

A Critical Review of the Movie "Salaam Mumbai"

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Abstract

This study deals with a critical review of the movie "Salaam Mumbai" which is an Iranian-Indian film, produced in 2016. The method of this study is essentially a narrative structure analysis and the necessary data for this research has been obtained from primary source which is the selected movie. The researcher gives a brief summary of the movie and introduces the characters before going through the main point. The themes of the movie such as old fashion style, patriarchy and gender stratification, Love, feminine courage and weakness are discussed. Since, according to the researcher's view, the movie has some defects, they are also investigated through one of the themes which is called unreliability.

Key Words: Love, Patriarchy, Unreliability, Weakness, Courage, Style, Feminine

Introduction

"Salaam Mumbai" is a tragic love story and the first Iranian-Indian drama film in Islamic Republic of Iran period. The movie directed and written by Ghorban Mohammad pour and produced by Javad Norouz Baki, released in December 2016. The characters speak in English, Indian, and Persian languages. The movie begins with the main character in Iran but the main setting of the movie is in Mumbai. Most of the story is told in a flash back, happened almost 10 years earlier. The characters of the movie are:

1-Ali Mohammadi (Mohammad Reza Golzar) is an Iranian boy studying medicine in Mumbai. He is the main male character of the movie.

2- Karishma (Dia Mirza), she is an Indian girl from a rich family. She is also studying medicine and is Ali's and Ahmad's classmate. She is the main female character.

- 3- Suraj (Gulshan Grover), he is a rich businessman who is engaged to Karishma. He is the antagonist of the movie.
- 4- Mr. Komar (Dalip Tahil), Karishma's father he is a rich businessman and tries to convince Karishma to marry Suraj.
- 5- Karishma's mother (Poonam Daylon) is an anxious mother who tries to solve everything sedately.
- 6-Rja (Behrooz Chahel): Karishma's brother, he has a negative role and always creates a problem for Karishma.
- 7-Ahmad (Benyamin Bahadori) is Ali's friend and roommate. He is also a medical student in Mumbai, India.
- 8-Sonia (Shayli Mahmoodi): She is an Indian girl who lives in Ahmad and Ali's neighborhood. Ahmad and Sonia are in love with each other.
- 9-Tanjena (Simiran Mishrikoti): She is Suraj's sister who is in love and engaged to Karishma's brother, Raja.
- 10- Ali's mother, an absent character whose name is mentioned a lot and whose voice is heard via phone calls.

A Brief Summary of the Movie

The main plot is about a love affair between Ali, a medical student from Iran and Karishma, a rich Indian girl who is Ali's classmate. Karishma is engaged to Suraj whom she does not love at all and this is the main disturbance in her life. She is always late to her classes whereas Ali is an orderly and the cleverest student in the class. So the teacher asks Ali to give his notes to Karishma. The next day when he is going to deliver the notes, he comes to know that she has submitted suicide and is in the hospital. He visits her on the pretext of delivering notes. Later on, after Karishma's recovering, her car's tire is punctured and Ali fixes it. This event is a sparkle for their relationship and they fall in love but they face complications on their way.

There is one sub-plot in the movie which is a love affair between Ahmad and Sonia but it is not related to the main plot and has no effect on Karishma and Ali's life.

Discussion and Analysis

The movie is discussed and analyzed through different themes of the movie. The researcher is of the opinion that the movie has some defects, too. The defects of the movie are explained in one of the themes. So the themes are investigated as follow:

1- Old fashion Style

Most events in this conjoint movie are based on old Indian movies, almost three decades ago, and the Old Iranian movies before The Islamic Republic of Iran. If the audience is from those ages or has watched the movies of that time immediately comes to know about this old fashioned style of the movie. Like the Old Iranian and Indian movies, Karishma is from a very rich family who has a car and other facilities but Ali is from a normal middle class family who cannot afford his university fee and flat rent without extra work. So apart from studying in the university he works in a restaurant in Mumbai.

