

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE  
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## Well Done Abba (2010)

Shyam Benegal

*Auteur* Shyam Benegal is an award-winning OVERVIEW Indian filmmaker from the state of Karnataka. He is known for social impact films that portray the everyday lives of working-class individuals and narratively critique oppressive social structures, such as class inequity, caste oppression, and patriarchy. He developed an interest in photography and videography through his father, a talented and renowned photographer. During his long career, he has collaborated extensively with award-winning actors and screenwriters in the Indian film industry.

*Film* *Well Done Abba* is a political satire originally released in 2010. The film's plot is based on three short stories. Jayant Kripalani, one of the short story authors, also wrote the film's screenplay and dialogue. Unlike many of Shyam Benegal's earlier films, such as *The Churning*, *The Role*, and *Past Present Future*, *Well Done Abba* applies both comedy and satire in critiquing several societal problems. The film considers rampant corruption within government offices and its adverse effect on people, government schemes to alleviate poverty, girls' education, water scarcity, and Indian middle-class family dynamics. It won the National Film Award for Best Film on Social Issues in 2009. The phrase "well done" (which should be followed by a comma) in the film's title is clever word play. 'Abba' is the local word for 'father.' So, it both celebrates Arman's accomplishment and declares that the water storage facility has been finished.

*Background* The story takes place in the Telugu-speaking states of present-day Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. However, the film's dialogue is in Hindi, a dominant language in north India. Thus, while the characters speak Hindi, the background texts (i.e., place names, billboards etc.) are in Telugu script. The film addresses two main concerns in contemporary Indian society: corruption and water scarcity. In the early 2000s, many corruption scandals involving ministers and government officials within the central Indian government in New Delhi came to light. Despite the resulting public scandals and constant efforts to check corruption, people are still forced to give bribes for basic services. The goal is to raise social awareness and encourage people to fight for their rights. On a side note, the film also addresses the growing water scarcity problems in various urban regions resulting from rapid unchecked urban migration and poor governance. Water scarcity forces people, especially women, to travel long distances to secure water for their families. Furthermore, water scarcity results in illegal gang activity involving stealing and selling water at high prices.

### MAIN CHARACTERS

<b>Arman Ali</b>	A hardworking taxi driver
<b>Muskaan Ali</b>	Arman's daughter
<b>Sakina</b>	Muskaan's best friend
<b>Arif Ali</b>	A mechanic who falls in love with Muskaan
<b>Rahman Ali</b>	Arman's younger brother and a known trickster
<b>Srikant Reddy</b>	Inspector; the highest ranked police officer at the local police station
<b>Vikas Jha</b>	The government appointed engineer
<b>Janardhan Reddy</b>	Irrigation Minister
<b>The Contractor</b>	The man responsible for local well projects

## SYNOPSIS

The film's opening scene shows chauffeur Arman begging his employer for a chance to explain the bewildering events that caused his long absence. Three months ago, Arman arrived in his hometown because of his brother's urgent complaints about Arman's daughter's behavior. After arriving, he learned about the water shortage situation and his younger brother's unsuccessful scam to steal and re-sell water during the crisis. After hearing about the new government scheme to dig free wells for poor people with cultivable land, Arman makes a new plan involving a well. However, the funds are siphoned off into the pockets of corrupt government officials who demand money at every step to process the application. When Muskaan learns the truth, she gathers other applicants for the well project. They file a joint complaint at the local police station about all their 'missing' wells, i.e., the wells stolen by the government workers' bribery. Her mobilization receives media attention and forces the ministers and elected officials to take actions necessary to build all the wells. The adventurous and humorous story convinces Arman's employer to forgive his long absence and give Arman his old job back.

## PLOT

**A chance** After a three-month-long absence, Arman loses his job as a driver for a corporate executive in Bombay. However, Arman returns and begs his employer for a chance to explain the events that caused his long absence. Since the executive needs a ride from Bombay to Pune, Arman offers to drive and narrates his excuse on the way. His employer agrees, and the story begins.



**Three months ago... Arrival back home** Arman receives a worrying letter from his younger brother complaining about his daughter's misbehavior. He leaves for his hometown immediately to investigate. Arman arrives in the village and learns that his brother and sister-in-law are in hiding after their most recent get-rich-quick fiasco went awry. Also, he becomes aware of the water scarcity afflicting everyone in the village.



