



Examining the Impact of Cinema on the Normalization of Queer and Sexual Minorities Through Kundalkar's *Cobalt Blue*

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Abstract

This article examines the impact of cinema in recalibrating public perception of gender non-conforming individuals. It argues that the act of 'coming out' can be facilitated through cinema as it can normalize queer identities through its visual narratives. *Cobalt Blue* (2022), an adaptation of the eponymous novel, originally written in Marathi in 2006 and translated by Jerry Pinto into English in 2016, problematizes the traditional notions about sexuality and gender. This article foregrounds *Cobalt Blue* to explicate the psychological turmoil experienced by those who embody non-binary gender identities. It explores the impact of cinema in triggering broader discussions about sexual identity across a wide range of gender spectrums. The conceptual framework of queer theory has been used to elucidate how the protagonists in *Cobalt Blue* acquire agency by embracing their sexuality. This research postulates that 'queer cinema' can bring about gender equality, neutralize homophobia, and facilitate the normalization of the LGBTQ+ community.

Keywords: Gender Fluidity, Identity, Queer, Performativity, Cinema.