

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
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JOB / Naukri (1954)

Bimal Roy

OVERVIEW

Auteur Bimal Roy (1909-1966) was an acclaimed Indian filmmaker and director. He strove to realistically depict the everyday lives of the common people in newly independent India. Some of his award-winning films include *Two Acres of Land (Do Bigha Zamin)*, *The Married Woman (Parineeta)*, and *Imprisoned (Bandini)*.

Film In *Job (Naukri)*, Bimal Roy offers a perspective on the problem of unemployment in independent India. He leaves a closing message in the film inviting readers to act. Layers of sorrow and joy, of good and bad news, in the film capture the essence of living by the seat of one's pants. Despite the film's original release in 1954, its themes portend a contemporaneous quality. Education qualifications persistently influence employment and job security in today's labor market. As such, the youngsters in the film offer an interesting commentary on life. The depiction of TB allows viewers to remember the wasting disease's devastating toll on humanity in the past. Although TB is on the fringe today, it cannot be truly forgotten. Intriguingly, the film employs irony to reflect on its devastation.

Background Like many Bollywood films, *Job* has song interludes to break the plot. The protagonist sings three songs in the film. In real life, the actor Kishore Kumar, who plays the protagonist in *Job*, sang and recorded the songs. Despite the many musical numbers in Bollywood films, songs are usually sung and recorded by playback singers, with actors lip-syncing them in the films. Therefore, actor Kishore Kumar's role as actor and playback singer is notable.

Furthermore, there is an interesting overlap between *Job* and Bimal Roy's earlier film *Two Acres of Land*. The boy actor who plays a shoe-polish boy's role in *Job* is the same actor in the same role in *Two Acres of Land*.

On an interesting parallel, the Hindi word "Naukri," which is the film's Hindi title, has taken on a life of its own in contemporary India because of a popular job-hunting website named "Naukri." It is used by many young professionals entering the job market and employers seeking qualified employees.

CHARACTERS

Ratan's family

Ratan Kumar Chaudhary	A fresh graduate seeking a well-paid city job
Ram Prasad	Ratan's deceased father
Ma	Ratan's and Uma's mother, a widowed woman
Uma (or Ummi)	Ratan's sister, suffering from TB

Calcutta

Hari	A loyal manservant at the housing complex
Landlord	The landlord who owns the Ananda Boarding house
Shankar Mukherjee	Ratan's first friend in the city
Seema	Ratan's love interest
Seema's father	Unnamed
Mr. Lalit	Ratan's below stairs neighbor
Mr. Viswanath	Seema's father's wealthy acquaintance

Bombay

Inspector
Mr. Patel
Mr. Desai

A policeman who wrongs Ratan but makes up for it
Ratan's colleague at the office
An unknown young man who commits suicide

SYNOPSIS

Ratan is an upbeat graduate hailing from a poor village. He hopes to find a job that would help him support his widowed mother and fund his sister's medical expenses. In Calcutta, he faces many setbacks and misfortunes during the job-hunting process. Although there are depressing moments, he meets his love, Seema, and a good friend, Shankar. While Ratan is trying hard in Calcutta, his sister's health deteriorates, and she passes away. After many failures, he lands a job in Bombay. Unfortunately, his good intention to help a colleague leads to a mistake, and he is fired. He almost gives up and decides to commit suicide. Around the same time, Seema runs away from home to escape a marriage arranged by her parents. Luckily, Seema saves Ratan by encouraging him to keep trying. At the end, the voiceover invites viewers to think hard about the job market crisis and its debilitating effects on unemployed young people.

PLOT

HOME

A new job, a new dream

In the film's opening scene, Ratan and Uma are bantering and laughing. Suddenly, Uma develops a coughing fit and is helped indoors by Ratan and their mother. Ratan reassures a concerned Uma that he will soon find a job in Calcutta and earn the money to pay for a cure for her tuberculosis. Ratan sings a song about the family's better life and fortunes to cheer Uma. A letter arrives informing Ratan that he has passed his BA exams with distinction.



