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Sosim CA
Handball Coach, Department of
Physical Education, University
of Calicut Malappuram, Kerala,
India

Ajith A Johnson
M.P.Ed. Student, Department of
Physical Education, University
of Calicut Malappuram, Kerala,
India

A study on gender issues projected in Bollywood sports movies

Sosim CA and Ajith A Johnson

Abstract

Sports and Media always share a long history of relationship. Without one other can't exist. Bollywood Sports Movies not only filled with mere inspiration or entertainment it also discusses a wide range of social issues in terms of Gender, Politics, Economics, Family, Education etc. All other issues come under any of this heading. This project tries to expedite the ways and turns of Sports Movies as an effective vehicle to bear appropriate time based interventions in the society. The Bollywood sports movies brings light to the life of athletes to whom we are familiar as well as unfamiliar the highs and lows in a particular sports event in connection with competitions as well as emotional state.

Gender, Politics, Economics, Family, Education In sports- all these are comes the environment of sociology. When we took Gender, we can identify that all societies were not give equal opportunities to men and women to participate in sports. Some societies possess with different cultural, ethnical, religious background favours or diminish the participation of physical activities. Women who were always force to remain hided in the particular spheres even if in sports. The role assumes to a women by that is not only constructed in terms of biology but also socially. The Bollywood sports movies communicate the concept of gender through its powerful characterisation. Politics comes to sports serves as symbol of powers. Sports can be put to political use to gain, to keep, demonstrate or increase the power. The Movies highlights the issues creating by the inappropriate intervention of politics in sports which creates degeneration in society. Economics sums up the involvement sports in every spheres of life. Economic considerations sometimes restrict the growth of sports as it resides in only in one side. Family which serves as a basic unit in each and every society drives the progress of society. Family as a concept, as an institution, as a social agent provides a lots to society. Its contribution is very well established in majority of sports movies. Education acts a light in darkness. It is the torch holder of various social, emotional, cultural values of a society form one generation to another. Sports as an integral part of education have its own role and place in the society. Sports Movies in Bollywood directly as well as indirectly influences the educational sector of country. The need and importance of providing education to each and every one is understood while us watching this movie.

At times it makes Social Impacts in the society due to its way and style of presentation. Controversies were always seems as a tool to be aware of the issues prevailing in the sports field as well as other fields in the society. Here the journey of Bollywood Sports Movies begins to explore the Social issues tiding in the society.

Keywords: Gender issues, Bollywood sports movies, physical activity

Introduction

Sports are not only a physical activity but a social event in the modern society. Sports in the society are clearly connected to major spheres of social life including family, economy, education, gender and politics. Sports movies also projects the above mentioned social factors. The present study was taken to find out the social issues projected by the Bollywood movies. This will help us to understand the real Social issues in Indian sports.

Sporting events have played pivotal roles in communities around the world throughout history. Today, contests pushing physical limits are more popular than ever before. As interest in health and longevity continues to rise, and governments and businesses continue to see sporting events as sound investments, sports will play a vital role in society for the foreseeable future. Athletic endeavors, both amateur and professional, have a tremendous economic, political and cultural influence on our society.

Correspondence
Sosim CA
Handball Coach, Department of
Physical Education, University
of Calicut Malappuram, Kerala,
India

Selection of Subjects

Twenty movies from Bollywood films has been Selected as Subject.

Selection of Variables

Gender is the range of characteristics pertaining to, and differentiating between, masculinity and femininity. Depending on the context, these characteristics may include biological sex (i.e. the state of being male, female or an intersex variation which may complicate sex assignment), sex-based social structures (including gender roles and other social roles), or gender identity

Collection of Data

Personal Technique was used to evaluate the social problems that projected in the Bollywood sports movies. The personal way of observation of This twenty sports movies will help to find out the major social problem that destroying the growth of spots in India. when applied to write about film Analysis of an individual sports film. Analysis beyond a simple evaluation (review) of a movie to a level of explanation. it help to examine the depth and detail of the film. The You tube downloader application and torrent movie downloader helps for the collection of data and downloads of Bollywood movies.

Gender in Bollywood Sports Movies

Following six movies out of twenty project gender issues in serious manner

- Dangal
- Chack-de-India
- Marry kom
- Saala khadoos
- Sulthan
- Meera bhai not out

Discussion and Findings

‘Gender’ is a socio-cultural term referring socially defined roles and behaviours assigned to ‘males’ and ‘females’ in a given society; whereas, the term ‘sex’ is a biological and physiological phenomenon which defines man and woman.

In sports, the participation of women is considering as just opposite for the roles that they had assigned or prescribed by the society. In Sports itself some of the events are tagged as Male Sports. In the Film Mary Kom, her father is strictly warned to her that boxing is not a sport suited for women. Therefore family itself prevent her from active participation in Boxing. The Family is always a piece of Society. The ways and actions of other societal members or community is fulfilled or passing through families.

Gender Inequality starts from the family itself. In simple words, Gender Inequality may be defined as discrimination against women based on their sex. Traditionally women are considered by the society as weaker sex. She has been accorded a subordinate position to men. She is exploited, degraded, violated and discriminated both in our homes and in outside world. This peculiar type of discrimination against women is prevalent everywhere in the world and more so in Indian society.

The root cause of gender inequality in Indian society lies in its patriarchy system. The Bollywood Sports Movies highlights the patriarchy prevailing in the society. According to the famous sociologists Sylvia Walby, patriarchy is “a system of social structure and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women”. Women’s exploitation is an age old

cultural phenomenon of Indian society.

The system of patriarchy finds its validity and sanction in our religious beliefs, whether it is Hindu, Muslim or any other religion. For instance, as per ancient Hindu law giver Manu: “Women are supposed to be in the custody of their father when they are children, they must be under the custody of their husband when married and under the custody of her son in old age or as widows. In no circumstances she should be allowed to assert herself independently”. The above described position of women as per Manu is still the case in present modern day social structure. Barring few exceptions here and there, women have no power to take independent decisions either inside their homes or in outside world.

The unfortunate part of gender inequality in our society is that the women too, though, continued socio-cultural conditioning, have accepted their subordinate position to men. And they are also part and parcel of same patriarchal system.

Gender Expectations are always supporting the birth of male child. A girl child is born in a world of gender discrimination. When they came to sports, they want to hurdle a lot the gender norms of society.

A female is less supported than the male athletes. In all the movies, male athletes are supported by their family members and friends. But their trace in the case of female athlete is very much less.

Women who engaged in sports were deemed as masculine.

The female body and her performance are serves as a commercial product.

Discrimination between male and female athletes as well as degrading of female athlete by male athletes itself shows the traces of patriarchy in the society.

Society considers marriage of women athlete as the end of career. More than a social custom or ritual, Marriage more or less affects the dreams of girl athletes.

When we come into the case of family food habits, it is the male child who gets all the nutritious and choicest foods while the girl child gets whatever is left behind after the male members have taken their meals or the food which is low in both quality and nutrition. In the film Dangal, their father itself asks the mother to cook chicken for the children. But the mother refuses to cook it initially. Because it seems as an awkward practise in the society they belonged.

Most people still hold the belief that sports are harmful to women’s health, particularly to their reproductive health.

So the inequality or discrimination against women is at various levels in the society, either in home or outside home.

Male dominance in sports has become a nightmare for female athletes, who in the hope of pursuing their careers in the field of sports, have been deprived of self-esteem among a plethora of gender discrimination instances.

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