

# Xvideos : A film review

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**Abstract:** *Movies are one of the forms of media that has a great power to enter the cognizance of the minds of the people so easily. They also have had played a major role in bringing out various issues and topics by focusing by emphasizing it more strongly. They also have helped in accepting and changing various norms and cultural aspects across people, geography and boundaries. The research paper will critically review a recent film – Xvideos which speaks on the dark side of privacy and technological usage through iconography.*

**Key Words:** *Xvideos, Film, Media, Review, Iconography.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

### 1.1 Cinema and Community development

In the 1970s community arts grew alongside the community development movement, which was defined by the United Nations as ‘a movement to promote better living for the whole community with active participation and if possible on the initiative of the community’ (Craig et al., 2011, p.3). Community arts was defined by Kelly (1984) as an approach that ‘involves people on a collective basis, encourages the use of a collective statement but does not neglect individual development or the need for individual expression’ (p.2). Community arts, according to Erven (2013) are all about special alliances between artists and people who would not normally come into close or intensive contact with art or artists (2013).

### 1.2 Communication and development

Development communication studies were historically divided into two main threads: the first one bases its prescriptions on modernisation theory, while the second derives communication models from dependency theory (CFSC, 2006). Modernisation theory based models assume that underdevelopment is simply due to a lack of knowledge and sees information as the key to progress.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

### 2.1 Popularity of Films in India

In India’s early days of cinema, films were shown under tents to large numbers of people. This tradition is now being revived in Mumbai, where ‘Touring talkies’ or mobile cinema tents are being introduced again as Bollywood celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (CCTV, 2013).

### 2.2 The rise of Social Cinema

In the capitalist world, privatisation and deregulation in the private sector made cinema a platform for the representation of corporate interests, resulting in homogenised contents centred mostly on entertainment genres (Roy, 2012; Waltz, 2005).

## 3. METHODOLOGY:

The researcher has envisioned to analyse the film Xvideos through iconography.

### 3.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyse the film Xvideos through iconography.

## 4. ANALYSIS:

### ICONOGRAPHY:

Manoj (Ajay Raj), a journalist and his colleague Danny (Nijay) are tasked to do a story on the public’s reaction to ban on pornography websites. However, his assignment turns out to be a personal task when his friend Ankit (Prasanna Shetty) commits suicide because an intimate video he’d shot of his wife (Akriti Singh as Tripti) makes it to one of the sites. This is how the movie Xvideos starts. (Icons 1 to 2)

ICON 1 & 2 Courtesy: Xvideos DVD



ICON 3 & 4 Courtesy: Xvideos DVD



At this juncture, they decide to inform Ankit of the video doing rounds and makes a call to him and say that they want to meet him urgently. They ask him to meet at a beach and show him the video. Ankit gets a call at that time from his wife Tripthi and says that he he's gone to meet his friends, Manoj and Daniel and cuts the call after speaking with her. Ankit is then shown the video and he breaks down upon seeing the video and cries. (Icons 3 to 8)

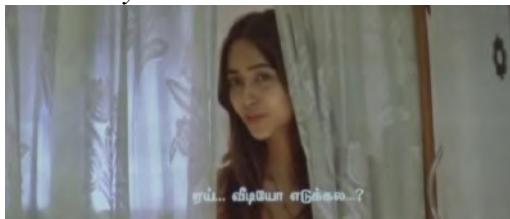
ICON 5 & 6 Courtesy: Xvideos DVD



ICON 7 & 8 Courtesy: Xvideos DVD



ICON 9 & 10 Courtesy: Xvideos DVD



ICON 11 & 12 Courtesy: Xvideos DVD



The next sequences shows Ankit telling his friends that it was he who had shot the video and that he had not shared the video with anyone or anywhere and was secured in his new laptop. Later his friends receive a call saying that Ankit has committed suicide and they visit his house to offer their condolences but no one is aware of the actual reason why he committed suicide including his wife. His friends have a hesitation of asking his wife about the video and do not ask about it due to hesitation. However, they decide to find out the culprits behind this and start investigating. (Icons 9 to 12)

