



MULTICULTURALISM AND
SOCIAL REALISM IN
CONTEMPORARY
LITERATURE



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Multiculturalism and Social Realism in Contemporary Literature

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AN ANALYSIS OF SELECT HINDI AND BENGALI FILMS FROM FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Indian films are popular across the world. According to the statistics, the value of the film industry in India in financial year 2020 was about 183 billion Indian rupees. It is renowned due to its glamour, vibrancy and drama, and has the highest viewership in the world. The Indian film industry comprises films in Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and many other languages. The film makers believe that through the films they reflect the society. On the other hand, the society is largely influenced by what is depicted in the films. As Gokulsing and Dissanayake (1998) state, "Films are believed to be the opium of Indian masses as people rely on this medium to help them escape to a world of fantasy". In films, women have been portrayed in different roles that of a loving wife, a dutiful daughter-in-law, an ambitious women, vamp etc. The present paper examines the representation of women in select Hindi and Bengali films. It also discusses the feminist film theory as the feminists were concerned about the under-presentation and misrepresentation of women in cinema. It will also study the relationship between feminist film theory and Indian films.

Keywords: *feminist theory, films, gender, gaze, Indian cinema*

INTRODUCTION

Two things which are popular among Indian masses are films and cricket. According to the statistics, the value of the film industry in India in financial year 2020 was about 183 billion Indian rupees. Indian films are screened in over 100 countries and watched by nearly four million people worldwide. It produces more than 1800

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