

# REDEFINE

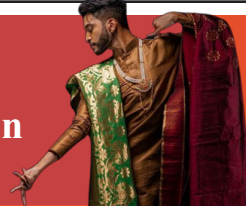
-Inclusivity: Where Every Story Finds A Place-

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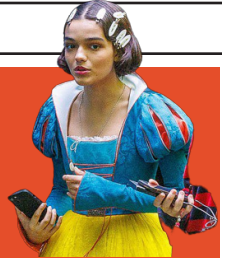


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## A Decolonizer of the Screen: Taika Waititi

-Alicia Agnus



Taika Waititi, the voice for screen diversity, dons a stylish suit as captured by Gareth Cattermole.

Taika David Cohen, better known as Taika Waititi is a filmmaker and an Actor, born on the 16th of August in 1975 in Raukokore, New Zealand. His father was an artist of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui (a Māori tribe) descent, while his mother was a school teacher of Russian Jewish ancestry. Identifying as both Māori (ethnic group in New Zealand) and Jewish, Waititi calls himself a “Polynesian Jew”.

He was raised under the influence of his Māori roots, in a household where Judaism was not actively practised. He identifies as an atheist who “puts more stock in Indigenous beliefs”. His inclination toward artistic means of self expression began at a very young age and it simply never died down. In his youth, Waititi

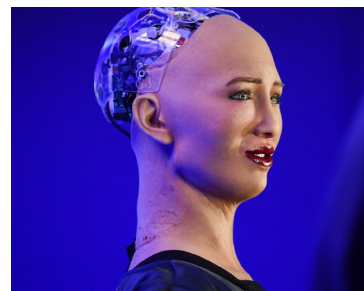
made sure to explore various mediums of expression and has never shied away from a real opportunity, which is an element that reflects in his creative endeavours even now. Waititi had his directorial debut in 2007 with the romantic comedy movie Eagle vs. Shark. This marked the beginning of his eccentric forthcoming bodies of cinematic work. Waititi has always remained true to his roots and his culture and never misses an opportunity to express his pride in his ability to partake in the same. From this innate compassion for his culture was born his desire to make movies about it. Being an indigenous person himself, Waititi feels the need to provide representation to the deprived minorities in the most effective ways possible. Consequently, he dedicated his filmmaking

career to voicing the stories, hurdles, and opinions of the minorities. “All my films are about underdogs, not being able to choose your family and sometimes that’s not your blood family, it’s just who you end up gravitating towards.” Waititi told The New York Times. Waititi’s profound understanding of human nature makes his stories, stirring and soulful tales about the joy of found family and the bliss of belonging. It is certain that Taika Waititi has been at the helm of numerous stories of inclusivity and acceptance that have been told in his unmistakable deadpan comedic lilt. Besides, this Waititi embraces the true meaning of inclusivity and representation through his own devices. Waititi regularly incorporates his Māori and Indigenous heritage into his projects, such as by including indigenous interns and having traditional owners conduct a Welcome to Country ceremony during the start of filming on set.

Aside from all of the above Taika Waititi is an active advocate for the diversification and decolonization of the screen. He has blatantly spoken about Hollywood’s tokenism issues and called for more meaningful and truthful representation from all the spheres of filmmaking. He is also an upholder of the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community and has openly and effectively used his limelight for the representation of the same.

## Empowering Digital Inclusivity: India’s Journey and Technological Innovations

- Sangamithra Nair



In today’s tech-dominated era, ensuring digital inclusivity is more crucial than ever. India, with its diverse population has made significant strides. Yet the journey towards complete inclusivity continues, given the urban-rural digital divide. While urban areas flourish in seamless internet access, rural regions struggle to access basic services, compounding inequalities in education, jobs, and healthcare. To bridge this gap, the Indian government initiated the “Digital India” campaign in 2015, aiming to provide accessible digital services to all citizens.

Noteworthy efforts include enhancing broadband connectivity, promoting e-governance, and fostering digital literacy, particularly in rural areas. Alongside government initiatives, private sector contributions such as expanded network coverage have extended digital access to remote regions. Despite these advancements, challenges still persist, including inadequate infrastructure, affordability issues, and language barriers.

However, the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionized inclusivity, catering to individuals with disabilities through features like image descriptions, voice recognition, and brain-computer interfaces, facilitating direct brain communication with external devices. Moreover, tech companies adopting inclusive design principles have enabled diverse user accessibility, while augmented reality has enhanced education, addressing various learning needs and disabilities. Real-time language translation services, 3D printing for customized assistive devices, blockchain for secure identification, and accessible gaming controllers reflect the industry’s commitment to empowering individuals of all abilities in the digital world.

Collective efforts from the government, private sector, civil society, and individuals are essential to ensure that India harnesses the transformative power of the digital age, promoting inclusivity for all, regardless of background or location.