One of the important points regarding the old fashion style of the movie is the presence of antagonist, Suraj and his engagement to Karishma. It is interesting that Karishma does not love Suraj and it is only for their fathers that they are engaged. Suraj claims that he is deeply in love with Karishma but she pushes him away and hates him. Karishma is deeply in love with Ali and nothing can change it. This love triangle and scenes of the movie takes the audience back to the Indian movie *Love Love Love* (1989) with almost the same plot.

Like old movies, there is no special issue to cause the love affair between Karishma and Ali, except the puncturing of Karishma's car tire and exchanging notes. Ali is depicted as a mim but somehow playful boy who studies hard, works in a restaurant, is an obedient son, he does care for his old mother and he tries to help his classmate, Karishma too. Ali is an emotional shelter for Karishma and he even tries to protect her physically.

Just like heroes in old movies, Ali does not think about himself and his benefits. He just wants to make happy his lover. His sudden entrance to Karishma's house and his words expressing his deep love for Karishma is another trace of the old movies. He even does not accept the money which Suraj suggests and even does not bother when Suraj threatens him. Ali just calmly says:

"Don't ever beg for love. The worthiest thing is not given to a loser.....You are like bobbling pills. When you put one of them in a glass of water, it puffs a lot. It won't so much, when stand fizzing (a pause), Nothing.....(in a decisive and quick voice whispers) Listen Sir, forget what you cannot get, Okay? Your game is over."¹

So in this quotation Ali behaves like a hero who does not afraid of Suraj's power and is completely relaxed. Instead of giving up and requesting Suraj, he calmly advises him. Not only this but he also compares his personality to bobbling pills which seem to be very much but in reality are very less.

Ali is kidnapped and even beaten brutally but he does not retreat. He never forgets his lover and marries no one though he finally disappointedly goes back to Iran. All these reactions are seen in Old Iranian and Indian movies by the main characters.

2-Patriarchy and Gender Stratification

"Patriarchy is a social system in which power is held by men, through cultural norms and customs that favor men and withhold opportunity from women. While male slaves and dependent sons are ruled over by the patriarch, women are more thoroughly subjugated".². The Gender inequality is also another theme which is related to the theme of patriarchy. "Gender inequality refers to an imbalance of power between men and women in society. This is reflected in the fact that women have less political power than men, less economic clout, they have less say within the community, and are subjected to gender-based violence both inside and outside the home"³. According to this gender inequality men have more advantages and greater power comparing to women.

In the present study, the gender stratification and patriarchy are explained through the situation of Karishma and her mother in a patriarchal family. Though both Karishma and her mother are less privileged comparing to men, because of gap generation the mother's situation is compared to the father and Karishma's situation is compared to her brother.

In this movie though Karishma is a medical student, drives a car and even expresses her feelings, the gender stratification and patriarchy is seen clearly in her life. She is helpless against the men in her family and she is not allowed to choose her future life partner. Her father and brother arrange her marriage to a man whom she hates. In one scene when the family is having dinner, Karishma who was out with Ali, comes back home:

Karishma: Hi

Father: Where have you been?

Karishma: I was out.

Father: What are you doing so late at night on your own?

Karishma: I wasn't alone. I was with a friend.

Raja: It doesn't look nice to roam round with strangers, No?

Karishma: It's not a stranger, he is my classmate.

Raja: You have a fiancé

Karishma: I don't have a fiancé

Father: (disappointedly) oh, common Karishma. How many times we have to go through this?

Karishma: Daddy, I can't marry Suraj.

Father: (friendly and helplessly) Karishma you should think about your family. We have a commitment. I have business relation with them. And we all agreed that this will be....

Raja: (Interfering his father) If you didn't want to marry Suraj then why did you engage?

Karishma: I have broken the engagement. I have returned the ring to him.

Raja: Acha, did he accept?

