



RELIGIOUS IMPACT IN THE FORM OF DIALOGUE IN PARASAKTHI, THE FIRST DRAVIDIAN IDEOLOGY FILM

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ABSTRACT

The 1952 Tamil movie 'Parasakthi' shocked the Dogmatic Tamil Society which had never seen before the fiery and fervour lines of dialogue. It was the first film to talk about Dravidian Ideology and Rationality. It has introduced various syntax and symbolic elements to emphasize the Dravidian concepts and principles. The climax courtroom dialogues defined Dravidian Ideology. It triggered a wave of radicalism in Indian popular culture and slapped social inequality. The movie strongly questioned the primary constitution and social law as a precursor of social reforms. It challenged all the wrong beliefs and overthrew religious myths. This movie in the name of God was not against God but against the atrocities in the name of God. The dialogue "Ambal is a stone, it won't talk" produces turbulence among religious cultists and that one word 'Ambal' created a buzz. Some people who could not bear this shock demanded a ban saying Parasakthi hurt religious sentiments. This movie was considered one of the most controversial flicks in the history of Tamil cinema. The questions and criticisms raised by the film Parasakthi have not changed even today. The movie tasted unprecedented success and cemented its action by employing cinema as a medium of propaganda and enabling social reform.

Keywords: Dialogue, Dravidian Ideology, Rationality, Radicalism, Social reform

INTRODUCTION

Parasakthi is an Indian Tamil-language drama film directed by Krishnan-Panju, grounded on a play of the same title by Pavalar Balasundaram, released on October 17, 1952. It stories the misfortunes that occur in a Tamil family during World War II. The script was written by M. Karunanidhi turned this ordinary story into a fire with his dialogues that started throwing spears at the screen¹. Parasakthi changed the course of the Tamil film world and set a new path at a time when only family stories, literal stories and mythological stories were made. Karunanidhi's sharp dialogues, Sivaji Ganesan's acting, Subramania Bharatiyar and Bharathidasan's songs in the film Parasakthi impressed the millions. Parasakthi is the first film that broke mythological themes and created a huge space for rational thinking. The movie continues to enthrall cult status in Tamil cinema even after 70 years came a trendsetter in Dialogue. It created a storm in the suffocating and

conservative Tamil society, mandated and ruled by notoriety that used religion to scarify and pacify the poor, the depressed and the lower gentries in the Hindu religious scale. The movie created a huge discussion in the cinema assiduity and among the public which was veritably new to society at that time. Also, Parasakthi set high norms for a propaganda film that remains unmatched. The movie explosively questioned the social law and the introductory constitution itself and was largely critical of social ills. At the same time, the success of Parasakthi made it clear to numerous that politics can be integrated into flicks. After Parasakthi numerous flicks were released that speak about political issues, social inequality, and estate review but nothing could match Parasakthi and the impact that was created in society. That keeps the movie special and alive indeed after 70 times its release. Indian cinema has changed a lot, the grassroots voices have started to sound establishment in cinema and Parasakthi was the first movie that innovated them all.

OBJECTIVES

In this study we tried to find answers to a few questions, they are 1. How this movie is different from other movies? 2. How did this movie with an ordinary story become a huge blockbuster? 3. How did this movie create a huge religious impact? 4. Why are we still talking about this movie? These are the objectives of this study.