1848 : SENECA FALL CONVENTION

1869: NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION (NWSA)

1880’s: SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

1893: SUFFRAGE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

## Embracing The Beauty In Being Yourself

-Zehra B Abdulla



Embracing beauty: A self-assured smile in the mirror - Image sourced from the internet

Body diversity and body positivity are essential movements that promote acceptance and appreciation of all body types. They challenge the unrealistic beauty standards perpetuated by media and society, emphasizing that there is no one-size-fits-all definition of beauty. Body diversity recognizes that people come in various shapes, sizes, and abilities and that everyone deserves respect and dignity. Body positivity encourages people to embrace their bodies so as to foster improved mental and emotional well-being. It helps combat body shaming and encourages open conversations about issues regarding body image which cultivates a more inclusive and empathetic society.

From daily life instances, we can observe that in this society there are many

people suffering from body dysmorphia and this has led to lasting consequences in their lives. Because of the so-called beauty standards created by the society, people try to push themselves to reach these ridiculous standards and end up in poor mental and physical health. During the early years, femininity was portrayed as women having a thin body, flawless skin, and a perfect hour-glass figure ; and anything beyond that was treated otherwise. From a man's perspective, a suitable bride is expected to possess the qualities mentioned above to be considered an ideal wife.

Women in movies and advertisements were chosen according to their beauty and skin colour. Not just women; if you take the case of men, they are portrayed as people who have excessive muscles

and are required to be capable of taking care of a family so as to be considered masculine. Any individual who did not fit into these categories was bullied, fat shamed, and treated like outcasts.

In this century, even though there are people who still suffer due to this, our society now has started to accept all body types just as they are and accept the beauty of individuality just as it is. There has been a huge shift in people's mind-set in regards to considering all men and women as individuals with different body standards. Each individual has their own unique beauty, and what matters more is the beauty of the soul than the beauty of the body. There has been a huge shift in all segments, from movies to models; all body shapes and all colours are portrayed as equal, and it is something worth mentioning.

In summary, body diversity and body positivity are vital for promoting self-confidence and dismantling harmful beauty ideals. They remind us that everybody is unique, deserving of love and respect, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and compassionate world.

## Who gets to Create?

### Making Creative Expression Inclusive for People of All Abilities

-Elsa Maria Antony



Frida Kahlo's self portrait - Image sourced from the internet

In the expansive realm of Art Without Borders, cultural diversity intertwines with artistic expression, creating a universal narrative. From the ancient cave

paintings of Altamira to the vivid self-portraits of Frida Kahlo, art serves as a timeless language that traverses geographical and cultural boundaries. Historical ep-

ochs like the Silk Road and the Renaissance stand as testament to the transformative power of cross-cultural artistic influences.

The contemporary art landscape reflects both progress and challenges. While strides are made in celebrating diversity, issues like cultural appropriation and underrepresentation persist. Nevertheless, the art world is awakening to the call of equity. Initiatives such as curatorial efforts to highlight artists from underrepresented communities and the promotion of inclusive art education underscore the commitment to addressing these challenges.

## Diversity and Inclusion are not just Corporate Buzzwords!

- Ameya Krishnakumar



Corporate unity in diversity- Image sourced from the internet.

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) in the workplace have evolved from mere buzzwords to integral components of successful organisations. Companies today recognize that fostering a diverse and inclusive work environment is not just a moral imperative but also a strategic advantage.

Diversity and inclusion in the workplace are crucial for creating a positive and productive environment. It involves welcoming people of various backgrounds, perspectives, and identities, and ensuring they are treated with respect and provided equal opportunities. Embracing diversity and fostering inclusion can lead to improved creativity, innovation, and overall organisational success. Employers can promote this by implementing inclusive policies, training programs, and actively addressing bias and discrimination. While

the benefits of diversity and inclusion in the workplace are clear, implementing effective D&I initiatives can be challenging. Resistance to change, unconscious biases, and lack of awareness can hinder progress.

However, organisations that prioritise D&I and are committed to continuous improvement will reap the rewards of a more innovative, engaged, and productive workforce. In conclusion, diversity and inclusion are not just corporate buzzwords but fundamental principles that drive success in today's workplace.

By fostering an environment where all employees are valued and heard, organisations can unlock the full potential of their teams and create a brighter and more inclusive future for everyone.

Collaborative art projects emerge as dynamic agents of change, bringing together artists from diverse backgrounds to create works that transcend conventional notions of art and creativity. Across continents, these collaborations are a testament to the harmonious blend of various voices and styles, resulting in breathtaking expressions that celebrate our collective human experience.

Art and design, in their nuanced exploration of identity, culture, and experience, play a crucial role in challenging stereotypes and amplifying marginalized voices. In an interconnected and diverse world, they

serve as powerful tools for fostering understanding and empathy among disparate groups. Through visual language, art and design navigate the complexities of our shared humanity.

“Art Without Borders” symbolizes the boundless nature of art and its capacity to unite humanity. It serves as a reminder that, regardless of our backgrounds or origins, we all speak the same language through the kaleidoscope of colors, shapes, and forms of artistic expression. This celebration of cultural diversity and inclusivity in the art world stands as a testament to the essence of our shared humanity.

