

Self-transformation of Woman in The Film Queen

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Abstract

Although women are ensured human rights by Indian Constitution, but, how far these rights, Necessary for a qualitative and meaningful survival, are exercised is a debatable issue. Cinema has always been a strong medium, which has played its role in spreading awareness about women's human rights in Indian society.

Keywords: Human rights, cinema, gender equality, stereotype, society, self-transformation

Introduction

The transformation of Human Rights from a feminist perspective is crucial to addressing global challenges to human rights in the 21st century. This should be seen in the context of the growth and evolution of women's movements internationally in the past two decades. Women are taking leading roles in redefining social concepts and global policy issues in areas such as development, democracy, human rights, world security, and the environment. This means not just looking at what have been called "women's issues"-- a ghetto, or separate sphere that remains on the margins of society -- but rather moving women from the margins to the centre by questioning the most fundamental concepts of our social order so that they take better account of women's lives.(Charlotte Bunch,1995)

Human rights are something which are owned by each and every individual necessary for a qualitative and meaningful survival. Modern Civilization guarantees freedom and security for the existence of individuals by giving them certain rights. However, the imposition of Human Rights has been under a considerable dilemma, since in India gender equality has remained a question for years.

Women's rights are the fundamental Human Rights that were enshrined by the United Nations for every human being on the planet nearly 70 years ago. These rights include the right to live free from violence, slavery and discrimination; to be educated; to own property; to vote and to earn a fair and equal wage.

As the now- famous saying goes, "women rights are human rights" that is to say women are entitled to all of these rights. Yet almost everywhere around the world, women and girls are still denied them, often simply because of their gender. Winning rights for women are about more than giving opportunities to any individual women or girl.

We also stand for other rights that are vital for women's equality. We stand for women's right to decide if and when she has children and to have high quality healthcare. We know female genital mutilation is a violation of girl's rights and must be eliminated. And we stand for the right of every woman to live equally and free from discrimination.

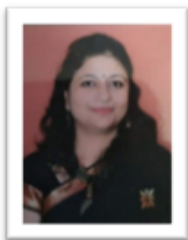
We should support in fight for gender equality. Women should also take responsibility equally in every moment of life with men.

Cinema has always been a strong medium which has played its role in spreading awareness about women's Human Rights in Indian society. This paper would explore the double standards of the society in the empowerment of women in the movie 'Queen'. This paper is going to demonstrate the struggle and courage of the protagonist who carves a niche for herself in the society despite all odds set against her.

Queen is a journey of self-transformation every woman, dumped at the altar or not, must take. Director of the movie VikasBahl allows the women to emerge from the turmoil, in her own way ,on her own terms and that is uniquely a mastery of his own .He has left no scope for a scene to be made better.



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Anthology : The Research

This movie is a strong inspiration for all the girls to live their lives to the fullest, to seek their own happiness. Most valuable message the movie gives are that you are not less than anybody in this world. You are able to achieve everything and there is nothing you cannot do. You do not need anyone to complete yourself.

Rani, an under-confident Punjabi girl from New Delhi embarks on her honeymoon to Paris and Amsterdam by herself after her fiancé Vijay calls off their wedding. The simple, small town girl is shattered but soon she decides to stand for herself and to go on honeymoon all alone. During her travel she meets new friends, discovers the world and life and comes back as a changed person ready to take control of her life.

Queen is a story of Rani Mehra, a young girl from Delhi who is brought up in a loving, protective Indian family where her peers decide what her life is going to be like. She is a typical Delhi girl who is studying home science and work part time in her father's sweet-shop. She is indulged in her very own Fairy tale, where she is about to marry the prince Vijay. But soon her Fairy Tale is struck with reality, when Vijay rejects her just a day before their wedding. Rani is devastated after her fiancé leaves her just before the wedding. She is heartbroken and decides that to be out of this whole mess she needs a time of her own. Undeterred, she decides to go on their honeymoon alone in Paris. Then on, whole up-down adventures happening on her trip makes her realise that she is much more than only being a typical housewife for Vijay, that she can live her life fully and enjoy it without any worries. During this trip, she gets pulled out of a comfort zone and rediscovers herself.

Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam says in *The Indomitable Spirit*, "History is created not only by new inventions and discoveries, but also by fighting against injustice and oppression if that becomes one's destiny" (back cover).

Queen is naive, even appears stupid in today's context, a virgin, waiting to get married.

This Delhi girl is nervous on her flight to Europe. Her dumbstruck expressions on the flight and on discovering the magic of a foreign destination, her Indian attire; the dilemmas of what to eat and to whom speak can be seen.

In Paris, Rani meets the long-legged, dusky Indo-French girl Vijayalakshmi (Lisa Haydon) who befriends her, giving her lessons on love, lust and life. Slowly Queen's low self-esteem gives way to supreme confidence. Before you know it, she is on a train to the sex capital of the world. At a hostel in Amsterdam, Rani shares a room with three men and this motley group goes on to forge a bond.

She has created a climate in which she has full opportunities of self-decision making.

The emergence and development of the psychology of women has been closely tied to the social and professional status and concerns of women over the course of the late 19th, 20th, and early 21st centuries. Although treatises on female subjectivity have existed throughout history, we begin our account with work on the psychology of women produced soon after the advent of scientific psychology in western Europe and North America in the late 1800s and provide a broad overview of developments through the early 21st century. Although in its earliest forms the psychology of women focused largely on sex differences presumed to underlie women predetermined social roles, the purview of the field, its institutional presence, and its philosophical bases changed and grew dramatically throughout the latter one-third of the 20th century. (Alexandra Rutherford Leeat Granek, 2009)

When she faces a rejection from her fiancé Vijay, she is heartbroken and doesn't want to accept it as reality. This can be seen when she again and again asks him that whether he is serious or just trying to prank her. She is

also struck by a terrifying ordeal that what would the society will say about her after this. She is worried about her parents as they would be targeted by the society after this broken marriage. This depicts about the conservative and orthodox nature of our stereotype society. In this so-called perfect society always, a woman is considered the reason for the broken marriages and the people are not at all ready to accept her. Rani also knows this and is frightened by the thought that who will marry her? To remain single is considered a great misfortune.

'The Suffocation of Marriage: Climbing Mount Maslow Without Enough Oxygen', a prized research paper by Finkel et al, says:

People marry because they believe that doing so provides their best opportunity to love and be loved in the long run. They marry because they believe that spending a conjugal lifetime with their partner will make them feel happy and fulfilled. . . They marry because they wish to become a parent, and they believe that their partner will help them raise happy, fulfilled children. (2)

And all her dreams shattered when she returns home after visiting Vijay and having a heartbreak, she is very depressed and locks herself in her room for about a day. She realises that all her dreams of wearing the bridal dress and enjoying a happy married life have vanished away. She also recalls some beautiful memories she and Vijay were together, and she is also very sad that now everything has shattered. But her parents and grandmother in spite of being sad and hiding their faces from society are very positive and supportive towards her. Her grandmother tries to boost her by telling her that rejection or separation doesn't means that the life is over. One should just move on and try to find a better person.

Rani is always accompanied by her brother Chintu from very beginning of the movie. Chintu accompanies her from a very small age of 5 to 6 years. It shows the overprotective nature of our Indian stereotypes' society towards women. It is thought that women are the weakest section of the society and they are needed to be protected by male every now and then. This shows the male dominance over women. Rani also becomes a victim of the stupid idea and is sent out of the house only with his brother as if he would be protecting her from everything. This comes to an extent when Rani's mother asks her to take her brother along with her to Paris, when they were just about to reach the airport.

Rani belongs to a typical Indian family where it is thought that women are only there to do household works like cooking, stitching etc. In our society from a very beginning age, this feeling is made instilled in the minds of girls that they have to do the household works when they grow up. Always girls are given toys like kitchen set or house set to play with and boys are given cars, bat ball etc. This shows that our male dominated society instil a feeling in children of very small age that women are only there to manage the house and family and men are the real bread earner of the house. Rani is also having this feeling instilled in her so she is doing graduation from home science.

