characteristics of modern culture is the causality based something bad. On the other hand, one of the believe that God will punish them if they do believe in the marriage.

The traditional and modern ideas of: causality, education, fashion, gender, self-position, and marriage.  

a. Causality

The traditional people such as Mariam and Laila believe in the causality under the laws of karma. They believe that God will punish them if they do something bad. On the other hand, one of the characteristics of modern culture is the causality based on science. It is represented by the character of Jalil and Rasheed.

b. Education

The traditional people such as Nana, do not give much attention to the education. In contrast, the modern people such as Hakim, Laila, and Zaman, appreciate the importance of education as a tool for the development of science and technology.  

For example;

“Learn? Learn what, Mullah sahib?” Nana said sharply. “What’s there to learn?” She snapped her eyes towards Mariam…”What’s the sense schooling a girl like you? It’s like shining a spittoon. And you’ll learn nothing of value in those schools. There is only one skill a woman like you and me needs in life, and they do not teach it in school. Look at me.”...

“Only one skill. And it’s this tahamul. Endure.”  

Discussion. Mariam later was in her life able to connect more with her mother and the guilty feeling

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that she left her mother for Jalil only to be betrayed and ultimate suicide had left a deep impact in Mariam’s life. She has always tried to protect Mariam in the best of her capability. But one mistake she did was not sending Mariam to school. That became the biggest drawback and hurdles for Mariam’s growth and development. When Mullah Faizullah insisted that Mariam should go to school Nana out rightly rejected the idea of sending her daughter to school.

“Endure” the words echoes in the ears of Mariam later in her life. Though, hearing the words sounded harsh for those who are reading the inner line meaning that Nana wanted to convey is quite true. Nana knew that women like her have no value in the Afghan society and ultimately they have the power to endure the harsh treatment of the men. Later Mariam remember her mother word “Endure” which works like an ointment healing the wound that Rasheed inflicted everyday of her married life with her grief over Mariam’s execution. Laila and Tariq build a new life in Kabul. Laila becomes a schoolteacher, and works in the orphanage where Aziza once lived. And when Laila becomes pregnant, she decides that if she has a girl, she’ll name her Mariam.

da. Gender
The traditional people such as Nana, Rasheed ,and Fariba, believe that women and men have the different right and task. But in the society men decided everything while women were under the control.
For instance;

“May God grant you a long a prosperous life, my daughter.”

This quote is an effective example of irony because Jalil’s wish for Mariam does not come true, as his daughter dies at the hands of the Taliban.

On the other hand, modern people such as Hakim and Shanzai, believe to the gender equality.

e. Self-position
Jalil and his family (especially the wives) are the representatives of the traditional culture since they suppose that someone’s position is determined by the birth or rank (ascribed status). On the contrary, in the modern culture, self-position is determined by skill, wisdom, knowledge (achieved status). People do not automatically get their status because of their births or ranks. It is depicted by the way of Hakim gets his status.

f. Marriage
In Afghanistan, arranged or underage marriage, or even marry with someone who has far different age is considered as something ordinary. Nana, Jalil and his wives, Rasheed, and Hasima’s father agree with it.

For example;

“You can’t spend the rest of your life here” ...

was the verdict they gave when she said that she is not ready for marriage.

The wives of Jalil condemn and look down upon Mariam and treated her like dirt. They hurried married her off to Rasheed knowing the fact Mariam was only fifteen years old like their own daughter. They could have given her education and little space in their big home. Rasheed was forty –five years old a widower. They did not make the brief stay comfortable for Mariam. Thus, the three wives sealed the fate of Mariam. Women sometimes are responsible for the sufferings of other women. Rather than becoming a source of support and solidarity, they turn out to be the oppressor.

Physical abuse is present throughout the course of the novel and Laila and Mariam suffer constantly with the abuse. It starts off as one violent action that leads to another and before you know it has turned into a vicious cycle. In A Thousand Splendid Suns there is an enormous amount of physical violence. Rasheed who is Mariam and Laila’s husband is the most authoritative character and is always trying to control Mariam and Laila. He is the most abusive character in the whole novel. When we first meet Rasheed he appears to be a gentle and caring young man who seems to treat Mariam decently. There are no signs of him being an abuser. After Mariam loses the baby his attitude changes and he is no longer the man we thought he was. Rasheed physically abuses Mariam countless times throughout the novel. An example is when he doesn’t like Mariam’s cooking he makes her chew pebbles. His powerful hands clasped her jaw.

