

## **OWomaniya! 2024 Toolkit: Guidelines**

**Is there at least one named female character with at least one line of dialogue, who plays a role that's not romantically or familially connected to the male protagonist?**

A romantic or familial connection has to be assessed at the time of the dialogue being spoken. For example, a female character may have a line in the early portions of the film, when she's not connected romantically/familially to the male protagonist, but later starts dating him or marries him, or into his family. In this case, the scene will be considered as valid.

Certain properties could have more than one male protagonist. However, this decision should be taken only when it is not possible to identify a single male protagonist clearly.

**Does at least one female character play an active role in taking economic, domestic and/or community decisions that are pivotal to the show's/film's story?**

"Pivotal to the show's/film's story" is the important operating line here. This can be assessed by asking the question: Did the 'decision' in question impact the story of the film in any way, e.g., did it change character circumstances, journeys, or outcomes?

There may be decisions that seem important in the moment in which they are taken, but may eventually not have any bearing on the larger story. These should not be considered valid.

**Is there any point in the story where a female protagonist expresses a conflicting viewpoint to that of a male character, on an issue central to the plot?**

"Expression" could be verbal, written, via a gesture, or even via an action. For example, the female protagonist may agree to the viewpoint initially, but later act against the viewpoint, which is a valid conflicting viewpoint expression.

“Issue central to the plot” refers to the central story and/or theme of the film/show. This filter is added to ensure that trivial conflicts are not considered as valid, e.g., a mother-son banter on his habits, comedic disagreement between a boyfriend and a girlfriend, etc.

Certain properties could have more than one female protagonist. However, this decision should be taken only when it is not possible to identify a single female protagonist clearly.

Very importantly, if a property does not have a female protagonist, because no female character has a significant part in the film/show, this statement will be answered in a ‘No’ by default.

**Does the show/film portray sexualization of women, and/or violence against women, as normal/acceptable?**

The desired answer to this question, for the test to be passed, is “No”.

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

“Normal/acceptable” refers to the film/show’s stance on the incident. For example, there may be an act of violence against a woman initially, but it may later be challenged by the protagonist (male or female), in which case, it is not a case of normalization. Essentially, the focus has to be on the stance or messaging of the film/show, on what its take on scenes of sexualization/violence is.

Even if the film/show is highly progressive in its intent and theme, any one such scene that normalizes sexualization or violence against women will still make it fail this statement and hence the test.