

## **Family Dynamics Through Cultural Lenses: Axiological Exploration of Feminist Perspectives in Documentaries and Implications on Aesthetics of Cultural Representation**

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**Abstract:** This study aims to explore the intersection of gender, culture, and family dynamics in documentary filmmaking through a feminist lens. By analyzing "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families," it seeks to uncover how these documentaries represent and construct familial relationships and cultural identities, and how these representations contribute to broader feminist discourses and cultural narratives. The study employs a qualitative research design, combining textual analysis with detailed case studies. Documentaries were selected based on their relevance to family dynamics, cultural representation, and inclusion of feminist perspectives. Textual analysis involved transcribing narratives, identifying key scenes, and developing a coding scheme to analyze themes related to family dynamics, gender roles, and cultural aesthetics. Findings from text analysis were integrated with case study insights through cross-case thematic analysis and validation through cross-verification and inter-coder reliability. The analysis revealed that both documentaries effectively challenge traditional gender roles and highlight the complexities of cultural hybridity within familial contexts. They employ various aesthetic strategies to represent hybrid identities and cultural intersections, contributing to a nuanced portrayal of family dynamics. These representations reflect broader social discourses on gender and cultural identity, emphasizing the importance of intersectionality in feminist film theory. This study addresses gaps in the existing literature by focusing on the intersectionality of gender, culture, and family dynamics within specific cultural contexts. It broadens the scope of feminist film theory by incorporating global perspectives and offers practical insights for documentary filmmakers on ethical storytelling and cultural representation. The findings highlight the potential of documentaries as tools for advocacy, education, and promoting gender equality and cultural understanding.

**Keywords:** Feminist Film Theory; Documentary Filmmaking; Gender Representation; Culture Hybridity; Family Dynamics

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The investigation of gender representation, narrative structures, and ideological frameworks by feminist film theory has reshaped critical discourse in cinema studies. In the 1970s, feminist researchers criticized classic Hollywood films for objectifying women and reinforcing patriarchal standards. O'Dwyer (O'Dwyer, 2022) states that "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" introduced the "male gaze," which investigated mainstream cinema's portrayal of women as passive objects of male desire. This groundbreaking critique exposes cinema's bigotry and allows feminist scholars to study how visual storytelling shapes gender roles. Feminist cinema theory has expanded beyond male criticism. Bell Hooks and others argue that intersectionality is important because it examines how gender, race, class, and sexuality shape cinema (Almwaka, 2022). This intersectional perspective challenged early feminist critiques and stressed the importance of considering many identities while analyzing films. Feminist cinema theory now has a global perspective thanks to postcolonial feminism. This resists Western feminist concepts in non-Western theater and culture studies (Wang, 2024). Postcolonial feminists like (Popkewitz & Huang, 2021) opposed Eurocentric feminist theory and advocated for cinema studies knowledge production freedom. Their work reevaluated power dynamics and portrayal in global film industries, stressing underrepresented voices and criticizing colonialism's legacy in cinema. Documentaries are unusual in visual media because they explore varied cultural experiences and tell authentic stories. Documentaries, unlike fiction, are lauded for their authenticity and capacity to illuminate underrepresented realities (Zhen et al., 2023). They allow filmmakers to document real events, social issues, and human stories, improving their understanding of social equity and cultural diversity. Documentaries must include cultural representation to challenge mainstream media stereotypes and biases. Documentaries can combat media homogenization by highlighting underrepresented cultures and individuals (Zhen et al., 2023). Empathy, cross-cultural understanding, and societal transformation are the benefits of this documentary filming technique. Documentaries can also influence public opinion and government policy through compelling narratives and visual evidence of social issues (Haqpana & Tsouroufli, 2023). These films evoke intense emotions and stimulate intellectual thought, captivating viewers. They promote discussion and reflection on complicated social issues like immigration, gender equality, and cultural

identity(Moyano et al., 2022). Documentaries can evoke empathy and encourage critical thinking to change viewers' beliefs and advocate for human rights and social justice. Feminist filmmakers are using documentaries to promote gender equality and feminist causes. Feminist works like "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" examine family interactions from varied cultural perspectives and challenge gender conventions(Jin et al., 2022). In addition to telling human stories, these films contribute to feminist philosophy, cultural representation, and identity in modern culture. Gender, culture, and family relations in filmmaking have been intensively examined in feminist cinema theory and documentary culture. Feminist films show women's freedom and autonomy, promoting feminist portrayal and empowerment(Iyer, 2022). Studies study how films reflect cultural identity, hybridity, and family relationships across cultures. Documentaries' narrative and visual tactics have been assessed using textual analysis and reception studies to address intergenerational conflict and cultural heritage(Wang et al., 2023). However, the link between these parameters in documentary filming is still unclear. This research examines gender, culture, and family relations in diverse cultures utilizing movies like "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families." The goal is to expand feminist film theory and show the global variety of feminist cinema(Puigarnau, 2024). Cross-case theme analysis, case studies, and textual analysis fill gaps in prior research methodologies including reception studies and textual analysis. It also addresses documentary filmmaking's ethical implications for poor people and how filmmakers balance social duty and storytelling(Gichuki, 2023). This feminist study investigates gender, culture, and family relations in documentary filming. The research examines how "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" and "Daughters of the Revolution" promote family and culture(Ma, 2023). Focus is on creative means used to portray these challenges and their link to feminist discourses and cultural myths. This study will analyze how cultural hybridity influences gender roles and family dynamics in documentaries. This book advances feminist cinema theory, cultural studies, and documentary filmmaking academically and professionally(Almwaka, 2022). It improves feminist cinema theory with intersectionality and postcolonial feminism. This approach expands feminist analysis by incorporating gender, culture, and family into identity. Foreign film helps it accomplish this. Feminist cinema theory investigates cultural identity, gender representation, and global viewpoints. This

