

Rural Imaginations In Bollywood Cinema: A Critical Literature Review On Narratives, Representation And Socio-Cultural Discourses

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Abstract

The Indian film industry, especially Bollywood, has consistently mirrored society, showcasing its varied cultures, traditions, and socio-economic conditions. Although urban-centric tales prevail in mainstream cinema, Bollywood has also created notable films that depict rural India, highlighting its challenges, ambitions, and distinctive lifestyle. This study does an exhaustive literature assessment of Bollywood films depicting rural narratives, examining their themes, narrative strategies, and socio-cultural influence. The study examines the evolution of rural narratives, the stereotypes and genuine representations, and the impact of these films on public perception and policy. This paper analyses significant films, academic articles, and critical reviews to elucidate the influence of cinema on the formation and documentation of rural India's identity.

Keywords

Bollywood, Cinema, Rural India.

1. I] Introduction

Movies are an essential component of life. When discussing films, we consider their economic and financial aspects and their impact on young people and individuals of various age groups.

It is widely recognized that watching films can shape one's outlook on life, whether in mainstream or independent productions. Recently, the proliferation and popularity of OTT platforms, web series, and OTT movies have made Cinema an integral part of the daily lives of millions of individuals.

Once mediums such as film are incorporated into the daily routines of millions, they can certainly influence their lifestyles and decisions. Films are social catalysts as they can bring about social change and transformation and can also wreak havoc in a community.

It is well recognized that entertainment has the potential to effect social change and promote harmony and peace among the working class. Psychologically, films are a highly significant and profound form of media and communication that directly influences people's level of

happiness. As individuals engage in more entertainment, they enhance their mental readiness for daily physical labour. Consequently, increased individual productivity contributes to the overall progress of the nation. When discussing films, we are not only referring to a particular group of people but also considering the diverse divisions of the population and their demographic and psychological characteristics.

The Indian population is categorized into many segments, and one of the most significant segments is rural India, which vitally contributes in the nation's empowerment and growth. It is of utmost importance to thoroughly comprehend films' influence on rural life.

This is an important and advanced segment of the population which participates in the economic development of the country. The rural part of India, commonly referred to as 'countryside' or a 'village', is the centre of agro-based cottage industries like fishing, agriculture, and pottery. Rural India has its own definition based on different criterion by different agencies.

The Planning Commission limits population to 15,000, while the panchayat is the central working authority. Rural India significantly contributes to India's GDP through sectors such as agriculture, self-employment, services, and construction.

Currently, the rural population constitutes 33% of the overall Indian FMCG sales. Despite facing challenges like poverty, social difficulties, and rapid economic progress, rural India's attributes are transforming due to a decrease in multidimensional poverty.

The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) of NITI Aayog presents a compelling accomplishment narrative, from 2015–16 to 2019–21 as of now, poverty is gradually diminishing. The additional benefit of receiving this cash necessitates the measurement of the incidence and intensity (or severity) of poverty. These two combine to provide an aggregate measurement of multidimensional poverty.

II] Review of Literature

Bollywood's depiction of rural India often intertwines narratives of economic struggles, cultural traditions, and gender roles, reflecting the complex socio-political landscape of the country. These films serve as a cultural mirror, highlighting the challenges and resilience of rural communities. The portrayal of rural life in Bollywood is multifaceted, addressing issues such as caste discrimination, gender inequality, and economic hardships, while also celebrating cultural traditions and community bonds. Below are key aspects of how Bollywood films depict these themes:

Economic Struggles

Films like "Do Beegha Zameen" illustrate the economic hardships faced by rural communities, focusing on the struggles of peasant families against oppressive landlords and the impact of urban migration on rural livelihoods. (Phutela, 2013)

The portrayal of economic struggles is also evident in the depiction of labor contracts and the exploitation of landless laborers, particularly women, who face significant challenges in securing fair wages and employment. (Wadley & Kapadia, 1997)

Cultural Traditions

Bollywood often romanticizes rural life, showcasing vibrant cultural traditions and community festivals. However, these depictions can sometimes gloss over the underlying socio-economic issues. (Singh & Ghatode, 2024)

Cultural traditions and values are central to rural narratives, with stories often depicting the serene and simple way of life in villages. These narratives preserve the rich cultural heritage of rural India, showcasing the customs, superstitions, and religious practices that define rural communities. (Rao & Mani, K. R. S., 2022)

Gender Roles

The portrayal of women in rural settings often reflects patriarchal norms, with films like "Dor" and "Parched" exploring women's struggles against societal expectations and their journey towards empowerment. (Md Ismail & Sinha Roy, 2019)

Gender roles in rural narratives are complex and multifaceted, often highlighting the intersectionality of caste, class, and patriarchy. Films and literature explore the challenges faced by women in rural settings, addressing issues of gender dynamics and the struggle for empowerment. (trivedi, 2023)

The depiction of gender roles also includes the examination of kinship and marriage practices, which are influenced by caste and economic factors, further complicating the social fabric of rural communities. (Wadley & Kapadia, 1997)

Bollywood has increasingly begun to challenge traditional gender roles, with films depicting women breaking free from oppressive structures and asserting their agency. (Chaudhuri S. , 2014)

Caste Dynamics

Caste remains a significant theme in rural narratives, with films like "Sairat" and "Karnan" addressing the violence and discrimination faced by lower-caste communities in rural India.

(Harad, 2023)(Sepeng, 2023)

While Bollywood films have made strides in portraying the complexities of rural life, they often face criticism for perpetuating stereotypes or oversimplifying issues. The industry's focus on entertainment can sometimes overshadow the nuanced realities of rural struggles, leading to a portrayal that is both reflective and reductive of the true socio-economic and cultural dynamics in rural India.

(Reddy, 1985)listed the following characteristics as the hallmarks of Indian Rural Society.

The village in India functions as a unified social and cultural entity and has a largely consistent organizational structure and value system. The entire rural region of India is impacted by numerous variables.

A village's character and structure are greatly influenced by the ethnicity, language, religion, and caste makeup of its residents. Caste influences social and economic interactions, with occupations organized according to traditional hierarchies. Cooperative labour among different castes is essential for socio-religious aspects of life. Each village has its legal framework, governing bodies, and penalty administration methods. The panchayat, an increasing entity, was initially based on local customs but is now regularly formed by Panchayat Raj norms. In some dimensions of life, women and men are not completely equal. The agriculture of a certain region in India provides the economic base, and land and property have social as well as establish value. The villages' socio-psychological framework is moulded out of social seclusion, spatial remoteness, and contemporary avenues for travel and communication.

