

Images of India in Non-Indian Movies

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Abstract: *It is often said that the movies are the reflections of the society that we live in. The movies depicting India are no different either, at least to some extent. Western filmmakers are often fascinated by the myriad society of India. But more often than not, the particular type of India that we tend not to talk about is shown in these movies. That particular type is a society which lives in poverty, superstitions, and numerous social evils. While making a movie of not more than 120 minutes, it is impossible to show the whole of India, and so the generalization is unavoidable. Many filmmakers have tried to bring the “India” into their movies, but they could manage to bring a small part of it. In many of the foreign movies about India, many Indians are shown as impoverished and living in dismal conditions. It is not that the filmmakers do not have the knowledge of ever-changing India, but no person living in developed countries has an interest in watching the modern metropolitan India because of the simple fact that it is no different than their own countries. People want to see something different in movies and that’s why the modern India is often ignored by the western filmmakers in their movies. As a result, a country of people having dark skin, living in slums and speaking heavily accented English is depicted as “India” in foreign movies. The foreigners are accustomed to watching India as such, but we Indians are not. The western movies are often criticized by the Indians for not showing the “true India”, but the “true India” is not just Delhi and Mumbai but also numerous villages of India which struggle for basic amenities. Hence, India is uniquely, both rich and poor. The research focuses on why India is depicted only in a particular way, i.e. in a bad light. If we want to change the image of India, we have to build an India, which is free from poverty, pollution, superstitions and discrimination; and by which we can be proud of watching a movie being made of.*

Key Words: *Western film-makers, Culture, Climate, Women & Children, Disparity.*

1. IMAGES OF INDIA IN NON-INDIAN MOVIES:

India is a nation with a conundrum of cultures, a myriad of languages and with a population of a billion having trillions of varying opinions. In such a multi-faceted realm, we as Indians comprehend Modi’s machoism and Kejriwal’s anarchism, about Sharad Pawar’s net value and Sonia Gandhi’s wonder child, about the faith referred to as cricket and Sachin as its divine being, about four folks living in a billion dollar residence and the millions who slog it out in the slums, about the Bansals of the online world and the Khans of film industry, about the lamps lit on Diwali and the bright hues of Holi. But then, there’s a whole outside world who if bitter truth be told in a large part still understand India to be the land of the poor or the birthplace of the Mahatma, or have in mind the romanticism of the Taj Mahal which is all true however they’re only fragmented and obsolete identities of a vast and ancient nation. On the brighter side, Indians are creating ripples everywhere around the globe with Modi unwaveringly leading the way. Be it the Mars Mission, the Nobel Peace prize or the Indian Americans who are on the top of the corporate food chain the omnipresent Indian is slowly but surely being seen in a new light.

The main objective of the study is to analyze the image of India in Non - Indian movies while also identifying the various aspects of Indian culture and society depicted in foreign movies and to explore the reasons behind the depiction of an appalling side of India in Non - Indian movies.

The research methodology used in the present study is qualitative in nature based on the descriptive and textual analysis. A content analysis of 10 successful foreign movies between 1982 and 2014 was conducted and the depiction and portrayal of India within them were documented. Analysis of the depiction of India in these 10 foreign movies was carried out and the social, religious, cultural, political, environmental and general portrayal of India was noted. The movies which were taken for the study were:

- a) Gandhi
- b) A Passage to India
- c) City of Joy
- d) Monsoon Wedding
- e) The Darjeeling Limited
- f) Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom

- g) Outsourced
- h) Million Dollar Arm
- i) Slumdog Millionaire
- j) The Best Exotic

2. THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES UNDER WHICH THE PORTRAYAL OF INDIA IN NON-INDIAN MOVIES:

• Climate

Overall climatic conditions of India are portrayed as severe and unmanageable in the Western movies. In these movies, the sun is often pictured as a foe capable of bringing great harm and hence something that people from outside India, in particular, should protect themselves against. These movies also depict the high humidity level of India. In many movies like 'A Passage to India', 'City of Joy', 'Outsourced' and 'Million Dollar Arm', due to excessive heat in India, foreigners are seen sweating through their clothes.

