

MOVIES AND THE GRAVITY OF THEIR IMPACT ON YOUTH


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ABSTRACT

The paper highlights the impact of films and social narratives on student's life. It's astonishing how people with creativity can make wonders when seeing the world through their small camera or lens and creating masterpieces. The impact of cinemas is mostly on the youth, students in their late teens, and starting to hit adolescence especially after OTT platforms and free source platforms like YouTube have come into play. Since they have finally started to see the world outside and its cruel ways, they have started exploring and thinking. As everything has a positive and negative side so have movies. Movies set up an unrealistic beauty standard and inferiority complex among students but also movies bring people together. Films have served their purposes for many years be it for entertainment purposes or to uplift a social cause. Students should take movies to be just as a mode of entertainment and it's safe if they know the difference between real life and reel life nothing else. They might find inspiration in Biopics and documentaries but it is not mandatory to relate every fiction and idolize the movie icon.

KEYWORDS:

SOCIAL NARRATIVES, CREATIVITY, BIOPIC, DOCUMENTARIES, UNREALISTIC, INFERIORITY, OTT

CONTENT:

INTRODUCTION

BODY

- THE POSITIVE IMPACTS OF CINEMA
- WORKS WORTH WATCHING
- THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CINEMA
- IMPACT OF OTHER SOCIAL NARRATIVES
- ROLE OF YOUTUBE

CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

It can be said with limpid perspicacity and without tortuous convolutions that art affects the world.

Art is so complicatedly woven into every corner of society, that it is almost impossible to ascertain where its influence begins and ends. The effect its beauty tends to have on us and every decision we make is so unbelievably powerful, that it can be the difference between war and peace.

Art influences society by changing opinions, inculcating values, and interpreting experiences across space and time. Research has shown art affects the fundamental sense of the self.

Painting, sculpture, music, literature, and the other arts are often considered to be the treasure trove of a society's collective memory.

A beautiful painting, a melodious song, a symphony of instruments, a powerful dance, a Heart-breaking play, a well-scripted film can help a man to stand and stare, take a while out of his busy life, relax and contemplate.

And when we observe, we think, and then take a time to think, we grow as human beings.

Cinema, which is also called the seventh art, emerged as a modern variation of theatre. It represents the craving, the illusions, the triumphs, and the failures of millions of spectators who sit for around two long hours to forget their lives for a while and contemplate the life of others (fictional or real) whose fortune or misfortune makes them relevant. Inside this magic enclosure which we call a 'movie theatre,' we found individuals from all social strata and with the most varied occupations. Unlike literature, cinema doesn't require any specific level of education to be valued or at least to be enjoyed.

BODY:

People often love humans watching and discussing movies. Cinematography, just like any other hobby, is a vital part of their lives.

Films, or cinema has several genres; romance, drama, thriller, action, crime, fantasy, comedy. Each of these genres can have both positive and negative impacts on young people. But there is no universal opinion as to whether watching movies has more pros or more cons. While some studies indicate that violent films make people aggressive and dangerous, other surveys highlight the benefits of showing specific films to students

It is astonishing how people with creativity can make wonders when they see the world through their small camera or lens and create masterpieces. Few filmmakers like Satyajit Ray, Ritik Ghatak, Mrinal Sen, Quentin Tarantino, David Fincher, Anurag Kashyap have created wonders with their team when they looked at the world, we all see with their lenses.

The impact of cinemas is mostly for the youth, the students who are in their late teens and have started to hit adolescence. Since they have finally started to see the world outside and its cruel ways, they have started exploring and thinking. So, it is very natural to contemplate everything they get in front of them, including films.

THE POSITIVE IMPACTS OF CINEMA:

For example, the film “3 idiots” is more of a cult than a film. All of the youth who are passing their board exams and planning their future, preparing for competitive exams, have seen that masterpiece. That film was a true representation of engineering life and hostel days, with an embellishment of comedy and a bit of romance and had proper picturization of the society. It also provided several meaningful messages such as “Run behind excellence, not a success, success will follow” and “All is well”, and also that we should truly understand what we are reading or working with, rather than just memorizing it, and also the message that we should always follow what our heart desires because if we don’t love something truly, we won’t strive for perfection towards it.

All these dialogues are inscribed on the hearts of every engineer, and students are often fond of telling these dialogues to their batchmates.

Students are also benefitted from science fiction movies like Avatar or IT or maybe Star Wars, there are uncountable examples. The fact that makes science fiction most interesting is its progressiveness, it allows a student to think out of the box which might push them towards innovation.

Documentaries or science fiction movies often make the students easily understand a topic where textbooks fail. Movies such as “The Pianist”, “Schindler’s List”, “Jojo Rabbit” and “Boy in striped pajamas” beautifully explain the destruction in war, how civilians and men in the army were affected by war.

