

**Presence of Mahatma Gandhi and his Ideals in Bollywood Movies:Lage Raho  
Munna Bhai Movie. 2006.**

**Rishikesh Vishnu Gadekar**, Research Student, Department of English, Shivaji  
University,Kolhapur.

**Abstract** –Bollywood is the informal term popularly used for the Hindi language film industries in Mumbai, India. It is only part of the Indian film industry.Bollywood began its journey in May 1913 with Dada Saheb Phalke full length silent movie Raja Harishchandra, was a landmark movement in the history of Indian cinema. .In Bollywood the depiction of freedom fighters and freedom struggle is also called historic film and patriotic film. Indian history and independence has been adapted into filmic. .Bollywood movies also reflect the Indian Freedom fight and life of Indian freedom fighters. Bollywood movies on Gandhiji are Gandhi 1982,Gandhi my father 2006,Mahatma life of Gandhi 1968,Gandhi and Hitler and Lage Raho Munnabhai. Lage Raho Munna Bhai, is a 2006 Indian Hindi-language satirical comedy drama film written, edited and directed by Rajkumar Hirani.

**Key Words** - Adaptation, Bollywood, Depiction, Historic Movies, Freedom Fighters, Satyagrah, Ahimsa.

The word adaptation finds its origin in the early 17 century Latin word adaptor. In the process of adaptation something is adapted, changed and presented in another form. In the context of media adaptations defined as a movie, television,drama or stage play that has been selected from written work typically a novel or play.Adaptation has always been central to the process of filmmaking since almost the beginning. Making a film on book requires the production of a version of it. Both in the Hollywood and Bollywood film industries many novels, plays,biography,history,and other published stories have been regularly filmed, sometimes with good results.

Bollywood began its journey in May 1913 with Dada Saheb Phalke full length silent movie Raja Harishchandra, was a landmark movement in the history of Indian cinema. About two decades later in 1931,the first Talkies taking pictures came to entertain the audience in the form of Ardeshir Irani's Aalam Dara. Bollywood is the informal term popularly used for the Hindi language film industries in Mumbai, India. It is only part of the Indian film industry. Bollywood is the largest film producer in India and one of the largest centers of film production in the world. Bollywood is the largest center of film production in the world.

Bollywood is a rife with literary films. Novels by Indian writers have successfully been transferred into such movies List of Bollywood movies based on novels.

- 1.Guide Movie - R K Narayan's Guide.
- 2.Kai Po Che 2013 - Chetan Bhagat's Three Mistakes.
- 3.Saat Khoon Maaf -Ruskin Bond's Short Story Sussannas Seven Husbands.
- 4.Aisha 2010.-Jane Austen Novel Emma.
- 5.Parinita 2009-Bengali Novel by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay. Etc..

The Indian freedom struggle started after the revolt of 1857 and it cover the time from 1857 to 1947 includes a series of Historical movements Indian freedom fighters struggle everyday to achieve independence. It was a moment that brought together people from all walks

of life United in their Desire from freedom for British Colonial rule the Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of modern India Jawaharlal Nehru, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the most influential revolutionary Shahid Bhagat Singh, Punjab Kesari Lala Lajpat Rai, Chandrashekhar Azad and so many freedom fighters fought against British rule. India got freedom in 1947. In Bollywood the depiction of freedom fighters and freedom struggle is also called historic film and patriotic film. Indian history and independence has been adapted into filmic narration. It is a vibrant subject for Indians.

List of historical movies based on freedom fighters.

1. Gandhi 1982 -the life of the lawyer Revolt against British rule
2. Sardar Udham Singh 2021-Punjabi Sikh Udham Singh planning of assassination of the man responsible for Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
3. The Legend of Bhagat Singh 2022-story of young revolutionaries.
4. Mangal Pandey 2005- leader of 1857 and his fight against British rule.
5. Sardar 1993-Vallabhbhai Patel political life.