Indian monsoons are also shown in these movies, which along with relief, also bring lots of difficulties. In 'City of Joy', the monsoon brings relief to the poor slum-dwellers who were distraught by the summer heat. But soon the monsoon rains flood their houses and also kills few people. In 'Monsoon Wedding', the difficulties faced by Indians even in the cities, and that too the national capital, is shown. In the movie, the streets are overrun by water, bringing the vehicles to a standstill. This time of difficulty for the middle-class people in the movie is, on the other side, an occasion of joy to the poor children who play in the rains.

• Pollution

Pollution is associated far more with India as compared to the West in the foreign movies. It is common to see portrayals of filthy roads, dirty streets, unclean waters, overflowing sewers, marshy streets, and depictions of buzzing locales or overcrowded places like bazaars, trains, and stations in scenes portraying India. Apart from these visual scenes of pollution in India, many characters can be seen making verbal references to pollution. Foreigners could be seen covering their faces due to the foul smell in movies like 'A Passage to India' and 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'. In movies like 'A Passage to India' and 'Outsourced', rivers and lakes of India are shown dirty. Noise pollution in India was also depicted in many movies about contemporary India like 'Million Dollar Arm', 'Outsourced' and 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'. The foreigners could be seen getting annoyed by the useless honking on the Indian streets in these movies.

• Locales

Rural areas, jungles, huts, temples, caves, palaces, bazaars, and railway stations are the most popular settings for scenes in India in Hollywood movies. The bazaar forms a unique and interesting location for Western film-makers as an "urban jungle" which is crowded with people, shops, and animals. Indian places are most likely given fictitious names, using '-pur/ pore' as a suffix like Ranchipur, Tantrapur, Rajpore and so on. Amongst the real urban locales, Calcutta, Mumbai and New Delhi are the most popular Indian cities for western movie-makers.

For instance, in 'A Passage to India', most of the events took place in the fictional town of Chandrapore. 'City of Joy' depicted the city of Calcutta of the 90s. Contemporary movies like 'Monsoon Wedding', 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', 'Outsourced' and 'Slumdog Millionaire' were filmed in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Jaipur. In movies portraying the contemporary Indian cities like 'Monsoon Wedding', 'Million Dollar Arm', 'Slumdog Millionaire' and 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', the cities are shown over-crowded.

In all of the movies, India is shown as a dirty country with garbage lying on the roadside like in 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', 'Million Dollar Arm', 'Outsourced'. In 'The Darjeeling Limited', common Indians are seen sitting in large numbers outside and inside the railway stations. In the same movie, a number of gunny bags and chests can be seen at the railway stations of India.

• Modes of Transportation

Traditional modes of transportation are presented in scenes portraying India in the Western movies. Stereotypical modes of transportation like hand rickshaws, palanquins, animal carts, and steam trains are depicted in the movies with scenes in India. In Richard Attenborough's masterpiece 'Gandhi', ironically, the trains had British insignia with words "India's servant" on them. In the same movie and many others, it can easily be understood who is a servant and who is a master. 'A Passage to India' shows how Britishers had little regard for Indian life and used to drive their cars carelessly on Indian roads, sometimes hitting a few and at rest of the times, missing them by luck. In 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom', elephants are depicted as the mode of transportation in India.

In 'Gandhi' and 'A Passage to India', the common people of India during the pre-independence era were seen traveling by steam trains and carriages. In the movies depicting contemporary India, like 'The Darjeeling Limited', the trains were shown as the preferred mode of transportation for Indians for long distance travel.

