Exposition of Politics in Indian Cinema

M. Ramalingam
Research Scholar,
Assistant Professor in English,
JP College of Arts and Science, Ayikudi.

Dr. N. RanjithKumar
Assistant Professor of English,
MSU College, Puliangudi.

Abstract

Cinema has long been a powerful medium for reflecting and shaping society's perception of political issues. In the context of Hindi cinema, numerous films have explored and highlighted various political themes, offering insights into the complex socio-political landscape of India. One of the biggest film businesses, the Indian film industry has had tremendous success. The movie serves as a good entertainment medium and includes some political information that unintentionally reaches viewers. In India, film is the most effective form of communication. The depiction of politics in Bollywood, the Indian film industry, has been the subject of mystery and criticism for a longer period. In this article, we shall examine the multifaceted factors that influence the depiction of politics in films. When we look at Indian cinema through the lens of law, we look at the many factors that affect how politics are portrayed, how these depictions relate to real-life problems with law, and government, and whether these depictions are genuine.

Exposition of Politics in Indian Cinema:

The role of cinema in society goes beyond mere entertainment; it serves as a mirror that reflects the collective consciousness and concerns of the people. Hindi cinema, commonly known as Bollywood, holds a significant place in India's cultural and social fabric. Over the years, Bollywood has produced several noteworthy films that have engaged with diverse political issues, delving into the nuances of power, justice, and governance. This research seeks to examine how Hindi movies have approached and presented political themes, ultimately influencing public perception and understanding. Today, informational entertainment is referred to as infotainment. The best place to watch political films are in India, where the majority of the population lacks literacy and doesn't have access to or understand modern forms of communication like email and the Internet. Even they are unable to read and understand newspaper headlines. Along with being illiterate, the literate also don't routinely purchase newspapers, which prevents them

from being informed about the nation's political processes. They only hear oral information about political leaders from party members they engage with on a regular basis. Movies often show what's happening in society and politics. They act as a mirror, showing us what people hope for, what disappoints them, and what they think about their elected representatives. When Indian movies talk about politics, they often show what's happening in the government and how it affects people's lives. It is essential to note that these portrayals often lean towards the negative.

One of the primary reasons behind this stereotypical depiction of politics is the unprincipled behaviour of our elected representatives and the indulgence in corruption among other things. Moviemakers get ideas from these problems and use them to create interesting stories that people want to watch. Amitabh Bachchan's role as a 'cold and corrupt' politician in the film Sarkar (2005) substantiates the above argument. This character was a lot like what people think corrupt politicians are like, and it made the movie interesting for the audience.

Even though these depictions may appear exaggerated, they bring attention to a significant problem in India. People have lost faith in the political system due to controversies involving politicians. By dramatizing these issues in films, Indian cinema attempts to demonstrate the need for strict enforcement of legislation against graft, and corrupt practices.

Filmmakers often take into consideration how most people feel about the issues around them. Politicians are portrayed poorly in films since the general populace is disappointed with their involvement in scandals, corruption, and poor performance. A good example is the 1999 Tamil movie "Mudhalvan," directed by S. Shankar. In the movie, a writer takes on the role of a Chief Minister and brings popular transformation that pleases people's imagination. The protagonist plays an ideal politician, providing a novel perspective on the exercise of power. Mudhalvan brings to the fore the idea that films act as means to inspire change in society. Satyagraha (2013) directed by Prakash Jha emphasizes the importance of political activism and nonviolent resistance as a means to bring about change in society. It encourages citizens to stand up against injustice and demand their rights peacefully. The movie also explores the role of media in shaping public opinion and influencing political decisions. It showcases how media can be both a tool for change and a means to manipulate the narrative. Satyagraha highlights the importance of youth participation in politics and social movements. It encourages young people to be active and engaged citizens in shaping the future of the nation.

Indian films are known to drive social points. Film directors use political subjects to highlight burning problems in society. By doing so, they might use negative portrayals of lawmakers to draw attention to problems with the way politics work as a whole. Prakash Jha's 2013 movie "Satyagraha," on corruption and the government system is a potent example. Amitabh Bachchan, the

protagonist, who plays an activist, stands out for stepping up to corrupt politicians. This cinematic approach highlights the need for legislative reforms and better governance practices. Indian films are known to portray complicated characters with mixed morals. The movie "Raajneeti" (2010), directed by Prakash Jha displayed characters with shades of grey. The movie depicted the harsh realities of politics and the lives of politicians. In essence, there are no strictly good or bad politicians; they are complex individuals navigating a challenging political landscap

Returning to the initial questions, we realise how complicated the connection is between Indian films and politics. It's important to remember that Indian films are both art and entertainment, even though they often show leaders in a bad light for dramatic effect and social commentary. It's important to remember that negative images don't always show the truth. Instead, they should start conversations about problems of law and order. Satyagraha (2013) directed by Prakash Jha emphasizes the importance of political activism and nonviolent resistance as a means to bring about change in society. It encourages citizens to stand up against injustice and demand their rights peacefully. The movie also explores the role of media in shaping public opinion and influencing political decisions. It showcases how media can be both a tool for change and a means to manipulate the narrative. Satyagraha highlights the importance of youth participation in politics and social movements. It encourages young people to be active and engaged citizens in shaping the future of the nation.

Yes, Indian politics is full of problems. However, films are expected to act as means to think, discuss, and criticize. Negative depictions are essential for dramatic effects, but they also push for better governance. Both Indian cinema and politics are part of a larger social conversation. Their relationship evolves as they affect, and are influenced by one another. Essentially, movies serve as a reflection of Indian politics, and the political environment presents socio-economic issues that the film industry addresses to raise awareness among the general populace. By studying a range of remarkable movies, this study will highlight the evolving nature of political discourse in Indian cinema and its role in shaping public awareness and engagement with socio-political matters. The findings will contribute to the understanding of cinema as a powerful tool for political expression and social change, and its potential to drive conversations on critical issues in society. Politics may be found in all films. Any movie that deals with humanity or is set in a particular civilization is unavoidably political. The need to gain power is an essential aspect of being a political animal like a human, and cinema, as a form of media, shows this desire of people either directly or indirectly. The Indian film industry is a renowned global producer of films. We can only hope that as the industry progresses, it will demonstrate and contribute positively to the solutions to global issues by inspiring viewers' ideas.

References:

Alessandrini, Anthony C. (2001) My Heart's Indian for All That: Bollywood Film between Home and Diaspora. Diaspora

Bhabha, Homi. The Location of Culture. London, Routledge. 1994.

Bhoopaty, D. Cinema and Politics in India', in Kiran Prasad (ed.),Political Communication: The Indian Experience. Delhi, B. R. Publishing Corporation. 2003.

Kaur, Raminder; Sinha, Ajay J. (eds.). Bollywood: Popular Indian Cinema through a Transnational Lens. New Delhi, Sage Publications. 2005.