

# Indian Students' Influence on Non-Indian Students' Interest in Indian Cinema at UIUC

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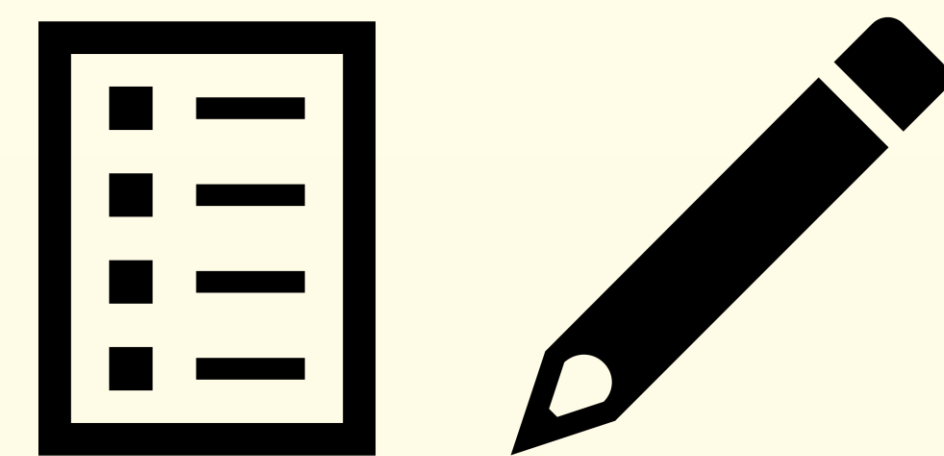
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## INTRODUCTION

In Fall of 2016, out of the 10,700 international students registered at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1,299 were Indian. This is a significant population that has the ability to affect non-Indian students' views on Indian culture and more specifically affect their views on Indian Cinema. Therefore, we conducted this study to find out Indian Students' Influence on Non-Indian Students' Interest in Indian Cinema at UIUC



## METHOD



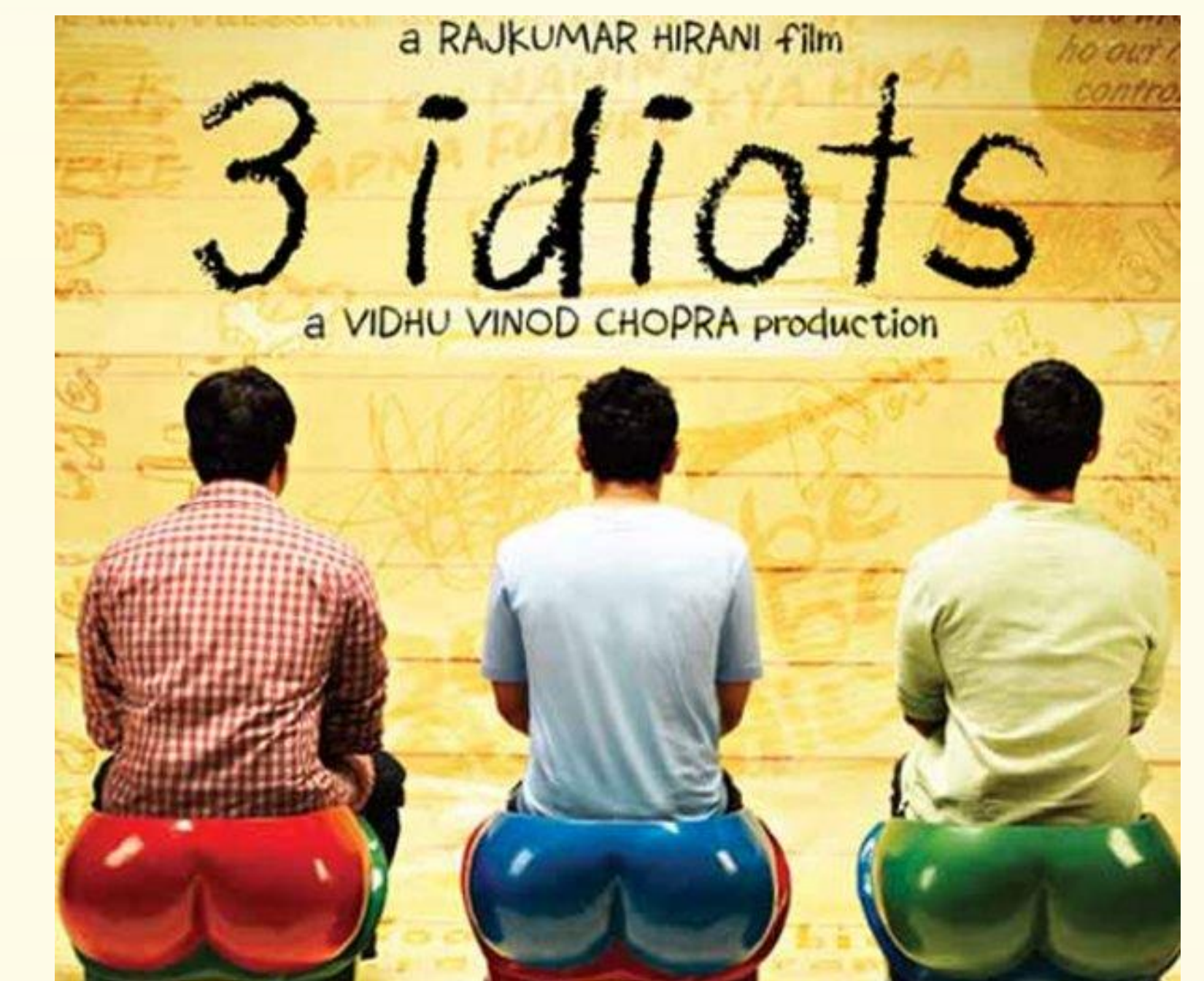
We interviewed nine students from CWL/MACS 207 (Indian Cinema in Context) using the survey form that we created by ourselves and then analyzed the results. Out of the nine students we interviewed, three are from India. The other students are from China and the U.S., so this gave us a diverse set of responses to analyze. Our first objective of the interviews was to determine the ethnical background of the students. We asked if they are from India and what their ethnicity is. Next, our focus was to ask questions that related to Indian Cinema. Our group asked how long students have been watching Bollywood for, if they watch Bollywood movies with Indian/non-Indian friends, how they were first exposed to Bollywood, etc.

## Results

Our results determined that Indian students were first exposed to Bollywood movies when they were children through their parents. For the non-Indian students, their first times exposed to Indian Cinema all were very recently. Most stated their first exposure to Indian Cinema was either through taking CWL/MACS 207, or through stumbling upon Bollywood songs on YouTube. For non-Indian students, every single student replied that this class had changed their view on Indian culture. It gave them an insight into the Indian culture as depicted in Bollywood and allowed them to interact with more Indian students.

## CONCLUSIONS

The results show how through taking a course on Indian Cinema and interacting with Indian students, non-Indian students became more interested in Indian culture and cinema.



## Recent Concerns

CWL/MACS 207 (Indian Cinema in Context) is only offered one semester during a school year. Maybe increasing the terms that this course will be offered would help non-Indian students learn more about Indian culture and cinema.

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