

# COMPARITIVE STUDY OF WOMEN CHARECTERS FROM FEW SELECTED INDIAN MOVIES

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**Abstract:** The portrayals of women characters in Indian cinema are different in many ways. This paper deals with the comparative study of few women characters from the Indian cinema, Tara from Praana (Malayalam), Vasuki from Puthiya Niyamam (Malayalam), Padmavati from Padmavat (Hindi), Tessa from 22 Female Kottayam (Malayalam) cinema influence people especially youth. These characters face same problem but faces it in different ways. It is the circumstances which mold up a person and nothing else. The personality should be given more importance than the sexuality or their sexual background.

**Keywords:** Women role - Rape - Male chauvinism - Cinema - Individuality - Suicide - Self motivation

## I. INTRODUCTION

Cinema plays a vital role in 20<sup>th</sup> century human life. They help us to understand our lives, the life of around us and how society reacts to. People, situation, circumstances etc. some way or other we are connected to cinema. Often we feel close to certain movies because some characters stay close to our heart. The movie depends upon the character portrayed i.e. there action surrounding behavior etc. Character is a mean to transport idea from the director or writer to the audience. We can relate our life to certain characters, while other characters influence us in such a way that we tend to become a part of it. Here we are discussing about different such characters i.e. Tara from "Praana" a psychological thriller directed by VK Prakash and written by Rajesh Jayaraman. Apart from other movies, here Nithya Menon is the solo actor, who plays the role of an English writer; she publishes a book on "music of freedom" in which she discusses about her views on freedom which later become controversy and results in her death, Padmavati from "Padmavat" the movie Padmaavat directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali starring Padmavaati as Deepika Padukone. The film is loosely based on the epic poem Padmavati by Malika Muhammed Jayasir. Rani Padmavati, a Rajput queen known for her beauty, she is a wife of Maharwal Raten Sign played by Shahid Kapoor. Another important character is Sultan Alauddin Khilji played by Ranveer Singh, who hears about her beauty and attacks her kingdom to claim upon her. The story revolves around two kingdoms fighting for her, Tessa from "22 female Kottayam" plot revolves around the character Tessa K Abraham enacted by Rima Kallingal, who is nurse and aspires to go to Canada. She falls in love with Cyril enacted by Fahad Fasil, who betrays her along with his boss enacted by Prathap Pothan. She got raped twice by the boss and trapped by Cyril for a drug related issue. Rather becoming weaker she transformed into a strong independent women who planned to take revenge on me who tried to destroy her. After her release from the jail, she planned to take the perfect revenge on Cyril and hedge. She kills hedge, sedate Cyril and sadistically penectomises him. And Vasuki from "Putiya Neman" directed and written by AK Saajan. Vasuki enacted by Nayantara and her husband Louis Pothan enacted by Mammooty along their daughter baby Ananya. Louis Pothan is a TV critic, an artist, a divorce lawyer and participates in TV shows where his wife Vasuki Iyer is a Kathakali artist. Vasuki was raped by her 2 neighbors and their cloth presser.

## II. COMPARITIVE STUDY

These four women characters are designed under same condition but they interpret the matter differently. Here Tara and Padmavati are categorized in same way because when something crossed their identity they ended up in suicide whereas Tessa and Vasuki played in a different way. 37% of women committing suicide in the world are Indians. And these kinds of notions are encouraging today's youth to run away from reality. During the earlier days female characters were submissive and weak where male characters hold boldness, courage and wilderness. Most of the female characters were housewife. But as the time change, people started to view life from different dimension. Since movie is a shorter representation of life, the character discrimination also started to vanish. But, confusion about how to face a problem is still experienced by certain female characters in Malayalam film industry. Every female character portrayed is unique in their way. Problems are faced by both virtuous or real life character, but impact are left by the ones who face the problem and tackle the consequences accordingly. Malayalam film industry helps in expressing the true self of women with the help of few directors who supports the feminist thoughts and values "Is any one free in this current world?" this question, provoked by the character Tara Anirudh from the movie Praana. From the beginning of the movie Tara, introduced as a very courageous and bold women in town, who was even ready to challenge the spirits by shifting her living to a haunted house. One irony we could find is that her book (music of freedom) is all about freedom which she haven't attained yet. And her life journey itself is about finding the meaning of freedom. Three important decisions took up by Tara in her life are, First one is to publish her controversial book "music of freedom" second one is shifting her living to a haunted house, by challenging the spirits; third one is by killing herself. The character Tara was portrayed as a courageous and idealistic women throughout the play but her inner feminine weakness was discovered when she kills herself. Indian women feature at the top of female suicide rate and most of them are below the age of 35. Suicide is just escapism and it is done by cowards. Tara is someone who gives a greater importance

