



THE DEPICTION OF MODERN DAY FEMALE CHARACTERS IN BOLLYWOOD

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Abstract

Movies are a reflection of our society's current scenario. It depicts the trends, problems, social evils and various other things which people can relate to. Indian film industry is the largest in the world in terms of production and dates back to the early 20th century. Today there are millions of people who watch Bollywood movies across the globe and have an insight of the Indian society. While the industry had faced a lot of criticism in the past for objectifying women and using them as only secondary artists or in soft roles. While the times have changed, the same industry has now become a medium for change and awareness. There are more and more movies coming up which illuminate women to be more independent and strong. Gone are the time when men used to be the dominating figures. Now is the time for equality. Movies Selected

1. *Queen (2014)*
2. *Dil Dhadakne Do(2015)*
3. *Mary Kom (2014)*
4. *Dangal (2016)*
5. *Neerja (2016)*
6. *Kahaani (2012)*
7. *Mom (2017)*
8. *Pink (2016)*

Key Words: Women, *Queen*, *Dil Dhadakne Do*, *Self- Exploration*

Introduction

When women taught us that they are not born only to serve their husbands

Time and again life throws us down with unexpected problems and situations where one may question their own capabilities. While most of us look for a shoulder of support, there are a few who wipe their tears off and bounce back to life. This quality of self-independence is portrayed in Bollywood movies like *Queen* and *Dil Dhadakne Do*. The strong representation of female protagonists in the movie shows how they firmly chose not to cry over spilt beans when it came to marriage problems and find positive **Solutions When Life Pulled Them Down**.

Queen (2014) is the story about young lady Rani (played by Kangana Ranault) who is brought up in a traditional Indian family, who breaks the barrier of her family restrictions and chooses to go solo on her honeymoon trip to Europe when her fiancée calls their wedding off. It is her journey of self-exploration, building up self-confidence meeting new people and realizing her true worth.

Dil Dhadakne Do (2015) is a movie about a family gathered with guests to celebrate the 30th marriage anniversary of a rich business tycoon. Everyone in the family has their own problems to deal with and there is very bonding and understanding among the family



members. The daughter of the businessman, Aisha (played by Priyanka Chopra) runs a successful business by herself and is very unhappy with her controlling and narcissistic husband. She takes a stand by herself to discontinue her marriage with her husband, which initially is not approved by her family, but her sense of commitment to her own values and ideas convinces the family later accepts her decision.

When women reminded us that sports are not only for men

Undoubtedly Bollywood had traditionally depicted girls only on the cheerleader's team while the boys were playing the sport. There came a time when Bollywood finally appreciated women's work in the sports industry and depicted them equivalent to men.

Mary Kom (2014) is the biopic of the 6-time Olympic boxing champion. It vividly depicts her passion to become a boxer, defying all odds of coming from a very poor family. She finds her way through a disapproving father and societal pressures to achieve her dream.

One of the most inspiring journeys of the Phogat sisters was the movie Dangal (2016). It showed the life long journey of a National wrestler who trains his daughters from a very young age to fulfil his incomplete dream to get India an International gold medal in wrestling. The two sisters tirelessly train day in and out and battle not only in the field but also off-field with the society's discriminatory remarks and comments. They show immense discipline, sheer hard work and prove that women are nowhere less than men in the sports industry.

When women fought against injustice and shut mouths who questioned their credibilities

Society has always praised men for being fearless and have portrayed them as heroes of war and spies in movies. It was almost hard to digest that such roles could strong and bold roles could also be played by female actors.

Neerja (2016) is a biopic on the life of a fearless and bold air hostess who was shot while trying to save passengers from terrorist-hijackers. Her commitment towards her work in such an intense situation was applauded by many countries and she received the Ashoka chakra for selfless acts of her.

Kahaani (2012) is a movie where a spy who disguises as a pregnant lady(played by Vidya Balan) who sets out to find her missing husband all alone in the city of Kolkata and tries to decipher her missing husband's case with the help of the local police. She consecutively executes the man behind the poison gas attack in the Kolkata metro rail and vanishes before anyone could stop her. This movie was plausibly challenging the typical stereotypes of the indian society which deceives us to think of the lady as an ordinary citizen and not a spy.

Conclusion

When women made us realise that they are not sexual toys

Society has been very brutal to women by always objectifying it as a sex toy and not a socially equal being. For years now, women have been trying to uplift their social status and take their share of equality. In the movie Mom(2017) Sridevi enacts a step mother who avenges her step daughter who was raped by 4 men, and were not punished by the judiciary system. She is unafraid of the consequences and has her revenge. Pink(2016) is a story of 3



young, independent and working women who were attempted rape on. They later file an FIR which fails to convince the courtroom to punish the accused. Later a retired lawyer helps the victims get their justice and blames the upbringing of the rapists and the society's stereotypes the cause for this incident.

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