Karishma: I don't care

Raja: Look!, Once you have insulted us, I won't allow you to do it again.

Mother: Will you just leave her alone, PLEASE.

Raja: (ignoring the mother and threatening Karishma) Don't go around that Iranian Guy again. I am warning you.

Karishma: (in a low voice)Don't talk to me like that, I am not a child.

Raja: Your actions influence my life.

Karishma: It's all about you.

Raja: If you do not marry Suraj, he won't allow me to marry Tanjena, that's it. Clear!

Karishma: I am sorry, I can't talk about this... Goodnight Mum.

Raja: I am talking to you.⁴

In this conversation from the very moments Karishma enters, she is questioned by her father and more strongly by her brother. The father tries to talk about her marriage issue in a friendly and requesting manner but Raja is serious and warns her of not going around Ali anymore. Raja not only ignores his mother's request, he even interposes himself between his father and Karishma. The father seems to be unaware of Karishma's relation with Ali and Raja finds a good opportunity to motivate the father against Karishma. He is succeeded somehow because the father does not object when Raja criticize Karishma for being in contact with a stranger. This kind of behavior with a male and female child indicates nothing but gender stratification. The poor Karishma is bombarded by frequent questions and orders without letting her to talk about her own desires. Though Karishma dares to express her feeling diffidently and finally avoid answering their questions, the mother seems to be absent.

The anxiety is seen in her eyes when her husband and her son blame Karishma but she does not dare to say anything. She holds Karishma's hand to show her supportive attitude but she does not dare to do anything in practice. The only thing she does is that just once she pleases her son to stop but unfortunately she is totally ignored. It seems that the real patriarch, here is Raja who is talking and the parents are listening silently. Though Karishma shows her courage by revealing her feelings but finally she declines to attend the dining table and goes to her room disappointedly. The parents calm down Raja who calls Karishma "crazy" in order to repress further argument. Raja is depicted as the privileged child who just thinks about his personal feelings. He does not care what may happen to Karishma and his parents, especially the father, support him by keeping silence. So the gender stratification is clearly depicted in Raja and Karishma's situation. Raja feels to have preference over Karishma and that is why he tries to convince her to marry Suraj. It is interesting that he wants to marry Tanjena, but tries to prevent Karishma from marrying her lover. The father and brother's manner of questioning Karishma and disregarding the mother indicate also the theme of patriarchy in this scene.

The father seems to be tottery in his decision regarding Karishma's marriage, because from one side there is his daughter's life and from the other side is his business contract with Suraj. In one scene after Karishma's argument with her father and Raja, the father tries to appease her by saying "EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT. I AM HERE". Not only this statement makes Karishma happy but even the audiences are relieved for her father's great emotional reaction towards Karishma. She is so ensured that everything will be all right that nobody predicts what problems Karishma will face in future. But he somehow deceives his daughter because he cannot keep his promise. When Suraj hears negative reply from Karishma, and he calls Mr. Komar furiously, he request Suraj to let him explain. He neither can reject him nor can he explain his feelings as a father. Mr. Komar is ruled by a forceful man and he is helpless to do anything. He cannot get angry at Suraj but he has the authority over his wife and his daughter. So he gets the things off his chest by becoming nervous at his wife and daughter. When his daughter comes back home he says:

"Karishma I think you have been extremely selfish. You are only thinking about yourself. What about your mother, What about me? We have given you everything you ever wanted and this is what you repay us. What about... What do people say? What about family?"⁵

In This quotation the demands of the father are ridiculous because the father expects her daughter to scarify her feelings for others. She calls Karishma "selfish" because she is in love

with her classmate. Here the father is shown as a true patriarch who does not consider his daughter's satisfaction and just think about external benefits. He rigidly orders his wife to stay out of this matter and tells his daughter with determination: "You are engaged to Suraj and *That is That*".

