

REVIEW ARTICLE

Vol. 7. Issue.1. 2020 (Jan-Mar)

ISSN

INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA

2395-2628(Print):2349-9451(online)

THE SPACE OF COMITY AND CONJUGALITY IN WOMEN'S LIFE; A STUDY BASED ON
THE FILMS *MITR: MY FRIEND* AND *ENGLISH VINGLISH*

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Article information

Received:04/1/2020

Revised & Accepted:
29/01/2020

Published online: 02/02/2020

doi: [10.33329/ijelr.7.1.24](https://doi.org/10.33329/ijelr.7.1.24)

ABSTRACT

For Indians 'women' are epitome of love and harmony, they are worshipped and adored. Yet in the same country they are treated differently, they are disowned and rejected even at the time of birth. In this twenty-first century, still many married women find it hard to have a voice in their family affairs. Their so called better halves fail to acknowledge their feelings on the preconceived notion that women are meant for domestic and child bearing purposes. They have no space in their marriage, nor do such women find this illogical as they are bought up by generations who practice the same tradition- putting down women folk. In this paper focuses on women's space in their marriage, space of comity and conjugality. The lack of importance and presence for women in one's own marriage in this patriarchal society has yield many great motion pictures, '*Mitr: My Friend*' and '*English Vinglish*' are two among them. These bilingual movies bring out the essence of womanhood, and how much the class and language conscious families uphold foreign culture and language more than their mother and wife who has a small town mentality. Here our study aims to present the gap of communication takes place in women's life just after marriage. And also present the space of friendship and marriage in women's life. The film *Mitr: My friend* and *English Vinglish* are the perfect example for the women's who is trying to get self-identity by sacrificing everything for family. Both the film espials portray the realistic mindset of women who leads the life of love, care and sacrifice without sacrificing self-confidence. A women is like a sunshine she spreads the rays of love I care and affection but sometimes she missing love and care of her husband and family.

Keywords: western culture vs moral culture of India,good friendship, value

Mitr my friend is a film directed by the Malayalam actress Revathy Menon which picturizes the plight of Indian woman named Lakshmi who marries an NRI man named Prithvi. After their marriage they move to California she desperately accepts the culture of western without get rid from the culture of India. In the beginning of the film the couples lead a happy playful life but after few years the scene changes. They had a daughter named Divya. When she grows up, she wished a follow the culture of America and she never obeys the mother's advice. Lakshmi tries to impose the moral culture of India. But Divya wish to follow the modern crazy life of California. Lakshmi have no right to hurt Divya, because she is not civilized in her career. The husband also supports Divya by mocking Lakshmi. The gap between mother and daughter is one of important main situation

in this film. It also affects in the mind of Lakshmi. She acts as a machine to cook, to clean the house and she has no courage to go outside of the house. It may be because of her limited knowledge about that place. The gap between husband and wife is also takes place in Lakshmi's life. Her husband never shows the love and affection towards Lakshmi. He is busy with his job and responsibility. They separate each other in terms of love, sex and affection.

So only Lakshmi find out a friend through cyber chatting. The development of social network also plays an important role in this film. And story reveals how a women changes after getting a good friendship. Lakshmi continued her chatting without knowing wheather the friend is a man or a women. But later she comes to know that it is a man. Both are unknowingly chats together. The real twist of the film happened at the end. If the Lakshmi surprisingly knows that the invisible friend is her own husband. If she tried to get any job may be she can lead an emancipate life, but she never tried to get a job. Lakshmi's neighbour is the another friend who helped Lakshmi very much but her daughter Divya felt doubt about her mother. But at the end Divya realizes the real value of a mother by understanding that 'A mother may be educated or uneducated, she is the best guide line when we fall in our life.

South India's one of the biggest blockbuster *English Vinglish* also picturizes the same issue of women. The film is directed by Gowri Shinda. It is a sweet and light hearted journey of a women protagonist named sashi. She gets mocking and hurting because of her daughter and husband. They mocked at her because of her poor speaking of English and daughter feels shyness towards her mother. Sashi's married life is not a suppressed one. They are financially rich and her husband is also NRI man. He loves sashi's but it is not satisfactory to her. The interesting part of the movie is sashi's journey to New York to attend a marriage function of her cousin's daughter. She travelled alone New York with the support of her husband. Actually her supports sashi, because of him gets self confidence to travel when she reached New York happily. She decided to learn English. She joined to a spoken English class in New York from there she understand the real attitude of herself because of the good friends. Laurent is the most influential friend of sashi; he approaches her because of her innocence and genuinity. He made her to understand herself her value.

Questioning feminism is the main theme of these films. A man never remembers but women never forget. In these films women protagonist never get any specialty from their marriage life; both of them understand their value in life with good friends and their relationship in *Mitr My Friend*. Both the husband and wife understand each other with the element of friendship. If they never become friends they will not understand each other. The pour of friendship makes the base of their relationship. *English Vinglish* is free from all these twists. Sashi get friend Laurent from the spoken English class. Actually he approach her with love but she take it a friendship by saying that 'she need a respect rather than love'.

It is true a woman deserves all the respect and love rather than life's luxury. Both the protagonists of these films are middle aged and displays the real emotion of their mind and these equally proves 'The foundation of every relationship is based on friendship'. In both the films, the two women finally finds solace in their marriage, they start communicating and sharing the unsaid, healing all wounds.

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