The movie on Einstein says a lot about his life his works. “Theory of Everything” briefly explains Stephen

Hawkins thought without making us feel bored, “The Imitation Game,” tells us about the Germans, and how the first computer was created then and ENIGMA was cracked, which was the most difficult code Germans used.

There are countless examples of many such films.

Also, many violence-based movies may make the youth learn the difference between good and evil, and most importantly, the difference between kindness and rudeness, between humane and inhumane. Movies like “Chappak”, “Twelve years a slave”, “Gangs of Wasseypur” are true stories and when people see these films, they realize the type of person they shouldn’t become.

like “Dangal”, and the Biopic of Mary Kom, “Kahani” depict that girls are not weak. Movies as society thinks they are. These movies inspire many girls who are facing gender discrimination and rise to excellence.

Except for the educational content, movies like “Masaan”, “LUDO”, and many such great films provide entertainment and relaxation after a long week of studying. They each provide a beautiful message at the end.

Masaan gives us the message that “everything comes to an end one day” and we should learn to let it go.

Ludo gives us the message, that life is painful, bold, and tiring, but we must have fun and keep smiling to deal with it.

When it comes to comedy people might think that comedy is of no use for students but my views are a bit disinclined. Comedy movies often target the sensitive part of society so that people don’t get offended and also get a sense of rightness at the same time, it might result in turning the tables but this situation is taken care of by the critics. A very subtle example might be the movie “The Dictator”, it’s a classic representation of dark humour and is age- restricted or better to say for intellectuals only.

OTT platforms like Netflix, amazon prime, Hotstar, and many more have affected the mind of not only the youth but also the whole society in a positive manner. Creators whose works were overlooked by directors or didn’t make good due to lack of promotion or due to the dominance of the mainstream industry have now got a chance to represent their works. The OTT platforms have gifted us with web series which are nowadays dominating the mainstream industry and is a big reason why the mainstream industry is interested in clubbing

with OTT platforms. Web series like Mirzapur have represented the true society while others like cosmos or dark have helped in educating children and also served as a medium of entertainment. Like most beautiful things in the world, cinema has imperfections and has negative impacts on the youth.

Besides all these, movies bring people together. Movies are the reason people meet over weekends and have conversations about the films they watched. Experts have shown that those who are suffering from social anxieties and find it challenging to find a common language with others, can overcome these obstacles by watching movies. A film is always an excellent opportunity to meet new people and to strengthen relationships with old friends.

WORKS WORTH WATCHING:

They say, “A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies.” And a writer snatches a part of each of the thousand lives from different people without their notice.

Good writers and filmmakers can evoke emotions with their works, they connect to things, and tell a story a reader can relate to. For me, such an example of a great writer is Satyajit Ray, a film director, scriptwriter, documentary filmmaker, author, essayist, lyricist, magazine editor, illustrator, calligrapher, and music composer. It can be seen in his stories how vivid and broad was his imagination about the concept of aliens, heart transplants, plastic surgery, time travel, although these topics were not very popular in India at that time. Some other famous personalities in this field like Christopher Nolan, Noah Baumbach, Thea Sharrock, Christian Ditter, J. J. Abrams, James Cameron, Spike Jonze, Gabriele Muccino, Martin Scorsese, Tim Burton have blessed us with great works like Shutter Island, Interstellar, The Dark Knight Rises Inception, Marriage, Her, Me before you, Love Rosie, Pursuit of happiness. The youth can get immense knowledge and a sense of improvisation from these works. Movies like these have the power to change visions and perspectives. Few actors like Heath Ledger, Johnny Depp, Nicolas Cage, and many more have no boundaries when it comes to reincarnation their characters, and later on, with the help of these characters, people try to resolve the riddle of society.

THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CINEMA:

Needless to say, students get hooked on films and end up wasting their valuable time while they should be studying. Watching too many films on the small confines of their phones or television might weaken their eyes.

Movies may contain violence, use of drugs, abuses, and sex scenes, which might be inappropriate to watch for all ages. But students are always ready to explore and ingurgitate everything that comes in front of them. So, they may get acknowledged for inappropriate stuff at inappropriate ages and may take or understand things differently and live in an illusion.

And also badly scripted and directed films may propagate gender-oriented, caste-oriented, race-oriented stigmas and may pass them as family-friendly content. These later are normalized by many people, before realizing that it is wrong.

For example, in mostly commercial-based comedy films, the Punjabi people are represented by only “BALLE BALLE” and eating butter chicken and such stereotypes. Most Indian characters in foreign films are mostly stereotyped to be IT, nerds, or cab drivers. It has a huge effect on fashion too, depending upon the current trends people like to dress in a way which is inspired by a movie or a web series. Brides and grooms imagine their wedding to be dramatic than being realistic and understanding the depth and intensity. Fashion-based companies take advantage of this and charge higher rates, many overrated companies charge high prices just for the sake of brand name which puts small self-made companies in huge loss as people run behind brands like zombies.

