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Theatre, a platform to express talent and show performance is a very effective medium of mass communication. At the departure of 19th century, cinema was introduced which diminished the graph of popularity of theatre. That was the most active and immediate source of recreation all over the world. But films are rapidly and strangely affected the value and strength of theatre and hurled it away. Again after the 2nd world war both film and theatre were flung away by the more developed and novel invention of TV.

To survive in the midst of other mediums, theatre adopted new styles and strategies to keep itself in vogue and demand. It is the ritual of every society that to cope with new trends, every invention loses its basic purpose somehow or other. In the very outset, theatre in entire world have provided the tools of soothing hearts and brightening the minds of an intellectual class and men of letters. It gave birth to the eminent drama writers. Shakespear's plays are still proving the flesh and blood of theatre. In Pakistan, theatre was founded for the purpose of enjoyment and creation of fun. Lahore has passed 26 years to be involved in the world of popular theatre. There was a time when viewers in number of thousands visited eight theatres daily after sharing a treasure of smiles and relaxation of mind.

At that desirous time, theatre on the whole was catering the people entertainment with the few exceptions of artists ac-

loop hole in dramas in comparison with films. To make it more attractive the film actress who are striving for success but not yet popular and in demand, those are invited to act in stage. In the beginning sole dance used to be the part of drama but now more or less 12, 13 dances are considered to be the part and parcel of drama.

As the government has banned the cable channels, the cable operators found themselves at large to put the CDs of vulgar dramas round the clock to mar the minds of viewers including children. This is true that when any activity goes beyond the limits, its decline starts from the climax.

Same thing happened when police at 12'o clock on Saturday night raided the theatres of Lahore and arrested almost 34 actors and actresses though the main culprits, Nargis, and Deedar were fled. This could be the most appreciated event and action of government. Such dramas have damaged the ethical values along with spoiling our young generation. In the name of culture, these dramas are the black spot on the respectable and beautiful traditions of Pakistan. Before intruding vulgarity, the real entertainment was provided to viewers which forced them to laugh and people including their families visited theatres to avoid care and worries for some period of time. But now it has become unimaginable to be accompanied by families if you plan to enjoy theatre. Now it seems that ages have passed to enjoy the cut and dried comedy like "Bakra Kiston Pe" etc.

Have you ever read any law which implies the presence of women on stage wearing cheap and tight

ure was declared in last year when such dancing shows had made a century, and this figure was progressed from off and on one day shows. But viewers' interest gave the opportunity to extend and polish this trend of having dance shows in dramas. Actresses were given the titles of "Dancing Girls, Dancing Queens and Dancing Dolls" when they performed in front of all and sundry and even drunken people, who were allowed to jump into the drama to start dancing with girls. The prominent ones like Nargis and Deedar complained that other actresses like Nadia Ali, Sidra, Noor and other more were neither arrested nor any case against them was filed. But Secretary of Culture responded in another warning that this action was a message but again action will be more systematic and no one will be able to escape.

There is another group which crews for dancing theatres but their wish can never be fulfilled. Because this desire demands the removal of "Islam" from the name of this country. Dancing theatres are against the norms, traditions and religion and majority always win games. The major part of our population wants the ethical and moral environment to bring up. Their children rather the vulgar atmosphere to create opportunity to the young generation to visit such dancing places. This modernism phobia is really disgusting, the people who long for liberal attitude in country are ignorant about the basic sense of modernism. It is a revolution which brings change in thought, it directs the bend of mind rather to expose yourself in front of a mob.

This is a dilemma of stage that being an effective medium of mass communication now it is being misused. There is a visible difference between entertaining people through comedy and through vulgarity which satiates the emotions of mentally sick people. The strange thing is the non-availability of dances in the script, it is the rough and ready style to start dancing. Dance is the part of our culture but the difference between dance and cabaret needs to be understood. The fast dance to expose depicts the ugly side of art but the dance which is slow and steady draws the artistry of an artist. But this above and board difference has been bridged.

The reality tells that Pakistan is teem with talent and art, the best comedian we have as compared to India. But the question is why the bend of mind of people is directed to enjoy substandard dialogues and postures. At one hand, it is believed that theatre should be used to give messages through acting because people do not bother to listen any message in a rough and dry manner, so any message in the welfare of masses based on social issues can be penetrated into the minds of people who are crazy about theatre. Even government and other institutions can utilize it for educating and guiding the masses on the right path.

Recently, Traffic Week was celebrated but what role theatre played in it, nothing, though words with actions leave deep and everlasting impact. In Pakistan as a developing nation, a lot more problems emerge with every passing day, novel and incurable diseases

are breaking out more rapidly so through stage, awareness can be provided to the illiterate folk of society in an interesting way. Stage has such a potential to depict the bitter realities of life in sugar coated way. Government has banned the vulgarity and arrested the participants but the real culprits are behind the screen. The producers directors and organisers of these dramas should be punished.

Artists are the puppets in the hands of management but government arrested those people who were on the screen but the seeds of vice and cheapness remained at random. But this journey of eradication of vice started by the government should be moved ahead towards the organiser, responsible for increasing the level of immorality. But something is better than nothing, it is a slow process but a positive charge. On the other hand, artists are already the victims of prejudices created by TV film and stage too at the same time. Their reputa was damaged, now society takes them as puppets with no respect and honour. It seems though shamefully that now these actresses appear like free of cost and acting upon the law "Demand and Supply" so this attitude should be changed. Nobody lacks in value and respect, it is their deeds and acts which invite others to degrade them while hurling money on them on stage as they are without any soul.