research offers documentary filmmakers ethical narrative and cultural representation suggestions. Examining selected films' artistic and narrative qualities might help filmmakers quietly convey diverse ethnic and gender viewpoints. Culturally aware and inclusive documentaries empower and are ethical. The study stresses the relevance of authentic and diversified media cultural representations in policy and advocacy. As this study shows, documentary filmmaking may educate and advocate by influencing public debate and societal change. This can support gender equality, cultural understanding, and media literacy. This study examines gender, culture, and family dynamics in distinct cultural situations to address critical gaps in the literature. It also suggests using topic comparison, case studies, and textual analysis to create a more comprehensive framework for documentary interpretation. This may encourage feminist cinema theory and cultural studies research and methodological development. In addition to improving policy and advocacy campaigns, the study can offer documentary filmmakers practical advice and theoretical contributions to feminist cinema theory. The program analyzes gender, culture, and family dynamics in documentary filmmaking to improve cultural representation and promote more inclusive and ethical media.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, feminist cinema theory developed alongside the second-wave feminist movement and male-dominated popular filmmaking. The goal was to dissect movie portrayals of women, including their roles and opinions. Bell Hooks, Teresa de Lauretis, and Laura Mulvey pioneered feminist cinema theory (Salsabila et al., 2022). It was Laura Mulvey's 1975 essay "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" that introduced the "male gaze," which argues that mainstream Hollywood films reinforce male dominance by encouraging male viewers to identify with the male protagonist and desire female characters. This philosophy criticized traditional storylines and promoted new film approaches that challenge gender stereotypes (Wardaniningsih & Kasih, 2022). Bell hooks highlighted intersectionality and the role of racism, class, and gender in media portrayal. Hooks' criticism included social justice and bias as well as women's depiction. By introducing "queer theory" and challenging gender and sexuality norms, Filmmakers and theorists were inspired by her work to question heteronormative systems in cinema and fluid identities. Feminist film theory examines subversion, representation, and power

dynamics in documentary filmmaking. Feminist filmmakers can challenge dominant narratives and explore multiple perspectives in documentaries, which are more accurate than fiction. Documentary filmmaking can promote social change and feminist action because it shows real stories. Riggs' documentary films opposed homophobia and broadened documentary filmmaking by including visual and literary expression. To highlight the thoughts and viewpoints of the people they include, feminist documentary filmmakers frequently use participatory and collaborative tactics(Ribke, 2023). Empowerment and representation distinguish feminist documentaries from other genres, highlighting the importance of director-subject communication. Feminist documentary filmmaking now includes digital media and online platforms, increasing audience engagement and distribution. Postcolonial theory and cultural studies are influenced by hybridity theory, which describes how dynamic exchanges and blending shape cultural identities and expressions. Homi K. Bhabha coined "hybridity" to challenge cultural purity and fixed identities. Culture is dynamic and adaptable. This theoretical framework challenges essentialist views of civilizations as static and homogeneous(Daza, 2023). The "third space" symbolizes where cultures collide to create new identities and this is essential to hybridity theory(Bandyopadhyay, 2022). Arena negotiations and contests create new narratives and challenge dominant discourses. The emphasis on cultural interaction and adaptation in hybridity contradicts established narratives, as Bhabha's "The Location of Culture" (1994) shows. Hybridity theory has been used to study current cultural dynamics across a variety of cultural contexts and disciplines(Bandyopadhyay, 2022). Literary and creative works typically address blended identities, migration, and diaspora. Documentaries' aesthetics affect viewers' interaction with complicated societal concerns like gender, culture, and family dynamics. Visual representations shape culture. Documentaries and other narrative media use aesthetics to express cultural significance, question assumptions, evoke emotions, and deliver facts(South et al., 2022). Visual style, narrative structure, auditory design, editing, and content presentation are all aspects of documentary aesthetics. These features give documentaries emotional and artistic appeal and enrich the plot. Music, editing speed, camera angles, lighting, and composition affect the documentary's impact. Cultural storytelling conveys values and identities through aesthetic(Nikolakopoulou et al., 2022). Powerful imagery, symbolism, and visual references convey historical, cultural, and traditional value in documentaries. Ava DuVernay's 2016 documentary "13th" shows US racial injustice through archival video, present interviews,