CALCUTTA

Ratan's Promise Ratan is preparing to move to the big city of Calcutta and secure a well-paying job there. His mother mortgages her gold chain to fund the trip to Calcutta. Receiving the money with great thanks, Ratan assures her that he will earn enough to support the family. Ratan leaves the village with his mother's blessings and agrees to write back with updates.



Ananda Boarding House In Calcutta, Ratan finds a room to stay in at the Ananda boarding house. The landlord is unhappy about housing another unemployed young man because of the several unemployed and unpaying guests already staying at his boarding house. Ratan meets a servant, Hari, employed at the boarding house. Ratan's next-door neighbors are unemployed youths, begrudgingly housed by the landlord. One of those youths is Shankar Mukherjee, who later becomes Ratan's friend.



Shankar's depression As educated youths seeking a well-paying job, Ratan becomes good friends with Shankar Mukherjee. He learns that Shankar's family got into debt to put him through college and are now eagerly awaiting the fruits of his successful employment. After a year of applying and facing rejections, Shankar becomes depressed.



Shankar loses all hope When Shankar finally gets an interview call, he keeps it a secret in order to avoid jinxing his good luck. Even so, he does not land the job because many of his fellow applicants hold an MA. A despondent Shankar decides to commit suicide on the train track. Ratan happens to read his last suicide note and saves him in the nick of time before a speeding train rushes by. Ratan asks him why he chose the cowardly way out, and Shankar explains that he is tired of struggling pointlessly. Ratan argues against his defeatist attitude and encourages him to keep fighting and never give up. "We won't die and accept defeat. We won't ever give up."



People at the park

Ratan meets a shoe polish boy, "Lalu Ustad," and realizes that life as an illiterate boy is hard. He confesses to the boy that the life of an educated but unemployed young man is equally challenging.



Fake palmist

A palmist reads Ratan's future and demands to be paid 75 paise for his troubles. But before he hands over the money, two young men arrive on the scene calling the palmist a "charlatan" and demanding their money back.



SISTER

Uma's treatment

While unpacking, Ratan picks up Uma's photo and remembers his promise to fund her treatment for TB. However, since the sanitarium has no free beds, the front desk clerk advises him to leave an application to join the waiting list.



Uma's health deteriorates

After countless letters of rejection, the much-awaited interview letter arrives! The job is at a bank in Calcutta and pays 200 rupees per month. Ratan shares the happy news with Seema and promises to visit her father with a formal marriage proposal. His neighbors congratulate him and wish him the best for the interview. Ratan writes home with the happy news about his interview. However, Uma's deteriorating health is a source of worry for their mother.



Uma's death That very evening, Ratan receives a telegram from his mother informing him of Uma's death. Ironically, a letter from the sanatorium arrives the same day, informing Ratan that they finally have an opening to accept Uma. Ratan becomes hysterical, while his next-door neighbors comfort him and offer him support.



SEEKING FOR A JOB

First rejection Ratan visits his late father's friend, who had promised to help him find a job when he passed his BA exams. As promised, the man tells him of a vacancy and advises him to speak to the head clerk of a firm. Since the head clerk plans to hire his brother-in-law for the position, he turns Ratan away by lying and saying that there are no openings. Shankar understands that applicants with familiar connections and high recommendations have a better chance of being employed than unknown applicants.



A new routine

Ratan gets into the routine of scouting newspapers for job offerings in the mornings and mailing in applications, followed by visiting different offices each afternoon to scout for open positions. On one such morning, he sings a song about his heart's desire, a small well-paid job. His song attracts the attention of his three neighbors, and they join in the singing. A young, college student woman who lives opposite the boarding house shyly observes the four young men and their singing antics.

**A rented typewriter**

Since companies prefer type-written resumes over handwritten ones, Ratan rents a typewriter from Mr. Bansi. Since Ratan has not found a job, he cannot pay the rent. His pleading causes Mr. Bansi to relent and grant an extension on the payment.