1913: SUFFRAGE PARADIES AND DEMONSTRATION

1916: WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN POLITICS

1919: MONTAGU -CHELMSFORD REFORM

1920: 19TH AMENDMENT IN U.S CONSTITUTION

1975: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

# The Tragic Dance of Beauty and Despair

- Aishwarya Urmila Bhaktha

In the heart of the bustling city, where the neon lights painted the streets in vibrant hues, lived Mia, a young girl full of dreams. She walked through the bustling crowds, her steps echoing the rhythm of her hopes. However, amidst the vibrant chaos, a silent storm was brewing – the fashion industry. Mia's mornings began with a sinking feeling as she flipped through glossy magazines, each page a reminder of her perceived inadequacy. The models that graced those pages seemed like ethereal beings from another realm, their beauty unattainable. Mia found herself ensnared in their allure, haunted by the unattainable standards they represented. She stared at her reflection, analysing every flaw, every imperfection. The fashion industry's grasp on the youth was relentless, a constant reminder that she fell short of an ideal she could never truly reach. Billboards, television commercials, social media – they all seemed to sing the same tune: beauty equaled worth.



*A poignant reflection of the struggle - Image sourced from the internet.*

At school, Mia's friends discussed the latest trends as if they were matters of life and death. The pressure to conform and the desire to stand out battled within her, leaving her exhausted. She watched her classmates as they flaunted designer labels and effortlessly transformed into replicas of fashion icons; the allure of acceptance and admiration propelling them forward, each outfit seemed to convey a message: "I belong here. I'm special." As time passed, Mia's fascination with the fashion industry grew into an obsession. She meticulously followed its trends, emulating the looks she saw in magazines. She spent hours practising makeup techniques and shopping for clothes that mirrored the ideals set by the industry. Each purchase brought a fleeting sense of accomplishment, only to be replaced by a gnawing emptiness.

One evening, as Mia scrolled through her meticulously curated social media feed, the facade started to crumble. She realised that the glamorous lives she envied were constructed, their authenticity masked by filters and carefully crafted captions. The revelation shattered her perception of reality, leaving her feeling disillusioned and lost.

Desperation took hold of Mia's fragile heart. In a world that had convinced her that she needed to be flawless to be loved, she felt utterly alone. The pressure to measure up to an impossible standard, coupled with her growing sense of isolation, pushed her to a breaking point. The mirror became both her confidant and her tormentor. It reflected not only her outward appearance but also the turmoil within her. The more she stared, the more she felt like a stranger to herself. The makeup, the clothes – they felt like armour, protecting her from a world that demanded perfection.

One fateful night, overwhelmed by the weight of her insecurities, Mia made a tragic decision. She left behind a heart-wrenching note, a plea for understanding in a world that had failed to see the depths of her struggle. The city lights outside her window seemed to dim as she closed her eyes for the last time. Mia's story became a haunt

ing reminder of the fashion industry's dark side – how its unrelenting standards could consume even the brightest of dreams. Her absence echoed through the city streets, a tragic testament to the impact of a world that valued appearance over authenticity. As her friends and family mourned her loss, they vowed to continue the fight she could no longer wage – to challenge an industry that had cost them Mia, a vibrant soul lost to its unforgiving demands. It's truly heartbreaking that so many individuals, like Mia, have lost their lives due to unattainable beauty standards imposed by an industry that prioritises profit over well-being.

Suicidal ideation was reported by an average of 57.8% of individuals each year, with an average of 2.6% attempting suicide annually. Two individuals (0.3% per year) tragically completed suicide. We live in a world where the fashion industry's relentless pursuit of unrealistic ideals takes a devastating toll on people. It's our duty to initiate conversations about the toxic influence of these standards, raise awareness, and ensure that no one else falls victim to their harmful practices. As we move forward, we must remember that beauty, in all its diverse forms, cannot be confined within the narrow boundaries of an industry built on deception and exaggeration.

# Equity through Inclusive Education

-Missba Aisha



*Inclusivity, a teacher's smile brightens the path for every child - Image procured from the internet*

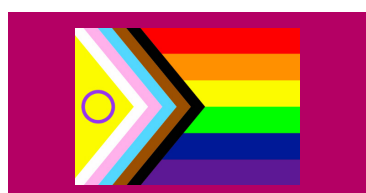
Inclusion in education refers to giving education equally to all children regardless of their disabilities. According to UNICEF, there are 240 million children with disabilities worldwide. They also have ambitions and dreams like other children, but they are often segregated from getting the same education. They are forced to join special schools and they have to study with peers of different ages, where there will be no socialisation and education would not be effective. Parents are not satisfied with sending them to schools because of the distance from their home and the amount of fees. Often these children end up at home without getting an education.

Another perception about inclusion in education is that integration will help in increasing inclusivity. But it is not, students are placed in schools or educational settings with their similar - aged peers, but the physical environment and school culture remains unchanged. They are often left alone and not welcomed by other children. They don't get a chance to socialise. This limits the opportunities for the children. Another difficulty faced by these students is "exclusion" where students are directly or indirectly prevented from or denied access to education in any form. This destroys the future of such children.

