



The Mark of a Woman

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Abstract

Women across the globe are not recognized for their astounding work and now is the time that they received their recognition. This project is focused on how well Indian women are portrayed as actors. I find the movies they have participated in, the movie interviews and articles to help gather how much work goes on behind the scenes to illustrate that minority women are not given the credibility they deserve.

Introduction

In Indian films, there is a common theme that Indian women do not receive the same recognition as their male counterparts. These women have experienced discrimination and poor representation. This is at least partly due to the fact that women were largely excluded from director roles in Bollywood, the Hindi-language film industry. Recently however, there has been an increase in the number of women directors in Indian films. The purpose of the research is to recognize the films Indian women have directed and research the interviews that provide background on the director, the purpose of the film, and to also examine why Indian women have not received the credibility they deserve. You get a sneak peek behind who those women are and what they represent.

Methods

- My research mentor created an outline of each person's history so I would take the information I knew to help guide me to the internet and help me search them on Google.
- I would copy links to video interviews or movie interview articles, then paste my results into a shared Google drive for my research mentor.
- I had a list of all the women directors alphabetical by last name, and I would find the best sources for the women I focused on that week.
- I would scan the articles for how the women felt or watch the movie interview just to see if they felt they were discriminated against.
- Once I found that they were, I looked at why they felt they were discriminated against and found it related to how their culture was understood, then I would document it.

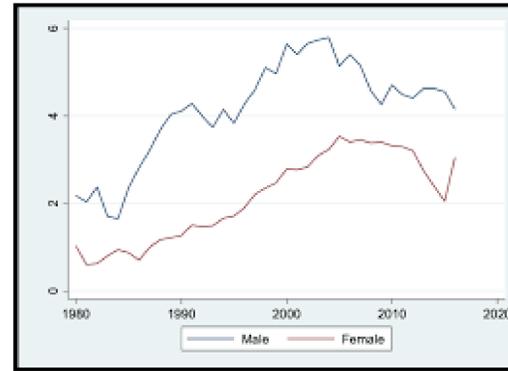
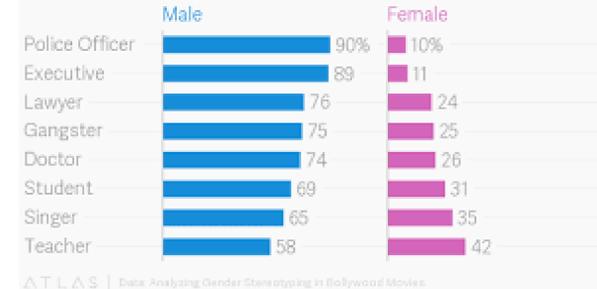


Figure shows discrimination of wages

Occupations essayed by characters in Hindi movies



Interview Videos

Shah Rukh Khan, Alia Bhatt, Gauri Shinde Interview | Dear Zindagi | Mashable
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G0qg1L8E7>

Dear Zindagi Exclusive Interview Shahrukh Khan Alia Bhatt Gauri Shinde
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Tm9qO1Jd8>

Shah Rukh Khan | Alia Bhatt | Dear Zindagi | Full Interview | Rapd Fire | Out
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3P91Z1u8W0>

GAURISHINDE on her future plans, upcoming movies, life and more | Dear Zindagi | English Vogue
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M51VYQ08>

Shah Rukh Khan | Dear Zindagi | Every Story is A LOVE STORY
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3p91Z1u8W0>

English Vogue Interview w/ Shah R. & Gauri Shinde
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0e8nD85>

English Vogue Interview with Gauri Shinde at IFFI 2012
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EOVY7aDvU>

In conversation with Shah R. & Gauri Shinde
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U48Qa19E>

R Balk and Gauri Shinde talk on English Vogue Success
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3r48d84K>

R Balk and Gauri Shinde Interview after English Vogue Success
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7F5uyc0K3>

Interview Articles

Dear Zindagi director Gauri Shinde on the glass ceiling, Shah Rukh Khan and advertising
<https://www.fox.com/entertainment/21355dear-zindagi-director-gauri-shinde-on-the-glass-ceiling-shah-rukh-kh-ah-and-advertising-business>

This is what Gauri Shinde regrets about Dear Zindagi
<https://www.bollywoodhungama.com/news/features/gauri-shinde-regrets-dear-zindagi/>

In Pic: Dear Zindagi, Gauri & Shah Rukh Khan Fan in Tough
<https://www.bhaskar.com/article/IN-pic-dear-zindagi-gauri-a-shah-rukh-khan-fan-in-tough-hush-aka-shah-rukh-khan-shinde-bhaskar-online>