and ambient music(Hagan, 2022). Humanizing challenging topics and people through aesthetics may increase empathy and understanding. This holistic approach allows filmmakers investigate social justice, human rights, and multiculturalism. The study of feminist filmmaking, cultural contexts, and gender portrayal in documentaries has advanced. Films have been extensively explored as critical platforms for feminist critique and engagement. This study examined documentaries' storytelling approaches and viewer perceptions. This group of studies keeps coming back to gender roles and identities in documentaries. Haqpana & Tsouroufli (Haqpana & Tsouroufli, 2023) and Sian (Sian, 2023) have criticized popular cinema for fostering masculinity and patriarchy. However, numerous films challenge these stereotypes and explore gender oppression and emancipation. Experimental ethnography in feminist filmmaking by Jha(Jha, 2022)shows how unconventional storytelling strategies can challenge typical tales and offer new perspectives on culture and gender. Feminist documentary studies now include marginalized voices and intersecting identities. Other filmmakers use personal experiences and social analysis to investigate gender, sexuality, and race (Ribke, 2023). Their study has illuminated the intricacies of identity formation and the challenges of opposing prevalent notions. Scholars have also examined how feminist films affect public discourse and audiences.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Selection of Documentaries

This study selected movies based on specific criteria to capture a variety of viewpoints on cultural representation and family dynamics. Each documentary was chosen for its relevance to feminist concepts, cultural identities, and gender roles in numerous social settings. Stories addressed gender roles and family relations throughout civilizations. Documentaries that showed family dynamics and how individual experiences intersect with sociocultural components were crucial. The selected feminist documentaries analyze how patriarchal institutions affect women's rights, gender parity, and family norms (Table 1). Feminist philosophy explains how filmmakers analyzed gender dynamics and promoted societal change. Comparing family dynamics and cultural representations across countries was done through films from different cultures. Cultural identity and adaptability in regional and global settings and how cultural legacy impacts human identities and family dynamics were investigated. This study chose "Daughters of the Revolution," about women activists in post-

revolutionary Iran, and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families," about immigrant families' cultural integration, due to their historical significance. This study examined documentary filmmaking's critical reception and thematic coherence on gender, culture, and family dynamics. The documentary examines immigrant communities' identities and family struggles. It shows how people adapt to new cultures while retaining their heritage. This theme analysis emphasizes gender and cultural identities, family representations, and cultural hybridity. The study compared feminist ideas and aesthetic choices to explain and criticize family dynamics in different cultures. These movies explore cultural identity, gender roles, and family dynamics from a variety of perspectives. Documentary filmmaking enriches the analysis of gender, culture, and identity dynamics, expanding the research themes.

Table 1: Selection Criteria for Documentaries

Criterion	Description	Rationale
Relevance to Themes	Family dynamics and cultural representation should be explored in documentaries.	Ensures alignment with study objectives focused on gender roles, cultural identities, and family dynamics.
Inclusion of Feminist Perspectives	Focus on feminist documentaries on gender equality and social justice.	Facilitates analysis of how filmmakers critique and challenge patriarchal norms and societal expectations.
Diversity in Cultural Contexts	Selection of documentaries from diverse cultural backgrounds and contexts.	Provides comparative insights into how family dynamics and cultural representations vary globally.

### 3.2 Text Analysis Approach

The documentaries "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" and "Daughters of the Revolution." were analyzed using text analysis. Transcribing documentary narratives was essential for studying family dynamics and cultural representations. This included recording audio, narration, and detailed images. Each documentary's transcripts were carefully examined for key moments that illuminated cultural differences, familial dynamics, and gender standards. A full taxonomy was used to systematically analyze the data. This research aimed to analyze and interpret literary elements related to the investigation. The study investigated how family dynamics were portrayed and interpreted regarding family ties. The documentaries' emotional dynamics, tensions, and relationships have to be analyzed. The documentaries' depictions and examinations of gender norms in their own cultures were prominent. This study component

highlighted gender identity and agency in films. We examined cultural aesthetics and hybridity to understand how visual and narrative methods represent cultural diversity and the merging of traditions in immigrant or culturally diverse situations. This part of the code showed how directors used aesthetics to portray subjects' intricacies and cultural components (Table 2). A thorough textual analysis showed how "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" use visual depiction and storytelling to examine feminist viewpoints, cultural interactions, and gender and family dynamics across diverse cultural settings. This method examined cinematic tales thoroughly, increasing documentary filmmaking's research of family dynamics, culture, and gender.

Table 2: Coding Scheme for Text Analysis

Code	Description	Example
Family Dynamics	Themes related to interactions, conflicts, and relationships within families.	Exploration of parent-child dynamics in immigrant families.
Gender Roles	Depiction and critique of traditional or evolving gender roles within the documentary.	Analysis of women's agency in challenging societal norms.
Cultural Aesthetics	Representation of cultural practices, traditions, and aesthetics within the film.	Visual portrayal of cultural ceremonies in indigenous communities.

### 3.3 Data Analysis

Data processing comprised textual and case study evaluations of "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" documentaries. Both films' themes were investigated utilizing cross-case thematic analysis. Comparative analysis showed how each documentary depicted gender dynamics, cultural identity, and family interactions. Contrasting cultural portrayals and gender dynamics revealed subtle changes in theme focus and narrative technique in the two videos. Validation and triangulation guaranteed the study's dependability and robustness. Cross-referencing textual analysis with case studies increased data interpretation and outcomes (Table 3). The inter-coder agreement is improved by multiple analysts working together to provide consistent and rigorous thematic interpretation and coding. To decrease subjective biases, constant interaction and consensus were needed. The study also examined reflexivity and researcher bias by examining researchers' perspectives. This strategy ensured objectivity and accurately depicted documentary storytelling's complexity.