Indian cinema is often seen as a representation of public culture, addressing the interconnections between India's high, elite, and low mass socioeconomic structures. However, popular culture, as defined by Stuart Hall, is more rigid and in tension with the dominant culture. Public culture in India is not uniform but caters to a variety of viewers, including the middle class, small towns, and rural Indian masses. Films like Deewaar, Hum Aapke Hai Koun, and Ashis Nandy's perspective from the slum all contribute to this diverse public culture. (Singh S. , IJAP)

India has one of the biggest and liveliest film industries globally, producing between 1500 and 2000 films annually. Indian cinema considered among the biggest box offices globally, with around 12 million people watching these films every day. India produces almost one out of every five motion pictures. Its people's rich history and diverse culture are two of the reasons its films have become well-known throughout the world. (Tulla, 2023)

The movie industry has changed to give the general public a strong platform for communication. It has developed into a link between societal realities and personal aspirations, business concerns, and individualistic goals, making it a fundamental mode of oral humanistic communication that can open our eyes to new perspectives on life (Jain, 2002)

III] Research Design

The aim of this research is to review the literature on the varied notions of films representing rural India. This research is studying the quality and type of representations of films representing rural India. Along with understanding the patterns and themes of social, cultural, economic significance, it is also being done to formulate understanding about the content available about the films and their impact on rural India.

A] Aim/ statement of problem: To understand how scholars represent rural India, to evaluate the patterns, themes of rural cinematic content by evaluating the analysis of scholarly and academic writings.

B] Research Objectives:

- To map out the development of rural depiction in Bollywood cinema over the years, including major theme changes across decades.
- To assess the major inconsistent stereotypes alongside the genuine depiction of rural India in Bollywood cinema.
- To understand the socio-political intersections of caste, agrarian crisis, gender, and governance within rural narratives in Bollywood cinema.
- To analyse the portrayal of rural life in Bollywood on regional Indian cinema and determine the level of authenticity in the narrations.

C] Research Questions

- What are the most prominent stereotypes in the depiction of the countryside in Bollywood cinema, and how do they shape the understanding of the audience regarding rural life?
- In what ways do Bollywood films address actual socio-political topics related to rural India (e.g., farmer suicides, caste discrimination, migration, etc.)?
- How does the authenticity and the level of detail in Bollywood's representation of rural India compare with the regional Indian cinema?

D] Research Methodology

This study adopts a Qualitative approach, with referencing and evaluating the available review of literature and by practicing the content analysis the study is evaluating the themes and patterns of rural depicting by demonstrating the evaluation of scholarly articles, research papers and books.

Baes on the readings the study will also provide the findings and conclusions based on the researchers point of view.

IV] Content analysis

“Rural Social Culture of India,” details how the social culture of India centres around villages. To put it simply, a village is a group of people where relatives dwell in order to support each other and live peacefully. Socio-religious deep culture is associated with profound faith oriented toward some divinity. They do practice the social unit of peasants as the primary source of income but these social units can also be referred to as the fundamental domains for rural civilization. Concentrating on these units, nuclear families form due to the growth of population, they have some degree of control over their dependents. In rural societies, social members are dominated by jati, samaj, and panchayats. The rural societies listed below have these features: demographic homogeneity, were relatively small with a semblance of a population but without having equilibrium, and were close to the nature had minimal social mobility, joint families, taboos, social classes, and occupations.

Psychological Analysis of Rural India

The overall estimate of the treatment gap in common mental disorders which include anxiety and depressive disorders stands at 5.1% and a treatment gap of 80.4% according to National Mental Health Survey.

When seeking out mental health services, people with mental health issues encounter numerous obstacles.(2016)

Recently, the Indian government unveiled three initiatives aimed at expanding the availability, accessibility, and community involvement of mental health services. Primary healthcare facilities are converted into health and wellness centres (HWCs) under the Ayushman Bharat initiative, which includes features for screening mental health conditions.

The PM-JAY scheme is a government sponsored health program aimed at providing health insurance coverage to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society. The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) incorporates digital health records, the other one promotes research, and seeks to ensure continuity of care. Self-help groups are quite important in the overarching structure of health related community in India. Mental healthcare users are treated with cultural and social customs towards health-seeking behaviour.(Mhapatra & Shekhar sheshadri, 2023)

“Based on findings from the National Mental Health Survey(National Mental Health survey, 2016), it is estimated that about 70 to 80 percent of the Indian population live in rural areas where healthcare facilities are inadequate. In India, only one out of twenty-seven people will seek help for a mental health issue. Furthermore, around 10% of the general population suffers from Common Mental Disorders (CMD). Mental health services are needed by 150 million people in India.

Even though primary healthcare centres have made medical care more accessible and affordable, they continue to fall short in meeting the needs of non-communicable disease patients, and those at risk.”

The survey indicated that the burden of mental health disorders is more common in urban cities, as compared to rural areas, with urban cities having a prevalence of 2-3 times greater. Along the lines of the previous statement, it surfaced that mental problems are significantly greater in urban regions with a prevalence of 2-3 times higher than in rural areas. There is a need for further empirical data on the prevalence and impact of mental diseases, especially in rural regions.

Rural India faces numerous challenges, including mental health issues, which are often stigmatized and marginalized due to societal attitudes, cultural norms, and traditional beliefs. The Indian Journal of Psychiatry found that nearly 80% of rural participants believed mental illness was more often attributed to supernatural influences than medical factors. This social stigma perpetuates the cycle of suffering and seclusion.

Limited availability of mental health services in rural areas is another significant barrier. Only 10-12% of rural inhabitants who require mental healthcare have the appropriate resources, primarily due to the scarcity of mental health professionals, primarily concentrated in urban areas.

Children and mothers in rural areas are particularly vulnerable to mental health conditions, with their psychological burden intensified by lack of agency, domestic violence, and gender-based discrimination. Depression is prevalent among rural women, linked to their lower social status and less independence in decision-making. The socioeconomic factors applying in the context of poverty, inadequate education, high unemployment rates, and limited availability of basic services, further aggravate the issue of mental wellness in rural areas of India. These disorders have fertile ground due to increased unemployment in rural areas. (Kallakuri, , S., Devarapalli, S., Tripathi, & A. P., Patel, A., & Maulik, P. K. , 2018)

Multiple studies have consistently demonstrated the scarcity of mental health facilities in rural areas of India.

According to a survey performed by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), only 10-12% of rural residents who needed mental healthcare services were able to access them. The primary reason for this inadequate access is the sparse distribution of mental health service providers like psychologists and psychiatrists, who are predominantly located in urban centres.

It has been acknowledged that teenage mental health issues are a significant problem in low-income nations like India. According to the 2011 Census, there are an estimated 253 million adolescents in

India, or 21% of the total population. Nonetheless, there is a mismatch between the services and needs for mental health among teenagers in India.

There are fewer epidemiological studies on teenage mental health issues in India than in western nations. The frequency of mental health issues in adolescents varies greatly among Indian epidemiological studies, ranging from 2 to 63%. (Rajkumar, Grace, & Sri Lakshmi K.)

What are the obstacles to the progress of rural India?

