**Indian Cinema**

Cinema is in today’s world is the most popular means of entertainment. Millions of people watch cinema everyday all over the world not only as a means of entertainment but also as an escape from the monotony, boredom, anxiety and troubles of life. It is a restful, pleasurable and entertaining means of relaxing after a long day’s work. Moreover it is the only means of entertainment which all sections of society can afford.

Indian cinema-apart from world cinema-has a charm, flavor and magic of its own. It appeals not only to the film-crazy Indian public but also has enchanted a large number of audience the world over. People who do not speak or understand Hindi still sing songs from Hindi films. An average Indian film is longer than films from other parts of the world, has a ginger-touch of love, hate revenge, drama, tears, joys and also its own share of songs and dances. A typical Indian film has in it all the spice and variety of life condensed into it, transporting on the audience on a magic carpet to a totally different world where everything and anything is possible.

Down the years, cinema in India has reached its own destination, created its own history, and touched its own milestones. The journey from silent movies to talkies from black and white to coloured has been a progressive one. It has catered to the dreams and aspirations of many.

There have been two steams of cinema in India- one is the commercial cinema which has the sole aim of entertaining and making money in return. The second stream is the parallel cinema or the Art cinema which aims at sensitizing the people on various social issues and problems of the society, parallel cinema appeals mainly to the intellectual class among the society.

Cinema has an educative value too. Because it exercises a deep influence upon the minds of the people, cinema can be used as a very effective means of change. Social awareness on issues like dowry, women education, abortion, girl foeticide, youth unrest, corruption, unemployment, poverty, illiteracy etc find the ways in cinema. Cinema can expose the evils prevalent in the society. It is the most effective means of mass communication. Cinema is also e great unifying force in a diversified country like ours. Thousands of people earn their livelihood through cinema.

The silver screen spreads and sells not just dreams but captivates the hearts of young boys and girls. Thus if this medium is not used judiciously and wissely, it can distract the youth from the right direction. Thus, the film-makers should undertake film-making a social responsibility and use their sense of direction.