The typewriter is confiscated

When Mr. Bansi returns to collect the rent due on the typewriter, Ratan is empty-handed and Mr. Bansi collects the typewriter. Nevertheless, Ratan refuses to give up hope and continues sending his hand-written resumes.

**Ratan's afternoons**

Every afternoon, Ratan visits the city's many offices seeking job openings. He is often met with "no vacancy" boards. The concierges turn him away unceremoniously. Ratan is frustrated by the bleak job market, where even his hard-earned BA seems worthless. Out of anger, he makes a scene at one of the offices demanding to be treated with respect. He spills a pot of ink and stains the manager's shirt. In the ensuing commotion, Ratan immediately flees.



An unfortunate rejection

At another interview, Ratan learns that the job is not available anymore because of administrative changes at the upper management level. The manager apologizes for the missed chance and promises to consider Ratan's application for the next available opening.

**The Prankster**

At the boarding house, Ratan meets Mr. Damodar, who looks down on unemployed youths because of his own stable status as an employed man. Although he reluctantly allows Ratan to borrow his newspapers, he also plays pranks on him. He recommends trying the Pioneer Trading Company because his brother-in-law works as a manager there. Ratan does not realize that Mr. Damodar does not know the manager and is merely pranking him. The recommendation heartens Ratan because connections go far in helping secure a job.



Prankster's trick is discovered

Ratan meets the manager at Pioneer Trading Company and claims to apply under the manager's brother-in-law's recommendation. The manager is angered because he does not have a sister and does not know Mr. Damodar. He throws out Ratan in disgrace. At the boarding house, Ratan overhears Mr. Damodar laughing with a friend over the mischief he played on Ratan. Ratan finally realizes that Mr. Damodar has tricked him. He confronts him, saying, "Since you have a job, you will not understand the pain experienced by the unemployed."

**GIRL FRIEND****Seema's suitors**

Soon after, Ratan spots the young woman near the bus stop. He introduces himself and learns that her name is Seema. When she looks askance at the letters in his hand, Ratan explains that those are his job applications. Mr. Lalit, Ratan's below-stairs neighbor, also vies for Seema's love. He fancies himself a poet and sings many verses at Seema. From the beginning, Seema shows an inclination to accept Ratan more than Mr. Lalit.



Rival Ratan takes it upon himself to dissuade Mr. Lalit's pursuit of Seema. In the middle of Mr. Lalit's crooning, Ratan flings down his wet, freshly washed cloth for drying and smothers Mr. Lalit's singing. The latter retaliates by burning holes in the drying cloth. When Ratan notices the holes, he pours a jug of cold water on Mr. Lalit.



Seema's song Despite the overall bleak situation, Ratan finds comfort in Seema's presence in his life. She sings about a bee and a rose bush to explain that she has foolishly fallen in love: "Love says the solace of life lies in thorns." Her song attracts three men's attention: Ratan, Mr. Lalit, and Seema's father. They all react differently.



Sharing the rejection Ratan shares the news that he did not get the job with a smile on his face that confuses Seema. He explains that the happy countenance helps him keep going in the face of many adversities and misfortunes. She parrots his favorite line, “You have passed BA. You are not illiterate”—to encourage him.



Downward spiraling Ratan finds it harder and harder to persist in face of the reality of rejections. He meets Seema in the neighborhood park and shares his sorrow over lost dreams and shattered hopes from repeatedly hearing “No Vacancy” and “Get out!” Knowing the Ratan is penniless, the manservant, Hari, tries to slip him 10 rupees. Ratan’s pride is wounded, and he rejects Hari’s sympathy.



PARENTS

Parental concern Seema's father is angered by her song and complains to his wife about their daughter's behavior. He is disgusted that she sings love songs attracting the attention of unemployed young men living next door. Seema's mother agrees to have a word with Seema.