**The government scheme** By chance, Arman learns about the new government initiative to dig wells for free for poor people with cultivable lands. So he applies to build a well on his ancestral land because it will address his major concerns. Firstly, it would ensure his family's endless water supply. Secondly, a well would make it possible to farm the land. Thirdly, the well would be a valuable asset that would help attract a wealthy groom for his daughter, Muskaan.



**Bribery** When Arman meets with the local leader, Balamma, about the well, her husband volunteers to help Arman navigate the official channels and paperwork to apply for a well. But he expects a cut from the money. Similarly, the government workers who work on Arman Ali's applications also demand a cut from the funds to sign off on the paperwork. The funds are given out in three installments. The entirety of the first installment goes to pay the government workers the bribes they had demanded.



**The second installment** By the time Arman meets the engineer responsible for surveying his family land and overseeing the well construction, Arman Ali's funds from the first installment are spent. Therefore, the engineer writes up documents, falsely attesting to progress on the construction of the well in order to expedite the second installment. He also demands a cut from the second installment.





**Muskaan's protest** When Muskaan overhears the engineer's demand for a bribe, she loses her temper and protests about the practice of bribery. The indignant engineer threatens to halt the paperwork pertaining to the well's construction without the bribe. Arman is chastised, pulls the engineer aside and promises to pay the bribe.



**Photographer's cut** The town's photographer is the government-appointed photographer for visually documenting each well's construction progress. Making matters worse, the photographer is in cahoots with the engineer. So, he also demands a bribe to supply the fake photos showing the well's construction progress.



**A debt** Arman's younger brother, Rahman, had borrowed money from Arif, the local mechanic. Since Rahman is missing, Arif demands repayment from Rahman's relatives. Muskaan dislikes Arif because he pesters her family and she treats him unkindly. However, she witnesses his ugly confrontation with Uncle Rahman and Aunt Salma. The conversational tone and her aunt's attitude convince her that Arif is the wronged party. Therefore, she texts an apology for her poor behavior and resolves to repay the debt as soon as possible on behalf of her uncle and aunt.



**A misunderstanding** The local police conduct a manhunt to locate Rahman and Salma in connection with their involvement in a case of stolen water. Despite Rahman and Salman's efforts to disguise and fly under the police radar, they are caught. However, Rahman manages to escape. When the police follow him, they happen upon Arman, whom they arrest, having mistaken him for Rahman. When Muskaan learns the truth, she tricks Rahman and helps the police catch him. Finally, Arman is released.



**A foreign groom** Sakina's mother finds her a wealthy Arab sheikh for a husband. Soon after her marriage, Sakina moves abroad to live with her husband. After the wedding, Sakina's mother advises Arman to look for a similar groom for Muskaan. He tries but is disappointed that potential in-laws are all conservative and will inevitably stifle Muskaan. He is in a fix.



**A mythical well** Arman has received the third installment to build the well. The paperwork on Arman's non-existent well records a facility capable of supporting farming on his lands. In reality, the entire amount went to pay the bribes. Arman is sorely disappointed, sits at the site of the non-existent well and ponders the unfairness of life. Muskaan finds her father and learns the whole truth.





**Muskaan's plan** Muskaan devises a plan to deceive the involved government workers with their own tricks in order to expose their corruption. Her first step involves reporting the crime of 'missing' wells at the police station. Although Muskaan and her father know the well never existed, the documentation they received from different government offices tells otherwise. The police attempt to dismiss the case of a missing well as illogical, declaring that the well never existed in the first place. However, she stuns them with proof that the well existed by showing them the documentation and photographs issued by various government officials recording different steps of the well's construction. Seeing that, they believe Muskaan that the well did exist and is now missing. As a result, the inspector orders the constables to visit the site and conduct a thorough investigation.



**A helper** However, the investigation hits a wall and shows little to no progress. Arif helps Arman and Muskaan with his knowledge of the judicial system and legal proceedings. Following Arif's advice, they demand a progress update through the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Although Arman distrusts the sudden friendship between Arif and Muskaan, he tries to be open-minded and understanding.



**Repaying the debt** Rahman takes advantage of the Islamic festival period to beg forgiveness and reconcile with his older brother Arman. As the family's elder, Arman hands out money to all three younger members: Rahman, Salma, and Muskaan. Muskaan grabs Rahman and Salma's share and uses it to repay Arif. However, Arif refuses Muskaan's offer and insists on collecting his debt from Rahman and Salma. Muskaan and Arif develop a strong bond and slowly fall in love.