The features which make it Inclusive education are

strong leadership of the educational authorities which make them feel valued and disability is viewed as a part of human diversity. There should be natural proportions in the classroom so that they are not grouped or clustered together So that they can grow and easily socialise with other children. Students with disabilities should learn their education from the teachers rather than only depending on the assistants. An assistant should help the children, but the education and learning should all be given by the teacher. One - to - one teaching is only necessary if the child has high medical issues or behaviour issues. All teachers should have ample co-planning time to ensure that children with disabilities are adequate and appropriate. Support specialist teachers in special or inclusive education should be supporting teachers in general education. Developing a partnership based on mutual commitment, trust and respect with the student and their family is important to activate students as learning resources for one another to foster friendships and connections and to avoid micro - exclusion in the classroom. Every student in the class should be treated equally.

Disability is not a barrier to education. Every student deserves proper education and it is our responsibility to provide inclusive education which helps to build their future.



**1952: OUTDATED DIAGNOSTIC HISTORY OF HOMOSEXUALITY**

**1969: STONEWALL RIOTS (Catalyst for LGBTQ+ Activism)**

**1973: NORMALIZATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY**

**1980: (Democratic National Convention) ENDORSEMENT OF GAY RIGHTS**

# Inclusive Parenting

- S. Meenakshi

Parent's participation and their positive guidance and support plays a vital role in the overall and holistic development of the child. Inclusive parenting is very important in order to foster an environment where every child feels valued, respected, loved and thereby grows into a good, responsible human-being. Inclusive parenting goes beyond the traditional norms of child-rearing which serves as a framework to make language around parenting and family relevant and inclusive for all.

Inclusive parenting emphasises acceptance, understanding and support for children of all backgrounds, abilities and identities. It includes the parts of parenting that are deliberately neglected, mainly because of social stigma. Inclusive parents play an important role in providing the special needs that are unique to each child. They understand the differences in their children, be it related to race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or physical and cognitive abilities. They completely understand that each child is unique and deserves to be treated with respect. Inclusive parents adopt open communication without any judgmental lines. They encourage their kids to express themselves, ask questions and seek guidance without fear of discrimination or prejudice.



A mother and her son join with humor and love - Image sourced from the internet

To curb the differences, they adopt the policy of equality and equity, wherein equality is about treating all children in the same way and equity is about providing and giving each child what he or she requires to thrive. Parents with an inclusive mindset understand clearly that some children may be in need of additional support and provide it willingly, creating an environment where kindness and understanding are core values.

Inclusive parents boost their child's self-esteem and reduce prejudice. They make children realise their worth, thereby making them feel valued, helping the children develop a positive self-image. By teaching tolerance and acceptance, they equip children with tools to appreciate diversity and reject harmful stereotypes.

Inclusive parents encourage open dialogue about mental health and emotions, which equips the children to navigate life's challenges. Inclusive parents create an environment where their children feel comfortable asking questions about differences and the parents provide honest, age-appropriate answers. It is also necessary that inclusive parents set themselves as an example, lead and guide their children by treating everyone with kindness and respect.

Inclusive parenting is a journey of love, acceptance, trust, acceptance and growth for both the parents and children. Inclusive parents understand a child with special needs and advocate for their rights creating a brighter future for their children and the society as a whole.

# Embracing Inclusivity: My Journey from Society's Standards to Self-Love

-Vaishnavi Ganesh

In a world that often judges individuals based on appearances, the journey of self-acceptance and inclusivity can be a profound one. From an early age, I found myself confronted with societal expectations and body image struggles that shaped my perception of self-worth.

When I was probably a few months old, one of my granduncles from my paternal side of the family told my father that he would have a tough time finding a groom for me when I get older because what kind of a groom wants a dark-skinned bride? This remark on my skin tone made it evident that societal norms and expectations could be harsh. These initial encounters with prejudice set the stage for future challenges related to my appearance. As I progressed through childhood, my body shape became a focal point for judgement. Strangers and even extended family members felt entitled to comment on my weight, offering unsolicited advice and criticism. These experiences, though hurtful, didn't initially affect me profoundly, as my mother's little white lies and my father's unconditional love shielded me from the worst of it. As I entered middle school, the pressure to fit in intensified. I yearned to be part of the "cool kids", but my appearance made me an easy target for subtle insults and exclusion. This period of my life

was marked by self-criticism and extreme attempts to meet the expectations set by my peers. The quest for acceptance and validation led to unhealthy habits, such as only eating one meal a day affected both my physical and mental well-being. This continued till high school.

By the time 11th grade arrived, I began to make healthier choices and found friends who valued me for who I was. However, the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and the proliferation of digital platforms reignited my insecurities. Seeing all those seemingly perfect people on social media made me feel terrible about myself. I was tired of being "ugly". All the comments I've heard about my appearance throughout my life began to spiral in my head, taking a toll on my mental health. While seeking validation, I lost touch with who I truly was, succumbing to my inner demons.

Today, I'm on a path of self-love and have chosen to manage my weight, not to please others or fit society's standards, but for the sake of my own health and well-being. Even so I often wonder if society was more open-minded and encouraged self-love, maybe my journey would have been different because embracing inclusivity means accepting people for who they are, not how they look.