DRAVIDIAN IDEOLOGY

Parasakthi brought Dravidian politics and its ideology to the people through deep and fiery political dialogues. It introduced various symbolic elements in this film to emphasize the principles of the Dravidian nation. It aired radically rationalist ideas and there were plenty of digs at mythology and casteism, and the film opened with the glories of Dravidian heritage. To mark this at the beginning of the film, Bharathidasan's song, 'Long live My Dravidian country prosperously' was used to seek a sovereign Dravidian nation and ends with a long monologue that grieves present India's reality². This song glorifies the utopian nature of the Dravidian nation and helped in propagating the theme of Dravida Nadu. Through this film, the then 28-year-old Muthuvel Karunanidhi triggered a wave of radicalism in Tamil popular culture that slapped casteism and social inequality, sent shockwaves across the Tamil country and propelled the growth of the Dravidian ideology⁵. Parasakthi emphasized self-respectable marriage and said that it requires only two garlands and one orator instead of a good time and wedding hall. The elaborate courtroom scene features a marathon monologue by Sivaji Ganesan, who played a significant role in defining and delivering Dravidian sentiments for the Tamil people across the globe. The enormous success of Parasakthi cemented its action in employing cinema as a medium of propaganda and propagated Dravidian principles like atheism, anti-Hindi, Tamil nationalism, and anti-Brahminism. Thus Parasakthi got a special place in the history of the Dravidian movement which gained popularity and momentum with its unsparing criticism of religion, God, priesthood, religious scriptures, and upper-caste dominance². The best dialogues delivered ever in this movie defined the Dravidian movement as the vanguard against inequality. Mainstreaming vocalization of politics in cinema was the Dravidian movement's biggest success. Gunasekaran (Sivaji) became a symbol of the Dravidian movement and the film is the best propaganda film that helped a mass movement. It was a turning point in Dravidian-directed films and a socially and politically significant film that hit the screens at a crucial juncture in Tamil history. This film was responsible for the rooting of Dravidian ideologies and the Dravidian movements in Tamil Nadu. Parasakthi is not just a film it is a symbol of Dravidian Tamil cinema.

RELIGIOUS IMPACT

Parasakthi was defined as one of the most controversial flicks in the history of Tamil cinema. It was indicted of trying to portray the upper caste in a poor light. The definition of Hindu customs and religious practices elicited strong demurrers from the Hindu fallacy. It was told that the goddess Parasakthi is abused in a Tamil film with her name. The dialogue "Goddess is a gravestone, it won't talk" produces turbulence among religious cultists⁴. The resentful and agitated critic claimed the film was mocking Hinduism, pujas and tabernacles and they further argued, "A madcap threatens and beats the people on the road and heists whatever they've and eats, and gives all those economics lectures, rationalist lectures and anti-god lectures".

One dialogue in Parasakthi was "When did Ambal speak?" and that one word 'Ambal' created a buzz, and seemed to be against an upper-caste who only used that word. They decided the movie was against them. Parasakthi sounded libellous to a placid, God-stewing community, and the censors at first refused to issue an instrument. Ultimately, a special

commission was set up and the film was passed. After the release, the elitarian society including the ruling State government demanded the film be banned. Parasakthi's surge of rationality changed all the wrong beliefs that swept the society and it overthrew the myths. People who couldn't bear this shock got angry and demanded a ban on the film Parasakthi. The State Government requested the Union Government to review the film, but it was declined. Many journals touched off religious fanatics to protest the movie a large number of complaints piled up asking that Parasakthi should be banned. In the history of Tamil cinema, flyers were published demanding a ban on a censored movie. The journals and the critics attacked the censor board as to how the film was released. The president of the censor board watched the film again and certified that there was nothing reprehensible in the film. But numerous protests against this film continued and the movie Parasakthi crossed the swash of fire and came to a huge success.

FIERY DIALOGUES

Dialogues are the reason Parasakthi became one of the most controversial films in the history of Tamil cinema. The same was also the reason for the huge success of Parasakthi and enhanced the value placed on dialogue writers. M Karunanidhi, who wrote the dialogues for Parasakthi earned the reputation of being a star writer. The dialogues spoke very clearly about the plight of the war, continuing with social injustice, gender inequality, and caste discrimination. Karunanidhi's dialogues have been so influential that the dialogues of Tamil cinema can be divided into pre-Parasakthi and post-Parasakthi³. The social anger vibrated as dialogue on screen, became a rage in the state where there was much resentment, much pain, much desperation and caste equations for centuries had created a huge turmoil in the social fabric. Before that, the Tamil screen had never spoken the fiery lines of rational dialogues with such enthusiasm. Dialogues lift mankind, social justice, women empowerment, equality and rationality.

"அம்பாள் எந்தக் காலத்திலடா பேசினாள்?" and "ஓடினாள்.. ஓடினாள்.. வாழ்க்கையின் ஓரத்திற்கே ஓடினாள்.." are the earth-shaking verses.

