

Project Code: SLC-305

Topic: Medieval Indian Bhakti Movement in Hindi Cinema: Myths, Legends, Literature and Popular Memories.

Project Investigators: Dr. Samrendra Kumar (Dept. of Hindi), Dr. Amitabh Kumar (Dept. of zhindi), Mr. Sanjay Kumar (Dept. of History)

Summary: Socio- religious reform movements have remained as strong undercurrents in the development of the Indian Civilization through different historical phases-ancient, medieval, modern, till present. Given the plural character of Indian society, such movements have helped in the co-existence of different faiths in India. They also heralded a plethora of serious efforts to combat the socio-religious ideas and practices which needed to be annihilated in the wake of changing times and realities at the level of popular awareness. In the mediaeval Indian Bhakti movement, a number of Saint-poets, have been immortalized in the popular memory of subsequent generations of Indians. Stories and works of medieval Indian saints like Chandidas, Jayadev, Chaitanya, Kabir, Tulsidas, Surdas, Meerabai, Narsingh Mehta etc. are still told and retold in different ways and through various mediums.

Cinema has been the most powerful and easily accessible medium of entertainment and education. No serious academic efforts have been undertaken, to study the rich cinematic heritage on prominent medieval Indian Bhakti Saint Poets and their works. The medieval Indian Bhakti saint poets and their works have huge cultural legacies and these have been carried by subsequent generations of Indians till present times. Hindi cinema, ever since its inception has been playing a significant role in transporting them to largest possible audiences, transgressing the class, caste, gender and religious boundaries, across the country, in audio-visual formats, and therefore, they remain deeply etched to popular memories for longer period of time.

A major approach will be to scan the list of Hindi cinema made till date, and identify those ones which are directly made on the mediaeval Indian Bhakti saint-poets. Once the database is ready, we will organize lectures, talks and seminars by inviting experts on Bhakti movement, cinema, myths, and legends, and the socio-psychological impact of cinema on audiences, in order to develop an understanding into our research objectives. Our project aims at venturing into this, untapped legacy of Bhakti saint poets to examine interlinks among myths, history, legends and popular memories in the form of academic books and a documentary.

Detail of Students involved in Innovation Projects

Project No.	Project	Student's Name	Course's Name	Year
305	“Medieval Indian Bhakti Movement in Hindi Cinema: Myths, Legends, Literature and Popular Memories” (Dr. Samrendra Kumar, Dr. Amitabh Kumar and Mr. Sanjay Kumar)	Hardik Tiwari	B.Com (H)	III
		Akash Deep	B.Com (H)	III
		Anubha Mathur	B.A. (H) English	III
		Mamta Patel	B.A. (H) Hindi	III
		Shubham Sharma	B.A. (H) History	III
		Sunita Sharma	B.A. (H) Political Sc.	III
		Tania Das	B.A. (H) Economics	II
		Gaurav Prakash	B.A. (H) Hindi	II
		Priya Garg	B.A. (H) Economics	I
		Vikrant Sharma	B.A. (P)	II