Prospective father-in-law Seema's father sees Ratan loitering in front of his house and searching for Seema. Angered by Ratan's presence, he tries to shoo him away. Ratan attempts to get on his future father-in-law's good side by mentioning that they are both brahmins. However, when he asks for Seema's hand in marriage, Seema's father is outraged and rejects him outrightly, calling him an unemployed slacker.



An application to one's heart An undeterred Ratan goes home and writes a love letter as if applying to be accepted into Seema's heart. He sings it to Seema from his window. Seema's father becomes furious when he sees the romantic interaction. He closes the window and nails it shut.



Finally, an appointment letter

One morning, Ratan is unmotivated and refuses to read the letters, predicting that they will say, “we regret to inform....” But, to his shock, an appointment letter from Bombay arrives in the mail telling him that he has been hired to work at Kikubhai Gendaram Behramji Batparia Co. Ratan is ecstatic about the monthly salary of 250 rupees. Meanwhile, he muses that the long name would be difficult to remember. Since Seema is out of town, he writes to her and attaches the appointment letter. Unfortunately, Seema’s father intercepts and burns the letter.



A misunderstanding When Ratan asks for Seema's reply to his letter, she is confused and realizes that her father must have intercepted the letter. The news devastates Ratan because his appointment letter with the company's name and address is lost. When Ratan asks Seema's father about the letter, he says that the letter is destroyed. However, when he learns about Ratan's handsome pay at his new job in Bombay, he relents and agrees to consider Ratan's marriage proposal. Though the letter is no more, he helpfully reminds Ratan that the office's name and address should be on the envelope.



BOMBAY

Goodbyes When Ratan returns to his room hunting for the envelope, Hari informs that he got rid of the envelope along with other waste papers. Despite not remembering the company's name, Ratan decides to take a chance and travel to Bombay. Ratan bids goodbye to his neighbors and learns that Shankar's latest interview might result in a definitive job offer. An emotional Hari sees Ratan off at the train station and gives him 20 rupees to take care of immediate expenses after arriving in Bombay. This time, Ratan accepts the money with gratitude.



Locked up in Bombay Arriving in Bombay, Ratan roams the streets of the business sector, reading signs and trying to jog his memory. When he asks for help from idle men on the corner, they misdirect him to a less-crowded street and steal his wallet. When Ratan realizes his wallet is missing, he catches the stranger and calls a police officer. However, the stranger has already passed Ratan's wallet to his partner, who fled from the scene. The constable drags Ratan and the first thief to the police station. At the police station, the police see him as a suspicious character for not carrying his appointment letter and not knowing the name of his employer. Despite Ratan's pleas that he would lose the job if he missed the interview, the inspector locks him up.



Remember the name Even so, Ratan continues to think hard, trying to remember the firm's name. Finally, he remembers the name: "Kikubhai Gendaram Behramji Batparia." He begs to be let out. The inspector calls Kikubhai Gendaram Behramji Batparia Co. Ltd to verify Ratan's claim about his employment there. When they confirm Ratan's claim, he apologizes and immediately releases Ratan.



Ratan is employed

Despite Ratan's delay in appearing for duty, he finds favor in the manager's eyes and secures the job. Ratan writes home to his mother and Seema's father that he is starting his job soon. His mother prays for Ratan's continued success.

**Kindness gone wrong**

At his new office, Ratan becomes friends with his colleague, Mr. Patel. When Ratan learns that Mr. Patel's son is sick with typhoid, he offers to stay back and finish Mr. Patel's assignment, which requires him to learn about the work and stay late to finish it. Unfortunately, he makes a mistake resulting in Mr. Patel's suspension from work. Feeling guilty, Ratan confesses to the manager and he loses his job. His concerned colleagues promise to plead for Ratan when the manager is less angry.



A groom for Seema

Although Seema's father had initially agreed to consider Ratan's proposal, he changed his mind again. He favors Mr. Viswanath's son instead because Mr. Viswanath owns a prosperous textile mill. Seema's mother pleads with him to ask Seema's opinion. He immediately dismisses her pleas. Overhearing her parents' conversation, Seema decides to run away to Bombay and marry Ratan on her own.