Table 3: Case Study Analysis Framework

Component	Case Study 1: "Daughters of the Revolution"	Case Study 2: "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families"
Synopsis and Context	Explores lives of women activists in post-revolutionary Iran.	Follows immigrant families across different countries, focusing on cultural adaptation.
Analysis of Family Dynamics	Examines familial relationships and gender roles within Iranian society.	Analyzes dynamics of immigrant families navigating cultural integration.
Feminist Interpretations	Critiques patriarchal structures and advocates for women's rights.	Explores women's agency and challenges to traditional gender norms.
Aesthetic Representations	Uses visual metaphors and storytelling techniques to convey feminist messages.	Depicts cultural hybridity through visual and narrative aesthetics.

### 3.4 Ethical Considerations

This study relied on ethics to maintain research integrity and participant safety and obtaining informed permission was key. We asked documentary filmmakers and others to evaluate them. This process includes setting study goals, choosing analysis methods, and discussing results. Filmmakers followed intellectual property rights and received specific consent to ensure ethical practices. Protecting sensitive data was crucial. Documentaries typically reveal personal stories and cultural differences, requiring extra privacy and identification protection. Data was anonymized and protected during transcription, coding, and analysis. The investigator had to analyze their biases and participation to maintain objectivity. The researchers methodically assessed their biases, prejudices, and opinions throughout the investigation. The researchers used their cultural heritage and preconceptions to improve their findings. To respect the documentary's subjects and creators, the study followed professional and ethical norms. When exploring gender, family dynamics, and cultural representations, documentary filmmaking ethics boosted trust, transparency, and accountability.

## 4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Text Analysis Findings

#### 4.1.1 Themes Related to Family Dynamics and Cultural Representations

Textual study of "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" found numerous key themes that offer a

diverse perspective on cultural representations and family dynamics. The documentary "Daughters of the Revolution" depicts complex family dynamics in post-revolutionary Iran. Iranian women activists' independence and resistance to patriarchal conventions are shown in the film. Mother-daughter bonding contrasts with social change. These topics address Iranian family structure and how political ideology influences gender dynamics.

"Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" explores immigrant cultures' globalization adaptation. The film highlights how families can adapt new cultures while keeping their roots. Immigrant families adapt to multiculturalism through cultural identification and affiliation. The film mixes visual and narrative components to highlight how interrelated personality parts are and how strong family bonds are throughout generations (Table 4). How these recordings undermine family dynamics and cultural barriers is investigated. They emphasize how women change societal norms and family dynamics. The videos address gender equality, ethnic diversity, and family relationships in a globalized culture. They do this by sharing their stories and perspectives.

Table 4 Themes Related to Family Dynamics

Theme	Description	Example from Text Analysis	Example from Case Study 1	Example from Case Study 2
Intergenerational Conflicts	Exploration of tensions and conflicts between different generations within families.	Analysis of disagreements between mothers and daughters over traditional roles.	Depiction of generational clashes between activists and their conservative parents.	Examination of cultural misunderstandings between immigrant parents and their children.
Gendered Expectations	Examination of societal norms and expectations placed on individuals based on gender.	Analysis of how daughters are expected to uphold family honor and traditions.	Critique of patriarchal expectations restricting women's freedoms and aspirations.	Portrayal of sons and daughters navigating dual cultural expectations and obligations.
Emotional Bonds	Exploration of the emotional connections and dynamics that define familial relationships.	Study of the emotional resilience and support networks within families.	Exploration of familial love and sacrifice amidst political turmoil and activism.	Illustration of the emotional challenges and resilience in adapting to new cultural environments.

#### 4.1.2 Feminist Interpretations and Insights

The feminist documentaries "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" discuss family and cultural representations of feminist ideas, gender dynamics, and women's empowerment. A feminist documentary, "Daughters of the Revolution," follows Iranian women activists after the revolution. The film shows how these women balance family, community, and politics with social justice and gender equality. Feminism, which sees women as proactive change agents in their homes and communities, is crucial. Demonstrations and family relationships stress women's caregiving and activism roles. The images show women's political and social influence and challenge gender norms. "Daughters of the Revolution" shows how cultural norms and legislation limit women's rights, challenging patriarchal systems. The documentary shows how gender inequality affects families through interviews, archival footage, and personal testimonies. A feminist film shows how gender, social class, and ethnicity affect Iranian women's lives and goals. The book "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" features feminist perspectives on immigrant women and families in many cultures. In the documentary, women balance family traditions with cultural fusion and own identity (table 5). Feminist interpretations emphasize immigrant women's empowerment as they overcome cultural, economic, and language challenges. The film portrays women as resilient and resourceful who protect cultural heritage and develop intergenerational connections. "Bridging Borders" challenges stereotypes by spotlighting immigrant women's strengths, objectives, and impact on their families and communities.

Table 5(a): Representations of Gender Roles

Aspect	Description	Example from Text Analysis	Example from Case Study 1	Example from Case Study 2
Traditional Roles	Portrayal of societal expectations and norms regarding gender roles.	Analysis of how traditional gender roles constrain women's opportunities.	Critique of patriarchal norms limiting women's agency and freedom in Iranian society.	Exploration of traditional gender roles and expectations among immigrant families.

