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## The influence of Bollywood sports films on students in nit Warangal

**Eeva Sara Jacob and Ajith A Johnson**

### Abstract

Sports and Films have a heart. It has ambitions and powers that can influence the attitudes, ways and behaviors of people in their lives. For the last few years, Bollywood Movie Industry witnessing a handful of films based on sports which have conveyed a lot of impressions in the hearts of individuals who watched it. The perspective of watching a sports film by a sports person and non sports person is different. The reasons for preferring a sports movie may vary. Here this study based on the influence of Bollywood sports movies on students in NIT Warangal reveals that Indian Sports films were not only entertaining but also educating them. The 30 subjects in this study were the students from various parts of our country. So, this kind of study will enhance the insights related to Bollywood Sports Films and the sports movies in other regional languages in our country.

**Keywords:** sports films, Bollywood movie industry, reasons

### 1. Introduction

Films are the true reflections of a society. It has a power to capture the heart, mind and guide the ambitions. Sports is the educational activity which has several dimensions, on the other hand movies has the dimensions other than the physical. In the present scenario, Bollywood Movie industry and sports combines together and creates visual treats towards the audiences with its inspirational stories regarding various sporting events. These sports movies hold up the spectators to the seats in the Movie theatre like the seats in the gallery of the play field. It also made tremendous vibrations on individuals who belong to sporting as well as non sporting community. The influence of any sports movies in passive sports persons is different from active sports persons. In the year 2016, through the film *Dangal*, the Bollywood movie industry along with the Indian film industry reached to its glimpes.

Films are comes under the group of Media which has a symbolic relationship between Sports. The connection gained another face through the releasing of sports films in various regional languages as well. The present study is based on the popularity of Bollywood sports films with its motives. The reason behind like or dislike a movie is highly individual. The Bollywood Sports films which have gained a wide ranged acceptance in the hearts of people have its own reasons to be liked by everyone. This study is resulted from the face to face interviews between 30 students who were studying in the various academic disciplines of science and technology at National Institute of Technology, Warangal in Telangana state. The insights of subjects towards the reasons for liking Bollywood sports movies have its significance that they were from various parts of our country representing the youth of country.

### 1.1 Sports Films

“A sports film is a film genre that uses sport as the theme of the film. It is a production in

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which a sport, sporting event, athlete (and their sport), or follower of sport (and the sport they follow) are prominently featured, and which depend on sport to a significant degree for their plot motivation or resolution. Despite this, sport is ultimately rarely the central concern of such films and sport performs primarily an allegorical role. Furthermore, sports fans are not necessarily the target demographic in such movies, but sports fans tend to have a large following or respect for such movies"<sup>[1]</sup>.

## 1.2 Bollywood Sports Films

Bollywood is the Indian Hindi language film industry based on Mumbai. The films that have a sports theme which were releasing from this industry were often called Bollywood Sports Movies. These movies may be based on individual or team sports in the form of fiction, semi fiction or biopic. The Bollywood movie industries were credited with a handful of sports films and some of it gained worldwide recognitions on movie world. Lagaan, Chak De India, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, Dangal, Mary Kom, Budhia Singh: Born to Run, Saalakhadoos, M.S Dhoni: The Untold Story etc are very few among them.

## 2. Materials and methods

30 students from various parts of our country, who were engaging in their studies at National Institute of Technology at Warangal, Telengana were chosen as the subjects for the present study. Details are collected from them through face to face interview.

## 3. Results & Discussion

### 3.1 Popular Bollywood Sports Film

In the present study, the NIT students chosen Dangal and Chak De India as their favorite sports movies. Irrespective of Language and Culture, they were selected these two films which were released in the gap of 9 years due to its visual treat which were gifted to them in their school days and college days. The other Bollywood films that they were preferred include M.S Dhoni: The Untold Story, Mary Kom etc. The performance of Ameer Khan in the movie Dangal, the interest towards Cricket etc affected the preferences of the students.

### 3.2 Reasons for Preferring Bollywood Sports Films

The reasons for choosing a Bollywood sports movie as their favorite have several reasons. This study is focusing on the reasons behind the liking of a particular or group of Bollywood Sports movies. The perspectives of the subjects will enhance the insights on these kinds of movies which were releasing not only in the Hindi language but also in other regional languages in our country. The 10 reasons which are mentioned below are on the basis of details collected from face to face interview to the subjects.

