

**Critical Literacy: Osama Movie**

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I chose to review a long movie named “Osama” which is a heart-touching Afghan movie directed by Siddiq Barmak (a well-known Afghan filmmaker) in which the scenario of living in Kabul under the rule of the Taliban can be realized very seriously. The movie tells the story of a young girl named Osama who after the loss of her father and brother, disguises herself as a boy “Osman” aiming to become the breadwinner of her family to support them. She goes to a school run by the Taliban, where if her true identity is revealed, she is in danger of being exposed and killed at any moment (Barmak, 2003).

Siddiq Barmak's perspective in “Osama” offers a powerful critique of the oppressive Taliban regime and its impact on women and girls in Afghanistan. The movie reveals the worst sort of gender inequality because the Taliban implemented strict codes of conduct for women and limited their freedoms. For example, we see how Osama's freedom is greatly restricted as she has to move within the dangers of being discovered even as she is only trying to meet her basic needs. This is also where Barmak reveals his partiality to the courage and resiliency of women in Afghanistan as he condemns the harsh consequences of women under the rule of the Taliban for going against societal norms. For example, we witness the courage of characters like Osama's mother, who quietly rebels against the Taliban's restrictions in small but meaningful ways, such as teaching her daughter to read secretly. These acts of resistance demonstrate the strength and determination of Afghan women in the face of adversity.

I think this is great that “Osama” shows how tough life was for Afghan women under the Taliban regime but it makes things too simple. For example, it does not fully explain the reasons behind what the Taliban did. People will watch the movie in different ways when it comes to

how it shows Afghan culture and if it tells the real story of what Afghan women went through. Also, I wonder if the movie shows how Afghan women fought back against the Taliban's oppressions. I think some audiences might say that the movie "Osama" only shows one side of Afghan life. For example, it mainly talks about how bad things were under the Taliban without looking at the bigger picture of Afghan culture and history. They might say that by only focusing on women's suffering and not showing the complexities of Afghan life, the movie could make people think of stereotypes and oversimplify things.

Helping Afghan women and girls, like those shown in "Osama," needs different ways to tackle the problems they face and give them a voice. One way is to push for laws and policies that protect women's rights and treat them equally. This means getting governments and groups worldwide to make women's issues a priority. It is also important to give women a good education and job training. It not only helps them be independent but also changes old ideas about what women can do. Training programs can give women skills and chances to earn money, which helps their communities grow.

Making sure Afghan women have a say in decisions that affect them is key too. This means supporting women leaders, giving them chances to speak out, and teaming up with groups that help Afghan women. Understanding Afghan culture and standing with Afghan women are also big parts of helping them. By listening to their stories and learning about their struggles, we can better help them fight for fairness and respect. Working together across borders and cultures shows we're serious about treating everyone equally, no matter who they are.

In conclusion, standing up for the people shown in "Osama" means taking on big challenges, giving them power and education, making sure they're heard, and showing support

and understanding. By backing efforts for equality and women's rights, we can make life better for Afghan women and girls.

### **References**

Barmak, S. (Director). (2003). Osama [Film]. Afghan Film Organization.