

Empowering Womanhood in the Film “Parched”

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Abstract

This research is an admirable combination of an interesting topic Bollywood and feminism. There is an extraordinary Hindi movie named Parched which has explored the women empowerment through its characters and its unique storyline. Feminism is the hot and scorching-like-a-sun topic in today’s time. One can find the word “Feminism” every where from articles to literatures, from print media to electronic media, social sites to social gatherings. You can hear the discussions on empowering women rights and their voices. So be it writer, poet, or intellectual thinkers everybody is getting involved in this hot topic and expressing their view on feminism. Empowerment is reflected in writings, expressions, poems, speeches, plays and movies too. Women empowerment is being asserted in body language, use of abusive language, crisis management, negotiation skills, domination skills, rebellious nature and resistance in daily life. That empowerment is also discovered and explored in the movie Parched through its main characters and protagonists. Protagonists of the movie plably express their desires, dreams, requirements and wishes. They fight for freedom from social, cultural, and economical clutches and boundaries.

KEYWORDS: Women Empowerment, Freedom, Feminism.

The women empowerment is also reflected in sexual desires and yearnings in the film. This empowerment is also reflected against the society’s sexual norms. These empowered women represent a new form of equality in every section of the society. They are no longer submissive, docile or subservient. In fact they are mentally and emotionally strong enough to fight for their right and freedom.

In the early days of Indian cinema when it was in infancy stage and was growing up, women characters used to be shown as weak, helpless, dependent, cribbing in the enclosed boundaries of the society but now the role and image of the women have changed. They are aware of their identity, dignity and respect. They fight against subjugation and oppression.

The story of the movie revolves around three main female characters. They raise their voice and fight against masochism and patriarchy. The story is set up in a village in Rajasthan. One character, named Lajjo, in the movie is shown as bold but still she gets beaten up by her husband and gets abused also because of her infertility. She exposes her husband’s impotence and tells that it is not women who is always blamed for infertility. She is a skilled worker who earns bread and butter for her family. Other two characters are also shown as empowered and strong woman.

The second female character also represents strength and empowerment when she stops and warns her son who tries to beat and abuse her wife. This shows that woman not only

can fight for her but also can raise voice and fight for other woman's respect against her own son though.

According to the researcher, Mr. Sanjay Mane, Empowerment is not only shown in their nature and attitude but also in their language too. In his words, Empowerment is also expressed through their use of language. Their articulation of emotion gets reflection through abusive language. These protagonists make free play of words like, MC, BC.

The researcher, Mr. Sanjay Mane, also finds empowerment of women in overall personality of a woman in every aspect. In his words, "*Empowerment is seen when three protagonists openly speak about sex, a taboo subject. They express their appetite for love, sex and companions. Their empowerment is reflected through their rebel against society's sexual norms and violation of "socially approved or normative behavior"*".

CONCLUSION: The research on empowered woman through the movie seems complete and interesting. Mr. Mane finds new age women strong and bold. Mr. Mane's research incorporates bucket full of adjectives and words. His research on the movie and woman empowerment has a lot to say about feminism and boldness. Today's women are not submissive anymore. They deserve their freedom of expression, their desires and their needs. They are free from social, economical and cultural boundaries. Society is changing at a fast pace and women are as free as men to achieve their dreams and dignity.

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