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PORTRAYAL OF VIOLENCE IN PUNJABI SONGS AND ITS EFFECT ON YOUTH: A STUDY

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Abstract

Music and songs are the inevitable part cultural representation and network of society. Same in the case of Punjab and Punjabi music. Punjabi songs since decades are representation of Punjabi culture, Punjabi heritage and celebration and with new generation songs since last two decade it also explicit signifier of fun. It is a mirror of the Punjabi lifestyle. The Punjabi music industry is expanding exponentially as Punjabi diaspora investing in the industry with high flow of trending poppy party songs. Although this elevation is not very appreciable as it is also bringing many questionable trends in Punjabi music industry . One of the most showcased trend is portraying the violence and gun culture in their songs . “Dukki teeki puri thok thok rakhda danger te janlewa shok rakhda” ,”Jagah tere ,tem tera, dhang mere veham tera “.These lyrics as well as the videos of such songs are glorified in a way to promote violence , guns ,rifles and grenade . Singers like Mankirat Aulakh , Ninja ,Sidhu Mossewala and many more promote such culture in their songs. Major receiver and listeners of such songs are the young people and are constant audience for such content. These kinds of content have a psychological impact on the mind of youngster. The purpose of the study is to find the impact of such song on youngster and to scan the usage of violence content in the Punjabi songs

Introduction

Songs and music have always been a best way to express emotions, feeling, situation of a human being. Most of human expression like love, sorrow, struggle, motivation is always best expressed with the help of songs and music. Music doesn't require any degree or any social status it can be created, enjoyed or even played by anyone anywhere. Where beats and composition of music is the base to create rhythm, lyrics ad life and meaning to it .

Lyrics – The words in the song, gives meaning to the song. The lyrics are the mirror of the feeling and lifestyle the song want to portray. The songs of particular community or region reflects there thinking and there life style. Sadly, In Punjabi music, use of words such as Riffle, Dang, Pistol are extremely common and frequently used.

Since years, Punjabi music has given as the treasure of songs depicting and reflecting the folklore, tradition and rich culture of Punjab and Punjabi heritage. People around the world have been dancing and enjoying on these numbers along with melodious heart throbbing dhol beats. The amalgamation of music beat composition and the meaningful lyrics have made always made a place in any wedding and function. People all around the globe grooved over these songs since generations.

1. The popularity of Punjab songs in recent years can easily be judged with the fact that, regional language songs started getting place in Bollywood movies also. People not only from India but also from United kingdom, Cannada ,London are grooving on Punjabi songs.

2. In earlier time the old famous singers like Hans raj hans ,Gurdas Mann created the songs like “Nit kher manga ” and “Challa “ leaving the listeners enchanting them. But with recent changed trends singer like Dilpreet Dhillon sings “32 bor da” and “jagah teri time tera daang meri vehem tera” by Mankirat Aulakh have made place in the playlist of every youngster. The youth get impressed with such songs and also find the video so impressive that they sometimes even use weapons in the function and wedding to show off the swag which they perceive from such videos .

3. Many songs are on record which have the tendency glorify guns and violence. Like Mitran Nu shonkgoliyan chalun da by Honey Singh, Loki kehnde tere vich main bolda mere vich bole billo 32 bore da by Dilpreet Dhillon, Main kalla kalla thokda reha by Ninja

Effect of Gun Culture on Society and Youth

- Through various researches available with us it can be stated that the content propagated through media have effect on the audience. Media have a capacity to alter and influence the perception and thinking of the audience either directly or indirectly.

- Magic Bullet theory –

The theory assumes that the message communicated from media hits the viewers head directly as a bullet from a gun. The message gets injected straight into the passive head of the audience and have a direct and immediate effect on them .

- Cultivation theory given by George Gerbner states that the content shown in media repetitively get inculcated in the viewers mind. The Viewers absorbs the content and symbols regularly shown in media and it starts getting cultivated in their lifestyle.

- On the basis of the above theories of mass communication we can say that songs which talk about glorification of violence, use of weapon etc motivate the viewers to adapt such lifestyles .In last few years many incidents have been reported where intentionally or unintentionally while dancing to the tunes of such songs youngster lead to the unpleasant incidents.

