**Yash Sain**

**20UCC119**

Soylent Green

Richard Fleischer and Stanley R. Greenberg's stunning classic film Soylent Green is both directed and written by them. The film is set in a dystopian, depressing future when there is overcrowding, pollution, and a dearth of most supplies. The film centres on Robert Thorn, a cynical police officer who lacks morality and is instead a morally dubious figure, as he works to solve the murder of MR. Simonson, a business leader. Of course, the fact that Simonson works for the Soylent Corporation, which creates coloured wafers that can replace actual food, is a big hint. It starts a series of violent incidents. The movie looks at a variety of human behaviour and society disintegration issues.

Bystander Effect

A psychological phenomena known as the "bystander effect" states that people are less likely to assist a victim while others are around. Due to overcrowding, the living conditions of people are as poor as we witness in the movie. In one scene, an old woman is conned, and when she complains, riot police officers arrest her. Despite having a miserable life, the majority of people accept their lot and remain indifferent to the suffering of others. The government's rhetoric and the normalisation of brutality serve to foster this indifference. The bystander effect illustrates how societal norms and the spread of blame can cause people to overlook or justify the suffering of others, even when it is happening right in front of them.

# Operant Conditioning

Operant conditioning, often known as instrumental conditioning, is a teaching strategy that use rewards and penalties to alter behaviour. The government in this movie employs operand conditioning by enforcing harsh penalties for breaching the law, quelling uprisings, or providing soylent green as a reward.

# Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, a theory of motivation, a person's behaviour is determined by five categories of basic human needs. The most fundamental physiological requirements come first, followed by higher-order demands like self-actualization. In the movie, people's safety needs (water and shelter), which are at the very bottom of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, are not met, which causes a variety of psychological and mental health issues in people.

# Deindividuation

It describes situations in which members of a group behave in ways that they would not as individuals because they have lost their sense of self and responsibility. In the film, we witness a great deal of human cruelty as well as how groupthink aids in the deindividuation of the populace. For instance, we observe that using a scooper—a machine like a JCB—to disperse rioters is a frequent practise in this universe. The propensity of people to follow social standards and take part in cruel or indifferent behaviour is a sign of deindividuation.

We might also draw comparisons between this movie and the Stanford Prison Experiment, a psychological investigation of the impact of authority and role-playing on human behaviour. Through this experiment, it is possible to analyse how hierarchy and power relationships function in the repressive society in this movie. The elite, or ruling class, who wield the majority of the power can manipulate the populace anyway they see fit, just like the experiment's prison guards did. while in the film, the masses play the part of captives.

In conclusion, "Soylent Green" is a thought-provoking examination of how people react to natural disasters and social degradation. Through its depiction of a dystopian future, the movie emphasises different psychological themes and presents a number of issues regarding our society, such as the deterioration of moral standards or ethical values in the sake of convenience and dominance.