# Embracing Workplace Respect

-Achu John

Workplace Respect is the feeling of regarding someone well for their qualities or traits, but respect can also be action of treating people with appreciation and dignity.

A respectful attitude should be standard in the workplace regardless of personal feelings. It starts with

recognizing that anyone you work with has feelings and personal lives outside of work. We are all humans, not machines. We all have more to us than what is on the surface.

In a respectful workplace, everyone understands that people have good and bad days and that all make mis-

takes. A respectful work environment should also recognise the different talents, skills, and experiences people bring to the table. Not only is everyone bringing diverse skills and perspectives, but those assorted contributions are valuable and welcome. They have the potential to make a positive impact on the team, the

company, and the customer. Operating in an inclusive and welcoming way shows true respect for others in the workplace. Everyone should feel valued for their hard work and contributions.

Ultimately, incorporating and building on other viewpoints is the greatest show of respect, but small things

matter too. You can communicate respect with your words and body language; nodding along as someone speaks shows you are listening, nothing shows respect like paying attention to the speaker. Finally, remember to steer clear of all overt displays of skepticism.

1996: US DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT ENACTED

2003: MASSACHUSETTS LEGALIZES SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

2004: NETHERLANDS LEGALIZES SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

2018: INDIA'S LANDMARK SECTION 377 REPEAL

2020: U.S. SUPREME COURT PROTESTS LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

# Fashioning a Future Without Gender Restriction

-Natasha Ann Abraham



Anthony O. Gomes redefines style - Photographed by Pixel 6 Studio

Gender-inclusive fashion is a global phenomenon, and India is no exception. It has emerged as a response to the growing recognition that clothing should not be confined to rigid gender boundaries. Instead, it should reflect individual expression and comfort. This fashion movement encompasses a wide range of styles and garments that can be worn by people of all gender identities.

One of the most significant aspects of gender-inclusive fashion is the breaking down of stereotypical silhouettes. Indian traditional attire has always been gender-neutral. People used to be aware that clothing didn't have to be exclusively for one gender. For instance, the sari, a common form of women's clothing in India, had male counterparts in the form of the dhoti. These outfits demonstrated Indian

fashion's adaptability and diversity. Indian dress has traditionally featured a colourful range of gender-neutral attire. The 'angrakhas', a flowing tunic-like ensemble that could be worn by both men and women, became popular during the Mughal era, which is remembered for its wealth and grandeur. Inclusive fit and sizing is also a key component of gender-inclusive fashion.

In the past, standardised sizing that failed to take into consideration the variety of body forms was frequently used in the manufacture of apparel in India. In order to ensure that everyone can find clothes that fit well and give them a confident feeling, fashion designers are now designing collections with a larger range of sizes. Beyond providing clothing for many body forms, gender-inclusive fashion

also questions the gendered elements of design. In other words, rather than following cultural expectations of gender-specific clothes, clothing is designed with more neutral patterns, colours, and designs, letting people select what speaks to them personally. Gender-inclusive fashion is altering how we dress and dispelling entrenched assumptions in Indian society. It's more than just apparel; it's about inclusion, empowerment, and acceptance.

As this trend picks up steam, it portends a time where there are no gender restrictions on clothing and everyone is free to express themselves as they see fit. It's a transformational movement that helps create a more welcoming, diversified, and open society in India and elsewhere.

## Women In Bollywood

- Jitha Jithu

"Imaginatively she is of the highest importance, practically she is completely insignificant. She pervades poetry from cover to cover, she is all but absent from history. She dominates the lives of kings and conquerors in fiction; in fact, she was the slave of any boy whose parents forced a ring upon her finger." -Virginia Woolf

This excerpt highlights the relevance of women in literature to women in Bollywood films, emphasizing how movies connect with real-life emotions and are considered cultural artifacts. The issue arises when certain values, emotions, or characters are missing in film presentations.

Bollywood excels in creating dramatic experiences with culturally curated scenes, enhancing entertainment. However, these films often prioritize the majority audience's interests, potentially excluding perspectives and perpetuating stereotypes due to the desire for widespread acceptance.

Patriarchal influences dominate Bollywood films, leading to a lack of genuine female representation. Women are often depicted as constrained by societal stereotypes, such as ideal mothers, submissive housewives, or immoral characters. This perpetuates the objectification of women, emphasizing their appearance and subordination to the male gaze, reducing them to mere sex objects in cinema. Filmmakers often reinforce women's roles in a twisted manner, perpetuating patriarchy. Characters like the mother-in-law or sister-in-law stick to stereotypical images and are primarily seen within the spectrum of domestic roles. An educated or urban female character is often viewed skeptically and, if portrayed as the hero's romantic interest, rarely depicted positively. Examples include movies like Cocktail, Kuch Kuch Hota

Hai, Raanjhana, Dabang, Saaho, and Housefull.

Bollywood often questions women's self-identity while celebrating limited roles in relation to men. The portrayal of women as devoted wives, characterized by weeping, sexual purity, and fidelity, was prominent in movies from the 90s and 2000s, projecting them as socially inferior beings.