In recent Hollywood movies depicting the modern India, many Indians are shown to be traveling by cars like in 'Monsoon Wedding', 'Slumdog Millionaire' and 'Million Dollar Arm'. The roads are overrun by these cars often resulting in traffic jams in the movies like 'Monsoon Wedding' and 'Slumdog Millionaire'. The majority of Indian people are seen traveling by two-wheelers in movies like 'Monsoon Wedding', 'Outsourced', 'Million Dollar Arm' and 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'. Public transport in these movies includes taxis, auto-rickshaws, rickshaws and trains and bullock-carts. Movies which portray the recent India, like 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', 'Monsoon Wedding' and 'Million Dollar Arm', Indians travel by aeroplanes when traveling abroad.

- **Modes of Communication**

Traditional modes of communication like letters and telegrams are shown in Western movies depicting 20th century India while more recent modes of communication like telephones, mobile phones, e-mail and other messaging applications are shown in the movies about contemporary India. In the pre-independence depiction of India in "Gandhi", the national leaders of that time used letters and telegrams for communication.

In 'Monsoon Wedding', a movie about the changing India at the beginning of the 21st century, the Indian people commute through landlines and mobile phones. It shows the time when the mobile phones had just come to India. In the movie, it was a luxury only few could afford at that time and a call used to cost ₹12 a minute. In movies representing the contemporary India like 'Outsourced', 'Slumdog Millionaire', 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' and 'Million Dollar Arm', people could be seen using mostly mobile phones to communicate.

- **Birds and Animals**

In Hollywood movies about India, animals often appear as a part of their natural habitat, as entertainment in urban settings, and as modes of transportation. Discussions about birds and animals typically revolve around hunting, sport, food, and diet in these movies. Animals commonly sighted in these films are elephants, snakes (especially cobras and pythons), tigers, horses, scorpions, panthers, cheetahs, buffaloes, cows, monkeys, camels, rats, pigs, bears, lizards, turtles, owls, monitor lizards, jackals, vultures, vampire bats, insects, and alligators.

In most of these movies, animals like cows, elephants, and others can be seen roaming freely on the roads of India. In 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', many animals like camels, elephants, cows and dogs are seen on the Indian roads. 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom' showed animals like monkeys, big lizards, snakes, owl and vampire bats as the inhabitants of an Indian forest. Cows are most often seen in these movies roaming freely on the streets and other public places of India.

- **Culture**

The culture of the Indian people in the Hollywood movies most of the times try to represent those of Hindus. In some cases, Muslim and Sikh culture is also depicted. Indians are shown having a unique culture, which is different than that of the Western world. The people of India are portrayed as conservative, polytheistic, superstitious and sometimes out-dated. The names of Indian people are often long and complicated in some movies like 'Outsourced', 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' and others. Many Indian festivals like Holi and Diwali are shown in these movies like in 'Outsourced'. In 'The Darjeeling Limited', India is presented as a land of metaphysical healing where all your problems and worries get resolved.

In movies like 'The Darjeeling Limited' and 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', foreigners are fascinated by the Indian culture and Hindu religion: its customs, polytheism, temples and everything else related to it. Though, sometimes, in these movies, foreigners show a lack of respect for the Hindu deities. In 'The Darjeeling Limited', an American says "I'm gonna pray at a different thing" referring to idols of Hindu Gods. Another American can be seen tracing the sign of the cross in front of an idol of a Hindu deity. 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom' shows an American incorrectly pronouncing the names of Indians Gods and other religious things.

In some movies about modern India, like 'Monsoon Wedding' and 'Slumdog Millionaire', the Indian males of every class and status could be seen abusing. Movies like 'Outsourced' showed Indian males urinating on roadsides and other public places. In 'Monsoon Wedding', a middle-aged Indian housewife is shown to be smoking, but privately, in a toilet. Though her husband is aware of her smoking habits, she doesn't want her children to know about the same. It depicts how in India, a housewife and a mother has to be cultured and never is expected to smoke or drink. In the same movie, an NRI woman drinks openly in front of all the family members, but the Indian women consider it as a taboo.

