REPRESENTATION OF WIDOWHOOD IN TAMIL FILMS: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MOVIES PRODUCED DURING 2008 – 2018

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Abstract

The film industry is one of the platforms of mass media with the audio-visual medium for communication. A good film can entertain, educate, motivate, and encourage the audience in several ways, and in some cases, movies can even awaken a sense of empathy in people who have never experienced it in any context. Widowhood is a very sensitive and serious problem in Hindu culture and Tamil society. India is considered as the nation with the largest widow population in the world. It is estimated that there are 40 million widows in India, and it is 10% of the country's female population. Now, most of the filmmakers have tried to focus on this crucial problem through the big screen and this may help in the future to make changes in their lives.This study has focused on the portrayal of widowhood in Tamil films and the sociological analysis of these films aids to understand how these vulnerable people are suffering due to widowhood, how the Hindu culture and rituals related to widows are depicted in the Tamil films, how the society is dealing with such problems and finally the changes to represent them in Tamil films.Relational analysis-based content analysis has been used as a qualitative research tool to analyse the selected samples. Three Tamil movies which are released during 2008-2018 were randomly selected for this study. The study has concluded thata slight deviation from traditional characterization would also count as pioneering and unique. Now, Tamil cinema has understood the concept and has tried to challenge these stereotypical depictions of widows in recent films. Further, the study highlights that widows are not Disney princesses waiting for princes to bring colour back into their lives and they are not any less human than anyone else in the world.

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