Table 5(b): Representations of Gender Roles

Aspect	Description	Example from Text Analysis	Example from Case Study 1	Example from Case Study 2
Challenges to Norms	Examination of efforts to challenge or redefine traditional gender expectations.	Analysis of women actively challenging gender norms through activism.	Exploration of women's roles as breadwinners and caregivers in immigrant communities.	Portrayal of daughters challenging cultural norms and forging new paths in their families.
Intersectionality	Exploration of how gender intersects with other aspects of identity (e.g., race, class).	Analysis of how gender identities are shaped by cultural and political contexts.	Discussion of how gender and cultural identity intersect in shaping immigrant experiences.	Illustration of gender roles influenced by cultural hybridity and adaptation.

## 5. CASE STUDY DISCUSSIONS

### 5.1 Aesthetic Representations of Family Roles and Relationships

"Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" and "Daughters of the Revolution" are case studies that show how art depicts family duties and relationships across cultures. Aesthetic considerations affect family dynamics representation and understanding in these videos. In "Daughters of the Revolution," visual representations explore post-revolutionary Iranian family dynamics. Cinematography shows Iranian women activists' public protests and family times. Visual metaphors like close-ups of facial expressions during conflict or concentration show family love. Traditional clothing and homes affect family dynamics due to culture and generation. These creative choices advance the plot and show how gender norms and family obligations interact in a political climate. "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" by Sofia Diaz examines cultural family relations. International immigrant families' culture and daily living are addressed in the documentary. Cinematography and visual storytelling reveal how cultural differences affect home activities and relationships. Family gatherings, festivals, and daily rituals show immigrant families' endurance and adaptation during cultural integration. Visual distinctions between ancient and new sites show how migration impacts identity and family. In their tales, immigrant families use colors, music, and locations to unite and

embrace cultural differences.

## 5.2 Impact of Cultural Hybridity on Aesthetics and Narratives

The documentaries "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" address cultural hybridity in narrative and art. Maryam Zaree's "Daughters of the Revolution" casts doubt on Iranian cultural hybridity. The documentary says women activists must balance Iranian and worldwide feminist movements. The photographs use modern protest symbols and traditional attire to highlight global and local principles. Personal accounts and historical materials show how cultural hybridity influences domestic duties and relationships. Family reunions and rallies connect personal narratives to socio-politics. Sofia Diaz's "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families," investigates cultural hybridity's impact on immigrant families. A documentary examines how societal and cultural standards effect family dynamics in different circumstances. Multilingualism, music, and contrasting elements from different time periods show cultural hybridity. The pieces highlight how immigrant families keep their culture across civilizations. Ethnic holidays and customs show how immigrants adapt to new societies. The films show how cultural hybridity impacts storytelling. The non-linear narrative and subjective perspectives of "Daughters of the Revolution" alter and deepen Iranian women's images. The documentary explores how personal tales and opinions blend family cultures. The film explores how cultural dynamics have impacted gender identities and family roles via historical events and personal tales. The video shows cultural absorption and survival across ethnicities via cross-cutting and parallel narratives. Cultural hybridity stories show how family experiences overlap. The documentary shows how immigrant families want to define themselves and feel included. Interviews and testimonials show underrepresented perspectives (Table 6). Both documentaries challenge culture and identity through narrative and images. "Daughters of the Revolution" imaginatively depicts cultural hybridity to deepen feminist critiques of patriarchal customs and challenge preconceptions. Use of visual metaphors and symbols in the documentary shows cultural flexibility and feminist resilience in family situations. Artistic representations of cultural blending show how parental responsibilities and relationships change in international communities in "Bridging Borders". The documentary examines how immigrants adapt to new societies and overcome obstacles, challenging stereotypes. It emphasizes family and community cultural identity negotiation.

Table 6: Impact of Cultural Hybridity

Aspect	Description	Example from Text Analysis	Example from Case Study 1	Example from Case Study 2
Identity Negotiation	Exploration of how individuals negotiate and redefine their cultural identities.	Analysis of Iranian women activists navigating dual identities amidst political change.	Portrayal of immigrant families adapting cultural traditions to new environments.	Examination of cultural blending and identity formation among second-generation immigrants.
Hybrid Cultural Practices	Representation of cultural practices and traditions shaped by diverse influences.	Depiction of Iranian cultural traditions influenced by global feminist movements.	Illustration of multicultural celebrations integrating old and new cultural elements.	Examples of language, food, and music blending to form new cultural expressions.
Familial Adaptation	Examination of how families adapt and evolve across cultural and generational divides.	Analysis of familial dynamics adjusting to societal changes and political pressures.	Exploration of intergenerational conflicts and resolutions within immigrant families.	Portrayal of familial resilience and support networks in multicultural settings.

