

***Prem Rog* 1982, Directed by Raj Kapoor, Written by Jainendra Jain, R. K. Films, Time 172 Minutes, Language Hindi, India.**

Reviewed by  
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*Prem Rog*, (1982) a movie directed by Raj Kapoor remains a landmark movie in the history of Indian Bollywood that discusses several issues of gender discrimination, struggle between the powerful and the powerless amidst the innocent love relationship between an unmarried protagonist and a widow heroine. The movie is about Manorama, a daughter of a rich orthodox family who suffers a lot after her husband's fatal death.

The story of the movie is about the struggles a female undergoes due to the patriarchal norms. The customs like cutting the hair of a widow after her husband's death completely shows the inferior status of women in the Indian set up.

The protagonist, a central female character Manorama, a heroine of the movie belongs to the Zamindar family and she enjoys the status of zamindar's daughter. Unfortunately, her fiancé dies in one fatal accident and she becomes a widow. The movie reflects on the darker side of a woman's life. A daughter who remains as a centre of attraction at home loses all glory after her husband's death. She is forced to live an ordinary as well as isolated life by not only her in-laws but also by her own family. The male protagonist, who already has genuine feelings towards Manorama, is shocked to know about her sufferings. It so happens that Manorama's brother in law wants to take advantage of her when he finds her alone at night.



She is raped and nobody is there to save her from the evil clutches of the in laws. When her family comes to know that their daughter is molested they become furious and try to take revenge .

The story moves around the theme that is gender discrimination and women's inferior status due to patriarchy in society. In the midst of this the audience witnesses the one sided relationship of the protagonist, Deodhar with the heroine. When he proposes to Manorama at a temple seeing her sufferings she instead of her consent denies the offer. It shows the helplessness of a female under the heavy burden of patriarchy where a woman can't even think about marriage after her husband's death. The movie showcases the stunning reality of Indian society where man woman relationships become meaningless in front of rigid traditions. They are not allowed to enjoy each other's company when it goes against the set norms. However, at the end the movie sets an iconic example of raising a strong voice against gender discrimination. It is a kind of revolt against the set norms, traditions in the society which ruin women's lives.

The movie has melodious songs that includes Bhaware ne Khilaya Phool, Ye Galiya Ye Chobara etc The setting where the story takes place is Zamindar' Haweli, village, surrounding remains unforgettable. Padmini Kolhapure (Manorama), Rishi Kapur (Deodhar) are outstanding in their performances. The other characters too have acted well giving justice to their roles.