In Bollywood, significant changes post the early 2000s saw the rise of prominent roles for women. This shift could be attributed to more female filmmakers and a growing demand from progressive female audiences for inclusivity. Post-2000s, Bollywood witnessed a shift where women took the lead and narrated movies from their perspective. Films like Queen, Kahaani, English Vinglish, Piku, Pink, Stree, and Dil Dhadakne Do portrayed women as independent, strong individuals who could thrive without a man. They were no longer seen as mere objects but as individuals with thoughts and emotions. The transition allowed women to live solo, whether after divorce, before marriage, or as single mothers, making them the central subjects of the movie.

While progress has been made, there are still films like Kabir Singh that romanticise toxic, abusive relationships, warranting caution due to their potential influence. Shah Rukh Khan's immense influence on the female audience in Bollywood has emphasized the beauty of love and expression, earning him the title of "stealer of hearts."

Bollywood, like any industry, has its flaws and historical misogyny, but acknowledging progress is crucial. The future holds potential for game-changing movies that can redefine women's portrayal, documenting a transition in cinematic representation.



1920: HELLEN KELLER  
(Advocate for Disability Rights)

1944: U.S. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1943

1965: AFPH  
(Advocating for Disabled Rights)

1988: FAIR HOUSING ACT (Protecting the Disabled)

# Dalit Representation In Tamil Cinema

-Niranjana K.A



*A trinity of characters from different tamil films, voices of change in the industry.*

“We shall not look at caste or religion. All human beings in this land — whether they be those who preach the Vedas or who belong to other castes — are one.” This particular quote was said by Subramania Bharati years ago, but the fact that this quote is gaining greater importance in the 21st century is both remarkable, and concerning.

The Tamil film industry is renowned for its realistic approach to filmmaking and its ability to tackle sensitive topics. In 2009, the Tamil action-adventure movie “Peranmai,” directed by the late S.P. Jananathan, had to edit several scenes due to their depiction of the raw nature of casteism. Surprisingly, the Central Board of Film Certification reportedly claimed that caste issues were no longer relevant.

Over the years, many movies have explored the concept of Dalit politics, but the recent wave of films has made a significant impact on the audience not just because of the subject matter but also due to the raw and unapologetic style of filmmaking exhibited by the directors. The recent blockbuster “Maamannan,” starring Vaidivelu, Udhayanidhi Stalin, and Fahad Fazil, sheds light on how Dalit people were

historically marginalised and the challenges they faced in aspiring for a better life. The film’s title character, a Dalit, rises from a mere cadre to become an MLA, challenging the ego-driven higher-caste antagonist. Mari Selvaraj, the director, beautifully conveys the message of equality when he wrote, “Sit and talk to someone; don’t practise standing and talking with someone.” “Maamannan” is a powerful portrayal of the struggle for justice and equality. Mari Selvaraj’s previous works, such as “Karnan” and “Pariyerum Perumal,” also delve into Dalit politics, further highlighting the significance of this theme in contemporary cinema.

When mainstream actors in other film industries often shy away from controversial scenes, Rajinikanth has taken on two back-to-back Dalit roles in “Kabali” and “Kala,” both critically acclaimed and commercially successful. National Award-winning director Vetrimarran’s “Asuran” not only garnered widespread support and box-office success but also earned numerous awards, including the National Award for Best Actor (Dhanush) and Best Feature Film (Tamil) in 2019. The film’s core theme is Dalit issues, starkly portraying the cruelties they

endured, leaving the audience profoundly moved. Manju Warrier’s debut in Tamil cinema through this film also earned her accolades as the Best Debutant Actress of the Year for her stellar performance.

“T.J. Gnanavel’s “Jai Bhim” tells the story of a couple, Sengani (Lijimol Jose) and Rajakannu (Manikandan), who work as snake catchers and in the fields of landowners to make ends meet. Their lives take a dramatic turn when Rajakannu is falsely charged with theft. The couple’s journey to seek justice, with the help of Advocate Chandru (Surya), forms the plot. The film sheds light on the injustices faced by Rajakannu due to his lower social status. It is clear that the caste system originated based on the occupations practised by people, but it has evolved into a deeply ingrained part of their identity.

Despite the support provided by the Constitution from the beginning, justice remains disproportionately in the hands of the majority. As these issues persist, the medium of cinema, with its wide-reaching audience, continues to produce films that reflect the realities of life.

# Is It Not Time to Start Inclusive Tourism Education ?

-Nidha Fathima

In today’s globalised world, the tourism industry is thriving, attracting travellers from diverse backgrounds and with varying needs. As the concept of inclusive tourism gains prominence, it is becoming increasingly important for industry professionals to understand and implement inclusive practices. Inclusive tourism education can take various forms like workshops, seminars, online courses, and degree programs. It is high time for professionals in the tourism industry to understand the diverse needs of travellers including those with mobility issues, sensory sensitivities, dietary restrictions and cultural preferences. For instance, in Kerala, health tourism thrives thanks to the popularity of ayurvedic treatments and this makes it imperative for tourism professionals and authorities to focus on the needs of people who are not able bodied.