Rural India faces several challenges, including socioeconomic deprivation, underemployment, seasonal employment, agricultural distress, migration and urbanization, substance addiction and mental health disorders, infrastructure deficiencies, and climate change. Widespread poverty, restricted critical services, and uneven allocation of resources hinder the equitable progress of development. Underemployment and seasonal employment result from a scarcity of viable non-farm employment opportunities, while agricultural distress arises from heavy dependence on agriculture, exposing them to risks such as crop failures, unpredictable weather, unstable markets.

Migration and urbanization also contribute to the erosion of cultural heritage, increased social seclusion, scarcity of workforce, and land division. Urbanization offers specific benefits, such as improved market accessibility, innovation, financial support, and enhanced connectedness. Substance addiction and mental health disorders are prevalent among adolescents and adults in rural areas, leading to adverse consequences for safety, social interactions, productivity, and well-being.

Lack of road networks, electricity, and telephone infrastructure all stand as examples of poor infrastructure in distant areas. Numerous rural communities face limited access to basic needs such as drinking water and healthcare. Rural communities are severely affected by climate shifts such as droughts, floods, and heat waves. These changes cause harm to local biodiversity and negatively impact farmers and pastoralists, whose livelihoods depend on the affected biodiversity.

(WOTR, 2023)(Sarda, HISTORY OF INDIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT, 2023)(Sharma D. S., 2023)

A] The impact of movies on human behaviour

Movies can have a number of benefits, including promoting logical thinking, educating people, minimizing violence and breaking down stereotypes. For instance, young viewers can learn more about how things work in science fiction films which are often placed in speculative fiction genre. Lastly when it comes to the scientific subjects that are not easy for understanding visuals assist in remembering details.

This kind of thinking by movie producers has given rise to an increased love for education among children. The most viewed movies are dramas that can be used by children to behave like different characters hence fostering independent thinking and good judgment. Nonetheless, explicit violence and aggressive behaviour may influence the conduct of young people leading to lesser sensitivity towards real life violence.

In addition to this media's portrayal of perfect lives and looks may lead to poor self-image and unrealistic goals. Again, bad examples portrayed in movies may popularize bad habits such as drug addiction, bullying or crime.

Stereotypes have a way of creating misconceptions and misconstruing events since some films can serve as misrepresentations on social matters or cultural behaviours thereby end up perpetuating stereotypes among societies. Generally, however, films can help foster critical thinking skills independent thought processes better appreciation for learning itself. (Jaffe, 2007)(JANICKE, 2016)(Roberts, 2023)

B] Contributions of Rural India to India's Economic Development.

Infrastructure and the economy alongside the rural sector development significantly contributes to the country's progress. Agriculture predominantly defines India's economy, with rural areas serving as the engine of the nation's agricultural production and advancement from the colonial times. In consideration of the nation's economy, Rural India is important for agricultural output, skilled workforce and labour supply for several industries, and as a major contributor of income and employment for the secondary and tertiary services.

Rural India is the backbone of the country in many fields such as agriculture, working, entertainment industry, offering services, politics and business. I aim to show the significance of the rural India for the economic development of the nation. Bharat should strategically stimulate and invest into its domestic industries to reach an economy with a 5 trillion GDP by 2025.

Most densely populated areas of Bharat are the rural ones, which harbour 70% of the nation's workforce, and 46% of the country's total income. India's national income is boosted by approximately 50% from rural economy, and over two-thirds of the jobs in India are sourced from rural areas. In addition, more than half of the value added in the manufacturing sector is supplied by rural areas.

India's rural economy is more dependent on the agricultural sector than any other industry, with most of the population working in agriculture. In 2018, The Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) underlined the importance of the rural economy and agriculture with regard to job creation. The 2022 Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) reported a 22.6% increase in crop production net revenue since 2014. This demonstrates a notable advancement in the agricultural sector, which accounted for 18.8% of the country's Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2021-22. India's agriculture sector is witnessing rapid growth, including animal husbandry, dairying, and fisheries. From this sector, the percentage contribution of India's exports was 12.7% in the year 2017-18, 11.8% in 2018-19, and decreased to 10.6% in 2019-20. Food and related products imports accounted for 4.4%, 3.2%, and 3.3% in the years 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20, respectively. Alongside other industries suffering from a 28% downturn, the agriculture sector recorded a 3.4% gain during the COVID-19 pandemic. The exceptional monsoon of FY 21, full reservoirs, expanded sown area for kharif crops, bolstered MGNREGS, along with other welfare schemes drove growth. Fuelled by rising rural spending, the economy is now more appealing for investment, further fuelling the expected recovery. (2021-22)(Nitiyog, 2017-18)(Chand, S. K Srivastava, & Jaspal Singh, 2017)

C] The Cinema of rural India (Understanding the cinematic representation or rural India within the lens of Scholarly reviews.)

I] Nishant

Directed by Shyam Benegal Nishant stood as a landmark in Indian Parallel Cinema, putting forth a vivid picture of feudal oppression, socio political dynamics of rural India and gender biased violence. Established in 1945 Telangana, this narrative centres on the kidnapping of a schoolteacher's wife by a rich zamindar family which triggers a violent uprising. (2021)

Historical Background and Real-Life sources of inspiration

Taking a reflection from the feudal systems in pre-independence India, Nishant finds itself inspiring from a real incident in Hyderabad. Influenced and motivated by the peasant movement of Telangana, Benegal reflected the systematic exploitation of power by Landlords and ensuing social disturbance. The movie added layers of contemporary relevance by representing state oppression and censorship and paralleling the Naxalite campaigns.(2013)

Academic Reception and Positive outcomes

Nishant won the 1977 National film Award for the best Feature Film in Hindi and was nominated for the Palme d'Or AT THE 1976 Cannes Film festival, critically lauded for examining the narrative with feminist film theories, the film is praised for its unbiased depiction of patriarchal control and objectification of women. The film highlighted the suffering of underprivileged and helped to drive the debate on gender and power relations. (2025)

Negative Consequences and Major Issues.

Nishant faced criticism for the graphic depiction of sexual violence and portrayal of women as passive victims. The film advances patriarchal narrative by denying female characters agency or voice to challenge their suffering. The film's conclusion which shows a bloody mob revolt, also prompts questions about the representation of justice and the possible glorification of vigilantism. (2015)

The concepts of feminist film theory and the male gaze are interconnected.

Projecting the Laura Mulvey's concept of the male gaze, Asma Hashmi critiques the films representation women. Sushila drawn out from the patriarchal ideas is represented as a passive victim. The film's narrative structure and cinematography's plays on the concept of women as an object of male desire without agency or voice. This paper underscores the films portrayal of society that accepts women's exploitation and transforms their suffering into communal amusement. (Hashmi, 2020)

Temporal Setting and Historical Context

Nikhila H. studies the film's 1945 setting, which she understands that it indicates towards a turning point for Indian society. Praising the films criticism of ongoing feudal systems she quotes that benegal supports a move towards a more secular and egalitarian society by placing the story into historic settings. Need for social transformation is presented by linking the past with present. (Chaudhury & samaddar, 2024)

Cinematic techniques and visual storytelling.

