

Sociological and Psychological Issues of Women in Tamil Cinemas

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Abstract

Literature was popular in the 18th and 19th centuries. Since the 20th century, cinema has occupied its place. Though both these arts have certain connections and differences, both have a similarity of taking their readers/audience to a different world. The way both media expresses their meaning is where the similarity and the difference lie. The only difference between the movie and the literature is the advantage of visually showing the whole picture on the screen which helps the audience connect with the moment exactly to the sense of organs, which is absent in the literature. To put it, in other words, we can say that literature is an art that is developed through writing while cinema brings to life those writings to life through sound, music, visuals, and actors. Both are interdepend. Literature takes its readers on a journey of the imagination that is away from the real world and it left the readers to their discretion of imagination.

In both fields, socio-political issues, psychological issues, economical issues, marginalities, and some other social evils have been dealt with. Here, I discuss the sociological and psychological problems of women in Tamil cinema. Though we have so many Acts, such as the Sati Act, the Dowry Prevention Act, and the Prevention of female infanticide Act. Yet, the Government is unable to implement these laws, especially in rural areas where traditions are deeply rooted. The government faces many hindrances to creating an awareness of women's human rights. Cinema helps the government and contributes to creating awareness in society.

The status of women in modern India is a sort of paradox. If on one hand, women are doing well in all fields, on the other hand, they are mutely suffering the violence afflicted on them by their own family members. The women have left the secured domain of their homes and are now on the battlefield of life, fully armored with their talent. They had proven themselves. There are many problems that woman in India has to go through daily. These problems have become the part and parcel of the life of Indian women.

Key words: Indian Movie, Tamil Movie, suffering, breaking down the rituals.

Feminism

Feminism may be a very complex perspective. It's a source of a brand-new awareness, power, and knowledge to the contemporary thinking. It's a world likewise as a recent ideology. "Feminism incorporates diverse ideas which share three major perceptions: that gender could be a social construction which oppresses women over men; that patriarchy shapes this construction; which women's experimental knowledge could be a basis for a future non-sexist society".

"All styles of feminism seek to spot the causes of that inequality and to remedy it, but the problem of precisely which agency produces and reproduces inequality is that the source of the many of the differences between feminists" (Macey 122).

In general, feminism is "concerned with how women's lives have changed throughout history, and it asks what about women's experience [...] either as a result of an important ontological or psychological difference or as a result of historical imprinting and social construction" (Ryan 101). Feminism affirms the worth of ladies' and women's contributions to their life and anticipates a future where barriers to women's full participation public life are removed. Within feminism are many alternative political agendas, philosophical positions, values, ideologies, and examine points. However, feminists share five general commitments:

- (1) Valuing women and their specific contributions to society;
- (2) Critically analyzing the past to know how patriarchal practices have devalued woman
- (3) Analyzing sex-gender constructions that emphasize male-female differences and examining differences among women, especially in terms of race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, age, body shape, and religion, additionally as other categories of identity that are wont to denigrate, dismiss, or delegitimize persons inconsiderately of the merit of their actions, thoughts, or character.
- (4) Formulating new understandings that may transform social, political, and private practices on the premise of women's contributions, values, and experiences; and
- (5) Working toward social and private transformations through political activities designed to enable women to participate as full citizens publicly life.

This understanding of feminism develops out of Western thought, takes shape within the context of English-speaking feminist conversations within the later a part of the 20th century, and is informed by worldwide conversations about women's status.

Working on behalf of those five commitments involves feminists in two central activities. First, at the identical time as feminists frequently argue for woman's autonomy and enterprise to steady for women the equal political rights granted to Western men, they're trying to search out complete citizenship with the help of using going past the same rights to the identical percentage of public power. Second, thanks to the very fact feminists are suspicious of Abstractions like humanity that would genuinely articulate the simplest male stories, especially the stories of white, middle-class, heterosexual males, who are assumed to symbolize all of humanity, feminists confirm the specificity of women's lives and stories.

Indian Cinema

In the adventure of hundred years, Indian cinema has come a protracted manner therefore the portrayal of ladies' characters. Representation of girls have developed in a very specific manner throughout the globe with appreciate to the screenland. Women mostly represent enhancing roles in Indian cinema, especially in Tamil films for a protracted period. Representation of girls within the mass media not only touched the lives of the audience but also showed their inner strength, beauty and complexity. Each decade has presented its own brand of ladies.

