

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In everyday life, social discrimination is a social issue that still occurs in many societies, especially in countries with clear social class divisions. Discrimination often appears when people from lower social backgrounds are treated unfairly or doubted because of their class, status, or social position. This condition shows that social background can influence how people are judged and recognized in society.

In India, social discrimination is closely related to social class and caste. People from lower social classes often face different treatment and limited recognition, even when they show their ability or achievement. Social perception creates expectations about who is considered capable or successful, and those who do not fit these expectations are often questioned or underestimated.

The film *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008), directed by Danny Boyle, received international recognition after winning several major awards, including multiple Academy Awards. The film attracted global attention for its portrayal of social inequality and the lives of marginalized people in Indian society.

The story follows Jamal Malik, a young man who grows up in the slums of Mumbai and participates in a popular quiz show. Jamal's unexpected success becomes a suspicion and doubt. As someone from a poor background with no formal education, he is often accused of doing cheating and treated unfairly. His intelligence is questioned not because of his answers, but because his social background does not match social expectations.

Jamal's experience reflects how social discrimination works in everyday life. He faces doubt not only from authorities such as the police, but also from the quiz show organizers and other characters. These reactions show that success is not always accepted equally, especially when it comes from someone who belongs to a lower social class.

This film has been discussed in several previous studies from different perspective. The film using a sociological approach by focusing on the influence of global popular culture portrayed in the story Nugroho, (2010). Therefore, from my

reading, these studies focus on the forms of social discrimination experienced by Jamal and how society perceives his success based on his social background.

1.2 Statement of the Study

Based on the explanation above, this study formulates the following research question: How are social discrimination and social perceptions of Jamal Malik represented in *Slumdog Millionaire*?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the research question above, this study aims to analyze how *Slumdog Millionaire* represents social discrimination and social perceptions of Jamal Malik based on his social background.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study may help readers, especially students and researchers who are interested in social issues in films. By reading this study, readers can gain a better understanding of social discrimination and social perception, especially in the context of Indian society. This study also helps readers understand how social backgrounds, such as class and status, can influence how success is perceived. In addition, this study can be used as a reference for future research discussing social discrimination and inequality in literary or film studies.

1.5 Methodology of the Study

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method with a sociological approach. The research focuses on analyzing social discrimination and social perception as experienced by the main character, Jamal Malik.

The main data source of this study is the film *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008). The data are collected from selected scenes and dialogues that show how Jamal is treated and how other characters people react to his success. Supporting data are taken from books, journals, and previous studies related to discrimination and social perception.

The analysis is conducted by interpreting the scenes and dialogues to understand how Jamal's social background influences the way he is treated and how his success is perceived by others in the film.

1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study

This study focuses only on the main character, Jamal Malik, in the film *Slumdog Millionaire*. The analysis is limited to the forms of social discrimination he experiences and how social perception influences his success.

This study does not discuss technical aspects of the film such as cinematography or other film making techniques. Instead, it focuses on social issues related to class, status, power, and caste as shown through Jamal's character.

1.7 Status of the Study

Several previous studies have discussed the film *Slumdog Millionaire* in relation to social issues such as poverty, marginalization, and social discrimination. Most of these studies focus on the general social themes presented in the film.

However, fewer studies specifically examine how social perception influences the perception of Jamal Malik's success. Therefore, this study focuses on analyzing the forms of social discrimination experienced by Jamal Malik and how social perception shapes the way his success is perceived in the film.

1.8 Organization of the Study

Chapter I: Introduction: Contains the background of the study, research problems, purpose of the study, significance of the study, methodology of the study, scope and limitations of the study, and status of the study.

Chapter II: Theoretical Framework: This chapter presents the theories and concepts used in the study. It discusses India's social context, social discrimination, and social perception. These theories provide the foundation for analyzing the forms of social discrimination Jamal Malik experiences and society's perception of his success in the film.

Chapter III: Findings and Discussion: This chapter presents the analysis of the research findings. It discusses the forms of social discrimination experienced by

Jamal Malik and examines how society perceives his success based on his social background. The analysis is conducted using the theories presented in Chapter II.

Chapter IV: Conclusion & Suggestions: This chapter presents the conclusions drawn from the findings and discussion. It summarizes the study's main results and offers suggestions for future researchers and readers interested in similar topics.

