

Student Name: Behjat Moini

Supervisor's Name: Dr. Padmanabh Samarendra

Name of the Department: Dr. K.R.Narayanan Centre for Dalit and
Minorities Studies

Name of the topic: Indian Muslims and Nation Building: A Study Of
Muslim Contribution to Hindi Cinema 1950- 1970

Keywords: Hindi Cinema, Muslim Artists, Golden Era, Progressive Writers

Findings

It is interesting to note that the artist's work was very much connected to his early life and background. The work of lyricist Sahir, who was born in rich zamindari family, has written against feudalism, aristocracy and materialism. Mehboob Khan who through films like *Roti* (1942), *Aurat* (1940) and *Mother India* (1957), talked about the poverty of rural India, was himself from an impoverished peasant family.

The themes that were taken up by film makers of a specific decade were in accordance with the socio-political climate of that respective era.

The contribution of the Progressive Writers Movement on the films of the Golden Era was significant. It was the P.W.M. that emphasized on art as a means for social and political transformation. Sahir Ludhianvi, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, Balraj Sahni and Kaifi Azmi were some important artists who were associated with the P.W.A. Other artists like Mehboob Khan, Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar, Guru Dutt and many more, though not formally associated, were nevertheless inspired by the P.W.M and believed in raising important issues of the subaltern sections through their work.

Though recently academic work on Indian cinema has talked about Islamic influence but still apart from biographies, information about Muslim artists is conspicuously

missing. Scholars have worked on the history of Indian Films, Muslim artists and their contribution to the Hindi cinema, remain largely ignored or sidelined.