Now talking about achievements in the 100 years journey of the Indian film industry. Writer Anurag Basu says, cinema has become the integral part of Indian culture. A typical Bollywood film is a musical entertainment with the cast of selected popular stars who can achieve success but on the Contrary some Bollywood films explain the social picture of India. for example, Prakash Zha, in his movie Apaharan shows the real picture of Bihar. Entertainment is not only Moto of Bollywood film's but also shares the knowledge to make people think. Bollywood movies also reflect Indian Freedom fight and life of Indian freedom fighters.

Mahatma Gandhi was a great leader and social reformer. With his supreme sacrifice and Noble ideas of Satya (truth) and Ahimsa, Mahatma Gandhi contributed timelessly and selflessly for independence. He believed in simple living and high thinking.

Here is a list of Bollywood movies on .

Gandhiji.

- 1) Gandhi 1982-British Indian film, the film focuses his early life in South Africa and follows an era when he took part in freedom struggle.
- 2) Gandhi my father - focus on Gandhi's son Hiralal Gandhi.
- 3) Mahatma: life of Gandhi, 1968- documentary.
- 4) The making of Mahatma, joint collaboration between India and South Africa, 21 years stay in Africa where he actually adapted his non violent movement against racial discrimination.
- 5) Gandhi to Hitler, 2011- multilingual film based on World War II and two completely different personalities.

The above movies, there is reflection and depiction of Gandhian ideals, his life, his style. But in bollywood cinema, Lage Raho Munnabhai is also a film, where we observe reflection and depiction of Gandhian Ideals.

Lage Raho Munna Bhai, is a 2006 Indian Hindi-language satirical comedy drama film written, edited and directed by Rajkumar Hirani, who co-wrote the screenplay with Abhijat Joshi and produced by Vidhu Vinod Chopra. It is the follow-up to the 2003 film Munna Bhai M.B.B.S. with Sanjay Dutt reprising his role as Munna Bhai, a Mumbai underworld don.

Murli Prasad Sharma, Munna Bhai, a street-wise Bombay Hindi-speaking gangster in Mumbai, is smitten with the voice of Janvi Sahni, a radio jockey. When she announces a contest on the life and beliefs of Mahatma Gandhi set for 2 October—Gandhi's birthday, with an interview with her as the prize, he is determined to win. Through the assistance of his sidekick Sarkeshwar "Circuit" Sharma, who kidnaps and bribes a group of professors, and his goons, who jam the phone lines, Munna succeeds and meets Janvi in person. During the interview, he lies that he is a history professor specializing in Gandhi and living by his principles. Having difficulty speaking formal Hindi, Munna uses much colloquial language and calls his version of Gandhism "Gandhigiri". Despite this, Janvi is impressed and asks him to host a lecture on Gandhi in her home, which she has repurposed into a senior citizen community called "Second Innings House". Realizing he can't use his old tricks, Munna crams in a library to study the life and works of Gandhi in five days.

Gandhi, who Munna refers to by his nickname Bapu ("father"), starts to appear at this time and offers help and advice to Munna, who is the only person that can see him. Gandhi continues to appear each time Munna sings Raghupathi Raghava Rajaram (a song often sung in Gandhi's memory). Initially, Munna believes he is going mad, but later comes to get used to Gandhi's presence. With Gandhi's help, Munna delivers a chaotic but well-received lecture about Gandhism being only used in the name and not in practice. He then helps the seniors solve their problems through his connections and rowdyism. Lucky Singh, an unscrupulous businessman who employed Circuit and Munna to conduct "underworld" activities for him, learns that Munna is in love with Janvi and offers to help him propose to her by funding a trip to Goa for all the senior citizens. During the trip, Munna tries to confess his love to Janvi, however, they discover the trip was a ruse for Lucky to occupy the house. It turns out that Lucky's daughter, Simran, is engaged to marry Sunny, the son of Khurana, a powerful businessman. Khurana is superstitious and his activities are controlled by his astrologer, Batuk Maharaj. Maharaj's particular use of numerology led Khurana to add an extra "k" to his name and further convinced him that "Second Innings House" would be the most auspicious place for the new couple to live, hence the seizure. Further, Batuk initially advised Khurana to not go through with the wedding since Simran is a manglik. But Lucky, not wanting to lose such an alliance, covers this up by saying that there is a mistake at the time of Simran's birth and hence the alliance progresses.