**1. Patriotism:** Patriotism is the feeling of strong devotion, sense of attachment and support to one's own country. According to a report published in *The Times of India*, 'Movies have been instrumental in bringing about social change and evoke the feeling of patriotism with its strong and powerful content and great performances. When we say Patriotic, it not only related to war stories and independent struggles, it includes a wide variety of subjects like stories of some unsung heroes, stories of acts that have made the nation proud and so on'. In this sense, Bollywood Sports movies are always the bearers of Patriotism in its truest sense.

**2. Struggle:** Bollywood Sports films turns to be exciting and inspiring when it portrays the hard struggles that the sporting individual has been faced in between the ways of their career. The struggle towards Poverty, Family and Authority etc makes the film a memorable one. Sometimes these struggles were for regaining the lost stability and success for a heroic comeback. On the other side, the struggle is under their own dreams and others as well. Besides all this, it resembles the story of our own or the persons that we know who were related or not related to sports field. It makes the sympathy to empathy that the viewer can truly experience it in the deep heart.

**3. Motivation:** This is the most common term that is associated with sports films. In case of Bollywood Sports Movies too, it provides a big deal of motivation to them. Some of the scenes, dialogues and songs contribute to the motivational aspects of individuals. Any sports movies give motivation and strength to achieve great things. It may make us to stand up and cheer the athletes and teams who overcome big challenges in the game as well as outside the game. It teaches greater life lessons that help to fight hard and achieve the best in our life. It makes the youth to train harder, to run the extra mile, to inspire and to do the best of them throughout the life.

**4. Dedication:** These Bollywood Sports films teach the great lessons of dedication that needed for every phase of life. Dedication that is showed throughout in the midst of opposing situations makes the athlete or the coach or the parent or the friend or the sibling greater than everyone. The dedication of the athletes aids to overcome the hurdles in the pathways of success. It also teaches to consider failures as a stepping stone towards greater success. The quality of being faithful and committed to a task which brings good and pride to others makes the person memorable forever. The Bollywood sports films are the stories of dedication along with the ups and downs in the lives of people whom it associates.

**5. Real Life Story:** In this study, the films such as Dangal, M.S Dhoni: The Untold Story, Mary Kom etc are the biopics which pictures the real life stories of sporting individuals. In case of the film Chak De India, the film is inspired from the victory of Indian Women Hockey Team in 2002 Common Wealth Games. Along with that the flash back story of the character Kabir Khan, who was enacted by Sharukh Khan, is similar to the incident happens in the life of an Indian Hockey player named Mir Renjan Negi. Anyhow, the reel life of real stars makes the Bollywood Sports movies as favorite of the youths in our country.

**6. Determination:** Determination is an emotion and feeling that is positive, to do anything although it is difficult. It is the quality to strive against all obstacles and to reaches to the shores of success. It motivates the behavior of an individual to achieve the goal. Bollywood sports movies are the stories of sheer determination that show cases the spirit to strive in the midst of all opposing factors that they were faced from the society they belongs. This determination enables them to bring the best performance from them that make the country proud. The determination of the some or group of dedicated individuals fuels to triumph over adversities. All these scenes in the movies share the very feeling of togetherness and bond.

**7. Change the Perspectives towards the Women Sports:** When we look on to the Bollywood Sports Movies, it portrayed the lives of sporting women in an enthusiastic way. After watching these women centric Bollywood sports movies, some of the subjects in this study started to watch women sports which were going on near to them and also it's telecasting in Televisions and YouTube. This special focus on women in Indian sports is the significant change that the Bollywood Sports Movie brings to our country. This kind of acceptance encourages the girls to play sports and ace it. Along with that, this Bollywood sports film highlights the difficulties facing by women athletes from different phases of society.

**8. Background Music:** The background music that is used in these films are capable to bind the feelings of Patriotism, the struggle of sporting individual and persons associated with them, the hard core dedication, the sheer determination, motivation etc together in knot. This is one of the key features of Indian movies irrespective of all regional languages. The films are ever remembered through the songs in it. The songs such as *Chak De...Chak De India* from Chak De India, *Zinda...Hain toh* from Bhaag Milka Bhaag etc provides motivation for the youth in our country. The songs in the Bollywood Sports films created a storm in the minds of sports lovers too.