**Mobilizing the crowds** Frustrated with the slow progress on her family's case, Muskaan covertly gathers information about other applicants like her father and mobilizes them into a protest crowd. The crowd's agitation draws media attention and forces the police and higher authorities to take notice.



**Pressure everywhere** At home, Inspector Reddy complains to his wife that his posting at this particular station is a headache. Meanwhile, his wife is dissatisfied because the inspector refuses to take bribes to supplement the income from his monthly salary. Her family had pulled strings to get this position because it was the best location to make extra money through bribes. However, the inspector remains upright instead of demanding bribes like everyone else. Furthermore, he begins investigating corrupt government workers' bribery. Balamamma's husband warns the inspector to back off. However, Inspector Reddy remains firm in his decision to solve the case.



**Progress** The crowd takes their protest to the minister's office, and the minister orders the local police station to look into the case. Inspector Reddy visits each government worker involved in Arman's application for a government-funded well, retracing his original steps. They maintain the validity of their falsified documentation and keep quiet about the bribes they received from Arman.





**The minister's visit** The minister visits the village and Arman's land to personally check the site of the missing well. The village leader, Balamma, is aware of ongoing corruption and almost divulges the truth. However, her husband orders her to shut up at the last moment. The minister departs without addressing the people's problems.



**A bold initiative** As the minister turns to leave, Arman calls him back and proclaims that he will only drink water from his own well. Arman's determination moves Muskaan and Arif, and they join him in his protest. By the second day, more people join the protest of refusing to drink water. The assembled crowd attracts publicity and news coverage, putting pressure on the politicians. In a TV interview, Arman opens up about the bribery and the stolen wells.



**The well is found** The government's opposition party uses the well case to threaten a no-confidence motion and challenge the ruling party's position in power. The minister responds to the threat by ordering the immediate construction of all the wells and expediting the construction to save his party's reign. Finally, the Ali family get their hard-won well, and the trio end their thirst strike by drinking water from their well.





**Muskaan's marriage** Sakina's wealthy foreign husband turns out to be a violent man, who abuses and assaults women. Learning this, Arman gives up his idea of marrying Muskaan into a wealthy family and listens to her request. Then he visits Arif's father to propose a marriage between their children. The two families agree and are united through Muskaan and Arif's marriage.



**The final spectacle** A special ceremony is organized to celebrate the success of the government's scheme to dig wells and present awards to the corrupt government workers. When taking a group photo, the government employees jostle and elbow one another to stand in the center. Suddenly, the stage collapses, and they all fall on top of one another.



**A full circle** Although the government workers were the wrong-doers in the story, Arman feels guilty for passively supporting the bribe system. Therefore, he confesses his crime to Inspector Reddy and requests punishment. Inspector Reddy loses his temper and almost throws out Arman for his absurd request. However, Muskaan intercedes and pleads with the inspector to humor her father. Accordingly, Inspector Reddy orders Arman to serve an hour of jail time. When Arman concludes his adventurous tale, his employer has been entertained and decides to give him back his original job as a chauffeur.



## CHARACTER ANALYSIS

### Arman Ali

Arman is the head of his family. Since his wife has passed away, he cares deeply about his daughter, Muskaan. Arman values her well-being and worries about her future. He expresses a similar devotion to his younger brother, Rahman, and his sister-in-law, Seema. He is working in the city of Bombay for the sake of his entire family's well-being.

*Planner* Arman carefully plans for his family's future. When he returns to the family home and notices their water woes, he immediately hatches a plan to address it. So, Arman believes a family well is the best solution. He thinks it would take care of their struggle during the water crisis, enable farming on their ancestral land, and become an asset toward Muskaan's marriage. Therefore, he plans to address all his family's problems through one carefully built well.

*Responsible* Arman's sense of responsibility distinguishes him from his younger brother. Unlike Rahman, who plots ingenious get-rich-quick schemes, Arman takes responsibility for his actions and strives for fairness and justice. An early example is when Arman returns to his employer after the three-month-long absence to explain himself and set the record straight. He hates being seen as irresponsible and unreliable. Therefore, he begs his employer for a chance to explain the long absence. Similarly, at the film's end, Arman feels bad about tricking the police in the well case despite the justification behind the trickery. Therefore, he returns to the police station and requests a fair punishment.

