

Colonialist Representation of Children in Indian Thriller Movies: Female Child Narration in the Movie "Ratsasan"

Pooja Thulasan*

Guest Lecturer, Department of English, Al-Azhar College of Arts and Science, Idukki, India

Abstract: The article titled, *Colonialist Representation of Children in Indian Thriller Movies: Female child narration in the movie Ratsasan* examines the portrayal of children in various regional Indian thriller movies. Being living in the world of massification, children are greatly influenced by various media especially movies. Media have the power of imitation and practicality. So, the chances of children imitate the crime increases day by day with the influences of media. Crimes in movies paved the way for them to get rid off the fear and evoked a thought of these all are easy process. Hence, my article aiming the colonialist representation of children in various Indian thrillers is pertinent at present society.

Keywords: Brutality, Crime, Massification, Subaltern colonialism.

1. Introduction

Colonialism emerged in India by the arrival of British. But, before the outbursts of British rule, Indian society strictly followed internal colonialism like Feudalism and Untouchability. The main victims were women and children, doubly marginalized category. From the very ancient days, the crime against children were evident in the society. There were laws but none of them are strict. One of the reasons why child crimes increase day by day.

Being an agrarian country, majority population were illiterate. Un-employment and hunger stricken the people. Edward Said concept of *Orientalism* is prevalent in Indian society. Thus, in an Orientalist nation, massification plays an immense role. Living in a digitalized era the imitating power become double. Day by day the number of crimes increases rapidly. Out of these, the crimes against children are of prime. One of the crucial reasons of increasing child crime is due to the hazardous influences of various media especially movies. Thriller genres are of debatable.

So, my article depicting how children are characterized in such thriller movies. By aiming they are treated as brutally and mentally tortured. I took an industry hit thriller from South, *Ratsasan*. In this movie, female children are characterized as brutally murdered. The story is about a psychic serial killer, who find pleasure by killing other children brutally. It's a revenge story. By portraying colonialist characterizations in

movies easily captured by the audience children and gradually influencing their thought process.

A. Objectives

- 1) How children are characterized in thriller movies.
- 2) How brutal and mentally tortured characterization may influence the growing minds/thoughts.
- 3) Co-operative and organizational implementation of strict laws for the betterment of children.

2. Literature Review

Ratsasan is an industry hit thriller from Tamil Nadu in 2018; directed and written by Ram Kumar. Starred by Vishnu Vishal and Amala Paul as the lead roles. The thriller is about a psychic serial killer who murdered girls for revenge. In the vernacular language "Ratsasan" means "evil." The plot is about a police officer named Arun, who actually wanted to become a film maker, but the family responsibilities made him to do the job as a cop. The antagonist character Mary Fernandez disguised as Annabella George, murdered schoolgirls brutally for revenge. Intense excitement, suspense, a high level of anticipation, ultra-heightened expectation, uncertainty, anxiety and nerve-wrecking tension are the catharsis expect from the genre.

The butcher Annabella targeted some schoolgirls, kidnapped and killed them very brutally. In the opening of the movie a 15-year-old schoolgirl named Samyuktha's corpse is autopsied publically. There after other schoolgirls aged as same as that of Samyuktha is gradually murdered by the serial killer. The portrayal of each girl murder creating an intense emotion of fear and horror among the audience. Other school girls named as Amudha, Meera, Ammu, Sanjana is been brutally autopsied in the movie.

By the characterization of such kinds of crimes may influenced by the young minds easily. Children have the tendency of copying others. They try to imitate elders. They have the curiosity in all known and unknown matters. Media not only produced entertainment, it's an amalgamation of information also. People have the tendency to believe whatever they watch through this audio-visual system of communication.

*Corresponding author: poojathulasan123@gmail.com

1) Representation of female children in the movie

In the movie five schoolgirls of same age is brutally abused and killed. Their body parts are separated after the murder. We are living in a society of technology dominated. Increased usage of technology lead towards increased cybercrimes. Crimes against both women and children increased by year. As Edward Bond quoted in his play *Lear*, “Art is the close scrutiny of reality and therefore I put on stage only those things that I know happen in our society.” Both art and society reflected each other. Children tend to believe whatever they saw in media/movie is true; characters influence audiences specially children.

According to National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the statistical rate of child crimes rapidly growing in year after year. A graphical representation of crime rate as shown below:

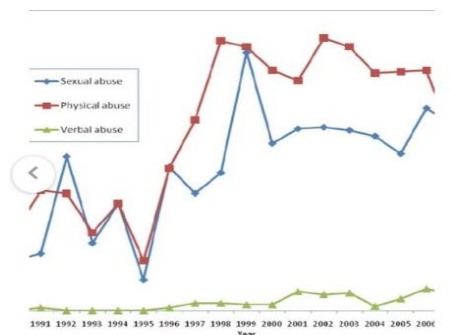
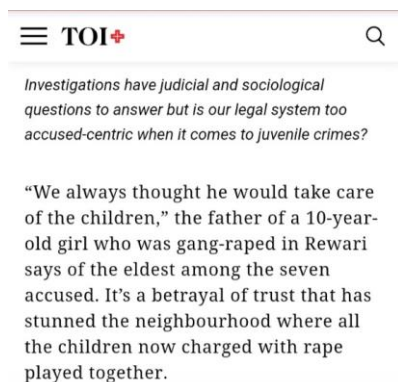


Fig. 1. Number of reported cases of selected types of child abuse in New Providence, The Bahamas, 1990-2008. “Sexual abuse” includes incest

From the above data, it’s evident that crimes are increasing. How this happened in a democratic country like India? We have laws for protecting child life and rights. But none of them are strictly implemented. Majority of the population in India are living in slums. Some of them are marginalized as Dalits. India’s literacy rate and standard of living is not parallel with its developed technology. Thus, un-employment, hunger, diseases and malnutrition dominated the common people’s life force. Being a developing nation, massification have an immense impact on our life. Children who are addicted with certain games followed by various report of crimes became daily news in the daily. Similarly, we came across with many news reports regarding media influenced crimes by children. A few of them are listed below:



2) Solution for the problem

- Co-operative implementation from film industry and government, regard laws against child abuse.
- Organizational censoring of crime against children in the movies.
- Enforcing awareness programs in academic curriculums.
- Responsibilities of various social institutions like family and school plays a major role in the well-being of each child. Ensuring their role in child developmental programs.

3. Conclusion

The dissertation examines the role of various media specially movies in the life of children. By conclude that, thriller movies made an immense impact on the emotional and mental growth of children. Hence characterization of murders and misleading life crimes leads children into criminals in future. So, there is a need to control the narration and exposure of intense scenes in the movies by censoring the contents. In a way the society can make productive and well beings human in the future. Because, children are the building blocks of a nation’s development.

References

[1] Bond, Edward, *Lear*, A&C Black. London, 1971
 [2] <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/>
 [3] https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Number-of-reported-cases-of-selected-types-of-child-abuse-in-New-Providence-The_fig1_49607594
 [4] K. C, Deepika, “The Hindu”, May 27 2017.
 [5] Said, Edward, *Orientalism*, United States. Pantheon Books, 1978.
 [6] Vexi. M, “The Times”, April 13 2017.