So first the status of artists need to be highlighted. Secondly, every person, including artists should understand their responsibilities towards society. As Suhail Ahmad is being considered to be responsible for this government act taken on his

demonstration against such dance shows named stage drama. But unfortunately, the groups of society get ready to go on strike against any move of government but this vulgarity never hurt these people, what a contradiction?

This cheap satisfaction in the guise of vulgar comedy dances on Punjabi songs spoiled the aesthetic sense of viewers. The first step was jeering at others, introduced in dramas called "Jugal" but the awful thing was the focus on female, the lion's share of damage had to face by females, her scantity was dragged by the vagabonds on theatre. Topics to facilitate and cheer up the mob were very disgusting that nobody along with his daughter or sister can tolerate them.

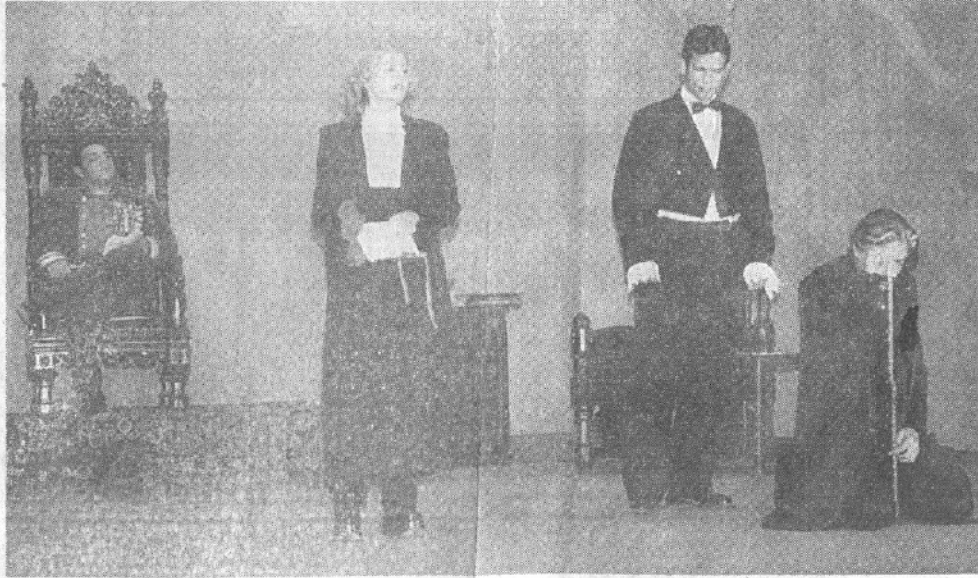
Further the "Mujra" type dances facilitated those people who used to spend 7, 8 thousands for enjoyment at some particular places but now the same entertainment can be enjoyed and celebrated at the cost of one thousand to arrange a dance party needs a large amount but these dramas have released the burden of those who are fond of such parties now with the minimum amount maximum enjoyment can be achieved.

Theatre can be called responsible for the damage of Punjabi language. It is naturally very sweet language, a messenger of affection and intimate relations but unluckily, it has been misused by the so-called promoters of art. Cracking jokes about females and to make them exposed to the viewers divulges the taste and trend of the society. But its another form is untouched when these dances are arranged at homes, this is the root cause of evil. Because stage dramas are open so can

the people entertainment with the few exceptions of artists accused of vulgarity. But few years back the purpose of providing entertainment ended in smoke and another world of theatre was emerged named cheapness, vulgarity, cheap and immoral performance sub-standard dialogues and obnoxious dances. The reasons of this camouflage of theatre was the competition though self assumed, with Indian movies.

The illusion about the popularity of stage dramas in abroad has touched the peak, any Indian film cannot be appeared on the screen till the release of Pakistan stage drama. So to maintain the standard of drama as compared to Indian film, element of vulgarity got high and dances on cheap lyrics were included, so that viewers find no

women on stage wearing cheap and tight dresses, which are not in accordance with our culture. The government took action against these theatres after the monitoring of a long period. Daily, viewers and fans of theatre arrived at Lahore from Gujranwala, Sialkot, Gujrat, Hafizabad, and other cities for such substandard entertainment. The most astonishing fig-



responsible for this government act, taken on his complaint against the vulgar dances and dialogue. He is the first drop of rain, basically, the feeling of being caught in the web of evil encourages a person to throw the shackles of slavery of vice. But it takes two to make quarrel" all the blame cannot be put on theatre, society has its own share. The role of society was to stage

are arranged at homes, this is the root cause of evil. Because stage dramas are open so can be deteriorated but the hidden aspects can be more dangerous. Government should keep an eye on those feudal lords high officers and influential people who with the power of money can buy the artists. This journey of reformation should be carried on and now there is a need of revolution that why people seek this cheap enjoyment for the time being. So now government should think about creating healthy recreation with the petty amount. The recreating to which common people have an access. This action of government is really commendable and now strengthens our belief for more positive actions. But now it is proved that "it is never too late to mend".