Shyam benegal employs visual components to add a significant depth to storytelling and narration. Nishant becomes immersive into rural life with the help of natural lighting, basic editing and realistic environments. These methods build a foundation for the audience by emphasising the sociopolitical issues allowing them to interact strongly with the characters battles and the oppressive surroundings they inhabit. (Panda, Kishore, & Sori, 2023)

Societal Complicity and Moral Ambiguity

The movie represents moral ambiguity. The films provide the perspectives of Villagers first indifference and final violent rebellion, mirroring their great rage and felling of injustice in their society. The arbitrariness of revolt, which kills both oppressors and innocents, emphasises the tumultuous effects of repressed rage and the difficulties in attaining justice. (2015)

II] Rudaali

Positive Impacts and Cultural Significance

Being India's official entry for the 66th Academy awards' Best Foreign Language Film Category Rudaali presents itself as a significant movie in Indian parallel cinema. Directed by Kalpana Lajmi it is based on the story of Mahasweta Devi in 1979. Set in rural Rajasthan the film depicts the story of Sanichari, a lower caste woman who works as a rudaali, or a professional mourner, for upper caste families. This story offers a thorough analysis of the oppression of caste, gender and class in rural India.

Scholarly views and Academic Assessments

Film by Feminist tears and Semantics Discourse

In their feminist analysis of Rudaali, Reetmoni Das and Dr. Devarshi Prasad Nath emphasize how the movie amplifies the voices of oppressed women. They argue that Lajmi transforms mourning into a pragmatic form of resistance, allowing Sanichari to express grief which has been suffered over the years and reaffirm who she is by challenging patriarchal norms and stereotypes. Subaltern gets platform for presenting their voice. (Nath & Das, 2014)

Social Inclusion and Cultural studies

Shalini D. and Alamelu C. analyse the cultural aspects depicted in Rudaali particularly analysing the Ganju community subjugation. Their study highlights how caste and gender intersect to maintain social exclusion, underscoring the movie's portrayal of lower caste women's systematic marginalization. (Deenadayalan, Shalini.D , & C, Alamelu. , 2022)

Gender Dynamics and the Socioeconomic Framework.

The relationship between gender and socioeconomic factors is examined by the transformation of protagonist into a rudaali as a sign of empowerment and resistance against structural oppression, while showcasing how poverty and caste hierarchies exacerbate the oppression of women. (Shekhawat, 2016)

The Viewpoint and Representation of Subalterns

Analysing Rudaali using postcolonial studies and theories to understand how subaltern voices are portrayed the film highlights portrayal of the struggles of oppressed women, offering a narrative that challenges dominant discourses. (saravanan & Dr. Lourdu Vesna J, 2024)

III] Sujata

Setting a landmark in India Cinema, Sujata is directed by Bimal Roy and starring Nutan and Sunil Dutt.

The film is known for its pragmatic representation of caste prejudice. Based on a short story from Bengal by Subodh Ghosh, the film narrates the story of Sujata, a Dalit girl adopted by a Brahmin family from a higher caste, and provided in detailed examination of identity, social exclusion, and the possibility of overcoming social barrier.

Scholarly Analysis and Academic opinions.

The author of the paper, Cognition, Culture, and Visual Technique in Bimal Roy, Sujata, examines the ways in which Roy critiques untouchability through visual techniques such as graphic matches and elaborate staging. The study highlights how Roy made his point by fusing Hindu metaphysical concepts with universal human interest. (Hogan, 2009)

Representation of Dalit women

Dalit women are often stereotyped or rendered invisible in Hindi cinema. Sujata's character was portrayed as a defenceless individual and is subservient to uppercase. This highlights a broader issue within the representation of women in Indian cinema. (Chakraborty, 2021)

How does Nimal Roy's film represent women

Roy's female characters are defined as strong with profound sense of self and defies social norms, and Sujata's character is an example of that and how she is the resilience in the face of the discrimination. (Sharma & Bawa, 2019)

Caste Dynamics and Family Relationships

Sujata examines and represents lot of family dynamics illustrating the analysis of caste system and subcaste patterns in India. The film also tries to evaluate the tension between interpersonal relationships and social norms (Soni, 2024)

Positive culture and important impacts?

Pioneering social commentary: Sujata tackles the issue of untouchability and helped to built the foundations to introduced the public to the debate. (Rumi, 2020)

Critical Acclaim: The film was highly praised at the national and international awards, the film won numerous awards at the Cannes film festival of 1960. (2025)

Sujata has an immense impact on Indian cinema and society for the nuanced portrayal of gender issues. (2025)

IV] Guru

Mani Ratnam directed Guru (2007), a dramatized biography of the Dhirubhai Ambani story. In this film, a child from a rural village, Gurukant Desai, is transformed into an industrialist in India. Accompanying the films narratives, Guru looks into the role of socio-economic factors and post-liberalization India when placed alongside the themes of unrestrained ambition and entrepreneurship. (Mohamed, 2007)(Makkar, 2022)

The film's storyline tries to capture its representation of economic transformation and the paradigms of entrepreneurial challenges during that critical period. (Pirverdizade, 2025)

Representation of Entrepreneurship

Guru as a film that illustrates the intricacies of entrepreneurship in India. It underscores the protagonist's navigation of financial, familial, and political obstacles, accentuating the incongruity of ethical entrepreneurship with a corrupt framework. (Tabarrok, 2016)

Evaluative Response and Biographical Structure

The film endeavours to dramatize the life of a prominent individual, it grapples with the intrinsic difficulties of translating real life narratives into a cinematic form. (2022)

Beneficial Effects and Cultural Importance

Guru Drives an inspiring story aimed at budding businesspersons from rural regions, depicting the promise of prosperity accessible through hard work and sustained effort. (Borra, 2017)

This film shows the shift of India's economy during the period of economic liberalization focussing on the hopes and problems of the time. (Pirverdizade, 2025)

Critical Acclaim: Guru garnered favourable reviews for its narrative and performances, notably emphasising Abhishek banchan's depiction of Gurukant Desai. Critiques and Disputations. (Makkar, 2022)

Moral Ambiguity: Certain critics comment that the film overlooks the ethical intricacies of the protagonist's actions, offering a somewhat sanitized depiction of events. The amateur Media blog reduction of complexities: It is posited that Guru simplifies the intricate challenges encountered by entrepreneurs, possibly neglecting systematic issues in favor of more narratives. (Mehta, 2019)

Guru serves as a cinematic representation of India's economic transformation, encapsulating the essence of ambition and intricacies of achieving success in a changing society. The film is praised for its inspirational narrative and also prompts discussion regarding the depiction of ethical dilemmas and the realities of entrepreneurial endeavours.

