

Hindi transcript:

वैश्वीकरण के साथ यह जो हिन्दुस्तान की एक global image create की जा रही है, जैसे आपने सुना होगा, इस दशक के पहले कुछ सालों में नारा था – “India shining” और “India rising” वगैरह। तो ये सब नारे मेरे खयाल से... मुझे तो बताते हैं कि जो... मिडल क्लास जो है इण्डिया का जो...जिसकी भी सख्त्या अब काफी है, वह एक... प्रकार से भूलना चाहता है कि वह किस context में जी रहा है – कि...किस आर्थिक context में जी रहा है। तो एक इच्छा ऐसी नज़र आती है कि एक कोई अलग-सी image... जहाँ मैं project की जाय, जैसे कि ये movies आपने देखी होंगी – “दिल चाहता है,” वगैरह – इस टाइप की movies, जिसमें बहुत ही polished presentation आपको एक दिाई देगा। तो इसमें जो...इण्डिया की जो वास्तविक स्थिति है, न... सिर्फ आर्थिक, but...लेकिन और तरहों की। जो ऊँच-नीच है, जो सामाजिक अन्याय अभी भी चला आ रहा है, जात के नाम से, धर्म के नाम से, आप पूछें जिस नाम से। तो वह सब एक तरह से छुपता (छिपता) जा रहा है इस सब में। और यह एक वैश्वीकरण का बुरा असर मुझे दिाई देता है, कि हिन्दुस्तानी उद यह भूलते जा रहे हैं – at least जो मध्यम-वर्गीय हिन्दुस्तानी हैं – वे भूलते जा रहे हैं कि वे किस प्रकार की सब... किस प्रकार के समाज में जी रहे हैं। और वे कहीं और होना चाहते हैं, जैसे कि वे अपने आप को अलग करना चाहते हैं अपने समाज से।

English translation:

Along with globalization, this global image that has been created of India – for instance, you would have heard the slogans from the beginning of this decade: “India shining;” “India rising,” etc. So I think that these slogans ... tell me that the ... the Indian middle class, which ... is quite large in number, now, wants ... in a way to forget the context in which it is living – that is, the economic context in which it has its existence. So one can see a certain wish to project a different image ... to the world; for instance you would have seen [Bollywood] movies like *Dil chahta hai*, and so on – in these films, you will see a very polished [representation] of [the country]. So, in [films like that] ... the real circumstances of life in India ... not just economic, but ... other kinds of circumstances [are ignored]. The [class and caste] inequalities, the social injustices that continue to this day in the name of caste, religion, you name it [– these are all there, but are hidden from view.] (The speaker’s use of आप पूछें जिस नाम से is quite idiosyncratic.) So, all of that seems to get hidden in all these [representations]. And this I see as a bad effect of globalization: that Indians are themselves forgetting – at least the middle-class Indians

are forgetting – what sort of ... society they are living in. And they wish to be someplace else, as though they want to separate themselves from their society.

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