

GET INTO FILM WITH KAAKKA MUTTAI (THE CROW'S EGG) INTRODUCTION

Summary

Film doesn't just entertain. It is also a powerful way of drawing attention to important issues and asking tough questions about the society we live in.

In this resource young people are encouraged to organise a screening of the feature film *Kaakka Muttai (The Crow's Egg)* in school and then lead a discussion with the audience. Young people are supported to make their own short film inspired by *Kaakka Muttai* to highlight changes in their own community. They can then show their film in school or share it with other audiences to raise awareness.



Kaakka Muttai (The Crow's Egg)
Photo credit: 20th Century Fox

Skills developed by this resource

- Organisation and planning
- Project management
- Team work
- Leadership
- Confidence
- Public speaking
- Oral communication
- Research
- Film making

The resources in this pack

1. Introduction

This document introduces the project and the main ideas. Please read it first.

2. Action Guide

The Action Guide provides practical guidelines to help young people run their own *Kaakka Muttai* project. It contains three progressively more challenging activities:

- Organise a screening of *Kaakka Muttai* in your school.
- Hold a discussion about *Kaakka Muttai* and think about how change is affecting your own community.
- Make a short film about the changes affecting your community. *Are they for better or worse?* We have lots of great tips from Into Film on making a successful film.

3. Discussion Guide

This document introduces some themes to discuss with the audience following the screening of *Kaakka Muttai*.

Print sufficient copies of the guide to hand out to your audience. You do not need to discuss everything, so select the issues that interest you.

Globalisation and inequality

Kaakka Muttai (The Crow's Egg) is a Tamil language feature film set in the Indian city of Chennai, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. It follows the story of 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.

On one level *Kaakka Muttai* is an entertaining film about a children's quest for pizza that will have your mouth watering. However the backdrop to the story is the impact of globalisation and the inequalities which divide modern India. Although the city of Chennai leads India's rapid economic growth and [90% of its population are literate](#); neither of the brothers go to school, they live in a slum and their father is in jail.

Globalisation and inequality are two complicated issues that seem to belong in a school textbook. *How successful is Kaakka Muttai in bringing them to life in an entertaining and engaging way? What does the film teach us about our own society?*

Case Study 1. Inequality in India

Housing for the wealthier upper middle class rises above slum shacks in Lucknow

Photo: Tom Pietrasik/Oxfam

[India is a very unequal country](#). 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%. The rich are steadily moving ahead of the rest of the population. In 2012 almost 70% of city dwellers lived under the poverty rate of US\$ 2 per day, while the number of Indian billionaires increased from two to 46 between the 1990s and 2012.

In India's cities this deep **inequality** is frequently represented by very rich and very poor people living or working extremely close to one another (see the photograph). In *Kaakka Muttai* a fancy new pizza restaurant, aimed at commuters driving past, opens up next to a slum. A single pizza costs much more than a poor person can afford.

Think

Watch out for the different ways that *Kaakka Muttai* represents **inequality**. Are there changes happening in the community which deepen inequality? Are these changes good for everyone or do some people benefit while others lose out?

Case Study 2. Globalisation in India

Pizza originates in Italy but is now eaten in almost every country in the world

Photo: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hot_pizza.jpg
Author Lppa



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

One result of globalisation is that people in different places are increasingly following similar lifestyles and consuming similar products. Think about how millions of young people from different countries and cultures enjoy listening to Rihanna or support Premiership football teams.

Globalisation divides opinions. For some people it is good, and evidence of progress and choice. For others, it means local cultures and ways of life are under threat.

Pizza is a recurring symbol of globalisation in *Kaakka Muttai*. [In a recent report](#) the New York Times stated that the market for fast food in India will be worth \$8 billion by 2020. Brands such as Burger King, Pizza Hut, McDonald's, Dunkin' Donuts and Starbucks are opening outlets in many of India's cities. The middle class is growing and American-style food brands are an attractive 'fancy and fast' choice for young professionals. But how does this growth in fast food impact on poor people?

Think

Try to identify other ways in which *Kaakka Muttai* represents **globalisation** and then think about how **globalisation** impacts on the people who live in the slum.

Do you think *Kaakka Muttai* shows **globalisation** as a good or bad thing for people? Which scenes in the film influence your opinion?

How to borrow *Kaakka Muttai (The Crows Egg)*

If your school is already a member of the Into Film **Film Clubs** you may borrow *Kaakka Muttai* for free.

In the **Film Clubs** catalogue *Kaakka Muttai* is known by its English name *The Crow's Egg*. The film's web page in the catalogue is:



www.filmclub.org/film/18762/the-crow-s-egg

If your school isn't already a member of Film Club then don't worry, it's easy to join. Visit www.filmclub.org/register to register. Film Clubs are free in the UK for state funded school and non-school settings, such as youth clubs, cinemas and libraries.



Film making
Photo credit: Into Film

Reading, links and resources

- Into Film: www.intofilm.org
- *India: Moving Towards Equal Opportunities For All?* (Oxfam India, 2013):
policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/india-moving-towards-equal-opportunities-for-all-303784

- More or Less Equal

Oxfam's *More Or Less Equal?* is a set of maths, geography and English resources for 11 to 16 year olds. The resources use real-life data and case studies to explore how inequality and poverty affect the lives of young people in different parts of the world, including the UK.

More or Less Equal? is based on data gathered in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Viet Nam by Young Lives, an international research project which has been exploring the effects of poverty on young people for 15 years.

Find out more:

www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/more-or-less-equal-maths

www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/more-or-less-equal-geography

www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/more-or-less-equal-english

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