

CHAPTER I INTROCUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The role of women in the world of work and family has been greatly influenced by social changes and societal paradigms. More and more women are becoming the main breadwinners in the family economy, creating a new dynamic in the conventional family structure. Women, as the main breadwinners, have helped them become more financially independent. By having their own source of income, they have more control over financial decisions and can reduce their dependence on others. This phenomenon shows that women have more employment opportunities and that their role is increasingly important in meeting the financial needs of the household.

The phenomenon of women as the main breadwinners is a concern for director Nora Twomey. As the director of the movie *The Breadwinner*, adapted from the novel by Deborah Ellis, she has shown her concern through her film work. In the movie *The Breadwinner*, Nora Twomey not only tells an inspiring story about a young woman who becomes the backbone of her family but also describes the problems and difficulties faced by women who play this role.

Nora Twomey is an Irish director, writer, and animator born in Cork, Ireland, in 1971. Nora Twomey is well-known in the animated film industry for her contributions to several animated films that received international recognition. In her work, such as the movie *The Breadwinner*, Nora Twomey has presented stories that highlight social issues, including gender issues and the role of women in society. Nora's concern for movie topics is because she is dedicated to showing the struggles and resilience of women in society who face hardship and oppression.

The Breadwinner is an animated film produced by Cartoon Saloon and released in 2017. The film was directed by Nora Twomey and adapted from the novel of the same name by Deborah Ellis, which tells the story of Parvana, a girl who disguises herself as a man to provide for her family after her father is arrested by the police. *The Breadwinner* is the emotional story of a young girl trying to find justice and freedom in a society scarred by injustice and conflict. The movie tells a moving story of a woman's role as the main breadwinner in a difficult and challenging society. The movie shows how important it is to overcome gender barriers to provide equality and justice to all people, regardless of gender.

The Breadwinner is an animated film narrates the inspiring tale of Parvana, a young girl living in Kabul, Afghanistan under the Taliban leadership. One day, the Taliban police arbitrarily detain Parvana's father, putting her family in a precarious predicament. Parvana and her family had no way to earn a living and fulfill their needs, as Taliban law prohibited women from working and being outside the home without a man. However, Parvana was a brave and intelligent person. She decided to take a big risk by changing her appearance to that of a man. To hide her identity, she cut her hair and wore men's clothes. Parvana changed her identity by changing her name to Aatish. In a situation full of uncertainty and danger, Parvana felt the need to take on the role of the family's main breadwinner to ensure their survival.

During her journey as Aatish, Parvana learns about the harshness of the outside world, embarking on a journey of foraging for food and trading in the market with her

new friends. She encounters many hardships and risks during her journey. But in the face of harsh realities, she remained steadfast and unyielding. Parvana discovered the power of words and stories in her new role, which helped her overcome challenges and express her own opinions.

Although Parvana struggled to make a living, she also had high hopes of saving her imprisoned father. She believes that the story she writes to her father will give them hope and a miracle. With beautiful animation and a heartfelt story, the movie also conveys a powerful message about the power of words, the role of women in society, and the meaning of freedom.

The movie *The Breadwinner* received positive reviews from audiences, especially those who had seen the movie, stating that they liked the strong storytelling, emotional depth, and beautiful animation. Positive word-of-mouth helped attract audiences to the movie.

The Breadwinner did well at the box office across the globe, the film received positive critical acclaim. *The Breadwinner* had good results in the home entertainment market after the theatrical release, such as on digital streaming platforms and DVD and Blu-ray sales. The movie was able to reach audiences beyond theaters thanks to its availability on these platforms. The positive response to the film prompted the development of merchandise and licensing opportunities for *The Breadwinner*. These include items such as books, posters, and collectibles, further expanding the fan base and increasing knowledge of the movie. Overall, *The Breadwinner* had a positive market response, partly due to the fact that it was an animated movie with a meaningful and relevant message.

