

# The Presentation of Political Issues in Cinema: A Study of Remarkable Hindi Movies

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## **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. It effortlessly reaches everyone's thoughts, from the literate to the illiterate. It uses audio-visual techniques and is a good kind of entertainment as a common communicator. This study aims to analyse and discuss how Hindi movies have portrayed political issues, such as corruption, social justice, communalism, and governance, and their impact on audiences. By examining a selection of remarkable Hindi movies, this research seeks to shed light on the role of cinema in shaping political discourse and promoting social awareness.

**Keywords:** Hindi cinema, films, politics, political issues,

## **I Introduction:**

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.

Particularly in a developing country like India, cinema is considered a tool to support social change initiatives. Films have the ability to influence minds and help in the breaking of social taboos, with 2,016 million viewers worldwide in 2015 alone (UNESCO, 2015). Many films leave an impression on the audience, contributing to ongoing national discussions and debates as well as supporting the work being done by the development sector. Are politics and cinema, two significant and influential facets of our society, influenced by one another in any way? If so, how do they interact and how does cinema in this nation adopt or take shape as a result of the political discourse? This study will concentrate on these cinematic considerations and how they interact and come into contact with current political discourse because cinema has its pattern, construction, structure, meaning-making process, form, and style.

It's odd how politics and film go together. Some of our most popular films have succeeded in shining a light on the nation's political underworld, but others have attracted the fury of some powerful politicians. Political parties frequently go so far as to attempt to profit from a movie's popularity. Similar to this, South star Vijay's *Thalaivaa* was eventually released in Tamil Nadu after much commotion, and the most recent movie to stir up political controversy is Shoojit Sircar's *Madras Cafe*, which is based on the Sri Lankan civil conflict in the late 1980s.

## **II Hindi Political Films**

There were several Hindi films that have represented political issues in India. These films often reflect the socio-political climate of the country, addressing various issues like corruption, communal tensions, caste dynamics, and more. Here are some notable Hindi films that fit this description:

*Rang De Basanti* (2006) - Directed by *Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra*, this film explores the theme of political activism and highlights the influence of youth in bringing about social and political change. This title's meaning is "Paint me with the colours of spring," although its origins are very lengthy. Saffron denotes sacrifice in India, according to a statement made somewhere. The phrase "*Main rang de Basanti*" denotes someone who is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for a worthy cause. Another prominent colour in the film is saffron. And in part because the entire movie is about giving up one's life to reach a better and higher goal. The movie is based on a young person's protest against an unfair system. They became revolutionary as a result of a soldier's death, some young people's broken hearts, and a

corrupt minister's immoral statement. Additionally, the movie automatically promotes a social movement.

*Raajneeti* (2010) directed by *Prakash Jha*, this movie delves into the power struggles and complex dynamics within a political family, drawing parallels to real-life political scenarios. The movie portrays the complexities of family-based political dynasties, where power and control are passed down through generations. It explores the internal conflicts and rivalries within the family members striving to take control of the political legacy. *Raajneeti* depicts the cutthroat world of politics, where politicians use various tactics to gain power and manipulate their opponents. The film highlights the dark side of political ambitions and the lengths to which some individuals go to secure their positions.

*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.

*Article 15* (2019) directed by *Anubhav Sinha*, this hard-hitting film addresses caste-based discrimination and the struggles of an honest police officer who trying to uncover the truth. The main political issue addressed in the movie is the deep-rooted caste system and its impact on marginalized communities in India. The story is set in a rural area of Uttar Pradesh, where the protagonist, a police officer named Ayan Ranjan, is posted. The film sheds light on the discrimination and oppression faced by Dalits (formerly known as "untouchables") and lower-caste individuals in the Indian social hierarchy. It exposes the brutality and injustice meted out to these communities, particularly when it comes to accessing basic rights, justice, and representation. The film tackles themes of caste-based violence, discrimination, and exploitation, which are still prevalent in various parts of India.

*Madras Cafe* (2013) directed by *Shoojit Sircar*, this political thriller examines the Sri Lankan civil war and India's involvement in it. *Madras Cafe* is a Bollywood movie released in 2013 that deals with political issues. The film is a political thriller set in the late 1980s and early 1990s during the Sri Lankan civil war. It touches on sensitive and complex subjects like the armed conflict between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), as well as the Indian government's involvement in the region.

*Aarakshan* (2011) directed by *Prakash Jha*, this film explores the issue of reservation in educational institutions and the challenges faced by individuals belonging to different castes. The film primarily focuses on the reservation system in educational institutions, which has

been a long-standing and contentious issue in Indian politics. The movie explores the debate on whether reservations based on caste should be continued or not. *Aarakshan* also portrays the political manipulation and exploitation of caste-based politics. It highlights how politicians often use caste as a tool to gain support and votes during elections. *Aarakshan* highlights the crucial role of education in societal progress and how unequal access to education can perpetuate social disparities. The film portrays the power of student activism and how students can mobilize to voice their concerns about the education system and policies.

### III Conclusion

This research aims to provide valuable insights into the portrayal of political issues in Hindi cinema and its impact on society. 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.

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