*Cooperative* Arman hates confrontation and ugly scenes. Therefore, he always cooperates with others, especially government workers, even if they are corrupt and demand bribes. When the engineer demands a bribe for surveying the land before constructing the well, Arman demonstrates his tendency to cooperate. Muskaan, also on the scene, strongly objects to this cooperative behavior. The engineer gets angry and loudly threatens to halt Arman's funding application. Arman pulls the engineer aside, away from Muskaan, apologizes and hands him the bribe, begging for peace. In several other scenes, Arman quietly cooperates with corrupt government workers to avoid ugly confrontations and scenes.

### Muskaan

Muskaan is Arman's only daughter. Unlike her father, Muskaan is a shrewd young woman unafraid of calling out injustice. In the same vein, she is also unafraid of owning up to mistakes and apologizes when realizing the error of her ways.

*Brave* Muskaan is a brave young woman. Unlike her peace-keeping father, she expresses bravery in fighting corruption and injustice in society. She is not cowed by higher authorities or familial elders in fighting injustice. When she sees her father's sad face and learns the tragedy behind his application for a well, she bravely marches to the police station to lodge a complaint. Additionally, she galvanizes the entire village to join their cause and forces the politicians to give every applicant the well they had been promised. After learning about her uncle's trickery in cheating Arif, she seeks justice on his behalf. Muskaan ensures Arif gets the money he is owed.

*Calm* Despite growing up under her uncle and aunt's chaotic lifestyle and brushes with criminality, Muskaan retains an aura of calm and level-headedness. When Muskaan's uncle and aunt engage in various schemes and plots to cheat others of money, Muskaan becomes the voice of reason to persuade them to do the right thing. After Arman and his younger brother Rahman suffer a falling out, Muskaan takes the initiative to soothe them and sort out their differences.

### Arif Ali

Arif, an orphan raised in a Muslim family, is a mechanic by trade. Although Arif is initially antagonistic towards Muskaan, he slowly grows to respect her and admires her pluck and boldness. He falls in love and is determined to marry her. Hence, he works hard to convince Arman to gain his agreement.



*Loyal* Arif is loyal to his friends and family. As an orphan, he is grateful to his foster-father for his goodwill in raising him as a son and is always respectful toward him. After meeting Muskaan's father, Arman, he extends the same respect toward him. When Arif first met Muskaan, they were at loggerheads because they were both strong-willed and self-righteous. However, after they resolve their differences and get to know each other better, Arif grows to respect Muskaan and becomes her loyal supporter. He demonstrates his loyalty when he supports Muskaan in her pursuit to restore the stolen wells.

*Helpful* Arif becomes a valuable helper to Muskaan in the well case. Before becoming a mechanic, Arif had enrolled in college as a law student. Therefore, he is familiar with the judicial system and court proceedings. So, he uses his knowledge to assist Muskaan and Arman in filing their police case and navigating the complexity of government channels.

**Inspector Reddy** Inspector Reddy is the local inspector at the police station. He is an upright policeman and finds himself among extremely corrupt government workers, unable to report or bring them to justice. Furthermore, his wife and her family constantly nag him to take bribes to better the family's financial situation.

*Serious* Inspector Reddy is a serious man, who does not tolerate nonsense or cheating. Although he finds the cases brought to his attention a bore, he never dismisses them. On the contrary, Inspector Reddy gives his all to see that justice triumphs. He demonstrates this character in Arman's and Muskaan's case when they report the missing wells. Despite the absurdity of their claim that stationary wells went missing, he hears them out seriously and registers their complaint.

*Determined* Like Muskaan, Inspector Reddy also displays remarkable determination despite outward chaos and pressures from above. When Arman and Muskaan report that their well went missing, he fully commits to investigating the case and finding a solution, either by proving that Arman and Muskaan are lying or by finding the missing well for them. Another example is Inspector Reddy's determination in the face of threats and pressures from higher officials. After he begins his investigation, politicians and corrupt leaders warn him to step back and drop the case. Instead of being cowed, Inspector Reddy resolves to continue with the investigation.