Mr. Komar owes his financial and job position to Suraj's father. So he cannot support his daughter because he is authorized by a stronger man and afraid of losing his wealth. Then how he can manage and decide about his daughter's life when he is submissive to other power? He does not value his wife and does not care about her words and wishes at all which is a firm sign of patriarchy.

The other male stronger power in Karishma's family is Raja, Karishma's brother who does not consider her feelings at all. He is engaged to Tangena, Suraj's sister, and in order to marry her, he does the worse things to do not lose her. He helps Suraj in his machinations against Ali and Karishma. He motivates his father by reminding him that Karishma as a girl should not stay out late. Even when Karishma is in the hospital, Raja does not bother about her health. He does not talk to her like a compassionate brother. Though the father tries to calm her and advises her to don't worry, the brother cruelly says: "You committed suicide on your wedding evening, you insulted all of us. I won't let you do it again". It is clear that the father loves his daughter and it seems that her happiness is very important for him but he does not object to Raja's bad behavior which is a sign of supporting him practically. In order to free himself from feeling guilty conscience, the father calmly explains the situation to Karishma and attempts his best to get her consent regarding her marriage advantages to Suraj. But Karishma frankly objects and the father, who is under the influence of his son and Suraj, follows his own aim.

As explained in the definition of patriarchy, the ruling of a man over a woman is clearly depicted in this movie. From the economical point of view, Suraj is the most powerful man in the movie. He has the strength to exploits Raja's emotion by preventing his marriage to Tanjena in case of his marriage's proposal rejection by Karishma. Not only this, he also threatens Karishma's father of losing his wealth if his daughter does not marry him. So the two patriarchs of Karishma's family are controlled by another powerful patriarch. The men (Raja, Suraj and Mr.Komar) just want to reach their own aim even at the cost of Karishma's life. They never care about Karishma's feeling and love but they just consider their own personal benefits. The father contemplates increasing his wealth and the brother aims at

marring the girl whom he loves. It is obvious that she is less privileged in comparing to the men around her. Apparently she has all the facilities which her brother possesses but in reality her statements are not heard.

3- Love

The theme of love is the central theme of both main plot and the sub-plot in this movie. The love of the main plot is a triangle love. Both Ali and Suraj love Karishma but Karishma is in love with Ali and she hates Suraj. So since the love is triangle, there are many complications. The love relation between Ali and Karishma seems to be more spiritual than basing on physical relationships. At the beginning of the movie Karishma is depicted as a disappointed girl who does not know what to do to get rid of Suraj. She helplessly submits suicide and is taken to a hospital. But almost everything gets a new colour in her life when Ali for the first time visits her in the hospital. He tries to console her and talks about the beauties of life; he encourages her to appreciate the opportunities in life because "the best things may happen when you expected the least". He gives her a poetry book of Iranian poet, Hafez and advises her of reading it. They gradually fall in love and as their love develops, Karishma's mental condition gets better. She is not the depressed girl at the beginning of the movie, she feels extreme joy. She calls Ali's love "the greatest blessing in the world" because he has taught him to laugh and to live again. She talks about her love to her mother happily:

"I am happy. I feel like living... I think I am in love.... He is my classmate and he is such an amazing person. You know every time he talks to his mother I feel so much respect for him." ⁶

So she not only loves Ali but she also respects him which indicates the depth of her love. Perhaps, as it is mentioned in this quotation, she is sure that Ali will have respect for her because when he regards his mother with a particular feeling, he is such a nice boy who respects her as a woman in his life.