In Paris, Rani is not at all comfortable with environment and surroundings. She is unfamiliar to such a situation of travelling alone. This can be seen by her dumbstruck expressions in flight as well as in Paris. From a very beginning age, Rani was never left alone by parents. She was always accompanied by someone. This shows the mean mentality of our patriarchal society that women can never become independent and always need help. Rani also becomes victim of this mentality from a very small age. So, is not confident to do anything by herself. In Paris also she is uncomfortable with even crossing the road, the food language and people .

In despair, Rani compares herself with her family friend 'Gupta Uncle' who never drunk, but died due to cancer .Her situation was same like him as she

also tried the best to keep relationship with Vijay and then also she was rejected by him.

In Paris, when he goes in the pub with Vijayalakshmi she dances there with no restriction and while dancing she remembers that how Vijay scolded her when she danced in a friend's marriage. According to him it was against his dignity. This thinking can be seen very prominent in our society where people think that if a woman dances freely, speaks loudly and tries to live according to her will without any restriction she is shameless and a point of discussion and criticism. Vijay was also had this foolish mentality and thought that Rani would let him down in the society if she dances freely in front of everyone. But now, Rani in spite of being depressed by the past, wants to live life freely like a bird, free to fly in the sky.

In Paris, Rani goes for shopping with Vijayalakshmi and while changing dress in changing room she sends her picture to Vijay instead of Vijayalakshmi. After seeing the picture of transformed and glamorous Rani, Vijay again gets attracted towards Rani and calls her again. He wants to win Rani back as if she is a toy to play with. He takes Rani as a doll when wanted he played with her and when he got bored he rejected her.

In her online article, 'Empowerment of Woman in Modern Society', Dr. LataSinha comments on the poor state of the housewife:

A woman as a homemaker contributes a lot directly by providing a sound foundation for well-knit family and a stable society ... In return, what she gets is only lip service and apathy of everybody. A woman in her traditional role as a homemaker/ housewife is the most neglected person in modern society. . . After marriage, she loses her individual identity. . . Homemakers are regarded as ignorant, unworthy of interest, useless and dull creatures.... The worst part of it is that no homemaker herself raises voice against such misconceptions.

Likewise in Delhi, when Rani asked Vijay that whether she should do job or not he denied her and when she returned from Paris and visits Vijay home, his mother told her that they both would enjoy sitting all the day at home and would enjoy kitty parties and she also didn't seem to encourage her for doing a job. This is the mentality of an Indian society that women can never become independent. This shows that the upper and middle-class women still could not think of a professional career.

In our patriarchal society on one hand women is considered as an epitome of Shakti and on the other hand, a helpless poor creature. Even in the eighteenth-century women was still regarded, according to Jane Spencer in her *Rise of the Woman Novelist: From AphraBehn to Jane Austen*, "as a chattel under the authority first of her father and then of her husband".

But Rani in spite of hardships and challenges, gives wings to her dreams and decides to fly like a free bird in the sky.

In the words of Mary Wollstonecraft,

"It is time to affect a revolution in female manners - time to restore to them their lost dignity - and make them, as a part of the human species, labour by reforming themselves to reform the world" (35)

Objective of the Study

This paper would explore the double standards of the society in the empowerment of women in the movie *Queen*. This paper is going to demonstrate the struggle and courage of the protagonist, who carves a niche for herself in the society despite all odds set against her.

This paper might help in providing some useful evidences regarding the ways Indian women have chosen to develop and empower themselves in order to sustain in a patriarchal society and to grab the Human Rights which are equal to all.

Anthology : The Research**Conclusion**

This paper looks at how Rani, the female protagonist, a sensitive and shy young woman, finds her voice and develops her own identity. When Rani's fiancé rejects her, she summons all her strength and chooses to travel on her honeymoon to Paris by herself. She discovers the delight of "crossing the borders" and living life on her own terms as she travels. When she is exposed to a new environment, she develops an independent spirit. Her life's journey and Hernew outlook on life is shaped by her experiences with other people in Paris. Unlike Rani stands out among the stereotyped female protagonists in Hindi films. She is more of an emerging woman who finds significance in her life and, as a result, becomes the "Queen" of her own life.

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