to freedom, she has dedicated her entire life by searching for an answer but her complete hope got wiped out, when she became a rape victim. It's always said that, for a woman her chastity is given more importance than her life. Tara who was very bold and courageous until she became rape victim, after that she got trapped by illusionary world and suicide herself by taping that she has the freedom to kill herself. This also creates a bad influence on the children. Another powerful character is Padmavati from the movie Padmaavat Padmini is known for her beauty and intelligence. The introduction scene of Padmini herself exhibits her talent in hunting. She can be depicted as the symbol of peace and violence at the same time. Still the movie ends by Padmini burning herself. She was aware about the truth that Khilji was doing all sorts of activities to gain Padmini's beauty for that even killed the king. Can the entire problem be solved by a suicide? Suicide is a thread connecting illusion and reality. As mentioned earlier suicide is an escapism; not a solution. A solution can only be formed by facing the problem. Therefore women who are violent doesn't mean courageous. A true bravery within oneself is pictured out when obstacles block our way. Which Tara and Padmavati failed to overcome. Therefore both the characters are knotted down into a single thread. Whereas in 22 Female Kottayam the protagonist shows the male chauvinism. At first Tessa is portrayed as a weaker section of society but later when she got to face a problem, her attitude towards life changed entirely. Instead of ending her life- like Padmini or Tara she stood for herself, so did Vasuki. After Vasuki becoming a rape victim her world turned topsy turvy. She wears saree throughout the movie. Therefore her transformation in character is not portrayed through physical appearance but through her behavior by maintaining simplicity. Vasuki is depicted as the best portrayal of a problem faced by housewife and the way she can manage to clear out the outer evilness by being inside the kitchen which makes her unique. She shows up the bravery by eliminating them from the world itself with an Bun known help from her husband. Therefore Vasuki and Tessa makes us aware about our inner self than the physical beauty.

### III. CONCLUSION

The leading four characters from the movie epitomize the women who face same kind of trouble and circumstances. These four characters try to overcome the male chauvinism. But the way they overcome the situation is different in their own way. Vasuki and Tessa are two similar characters who was bought up as a typical Indian girl but when a problem arises they shown the courage and stood for them self whereas Tara and Padmini bought up as a very courageous independent women but failed to overcome the obstacle which came along their way. All these women images have independent personalities and also the representation of sexuality is commendable. Women and sexuality is one of the theme portrayed in these movies. Molly Haskell points out in her work from reverence to rape tree types of women characters are portrayed i.e. the extra ordinary, the ordinary women and the ordinary that becomes extra ordinary. We can consider the ordinary that becomes extra ordinary as Tessa and Vasuki. The women characters in these films are destabilize and challenging the so-called stereotypes. And also trough these movies we realize that it's not necessary to have a strong background in order to break the chain just a self-realization is more than enough.

### IV. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This project work is the hard work and it goes a long way in shaping a person in one's perspective. If words can be considered as symbols of acknowledgement and love, then these words play a vital role in expressing my sincere gratitude. First of all, I am thankful to the almighty for all his blessings.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Director Dr. U. Krishnakumar who provided me the golden opportunity to do this project.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to Sonia Chelirian From the department of English and Languages for her encouragement and support. I am highly indebted to her for the gratitude and sincere interest in the making of this project.

Last but not the least I would like to extend my thankfulness to IJSDR publication for accepting my paper

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