Cinema represents a social and historical practice regarding gender approach. It also can be said that the media is crucial in the construction of gender ideologies and socialization. Media culture provides a way of selfhood, the construction of ethnicity, race, and nationality, Dines and Humez (2003). The film is that the term most ordinarily used in mass media to speak with the public. Regional cinema has its own identity thanks to its unique characteristics and qualities which we will understand through local culture.

Regional cinema's shape is formed on the underside of the nearby ways of life and custom. Regional movies assimilate those factors of their portrayal via marriage, dowry, caste, and rituals executed for gods and goddesses. The depiction of these factors draws extra humans closer to local films due to its nearby coloration and touch. Regional films have robust attractive electricity to specific social issues. Therefore, we are going to say that local cinema has robust attractive electricity to specific the way of life, custom, and ritual of a particular region, Subhash Chandra Bose.

Tamil Cinema

Tamil cinema is also colloquially called Kollywood. Kollywood is portmanteau Kodambakkam + Hollywood. It is based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Tamil Cinema: A cultural outlook as Tamil cinema developed it looked mostly at the socially orientated themes that were deeply rooted within the Tamil language and culture. "When the trend turned towards entertainment and commercial. Tamil cinema gives a visual observation within side the form of a famous way of life entangled immediately with the lives of the persons with the intention to allow them to eat numerous information, notion systems, and cultural commodities and consequently fulfill social and cultural needs" (Jesudoss 2009).

The upward thrust of feminist thoughts has caused the high-quality development of ladies' circumstances within the course of the arena in the latest times. Access to training has been one of the utmost urgent needs of these ladies' rights movements. Education may be a robust device within side the emancipation and empowerment of women, the most effective unmarried issue which could especially enhance the recognition of women in any society. Education permits ladies now not simplest to profit from greater information approximately the world outdoors and domestically, however, allows her to induce popularity, high-quality self-esteem, self-confidence, vital braveness, and internal electricity to square challenges in lifestyles that social shape throws at her.

In most societies, males are given more significance towards decisions within side their own circle or relatives and in society. In the personal circle and in social decision-making power and leadership quality are denied to women even though they are earning women. They are submissive. There is a code of conduct for ladies in Indian society. In India, most of the ladies do not have decision-making power, choice freedom in selecting their life partner, or preparing

their favorite food not only in their own life but also in their family members' life. Autonomy is the ability to obtain information and make decisions about one's own concerns. It facilitates access to material resources such as food, land, income, and other forms of wealth, and social resources such as knowledge, power, and prestige within the family and community (Acharya et al., 2010). Limitations to women's physical, sexual, economic, social, and political autonomy may affect women's decision-making processes. On the opposite, if women obtain this autonomy, it will become a supply in their empowerment.

Women issues in Tamil Movies:

Pudhumai Penn: It was released in 1984. Revathi, the main character, struggles to get his husband out of the prison by proving him innocent. But this needs a lot of money. To earn the required money she does different jobs. Then she finds a lawyer and convinces him to help her. Pratap Poten, the advocate, gets Pandiyan, the husband of Revathi, out of the prison. After Pandiyan's release, he enquires his wife what does she do? and how does she earn the huge money to get him bail? and he suspects her virginity. Out of the wrath, Revathi breaks down the sacred thread of marriage and throws it in Pandiyan's face, and leaves away.

Karuthamma: This movie was directed by Bharathi Raja and released in 1994. The movie is set in a village where a girl child is a curse and female infanticide is common. It is filmed very clearly on focusing elements like female infanticide, sentiments, patriarchy, ignorance, and illiteracy. This movie has broken the phrase of Tamil culture 'Girl child is considered to be the goddess'. The film brought wide attention to female infanticide and was instrumental in forcing the government at national and state levels to act against this practice and bring suitable laws to control it.

Magalir Mattum: It was released in 1994. This movie focuses the workplace harassment and the male gaze. Later it has considered an early example of the "Me Too Movement" in India.

Marupadiyum: This movie was released in 1993. It was filmed and directed by Balu Mahendra, a veteran in the Tamil Film industry. The film focuses on Thulasi, the wife of Murail who is abandoned by her husband for Kavitha. Kavitha's mental deepens her fears of insecurity, even after Murali requests Thulasi go sign in the divorce papers. Thulasi promises Kavitha that she will not interfere in Murali thereafter. Though Thulasi promised to Kavitha, However, Thulasi's attitude only convinces Kavitha that breaking Thulasi's marriage was a mistake. She leaves Murali because of guilt and insecurity. The latter tries to revive his relationship with Thulasi but is rejected. Thulasi mentally prepares to live without any companion then after. She lives her remaining life for her maid daughter.

