

Module 4
Assignment 2

A lot of popular culture and narrative is formed by the media that people consume. This is true when it comes to the stigmas surrounding abortion as well. How does the media influence the narrative around abortion in your community? Watch any one such movie that deals with the topic of abortion and analyse it on the basis of the parameters listed below. You can present in the form of a short essay in not more than 500 words.

- How accurate was their depiction of accessing healthcare support for a pregnant person seeking abortion;
- What did they get right?
- What did they get wrong?
- Does the movie help build more awareness about rights-based abortion?

The movie - *Kya Kehna* directed by Kundan Shah starring Preity Zinta and Saif Ali Khan, accurately describes the situation of an unmarried pregnant woman. It perfectly narrates the existing dilemmas, negative connotations, and labels given to an unmarried pregnant woman and fits like a jigsaw puzzle in the Indian cultural context.

The movie portrays the challenges faced by an unmarried pregnant woman in Indian society. The societal norms and community context are very well shown in the movie. Although the movie dates back two decades ago it fits well in even today's context.

The successfully shows the challenges, norms, positive deviant behavior of an unmarried pregnant woman but it fails when it comes to the abortion process. It stigmatizes the abortion process as we have read in the curriculum with religious expectations and implications. It limits motherhood as the prime responsibility of a woman.

No, the movie does not help in building awareness about rights-based abortion rather it attaches a negative side to abortion. It depends completely on a person seeking an abortion to choose for either termination of the fetus or the birth of the foetus as the rights of the person carrying the foetus should be above than that of the rights of an unborn foetus. This dismisses the choices or circumstances of the person seeking the abortion. The movie rather supports the misconception that an irresponsible person seeks an abortion.

Considering the impact of mass media on the masses on a huge level the movie, on one hand, tries to destigmatize the pregnancy of an unmarried woman on the other it fails by portraying

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that a woman's prime responsibility is to give birth. Since the mass media acts as an opinion framing vehicle in the masses and impacts the ideas, values, and beliefs of the audience according to the psychologist, Albert Bandura, movies should be directed and created in a way that it is inclusive of all, helps in bringing awareness about equity, justice to the diverse existing audience.