

## Action Guide



*Inequality in India*

*Housing for the wealthy upper middle class rises above slum shacks in Shanti Busti, Lucknow.*

*Photo: Tom Pietrasik /Oxfam*

### INTRODUCTION

This action guide supports young people to organise a screening and discussion of the film *Kaakka Muttai* (*The Crow's Egg*) in their schools.

*Kaakka Muttai* is a Tamil language feature film with English subtitles. It was directed by M Manikandan and was released in 2015.

The story is set in the Indian city of Chennai, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. It follows two young brothers whose dream is to taste a delicious pizza from Pizza Spot, a fancy new restaurant that has opened next to the slum where they live.

Although Chennai is leading India's rapid economic growth and has among the highest literacy rates in the country, *Kaakka Muttai* illustrates many of the inequalities that continue to divide modern India. Neither boy goes to school, they live in a slum and their father is in jail.

### INEQUALITY IN INDIA

India is a highly unequal country. In 2013 Oxfam India reported that between 1981 and 2000, the incomes of India's richest people increased annually by almost 12%. During the same time, the overall household expenditures of the entire population rose by only 1.5%. In 2012 just under 70% of urban inhabitants lived below the poverty rate of US\$ 2 per day, while the number of billionaires increased from two to 46 between the 1990s and 2012.

*Kaakka Muttai* explores what happens when two boys from a slum come face to face with India's growing inequality. It is a film about pizza, but it is also about much more.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- 1. Organise a screening of *Kaakka Muttai* in your school.** Go to page 2.
- 2. Hold a discussion about *Kaakka Muttai*. Are there similar changes in your own community?** Go to page 3.
- 3. Make your own film about the changes in your community.** Go to page 4.

### Borrowing a copy of *Kaakka Muttai*

*Kaakka Muttai* (*The Crow's Egg*) is free for Film Clubs to borrow.

Find out if your school already has a Film Club or register a new Film Club in your school. Then organise a screening.

Visit [www.filmclub.org](http://www.filmclub.org)



# Get into film with KAAKKA MUTTAI

## Action guide



*Big Crows Egg and Little Crows Egg—the leading characters of Kaakka Muttai*

20th Century Fox. All rights reserved.

### 1. Organise a screening of *Kaakka Muttai* in your school

Begin by finding out if there is already a Film Club in your school. If there is, great! If not, then you can easily set one up.

Visit [www.filmclub.org](http://www.filmclub.org) to find out more about Film Clubs. State schools may borrow films for free.

Next you should think about where and when to organise your screening and how to publicise it so that you attract the biggest possible audience.

Before the screening, make sure that you have watched and discussed the film within your group, so that you can plan how to lead the discussion once the film ends.

Once everyone is sitting comfortably, you are ready to begin!

### Why should you watch the film first?

*Kaakka Muttai* is great fun to watch but it also makes serious points about India's unequal society. By watching and discussing the film first you will have a better understanding of its message.

### What to do

#### STEP ONE

Arrange to borrow *Kaakka Muttai* from Film Club and set a date and time for your screening. The film lasts almost 1 hour and 50 minutes so you will need a little longer than this to introduce the film and then discuss it afterwards.

Visit [www.filmclub.org](http://www.filmclub.org)

#### STEP THREE

Consider how to get as big an audience as possible for your screening of *Kaakka Muttai*. How will you promote your screening? What is the best date and time for your screening?

#### STEP TWO

Before your screening watch *Kaakka Muttai* as a group.

Discuss the issues raised in the *Discussion Guide* and reflect on what you have learned from the film about globalisation and inequality in India.

Plan how you will introduce and present *Kaakka Muttai* to your audience.

#### STEP FOUR

Finally make sure that you have thought about technical details such as a DVD player, projector, screen and the sound.

Now you are ready to show the film. Good luck!

## Action guide



Young people in Delhi

Photo: David Levene/GCE UK

### 2. Hold a discussion about *Kaakka Muttai*. What are the changes affecting your community?

*Kaakka Muttai* has been described as a 'children's film', suggesting it is simply a story for children. Other people say that, although the two lead actors are children, the film makes serious points about globalisation and inequality.

**Globalisation** is a process which is bringing different parts of the world closer together through rapidly increasing international trade and cultural exchange.

**Inequality** is when some people unfairly have more opportunities, money, possessions and better life chances than other people.

Now lead a discussion with your audience about *Kaakka Muttai's* message and the impact of change on your own community.

### What to do

#### STEP ONE

You should have already watched *Kaakka Muttai* and thought about the issues in the *Discussion Guide*. Remember that there are no right or wrong answers to these questions as people will have different opinions. Before your screening, make a short presentation (maximum of five minutes) to say where and when the film was produced.

Begin by introducing the film to your audience. Ask them to think about what the main message of the film might be (if any) as they watch it. Explain that you will be discussing this afterwards.

Quickly show the audience the study guide but don't spend too much time reading it now.

#### STEP TWO

Watch *Kaakka Muttai* together. Try not to pause or interrupt it and make sure that everyone can read the subtitles.

Sit back and enjoy the film!

#### STEP THREE

Your discussion afterwards should take around 15 to 20 minutes. Begin by discussing whether people liked the film and why.

Take a large sheet of paper and summarise your audience's ideas under two headings.

1. ***Kaakka Muttai* is a simple children's story**
2. ***Kaakka Muttai* makes serious points about globalisation and inequality**

What are your group's conclusions?

#### STEP FOUR

Finally, think about your own community and where you live. *Kaakka Muttai* is about the impact of change on the children's lives. Has anything changed recently in your community and has it had an impact on the quality of your lives?

Write down everyone's ideas.

## Action guide



Photo credit: Into Film

### Having your say

A film is a great way to make your voices heard. Into Film have great filming how-to guides to help you:

[www.intofilm.org/films/filmmaking](http://www.intofilm.org/films/filmmaking)

If you don't want to make a film, then you could get your message across in other ways such as by making a display, designing a poster, writing a play or composing a song.

### WHAT TO DO

#### STEP ONE

It is best to have a clear plan before you begin. Ask yourself the question: *What and who am I making this film for?* This will influence the kind of film that you create. For example you might be making your film to:

- Send to your MP
- Show to the whole school in an assembly
- Show to parents, students, teachers and governors on your school's website or social media
- Enter into a competition such as Into Film's [Film of the Month](#)
- A combination of the above

When you plan, remember that film editing usually takes longer than you think.

### 3. Make a short film about the changes affecting your community

One of the themes of *Kaakka Muttai* is change; how it affects people and how people respond to it.

At the start of the film, the tree that is home to the crows' nests is cut down, the children lose their playground and the Pizza Spot restaurant is built there instead. Change has winners and losers.

Are there similar changes happening in your own community? For example, have young people lost a local facility or a place to play? Or has something got better?

Could you make a short film about how change is affecting your community? Make sure you include the opinions of local people.

#### STEP TWO

Decide what you would like the message of your film to be. A campaigning video should be a maximum of three minutes long. A good starting point is to [story board your film](#). Before you start filming, ask your teacher whether your plan is in line with your school's safeguarding rules.

#### STEP THREE

Make your film. There are a lot of [tips from Into Film about all aspects of film making](#), from pre-production, lighting and sound, to editing. Remember you should only use copyright free music from sources [such as this](#).

#### STEP FOUR

Show off your finished film. Go back to step one. *Why did you make your film?* Make sure that your film is seen by its intended audience. If it is online have it tweeted @OxfamEducation and we will try to share it.