

## Uses of Movies in Education

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### Abstract

Learning is a continuous process, the students learn formally and informally from different sources. School is recognized as a formal source of learning where students learn from books with the help of their teachers and all other available resources. Movies are full of knowledge and inspirational to children. Therefore, it is the time to use these resources in teaching-learning process because this way of teaching-learning will keep both learner and teacher alive. This paper describes the uses of movies in education. Pedagogical practices should be like which could promote creativity, aesthetics, critical perspectives to enable students to draw relationships between past and present and to understand the changes that have taken place in society over the years.

**KEYWORDS :** Movies, Education, Pedagogical, Teaching- Learning and Society

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### Introduction

Learning is a continuous process, the students learn formally and informally from different sources. School is recognized as a formal source of learning where students learn from books with the help of their teachers and all other available resources. Various documents presented suggestions to improve the teaching-learning process for effective learning. NCF (2005 p. 54) suggests, “In order to make the process of learning participative, there is a need to shift from mere imparting of information to debate and discussion”. It reveals that there is a need to explore and utilize things in teaching-learning process to make learning effective. NCF (2005 p. 54) suggests, “Teaching should utilize greater resources of audio-visual materials, including photographs, charts and maps, and replicas of archaeological and material cultures”. Indian films are rich with socio-economic, cultures, political system, etc. of India and world as well. They are full of knowledge and inspirational to children. Therefore, it is the time to use these resources in teaching-learning process because this way of teaching-learning will keep both learner and teacher alive. In present chapter, films like Lagaan, Swades, Guru, Chak De India, Peepli Live and Toilet - A love Story are highlighted with their pedagogical uses.

### **Lagaan (Ashutosh Gowariker, 2001)**

Lagaan which literally means Tax (in the form of grains) is a story of ordinary people set in a small village “Champaner” in central India serving the British rule in 1893. The tale narrates the determination of the villagers to fight against injustice and opposition.



The story goes like this that there is no rain in the village since a year. The villagers who depend on rain for farming were unable to pay the lagaan to the ruler captain Russel. On the top of that, they were asked to pay dugna lagaan (Double Taxes).

Captain Russel gives an alternative to the villagers that if they defeat the British in a game of cricket, they will be exempted from tax for the three consecutive years but if they lose they will have to pay three times more lagaan.

Bhawan (Amir Khan), a young farmer takes up the impossible task to save the village. He forms a team of 11 with his fellowmen. Elizebeth, Captain Russel's sister who has a soft corner for Bhawan gives her full support to the villagers cause despite her brother's opposition. Gauri, a village girl loves Bhawan and has complete faith in him. Bhawan unites the farmers in a common front against their common exploitation and even the local Raja- whose livelihood depends on the British, drawn into the excitement of match.



Basically, I want to draw the attention towards the character in the movie named “Kachra”. Kachra is mainly Dalits, and belong from socially disadvantaged groups of the society. This draws attention towards “Social Exclusion”.

“Kachra” is mainly excluded from the society and that is accurately shown in the movie. The movie depicts that as he is socially excluded from the society so he cannot play cricket with other members. Though he was a good bowler, still he could not play the game only because he belonged to the socially disadvantaged groups of the society. Bhawan draws his players from the village outcasts and outsiders (The team includes both a Muslim and an untouchable). Match begins and finally villagers win it.