For example;

Rasheed blames Mariam for Laila withholding sex. He comes into her room and beats her, but Laila physically stops him.

“No! Don’t do this!”

“Now!”

Rasheed raised the belt again and this time came at Mariam. Then an astonishing thing happened: The girl lunged at him. She grabbed his arm with both hands and tried to drag him down, but she could no more than dangle from it. She did succeed in slowing Rasheed’s progress towards Mariam.

“You win. You win. Don’t do this. Please, Rasheed, no beating! Please don’t do this.”

Though the marriage between her and Rasheed has worsened the condition of Mariam, but later it did

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5 Rhoades. Sh. L. Gender Inequality During The War Period.- New York.: State Press, 1999.-P. 123.
turn out to be a good for Mariam. Whenever there was
problem between Laila and Rasheed, Mariam used to
pay for it. One fateful night when Rasheed was
beating Mariam with belt, Laila came up in rescue of
Mariam:

When Laila enters in the life of Mariam, she was
already harden and was just living life without any
meaning. Laila is different from Mariam. She is
educated and quite confident with her thinking as well
as her body. When she agreed to marry Rasheed, she
was only fourteen and completely aware what she is
asking for in the marriage. She wanted to protect the
child that was conceived out of the wedlock with her
beloved Tariq. She knew very well that without her
parents and her beloved she will have hard time living
alone in Kabul. Laila became a companion in bearing
the physical, psychological and sexual torture of
Rasheed.

The whole episode had a great impact upon Laila
as well as Mariam. Mariam for the first time in her life
found someone who stood for her. Laila on the other
hand stood up for someone since she cannot bear
injustice. With this a new bond was formed between
Mariam and Laila, thus bringing them together, a
sisterhood in struggle. Lalia tries to run away from
Rasheed’s house only to be brought back by the
police.

The women depicted in the novel are from
devastated war zone area, where people are struggling
to meet their ends meet. In spite of the fact that they
are not sure when the next bomb is coming, male
chauvinism still prevail. Through Nana, Mariam and
Laila, the pathetic inner life of the Afghan women is
depicted. Mariam and Nana have accepted the
subjugation and oppression and hiding their voice, But
ultimately, Mariam in voicing out for Laila, she found
her inner strength and for once she was her own
master in killing Rasheed in order to save Laila. Women
need to voice out and work together to bring
about changes. One should not be a passive receiver
of the crime being committed upon them. The novel
ends with the hope that Laila might bring about certain
changes, running away is not a solution. But fighting
against the unwanted subjugation and oppression is
the solution.

The main discrimination the women character
undergoes through the patriarchal norms in the novel
are Sexual violence and physical abuse in the name of
marriage, subjugation and subordinate by force
marriage, preference of boy child over girl baby, women
are not allowed to walk freely without an
escort or her husband. Stereotype that women are
weak, submissive should obey husband irrespective of
illogical demands, Marginalization from education
and medical facilities when Laila was denied medical
assistant during the birth of her second baby.

The stringent social norms of women especially
in Afghanistan with reference to the novel are
responsible for the maximum atrocities. The
oppression depicted in the novel is not necessary of
Kabul only. This kind of a story of crime against
women is same everywhere. Subjugation and
oppression upon women is and aged old story but it is
still relevant today. The love and companionship they
had for each other became the source of strength.
“Sisterhood” among women can be a strong weapon
to fight against injustice, violence and atrocities
against women in general. Women have long been
silence and it is time to wake up, A Thousand Splendid
Suns is one such among many works of literature that
voice for women solidarity.

Conclusion. After analyzing social issues in A
Thousand Splendid Suns novel written by Khaled
Hosseini, we came up to the following conclusions:

1. The representations of the traditional and
modern cultures are classified into five categories:
ideas, activities (social practices), artifacts, symbols,
and keywords. The characteristics of the modern
culture such as: the rational thinking, the freedom,
the right technology using which is situated with
society, the achieved status, and the science-based
causality. On the other hand, the characteristics of
the traditional culture such as: the inequality on
gender, the ascribed status, and the karma-based
causality.

2. The conflicts between the traditional and
modern cultures are described by the conflicts which
happen within the characters in A Thousand Splendid
Suns novel.

3. There is relation between the production of
the novel and the social reality which is the openness
of American society to allow the authors from the
third world to write about their homelands or to
respond to the events which occur in it.

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