### **Irrigation Minister**

The irrigation minister is the elected leader of the ruling political party. He is a corrupt politician who ignores the well-being of the voters in his constituency as long as he gets a cut of all the business deals. Therefore, he sets a bad example for everyone in his ministry.

*Selfish* The irrigation minister cares only about his ministerial position. When people bring their concerns to him, he only uses them as a publicity opportunity. An example is his attitude toward Arman's missing well. He only grants an audience to Arman, Muskaan, and Arif because their mobilization draws publicity and press coverage. In the end, the minister gets on with the task of digging wells only because his incompetency in the case of the missing wells threatens his position in the state assembly. So, he addresses the missing wells out of his selfish desire to stay in power at all costs.

*Insensitive* Despite being a minister with a lot of power, resources, and clout in the state government, the irrigation minister does not exert himself to serve the people who elected him to office. When he does visit Arman's land to look for the missing well, he only offers patronizing words to placate the protesters instead of providing concrete solutions. He does not care about the people's suffering amidst the ongoing drinking water crisis.

**Engineer** The engineer is a highly educated government employee responsible for ensuring quality work and regular progress on government-funded projects. Nonetheless, he is constantly distracted at work and frequently engages in lascivious phone calls with his new wife.

**Irresponsible** The engineer follows the example of other local government workers in collecting bribes. He signs off on official reports claiming good progress on the government-funded well-digging projects, all while being fully aware that the wells were stalled because of insufficient funds after bribes.

**Careless** The engineer is a sloppy worker. He is a newly-married man and cares more about having sex with his wife than his work responsibilities while at work. As a result, he is often on the phone with his wife, trying to convince her to get breast enlargement surgery. When Arman attempts to ask clarification questions about the construction of the well, the engineer rebuffs him and dismisses his concerns. The engineer's primary tasks are to monitor progress on well-digging projects and file the necessary paperwork. Unfortunately, he is lackadaisical in this and signs off forged paperwork.

## **Rahman**

Rahman is Arman's younger brother, who looks identical to Arman Ali. He and his wife, Salma, stay at Arman's ancestral home. Rahman has no steady job and frequently gets in trouble because of his get-rich-quick schemes.

**Playful** Unlike Arman, who is serious and responsible, Rahman is playful and irresponsible. He takes advantage of his older brother's generosity to fleece him. Every time he gets into trouble, Rahman makes sincere-sounding apologies to get back into his older brother's good graces.

**Disloyal** Although Rahman does not intend to be disloyal, he abandons those around him in hard times. When he and his wife are on the run from the police after their ill-begotten scheme to steal and re-sell water, they are almost caught by the police. Rahman abandons his wife and runs away to safety. Since Rahman and Arman look alike, the police imprison Arman, thinking he is Rahman. When Rahman learns about the wrongful arrest, he does not immediately fix the mistake. Instead, he abandons his brother, wrongly imprisoned.

## THEMES

### **SOCIETY**

**Class** Arman and his family belong to a lower socio-economic class because of their educational level and jobs as blue-collar workers. Although the government offers schemes and financial assistance to elevate the quality of poor people's lives and address vicious cycles of poverty, rampant corruption leaches poor people of their minimal resources. The film's exploration of the government-sponsored fully-funded well projects for rural people with cultivable lands provides an example of the harmful impact of corruption. Although the funds are instituted to alleviate water scarcity and boost farming, the government workers' greed and corruption become a formidable obstacle. Consequently, the government workers, who are already upper-class, get more prosperous from the bribes, and the poor people, the targeted recipients of these government schemes, grow poorer.

**Education** *Well Done Abba* shows the impact of education on individual lives. Beyond enriching an individual, education also significantly shapes a family's prospects. Characters like the engineer, local officials and other government workers possess academic degrees, which allow them to secure well-paying, respectable government jobs. Similarly, Arman's employer in Bombay is a well-educated corporate executive. His power and position allow him to dismiss Arman from his job as a chauffeur. However, characters like Arman and Rahman are forced into daily wage labor jobs because they lack education. Arman is deeply ashamed of being uneducated and tries his best to hide his illiteracy from others. Therefore, he does his best to educate his daughter and support her higher education dreams. While other Muslim families restrict their daughters' educational prospects in favor of an early marriage, Arman respects Muskaan's wishes and encourages her free thinking. In return, Muskaan is grateful to her father for his support and strives to make him proud by fulfilling his ambitions. When she learns about her father's disappointment from failing to get the promised well, she applies her education and wit to restore justice. Arif and Arman share a respect for education. Arif had been pursuing a law degree in a big city when a family tragedy forced him to quit and move back home. Nonetheless, Arif's background in law



plays a crucial role in fighting for justice. Arif follows Arman's example and promises to support Muskaan's educational goals to become the first college-educated person in the family.