**Seema's bittersweet arrival**

When he returns to his hotel room, Ratan meets Seema and hears her story of running away from home. Ratan decides to lie about the firing and the need to continue looking for jobs. Unfortunately, Ratan's colleague, Mr. Patel, stops by and unwittingly reveals the truth to Seema. Sadly, Bombay's job market is bleak and he runs into the same "No Vacancy" boards he encountered in Calcutta.



SEEKING A JOB AGAIN

Desperate measures On the way back, Ratan encounters a crowd gathered around a dead man's corpse. He overhears that the man is Mr. Desai, who chose to commit suicide because he lost his job. That night, Ratan cannot sleep. Different voices resembling real people in his life clamor in his head, accusing him, beseeching him, and laughing at him.



The loss of hope Ratan sees an oncoming train and is tempted to kill himself. Luckily, Seema spots him and rescues him. Ratan finally tells Seema the truth that he lost his job. Seema asks, "Why did you think I love the job and not you?" She reminds him that suicide is the way of cowardly people and encourages him to try again.



Hope again, together

The film ends with a silhouette of Ratan and Seema walking away hand in hand. A voiceover informs the viewers that no one knows if Ratan found a job. Nonetheless, the voiceover has some advice: If you encounter a person like Ratan in your life, please try to give him a job.



CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Ratan Ratan is the film's protagonist, a freshly graduated young man. He has big dreams for his future. He also supports his mother's and sister's dreams of escaping poverty towards a better future. He articulates his dreams through songs interspersed in the film. At first sight, he falls in love with Seema and stays faithful to her throughout the film. He woos her with songs and constant attention. One of his favorite lines in the film is, "I have passed the BA. I am not illiterate."

Sincere Throughout the film, Ratan is the embodiment of sincerity and hard work. He conscientiously makes promises and tries his best to keep them. Despite having a living parent, Ratan takes responsibility for his sister, Uma. He is motivated to get a well-paid job in Calcutta in order to finance Uma's TB treatment and arrange her future marriage. When he falters in fulfilling these goals, it brings him shame and anxiety. Although, losing his job in Bombay caused him fear and worry. It was not as bad as the guilt he felt for failing the promises he made to his mother and Seema.

Romantic Ratan is romantic in two ways. Firstly, he is an eternal optimist preferring to be joyful instead of spiraling into depression over troublesome circumstances. Throughout the movie, Ratan's smiling countenance is a constant, despite the many odds and rejections. When Seema asks about it, he explains that he chooses to smile in the face of misfortune to keep himself upbeat about the future. Secondly, he is romantic towards his lady love, unafraid to wear his heart on his sleeve. When Ratan's new colleagues in Bombay share stories of their love lives, Ratan unabashedly talks about his deep love for Seema. He boasts to them that she is the prettiest woman he ever saw.

Considerate Ratan cares about those around him. On Ratan's first meeting with Hari, the old servant who works at Ananda Boarding house, he shows him compassion. He insists on helping carry the heavy luggage upstairs because he sees Hari struggling under the burden. Likewise, Ratan extends kindness towards Mr. Patel, a friendly, older colleague at work in Bombay. When he realizes that Mr. Patel is forced

to work overtime despite his son's illness, he offers to help Mr. Patel by finishing his work for him. He did not think twice about the unpaid extra labor it involved.

Seema Seema is Ratan's neighbor living in the house opposite the Ananda Boarding house. She attends a local college and lives with her parents. She falls in love with Ratan and admires his courage and eternal optimism in the face of endless setbacks.

Beautiful Ratan's initially noticed Seema because of her beauty. Although she is aware of her beauty, she never acts vainly. Seema's parents have mixed feelings toward their daughter's beauty. While they boast about her beauty to prospective grooms, they are also concerned about her beauty attracting the wrong kind of men, the unemployed youth living at the Ananda Boarding house.

