time of Coronavirus* carry a sense of vintage for the pre-pandemic tech, however admit that along with such possible upheaval we will see transformations in terms of the dynamics among people. In pandemic days both poems, *Waiting for Godot-II* and *Keypad Warriors* provide an invaluable representation of the world. Gohar highlights the social, political and monetary issues complicated by pandemic using powerful metaphors and allegories. Gohar's *Yellow Leaves* is a unique literary piece of literature portraying the numerous different responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. Gohar's poetry offers a therapeutic means for dealing with difficult emotions and restores continuity and consistency in a time of crises. In addition to enhancing our comprehension of pandemic literature, this thematic richness reinforces the value of poetry as a means of promoting resilience emotionally and mental health assistance in challenging circumstances. The poet interweaves individual experiences with broader social story, providing readers a comprehensive picture of the wrenching impact of global calamity.

## **Discussion**

*Yellow Leaves* meticulously describes individual and collective experiences in pandemic era. Through his poems about crisis of Covid-19 pandemics, Gohar reflects how human relationships has fallen apart lading to emergence of new ways of communication. This work exposes the socio-political effects of a trend sweeping across the globe and reminds one how prophetic is your poet's social commentary. Through personal stories with the larger social picture, Gohar produces a rich corpus of work that not only documents all aspects of this complex phenomenon but also bears powerful testimony to human courage and tenacity in adversity.

## **Conclusions**

*Yellow Leaves* offers a poignant exploration of the lived experiences of individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Yellow Leaves* reveals the societal dimensions and the shared human condition that emerged during this unparalleled crisis. The anthology serves as a mirror, reflecting the collective consciousness of a populace navigating through uncharted territories. Gohar's artistic methodology transcends the individual sphere, offering a profound reflection on the challenges faced when traditional boundaries between home and the external world blur. The anthology captures not only the emotional nuances but also the societal dimensions embedded within this crisis, making it a sensitive and thought-provoking mirror for readers to

contemplate their own experiences. *Yellow Leaves* is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, inviting readers to empathize and find solace in the shared narratives of human endurance amidst the tumultuous upheavals of the COVID-19 era.

### Recommendations

Looking at Gohar's poetry, one gets to know how world literature addresses global calamities. Even in pandemic poems confront the personal and social narratives with distinctive freshness. When Analyzing Literature by scholars and literature enthusiasts, it is helpful to bring together different cultural perspectives. Among the interdisciplinary methods are sociology or psychology; using them to analyze intricately undiscovered links between allusions in a novel and historical events such as the Covid-19 pandemic makes human comprehension richer than ever before. The present investigation serves as a guide for understanding how literature reflects and reshapes our common consciousness in times of crisis. It thus lays the scene for a thorough investigation of how poets and novelists illuminate human life in difficult circumstances. Working through other poems from a synthetic viewpoint brings us to the Wei dynasty (235-674 A.D.) and, with it, an all-around understanding of how literature observes troubled times in consequence we are standing atop just one step of many potential maps for research that lie ready to unfold widely before our eyes endless lines being woven by white.

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