She is mentally so dependent on Ali that when Ali is disappeared, Karishma becomes totally restless. At the beginning she imagines that his mother has died and Ali is in Iran but when she does not receive a call nor any email, she becomes almost mad. She remembers her happiest time with Ali, his joyful talking manner, his lovely words, the gifts which they have exchanged and the places where they have gone. She bitterly cries and hopelessly talks about Ali with her mother. She says while she is crying:

"Ali's mother has passed away..... He is in Iran.....Mama he has not been answering my calls and messages. I have sent him so many e-mails, no replying to anything. Mom I scared something bad has happened to him...."⁷

She is really uneasy when she speaks about her worries to her mother. The mother consoles her that Ali might be still mourning for his mother's death since Iranian mourns for forty days. The mother's condolence cannot make her mind at ease because she says that the forty days of mourning is over. She becomes the same disappointed girl as she was at the beginning of the movie and even worse. When she gets his home phone number in Iran and comes to know that Ali has not gone to Iran, she becomes aware of the fact. So she madly goes to Suraj's office and asks him to set Ali free but when Suraj says that he loves Karishma from the bottom of his love, she abhorrently says that he is too little to love and is not capable of loving. Suraj does not care about her hatred towards him and impudently wants to prove his love to her by showing his engagement ring and her photo which he keeps on his table at his office. This reaction makes Karishma so furious that she decides to call the police, but she powerlessly gives up when Suraj threatens:

"If you go to the police that Iranian boy will die. Your classmate is going to die. You want to call the police? Ok please call. Yaa, Try, Please"⁸

He asks her to call the police because he is sure she won't call. He rudely plays with her emotion when says:

"Your father and brother are involved too. Actually I wanted to kill him but your father said: we are not murderers and we don't want bloodshed."⁹

Here by talking about her father, Suraj plays with her feelings and wants to assure Karishma that her father not only is involved in Ali's kidnap but he is the main decision maker. Karishma's feelings are hurt and she frantically goes to her father's office when she becomes aware that her father and her brother were co-sponsors of Ali's kidnapping with Suraj. She is confused and frightened when she thinks of her father's involvement in this crime. When her father states that he is unaware of the fact, she begs him to "stop pretending". She humbly requests:

"Dad I just love him, he has done no harm. He only wants my happiness. He is a good man. Let him go.... (shouting)LET HIM GO.....He is his mother's only child. *How you could do this to him?* His mother is so dependent on him. He has nobody in this world but only his mother."¹⁰

She maniacally appeals her father" I'll do what you say. I promise you, I will never meet him again. Just save him PLEASE." she kneels down and requests her father to save Ali. These words indicate her true love for Ali. She has come to know that the men in her family are really unreliable so she just asks them to set him free even at the cost of no further meeting.

She does not care about her strong feelings and love but she thinks more about Ali and his mother. She is not so selfish girl who wants to have Ali at his own expense. She is ready to never see Ali until he can live in security.

When Ali is released from Suraj's prison, the very first thing he does is calling Karishma many times but her cell phone is switched off. He goes to the university and asks Rita, Karishma's only friend but she has no information to help Ali. He goes to her home but again he hears negative answer. When he goes to the restaurant where he works, the restaurant owner blames him by saying: "That young lady ... She nearly died of waiting for you... Either she would have come here or everyday should have called me."¹¹ The manner in which the restaurant owner talks about Karishma's worries highlights the love of Karishma to Ali. So Rita and the owner's words besides Karishma's letters strengthen Ali's heart and make him pursue his aim of meeting Karishma with more determination. Ali knows who is behind all these complications in his life but he does not complain because Karishma's father and brother are involved in this scheme. He does not want to harm Karishma and this is for the sake of his lover that he does not go to the police. When he requests Karishma's mother about Karishma's whereabouts, he becomes disappointed but he does not give up. He even goes to Mr. Komar's office but he is not allowed to go inside. He waits till Mr. Komar comes out of his office and tries to speak with him, but again he is rejected. In order to make Mr. Komar emotional he says that "Karishma used to tell me that you would never lie" but the father does not care. Raja discouraged him by saying that she has got married to Suraj just to save his life (Ali's life). But he does not believe even when Raja is ready to show him her wedding movie. He is sure from his heart that Karishma will never marry Suraj. But when Raja throws her marriage photos out of the car's window his heart is broken and gets completely disappointed. The depth of his disappointment is shown when his mother calls him and says: "I am a little worried. I dreamt you were in black. Wandering in a dessert, crying you were.." this indicates the fact that Ali is so sad that even his mother is not at ease in Iran. He strives to meet Karishma, he goes back to her home again but he is beaten horribly by Raja and his men. This is the last struggle and he will go back to Iran though he leaves his heart in India.