Magalir Mattum : This movie is released 2017. It is written and directed by Bamma. The film narrates the story of three female school friends who reunite after 38 years, despite the pressures put upon them by the men in their lives. This movie highlights how women and their dreams get trapped in the name of marriage. The male characters, in the film, treat their wives and mothers as servants to drive home the point that women deserve better. It also creates an impression that it is only the earlier generation of women that faced issues of discrimination and this generation has it quite well.

36 Vayadhinile : This is an interesting movie which is released in 2015. Vasanthi is a clerk who is working in the Revenue Department. She is very passive and obedient to her husband. There is nothing interesting about her life. She leads a routine life but she seeks a change. One

day Vasanthi was invited by the President of India for a conversation. The imperious office of the President of India made her faint. Then, she became the subject of memes.

Susan David, an old classmate of Vasanthi, reminds her of her boldness which inspired others, especially her in her college days. And motivates her to rediscover her younger self, a woman with big dreams and aspirations.

Later, by succeeding in her new project of organic farming, Vasanthi once again gets an invitation from the President of India. This time, Vasanthi is unwavering and cleverly answers the questions of the President, and finally, she gets the respect and appreciation of her husband and daughter.

Raatchasi: Jyotika, as Geetha Rani, is a headmaster who comes to an indisciplined school in a village to set things right. She's a demon for the staff and students as her sudden strict and progressive plans do not go down well with them. A story that deals with realistic issues requires a grounded protagonist, but here it is indicated as unnecessary. This film reveals the leadership quality of women. The raatchasi breaks the custom of going to the burial ground. This movie is much more appreciated by the Education Minister of Malaysia, Dr.Maszlee Malik for its social relevance.

Sports Movies

Dangal is a movie about wrestling, It is released in 2016 and directed by Nitesh Tiwari. Originally it is a Hindi movie later it is dubbed in Tamil. Wrestling is a muscle power and physical power game. In general, this game is made for men because men have physical power but here in this movie the protagonist Mahavir Singh Phogat (Aamir), a wrestler from Haryana, trains his daughters without bothering the society and relatives' comments. Finally, after a long struggle, he succeeded and achieved his goal. This movie breaks the taboo of Indian women participating in a sport thus far dominated by men. This film motivates so many girls to participate in this sport.

Kanaa: It is a 2018 Indian Tamil-language sports genre movie. It is about Cricket. The protagonist Kausalya is a daughter of a poor farmer. Kausalya resolves within herself to become a cricket player. She plays cricket very well right from childhood. Over a period of time, her mother is dead-set against her game as she believes cricket is not a woman's game. After a long suffering, she overcomes language barriers, awful situations, and the de-motivation of co-players. The coach of the selection committee motivates her and reminds the sacrifices of her father. At last, she proved her ability.

Bigil: This is a 2019 Indian Tamil-language sports and action genre movie written and directed by Atlee. This movie is about Football. The hero, Bigil, the football coach motivates the players and forms a team for the tournament. During the formation of the team, he likes to add two more players to the team. – Anitha and Gayathri Sudarshan. They had given up the game due to marriage and humiliation.

Anita was tortured by a boy to love him. As she ignores the boy's proposal, the boy is frustrated. As a result, he pours acid on her face and distorted her face. Then the crouch narrowed girl would not come out of her room and she started to spend her days within the wall. The latter one is married and belonging a very orthodox Brahmin family. As an obedient daughter-in-

law, she is living forgetting her game. He motivates them and speaks to the family members not to shatter their dream and aim. At last, the team wins the match.

Kennedy Club is another sports film. It is written and directed by Suseenthiran and released in 2019. A women's Kabaddi team faces several struggles while competing in a national-level championship. It is a movie that talks about how the players, hailing from economically weaker families, face social issues, is decently filmed as their family issues, which involve parents denying them permission to participate in kabaddi matches.

Conclusion: Mass media and Cinema play a vital role to bring changes in society as well as in the life of people, especially in the life of women. All the above-discussed movies bring to light the strong cultural perception values towards woman-centric roles. Motivation, literacy, positive stroke, and being with the women are enough to empower them. Denial, demotivation, humiliation, and harassment are the basic cause for women to stand against society. Films reflect society. Therefore, a nation like India should be proud of its growing value in Filmmaking.

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