Resolute Although Seema might give the appearance of being whimsical and brittle, she hides a strong constitution. After deciding on Ratan for her husband, she never wavers despite her father's blustering and scheming. When her parents decide to marry her to Mr. Viswanath's son, she harnesses her conviction and courage to travel across India, from Calcutta to Bombay, and marry Ratan.

Shankar Shankar is one of Ratan's next-door neighbors at Ananda Boarding house. Like Ratan, he is a BA graduate and lives in the city to secure a well-paying job. Ratan feels close to Shankar because of their shared origin stories and family backgrounds. His parents had taken out loans to fund his undergraduate education and are eagerly awaiting returns. Therefore, he hopes to support his younger brothers and sisters climb out of poverty.

Friendly Shankar is Ratan's first friend in the big city of Calcutta. He rejoices at Ratan's happy events and grieves at sad turns. When Ratan's father's prior employer refuses to employ Ratan because he lacks family connections with current employees, he shares his frustrations with Shankar and finds comfort. After the telegram announcing Ratan's sister's death, Shankar makes himself available to Ratan for support amidst grief. When Ratan receives the offer of employment from Bombay, Shankar is the first to congratulate him.

Anxious Although Shankar is not an indecisive young man by nature, his resolve is tested by one year's accumulated rejections. He grows increasingly anxious and depressed. Ultimately, the job where other applicants had an MA qualification and he only a BA, became the last straw. The rejection makes him feel helpless and defeated, leading him to attempt to commit suicide. Luckily, he is saved in the nick of time by an observant Ratan.

Hari Hari is an old servant employed at Ananda Boarding house. The paying guests boss him at the boarding house because of the class difference between them and a servant. Although he is aware of the ill-treatment and attitudes, he never lets them disturb his core character. Instead, he treats everyone the same way and works hard to be worthy of his pay.

Grateful At their first meeting, Ratan offers to help Hari carry his luggage upstairs and earns Hari's lasting good opinion. This first act of respectful politeness causes Hari to express his gratitude to Ratan in many ways throughout the rest of the film. Hari tolerates being on the receiving end of Ratan's harsh rebukes after the rejection letters because he believes in Ratan's core good values.

Reliable Hari is an unchanging and reliable figure at the Ananda Boarding house. Although Ratan and his friends live in the unemployed guests' block, Hari never slacks off on fulfilling their requests. Amidst the highs and lows of Ratan's job application cycle, Hari is a constant pillar of support in Ratan's corner.

Mr. Patel Mr. Patel is an older gentleman who works at the same office as Ratan in Bombay. As an employee with more work experience, Mr. Patel becomes Ratan's mentor.

Knowledgeable As a new employee at Kikubhai Gendaram Behramji Batparia Co. Ltd, Ratan is curious that his offer of employment was processed without familial connections or high-level recommendations.

Mr. Patel explains that a recent employee strike against the firm's unpaid overtime work policies resulted in the firing of many former employees and that the acute labor shortage quickened Ratan's job application processing time. The explanation helps Ratan understand his uncertain position at the firm.

Caring Mr. Patel shows the ropes to Ratan, helping him navigate office politics. When the manager fires Ratan for the mistake, Mr. Patel promises to re-appeal to the manager about the job. In addition, he volunteers to bring Ratan pay he justly earned for the few weeks he had worked at the office.

THEMES

Urban/Rural *Job (Naukri)*, like Bimal Roy's earlier film *Two Acres of Land (Do Bigha Zamin)*, sheds light on the urban/rural divide and the pressure to modernize and urbanize. Ratan's and Shankar's families believe that city jobs bring prosperity. Therefore, they strive to put them through college despite economic hardships. Before leaving for Calcutta, Ratan promises his sister Uma: "When we move to Calcutta, we will solve your illness." Thus, he conflates city employment and physiological wellness. However, after arriving in the city, educated young men realize that they must overcome many more hurdles to reach a job. While the city appears prosperous and gleaming on the surface, many shadows and ugly layers lie beneath. When Shankar and Ratan decide to commit suicide, they decide to die on the train tracks. Thus, the symbolic connection between the railway system, an icon of the modern urban cityscape, and the common man's demise is solidified.