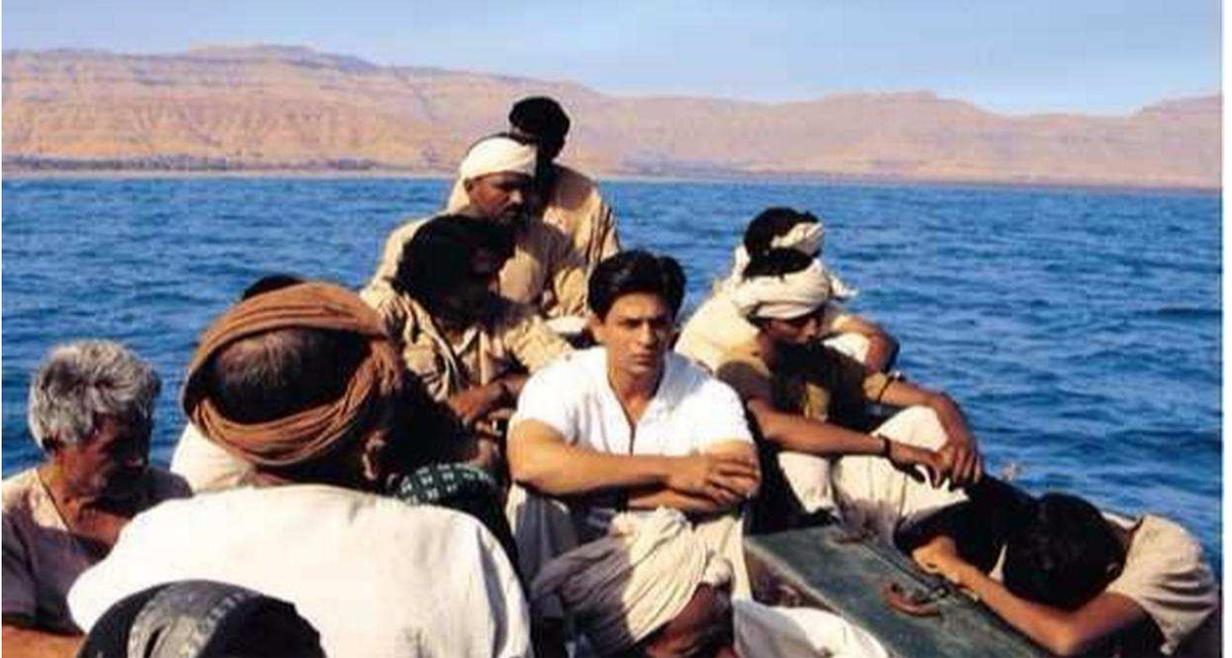
So, untouchability and social exclusion is clearly shown in this movie which highlights the Indian society. The untouchables or Dalits, in some ways are socially excluded from the society. The movie also depicts the life of Indian farmers and agriculture. If we show this movie to the students they will come to know these things in an effective manner. After watching the movie, the following questions can be discussed:

- Q 1. What are various social aspects that are being touched upon in the movie?
- Q 2. In how many ways does the problem of social exclusion affect our country?
- Q 3. How does social exclusion affect the economic development of a country?
- Q 4. Do you observe situation of social exclusion in your neighbor society?
- Q 5. Do you observe any betterment in the life of Indian farmer?

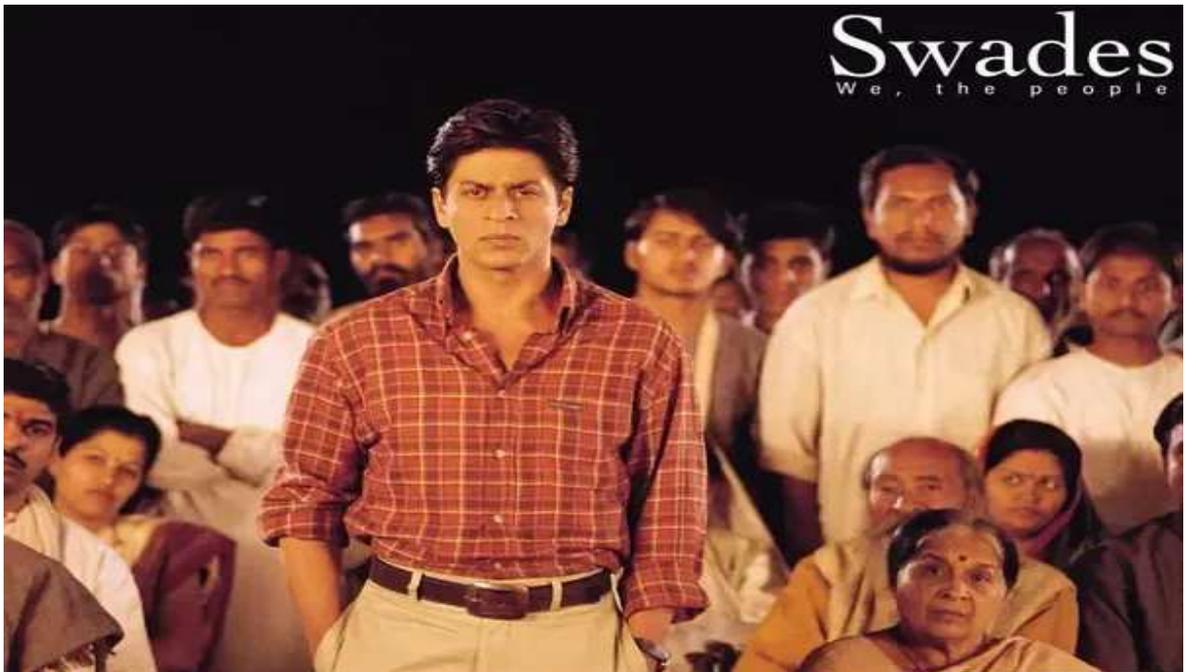
#### **Swades (Ashutosh Gowariker, 2004)**