The followings are some famous dialogues:

"நீ ஏழையாக ஆக்கப்படாவிட்டால் ஏழை உலகத்தை நினைத்துக்கூட இருக்க மாட்டாய், அப்படி ஓர் உலகம் இருப்பதாகவே உனக்கு தெரியாது "

"அவ்வையார் கூழுக்கு பாடியிருக்கார், கம்பர் பொன்னுக்கு பாடியிருக்கார், இதெல்லாம் என்ன? எல்லாம் ப்ளாக் மார்கெட்டுதான்"

"ஏன் மனித உதவியை நாடுகிறாய் தேவி பக்தனே? உனது தேவியின் கையில் சூலமிருக்க, சுழலும் வாளிருக்க, என் பயந்து சாகிறாய்"

"சமுதாய புரட்சி என்பது ஆலகால விருகூத்தின் கிளையை வெட்டுவதல்ல, அதன் ஆணிவேரையே பெயர்ப்பதுதான்"

Climax court scene dialogues are the ultimate of all. Even after 70 years, these dialogues are still alive. The verses were released on the gramophone and sold very well and are even today available on DVD and other techs. Only the dialogue made this movie entirely different from other movies.

SOCIAL REFORM

The movie Parasakthi is one of the flicks in Tamil cinema that addresses social issues. Parasakthi wasn't only a trendsetter, but it was also a precursor of social reforms. The movie challenges the social law and the constitution itself and questions the rationality of prevailing social morals. Parasakthi made its mark as an important and socially applicable document that's acquainted with social justice and points to the indigenous coercion of political parties to take over social reform. The movie depicted how corruption was attacked in the social system and the bar system. The movie questioned eyeless religious beliefs and brought to light alleged fraud in the name of religion⁴. The film featured a court scene where the idol rids society of illogical beliefs and practices.

Although the film is shown to take place before independence, it doesn't mention anything about Indian independence but only addresses social emancipation and emphasizes political power alone doesn't bring justice to the people. The movie

slams plutocrats' unjust interests and black business. The discourses at the court asked "Who is responsible for the growth of buccaneers in this society? Who's responsible for the creation of shortage just for the sake of a plutocrat-acquainted black market? Who is responsible for making fake preachers bat freely in this society? these root causes for the social problems must be eradicated and this is our Assignment, Rationalism and Useful & Applicable Political Testament".

ETERNAL IMPACT

Told by the revolutionary social justice ideals of the Dravidian movement, the movie Parasakthi created great mindfulness in the minds of the people and the verses made numerous suppose. It established a great impact on society in those days and the same continues indeed moment. Parasakthi is one of the flicks that created a platform for agitating social issues in cinema and it's still fitting into society moment. Indeed after numerous times, it'll still have an impact and that's the strength of the movie Parasakthi. It can be said that the reason cinema and movie stars played an important part in Tamil politics started with Parasakthi. Especially after the movie Parasakthi, the political parties started to make expansive use of film media for propaganda purposes and screen fashionability for political gain. Five out of seven principal ministers from Dravidian parties were laboriously involved in Tamil cinema either as pens or as actors. The 1952 film Parasakthi is celebrated as a jubilee every decade. At the same time, there's still opposition to screening Parasakthi in carnivals. The central government banned the webbing of Parasakthi at the International Film Festival Goa 2018. The reason may be the fear that it'll get transnational attention if it's screened as it's a rational propaganda film. Indeed after death, Karunanidhi causes one side to laugh at his principles and jottings. This movie has now been completed 70 years and to celebrate this, a forum was held at the Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai in December 2022. A lot of forums like this are conducted nearly every decade about the movie Parasakthi and people are still talking about this film.

CONCLUSION

The dialogue made this movie Parasakthi entirely different from other movies. The word AMBAAL created a buzz in Tamil Nadu followed by protests and ban requests. This further created huge publicity and people started to see the movie repeatedly and the movie became a mega blockbuster. The questions and criticisms raised by the film have not changed even today. In this way, the screenplay structure, impact of dialogue and social views are relevant to any era. The movie Parasakthi is being celebrated as an epic in all periods which speaks the history of the society and the content reflects the particular period. Parasakthi has a permanent place not only in Tamil film history but also in the political history of Tamil Nadu. The film is still admired to date as it is suitable to watch for any era. Today's youth are enjoying Parasakthi on new media. The vibrations caused by the film Parasakthi keep falling into our ears till today. Parasakthi's impact will continue endlessly.

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