The Impacts of Violent Cinema on Society: A Comprehensive Analysis through the Lens of the Movie "Animal"

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ABSTRACT

Gone are the days when a protagonist was projected like a clean character and work according to its values and ethics. Now, the cinemas are finding the good attributes of the protagonist out of so many flaws and glorifies the violence with a cool essence to catharsis. This research paper offers an in-depth exploration of the impacts of violent cinema on society, with a particular focus on the movie "Animal" as a case study. Through a detailed analysis of this film, the study aims to examine the psychological, behavioral, and social implications of exposure to intense and violent cinematic content. By using "Animal" as a central point of discussion, the paper investigates how specific elements of the movie contribute to shaping audience perceptions and attitudes. Additionally, the research explores the potential mitigating factors and regulatory measures that could influence the overall impact of violent cinema on society.

KEYWORDS: Protagonists, Violence, Catharsis, Animal, psychological, behavioral, social implications

INTRODUCTION

Violent cinema has been a common element of the cinematic landscape, captivating audiences with its instinctive narratives and intense portrayals of human behavior. As the silver screen continues to showcase the complexities of the human experience, the question of how such depictions impact society looms larger than ever. This research paper is an insight to provide a nuanced and comprehensive analysis of the impacts of violent cinema on society, using the movie "Animal" as a lens through which to explore the psychological, behavioral, and social consequences of exposure to intense cinematic content.

"Animal," a film known for its unflinching portrayal of violence and the human condition, serves as an intriguing case study for our investigation. By dissecting the movie's thematic elements, cinematographic techniques, and reception, this paper aims to explore the intricate ways in which violent cinema influences individuals and, by extension, the broader societal fabric. This paper does not seek to merely condemn or praise the film but endeavors to understand the film's role in shaping perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors within the context of the larger discourse on violent media.

Theoretical Frame work

1. Social Learning Theory-

Social learning theory, developed by Albert Bandura, posits that individuals learn through observation, imitation, and modeling of others' behavior. According to this theory, people are more likely to adopt behaviors they see being rewarded or positively reinforced, while they may refrain from behaviors that result in punishment or negative consequences. In the context of media effects, social learning theory suggests that exposure to violent content in cinema can influence individuals' behavior by providing models of aggression and violence that are rewarded or glamorized on screen.

2. Cultivation Theory:

Cultivation theory, proposed by George Gerbner and later expanded upon by other scholars, examines the long-term effects of media exposure on individuals' perceptions of reality. The theory suggests that heavy

exposure to media, particularly television, cultivates a view of the world that reflects the portrayals and messages conveyed in media content. In the case of violent cinema, cultivation theory suggests that repeated exposure to graphic violence may lead individuals to overestimate the prevalence of violence in society, perceive the world as a more dangerous place, and adopt attitudes and beliefs consistent with the representations they see on screen.

3. **Desensitization Theory:**

Desensitization theory posits that repeated exposure to violent or disturbing media content can lead to a diminished emotional response over time. As individuals become desensitized to violence, they may experience reduced empathy and sensitivity to the suffering of others, as well as decreased physiological arousal in response to violent stimuli. Desensitization to violence can potentially increase individuals' tolerance for real-life aggression and make them less likely to intervene in violent situations. This theory suggests that exposure to violent cinema may contribute to desensitization to violence, particularly among those who consume such media frequently or over an extended period.

These theories offer valuable frameworks for understanding the potential psychological, social, and behavioral effects of exposure to violent cinema on individuals and society as a whole The Movies like Animal can be analyzed using these theoretical frame work.

SOCIAL IMPACTS OF VIOLENT CINEMA

1. Influence on Attitudes and Beliefs

Violent cinema can shape individuals' attitudes and beliefs about violence, justice, and the use of force. When violence is depicted as justified or heroic, viewers may internalize these messages and develop more positive attitudes towards aggressive behavior. Conversely, when violence is portrayed negatively or its consequences are highlighted, viewers may develop more negative attitudes towards violence. The portrayal of certain groups as perpetrators or victims of violence can also influence viewers' perceptions of these groups, leading to stereotypes and prejudices.

2. Perpetuation of Stereotypes and Normalization of Violence:

Violent cinema has the potential to perpetuate stereotypes by depicting certain groups or individuals as inherently violent or aggressive. This can reinforce existing biases and contribute to the marginalization of certain communities. Additionally, when violence is depicted as commonplace or glamorized in cinema,

it can contribute to the normalization of violence within society. This normalization may desensitize viewers to the seriousness of violent behavior and diminish their willingness to intervene or speak out against violence in real-life situations.

3. Impact on Interpersonal Relationships and Social Dynamics

Exposure to violent cinema can influence interpersonal relationships and social dynamics in various ways. For example, individuals who consume a steady diet of violent media may be more likely to perceive conflict as inevitable or to resort to aggression as a means of resolving disputes. Additionally, repeated exposure to graphic violence can destroy trust and empathy between individuals, leading to increased social isolation and alienation. In some cases, the glorification of violent behavior in cinema may even contribute to the formation of social norms that prioritize aggression and dominance over cooperation and empathy.

4. Copycat Behaviors and Imitation of Violent Acts

One of the most concerning social impacts of violent cinema is the potential for copycat behaviors and imitation of violent acts. Research has documented instances where individuals have imitated violent behaviors depicted in media, particularly when those behaviors are portrayed as glamorous or rewarded. This phenomenon, sometimes referred to as "media contagion," highlights the powerful influence that media can have on individuals' behavior, particularly when they identify with characters or narratives portrayed on screen. While the majority of viewers do not engage in violent behavior as a result of media exposure, vulnerable individuals, such as those with pre-existing mental health issues or a history of violence, may be more susceptible to imitation.

Case Study on Movie "Animal"

Synopsis and Analysis of the film

"Animal" tackles themes of violence and aggression head-on. The film features graphic depictions of violence, including physical assaults, gunfights, and torture. Ranvijay's character arc portrays how anger and revenge fuel his violent actions, raising questions about the morality of seeking retribution. Some have criticized the film for glamorizing violence, while others see it as a realistic portrayal of the potential consequences of unchecked aggression.

The Protagonist Ranvijay was ill head and bad tempered from his childhood due to his father's busy schedule and ignorance towards his family, though he admire his father in every aspect of his life. But the

film portrays that this ignorance from his father has led him to act violent and extreme possessiveness. The Violence is being glamoured and the possessiveness is shown as a sign of love in the acts. With lavish music and tones of coolness, every act of the protagonist has been shown as a validation of the current society. From calling Ranvijay as brother to date him with in few days the character of Geetanjali moves. Guns, explosives are the weapons have been portrayed as the symbols and weapons of justice where as murder, abduction the punishment. Laws and legal regulations are never been came into the scene in this movie.

Butchering, slaying are shown as day to day activity of the society and it has butchered the culture of the Indian Society. The violence, amoral, disrespectful behaviour towards the women, Sexual connotation has satisfied the postulates of the above theories.(I.e-Social Learning theory, Cultivation Theory, Decentralization theory)

Conclusion

This comprehensive analysis of violent cinema through the lens of "animal" underscores the complex highlight between media, psychology, and society. While the film offers insights into the visceral allure of violence in popular culture, it also raises important questions about its ethical and societal ramifications. By addressing issues such as psychological effects, desensitization, societal attitudes, and regulatory measures, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the impacts of violent cinema on individuals and communities. Ultimately, it emphasizes the need for nuanced discourse and responsive engagement with media content in shaping a healthier cultural landscape.

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