
Accountability And Good Governance

Abstract

This paper deals with the violations of not presenting the correct facts and figures by local and international dramas. It will look into accountability of the production and the dilemma this paper presents. This paper is a case study on the violation of accountability and good governance by Pakistani dramas in general and one particular international drama known famously as 'House'. In this paper we will explore whether this violation is sound and whether this dilemma is important or not. In this paper I will discuss whether this violation effects us in any way and should it be rectified or in other words taken action on or not. I will also discuss whether this violation should affect not only the Pakistani population and the population worldwide. In this paper although the violation is serious and shouldn't be reenacted in real life. I concluded that it is very much needed aspect in dramas, both local and international.

Violation of Accountability and Good Governance

These dramas have zero accountability and misuse facts which is dangerous as dramas tend to leave quite an impression on its audience. Media and the journalists who work for them shall engage with the audience and shall correct errors of fact and provide remedies and apology where appropriate. They shall be transparent in their work and apply principles of good governance in their activities. However nowadays there are repeated violations of this and it leaves an impression to the public, local and worldwide, that this is how the world works. However this is far from the truth as these dramas are a work of fiction and shouldn't be taken seriously. Despite this many people believe that facts from the dramas should be realistic as it always gives an impression of real life events.

Case 1: House

In this show many of the diagnosis, which are predictions of the diseases the patients are suffering are accurate, including the symptoms the patients are exhibiting. These conditions exist, as you can search for them in many medical books and dictionaries, or study them for your medical career. This show shows a picture perfect example of the diseases and symptoms you will find in your medical research. However this is all the relate ability of this show from real life stops as the medical arguments or discussions in the show are not accurate. In real life, many diseases have a chronic presentation, chronic being a long time or recurring, with patients feeling different symptoms for a period of time or having them multiple times in their life before a doctor or physician makes the final and accurate diagnosis, most of them after conducting many tests. In the show, many patients appear out of the blue with symptoms and diseases that should take time to appear. In other words the patients appear to exhibit a very acute and dramatic presentation. This is equal to felling something and get very sick.

One such example is the fourth episode of the sixth season. This episode's final diagnosis is Primary Antiphospholipid Syndrome (APS) which is a type of thrombophilia, a collection of diseases that induce thrombosis. The most common and recurring symptom of this syndrome is

a thrombosis in the leg, deep vein thrombosis (DVT), which might happen on its own without the need of an event. In many cases, APS patients aren't needed to be admitted hence they are treated as outpatients. This doesn't mean that they can be admitted to the hospital provided the thrombosis occurs in the brain, or if an embolism from the DVT travels to the lung or get stuck in the capillaries surrounding the wall of the heart as these are life-threatening situations. However the usual course of APS is gradual and very distinguishable on the show, where the patient looks terminal since the beginning of the episode, in a dramatic presentation. House even speculates the patient has Degos Disease, which is fatal and terminal according to him, but he didn't confirmed the diagnosis in any way throughout the rest of the episode. After some realization, which was unnecessarily dramatic he deduces that the patient has APS. There is a different manifestation of APS, which is called catastrophic, because it causes multiple thrombosis in many different places separately. This would have been a better diagnosis for this episode as it has a higher mortality rate than that of patient suffering from a primary APS. APS patients are not as dramatic as House's patients were made out to be.

In many of the medical discussion in the show, the characters just exclude or casually throw important diagnosis without much consideration or thought put in any direction. As a recurring 'gag', someone suggested a patient to have Wilson's disease in one episode. But in the very next sentence it was ruled out because the patient didn't had Kayser-fleischer rings which are copper rings in the eye, which is a Wilson's disease symptom. In reality however not all Wilson's disease patients have that manifestation. So, if a doctor is really considering Wilson's, absence of Kayser-fleischer rings shouldn't be a strong motive to exclude this diagnosis.

Another critical aspect in the show is that the doctors usually treat the patients without confirming that there is a disease that needs treatment. In one episode, a patient died as she was treated with chemotherapy when she never had cancer of any kind in the first place, but an infection. In real life, if medicine and diagnosis was done as depicted in House, possibility of patients with complicated conditions being diagnosed faster would be high, but so will the possibility of patients being killed or harmed due to wrong treatment of the condition.

Last but not the least, there is a very common mistake in this show which is that patients who flat-line and then someone grabs the defibrillator and says "paddles", and then "charging" ,and after pausing for charging says "clear!". This action to the is faulty. Defibrillator should be only used when the patient starts fibrillate.

Case 2: Every other Pakistani Drama

Every aspect of the drama is unrealistic to the point that it's ridiculous. From the events that lead the story to its climax to the dialogues used by the characters show just how little the production cares about being relatable to the audience. The stereotypical atmosphere in the show is clearly visible to even the most oblivious people and many things are depicted to be the norm in society.

Such examples are the women to be perfect and whole in almost every aspect of their lives, especially housework. Work and home harassment to women by in laws and peers are on daily basis. Antagonists or evil characters are vile and very manipulative personalities while protagonists are usually oblivious or in most cases merciful. Long and agonizing minutes of women crying in full close up view. Girls growing up just to be married even when she doesn't

want to be. Constant depiction of strong women being weak and men being either too dominant or too stupid. Intense situations, unnecessary plot twists and last but not the least ridiculous flash backs.

Although the analysis is opinionated and there are certain aspects that are praise-worthy, they are undermined by the lack of craft, creativity and realism. Facts depicted by these dramas are mostly false and highly exaggerated.

Dilemma

Should these dramas depict events in such an unrealistic and false light. Should they be held accountable for the wrong portrayal of many serious life events. Should they change their craft and rectify their mistakes.

Conclusion

Although local Pakistani dramas need to get better in creating good stories and perfect their craft, they along with many other international dramas don't need to be held accountable as they are a work of fiction and shouldn't be applied to real life events. Events depicted by dramas are usually extreme and rare even if they are true. Although leave a false impression on life, these false facts were created to move the story forward and to entertain the audience who watch and enjoy the show. Unless the drama is a reenactment to a real story they are a work of fiction, and they should not be taken seriously.