Social Hierarchy Beneath the social status of employed and unemployed, literacy also plays a strong role in the film. Many office workers in the city are bilingual speakers of Hindi and English, showing no discomfort in switching between the two, alluding to their educational qualifications and literacy. Although the youth staying at the Ananda Boarding house are unemployed, they see themselves as superior to an illiterate man like Hari. Although Ratan is courteous to Hari, his attitude towards Hari does not carry the same respect he has for his neighbors. For example, Ratan treats Seema's father with respect because they are both Brahmins, something he explicitly says to the older man.

Although Hari's caste is not explicitly stated in the film, being an illiterate servant puts him on the lower rungs of the caste hierarchy. At the neighborhood park, Ratan meets an illiterate shoe polish boy working for a couple of paise (similar to cents). The stark contrast between Ratan's salary expectation of 150-200 rupees per month and the boy's daily earnings captures the difference in their living standards. As in the case of Hari, though the caste difference between Ratan and the shoe polish boy is unstated, it is subtly conveyed in the film.

Unemployment The film focuses on the labor crisis and the unemployment of new college graduates. The resulting impact on aspiring middle and lower-middle-class families is poignantly captured in the film. It results in a sociocultural difference emerging between employed and unemployed persons. The former take the latter for granted and use every opportunity to oppress them. Qualified job-seeking young men like Ratan are treated like unwanted vermin and thrown out unceremoniously. Even at the boarding house where Ratan stays, the living quarters of the employed and the unemployed are divided. The unemployed are housed in a separate section ("Bekar block") and are forced to feel miserable and unwanted.

Love Although Ratan's path to employment is the central theme in *Job*, the romance blooming between him and Seema is also key. They fall in love at first sight, and their infatuation grows deep over time. Seema's love becomes Ratan's source of comfort and support in the city when he is far from his family. When Seema arrives in Bombay, Ratan realizes the degree of trust she places in him and their relationship. It encourages him to find another job quickly because he wants to provide for her. When Ratan is too depressed to go on and decides to commit suicide, it is Seema who saves him.

Although Ratan and Seema's match is a love match, an unconventional move going against the practice of arranged marriage. Still, there is a conventional turn. When Ratan presents his proposal to Seema's father, he mentions that both belong to the same caste – Brahmin. Caste is a critical factor in

arranged matches. Therefore, Ratan's proposal method is a middle way between being conventional and unconventional.

Morals Despite poverty and shortages, Ratan clings to his morals. When Ratan runs out of funds, he accepts his fate and decides to starve himself. He rejects Hari's money because his pride would not allow him to accept undeserved pity. When the characters compromise their morals, they are convinced to do so by circumstances. Although Ratan never lies to harm other people, he occasionally speaks white lies. When Mr. Bansi, the owner of the rented typewriter, arrives to collect rent, he lies to get more time. Shankar feels obliged to his family for their sacrifices to put him through college. After a year of unsuccessful job searching, he opts to kill himself rather than be a disappointment to his family.

Misunderstandings There are two important misunderstandings in the film's plot with disastrous consequences. The first incident concerns Ratan and Seema's love. When Seema's father intercepts Ratan's letter and burns it without opening it and seeing the appointment order, he creates negative feelings between the lovers and almost costs Ratan the much-awaited employment opportunity. Luckily, Ratan and Seema patch up their differences and the problem is solved. The second incident concerns Ratan's accidental overnight lock-up in Bombay. The lost appointment order causes the police inspector to suspect Ratan's claims regarding the pickpocket incident. Running with the misunderstanding, he locks Ratan up and delays Ratan's appointment. Fortunately, Ratan remembers his employing firm's name and the inspector calls and confirms Ratan's claims. The plot would have looked very different if these misunderstandings had been left unresolved.