V] Paan Singh Tomar

Paan Singh Tomar produced in 2012 and directed by Tigmanshu Dhulia featuring Irfan Khan is one of the prominent sports films of Bollywood, it depicts the life of an Indian Army soldier and national steeplechase champion who transforms into a notorious dacoit in Chambal valley because of systematic neglect and personal tragedies. (2025)

The convergence of Athletics and Nationalism

The intricate interplay between sports and nationalism in India is depicted in the film. The film explores and analyses the themes of institutional apathy, contrast between national pride and rural disenfranchisement. It also studies the state neglect towards the athletes.

The nation although commemorated athletic accomplishments it also frequently overlooked the athletes which results in disillusionment and in Tomar's instance, insurrection. The film also discovers the layers of government neglect of its athletic champions, contrasting national pride with bureaucratic indifference. (Mk, 2012)

The representation of sports in Bollywood

Although the film, highlights obscure figures, it often dramatizes and commercialize their narratives, occasionally sacrificing nuanced storytelling. (Rohman, 2019)

Beneficial Effects and cultural Importance

The film illustrates the challenges faced by rural athletes, including the lack from the support of the government institutions and recognition, which also resonates with many individuals in similar circumstances.

Paan Singh Tomar received critical acclaim winning nominations and awards at National film awards. The film also built a strong foundation for upcoming biographical film in Bollywood representing real life struggle and stories from varied backgrounds. (2024)

Paan Singh Tomar serves as a profound examination of the overlooked stories of rural athletes in India, highlighting systemic deficiencies and the individual consequences of institutional indifference. The critical acclaim and cultural significance highlight the necessity of narrating such stories, despite ongoing discussions regarding the depth and scope of its reorientations.

VI] Dharti ke Lal

A significant work of Indian cinema, Dharti ke Lal produced in 1946, by the Indian People's theatre Association and is directed by Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, offer a moving portrayal; of the Bengal famine of 1943. Focussing on poverty, migration and communal harmony, the film studies the socioeconomic unrest of rural India during World War II and is considered an early example of socialist-realist Indian Cinema. (Nag, 2020)

Scholarly Opinions and Academic Assessments

The Bengal Famine is depicted

Dharti Ke Lal is highly praised for its realistic portrayal of the famine of Bengal, where millions of people lost their lives in the catastrophic event. The story centres itself on the struggle of the rural family, showcasing the broader socioeconomic issues of that time, Scholars have noted how the movie helped raise public awareness of the famine's horrors.

The influence of Leftist Ideology and IPTA

IPTA, known for its leftist beliefs and commitments to social issues, produced the movie alone. Dharti ke Lal incorporates stories like Krishan Chander's Annadta and derives inspiration from IPTA's theatrical productions, such as Bijon Bhattacharya's Nabanna. This analysis draws attention to the film's ideological underpinnings as well as its emphasis on **group action and social justice**. (2025)

To enhance realism, the movie is a realist aesthetic which includes using an experienced cast and filming in real world settings. The story structure demonstrates how different forms of suffering on an individual and collective level as well as societal level blend together by stitching personal and societal struggles.

Global Impact and Reception

Dharti ke Lal is one of the earlier Indian films that received a significant amount of international recognition, specifically from the Soviet Union. It brought international appeal since it focused on universal topics and Indian cinema tackling social problems.

Primary cultural and critical impact: Social Constructivism Pioneering: The starvation in Bengal was far too often ignored. This film was the first of many that helped the public face the harsh truths about societal injustice and neglect. (Iordanova, 2006) .

Advocacy for Communal Harmony: Dharti Ke Lal counters divisive communal ideologies by advocating for unifying strength and brotherhood.

The movie's popularity and critical praise sparked the Indian film movement, which inspires the filmmakers to visit the socially relevant and significant notions within the frame of realistic perspectives.

An important work of Indian cinema, Dharti Ke Lal is renowned for both its artistic merits and its thorough examination of social issues. Its influence continues to inspire filmmakers demonstrating film as a power for social criticism and change. (Iordanova, 2006) .

VII] Naya Daur

This film was both directed and produced by B.R. Chopra which makes it one of the first Hindi films to delve into the tensions between older forms of employment and modernization in India after gaining independence.

The narrative, set in a rural village, focuses on Shankar, a tanga drover who confronts the advent of mechanized transport that jeopardizes the livelihoods of the community. The film embodies themes of labour rights, technological upheaval, and the fortitude of rural communities. (Pal, 2021)

Academic Evaluations and Scholarly Viewpoints

Advancement Communication and Opposition to mechanization

The film is a critique of the hierarchical development model prevalent in post-colonial India. Naya Daur depicts the villager's opposition to mechanization as a means of expressing marginalized viewpoints, contesting the prevailing discourses of industrialization and westernization during the Nehruvian period. (Pathe, 2021)

Structural Examination of popular components

The film's depiction of the conflict between humanity and technology along with its romantic subplot and musical components resonated with viewers and reinforced its core themes. Narrative structure and character design enhances the film's extensive popularity. (Pal, 2021)

Nation Building and Gandhian Principles

The film encapsulates Gandhian principles highlighting self-reliance and the dignity of labor. The narrative is situated within the larger frameworks of nation-building, underscoring the struggles faced by agrarian societies during rapid industrial development. (Sharma & Bawa, 2019)

Favourable Cultural and Critical Influence of Labor Rights: The film documented the plight of rural workers facing joblessness because of mechanization which problematized labor and developmental imbalance sustaining discourse on equity.

Critical Acclaim: Naya Daur has been highly praised with favourable reviews for its performances and engaging narratives. It is considered to be a vividly engaging film and compelling, by Filmfare and Dilip Kumar's performance was considered as exceedingly magnificent.

Naya Daur is a pivotal film in Indian cinema, providing insights in socio-economic changes of the 1950's, the examination of the conflicts between tradition and modernity remains relevant, inciting contemplation on development trajectories and the principles that support societal advancements.

VIII] Ganga Jamuna

It is a film of 1961 it is a seminal film in India cinema, produced and penned by Dilip Kumar and Directed by Nitin Bose. Located in rural Awadh, it recounts the heartrending story of two brothers, Ganga who turns to dacoity, and Jamuna, who serves as a police officer emphasizing the themes of Familial ties, social inequity and ethical conflicts.(2025)

Academic Evaluations and Scholarly viewpoints

Language and Authenticity

The film's incorporation of the Awadhi dialect, frequently conflated with Bhojपुरi, enhances the authenticity of its rural milieu. Critics have observed that this linguistic selection augments the film's authenticity and situates it within a particular cultural framework. (2025)

Societal Critique and class Conflict

The film prompts a critical evaluation of the state's capacity to safeguard the marginalized, with its tragic protagonist foreshadowing the "angry proletarian heroes that gained prominence in subsequent decades.(2023)

Censorship and Certification

The film encountered difficulties with the censor board, initially obtaining a "A" rating. Dilip Kumar effectively petitioned for its reclassification as "U", thereby rendering it accessible to a right audience.

Beneficial Cultural and Analytical Influence

Authentic Reorientation: The film's incorporation of regional dialects and locales offers a genuine depiction of rural India.