## **POLITICS**

**Leadership** *Well done Abba* shows the contrast between good and bad leadership in addressing the problem of corruption. While most government workers demand bribes and exploit the people who live in their jurisdiction, leaders like the inspector take their responsibilities seriously. Despite peer and familial pressure to take bribes and opt for a life of illicit luxury, the inspector strives to be honest and serve the people. When Arman and Muskaan bring their complaint about the missing well, the inspector gets the opportunity to challenge the corrupt system and achieve justice. Similarly, Arman's employer in the city demonstrates good leadership. Although he was justified in firing Arman for the unexcused long absence, he extends empathy and understanding in allowing Arman a chance to explain his absence.

## **RELATIONSHIP**

**Parenthood** *Well Done Abba* showcases parenthood and demonstrates its good and bad sides. Arman embodies the best qualities of parenthood. He nurtures and encourages his daughter, Muskaan, and never stifles her growth. Moreover, Arman extends a similar parental wing over his younger brother, Rahman, and Rahman's wife, Salma. Consequently, he takes full responsibility for all three members and considers them in every decision he makes. After getting to know Arif, the young man Muskaan loves, Arman extends his parental affection towards him, too, and adopts him into the family. The film contrasts Arman's parenting style with that of Sakina's mother. Sakina's mother displays devotion to her daughter, but her love is tinged with fear about Sakina's future. Driven by this fear, she marries Sakina to the first eligible man, without seriously considering the man's background or asking for Sakina's wishes in the matter. The hasty wedding results in disaster because Sakina's husband mistreats her, and she barely manages to escape him alive. The example convinces Arman that forcing his daughter to get married against her wishes would result in tragedy. He learns that parenthood does not mean exercising control over a child's life but listening to her wishes and supporting them in their dreams.

**Marriage** Marriage is a recurring theme in *Well Done Abba*. Parents with daughters take their daughter's marriage as a serious responsibility. Muskaan's father and Sakina's mother demonstrate parental worry over a daughter's marital prospects. The societal pressure on families to raise a daughter as a respectable, well-mannered, and docile girl is why families worry over their daughters. Rumors of Muskaan's supposed misbehavior hastened Arman's original return from Bombay. Although Arman cares about his daughter's reputation, he does not wish to dictate her life, like most families in the village. The film shows an example of this in Sakina's marriage. Sakina's mother fears for her daughter's future, so she hastens Sakina's marriage to a wealthy but unknown man from a foreign country. It results in tragedy for Sakina. However, *Well Done Abba* offers a different image of marriage through Muskaan and Asif. Responding to her father's trust, Muskaan cares about her father and would never shame him. When Muskaan first met Asif, she did not like him because of a misunderstanding. However, after they resolve their misunderstanding, the two become friends through their active interest in solving the case of missing wells and develop a strong friendship. Although Arman is suspicious of Asif's friendship with his daughter, he trusts Muskaan's judgment. Therefore, he talks to Asif's family and secures their marriage. Thus, Muskaan and Asif marry with their families' blessings.

## **FLAWS**

**Greed** *Well Done Abba* was released in 2010, a period when corruption became a buzzword in Indian politics. The era saw many politicians and government workers convicted on corruption charges. The film addresses this crisis through the perspective of poor people stuck at the bottom of the socio-economic class hierarchy. The greed of those in power took a heavy toll on those below. Although *Well Done Abba* focuses only on one government scheme, it shows the breadth and depth of corruption within the Indian government. Every government worker, from the office boy to the minister, dips into government funds allocated for special schemes to better poor people's lives. As a result, the targeted recipients of these special funds barely get anything of the promised original sum. However, *Well Done*

*Abba* plays a joke on the greedy individuals at the end of the film. In a ceremony organized solely to puff up the pride of corrupt government workers, they show their greed and competitive spirit. As they stand for press photos, they elbow each other to appear front and center. However, their jostling results in the stage collapsing. As a result, the elected and appointed government workers become the laughingstock in front of simple village folk.