- **Religious Practices**

Religious rituals, superstitious beliefs, nature worship, magic, witchcraft, and sorcery in Indian settings are commonly seen in Hollywood movies. Indian religious practices typically represented in Hollywood movies are Sati, idolatry, cow worship, snake worship, tree worship, and river worship. Magical spells, sorcery, and witchcraft are represented using symbols like blood, voodoo dolls, skulls, and skeletons. Fire worship is usually portrayed by the use of fire-torches, lamps, fire cauldrons, and burning grounds for worship. Gods that were usually depicted in these

movies are Kali, Krishna, Shiva, and Buddha. Religion-related persons are portrayed as holy saints in saffron robes and topknot beard meditating under trees and priests in temples. It is common to see people doing namaskar gesture as prayer in these movies. Temples of different size and grandeur, statues of Hindu deities and chanting of Sanskrit Hindu hymns are also commonly seen in these movies.

'Outsourced' showed images and idols of Hindu Gods and Goddesses everywhere from houses to offices and roadsides to vehicles in India. In other Hollywood movies like 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' and 'The Darjeeling Limited', Indian taxis and autorickshaws could be seen with the images and idols of Indian deities.

'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom' presented some Indians as worshipping demonized version of Goddess Kali and making human sacrifices for her. Kali worshippers were portrayed in very bad light in 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom' and depicted as child laborers and intolerant towards other religions. A Kali worshipper says in the movie, "The British in India will be slaughtered. Then we will overthrow the Muslims. Then the Hebrew God will fall. And then the Christian God will be cast down and forgotten. Soon, Kali Ma will rule the world." In the movie, Goddess Kali is portrayed as an evil force trying to rule the world. 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom' also showed an Indian kid using a voodoo doll to hurt a man with the help of sorcery.

- **Status of Women and Children**

In many Hollywood movies about India, women and children are portrayed as victims of abuse. Sati, arranged marriage, child marriage, dowry, slavery, child sacrifice, child labour, harassment, and rape are common social themes of these movies. In these movies, women and children are often shown as being victims of a socio-religious cultural system of India. Arranged marriages in India are a common theme in these movies.

In many movies, like 'Gandhi', 'A Passage to India', 'City of Joy', 'Monsoon Wedding', 'Outsourced' and others, the marriages of the youth of India are shown to be arranged by their parents and relatives, sometimes without their children's consent. In 'Monsoon Wedding', though a girl loves another man, she reluctantly agrees to marry a man of her father's choice. In the movie, later the girl comes to know about the true character of the man that she used to love, who was actually already married and leaves him and falls in love with the man of her father's choice. This shows how the Indian fathers want the best match for their daughters even if their daughters don't think so.

Dowry is another common theme in these movies. In 'A City of Joy', a poor rickshaw-puller try to save money for her daughter's wedding, even while living in dismal conditions of a slum. When the bridegroom's father refuses to marry his son to rickshaw-puller's daughter due to not enough dowry; the father of the daughter works day and night to collect enough money for her daughter's dowry. When an Englishman asks ta a poor Indian in 'City of Joy', "Why do you bother", referring to the custom of dowry; the Indian says, "Well it's my duty and honor, without this our daughter can't marry". In the same movie, an Indian says to her married daughter, "You never did belong to me. You were only lent to me by God until you marry..." In 'Monsoon Wedding', a movie about contemporary India, though the father in an upper-middle-class family is not expected to give dowry; he still had to borrow some money from his friends to match the status of the bridegroom's father. In this movie and many others, a daughter's wedding is hence shown to be an expensive affair and those who do not have a daughter are carefree in this regard.

Child marriage in India is also shown or implied in many movies like 'Gandhi', 'A Passage to India' and 'City of Joy'. In 'Gandhi', Gandhi himself was married at the age of 13. In 'City of Joy', a girl in her teens had a wedding. A girl is expected to be a virgin at the time of marriage in these movies. In 'Monsoon Wedding', even the so-called modern NRI man didn't expect his soon-to-be wife to have an affair in the past. In the movie, the parents of even these liberal NRIs wanted a "fair and lovely" daughter-in-law.

