

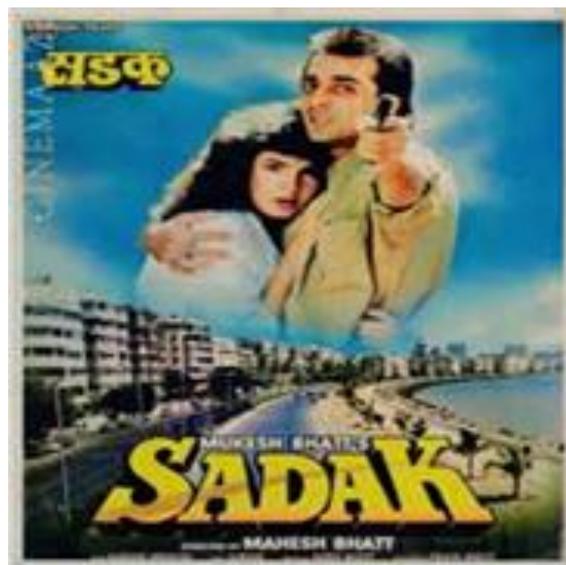
## **Sadak, Bollywood Movie, Directed by Mahesh Bhatt, Vishesh Films, Language- Hindi, Running Time-134 minutes.**

Vijay Songire ✉

Assistant Professor, St. John College of Humanities and Sciences (Autonomous), Palghar, Maharashtra, India.

Sadak is a romantic as well as a crime thriller Bollywood movie directed by Mahesh Bhatt which was released in the year 1991. The movie throws light upon the different issues in the society like unemployment, poverty, prostitution and injustice etc.

The protagonist Ravi (Sanjay Datt) is a taxi driver who is suffering on account of a traumatic past about her sister. Once he meets Pooja (Pooja Bhatt) who is a prostitute by profession. She is forced into that profession. Ravi falls in love with her and wants to rescue her from the evil clutches of the brothel owner, Maharani (Sadashiv Amarapurkar). Ravi is helped by her close friend, Gotya (Dipak Tijori). The movie moves around with all the struggle of Ravi and his friend to save Pooja from the inhumanities of the brothel master. The movie reflects upon the silent sufferings of a woman trapped by the brothel master and how she is forced to work as a prostitute against her will. Even if any other man is ready to accept any prostitute as a life partner the people like Maharano do not accept it. They look at the people like Ravi as an obstacle who can destroy their illegal business of prostitution. The movie questions the existence of law where people like Ravi and her friend Gotya suffer a lot who want to fight against injustice. It shows the helplessness of common masses and how they are exploited because they lack money and power. It also



tries to expose evil practices such as prostitution, bribery etc.

The movie also opens a strong discussion on the issues of unemployment and poverty. The people who help Maharani are uneducated and unemployed and therefore easily remain available for crimes. They are indulged in crimes due to their poverty and unemployment. So, the movie successfully mocks the issues on poverty and unemployment that later give birth to the demons like Maharani.

The character of Ravi, portrayed brilliantly by Sanjay Dutt, stands out as one of the most iconic performances of his career. He leaves no stone unturned in depicting the pain, anger, and compassion of a common man fighting against the harsh realities of society.

Gotya, Ravi's friend, shows friendship as a vital force amidst all despair. Maharani represents the dark and exploitative face of society — a symbol of those who prey on helpless women, forcing them into prostitution to satisfy material greed. Ruthless and manipulative, he goes to any extent to dominate and control others, reflecting the moral corruption hidden beneath urban glamour. Pooja, a helpless young woman forced into prostitution, initially appears bewildered when someone like Ravi offers her genuine love and respect. Gradually, as she recognizes the purity of his feelings, she opens her heart to him. Pooja beautifully portrays the emotional turmoil of fear, hope, and rediscovered self-worth, making her character both vulnerable and powerful.

Set against the backdrop of Mumbai, the film unveils the dark underside of the city's glittering façade. It exposes the harsh realities of urban life, where crime and exploitation thrive beneath the surface of progress, practiced in increasingly manipulative and organized ways. Thus, Sadak is a must-watch for viewers who appreciate a blend of romance and crime thriller. Its gripping narrative keeps the audience hooked till the very end, as unexpected twists and emotional depth make it impossible to predict what comes next.