REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IMAGES IN FILMS AND
LITERATURE IN POST 9/11 ERA AND ITS EFFECT ON MUSLIMS

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ABSTRACT

"In different countries of the world there are different terrorist organizations, like IRA, LTTE, PWG, Red Army, PLO, and so on. Majority of the members of the IRA are Christians. They are not referred to as Christian terrorists. The majority of members of the LTTE are Hindus. They are not called Hindu terrorists. The members of PLO are Muslims. And they are invariably referred to as Muslim terrorists or Arab guerrillas."

Media is a very important social role in creating and changing the people's perceptions and views about anything as it is the main social agent. Even media can influence and affect a minority community badly by depicting them with negative stereotyped signs and symbols. After 9/11 Americans continued their harsh views and opinions about any person who resembled the images that they media portrayed as the enemy. Within days of the attacks every news channel was flashing up images of what the hijackers looked like. From these images Americans turned their fear and hatred on to anyone who closely resembled these faces. Can the values of Islam ever be brought into accord with the individual freedoms central to the civic identity? Not if you believe what you see on TV. Whether the bearded fanatic, the veiled, oppressed female, or the shadowy terrorist plotting our destruction, crude stereotypes permeate public representations of Muslims globally.

This paper is critical analyses of the films *Babel* and *Vishwaroopam* along with the novels *Vanity Bagh* and *Tales from a Vending Machine* written by Anees Salim. The novels highlight the biased role of media in society. It shows how newspapers build news on Muslim community and how news is being written on Muslim related issues while the films Babel and Vishwaroopam distort the Muslim images.

Through this paper I focus on how Muslims are portrayed through the films and literature in post 9/11 era and its effects on Muslim community globally, especially on Indian Muslims. My objective is to find out the outcome of the negative stereotyped representation of one particular community.

KEYWORDS: Films, Literature, Post 9/11, Stereotypes, Terrorism, Indian Muslims, Media