

Call for bigger role in urban planning



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Manama

The Manama Municipal Council should be given a greater role in scrutinising key decisions in terms of planning and development, the Deputy Chairman of the Council has said.

Mazen Ahmed Al Umran

called on to include Manama Council members in the High Urban Planning Committee to have a greater say in the urban planning.

“We need to have a greater say in the urban development of the Capital, to better serve the people,” he stressed.

Explaining further, Al Umran said that the Council, as of now, enjoys only a limited

power, even though it is one of its key responsibilities, since its formation.

Currently, the High Urban Planning Committee has eight members, with HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister as Chairman.

“We are looking forward

to working closely with the members of the High Urban Planning Committee, who are responsible for the entire Kingdom.

Highlighting, Al Umran said that he is seeing this as the only way to ensure the Council’s participation in the development of Manama.

“It is under our jurisdiction, but we were not able to

participate as much as we liked,” he said.

Moving on, he, however, said that the Council has made a big impact in the society with its development programmes

“The calibre of people in the Council are immense. We have engineers, businessmen, doctors, civil servants, finance experts etc. all under one roof.”



Mazen Ahmed Al Umran

“This has helped us to achieve a lot despite budget restrictions,” he stressed.

Women and the World

Meredith Ann O’Connell



The “Lady-Oriented” Movie Genre

“The story is lady-oriented, their fantasy above life,” read the Indian Central Board of Film Certification’s letter denying the certification of the film Lipstick Under My Burqa. Although an appellate court recently overturned the Board’s ruling, allowing the controversial Indian film to make it to theatres, it begs the question: what is wrong with a lady-oriented film?

Films geared toward women specifically are nothing new: there’s a whole genre known as “chick flicks,” movies with female protagonists which are almost invariably about romance. In a way, it is ridiculous that movies are labeled as chick flicks: it basically implies that no man should watch or enjoy the film. It also suggests that women are not interested in films about war, science fiction, etc. Furthermore, the movies that fall into the chick flick category often seem to be a bit lacking in intelligence and depth. There are plenty of movies with romance as the central plot that aren’t labeled chick flicks, movies with intricate story lines that aren’t, well, vapid.

Yet when a movie that’s geared toward women or has a female protagonist that is smart or brings up challenging subjects, it is often treated with disdain. Or it is considered “controversial” because it tackles topics, which are rarely dealt with onscreen, especially women’s issues. Cue the backlash for Lipstick Under My Burqa: the film is sensitive and deals with mature topics, which were also the reason for its initial ban. But these are real issues that women are dealing with around the world. Lipstick Under My Burqa is not a “fantasy above life” anymore than one’s typical chick flick or a typical Bollywood movie. It is not farfetched: the problem is that it suggests things that are uncomfortable to men and society at large.

Regardless of the content of chick flicks, why is there a problem that movies are “lady-oriented?” The majority of films are about male protagonists and male characters. Half the time, female characters only exist in films as love interests or they are randomly included to increase diversity. Books and movies have for too long centered around male characters and the male gaze.

There is no reason why there can’t be more realistic films about women and their lives. Women make up half the population and they enjoy going to the movies just as much as men. At the end of the day, there’s room for all stories at the box office.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)

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No.	TENDER TITLE	TENDER NO	TENDER DOCUMENT FEES (BD)	INITIAL BOND (BD)	TENDER CLOSING DAY DATE TIME	
1	MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRING CHILLIER UNITS AT M.O.E BUILDING NO. (1) ISA TOWN	SL/07/2017	15/-	500/-	Wednesday 10/5/2017	1:00 PM

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