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Sexism impacts film preferences

Aileen Raju

A feminecentric or female-directed film affects the male ego, which overtakes a largely male-oriented cinema in India, according to Dinesh Divakaran, a cinematographer and filmmaker. With their drastically distinct genres, the films *Oppenheimer* and *Barbie* have been unfolding a titanic struggle in India.

The success of *Oppenheimer* over *Barbie* in India may be attributed to the sexist views that are pervasive among Indian males, which may cause them to prefer the themes of the former over the pro-women notions represented by *Barbie*. As a result, more men are seen in the crowd at the viewing of *Oppenheimer* films.

Speaking to *The Beacon*, Divakaran said that the comment section under a post states that *Barbie* has a higher box office collection than *Oppenheimer* which is precise proof, yet people still purposefully hate the film. "It's unfortunate that the inequity and prejudice are true merely because it's directed by a woman," he said.

"Generations of people have developed stereotypes about Indians, on how an oily haired man or woman who speaks Hindi hysterically is considered to be a South Indian in the Bollywood movies as well as on how an Indians are always someone who listens to Bollywood music and somehow manages to be good at maths all the damn time in the Hollywood movies," he added. He also commented that the prevalence of stereotypes in the world today is due to years of inaccurate representation.

TN pioneers in LGBTQIA+ reservation

Megha Mukundan

In what could be a major reform programme the State Planning Commission of Tamil Nadu has submitted a draft policy for horizontal reservation for the LGBTQIA+ community in the state government. The community hopes to secure better education and jobs under the reservation, which will ensure social security, said Jaya, a trans activist based in Tamil Nadu.

The horizontal reservation creates a quota within a quota for the trans and intersex people, making them eligible for separate reservations in SC (Scheduled Caste), ST (Scheduled Tribes), OBC (Other Backward Castes) and general categories. According to the draft made by an 11-member committee, there will be 1% of reservation for the community.



Representational Image

yourstory.com

"When the reservation is given under the common category, it makes us compete within the marginalised. But the horizontal reservation will help us to take a step forward without the internal competition," said Jaya, talking to *The Beacon*, expressing her gratitude to the Tamil Nadu government

for being the pioneer of this policy. Jaya is a trans activist who works under the NGO Sahodaran, in Tamil Nadu.

Policies for trans people prevail in other states, but Tamil Nadu is now aiming to include all other gender and sexual minorities into the reservation, with an aim of uplifting their socio-economic

status. "We are often tagged as the ones who beg and do sex work. This happens because of the discrimination we face, and the policy will bring proper education and government jobs to us," Jaya said and added that she believes they too deserve to live the life that they want. "I am not trying to say that sex work

or begging will be eradicated, but will be reduced. Society will start accepting us more if they come to know that we are not punishable by the law, but rather, we are also worthy of the opportunities," she said.

The suggestions put forward by the draft include an extension of healthcare programs to transgender persons and the inclusion of gender-appropriate terminologies by medical professionals. Besides the rights for trans and intersex people, the draft considers multiple gender and sexual minorities that come under the umbrella term LGBTQIA+. This contains the policies that ensure their healthcare, education and employment. Meanwhile, the 11-member committee itself is a model of inclusion, as the members are derived from various spectrums of the queer community.

SJU's week-long hunt for hidden talent

Jesbin Sam & Sowmya A

CAMPUS: 'Mixer Week' is a week entirely dedicated to the inauguration of all societies of the English department, where each association of the department is introduced to the freshers, said Cassandra, event coordinator for 'Mixer Week'.

The Department of English, St. Joseph's University inaugurated the Performing Arts Society as a part of 'Mixer Week' on July 27, 2023, at Arrupe Atrium with an exciting performance from the Disney movie 'Encanto.' The association conducted the event 'Do your own thing' by performing the scene 'We don't talk about



Students dancing at the Arrupe Atrium

Sowmya A

Bruno' from the same movie.

"To make people aware of the Performing Arts Society, we needed something colourful that is filled with dance and singing. So, we chose to perform from *Encanto*," said Cassandra. She wanted the Performing

Arts Society to be a platform to inspire people and showcase the talents of students of SJU. The event witnessed around 14 people performing various art forms like dancing, singing, and mimicry. "We are extremely happy with the turnout," she expressed.

Govt streamlines minority welfare schemes

Jenett Jose

The decision to discontinue the Padho Pradesh Scheme was built on several factors involving limited benefits reaching beneficiaries and overlap with other ministries' similar schemes, stated Smriti Irani, the Union Minister of Minority Affairs, in the press release issued on July 27.

In a move to streamline minority welfare schemes, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has decided to phase out the Padho Pradesh Scheme from the academic year 2022-23. The programme put forward interest subsidies on education loans to students from minority communities who wanted to study abroad.

Since its initiation, Padho Pradesh Scheme has benefited 20,365 students from minority communities. However, the government aims to ensure more comprehensive and accessible educational opportunities for economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of society.

Despite the discontinuation, the government is reassured to remain committed to the socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six notified minority communities, and efforts will continue to uplift the educational standards of all marginalised sections of society.

Millennials embrace LBB's comeback

Priyanka Gond

BENGALURU: Little Black Book (LBB) has finally announced the revival of its gift finder feature, originally introduced as a Valentine's Day special in February, now blooming with popularity among millennials all over the country, said Manya Ahuja, Assistant General Manager, LBB India.

After being acquired by Nykaa, India's premier lifestyle retailer, in 2022, LBB continues to operate independently and has achieved a remarkable turnover of over seven Million USD.



Representational Image

LBB.com

Speaking to the *Beacon*, Ahuja stated, "The brand started as a blog for travel recommendations, now expands its services to include curated gift sales, offering specially made hampers for various occasions. It also shares recommendations

for gifts and locates stores across India."

With a massive user base of 20 million, LBB has collaborated with 60,000 brands, provided 100+ expert recommendations, and successfully executed 500+ campaigns.

Trans activist unveils life struggles

Jesbin Sam

BENGALURU: Despite the LGBTQIA+ community being recognised by our constitution, our society has yet to grasp the reality of the situation, said Rumi Harish, a human rights activist and musician.

On July 26, the Bangalore International Centre (BIC) conducted an event called 'Shahar in the Khaki Room,' wherein Harish was the guest speaker.

The event was a narration of their stories spanning from 1999 to 2018, presented by transgender a Rumi, documenting gender

negotiations, dysphoria, and struggles with asserting gender by intermixing voices and expression. It also revealed Bangalore's dual nature of acceptance and rejection of these facts.

Harish said, "Many difficulties and complications are faced by the transgender community, even in today's society and it is really hard for them to live a normal life."

The event also highlighted the Bangalore police's approach towards the community when sometimes the police don't even consider them as human beings.