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Lessons in *the Pursuit of Happyness*

*The Pursuit of Happyness* is an American movie, based on the life of American entrepreneur Chris Gardner, which specifically sheds light on the period of his life when he was homeless. The movie was released in the year 2006 and was directed by Gabriele Muccino. Highlighting the struggle period of Gardner's life, while being homeless and father of an almost five-year-old son, the movie has provided some life lessons for all the viewers. The main character was facing economic issues due to the loss of his job and had to face the relationship issues, which resulted in divorce and left him with the responsibility of his son. The movie *the Pursuit of Happyness* may have been the source of acknowledging the struggle of the American entrepreneur, however, it also provides some life lessons of enduring the difficult times of life, while constantly putting effort to make the things work, instead of backing out and losing hope.

*The Pursuit of Happyness* depicts that Gardner invested all his savings in scanner devices and had to face economic issues, as he could not meet the required number of sales. He could not get a proper job but got an unpaid internship. The relationship difficulties ended in divorce and the financial difficulties made him homeless, as his house was garnished. He worked hard to achieve the sales target while caring for his five years old son and spending nights in shelter homes. He finally succeeded in achieving the sales target and got a permanent position, which was a great achievement in his life, at that time. Later, he became one of the most famous entrepreneurs in the United States of America (Muccino).

The story of the film is autobiographical and has used cinematic opportunities to shed light on the struggles of the main character. The characters are believable, as the autobiographical account is evident from the plot of the movie. The actors are also appropriately cast, and perfectly shed light on the real-life characters. The theme of the film is the financial and relationship struggle of Gardner, which is explored through the plot of the film. The plot, acting, and other cinematic elements contribute to the directors' presentation of the real-life story. Moreover, the setting and locale of the film are appropriately selected, which contribute to the realistic presentation. The camera angles are also used quite effectively to enhance the ideology, the director wants to communicate to the viewers (Depedri, 23).

The film has also utilized the symbols to efficiently shed light on the condition, as well as the attitude of Gardner towards the difficulties of his life. The symbols are also used to shed light on his capabilities and the lack of the availability of opportunities or resources on making progress, which he finally gets. The film also contains the *mise-en-scene*, which provides the commentary on the thematic approach and perspective of the director. One such scene is the encounter of Gardner and Mr. Twsitle on the crowded road, which critically highlights the busy life and schedules of the public and the efforts of Gardner to get a permanent job (Kurniawan, 15).

One of the most important life lesson promoted by the film is that the children have to face the circumstances of the relationship issues of their parents. They have to face the dilemma of being with their mother or father. On the other hand, being a single parent is an equally tough and demanding job, which aches the hearts of the parents as well, as they have to depend on others for the wellbeing of their child, in order to earn a living for them. Another important life lesson shared by the film to all the viewers is that they should never give up on their dreams. Being poor is not a crime and it should not take away the chance of dreaming from a person. However, dreaming can provide the courage of making the effort and turning the dreams into reality (Depedri, 30).

One of the most important aspects of the movie, which is also a life lesson, is that a person should always be ready for the tough times, as the conditions can become hard at any time. Moreover, there is no need to panic during the dark times of life, but the person should take the opportunity to relax and reflect back on life. This is also an opportunity to explore the hidden talents and make use of them. However, all the struggles and efforts should be directed towards the goal and should not be just a waste of time. The movie has highlighted that the struggle and efforts of any person do not go in vain, likewise, a person cannot make progress until he puts all his efforts to achieve his target (Kurniawan, 18).

*The Pursuit of Happyness* sheds light on the struggle of Chris Gardner to get a permanent job and provide better opportunities for life to his five-year-old, who is his responsibility after his divorce. The movie has been presented in a quite realistic and convincing manner, as it is an autobiographical account of the struggling period of the American entrepreneur. The movie has provided the life lessons of not losing heart in the difficult times of life. It also highlights that a person should be well prepared for the tough times of life and even if he is not, he should not panic in such situation but relax and think of the ways to get out of the situation. Constant struggle and effort is the key to progress and one should never forget that.

Works Cited

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