Impact on future cinema Ganga Jamuna established a benchmark for films dwelling into themes of fraternal bonds and ethical dilemmas, subsequently influencing later production such as Deewar and Ram Lakhan.(Malani, 2019)

Costume Design and Cultural Identity: Bhanu Athaiya's incorporation of authentic Indian handlooms and handicrafts in the films' costumes represented a pivotal moment in Indian cinema, mirroring the nation's evolving identity.(2021)

IX] Do Bigha Zamin

Do Bigha Zamin is directed by Bimal Roy, is a pivotal film in India cinema that effectively depicts the struggles of rural peasants in post independent India. The film narrates Shambhu Mahato's is a journey after he loses his land to a greedy zamindar and he moves to Calcutta in a desperate attempt to try to get it back.

This narrative illuminates' themes of agricultural hardship, socio-economic inequalities characteristics of that period and urban migration.(2014)(Lal, 2008)

Academic Evaluations and Scholarly Viewpoints

Neorealistic Aesthetics and Societal Critique

Influenced by Italian neo realism especially the film bicycle thief, Do Bigha Zamin utilizes a realistic methodology to portray the struggles of rural impoverished.

The film's vivid depiction of poverty and its critique industrialization's effects on agricultural communities have been topics of scholarly discourse. (2025)

Sociological Perspectives on Rural Displacement

The film analyses the impacts these social policies of land reform have on subsistence economies alongside industrial growth on rural regions of the country. (Shivam, Portrayal of rural-urban social problems of 1950s: A Sociological study of the Hindi cinema: Do Bigha Zamin, 2014)

Influence and Heritage

Do Bigha Zamin is frequently acknowledged for establishing the groundwork for India's parallel cinema, movement. Its authentic depiction of social issues motivated subsequent filmmakers to investigate analogous theme.

The challenges presented in the movie sparked conflict within the society and at the same time, its lasting impact can be observed in its relevance, and the conversations that have been started within the academic and cinema societies. (2025)

Beneficial Culture And Analytical Influence

The struggles that the film showcased pertaining to agricultural issues helped many people become aware of the problems faced by rural societies.

The accomplishment of the film greatly enabled the creation of socially mindful stories within Indian cinema without delay, and it incited filmmakers to start paying attention to immediate social issues.

The Beneficial Culture And Analytical Influence section of this text focuses solely on the difficulties that farmers faced which were accurately shown in such a way that rural society was devoid of any actual aid.

In 1954, the Do Bigha Zamin film won an international award at the Cannes film festival, an award the film has won remains facilitated due to the presence of social issues in Indian cinema.

X] Mujhe Jeene Do

Directed by Moni Bhattacharjee, the film a study the life of a dacoity, Thakur Jarnail Singh, and his quest for redemption. The film is located in the Chambal valley, it explores the themes of love, social convections and personal metamorphosis.(2011)

Academic and Scholarly reviews

Authentic Representation of Dacoit existence.

The film demonstrates the accurate representation of the lives of dacoit I the central India during the times of 1960's. The film illustrates the stark realities and socio-political dynamics of the Era. The idealized depiction prevalent in the earlier films was shifted to more of realism in this film. (2025)

Investigation of Interfaith relationships.

It subtly explores interfaith dynamics via the relationship between jarnail, a Hindu and Chameli jaan and Muslim, free from the social backlash in its narrative the union challenges the establish norms and embodies a progressive perspective on religious harmony.(2011)

Character Study and Redemption Arc

The film captures the complex character of Jarnail Singh, an infamous dacoit who is transformed into a man seeking redemption. This transformation is brought about by his relationship with Chameli, a figure of kindness and strength. Their relationship underscores the notions of love's ability to change people, and the ability to change for the better. (2025)

Mujhe Jeene Do is such a great film in portraying how social norms can be defied while at the same expressing human affection at a very deep level. Love and redemption combined with societal confinement is an issue that is still very much pertinent, which gives this film its worth in Indian cinema.

XI] Manthan

Shyam Benegal has been one to direct what is perhaps one of the deepest movies in India portraying the development and the change in rural India with the dairy cooperative movement. Taking cues from the Verghese Kurien's White Revolution, the film captures the struggles and triumphs of the farmers in Gujrat as they try to establish a cooperative society to manage the production and distribution of milk. (Kotzathanasis, 2024)

Academic Evaluations and Scholarly Viewpoints

The film presented the social and economic conditions of Dalits that were in parts of rural India in the region during 1970's looking at the aspects of exploitation and the caste system. Standardized assessments and other forms of connected evaluation critiqued composer and literary studies as fractured. (Goswami & Yadav, 2020)

Statistical Documentary or Post Colonial Realist Cinema?

The film examines the cooperative movement in India and how the country attempted to tackle rural poverty as well empower marginalized groups, as it helped to contribute in the India socio political landscape during the emergency period. (Dharmadhikari, 2023)

Generating Transformation

Manthan fosters the resolute awareness regarding the changing face of rural India, grappling with the often contradictory claims of modernity and tradition. The film elucidates the sociological development of rural areas and the challenges faced by societies in adapting to new economic changes. (Chaudhuri R. S., 2024)

Cultural and Analytical Influence

Crowdsourced Production: Manthan is credited as the first ever crowdsourced film of India, where 500000 farmers paid 2 rupees each for a stake in the film.(2025)

The film is a remarkable perspective of India's rural development and showcases the power of collective effort and that of cinema.

XII] Heera

Heera looks into the life of a young chap Heera who comes from a lower middle class background and becomes infatuated with Asha the daughter of a local moneylender.

Their love story, however, faces great hurdles as Heera has been falsely imprisoned for a crime, and in addition to the crime, she must face a myriad of personal, socio-political, and judicial obstacles to reclaim her name. The film sheds light upon romantic notions integrated within a rigid social structure and explores social injustice. The plot unfolds a charming pastoral setting that is governed by traditional values and norms which dictate the lives of the people. Heera's tale epitomizes the struggle against the deeply rooted social norms.

Repercussions on Rural India

The repercussions of Heera on the Indian countryside are pronounced because it touches on many issues along the cross-section of the culture and social life of the rural Indian society during the 1970s.

Heera portrays India's countryside, accentuating its harsh social stratification along with its glaring class and caste discrimination within the context of the entrenched structures. The depiction of town, its customs and its people serve to illustrate the daily routine of rural India so that its people are able to identify with their countrymen.

The socio dynamic depicted in the film resonated with rural communities.

Reflection and impact of culture

The film depicted the obstacles encountered by rural youth seeking upward mobility or attempting to transcend traditional constraints. In rural areas the film offered entertainment while subtly influencing the audience's perceptions of social issues. It provided a means of liberation and reflection for individuals restricted by stringent societal conceptions.