Many children are often depicted as beggars and thieves in Hollywood movies about India like in 'Outsourced', 'Slumdog Millionaire' and 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'. In 'Slumdog Millionaire', children in India were shown as selling various things like fruits, chickpeas, balls and key chains in trains. 'Slumdog Millionaire' also depicted the condition and vulnerability of orphans in India. In the movie, children had to work as rag pickers after the death of their parents. In the same movie, children, even disabled ones, were forced to beg by the owner of an orphanage. 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom' portrayed that in India; children are kidnapped and made to work as slaves. In the movie, these children were shown working in mines without their will and beaten mercilessly. When an Indian man beats a kid in 'Slumdog Millionaire', the kid says to the foreigners who were trying to protect him, "You wanted to see a bit of real India, here it is."

- **Poverty**

Beggars, famine-stricken people, vagabonds, slaves, servants, manual laborers, subsistence farmers, petty vendors, fisher folk and homeless people are shown in western movies to depict the poverty of India. Scenes with poor people are usually depicted as a backdrop as part of the crowd in Indian streets and as helpers in British colonial quarters in India. In some films, the Western characters (often missionaries) are portrayed as "good Samaritans" who save the poor and wretched in India. Apart from actual depictions of poverty in these movies, there are also many discussions amongst characters about poverty.

In many movies based on contemporary India, like ‘The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel’, ‘Slumdog Millionaire’ and ‘Outsourced’, many children in India are seen begging for food and money from the foreigners. In ‘A Passage to India’, groups of poor Indians are shown homeless and sleeping on streets and railway stations, many of them getting sick due to this.

In many of these movies, Indians are shown to be migrating from villages to cities for better life. In ‘City of Joy’, a farmer moves from a village in Bihar to Calcutta to become rich and save money for her daughter’s dowry. But, the life of the city is not any better, if not worse, than his village. He had to live in the dismal conditions of a slum and work vigorously as a rickshaw-puller to make money. He even had to sell his blood to make the ends meet. Due to these working and living standards, he was soon diagnosed as having tuberculosis. The movie shows how the cities in India attracts millions of people from villages and poor areas, but the people who come for a better life in cities are forced to work for low wages and live in slums. ‘Outsourced’ also depicts the life of people living in slums and slum-like conditions in India.

- **Clothing**

Common men of India are usually seen wearing traditional Indian clothes like kurta, pyjama, lungi, turban and various kinds of hats while women are usually seen wearing sarees with a bindi on their forehead and various ornaments like bangles, necklaces, earrings and nose rings in the Hollywood movies about pre-independence India. The richer class of India wears either fine quality kurta-pyjama with a vest or a suit in these types of movies. The foreigners, on the other hand, wear modern English clothes in these movies. In movies having a theme of modern India, the class difference in India can be seen in the clothing of Indian people. Most of the people in these movies about modern India wear clothes like shirts, t-shirts, jeans, trousers, jackets representing the today’s middle class of India. While the village people still wears traditional Indian clothes in these movies. The clothes depict the class and financial status of the people in these movies. The living standard of the people in the movies can usually be guessed by their attire.

In movies showcasing the pre-independence India like ‘Gandhi’, ‘A Passage to India’ and ‘Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom’, common people of India were seen wearing clothes like kurta-pyjama and turban, usually very dirty. Many are seen without a cloth on the upper body while richer class is seen wearing nice traditional Indian clothes in these movies.

In movies about contemporary India like ‘Monsoon Wedding’, ‘Outsourced’, ‘The Darjeeling Limited’, ‘Million Dollar Arm’, ‘Slumdog Millionaire’ and ‘The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel’, people of India were seen wearing modern Indian clothes like shirts, t-shirts, trousers, jeans etc. In these movies too, the difference in financial status between various classes of people can easily be spotted. The richer the people are; the nicer their clothes are in these movies.