### 5.3 Comparative Analysis Across Case Studies

Comparing "Daughters of the Revolution" to "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" shows similarities and differences in family dynamics, cultural identities, and gender roles (Table 7). Family strength and adaptability to social problems are the focus of the documentaries. Both "Daughters of the Revolution," directed by Maryam Zaree, and "Bridging Borders," by Sofia Diaz, show families navigating complex social and cultural changes. The essay shows how cultural hybridity and globalization change family responsibilities and relationships. Both documentaries demonstrate women's resilience and activity in challenging family situations. "Daughters of the Revolution" highlights Iranian women activists who break patriarchal norms by participating in public demonstrations and family relationships. "Bridging Borders" is a

documentary about immigrant women proudly expressing their identity and assimilating while maintaining family rituals. Women's gender, culture, and role in family change are highlighted in these stories. Both videos reflect cultural identities and home dynamics through aesthetics. Through the use of symbolic imagery, narrative tactics, and visual metaphors, these films show how cultures and family dynamics come together. "Daughters of the Revolution" uses archive film and intimate interviews to show how families may adjust to political changes. "Bridging Borders" uses bilingualism and documentary filmmaking to highlight how immigrant families adapt to different cultures. Despite their themes, "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders" show different family dynamics and cultural identities. The documentary "Daughters of the Revolution" follows Iranian women activists during a revolution. Iranian families face unique social challenges in the documentary. "Bridging Borders" explores the complex lives of immigrant families from different cultures to show the worldwide scope of immigration issues. The documentaries show gender roles and family dynamics utilizing various artistic and storytelling techniques. The documentary "Daughters of the Revolution" uses human experiences and symbolic images to show Iranian women revolutionaries' struggles. However, "Bridging Borders" uses observational cinematography and vignettes to depict immigrant families' daily lives and cultural customs across cultures. Family obligations vary by culture, as seen by this technique. Subject focus is another key difference between documentaries. "Daughters of the Revolution" studies political ideology and family dynamics from a national feminist resistance and gender injustice perspective. The film challenges patriarchal views and encourages women to reform society and family norms. Immigrant families struggle with identity and culture in "Bridging Borders". The persistence of family stories and adaptability to new cultures are highlighted by cultural diversity." The comparison shows how "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families." depict families in diverse and complicated ways. This documentary series explores gender roles, cultural identities, and family dynamics in many sociocultural contexts. Their work shows how cultural hybridity affects families and recognizes family authority. Comparative research helps us understand how cultural influences shape identity and family. This shows the challenges and opportunities families experience in different cultures and their ability to adapt, recover, and take charge. These case studies challenge standard narratives and honor varied family experiences in a globalized

culture. "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" emphasize the importance of context in depicting family dynamics, cultural identities, and gender conventions. Political, historical, cultural, and economic factors affect family and social experiences. The documentary "Daughters of the Revolution," directed by Maryam Zaree, examines how post-revolutionary Iranian politics affects family dynamics and gender standards. The documentary shows Iranian female activists adapting to the 1979 Revolution's political and social changes. Historical factors like gender segregation laws and government rules impact the film's family dynamics and social traditions. Political beliefs affect gender dynamics and family peace, as shown by conflicts over personal freedom and interests. Migration and cultural integration affect family dynamics across boundaries in Sofia Diaz's "Bridging Borders" film (Duckett, 2023). The documentary shows immigrant families of many ethnicities adapting to shifting geopolitical and economic conditions while maintaining their family customs. Colonialism and diaspora drive the film's depiction of cultural hybridity and identity negotiation (Lockard, 2009). History and geopolitics and economics affect immigrants' lives and home obligations, as shown in the documentary. Both documentaries examine family and culture. Due to patriarchal conventions, "Daughters of the Revolution" depicts women as powerful and limited. The documentary examines how gender norms and social norms foster community and family (Saward, 2023). Family festivals show how traditional practices may adapt to current changes. "Bridging Borders" examines how immigrant families navigate family and ethnicity in varied situations. The documentary explores how globalization and new cultures change culture. Immigrant families adopt ideas through cultural hybridity (Attaviriyapap, 2025). Families negotiate and change cultural identities via intergenerational discourse and language. Furthermore, the videos analyze how economic and social mobility impact family aspirations and obligations. In "Daughters of the Revolution", economic inequality and opportunity impact home dynamics and individual objectives, especially for women who overcome social barriers to succeed academically and professionally. Education and home social interaction affect gender inequalities, the documentary reveals. Economic factors impact immigrant families' social mobility and assimilation in "Bridging Borders." In the movie, economic possibilities and restrictions impact immigrant families' caregiving and breadwinning. The film explores how economic and cultural variables impact education, career, and community. Immigrant family interactions



about financial stability or struggle demonstrate the intricacy of social mobility. Furthermore, both documentaries' contextual components influence family relationships, cultural identities, and gender roles (Leung et al., 2023). Intersectionality examines how geopolitics, history, culture, and economics influence families. The movies illuminate identity development and family resiliency by exploring these interconnected concerns (Jiacheng et al., 2024).