ICON 13 & 14 Courtesy: Xvideos DVD



ICON 15 & 16 Courtesy: Xvideos DVD

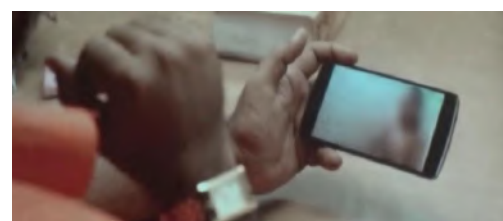


ICON 17 & 18 Courtesy: Xvideos DVD

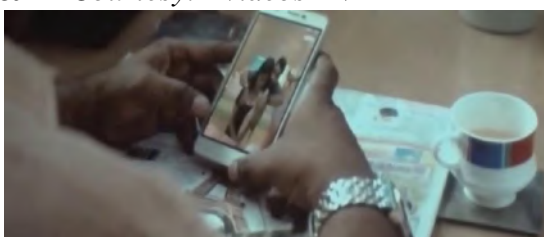
In their quest they seek help from Manoj's friend, Imran (Shan) who is a cop, and his search leads him to Vikram (Praboojit) and his gang of disgruntled software professionals, who have launched a pornography website. (Icons 13 to 18)



ICON 19 & 20 Courtesy: Xvideos DVD



ICON 21 & 22 Courtesy: Xvideos DVD



**ICON 23 & 24** *Courtesy: Xvideos DVD*

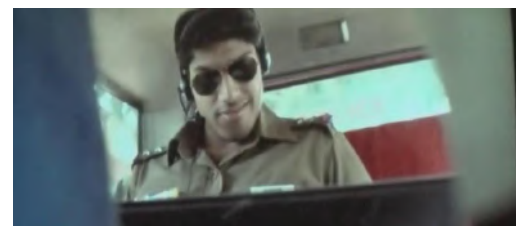
The next sequences shows the modus operandi of Vikram's gang who happen to rob an elderly man's phone to get access to videos and pictures apart from having contacts with mobile service centre owners across the country to run and get their website up and running continuously. There are also sequences shown where a few wealthy businessmen who subscribe to these websites and unfortunately one of such businessmen's daughter's video with her boyfriend is uploaded and is seen by her own father and his friend. Her father then breaks down and kills his daughter. **(Icons 19 to 24)**



**ICON 25 & 26** *Courtesy: Xvideos DVD*



**ICON 27 & 28** *Courtesy: Xvideos DVD*



**ICON 29 & 30** *Courtesy: You Tube*



**ICON 31 & 32** *Courtesy: Xvideos DVD*

The movie travels to show the progress of Manoj who seeks the help of Vikram's wife herself in the quest of arresting Vikram and his gang. She agrees and lets Manoj's team shoot a video of herself and they send it to Vikram who initially doesn't believe it and is shocked to find that it is indeed his wife and asks for a settlement amount to Manoj so as to remove it from websites. Manoj asks for Rs. 10 lakhs and asks Vikram to meet at some place with cash. He reaches the spot and although he thinks he's outwitted Manoj by realising that he's shooting a video of him confessing about the operating procedure of his gang but doesn't realise that Manoj has been streaming it to his friend Imran, who in turn has cited the video as a solid evidence and gets Vikram and his gang arrested and produces them in the Court. They are found guilty under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). **(Icons 25 to 32)**

## **5. CONCLUSION:**

The current research study was envisioned to look into reviewing the recently released social theme based movie – Xvideos. The study revealed that although there are various advantages of technology, there is always a darker side to it. The film emphasizes more on using the technology whilst not having over confidence that no one will misuse the information. The movie also goes on to stress that one must be cautious a level more in using technology and that technology can be used in a multitude of ways by various people for wrong means. The director has captured the essence of these aspects through visuals and the engagement of the story and screenplay. Sajo Sundar has done a tremendous job of helming affairs and putting together a team of newcomers to work on this movie which has a strong message and is definitely the need of the hour in spreading awareness.

## **REFERENCES:**

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**Disclaimer: All the images used in this research paper work have been taken from Xvideos film DVD.**