The LGBTQ community in Bollywood films is also just taken as a joke and not addressed seriously. And students watching them generally grow up to be transphobic and homophobic and bullies also in Hollywood they have started taking it seriously and have suggested web series like “Sex Education”.

The modern era coming-of-age shows, representing the life of teenagers can also spoil minds. Student life is always a sensitive stage of life, at this point of time they are easily carried away by the virtual so-called perfect lifestyle and their expectations from their surroundings grow up which creates chaos and he/she might end up having a mental trauma which is very common in teens nowadays. Children focus more on attracting someone of the opposite gender rather than focusing on their career and personality development which gives them a tough time.

Serials and a few reality shows are a big no-no for a student's life. We often notice in an Indian middle-class family that people combine the last meal of the day with a serial or a reality show on the TV. These might affect the minds of students and also their parents as serials commonly represent the mindset of a backdated society and on the other hand, realityshows are violent and portray negative content. These play a vital role in disrupting the upliftment of society hence creating mental backwardness.

The females in many films are given the roles to dance in a bar in item songs, very few serious roles have been given to women. Females in action-packed movies just get the role of getting kidnapped and the Hero saves her. This sets up a gender stereotype that women are weak and there have been many cases where the female celebrity has been harassed.

Movies also set up an unrealistic beauty standard and inferiority complex among students. The boys want to get super jacked and muscular and suffer from complex seeing their peers, with better physique than them.

Girls mostly have an inferiority complex due to their skin and want flawless skin as their movie icon.

Students, not realizing these are all stigmas end up buying tons of makeup or steroids, and cause a financial loss to their family and damage to their bodies.

In conclusion, we can say that students should take movies to be just as movies nothing else. They might find inspiration in Biopics, but it is not mandatory to relate everything to fictional films and idolize the movie icon.

IMPACT OF OTHER SOCIAL NARRATIVES:

A social narrative is a learning tool designed for a person with a condition such as an autism spectrum disorder that teaches them how to do something new. It is referred to as a story or a written explanation that tells the learner not only what to do but also what the situation is, to address the challenge of learners finding social situations confusing.

It depicts and explains social interactions, common behavioural expectations, and their respective social subtexts. For example, narratives can be in the form of a one-page symbolic depiction, a book with photographs, or a learning material that depicts and explains relevant information.

It helps with kids having ASD to understand human emotions, to interpret situations.

Social narratives improve Prosocial behaviour, students learn to share, donate, give, and thus help others. They also are found to improve social skills and communication skills to students who find it difficult to talk with people and have difficulty calming down. They improve on-task behaviour, i.e., they help students follow instructions and out-of-seat behaviour like scooting over a place. They also help in decreasing undesirable behavior.

ROLE OF YOUTUBE

From the past few years, YouTube has become a social sensation not just because billions of people visit this platform each day but also for the reason that it has given a new life to various communities including entertainment and cinematography. YouTube is a free platform that enables creators to test and promote their content free of cost. A very recent example is the Dhindora, a web series created by Bhuvan Bam presenting a classic middle-class family drama and portraying the realness of society through witty humour. Like this YouTube has allowed various independent creators to outcast their talent. Also, it has contributed to other aspects of cinematography such as sound design, voice-over, categorized animation, promotion of music videos, trailers, telecast of promotion in talk shows, etc. through YouTube one can also get to know the director's and the screen player's point of view. The current generation can follow in their footsteps to test their merits in different fields. Another thing YouTube has gifted is vlogs, people nowadays have no time for vacations and mental relaxation which is important for a human being to function well.

Students have chosen games, especially esports as a mode of relaxation in these cases a vlog on some beautiful place or a normal food vlog can help them gain a peaceful minute.

Apart from all these boons, YouTube can also play a negative role. YouTube is a relatively open weave so creators can also upload hate contents which may mislead the young generation. A scene of maturity and rightness is always required to avoid these circumstances and their consequences.

CONCLUSION:

Films have served their purposes for many years be it for entertainment purposes or to uplift a social cause. The importance of good old films in a student's life is also a niche segment that should be focused I get inspired by Bengali culture watching Satyajit Ray's films. Films and social narratives can inspire students of these days more as students these days have a vivid mindset and have the capability to intake multiple contents. Students of the modern era are more interested in dynamic content than static which again highlights

the importance of this topic. Cinematography is all about updating oneself. As we are moving towards modernization the society is becoming more sensitive and the creators face many problems dealing with it. The topic is indeed vast and further research is still required to explore the potential benefits of social narratives and films. Such research may include large-scale studies, and further exploration of the exact influence of student attendance, teacher training, classroom conditions, and treatment duration and intensity.

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