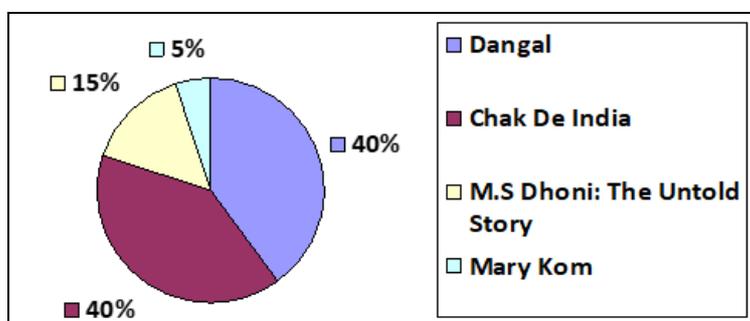
**9. Career of Sports Performance after the Marriage:** In the Indian context, Marriage considers to be the second innings of life to women. The sporting career seems a little bit challenging for them due to several stereotypes prevailing in the society. In the present study, they pointed out the film Mary Kom which turns as an astonishing example to the youth especially girls for continuing her career of boxing after

the marriage. The winning of her major achievements as well as the very historic bronze medal in 2012 London Olympics in her motherhood turns as an inspiration to girls in our country. The reel life as well as real life of Mary Kom sets a path way to all girls who were aspiring to continue their career after the marriage.

**10. Hockey as National Game:** When we look on to the history of World Sports films, films associated with hockey were on the basis of Ice Hockey. In this scenario, the sports movies from Bollywood were based on Field Hockey which is the national game of our country. Hockey as a team game made a tremendous impact in the minds of youth through the releasing of film Chak De India. As it was released in the year 2007 the glimpses of the movie is still resides in the minds of youth in our nation. There were other films also get released based on hockey later in Bollywood, but the true spirit of hockey is still preserving in the minds of youth with the film Chak De India.

**Table 1:** Reasons for preferring Bollywood Sports Films

No	Reasons
1	Patriotism
2	Struggle
3	Motivation
4	Dedication
5	Real Life Story
6	Determination
7	Change the perspectives towards Women Sports
8	Background Music
9	Career of Sports Performance After Marriage
10	Hockey as the National Game



**Fig 1:** Popular Bollywood Sports Films

**4. Conclusions**

In the Bollywood Movie Industry, the modern era of sports movies started with the releasing of Ameer Khan's Lagaan in the year 2001. The rest of this series include Iqbal, Goal, Lagaan, Chak De India, Mary Kom, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, Dangal etc which makes the viewers highly emotional and gifted enjoyable watching experiences. On the basis of understanding from this study, it can be concluded that the Bollywood sports films aids to promote the sports. It has also proved its potential to inspire the millions of youngsters in our nation. These films were acts a guide to young upcoming athletes in India to pursue a career in sports, on the other hand, the passive sports persons who were not all involves in competitive form of sports and games activities gets inspiration to aid these athletes in various external forms. For nurturing the upcoming athletes of our nation, Bollywood film Industry is still contributing the stories of athletic heroes

and heroines. Like that, the other fields also can help the athletes in one way or other way. For bringing an individual's sporting abilities from beginning phase to advance phase, science and technology is needed. India has produced yet producing handful of individuals with high sporting abilities as well as academic potentials also. But we have limited number of engineering and technological professionals in the sports field of our country. The present study which was conducted in National Institute of Technology, Warangal has a national importance that it was the first NIT in the chain of 31 NIT's in our country. It has inaugurated by the first prime minister of our country Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the one who initiated the idea of Asian Games as an attempt to forge Asian solidarity. In the current scenario, no NIT's either IIT's has not offering fully fledged courses in Sports Engineering or Sports Technology or Sports Management which truly promotes the

obsession of science and technology to the enhancement of sports field. In other parts of world, they had already blended the science and technology into sports field and also to the sports films. But we are in the infancy stage of its application in the sports field. It must be needed to change. Then only the next era of Bollywood Sports films may add up with the stories of technology too in the field of sports and games. Let it be fly over on the dreams of athletes as well as non- athletes in our nation.

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