All of the above explanations show the depth of their love for each other. But the two lovers are separated cruelly from each other. The last scene is really tragic, after eight years Ali and Karishma meet but the poor Karishma is breathing her last and finally dies.

The other love relation is between Ahmad and Sonia. They seem to be happy and playful. They do not have any problem; the only matter is that they cannot communicate because they speak different languages. Their love has nothing to do with the main plot but it is there only to entertain the audiences.

4- Unreliability

Besides the dancing and singing scenes which are rarely seen in Iranian movies, this movie is the first conjoint movie between Iran and India in the Islamic Republic of Iran period. So the movie is interesting especially for a common Iranian audience. But apart from the amusing scenes the movie has many illogical and unreliable scenes which a logical audience cannot digest. These are explained as follow:

1-Ali's mother, an absent character whose voice is only heard, is a religious woman. Every time she calls Ali, she reminds him of his prayer and prays for his goodness. Actually in Iranian society, a family with extreme religious tenets does not easily allow a member to marry a non-Muslim. Therefore Ali's mother as a believer should have cared for her future daughter in law's religion and belief. But surprisingly she not only does not show a negative reaction but she becomes very happy when Ali informs her that he is going to get an Indian bride and she only desires the happiness of her son. At least she should have said something about the religious and cultural difference. Her reaction is completely artificial because no mother with such a religious beliefs easily approves her son's marriage to a non-Muslim girl.

The other unbelievable reaction from Ali's mother is when Ali is abducted. It seems that Ali and her mother are emotionally accustomed to each other. They are so dependent on each other that they cannot be ignorant of each other for even a few days. In the movie Ali's mother is unaware of Ali for more than forty days, but she does not do anything in practice. Nobody believes that a mother, whose whole property is her only son, do nothing to connect his son. It is true that the mother is old and may be unable to come to India but at least she could have called his university or the restaurant where he works. This reaction is totally unreasonable. The only scene which depicts his family's concern, specially his mother's concern, is when Ali speaks to his sister and she says:

"God! Where have you been!?! Why is your phone off? Why aren't you answering the landline? Mom is too worried. How irresponsible!.....Why isn't your friend answering the landline? What's happening there?"¹¹

It is true that the above quotation reflects a causal concern, but it is more indicative of being unaware of someone for one whole day or a few days only. Otherwise, being ignorant of the dearest person in life will not be expressed by just a few simple questions.

2- The other illogical incident is Ali's financial condition. It is really funny that Ali, from a very normal Iranian family comes to India and studies, not other courses but *medicine*. It seems that the director has renounced this fact that medicine is a costly course for a student such as Ali who is from a normal family. If Ali was studying at a state university in Iran, it was not surprising but not in India. How is that possible? It's really ridiculous that Ali is working in a restaurant in a populous country like India where many native people are jobless. More ridiculous is that Ali seems to have no other source of income other than working at the restaurant. And it's funny that with this trivial kind of job as a waitress, he not only pays his apartment's rent and university fee, but he sends some money for his mother in Iran. We assume that Ali is very lucky and hard-working who has found a job in India, but isn't it funny to have a full time living with just being a waiter at a restaurant? How much salary do they pay to a waiter? Meanwhile, Ali lives in an apartment in a good area with full facilities and seems to have no shortage. Naturally, renting a home is higher in a good area. So the outward condition of Ali's life is not at all compatible with his financial situation and is absolutely unreal.