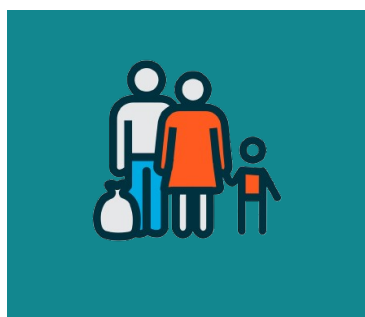
With the wide cuisine of Kerala, it is easy to make a few changes to create delicious and lip smacking delicacies which will help in accomodating the tourists with dietary restrictions. Another area of focus is to design inclusive infrastructure, and to educate those responsible in building these spaces. The necessity of ramps, widened doorways and sensory-friendly areas are the need of the hour. While some high-end locations in our country may offer such features, many places, regardless of their age lack the infrastructure to accomodate individuals in need of accessible spaces. There is also the need for people to learn common languages as well as sign language. Sign language learning in the tourism industry is important to welcome and accomodate

those who cannot speak or hear. Inclusive tourism education often integrates sustainability principles, teaching professionals how to reduce the environmental impact of tourism. Our nation’s tourism industry will exponentially grow if we were to make these changes as well as educate the professionals on these. As more professionals in the tourism industry undergo tourism education, the impact on the traveller experience is substantial. It promotes not only physical accessibility but also a mind-set of empathy. Inclusive education encourages the creation of a unique travel experience that cater to a broader audience.

Professionals with adequate training provide more attentive and personalised service, ensuring that travellers’ needs are met. Knowing that destinations and service providers are trained in inclusivity, travellers with disabilities or diverse backgrounds can explore the world with greater confidence. Inclusive tourism education is a fundamental step towards making the tourism industry more accessible, welcoming, and sustainable in our country. It empowers professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to create memorable travel experiences for everyone, regardless of their background or abilities. As travellers increasingly prioritise inclusivity in their choices, embracing inclusive tourism education becomes not only a responsibility but also a significant opportunity for the industry.

2006: UN CONVENTION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS

2021: (World Health Organization) GLOBAL DISABILITY ACTION PLAN



1920: NANSEN OFFICE FOR WORLD WAR 1 REFUGEE

1951: UN REFUGEE CONVENTION

# Inclusivity In Law

- Ashwathy Ramesh



Balancing the scales of justice through evolving constitutional articles and law enforcement - Image sourced from the internet

A vibrant democracy and a diverse society, India is an eclectic mix of cultures, ethnicities, religions, traditions, and genders. There are several laws in place that ensure all sections of the society enjoy an equal status and are able to exercise their rights in a constitutional manner and avail all privileges they deserve.

Some of the laws that guarantee certain privileges to the minority groups of the country are briefly mentioned in the article. These laws are what sustains the country and provides its citizens the courage and trust to live without fear in their homeland. Establishing inclusivity in the law is necessary to safeguard the rights of marginalised groups within the country.

Article 26 of the Indian Constitution deals with the 'Freedom to manage religious affairs' and states that 'Subject to public order, morality and health, every religious denomination or any section thereof shall have the right: to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable

purposes. Section 95 of the Code of Criminal Procedure gives the government the right to declare certain publications forfeited. Article 15 (1) explicitly prohibits any discrimination on the basis of sex. Under Article 15(3), the state is provided with the power to make special provisions for women and children. Article 16 provides for equality of opportunity for all in matters relating to public employment or appointment to any office, it specifically forbids discrimination on the grounds of sex. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 is an act of the Parliament of India with the objective to prohibit acts of discrimination against transgender persons.

In these ways our constitutional laws incorporated diverse elements to protect and safeguard the rights of all the minority groups within the nation ensuring equality and liberty for every citizen.

# From Nirma to Surf Excel: A Look into Societal Shift Through Inclusive Marketing in Our Nation.

- Nihla Jalal

“Gale me khich-khich, Gale mein khich-khich. Kya karoon? Vicks ke goli lo, khich-khich door karo.” A very familiar phrase that we use quite frequently in our conversations these days when one is coughing or having ‘khich-khich.’ Inclusive marketing has been around since the advent of advertising in our nation. The khich-khich dialogue has been going around since the 1980s and even before, in the vocabulary of the common people during those days. The marketers recognised this potential and included it into their catchy jingle that decades later we sing along to. This is where we can see marketing being inclusive ever since we can remember.

When we casually think of inclusive marketing, we tend to think of the marketing that we see around ourselves in this 21st century. No doubt, the marketing of the 21st century has gotten more inclusive and represents the consumers in multiple ways. But what we tend to forget is that since time immemorial, marketing teams have tried to make their techniques inclusive of the society they are marketing a brand, a product, or a service to. A simple ‘why should boys have all the fun?’ reminds you of the Hero Honda Pleasure ad, not just because of the catchy phrase but because it resonates with you and reminds you of the beginning of an era where women riding scooters started becoming a norm. It turned out to be a landmark in the empowerment of women, not only through a mere ad but rather through the transformation of a society that used to shun women riding or driving to a society that “tolerates” or today, maybe even



celebrates women riding. The earliest techniques in the Indian marketing context portrayed the inclusion of families that enjoyed or were laughing, the inclusion of happy, and huge joint families to this century where the inclusion of happy and small nuclear families are more prominent. The earlier inclusion of joint families points to the familial setup of our Indian culture at the time where joint families were prominent. You could also notice the prominence of women focused ads related to homemaking because of the society we were a part of during the last century in our nation.