- **Food**

The Indian food is depicted as spicy and oily in the foreign movies. Sometimes Indians dishes have fictionalized names in these movies. Indian food often gives diarrhea to the foreigners in Hollywood movies like ‘Million Dollar Arm’, ‘Outsourced’ and ‘The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel’

In ‘The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel’, the foreigners eat Indian dishes like *mooli moong dal*, *bagara baingan*, *banjara ghost*, *paneer methi chaman* and *mutton vindaloo*. Rich Indians are shown eating snakes, beetles, soup with eyeballs and chilled monkey brains in ‘Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom’. ‘Outsourced’ presented that Indians drink their tea with lots of sugar. Namkeen was shown as a snack of Indians in movies like ‘Outsourced’ and ‘The Darjeeling Limited’.

- **Occupation**

In western movies, Indian characters are most often depicted in stereotypical occupations such as hunters, farmers, thieves, magicians, priests, prostitutes, homemakers, beggars and laborers, such as servants, cleaners, fanners, water-bearers, petty vendors, tourist guides, mahouts, and snake-charmers.

In ‘Gandhi’, a large chunk of the Indian population is shown as farmers and workers. Though, in the same movie, some are also shown in the field of the profession of doctors, lawyers, and civil servants. It would exactly be wrong to say that no Hollywood movie about India is complete without snakes and snake-charmers. And so, in many movies like ‘A Passage to India’ and ‘The Darjeeling Limited’, Indians are shown as snake-charmers and common Indians are depicted fearless with snakes. ‘City of Joy’, ‘Gandhi’ and ‘Outsourced’ also shows women laborers in India. In many movies like ‘The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel’ and ‘The Darjeeling Limited’, some Indians were shown working as taxi-drivers and autorickshaw drivers. In ‘City of Joy’, a man used to earn his daily wages by pulling a rickshaw. ‘Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom’ showed a large number of Indian people as thugs.

In ‘The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel’, many Indians, both males, and females are shown as call center executives; all of them being graduated from good universities. The movie, thus, depicts India as not having adequate jobs. In ‘Outsourced’, an American company’s call center was outsourced to India to save money. This demonstrates

that workforce is cheap in India as compared to western countries. In the movie, the salary of the manager in the Indian office was one-eighth of his American counterpart. When calls from America and England come in call-centres in movies like 'Outsourced' and 'Slumdog Millionaire', Indians talk in the accent of the caller and claims to be from their country so as to better connect with them.

'Slumdog Millionaire' depicted two Indian boys doing different works over the years like begging, stealing, selling things such as fruits, balls, chickpeas and key chains in trains and guiding tourists. The gangsters of Mumbai were also depicted in the movie.

- **Law and Crime**

The foreign movie also showcases the poor condition of law in India. These movies also many crimes like stealing, dacoity, conning, smuggling, molestation, rape, and murder. The movie has also portrayed how a city was run by a man whom people considered as their "godfather". Many poor people in the movie were directly or indirectly indebted to him. The movie also showcases how powerful people in India follow the policy of "divide and rule". In the movie, the goons incite riots between two communities because it would be easier for them to rule over them when they are fighting each other. The movie, thus, shows the attitude of politicians and powerful people in India towards the common masses.

'Slumdog Millionaire' depicted the life of criminals and gangsters in India. In the movie, these people do anything they like and whatever their bosses tell them to do. In 'Slumdog Millionaire', a boy was blinded by a man so that he can earn more money by begging. Prostitution in India was also depicted in movies like 'City of Joy' and 'Slumdog Millionaire'. In 'City of Joy', a teenage girl was molested by the goons in broad daylight.

In many movies like 'Outsourced' and 'The Darjeeling Limited', Indian kids were shown stealing money and other belongings from foreigners. In 'City of Joy', a poor family who had just migrated from a village was robbed of all their money by a con-man. The movie also depicted an Englishman robbed of his money and other belongings after being honey trapped by the son of a rather rich man.