Scholarly Assessments

Heera significantly contributed to cultivating a cinematic environment that reflected the challenges encountered by everyday individuals, portraying rural realities in a manner that was more relatable with the audience

The film's critique of caste and social mobility problem reflects a growing phenomenon in 1970s Indian cinema. Movies like Heera contributed to telling rural stories that defied the norms of caste discrimination and traditional social structures. (Sarkar & Sarkar, 2025)

It has also been pointed out that Heera participated in the wider scope of social concern films in the 1970s. Heera, resorted to an emotionalized depiction of social realities, highly shaped by and of backwardness in rural India. The film's social commentary on the caste system and mobility was situated in the context of Bollywood's shift away from entertainment-oriented cinema toward more serious constructive reflection of society." (Vasudevan, 2011)

XIII] Achyut Kanya

The film is cantered around the life of an untouchable woman caste named Leela and her education. The film reveals the social evils which is called casteism and portrays the plight of untouchables in a man's world dominated by hierarchical society.

The narrative was audacious for its era, addressing the deeply rooted caste system and the concept of untouchability in both rural and urban India. It highlighted the issue of caste base discrimination, while presented within the romantic framework of a forbidden love narrative the fundamental message was one of social reform.

Effects on rural India

Social influence and Representation of Untouchables in society

It had a deep social impact, especially within the context of Rural India. During that time, social interaction was quite restricted due to caste divisions and untouchability was still rampant in both rural and urban India. The scene of an untouchable woman suffering from hardships struck chords with rural folks especially those who were discriminated against or belonged to the marginalized regions.

The movie focused on the discrimination toward untouchables and pronounced social disparity within the caste system while also calling for change, especially for treatment of untouchables in the rural parts of the country.

Defiance of Caste-Based Social Structures

In the more traditional Achyut Kanya's image of rural India, where norm was rigid, rural audiences may have experienced the problems faced by a person belonging to the so-called "untouchable" caste. This film dealt with a rather unusual subject which makes me wish boundaries could be penetrated and that one could tell a story where love, care, and humanity could win over caste.

The romantic narrative between Ramesh and Leela, though perceived as fantastical, also epitomized the aspiration for social advancement and equality, inspiring a generation to challenge discriminatory practices.

Social Reform and Awareness

Achyut Kanya was progressive in its advocacy for the eradication of untouchability and caste discrimination, which were deeply ingrained in Indian society.

The movie highlighted this concern, stimulating sociological discourse in both the urban and rural settings. It additionally showcased the denial of rights to the Dalit's and other peripheral societies in order to change public stance toward positive social integration.

Educational Evaluation and Assessment

The film culturally sensitized caste discrimination which has not freely been done in the early elementary outlaw Bollywood movies. This was an effort to thrust social change through movie which used to be rare.

The film is considered a major achievement in Indian cinema for bringing sociological issues into the public discussion. It dealt with caste discrimination during the colonial period in India, which was one of the first attempts in Indian cinema to challenge prevailing social practices.

The film endeavour to confront caste-based discrimination encountered significant obstacles, especially in a society where caste remained a potent and unavoidable influence. Notwithstanding this, the film's audacious treatment of the subject rendered it a seminal work. (Rajadhyaksha & Willemen, 1999)

XIV] Gulaal

Gulaal is a political drama directed by Anurag Kashyap, located in a fictional university town in Rajasthan, the film addresses themes of power, student politics, regionalism and vengeance. The narrative centres on Dileep, a law student who engages in the political arena, confronting local authorities and influential power brokers. The film is recognized for its tone, examination of Rajasthan's culture intricacies and complex characters. (Malani, 2009)

How did it affect Rural India

The movie highlights the political aspects of self-identity, caste, and region which are relevant to rural India. It emphasized how the quest for self-governance, power, and control over territories can lead to fragmentation and conflict. This illustrated the socio-political dynamic characteristics of the rural areas, which the local administration often directs to attend to the social and economic needs of the local area.

Representative of the eternal conflict of rural modernity are The Bana's, a tradition-laden character Deukay Bana portrayed by Mahie Gill, who dreams of warrior's Rajputana splendour. Historical nostalgia is important in many rural societies due to sentiments, pride, and deep-rooted histories that shape the social structure.

Student Politics and Education: Gulaal examines the influence of student politics on the future of youth, particularly in areas where educational institutions serve as avenue for broader political and social movements.

Academic Evaluations and Examinations

Film portrays a significant emphasis on the intricate interconnections aiming power, caste and identity in a region such as Rajasthan. (Samanta & Tripathi, 2024)

Gulaal emphasis on the symbolism of colour and the utilization of imagery to communicate profound political message, it rigorously examines how Kashyap employs the violent context of Rajasthan to investigate the intricate dynamics of power a region autonomy. (Manoharan, 2022)

The film is a gripping political thriller, emphasizing its complex character. The film tackles the significant political and social themes while preserving an atmosphere of suspense and drama. It commends the depiction of student politics and its interplay with power dynamics. (Malani, 2009)

XV] Ankur

Ankur means the Seeding is a Hindi drama directed by Shyam Bengal. The film demonstrates and signifies the inaugural appearance of the actors Anand Nag and Shabana Azmi. Deriving itself in rural India, it analyses and examines themes such as caste, gender and class through the narrative of young landlord's liaison with a lower caste women and the subsequent social ramifications. The film is known for its authentic depiction of rural existence and its examination of social hierarchies. (2025)

The film is regarded as a forerunner of Indian parallel cinema, inspiring later filmmakers to delve into socially pertinent themes with authenticity and profundity.

Ankur initiated dialogues regarding caste, gender and class, thereby enhancing awareness of social issues within Indian society.

Rural India's Social issues

Ankur is about the struggle of class and caste division in rural India. The film shows the impact of social hierarchy on one's relationships and life, especially concerning the lower caste people's struggle to assert their dignity and claim respect.

Gender Issues: The Lakshmi role enacted by Shabana Azmi reflects the woman suffering from the social challenges of a male dominated world. Her struggle is a representation of stark realities of traditional dominated rural society where one's personal freedom is often bounded by conventions. The film depicts the social consequences of the defiant people who break conformist traditions.

Educational Assessments

Ankur pays attention in details of the struggles of rural women and their confrontations with a patriarchal society and an emotionally accepting one. ((Negi, 2014)

Ankur focuses on the relations and intersections of caste, class and gender in rural and urban settings. Exposing social problems through film is very important. ((Goswami U. , 2019)

Ankur is one of the most important films in Indian parallel cinema. It signifies the beginning of Indian cinema's shift towards alt cinema where modern issues and real life experiences are portrayed. (Chaudhury & samaddar, 2024)

XVI] Peepli live

The film tackles the sensitive issue of farmer suicides in India, mocking it as a tragedy as Rizvi Anusha directed. Such films attempt to portray the harsh and grim life of people like Natha. Natha is a broke farmer contemplating taking his own life to claim government financial aid for his family.

Effects on Rural India

Peepli Live highlights the systematic challenges afflicting rural India, specially the agrarian crisis and the media's tendency to sensationalize these tragedies. The film highlights the profound difficulties encountered by the rural population through the depiction of farmers such as Natha.