With the authorities and lawyers not willing to confront Lucky, Munna, Circuit, Janvi, and the senior citizens of Second Innings House launch a non-violent satyagraha outside Lucky's home. After a fight with Lucky's security guards, Munna and Circuit are arrested. Janvi later bail them out and invites Munna to her radio show to publicize the issue. They host a new program called "Bapu ka magic", where they offer Gandhigiri-style advice to listeners' problems, only asking that the listeners send Lucky flowers to help him recover from the "disease of dishonesty" in exchange for a unique, non-violent protest. After Munna gets his first caller, Victor D'Souza, who works as a taxi driver to repay his father's money lost in bad investments, the show gains popularity and pressure builds on Lucky, who tries and fails to offer Khurana other properties. Later, on Gandhi's insistence, Munna gives a letter to Janvi; thinking it is a love letter, Janvi instead learns the truth about Munna and leaves heartbroken, causing the protests to falter. Janvi also refuses to host the radio show with Munna. Despite this,

Munna meets Lucky and assures him that he will not give up the fight. Since the radio show has gained popularity, he continues to host it on his own, offering increasingly out-of-the-box but successful solutions to listeners, much to Janvi's chagrin.

The pressure on Lucky from Khurana reaches boiling point. Lucky then tricks Munna into revealing his conversations with Gandhi before a public audience, making him seem insane. On the day of Simran's wedding, she learns the truth about her father's deception of Khurana and runs away, ending up in Victor's cab. Meanwhile, a dejected Munna and Circuit are leaving the city. However, in a drunken stupor, Munna decides not to give up on Janvi. They go to the radio station where Munna has Circuit hold the studio hostage, in an attempt to apologize to Janvi through the program. Simultaneously, Victor connects Simran to Munna, where she reveals that although she loves Sunny, she is a manglik and thus is unlucky to marry. She is also devastated by her father's wrongdoings and has always looked up to him. With Lucky, Janvi, and the senior citizens listening in, Munna convinces her to go back and tell the truth, reasoning that Khurana's belief in numerology is irrational. Simran does so and Khurana rejects her. Munna and Circuit go to the wedding and use some of their old tricks to successfully dispel Maharaj's superstitions. When Khurana still remains unmoved, Sunny refuses to listen to his father and marries Simran anyway. Munna and Circuit are arrested again. In jail, Janvi returns and reconciles with Munna and a grateful Lucky apologizes, promising to reform, and returns the house keys. In the end, Gandhi narrates what happens to all the other characters. Munna and Janvi got married and continued their show. Circuit is adopted by Bomi and Tina, a newly married old couple living at the house who adopt his mannerisms. Victor achieved success, finally earning enough money to buy a taxi of his own, making his father proud. Sunny and Simran remained happily married, and had a child, prompting Khurana to renounce his belief in numerology and fire Batuk. The film ends with a reformed Lucky sitting in the very same library in which Munna sat, reading up on Gandhi, and Gandhi begins to appear to him too.

The interaction between the central characters of Mahatma Gandhi and Munna Bhai highlights concepts and ideas that draw upon the period of Colonial India and the Indian independence movement. Gandhi was a leader in this movement, challenging the British Empire's presence in India through the use of Satyagraha (non-violence). In the film, Jahnvi and Munna Bhai's non-violent protest against Lucky Singh serves as a metaphor for the Indian independence movement and the battle against the British Raj.

The thematic attention to Gandhi's theories in *Lage Raho Munna Bhai* revived an interest in Gandhism in India under the new term Gandhigiri.

#### **References-**

1. Adaptation Theory of Movies
2. *Lage Raho Munna Bhai* Movie, YouTube.