1	Director	Film	Year	Budget	Box Office	Screens	Avg rup/scrn	Bollywood (Y/N)
2	Akhtar, Zoya	Luck By Chance	2009	18,00,00,000	₹122,500,000	500	₹204,166.67	Y
3	Akhtar, Zoya	Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara	2011	60,00,00,000	₹899,600,000	1400	₹642,571.43	Y
4	Akhtar, Zoya	Bomby Talkies	2013	6,30,00,000	₹96,150,000	375	₹256,400.00	N
5	Akhtar, Zoya	Dil Dhadakne Do	2015	83,00,00,000	₹750,525,000	2300	₹326,315.22	Y
6	Akhtar, Zoya	Lust Stories	2018					
7	Akhtar, Zoya (and Dilraj	Ghost Stories	2020					
8	Akhtar, Zoya	Gully Boy	2019	840 Million INR	₹1,342,150,000	3350	₹400,641.79	Y
9	Anand, Madhureeta	Mere Khwabon Mein Jo Aaye	2009	3,00,00,000	₹1,350,000	100	₹13,500.00	n
10	Anand, Madhureeta	Kajriya	2015		₹225,000	30	₹7,500.00	N
11	Asthana, Nupur	Mujhe Fraaandship Karoge	2011	9,00,00,000	₹48,675,000	500	₹97,350.00	Y
12	Asthana, Nupur	Bevakoofiyaan	2014	22,00,00,000	₹139,400,000	1100	₹126,727.27	Y
13	Bhargava, Seema	Motchoor Chakchoor	2019	19,00,00,000	2,78,00,000			
14	Bhargava, Seema	Rampasad Ki Tehrv	2019					
15	Bhatt, Pooja	Paap	2003	3,00,00,000	₹24,950,000	150	₹166,333.33	Y
16	Bhatt, Pooja	Holiday	2006	3,50,00,000	₹7,925,000	100	₹79,250.00	n
17	Bhatt, Pooja	Dhokha	2007	4,50,00,000	₹7,515,000	125	₹60,120.00	n
18	Bhatt, Pooja	Kajraare	2010	12,00,00,000	₹50,000	2	₹25,000.00	N
19	Bhatnagar, Pooja	Ujhm 2	2012	15,00,00,000	₹351,900,000	1700	₹207,000.00	Y
20	Bhushan, Shefali	Jugni	2016		₹1,450,000	150	₹9,666.67	n
21	Bose, Shonali	Amu	2005	50,00,000	₹25,000	4	₹62,500.00	N
22	Bose, Shonali	Margarita with a Straw	2014	6,50,00,000	₹55,975,000	250	₹223,900.00	N
23	Bose, Shonali	The Sky Is Pink	2019	240,000,000	₹344,100,000			N
24	Chandra, Tanuja	Dushman	1998	4,00,00,000	₹55,200,000	140	₹401,428.57	Y
25	Chandra, Tanuja	Sangharsh	1999	4,00,00,000	₹59,700,000	150	₹373,125.00	Y
26	Chandra, Tanuja	Yeh Zindagi Ka Safar	2001	2,75,00,000	₹8,275,000	65	₹127,307.69	Y
27	Chandra, Tanuja	Sur: The Melody of Life	2002	2,00,00,000	₹7,075,000	80	₹88,437.50	Y
28	Chandra, Tanuja	Deh Shiva Bar Mohie	2002					
29	Chandra, Tanuja	Film Star	2005					
30	Chandra, Tanuja	Hope and a Little Sugar	2006	2,25,00,000	₹1,385,000	80	₹23,083.33	N
31	Chandra, Tanuja	Zindagi Rocks	2006	7,00,00,000	₹19,150,000	200	₹95,750.00	Y
32	Chandra, Tanuja	Qarib Qarib Single	2017	17,00,00,000	₹163,250,000	900	₹181,388.89	Y

Results

The movie interviews found that women were receiving the recognition for their audience, but because of the international bias against Bollywood films, many find their work goes unnoticed. Bollywood is often stereotyped as being cheesy, melodramatic, and unrealistic, causing many women directors to feel that their work is devalued. The quality is there, but so is the culture difference. Also, there is always a concern that the women feel that they are overlooked because of their gender. However, most focus on the good aspects of their work and those who support them in their endeavors.



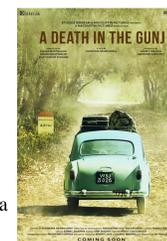
Gauri Shinde



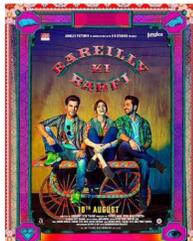
Alankrita Shrivastava



Konkona Sen Sharma



Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari



Conclusion/Discussion

Usually less than a quarter of the characters in Bollywood movies are female and they tend to be represented traditionally (Smith et al.). What these female-directed movies are showing is that more female characters are being included and they are not always strictly following what is considered "normal behavior" for women in India. This gives an indication that female-directed movies in Bollywood do affect female representation in the movie. The women directors, however, are not focusing on women characters as their motive for making films; rather they want to make good films that are appreciated widely. They appreciate the chance to do so and are beginning to be given more such opportunities.

In different cultures, women around the world are not recognized enough for their efforts, but this is subject to the conformity society displays. Moving forward, I would suggest people always look at all aspects before pointing out serious blame like discrimination and never compare themselves.

References

- Dwyer, Rachel. *Bollywood's India: Hindi Cinema as a Guide to Contemporary India*. London: Reaktion Books Ltd, 2014.
- Smith, Dr. Stacy L., Marc Choueiti, & Dr. Katherine Pieper. "Gender Bias Without Borders: An Investigation of Female Characters in Popular Films Across 11 Countries." *SeeJane.org. Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media*. Web. 5 Dec. 2015.

- "Director Renuka Shahane's film 'Tribhanga' zooms in on the relationship between mothers and daughters"
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/blink/watch/renuka-shahanes-film-tribhanga-of-mothers-and-daughters/article33828559.ece>
- "This is what Gauri Shinde regrets about Dear Zindagi" on *BollywoodHungamam.com*
<https://www.bollywoodhungama.com/news/features/gauri-shinde-regrets-dear-zindagi/>

Acknowledgements

Thank you so much, Ms. Rebecca Peters, for allowing me to be your research mentor and giving me the creative autonomy, I needed. Without doing this project, I would never have the perspective I have seen! This experience has propelled my skills to help me become a better person and helped build my empathy.