Adverse Consequences

Commercial Performance: Although the film received critical acclaim, its unconventional narrative and dark humour may have restricted its appeal to main stream audience, thereby impacting its box office performance.

The film encountered criticism for its depiction of sensitive topics, with some groups claiming it misrepresented the severity of farmer's suicide.

Academic Evaluations

Peepli Live serves as a socio-political document, critiquing political apathy and media sensationalism while emphasising its function as a socio-political commentary. (Shivam, A Sociological Review of Peepli Live 2010, 2015)

The film examines the depiction of farmer suicides and the political marginalization, emphasising the socio-economic factors that contribute to rural distress. (J., 2020)

XVII] Chhoti Si Baat

Directed by Basu Chatterjee, it falls under the genre of Hindi comedy that explores the life of Arun Pradeep, a reticent officer clerk who enlists the assistance of an eccentric life of Colonial Julius Nagendranth Wilfred Singh, to pursue romantic interest, Prabha.

Directed by Basu Chatterjee, is a Hindi romantic comedy that explores the life of Arun Pradeep (Amol Palekar), a reticent office clerk who enlists the assistance of an eccentric life coach, Colonel Julius Nagendranath Wilfred Singh (Ashok Kumar), to pursue his romantic interest, Prabha (Vidya Sinha).

Film Synopsis

Situated in the vibrant city of Bombay, the film portrays the urban existence, romantic ambitions and corporate culture of the middle class of Bombay. Arun's transformation from a bashful admirer to a self-assured suitor is both poignant and amusing, encapsulating the commonplace struggles and victories of everyday people.

Effects on Urban India

Chhoti Si Baat provides a glimpse into Bombay's pre-congestion period, emphasizing the simplicity and allure of urban life prior to extensive urbanization. The film's depiction of dynamics on the workplace, romantic endeavours and social interactions resonates with audience acquainted with the

city's

1970

decades

culture.

Adverse Consequences

The films demonstrate and represent a specific gender type of its era, the conventional female expectations that may appear antiquated by contemporary standards are represented by Prabha's character.(2020)

Cultural Shifts: Although the film encapsulates the essence of 1970's Mumbai, few elements may not resonate with the contemporary audience evolving urban development and social values.

Academic Evaluations

The new generation of filmmakers have been inspired by the depiction of 1970s's middle class, projecting the film's impact on the Indian cinema. The film's depiction of middle-class existence and values struck a chord with a broad audience, serving as a mirror to current societal norms and aspirations. (Bamzai, 2020)

The film portrayal of social dynamics and romance provides significant insights into cultural significance stories that frequently blur the line between fiction and reality, movies offer people in remoteand pertinence.(2025)

2. Findings

There are various reasons that make rural India give an excellent value to movies.

Relaxation and Amusement: Monotony and hardships are common in villages, hence making movies act as a way of escaping from normal routine life; they become relief, joy, even laughter for those who have nothing else to do during their leisure time.

Education and Awareness: Movies serve as great tools that can enlighten the illiterate masses in the countryside about various social-economic-environmental issues that may be discussed. People may learn about healthcare, education, sanitation etc., which are vital topics contributing to community development.

Cultural interchange: Cinema can put forward different storylines, cultures and ways of life thereby facilitating cultural exchange between rural audiences with narratives coming from different parts of India and around the world.

Inspiration and Aspiration: A multitude of films portray stories on how one can overcome obstacles which encourages youngsters from provinces to dream big thus fighting barriers against all odds; such stories could motivate others by instilling confidence that they too can reach greater heights leading to optimism about what lies ahead for human life.

Social Commentary: Most films focus on society's problems thereby provoking societal discussions that lead into change such as gender equality debates; these include caste discrimination or rural upliftment addressed through Indian cinemas among other things.

These exercises directly or indirectly generate employment opportunities in this sector besides contributing to country's economy in one way or another.

Filming locations have attracted movie shoots, visiting tourists and cinema screenings within rural areas which in turn benefit the villages' residences economically.

Preservation of Oral Traditions: In some cases, cinema becomes a contemporary means of storytelling in various rural communities intended at preserving oral traditions together with cultural heritages. Some parts of traditional fables, folklores, sacrificial rituals etc., may be brought alive on celluloid by making films through visual storytelling skills.

Job creation is one of the ways in which the movie industry contributes to an economy leading to economic growth both directly and indirectly. Furthermore, rural communities receive benefits from engaging in film making activities, influx of tourists coming to look for shooting sites as well as these movies being shown in local cinemas.

It supports a variety of roles in the lives of rural Indians by enriching their experiences, broadening their horizons and contributing to their overall welfare and progress

In conclusion, films have an unparalleled influence on rural India that greatly affects mindsets, attitudes and desires. Cinemas become bridges between urban areas and villages that accelerate social change alongside cultural revolution leading to sympathy among individuals thus enabling collective progress. The utilization of cinema's great power must be guided by ethics so that it is used responsibly thereby helping fine art of storytelling via movies to uplift human life through learning.

3. Conclusion

Aside from being a simple source of entertainment, films have a direct influence on rural India resulting into transformation of societal norms, principles and aspirations. Through involving stories that frequently blur the line between fiction and reality, movies offer people in remote places with a perspective on the world. Consequently, one cannot simply ignore the profound impact that cinema has had on rural India's sociocultural landscape as it serves as a powerful tool for teaching, motivation and interculturality.

In particular, cinema is critical in spreading information and sensitizing the public to various problems confronting rural India. Films have the potential to instigate important dialogues and facilitate positive changes such as challenging societal taboos, improving education or advocating environmental conservation. Such movements prompt discussions on empowering local communities or enhancing government support for rural development such as "Peepli Live".

Moreover, films are instruments of cultural change through undermining traditional attitudes like stereotypes deeply rooted within rural communities. By featuring strong self-sufficient women characters or advocating gender equality in some way movies can create inclusive progressive mindset among their rural audience. A change in tone is noticeable within rural homes due to its dynamics shifting towards an empowering female who yearns for educational as well as career opportunities.

Besides doing so, movies also produce an immense cross-cultural effect that brings together unity and nationalism amongst village societies. Mainstream films popular in villages which touch upon patriotic themes or historical narrations generate pride and belongingness among villagers by making them experience similar things beyond regionalism. For instance, considering the heterogeneity of India, cultural integration plays a vital role towards fostering social peace while unifying separate parts of this country.

However, it is important not to disregard possible disadvantages of an unchecked

cinematographic influence that encompasses violence portrayal; use of narcotic substances; unrealistic lifestyles among others. Although some films may be sources of inspiration and motivations, they may also contribute towards reinforcing negative stereotypes and unrealistic ideals especially among vulnerable rural youth. Therefore, a conscious mode of film making should be adopted that balances entertainment with social responsibility by ensuring that movie plots depict the different realities in rural India without glorifying harmful conduct.

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