- **Racism**

In Hollywood movies, racist attitude of the white people towards the Indians is depicted. In 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom', Indians were portrayed as helpless people and an American messiah came to help them when they prayed to God. In the same movie, when an Englishwoman wanted to speak to the Indians says "I've scarcely spoken to an Indian since we landed" the reply from another superior-feeling Englishman was "Lucky You!". This scene wonderfully depicts the racist attitude of Englishmen towards Indians. What's more ironical is that in the same movie and that too in the same scene, an Englishman refers to Indians as their "Aryan brothers".

In the Hollywood movies about colonized India, the Englishman despises meeting Indians and try to avoid them the best they can and meets them only when it's absolutely necessary. In these movies, only a very few Englishmen have Indian friends and the foreigners shake hand only of the most important Indians like Maharajas and persons holding important positions in the government. When a party is thrown by the Britishers in "A Passage to India", though they invite the Indians, they don't try to interact with them very well.

Even in recent movies like 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', the racism of a few English people towards Indians is apparent. An old Englishwoman is shown as extremely racist towards people of color. She refuses to be operated by an Indian doctor. She also says in the movie, "He can wash all he likes. That color's not coming out", referring to a black man but her words can be easily implied to Indians too. Her view on Indians was "Brown faces and black hearts. Reeking of curry..." Also adding that "And you never see one on their own, do you? I mean, they always... they move in packs. Makes it easier to rob you blind, cut your throat." She has labeled all Indians as robbers and dacoits in the movie.

- **Inferiority Complex**

In "A Passage To India", when an Indian asks his friend: "Why do we spend so much time discussing the English?" the answer is: "Because we admire them." Indians can be seen doing *sajda* and *salaam* to even the young Britishers giving them the status of superior persons. Even a common Englishman is received by the villagers in "A Passage To India" like a monarch. Every time when the national anthem of Great Britain is played in 'A Passage To India', every Englishman and Indian alike stands in respect, remembering the glorious monarchy of Great Britain, and at the same time, Indians are forgetting the more glorious legacy of Indian monarchs. When a Britisher arrives in India, a band consisting only of Indians plays music at ports, railway stations and on their arrival in cities and towns in their honor in movies like 'Gandhi' and 'A Passage to India'. Though some Indians also laugh at Englishmen sometimes in these movies. In "A Passage to India", well-off Indian women laugh at the Britishers' Hindi. In 'The Darjeeling Limited' too, Indian kids are seen laughing at the foreigners.

- **Class**

Indian characters are often depicted as poor in the western movies as inferred from their attire and place of residence. The characters portraying Indians are seen wearing rags, tatters, working as laborers, beggars, slaves and vendors, and living in huts, temporary shelters or in the wild. On the other hand, upper-class people of India are portrayed wearing expensive clothes in silk, jewellery, living in palatial homes (e.g., palaces and mansions), and could afford several luxuries like big feasts, servants, and so on, and, middle-class persons depicted are those who could afford casual clothes are those that are in good shape (not tattered), living in houses or apartments, and have a reasonable but not luxurious lifestyle.

'Gandhi' depicted many people of working class in the movie, as evident from their clothes and living conditions. In movies about pre-independence India like 'Gandhi' and 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom', the luxurious life of Indian Maharajas was also portrayed. Most of the people are of the middle class in 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', 'Outsourced' and other movies which depict the contemporary India. In 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', a foreigner explains to his friend about the social status of untouchables in India and how in the past, even their shadows were seen as polluted by "good" Hinds.

- **Place of Residence**

Indian characters often reside in stereotypical such as the wild (especially jungles), on the streets (homeless), huts, temporary dwellings, temples, caves, and dens in the western movies. Houses, apartments, and likes are rarely shown as the place of residence of Indian characters. Palaces are usually shown in the western movies as the place of residence of Indian Maharajas. In "Gandhi", middle-class people live in houses made of brick while the poor farmers and workers live in huts and kutcha houses, usually very small in size. 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom' depicts the luxurious life of Indian Maharajas in palaces before the independence of India.

