

**TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE EXTRAORDINARY GAZETTE OF PAKISTAN**

**PART-II**

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM**

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Islamabad the 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1980

**NOTIFICATION**

No. 13-28/78-Film: The Federal Government, under power conferred by Section 6(2) of the Motion Pictures Ordinance, 1979 (XLIII) of 1979 has prescribed the following Code of Censorship for films:-

- (a) The provision of the Code, while spelling out in detail certain curbs which have to be imposed on the exercise of the freedom of expression in the interest of the majority of cinema audience, shall, nevertheless, leave room for encouragement of artistic expression by expanding creative freedom and at the same time ensuring that the freedom which encourages the artiste remains responsible and sensitive to the society at large.
- (b) The filmmaker has the right to contribute towards broadening the viewer's vision of life, by giving him an insight into human impulses and an awareness of the social factors at work, and by identifying the realities that impinge on contemporary existence such as intolerance, graft, dishonesty, inequality or exploration in their daily manifestations. He should have the right not only to restate truth, in historical or contemporary context, but also to relate into the life of his audience. Above all, he has the right to pursue to the limit the scope for artistic expression, innovation and experimentation offered by the cinema and to provide for the viewer's aesthetic satisfaction on a rising scale.
- (c) While judging each film, the authority should keep in view each film piece, scene, song, incident, dialogue has to be examined in the context of the film as a whole its relevance and appropriateness to the plot or its thematic and artistic justification. Because no two films are alike it is essential to treat each picture, each incident, each line of dialogue on its own merits. In judging a line the main consideration should be the impression it is likely to create on an average audience, which includes a considerable portion of children, teen-agers, adolescents and young persons of immature judgment and of impressionable age.
- (d) In case of imported films, themes which are purely permissive in character and treatment and which come into direct clash with the accepted standards of morality and social values in Pakistan should be discouraged.
- (e) The aim of the authority should be to eliminate the public exhibition of a film or any part thereof including and incident, dialogue, song or dance which is likely to:

- (i) Impair accepted moral standards and social values by glorification of vice or crime;
- (ii) Give offence to any section of the public or injure the feelings of any class of persons; or
- (iii) Hurt national sentiments.

2. In the light of the foregoing principles, a film shall be regarded as unsuitable for public exhibition if, directly or indirectly, it-

**I. SECURITY, LAW AND ORDER:**

- (a) Brings into contempt Pakistan or its people or tends to undermine its integrity or solidarity as an independent State;
- (b) Violates any provisions of the Constitution or any law for the time being in force;
- (c) Promotes or supports sedition, anarchy or violence in the country;
- (d) Leads to breach of law and order or creates sympathy for violation of laws;
- (e) Brings into contempt the Armed Forces, Police Force or any other Force as an institutions;
- (f) Portrays the Armed Forces or Police force in derogatory uniforms or such uniforms as are not in accordance with the approved pattern'
- (g) Intends to cover up sequences predominantly consisting of violence or crime.

**II. INTERNATIONAL RELATION:**

- (a) Contains propaganda, in favour of a foreign state bearing on any point of dispute between that state and Pakistan or against a friendly foreign state likely to impair good relations between it and Pakistan;
- (b) Portray incident having a tendency to disparage, malign or misrepresent other nations.

**III. RELIGION:**

- (a) Undermines Islam;
- (b) Ridicules, disparages or attacks any religions, sect, caste or creed;
- (c) Causes hatred of strife among religious sects, castes or creeds;
- (d) Shows ceremonies at places of religious significance such as shrines and mosques in such manner as to cause disrespect to religion;
- (e) Personifies the Prophet, Sahaba or Aemma.

**IV. IMMORALITY AND OBSCENITY:**

- (a) Glorifies adultery, promiscuousness, lustful passion, lewdness or excessive drinking;
- (b) Presents scenes of rape, sexual act or perversion, abortion, child=birth and surgical operation beyond the limits of decency and the unavoidable demands of the plot: Provided that this will not apply to technical or scientific documentaries meant for Specialized audiences;
- (c) Contains dialogues, songs speeches, dances, jokes or gestures which are obviously vulgar, obscene or indecent.

**V. NUDITY:**



Displays the living human figure in the nude or in indecorous clothing in and obviously licentious manner with the intent to provoke lustful passion.

**VI. DANCES:**

Displays dances showing indecent or vulgar movements or passions.

**VII. CRIME:**

Glorifies, vice, crime, violence, block-marketing, smuggling, bribery, corruption or any other social evil.

**VIII. NATIONAL SENTIMENTS:**

- (a) Shows disrespect to the National flag;
- (b) Brings into contempt any aspect of national ideology or objective;
- (c) Fans racial, sectarian, parochial. Linguist, regional or class hatred;
- (d) Distorts historical facts, such as maligning of Pakistan, its traditions or heroes.

**IX. TITLES:**

Presents indecent, obscene or profane title or which directly or indirectly seek to focus upon or glorify notorious characters in society amounting to the commission of, or incitement to, an offence or which have the effect of conveying hatred or contempt for a certain section of the people on cultural or ethnic grounds.

**X. BESTIALITY:**

- (e) exhibition wanton cruelty to animals;
- (f) shows exaggerated horror, torture or cruelty;
- (g) portrays excessive bleeding, mutilations, chopping ; or
- (h) portrays brutal fighting and gruesome murders.

**XI. PLAGIARISM:**

Plagiarize version of any other film local or foreign.

**Note:** - *This sub-paragraph shall not, however, be deemed to prohibit exceptions being made in suitable cases in the local production of well known classics or folk tales, or where the Producer of a film in one of the languages of Pakistan himself produces or authorizes another person, in writing, to produce the same film in any other language of Pakistan, or where a Producer of an old film produces a better version of his own film.*