This movie focuses on the very common issue of development at the grass root level in the rural part of India. The movie is based on the real life story of a Non-resident Indian (NRI) couple who made immense contribution to the society by development of a pedal power generator for the remote schools. The main character of the movie named as Mohan Bhargava played by Shahrukh Khan who is an NRI and is working as a successful

scientist in NASA and has come to India after a long time to see his Nanny who lives in a small village and take her along to America.



When he visits the village and stays there for a couple of weeks he realizes how the village was lacking so many basic amenities like electricity access to education and also girls education and where a service like internet was considered to be a far achieved luxury. In the film, Geeta (Gayatri Joshi) is teaching in a school where the enrollment is declining due to dropouts and social exclusion of socially disadvantaged children.



The movie also throws light on the very peculiar issue of caste system where a person in the movie is ostracized from the village as he changes his profession from a caste based weaving to farming. The case of Haridas in the movie shows the tragic situation of farmers and the poverty and inequality that is prevalent in the country. The scene of Gram Sabha clearly depicts the problems of rural India which are electricity and education.

The movie main protagonist Shahrukh Khan is moved by experiencing all these situations and feels an urge to bring some change in the villagers quality of life and creating a better life for the people.



The protagonist is shown to make a tough choice of choosing between going back to U.S where he works as a project manager in NASA or to use his abilities, skills and knowledge in bringing a change in the lives of people towards betterment.

When after the vacations Mohan Bhargava goes back to NASA he cannot think about anything else except his village. The main reason behind it was that he feels genuinely an urge to improve the conditions of his country. The movie also throws light on the India's growth towards economic and social development. Some very integral question that are raised by the movie are that of Brain-Drain as to how Indians are losing some of their very talented and skilled human resources to foreign countries who otherwise could prove to bring a huge difference in the economic development of the society.

One of the reasons behind such migration is low poor infrastructure that leads to poor standard of living in India. The question of pursuit for better life to the people living in village is brought up in the picture. The movie Swades is about creating a better life for the people by bringing all the people together who have different strengths and capabilities. It is also about making choices.



Mohan Bhargava brings all the people of village together into the process of creating electricity from a stream that is flowing in the surrounding hills. The movie focuses on the power of cooperation and integrity which is possible only when there is absence of social barriers. The technological difference and the rate of social and economic progression can well be emphasized between rural and urban parts of India. After watching the movie, the following questions can be discussed:

Q 1. What are the various social issues the movie focuses upon?

Q 2. What are the most important measures that can help in reducing the problem of brain-drain in India?

Q 3. How does the lack of basic amenities in the various parts of rural India hinder the economic development of the country?

#### **Guru (Mani Ratnam, 2007)**

Guru is a 2007 Indian drama film loosely based on the life of Dhirubhai Ambani, a business magnate who founded Reliance Industries. The film was co-written and directed by Mani Ratnam.

