



A Study on ‘Women-Centric Films: Are they Improving Status of Women in Society?’

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Abstract : *The main aim of the study is to explain whether women-centric films in Bollywood have really helped to improve the status of women in society. There is an assumption that the very word ‘woman’ brings to mind an entity that can seduce with sensual beauty, endure with inner mind control and mould to any situation as though born to handle just that. Most of the movies treat women in the typical patriarchal way—they are either angels or devils. However, there are a few examples where filmmakers have allowed women characters to take a stand, without caring about the*

norms or society like Kahani, Chak de India, Astitva, Nil Battey Sannata.

How a society treats its women is one of the strongest indicators of the success and health of that society. This research is bringing out the problems and concerns about the portrayal of women and their improving status in society. The main aim of this research is to understand the portrayal of women in such films that encourage social change in the treatment of women in Indian society, which is largely male-dominated and patriarchal. Therefore, by acknowledging the open secrets like domestic violence, abuse, etc., it brings these problems upfront, by allowing women to talk about it in public and portraying women as emotionally and financially independent.

Through this research we were able to know that the ratio of women-centric films has surely gone high but the mindset of people is still the same. Even though people have started watching women-centric films, most of the people think that women are still used as means of attraction in the films. The findings revealed that neither the status of women has improved enough nor their perception has changed much. It’s an alarming situation as neither the local nor the national media is talking about upgrading women-centric films. It’s time that we should encouraged the efforts that are made while producing women-centric films and bring a positive change in the society.

Keywords: *Bollywood films, women centric films, patriarchal, norms, stereotyped, bias.*

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