The Breadwinner received much praise from film critics and industry professionals for its compelling storytelling, strong themes, and outstanding animation. Many industry experts praised the movie for its evocative emotional effects and evocative narrative. The movie received numerous nominations and awards from prestigious film industry festivals and events. Its reputation as an outstanding animated film was further strengthened by its accolades at important award shows, such as the Academy Awards. *The Breadwinner* earned high praise from the animation community for its creative ability and innovative approach to storytelling. Many animators and industry professionals admired the film's animation style and visual aesthetic. Overall, *The Breadwinner* received strong support and admiration from the film industry for its storytelling, artistry, and significant exploration of a significant social issue. Animation continues to be a powerful medium for storytelling and engaging audiences around the world thanks to its success.

The appeal of this movie can be seen in its narrative elements, such as setting and theme. The film is centered in Kabul, Afghanistan, under Taliban rule. The setting plays an important role in shaping the narrative as it provides a backdrop for the problems and challenges faced by the characters, especially Parvana, the protagonist. Several important themes are addressed in the movie, such as gender equality, family ties, resilience, the power of stories, and the impact of war on innocent people. These themes make the story more complex and intricate, making it more relatable and thought-provoking.

The movie *The Breadwinner* has technical aspects such as cinematography, visual effects, and sound. Although it is an animated film, the cinematography

techniques in the movie add depth and perspective to the scenes. The use of proper animation techniques, composition, colour, and lighting enhance the narrative of the film, leaving a deep impression on the audience and effectively conveying the themes of resilience, empowerment, and hope in the face of challenges. The use of visual effects is sparing but effective to highlight certain points, such as a series of memories or dreams. These effects enhance the visual storytelling and help you understand the characters' emotions better. Sound design plays an important role in creating a realistic and immersive atmosphere. The sound design includes ambient sounds of the bustling streets of Kabul, the sound of the call to prayer, and the chaos of war, which enhance the overall impact of the movie.

In *The Breadwinner*, the casting of the voice actors was crucial to bringing the characters to life and expressing the story's emotional complexity. The casting choices were crucial to ensuring that the characters felt real and relatable, and the voice actors delivered outstanding performances that added to the emotional depth of the animated film.

Although the representation of women in the workforce has been a topic of interest in various academic studies, the portrayal of women as the main breadwinners in film, especially in the context of the film *Breadwinner*, may not have been widely explored. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to contribute to the existing literature.

Based on the above background, researchers are interested in conducting research on the role of women as the main income earners in the movie *The Breadwinner*, directed by Nora Twomey. To discuss these issues, the author conducted research entitled "**Women's as Major Earners in *The Breadwinner* Movie (2017) DIRECTED BY NORA TWOMEY**".

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

This research problem is further elaborated into several research questions, as follows:

1. What are the roles of women as the major earners in *The Breadwinner* Movie (2017)?
2. How is the struggle of the major earner in *The Breadwinner* Movie (2017)?
3. How the issue of gender equality is portrayed in *The Breadwinner* Movie (2017)?

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To identify the roles of women as the major earners in *The Breadwinner* movie (2017).
2. To describe how the struggle as the major earner in *The Breadwinner* movie (2017)
3. To reveal the issue of gender equality in *The Breadwinner* movie (2017)

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The significance of this research can be seen from two sides, namely theoretical and practical.

1. Theoretical Significance

This research contributes to the treasury of knowledge, especially literary studies on gender equality and the role of women as the main earners.

2. Practical Significance

This research enriches the author's understanding of the role and struggle of women as the main earners of gender equality in the movie *The Breadwinner*.

1.5 RESEARCH PAPER ORGANIZATION

In this study, the researcher wrote a research paper consisting of five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction. This chapter contains the background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, significance of the study, and research paper organization. Chapter II is the literature review. This chapter consists of previous study and the underlying theory. Chapter III is the research method. This chapter consists of five sub-chapters in the form of type of study, object of study, types of data and data sources, data collection methods, data analysis techniques, and data validity. Chapter IV contains findings and discussion. In this chapter, the research findings provide details in the form of data descriptions of the data analysis found. Chapter V is the last chapter which contains conclusions, implications, and suggestions.