

MEHAK AGGARWAL

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Q. WRITE MOVIE REVIEWS AND PHILOSOPHICAL STANDPOINT OF TWO OF YOUR FAVOURITE MOVIES.

1) PADMAN

This movie is a true life story of a social activist Arunachalam Muruganatham (India's Menstrual Man). The movie stars Akshay kumar as Lakshmikant who is head over heels in love with his wife Gayatri (Radhika Apte). Eventually he discovers about the menstrual cycle of Gayatri and asks her to switch from using dirty cloth during these days to sanitary napkins. He even buys sanitary pad for her but Gayatri feels reluctant to use it as she feels that it is quite expensive.

He himself tries to make sanitary napkins for her, after several attempts, his wife refuses to be a part of his experiments. Lakshmi's love and concern for his wife, his determination to make the pad, leads him into situations that cause so much shock and embarrassment that it compels his wife to leave him and his village to banish him.

Lakshmi doesn't give up, and with his simplicity, devotion, his focus on accomplishing his goal, he is finally able to make a pad making machine successfully. Also he begins the revolution that goes from menstrual hygiene, to women empowerment, to starting mini cooperatives, to international glory and a final resolution of his personal life.

SOCIAL ISSUES DISCUSSED IN THE MOVIE AND A PHILOSOPHICAL VIEWPOINT

The movie aims to reach out to the audience widely and create awareness about the taboos and stigma regarding menstruation in India. Also during their monthly menstrual cycle, the women are not allowed to enter temples, kitchens and are treated like untouchables as they are considered impure.

This also shows the lack of education among people as they do not know why menstruation is important for women thus causing them to strictly believe these orthodox beliefs.

This movie also throws light on the social conditioning of women which makes them comply with religious and cultural norms and thus keep them in their place. This movie has opened the doors of discussion in the society regarding the stigma around the periods.

The movie had even stirred the #padmanchallenge on the social media and it was supported by many. In the movie, Akshay Kumar is shown as an intelligent guy with a definitive

understanding of social behaviour. Also it doesn't only bring upfront the social challenge but also gives solution to it.

Here, he not only wants to help the women by making inexpensive pads but also wants to provide them with job opportunities. Also one needs to understand that by coming together, by social entrepreneurship, a challenging problem in the society can be resolved.

2) TAARE ZAMEEN PAR

The movie Taare zameen par is one of those heartfelt movies that instantly hits everybody, be it an adult or a child alike. The movie was released in the year 2007 and Aamir Khan and Darshel Safary were seen as the main leads of the movie.

The movie revolves around an 8 year old boy, Ishaan Nandkishore Awasthi (Darshel Safary) who suffers from dyslexia. He is not able to read and write properly, he is unable to pass his examination and his motor coordination skills become worse with every day passing by. The condition at his home is no better, he is constantly compared with his elder brother. He is rather interested in painting, in colours, fishes, nature, etc. He is sent to boarding school and is traumatized by the separation with his family.

The twist in the story comes when a new art teacher Nikumbh (Aamir Khan) is appointed in the school whose way of teaching is completely different and he is the one to notice that Ishaan remains unhappy always. He reviews all past works of Ishaan and concludes all failures to be reflective of dyslexia. Nikumbh even meets Ishaan's parents and informs them that Ishaan is a bright child different from other students in the class.

With the permission of the school principal, Nikumbh sets out to teach Ishaan. Eventually, his grades start to improve. An art fair is organized for students and teachers alike by Nikumbh at the end of the year. As expected, Ishaan wins the contest while his teacher, Nikumbh is declared the runner-up. Ishaan's parents are surprised at the drastic improvement in their child's grades and realize their shortcomings.

SOCIAL ISSUES DISCUSSED IN THE MOVIE AND A PHILOSOPHICAL VIEWPOINT

This movie tells the tale of the children who suffer some kind of disabilities and face the ignorance of not only teachers but also their parents who are not able to understand their situation and rather than helping them to face this problem, these children face isolation which makes the matters worse. It highlights that we need to identify the hidden talents of these children and help them grow, rather than making them feel that they are no more than disappointment to the society.

The movie even portrays the character of the elder brother, Yohaán, as a loving and caring sibling who is an achiever in every field but still supports his younger brother.

The parents of Ishaan are the true representations of some of the parents in the society today who want their children to keep up with their expectations always.

The movie is not preachy but effective in its messages. The movie also emphasizes the need of giving extra attention to the children who lack behind rather than over burdening them. The teachers' attitude towards the children should be friendly so that children are able to share their problems without any shame with them.