



DR SHOBHA RAJU

Help youth to raise above hormones

Respect women

“Don't caste bad looks on a woman” - much easier said than practised for many. All religious leaders know and preach us that the pleasures, body asks for, are momentary and permanent is only the spiritual bliss. But didn't we witness a number of them being caught red-handed in cases of molestation, totally against to their own preachings? We listen to their sermons. They listen to their hormones!

Bottom line is - mechanical preachings of sermons like “Speak truth”, “Don't hurt others” are like paper boats. Won't carry any weight.

If they have to be imbibed, make them into small skits and present them very effectively to kids. Let them know what love is...what courtesy is...what sacrifice is...what pain is...what hunger is...what compassion is... A movie is a great medium which has a tremendous impact on the human mind. Recently we have observed

a few patriotic movies that were released before elections had yielded the expected results.

An ordinary boy turned spiritual and became Bala Yogi after watching the movie, “Bhakta Ramadasu”. I am grateful to my mother and sister for showing me movies like “Lava Kusha”, “Bhakta Prahlada”, “Sati Sakku Bai” in my childhood. They had a great impact on nurturing the devotion in me and influenced my decision to take the propagation of Annamayya Sankeertanas as my life's mission relinquishing my ambition of becoming a playback singer.

Most amazing thing to me is people advising the youth to be good in their conduct, while they encourage movies which are full of violence and obscenity. You say you cried a lot watching a sad scene. You say you became very devotional watching a devotional scene. You say you felt patriotic watching a patriotic movie. Don't

you think...obscenity will also have a bearing on your mind...particularly young minds? Their minds are stuffed with all the obscenity. Movies are Gurus to them teaching how to dress up, how to talk, how to walk... Our censor board has to be strong not to allow any dirt into our movies.

I studied tenth in Kurnool city. It so happened that a guy, who was a self-proclaimed leader of our class happened to find his name etched on a desk in the classroom. He looked at the etching with a grave face and stood before girls and asked in such a dramatic way, “Who etched my name?”. In a style, he pointed his finger at few girls, one after the other and asked “Did you etch? You? You? You?” Everybody denied. He laughed weirdly and said, “If I don't figure out who did this by the same time tomorrow, I am not Raghavendra at all”. His follower asked him, “Rujuvu? (Evidence?)” in a typical cinema comedian style. He laughed

funny bending his head backwards and said, looking upwards like a C.I.D., "This Raghavendra knows no defeat".

The next day Rupa, one of my classmates was entering the classroom. He blocked her way and accosted her, "Nuvve chekkav kadaa?" (You only etched right?). She said disgustedly, "ey..chi...who would etch your name?" She brushed him aside and came to the girls' side and sat. She started complaining about him to all of us in whispers angrily.

Meanwhile our Chemistry sir, Mr Veeranna came. He was altogether a different kind of a person whom we were all afraid of. Rupa got up and in a fit of emotion complained about Raghavendra. "What did you lose if somebody etched your name? First of all, why do you think it's your name only? Why are you teasing that girl, idiot?", asked Veeranna sir. The hero's ego was hurt. "Sir! How do you understand this pain, sir? I will not sleep until I prove who etched my name, sir!", he said very emotionally, in a typical NTR style. Veeranna sir who was about to burst out in anger on Rupa's complaint, burst out in loud laughter. He asked all the boys to stand up on the bench and took a cane into hands saying that the cane will reveal the truth. Boys knew how Veeranna sir works with a cane. All were afraid. Deena, in a fit of fear, said that it was Raghavendra himself who etched his name on the desk. "I saw him doing that as I waited for him to go home on Saturday evening. I was afraid to tell because he will beat me, sir". Thus Raghavendra attracted all beatings supposed to have been served to everyone by Veeranna sir.

I recall the whole scene so

vividly because the acting was so grave though the case was so frivolous. What does Raghavendra get by this bogus acting? It's just an urge to live movies and ape his favourite heroes! I narrated the whole episode to tell you how the movies affect day to day lives of youth weirdly.

I had been to my elder sister, who was then doing her masters in Osmania University. I observed a common scene of boys always teasing girls singing movie songs and dialogues or the ones inspired by them. Most of them were Rajesh Khanna's (Aradhana was running to the full houses), a few were Devanands (Prem Pujari), Kapoor's so on...

I came to Tirupati and joined Sri Padmavathi Women's College in Junior Intermediate. I saw the college girls were Vanisrees in spirit.

When movies impact the youth so much in particular, let us take every precaution to see that they are made based on themes of human values. Knit beautiful stories based on human values and make beautiful movies which would mould the personalities.

When I said this, Veteran Hero, Nageswara Rao garu for whom I have high regard, countered saying, "How many of the viewers turned into Bhakta Tukarams after watching the movie?". It had a great impact on me. I sang those songs fondly. In the last scene, Tukaram requests his wife to get ready to go to Vishnu Lokam with the body, in a special vehicle that would be sent by Vithala. His innocent wife thinks that it was all his illusion and goes out on some work. Tukaram singing His Name boards the vehicle as all the people of the town watch him in awe and devo-

tion fly off to Vishnu Loka. His wife comes to know of this and runs to the spot but by the time she reaches the spot, Tukaram was gone. How many days the scene haunted me! The non-attachment that was so natural to Tukaram and his wife's innocent attachment to her husband brought tears even now as I write this. How many viewers like me would have had a wash of attachment at heart?

Shringaram is called "Rasaram", the master of fine emotions. Without romanticism no Kavyam (literary work) is tasteful. But that has to be portrayed in a sacred way which encourages one to take a respectable approach towards women. If it is pulled down to baser emotional level, the human mind will be wrongly impacted.

Right from infant stage right values, right feelings and fine emotions have to be inculcated and nurtured through nice stories, songs, rhymes, skits, books, video plays, movies.

It forms a good Samskaram and the strength of it prevents the compelling hormones, which in turn can prevent cases like Disha. Once they come to a considerable age, the technic of meditation through which one can transcend body consciousness at will could be taught eventually.

Anyways it's always hard to make one climb a mountain but very easy to push one down from there. One push is enough. Also, it's difficult to elevate one's thinking while it's easy to raise baser passions in him.

Let's create a society where conscientious living prevails not the erratic spell of hormones.

(Author is a well-known musician, Devotional singer, writer and composer.) 