- In parties and functions, especially those which are the part of big fat north Indian wedding, Punjabi songs including words like Asla ,Granade ,Guns are on top chart of any DJ music list .Youngsters groove on these songs . The saddest part is that not only the songs including these words are freely played, but on the darker side ammunitions like Guns, Pistol also freely flow in these functions merely to show off, leading to many unfortunate incidents.

Objective

The objective behind this research is to study the portrayal and glorification of violence and gun culture in Punjabi music. The Research also tries to study the psychological effect of such songs on young mind. Through this study, the researcher has tried to present the view point of the youngsters that is of age group between (20-30) and are the target listeners of these kinds of songs.

Research Methodology

The research has been done in the city of ‘Jalandhar’. The survey was conducted and the youth between the age group of 20-30 were chosen as a sample for study. 100 respondents were selected with the help of The Simple random sampling

Data Analysis and Interpretation

1. Punjabi songs are the most liked music among youngster. From just listening to music in their free time to grooving on same music beats in party’s .66 percent of people listen to Punjabi songs regularly while only 4 percent of the people rarely enjoys or listen to the Punjabi music.

2. In Punjabi music world ,words like Guns, Riffle ,Grenade are highly preferred these days.80 percent respondents have agreed to the fact that such kind of words are often used in the new generation Punjabi songs .Moreover the same percentage of people also affirmatively supported the fact that these kinds of song lead to the inculcation of violence in the behavior of youngsters on the other 20 percent of the respondents disagree with it.

3. The exaggerated usage of words guns ,riffle etc in Punjabi songs, that propagate violence to be cool and trending can easily be calculated with the fact that 16 percent of respondents can easily recall 12 to 16 such songs when asked during the survey .Whereas 22 percent of respondents can recall 8-12 such songs with 34 percent and 28 percent can remember 1-4 and 4-8 songs respectively.

4. According to 30 percent of the respondents, the new age Punjabi singer, Mankirat Aulakh have highest number of songs that glorifies violence. On the other hand 20 percent of the respondent thinks that Sidhu Mosewala and Dilpreet Dillon frequently use the words like gun, Pistol, Riffle etc. Other singers like Honey Singh ,Amrit Mann, Ninja and others got 20,10 and 4 percent respectively.

5. Punjabi music has been convicted to portray violence, fights, use of rifles, etc to be cool, easy and glamourizing. It is often portrayed as a style statement for youngsters. 76 percent of the respondents have agreed to the fact that youngster tries imitate the same trend of using violence in their daily life’s

leading to which many unfortunate incidents have occurred. Whereas 24 percent of respondent doesn't coincide with it.

6.Introduction of censorship on Punjabi music industry for the modification of the content projected in the new days Punjabi songs is desired by the maximum percentage of respondents. The censorship will introduce and polish the different genre of Punjabi music by shifting it from vulgarity and violence to love, relationships, values and will also showcase the rich colourful culture of Punjabi heritage. The respondents suggesting no censorship for Punjabi songs are only 6 percent.

From the above collected and analysed data it can be easily interpreted that youngster who are the main listeners of such songs agrees that these songs propagate the negative impact in the society.

Conclusion

In conclusion we can that it is a need of an hour to make the change in the content of Punjabi music . The young generation who are the main audience of such songs also agrees in the same context. Youth respondents also affirmatively supported that there is a negative impact of such songs on the society.

Music is a integral part of the human lifestyle and it should not be a misleading factor for the people of the society .To make sure that the Music contain the meaningful content there should be a check on the lyrics and the video accompanying these songs .

The practice of showcasing violence in Punjabi songs have been criticized by different organization including rural police and media. Many of the current days famous singers have forbidden the content of their songs from such kind of practices.

According to the article published in, The daily Post, Jalandhar police have taken many initiatives resulting to which many famous singer agreed to stop the practice of portraying gun culture and gangster swag in their songs.

All the singers who are responsible for making and promoting such provoking songs, must understand the seriousness of the issue. They should realise that to what extent young adolescence minds can be affected with it .The content perceived by the young minds make an impression of this kind of lifestyle and tries to reflect the same in their actual life ,without understanding the difference between the reel and the real .

According to the article published in The tribune, there should be an authority over these songs to check the content and take actions against inappropriate content. As such content have the strong , harmful psychological impact on the audience leading to many unfortunate incidents .

The need of an hour is that the Punjabi songs should be more meaningful and less harmful . The message given through the songs should depict the culture, heritage , love ,emotion and other meaningful instances .

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