Table 7(a): Comparative Analysis Across Documentaries

Theme	Documentary 1	Documentary 2	Comparative Insights
Cultural Context	Post-revolutionary Iran	Global immigrant experiences	Contrasting socio-political climates and their impact on familial dynamics and gender roles.
Representation of Gender Roles	Critique of patriarchal norms and feminist resistance	Exploration of gender roles in multicultural contexts	Comparative analysis of feminist strategies and challenges across different cultural landscapes.
Aesthetic Representations	Symbolic imagery and emotional cinematography	Documentary-style realism and multicultural visuals	Aesthetic choices shaping narrative depth and emotional resonance within familial contexts.
Impact of Cultural Hybridity	Intersection of political activism with cultural identity	Adaptation of cultural traditions and hybrid identities	Examination of cultural hybridity as a transformative force in shaping familial dynamics and identity negotiation.
Resilience and Agency	Women's empowerment through activism	Family resilience amidst cultural adaptation	Comparative exploration of agency and empowerment within familial and societal contexts.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 Theoretical Contributions to Feminist Film Theory

By studying gendered narratives in documentary filmmaking, "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" and "Daughters of the

Revolution" promote feminist cinema theory. These films encourage minority perspectives and challenge gender stereotypes with complex storytelling and visuals. Maryam Zaree's feminist film "Daughters of the Revolution" features post-revolutionary Iranian women activists who reject patriarchy. The documentary challenges gender stereotypes and encourages women's political engagement by exposing how gender and society impact family dynamics (MacDougall, 2022). This approach supports feminist cinema theory by illustrating how documentaries empower and challenge gender and societal conventions. Sofia Diaz's "Bridging Borders" improves feminist cinema theory by examining multicultural immigrant households' gendered narratives. The documentary shows women's perseverance and empowerment as they change gender conventions throughout nations while preserving their culture. Feminist cinema studies is enhanced by the film's exploration of gendered identities in migration and questioning assumptions (Daniels, 2022). Both programs examine cultural representations of family histories and nations. Personal experience, historical data, and symbolic imagery deepen cultural representation and link the feminist movement to cultural legacy in the poem "Daughters of the Revolution". The documentary investigates Iranian culture and how cultural portrayals can challenge or reinforce gender stereotypes, adding to scholarly debate on documentaries' authenticity and portrayal. But "Bridging Borders" emphasizes the interconnection of immigrant families' identities, expanding cultural representation. Cultural hybridity—traditional and modern—affects family dynamics and identities, according to the documentary. This study examines how documentaries commemorate ethnic diversity and analyze power dynamics and injustices in families and societies. Also contributes to feminist cinema theory.

## 6.2 Practical Insights for Documentary Filmmakers

Documentary filmmakers may use "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders" to increase morale. Cultural identity and gender inequality necessitate ethical representation. To avoid preconceptions, bias, and assure authenticity and impartiality, filmmakers should encourage informed consent, transparency, and respectful depictions of their subjects. Collaborative narratives that prioritize minority voices can be captivating. Community-based filmmaking enables people ask and tell stories. "Daughters of the Revolution" honors Iranian women revolutionaries and encourages family and community feminist debates. "Bridging Borders"

illustrates how recording immigrant families' struggles and accomplishments helps them. Media about change agents can influence viewers and promote social justice. Cultural knowledge helps documentarians convey varied cultures and views. Culture affects gender roles and family dynamics in "Daughters of the Revolution". Filmmakers should examine society. Music, multilingual lectures, and immigrant culture pictures encourage cultural tolerance in "Bridging Borders". These strategies let filmmakers demonstrate cultural identities and empathy. Cultural sensitivity dispels misconceptions and encourages nuanced explanations of cultural norms and behaviors. Documentaries shouldn't minimize cultures or identities; emphasize family and community. Filmmakers can help people understand civilizations by focusing on personal stories. Finally, feminist cinema theory and documentary filmmakers can learn from "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families". These documentaries promote diversity, cultural awareness, and ethical storytelling in gendered narratives and documentaries (An & Witt, 2022). Films with diverse perspectives and underrepresented voices may reveal familial bonds and cultural identities.

## 7. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The documentaries "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" are useful for examining gender roles, culture, and family interactions in different sociocultural contexts. Intersectionality affects identity and family negotiation; therefore, additional research is needed. Documentary study could examine how gender, race, ethnicity, and class affect families. Understanding how intersectional identities affect familial power relations, caregiving, and ambitions in different cultures promotes identity development and resilience. Transnational families' global relationships must be studied. Immigrant families explore transnational identities and connections in "Bridging Borders". Future research may study how globalization affects transnational families, economies, and cultures. Researchers may examine how economic gaps, immigration rules, and technology affect transnational families' ability to adapt and stay together. As illustrated in "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders," media portrayals of family dynamics and gender roles may affect audience and society perceptions. Documentary viewer reactions can reveal how media impacts public discussions on social justice, ethnic diversity, and gender equality.

Qualitative research on viewer responses, media influence, and audience comments and reviews may be needed. The impact of documentary filmmaking on advocacy and mobilization, particularly female activism and social change, might be studied. Feminist films empower communities, advocate for legislative reform, and raise social awareness, explaining the media's role in gender equality and justice. This could involve reviewing case studies of documentaries that influenced policy agendas or social movements to emphasize ethical issues and documentary advocacy best practices.

