

# Through The Gender Lens

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# **The portrayal of Non-heterosexuality in Indian Cinema: A Journey with the Gender Lens**

**Piyali Halder**

In the global discourse, Sexuality has achieved great value since the 70's of the previous century at least. Though it is usual to talk about the interconnection between sex and gender in the hard-core academia. The tendency to trim it down to a mere sexual activity, as an expression of 'Desire' however still survives in the social sphere. The understanding of sexuality has been designed by the hegemonic socio-political structure as a socio-cultural affair and has been at the same time, boiled down to a biological, natural, and an essential affair related to sexual acts alone. Being a part of the society and for reasons to be discussed here, the producers of mass media products often reflect these dynamic ideas in their works and in this case, film makers are no exception. However, paradoxical it might seem Indian films, at times, depict sexuality as a 'natural' desire or orientation and at others, they portray the same as a 'social construct', the aftermath of heteronormativity.

Beyond the differentiation of sex and gender, feminist theorists formulate the notion of sexuality. Crossing the male and female binary opposition, sexual orientations such as heterosexuality and homosexuality both have been recognised in the academia