'Million Dollar Arm' depicted the residence of both the rich and poor Indians when an American came to India and saw the city of Mumbai. The contrasting difference between the skylines and the slums of in a single city amazed him. This difference was also seen in 'Slumdog Millionaire'. The movie also showcased the changing Mumbai and the tall buildings were built in place of many slums in the movie.

- **Language**

Indian characters portrayed in the western movies speak Indian languages (such as Hindi) or broken English and accented Indian English. Sometimes Indian characters in Hollywood movies actually speak in a gibberish nonsensical language that was meant to represent an Indian language. In 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom', most of the people who were depicted as Indians spoke Sinhalese in the movie, which is not actually spoken in India. In all of these movies, Indians speak English in a heavy Indian accent. Poor people in movies like 'City of Joy', 'Million Dollar Arm', 'The Darjeeling Limited' and others are usually not well-versed in English and speak very little English, often with many grammatical mistakes and sometimes only the word: "Yes". Indians are also shown speaking native Indian languages like Hindi and Urdu in movies like 'A Passage to India', 'The Darjeeling Limited', 'Slumdog Millionaire' and others. Indians often find it difficult to communicate with Americans in movies like 'Outsourced' and 'Million Dollar Arm' because Americans often use slang in these movies.

- **Leisure Activities**

Stereotypical leisure activities like rope-walking, scorpion-eating, sword-swallowing, fortune-telling, snake-charming, henna painting, pot painting, tiger hunting and sports like polo and cricket are usually depicted as Indian people in the Hollywood movies. In sports, only cricket was depicted in these movies like in 'The Darjeeling Limited', 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel', 'Million Dollar Arm', 'Monsoon Wedding' and 'Slumdog Millionaire'. In 'Outsourced', an American presumed that every Indian play only cricket as sports. In 'The Darjeeling Limited', kids are seen playing cricket with a tennis ball. 'Slumdog Millionaire' depicted Indian children playing cricket on an airfield. In 'Monsoon Wedding', the upper-middle-class men living in big cities are seen playing golf on the golf course located in cities.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

After the analysis of all the movies, it was found out that the images of India in the foreign movies is stereotyped and represent only a particular India, i.e. a poor India (in most cases).

Out of the 10 movies that were examined, only 2 could represent somewhat real India, the whole India, which is a mix of rich and poor. India is a study in extremes, having both good and bad facets. 'Slumdog Millionaire' only focused on the slum life in India, while 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom' depicted a very bad picture of India and Indians to the foreigners. 'Gandhi' was a true masterpiece which truly depicted the India at the time of the struggle for its independence. 'Monsoon Wedding' also rightly laid out the custom of arranged marriage in India and the struggle for cultural identity in changing India. Other movies which depicted the contemporary India could only portray a specific India which is ingrained in the minds of foreigners.

In these movies, either willingly or unwillingly, the filmmakers have shown India in a bad light. But as India is developing faster than ever before, it will become very difficult for the future filmmakers to show India from only one perspective. Be it India's increasing role in world politics or its glorious space program, the new India is bound to be seen by one and all.

4. CONCLUSION:

The study showed that the image of India in foreign movies is that of India of a century ago. The trend of the poor depiction was set by the British cinema, because of their well-known propaganda to belittle India during the time of colonization. The portrayal of India that these movies depicted was later used by the Hollywood. Though, things are changing, because the world cannot just ignore and belittle India anymore which is now a rising superpower; foreign movies still have a long way to go in depicting the true wonder that India is. It's not entirely the fault of the movie makers in their wrong or half-true depiction of India because it's not possible to study India in its true sense and then present it in a couple of hours. A country which is as complex as India is not fully understood by Indians themselves, so how can we expect foreigners to do the same? It's important that we don't get irritated when we see an image of India that we don't like because India is not exactly the perfect country. The fact of the matter is that we have many problems that we need to rid of, for instance, child marriage, not enough freedom and safety for women, poverty and most importantly, our own inferiority complex. Instead of getting annoyed by watching India that we don't like, we should work harder to remove all the problems of India and change it into a nation that we want to see in the foreign movies.

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