TITLE- THE UNETHICAL DOCTOR

AUTHORS NAMES-

(1) Aashi Garg

Intern at Rajindra Hospital (Government Medical College, Patiala)

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Sadiq Road,

Faridkot, Punjab, 151203

Telephone No- 8699151490

Email- aashigarg0604@gmail.com

(2) Archit Garg,

Intern at Rajindra Hospital (Government Medical College, Patiala)

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Sadiq Road,

Faridkot, Punjab, 151203

Telephone No- 8699333361

Email- architgarg0406@gmail.com

FUNDING- None

TITLE – THE UNETHICAL DOCTOR

ABSTRACT

The Hindi film ‘Kabir Singh’ written and directed by Sandeep Vanga, remake of the Telugu film ‘Arjun Reddy’ glamourizes misogyny, toxic masculinity, male chauvinism and glorifies an unethical doctor who has no restrains and no control over him. It portrays an incorrect image of doctors and this results in false perception amongst the general public.

REVIEW

From the beginning Kabir Singh portrays such an image of doctors which is not only false but extremely flawed as well. It is true everybody has their flaws but doctors can not afford to have lacunae similar to that of Kabir Singh. Kabir Singh not only depicts a poor image of doctors but also that of a person in general.

In recent times when there have been cases of abuse against doctors and they are being attacked, the media should try to improve this scenario and not add to the misperception regarding the image of doctors. Within the first few minutes of the film, Kabir Singh beats the referee of his football match, his opponents and then when condemned for his behaviour he merely says “I am not a rebel without a cause, Sir”. Now what cause could possibly be the reason for his erratic behaviour? This is exactly what doctors are fighting against at the moment that is violence out of anger and here comes Kabir Singh who does the exact same thing. He acts on his impulse without thinking it through.

The portrayal of colleges and hostels is also very inaccurate especially the ragging scene which takes place in the girl’s hostel. In this scene, all the girls from the fresh batch are assembled in front of the girls from the senior batch and are asked to remove their clothes. Kabir Singh’s colleagues rescue his love interest but all the other girls are left there hanging. Ragging is banned in all medical colleges. It does not happen in medical schools and this depiction will only add to the incorrect perception people have regarding doctors and medical colleges. Taking into consideration the impact media has on people, some people might as well believe this is what actually happens in medical schools.

There is a code of conduct doctors follow. We cannot speak for all the doctors but we know most of the doctors try and go by the rules. Doctors are models of conduct and ethics on the other hand there is Kabir Singh who is unethical and immoral. Firstly, he tries and force himself upon women, literally scaring with a knife. Second, he performs surgeries under the influence of alcohol and drugs. This puts the life of patients in danger. Third, he agrees to perform a surgery when he was in no way in control of himself because of the excessive consumption of drugs and alcohol and when he was not able to complete the surgery himself, he gives instruction to the nurse in the operation theatre who then completes the surgery on his behalf. This is unethical and can not be justified by any reason. It sets the wrong example and portrays an incorrect image of doctors. Moreover, there are nurses and other staff who instead of stopping him or reporting him, pour him alcohol before surgery because apparently, he is a really nice person and excellent surgeon. What adds to the problem is that Kabir Singh does not think there is anything wrong with his actions and justifies his actions by saying that he dictated each step to the nurse and the patient is now doing fine. This is not how things go. For other people who do not come from medical backgrounds they might believe it is true.

The females in the movie are treated in a derogatory manner especially the behaviour of Kabir Singh towards Preeti (the female protagonist). Despite being a 21st century girl, she takes commands from Kabir Singh as if she is entitled to him which is wrong on so many levels. No reason, no amount of love could be the reason enough for the ill-treatment of Preeti on the hands of Kabir Singh.

The film may be enjoyable to the masses but as a doctor it was sad to see such a depiction of doctors. In India films are the strongest means of media with a mass consumption. People are influenced by films, the story, the characters. Some might even believe what ever is shown in the movies is correct. Coming at a time when doctors are being beaten up, abused by the patient and their relatives, Kabir Singh only adds to the misconception people have regarding doctors. Films have the power to attract and impact large population and this power should be used wisely. It’s not that we are asking to sugar coat the image of doctors but it is important to depict what is real and true. Glorification of a person who has anger issues, is immoral and unethical, disrespectful to people especially woman despite being a doctor is not what we need at the moment. Honest depiction of a doctor’s life, his struggles in becoming a doctor, hard work and endless hours he puts into studying, sacrifices he makes to be a better doctor will go a long way in improving the poor image of doctor’s people have started to have.