3- It's really abnormal when Ali suddenly enters Karishma's home, exactly when Mr. Kumar and Raja are discussing Karishma's life. Ali has not met Karishma's family earlier (except a scene where Ali and Karishma meets her brother accidentally) but Ali arrives at home without any prior appointments and talks about his infinite love for Karishma and assures them that he will protect and provides a happy life for Karishma. It can be said that Ali loves Karishma so much that nothing else matters to him. But the interesting thing is that the whole family is listening quietly to Ali, and nobody makes any comment or protest. And this silence of the family also indicates the artificiality of the scene.

4- The other issue is that though Ali concludes a marriage contract with Karishma there is no trace of their physical contact whereas these scenes are seen repeatedly in Iranian films. At the end of the movies the audiences are shocked when they are presented with Roya, Ali and Karishma's daughter. Everybody thinks of their love as a spiritual love and there is no hint of having physical connection in the movie but surprisingly, there is an offspring at the end.

5- In one scene Ahmad and Sonia are having dinner at the restaurant where Ali works. Unexpectedly, a Persian music is heard from there. Actually it is really rare for an Indian owner of a restaurant to serve the guests with an Iranian music unless the owner is Iranian. The only reason for playing the Iranian music is that the director of the movie is an Iranian.

7- Samovar, a highly decorated tea urn used by traditional Iranians, is seen in Ali's flat. With the advancement of technology and people's occupation, most people prefer to use electric tea makers instead of a Samovar. Even in the new Iranian movies there is no trace of samovar in the kitchen. But Ali, a single man with lots of works is using Samovar to make tea, nobody can believe this. Even Samovar is not used by most Iranian families not in the real life nor in the movies. So perhaps the Samovar is there just to highlight the Iranian tradition and nothing else.

8-At the beginning of the movie an Indian professor speaks of holy Quran in the classroom of medical students. He says :

"And I hope when you finish your education, you shall serve the humanity. There is a nice phrase written in holy Quran, it says: *If you heal one of my human being, you have healed my mankind*".¹²

Although this quotation suggests ethical advice to medical students, it still does not seem natural. Because according to the researcher's view, usually no medical professor discusses the verses of Quran in a medical class and this reference to holy Quran is artificial.

9- The director omits Ahmad from the story, revealing that he has to go to Australia without any rationale. It seems that Ahmad's role and his love relation with Sonia is just for amusement and to show how an Indian girl falls deeply in love with an Iranian boy. Otherwise Ahmad does nothing prominent for Ali when he has drowned in problems. The only thing Ahmad does is to give Karishma's letter to Ali. This is not such a great work, everybody could have done this and Ahmad's presence does not change anything in Ali's life.

5- Feminine's Courage and Weakness

The main women characters in this movie are Karishma and her mother. Ali's mother is an absent and somehow neutral character in the process of events. Though there is a gap generation between Karishma and her mother, they have a friendly relationship with each other. Perhaps the most important reason for their bonding is that as a female, they are less privileged in the family and society. Though they share their feelings and loneliness, they are not same in terms of courage and strength. Here by courage and strength the researcher

means that a woman can defend her right, can express her feelings and has the power and daring to do it practically and the weakness is exactly the opposite of all these points.

Though Karishma is a medical student and from a rich family, she seems to be alone. She does not have a close friend; her friends are limited to her relation with Ali and a casual friend whom she sometimes meets at the university. She is helpless and depressed at the beginning of the movie. She hates Suraj but nobody cares for her hatred. She is so ruled by her father and brother that nobody pays any attention to her desires. So she submits suicide desperately only to get rid of marrying Suraj. This act indicates her weakness and loneliness. But when she falls in love with Ali, everything changes in her life. She is not depressed anymore and has strength and even courage. She wants to share her feelings and happiness with someone and that is why she expresses her feelings to her mother. When the mother states that how she is happy for Karishma, she gets more courage. She is a simple girl who never thinks of men's cruelty and does not have any information about men's world, so she believes her father when he assures her of that everything will go on well.