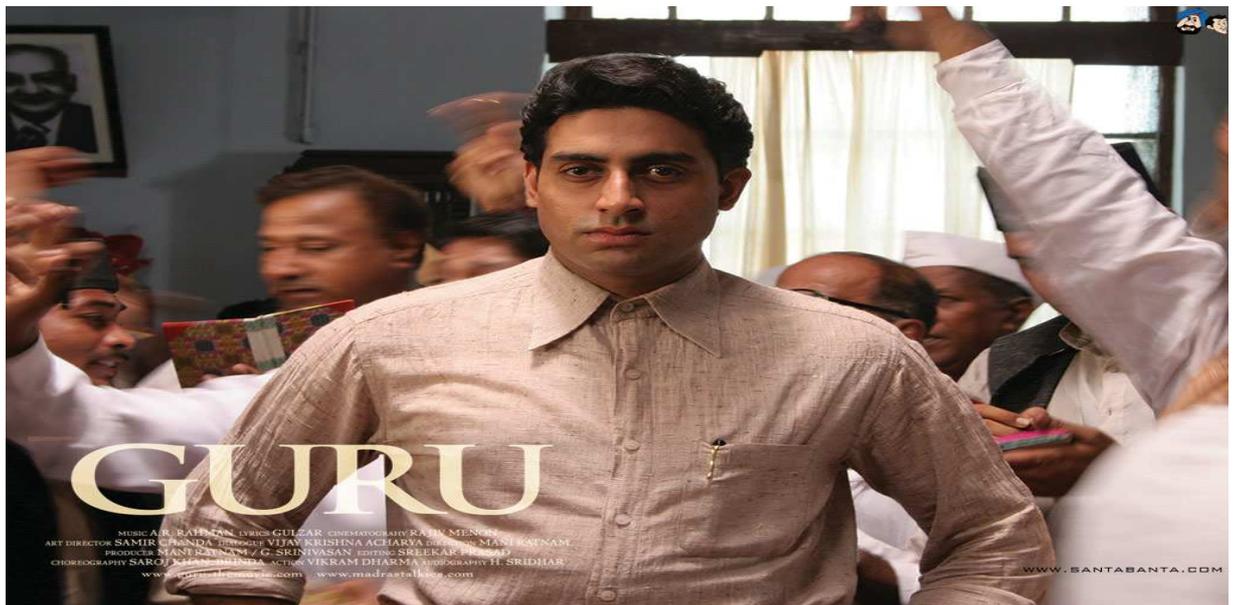


A villager, Gurukant Desai, arrives in Bombay 1958, and rises from its streets to become the GURU, the biggest tycoon in Indian History. The movie Guru perfectly depicts the Indian Economy. The movie starred “Abhishek Bachchan” as the Guru who has seen many downfalls in this life. There is also a situation in which he invests some money in shares. So, this is a good start to make the students understand the concept of shares.

The movie depicts a glorious era and is very appealing story of young Gujrati Lad (Dhirubhai Ambani) from a small village who dares to dream big, makes his dreams come true and finally became the biggest business tycoon not only in India but also the all over world.



He has the courage to stand up and kept what is rightfully his own. Guru dreams of making it big one day, but first he needs to move out of his village.



Guru never manages to see eye to eye with his father, a stern headmaster who does not believe that merely by dreaming big, one can achieve greatness. Hence Father's and son's ideology always clash. Guru heads off to Istanbul, Turkey where he is first employed as a casual labourer.

Guru was not highly educated but nonetheless dreams big. However he rejects the promotion after he has collected enough money and returns to India with a dream to start