## 8. CONCLUSION

An analysis of "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" and "Daughters of the Revolution" revealed how gender, culture, and family dynamics affect documentary filmmaking. The documentaries below have promoted feminist cinema theory, illuminated cultural diversity, and helped filmmakers and researchers. "Daughters of the Revolution," directed by Maryam Zaree, shows how sociopolitics affect gender dynamics and home interactions in post-revolutionary Iran. The documentary challenges social norms that favor men and celebrates Iranian women activists who oppose them. The study of cultural aesthetics that represent identity and resistance, feminist resistance, and gender-based power dynamics is significant. Sofia Diaz's "Bridging Borders" examines immigrant families' struggles to integrate cultures and find their identities in unfamiliar places. The documentary uses visual storytelling and personal stories to examine how families adjust and how people navigate their ethnic identities. This research examines cultural hybridity as a significant engine of change, depicts resilience in reaction to cultural change, and commemorates variety through visuals. These documentaries enhance feminist cinema theory by revealing cultural depictions and gendered narrative in documentary filmmaking. They challenge gender stereotypes by highlighting marginalized views and giving varied household dynamics ideas. The documentaries explore how culture, history, and socioeconomics shape family identities. The documentaries "Bridging Borders" and "Daughters of the Revolution" aid genre filmmakers. They encourage diversity, cultural knowledge, and informed consent through ethical storytelling. These documentaries emphasize the importance of collaborative approaches that let people create their own narratives and challenge ideas. Finally,

"Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" show how film may foster social awareness, cultural understanding, and feminist advocacy. Documentaries about new family dynamics and culture promote filmmaking research. Diversity, empathy, and global and familial social justice are their goals. Stories can illuminate human experiences and increase understanding.

## 9. THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

The documentaries "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" inspired documentary filmmaking theory and academic discussions. By challenging gender conventions and promoting minority perspectives, these documentaries advance feminist film theory. After the revolution, "Daughters of the Revolution" challenges Iranian patriarchy via political action, home dynamics, and gender roles. Focusing on feminists' social and family opposition enriches feminist cinema theory. By emphasising cultural adaptability and resilience, the documentary "Bridging Borders" extends feminist ideas on gender and multicultural immigrant families. These studies portray gendered stories and cultures to demonstrate documentary filmmaking's societal impact. Documentaries cover culture hybridity. Persian women in "Daughters of the Revolution" must manage two cultures during political upheaval, highlighting how cultural hybridity impacts independence and family. "Bridging Borders" shows immigrant families adjusting. Moving across cultures and families challenges cultural identity, globalization, and diaspora studies. Documentary filmmaking promotes values. "Daughters of the Revolution" and "Bridging Borders" empower communities and challenge conventions via collaboration, cultural awareness, and informed consent. These ethical considerations emphasize researcher reflexivity and positionality in capturing sensitive topics and cultural notions. They recommend reassessing documentary filmmaking's morality and prioritizing minority voices and cultural inclusivity. These documentaries offer filmmakers ethical storytelling tips. Filmmakers may help anyone produce authentic narratives by emphasizing real occurrences and using collaborative storytelling. "Daughters of the Revolution" emphasizes Iranian women's political activism and promotes social change and gender equality. "Bridging Borders" emphasizes cultural acceptance and immigrant encounters through ethical depictions that challenge preconceptions and

promote cultural understanding. The documentaries emphasize cultural understanding in documentary filmmaking. Filmmakers should research socio-cultural backgrounds, historical narratives, and community perspectives to accurately portray complex family relationships and cultural identities. Filmmakers can promote discussions and understanding between different cultures by including conversations in many languages, cultural customs, and visually appealing visuals. "Bridging Borders" uses visual storytelling and human anecdotes to show intercultural contacts and promote cultural diversity among immigrant families. These documentaries also demonstrate how documentary filmmaking may raise awareness and inspire activism. "Bridging Borders" and "Daughters of the Revolution" use fascinating storytelling and beautiful photography to encourage audiences to think about social justice, cultural diversity, and gender parity. They show media portrayals influence public opinion, policy, and community structure. Filmmakers can use these insights to promote empathy, conversation, and social change.

## 10. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The research on "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" and "Daughters of the Revolution" was insightful; however, limitations must be addressed. The movies' findings on family dynamics, cultural representations, and gender roles in post-revolutionary Iran and immigrant families may not apply to bigger populations or other cultures. Natural events and views may not capture the full range of familial experiences or cultural variety across civilizations in documentaries. Interpretative text analysis is another shortcoming of this technique. Text analysis evaluates visual and textual resources based on researchers' backgrounds and viewpoints. Although coding and inter-coder agreement can improve reliability, documentary narratives, and thematic patterns are prone to prejudice. Documentary studies must follow ethical principles, be transparent in research methodologies, and admit researchers' biases to maintain integrity and ethics. Cultural and linguistic barriers hinder the study's representation of indigenous knowledge systems and cultural beliefs. The documentaries analyzed use Persian and English, possibly eliminating additional languages or oral traditions. Future studies should analyze movies in non-Western languages and use indigenous research methods to focus on cultural inclusivity and linguistic variety.

Documentary research accurately presents a variety of cultural viewpoints and epistemologies using this method. Films are a visual representation of a period's social and cultural trends. Documentaries can explain present family dynamics and cultural changes, but they may not show generational shifts or long-term family changes. Longitudinal studies of familial trajectories can help explain how cultural identity negotiation, resilience, and family dynamics change over time. In documentary filmmaking, "Bridging Borders: Stories of Immigrant Families" and "Daughters of the Revolution" offer important viewpoints on culture, gender roles, and family dynamics. These limits must be overcome by making methodological changes, considering ethical issues, and promoting cultural inclusivity to expand feminist film theory and documentary studies.

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