In spite of her father's statement her dreams does not get true. She is prevented, by force, from meeting Ali and is disappointed to do anything. When Ali is kidnapped, she has the courage to threaten Suraj of calling police but she gives up when he threatens Ali to death. So as a woman in a patriarchal society, she is powerless but she is a logical and practical woman.

It is for her deep understanding of situation that she does not call the police and even leaves Ali to save his life. She finally realizes that the men in her family are cruel and brutal. She becomes logical and prefers to leave her lover only to give him a chance of living. But the main point which depicts her as a practical and courageous girl is that when she is not allowed to marry Ali, she never marries Suraj either, even at the cost of her own problems and death. She knows that until Suraj is alive, Ali's life is in danger, so she keeps silent. It is only after Suraj's bankruptcy and death that she writes a letter to Ali, but it is too late to live with him. Almost ten years have passed and she is dying in hospital. But she wants to see Ali for the last time and the moment Ali arrives and touches her hand, she dies. She sacrifices her whole life to save Ali and this indicates her true and logical love for Ali. Her self- sacrifice saves Ali's life and only a strong woman makes such a sacrifice.

Karishma's mother is a traditional woman and a mere housewife whose concern is to calm down the arguments in the family. She is not involved with the social's issues and business. She is an obedient wife who respects her husband and does not dare to express her true

feelings and opinion. Though there is a gap generation between her and her children, she has different relationship with them. The emotional gap is clearly depicted in the relationship between mother and son. As the gender stratification theory explains, the son is aggressive. He just looks for power and personal privileges but he does not care for his mother's dissatisfaction. The mother even does not dare to talk to him. They are like strangers to each other. There is, somehow a formal relationship between the mother and her son.

But the love and emotional relation is clearly depicted between the mother and her daughter. The mother wishes her daughter a happy life with her lover. Their relationship is extended as friend rather than a mere daughter and mother. So Karishma shares her joys and sorrows with her mother. Though the mother is anxious about her daughter and wishes her happiness, she cannot do anything in practice. She is a traditional woman who is ignored in the family and she also does not dare to express her words. She is not happy with her present situation; but she is so weak to do anything in practice. There are many scenes which indicate her faintness in the movie. For example when the other members in the family discuss about Karishma's life, she does not express her idea. It is clear from her facial expression that she is not happy and is really worry for Karishma but unfortunately she does not dare to say a word. She just tries to calm down the disturbed situation without any effective expression. Even when Ali humbly requests her about Karishma, she is so frightened that she just asks Ali to leave. Perhaps the reason for asking him to leave is to keep him away from other dangers. Still she could have given Ali a hint that Karishma loves him and she has not married Suraj but the mother is so timid to say anything.

So though the women's bonding does not cause a change in Karishma's life, the two main women in this movie support each other emotionally and there is a sisterhood bonding between them. But Karishma as a younger one is courageous and practical woman whereas her mother is a weak and objective one. This difference is mostly for their age gap. So from a gender point of view both Karishma and her mother are powerless in comparison to men but from a female point of view, in spite of all difficulties, Karishma is more privileged, stronger and more daring in comparison with her mother

Conclusion

So in the conclusion it should be mentioned that in spite of having many defects three reasons for the movie's success are: the combination of famous actors and actress both from Iran and India, the dance and singing scenes and the third one is being the first conjoint movie after the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The themes such as patriarchy, love, famine's courage and weakness, and old fashion style are somehow related. But the researcher has discussed the defects of the movie as one of themes in the name of "Unreliability". So if this theme, unreliability, is kept aside the movie is interesting to watch though the main plot is not new. There is a patriarchal society and Karishma in a love triangle relation faces many difficulties. As explained the male Indian characters are cruel but Ali is depicted as an oppressed Iranian boy.

Regarding the female characters, Karishma is a courageous and practical girl whereas her mother as a traditional woman is submissive and weak. The feminine characteristics highlight the changes which are seen in the life of females among new generations.

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