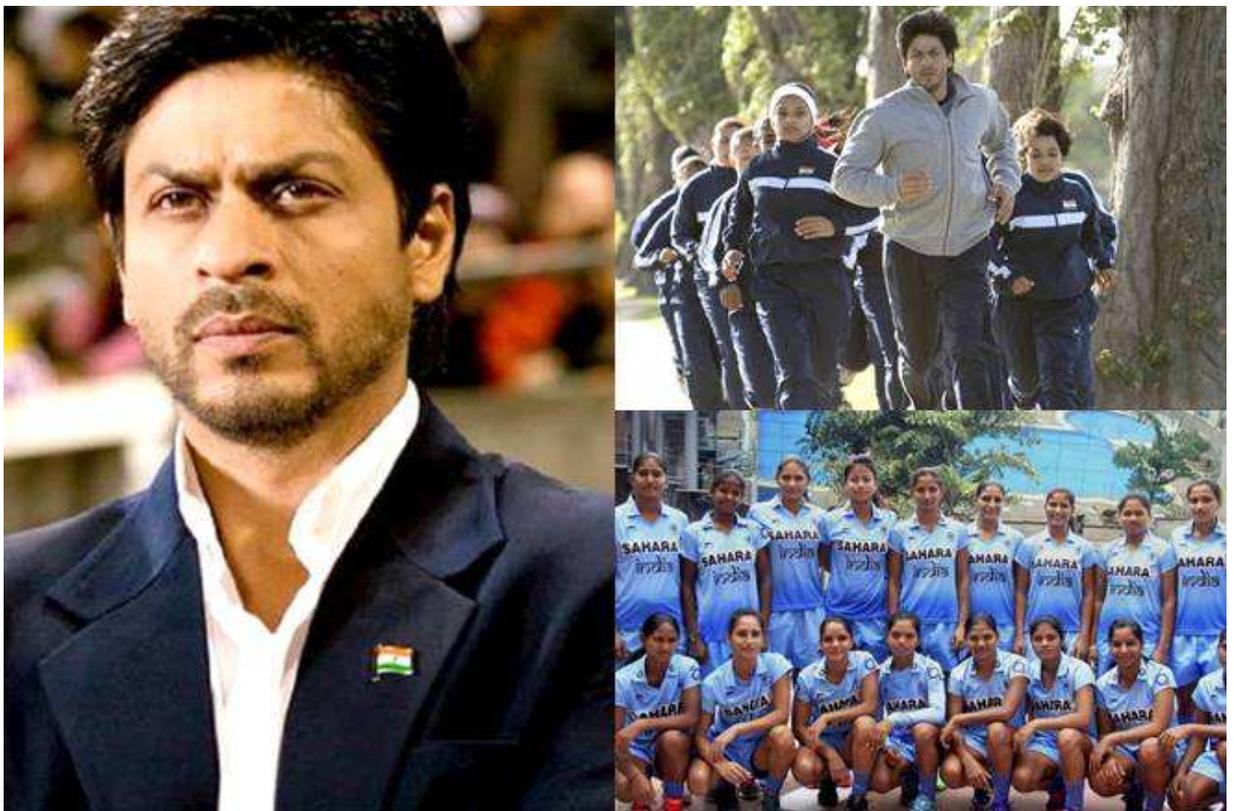
his own business. It is truly inspiring. After watching the movie, the following questions can be discussed:

Q 1. How does a movie like Guru have an impact on the inspirations of a common man?

Q 2. What are the various key attributes that make a person to achieve his higher goals in life?

### **Chak De India (Shimit Ameen, 2007)**

This was the first movie that made an important contribution in reviving the popularity of India's national game Hockey and specifically talking about development of women hockey in India. The movie laid emphasis on uniting the players from different parts of the country to make a powerful team which will ultimately bring worldwide fame to the country in various sports. The movie was granted tax exemptions in various parts of the country. The main role in the movie is played by Shahrukh Khan named as Kabir Khan.



He was a former captain of Indian hockey team and was blamed for the team loss and was labeled as a traitor. Many years later in the movie he succeeds in convincing the hockey management to offer him the position of coach for Indian women hockey team which he takes as a challenge and also a chance to remove the allegations attached to him.



The movie talks about bringing together people from various ethnic, social and economic groups to work towards a larger and common goal of bringing fame to the country in different areas. It talks about keeping our regional and religion differences away from the sports where our main goal is to work for the progress of our country.

The movie shows the coach as an effective leader and shows how important it is to have a coach with effective leadership qualities who can motivate and inspire the team at various odds. The victory of the Indian Women hockey team in the movie brings economic as well as social change in the lives of the team members as shown in the movie.