If someone were to sing – ‘washing powder Nirma’, you are instantaneously reminded of the happy faces and colourful dresses with a women’s sweet voice telling you that it is Jaya and Sushma’s favourite washing powder, a portrayal of happy homemakers washing the clothes. In the 1980s, it

was an inclusive advertisement as Indian societies saw a norm of women as homemakers. But if someone were to say – ‘pour rub pour’, today in the 2020s, you would be reminded of the silly boy telling the dad who is cooking breakfast on how to clean his shirt with Surf Excel. Inclusivity in the 2020s context, shows

breaking gender stereotypes and brands have shown great strides in appealing to their audience. To an extent, to see the changes a society has undergrown, one could simply look at the content that the general public consumed decades back and compare it with today’s content. Particularly in advertisements, where brands strive to show that their own products or services are the most inclusive in the market.

So, in the run for inclusivity among brands and marketers, do we see the traces of transformations - our society has gone through. Whether the transformation makes us glad or not is not something to discuss here but it is evident from the brands that have been a major part of our lives growing up, that a change has occurred. This change blooms from our imperative need to be inclusive and to celebrate the diversity that we live around. Although in the Indian aspect, there is a long way to go for gender, ethnic, disability and age inclusivity – there is no denial that we have certainly gone through a period of mass transformation. Here is to hoping that positive inclusivity prevails and grows in all contexts of our diverse nation.

1965: U.S. IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

1980: U.S. REFUGEE ACT

1990: U.S. IMMIGRATION ACT

2008: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT INITIATIVE

2018: U.S. “ZERO TOLERANCE” IMMIGRATION POLICY

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## When Snow White Became Woke: Unveiling the Dual-Edged Sword of Inclusivity

-Leona M Vinoy



Inclusivity has been a hot topic on every user's finger tips for the past couple of years and it is not a novel idea in the current times. Inclusivity is a concept that the whole of the internet has collectively deemed as a necessity in every aspect of the high end life, be it corporate or in media. One such entertainment company that has completely engulfed this very wholesome idea is the ever present enterprise, Disney. And boy have they got it all wrong! The very basic idea of inclusivity arises from the very innocent but also complicated thought of including every one belonging to every social group in a display that shouts 'Equality to all'. And though this has resulted in some heartwarming incidents, in this article we are going to talk about a time when Inclusivity took a wrong turn. The latest example of this ongoing crisis is the announcement from Disney of a live-action remake of the Disney original 'Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs', but wait, no part of that title is accurate anymore. In this remake, Disney casted a Latina woman in the role of Snow White and also reworked the Seven Dwarfs into Seven multi-racial magical creatures. Nothing wrong with Latina women and certainly nothing wrong with magical creatures. But why did it have to be thrust in by changing the original plot of a movie that completed everyone's childhood. The color of the skin should never deny anybody a chance to achieve something but this is quite literally of a topic of 'skin as fair as snow'. Another point is that if Disney's goal was to give space to every social group then aren't they just taking away the opportunity from the Dwarf community? The internet has been quite a war-zone of conflicts. But what really enraged all users alike

without distinction are the comments made by actress Rachel Zeglar, who was casted for the role of Snow White. It makes you question if she even respects the original source of her project. "The original cartoon came out in 1937 and very evidently so. There's a big focus on her love story with the guy who literally stalks her. Weird, weird." "She's not gonna be saved by the prince and she's not going to be dreaming about true love. She's dreaming about becoming the leader she knows she can be." This is what Rachel Zeglar had to say about the original classic and it makes you wonder when Snow White became a girl-boss, man-hating independent woman. The idea that female empowerment means abandoning love and also cutting out men from your life, is a very radical and an inherently wrong thought. Wanting to be in love is not supposed to be against feminism, yet according to Rachel Zeglar, the only way Snow White could possibly be the independent leader she was "meant to be" (God knows when), is by not dreaming about true love. Womanhood is not about bashing on traditional values that have stood the test of time. Feminism will always stand for the freedom of choice that it allows women to make. It is the ideology that lets a woman be a leader and also want a family and it is also what lets a woman not want any of them. It is quite disheartening to see an enterprise such as Disney that is so beloved to all is falling behind by trying to incorporate the modern woke agenda into their creations which has led to this ongoing crisis. In this revolution, we can only hope that in the future we don't end up abandoning the basic elements of inclusivity, because that would most unfortunately be a progression gone backwards!



Stairs vs Inclusivity - Elsa Maria's artwork boldly challenges the lack of access in public spaces, urging for equal inclusion.



Love Knows No Bounds: Alicia Agnus' digital artwork beautifully captures the essence of 'love is love'



Imperfectly Divine: Vaishnavi Ganesh's digital artwork redefines beauty through Aphrodite's flaws.