**The pay gap in Bollywood**

When it comes to gender-based pay gaps and sexism, Bollywood being an industrial giant also involves the same? What is the difference between the highest-paid actor versus actress? Salman Khan charges 60 crore INR for a film and Aamir Khan charges 50-55 crores. While, in the case of the actresses, Kangana Ranaut charges 27 crore INR and Deepika Padukone charges 26 crore INR. This evidences the pay gap of almost more than 50%.

World Economic Forum states that no industry pays women equal to their men colleagues and this gap might require 170 years to cover up!

Why is this difference available? And, why is it even acceptable?

Actress Deepika Padukone mentioned in one interview how she is well aware of her capabilities and performs as better as the actors in the movie, and she added that she would not settle for the compensations made to pay the actors. Actress Aditi Rao Hydari raised this concern about the pay gap to considering both actors and actresses put equal efforts during a movie generation and release and still actresses are paid less.

Certain movies focus only on the actors like Sultaan, Mangal Pandey, and others, while their number is slightly less than the female-specific ones like Queen, Mary Kom, Padmavat, etc. Even after these female-centered movies being the blockbusters, these actresses have earned a lot less than the Bollywood actors. In 2003, for the movie Kal Ho Na Ho, The lead director Karan Johar dropped Kareena Kapoor because of demanding the same payment amount as offered to Shah Rukh Khan.

This reveals how unacceptable this pay gap is getting for the actresses and despite their voices for their rights and capabilities, or more demands, there is no step in lessening this gap. Instead, the demanding ones can be swapped with the less demanding ones! Priyanka Chopra even disclosed how she was told that actresses are replaceable and thus paid less as they only stand behind the actors.

Kangana Ranaut’s point is correct that no-one of the actor or the actress can guarantee the success, then why is this pay gap and discrimination there?

This is surprising how still actresses are fighting for their rights and have to go a long journey ahead before covering this gap!