Chak De India played a significant role in bringing the focus of country's sports management towards a conventionally much ignored sport which also happens to be our national game. The movie implicitly gives a message of promoting many other sports and

not only a single sport. Such initiatives will bring a huge economic and social progress in the country. Also the importance of female sports and their progress is emphasized equally and substantially.



The message in the movie is for the sports management teams to invest funds in the development of other sports that have remained unattended and under flourished for a long time. The management should invest excellent trainers for training the sportsperson in various forms of sports. This will eventually give an economic boost to our country and also a global recognition.

The face of sports for Indian women needs to go a long way. India has many popular female icons who brought marvels to the country in different areas of sports but the number is still very few. The change has happened but the progress of India's many neglected sports needs a lot more improvement. After watching the movie, the following questions can be discussed:

Q 1. Do you think that there has been an improvement in promoting the various unrecognized sports in India?

Q 2. How can we overcome the various social differences that impede the progress of the international sports at the global level?

Q 3. How far do you think government has taken initiatives to promote the participation of female candidates into sports?

### **Peepli Live (Anusha Rizvi, 2010)**

This is an India we rarely see on our screens. It is not very far from where we live. Its inhabitants come to our cities and work in our homes, at our construction sites, in our offices. It is an India where people ride from two to four wheelers. It's an India which Anusha Rizvi has captured with imagination, irony and supreme intelligence.



There was also an oily politician played by Naseeruddin Shah who is worried that the star anchor is ignoring him. The tea drinking bureaucrats who want a fact finding mission for everything. The chief minister with a Pappu cannot dance ringtone who is desperate before a by-election. The Government machinery that provides hand pumps but no money to fix it, that gives a poor landless farmer a TV but no food to eat and that asks him to die so his family can at least claim one lakh rupees as compensation for families of those farmers who commit suicide.



It is a theme of government chicanery that was focused upon beautifully in Shyan Bengals' well done abba as without Peepli Live is lighter on its feet and far more authentic- Not just because it was shot in an actual village , Bidwai in MP.



It is all about price fame in contemporary India. Natha, the farmer who is encouraged to commit suicide by his good for nothing brother becomes a celebrity, his little home with the hand pump in the centre, the focus of the media circus. After watching the movie, the following questions can be discussed:

- Q 1. What kind of scenario of the Indian rural village is depicted in the movie?
- Q 2. Does the movie throw any light on the value of a human life and the quality of living of the people?
- Q 3. How can we strengthen the schemes of Government launched for betterment of villages?

### **Toilet - A love Story (Narayan Singh 2017)**

The film is based on the sanitation conditions and lack of toilets in rural Indian homes. Therefore the film provides a glimpse of quality of life of the people living without toilets in the rural areas of India.

Based on the true life story of one man who struggles to build toilets in his village, this movie takes our attention towards various important issues such as deadly infections that cause deaths of thousands of infants every year, higher risk of women assault and molestation, all due to the common practice of open defecation.



The film lays emphasis on the current campaign Swachh Bharat Abhiyan that is run by the Government on improving sanitation conditions of the country especially eradication of open defecation. The movie revolves around a newlywed couple named as Keshav played by Akshay Kumar and Jaya played by Bhumi Pednekar.



The actor's wife complaints of the absence of a toilet in their house due to which she gets very annoyed and later on files for a divorce in the court for the same reason.. The film

talks about the sanitation challenge faced by the rural India and was also made tax free for viewers by the government.



The movie attempts to make a contribution towards ending a practice that affects so many people in India and outside. The movie makes an initiative in bringing change in the mindset and attitude of the people of not having toilets in their homes. Therefore laying focus on improving the standard and quality of living. After watching the movie, the following questions can be discussed:

Q 1. What are the various measures that can be undertaken to improve the sanitation conditions of India?

Q 2. How far do you think has the government been successful in achieving its goal of sanitation and removal of open defecation?

Q 3. What we can all contribute to create awareness and make our surroundings clean?

### Conclusion

Pedagogical practices should be like which could promote creativity, aesthetics, critical perspectives to enable students to draw relationships between past and present and to understand the changes that have taken place in society over the years. There can be many more other films that can be use in teaching-learning process for achieving several objectives that depends on the topic.

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