

Nicholas Stout

ENGL: 2010-028

Professor Argyle

07/09/2012

A Review of

Ganges River: Sacred and Sullied

The producers of *Ganges River: Sacred and Sullied* capture the power that mother Ganga has on the people of India. The documentary follows the Ganges River from its origin at the Gangotri Glacier, known as the Cow's Mouth, to its final plunge into Bengal Bay. The Ganges River is the longest river in the world, supporting more than one-tenth the world population, and the most sacred river in India. Along the 2500kl river, the documentary looks at the culture and the way of life for the people that thrive from the flowing river. The river may be polluted, but the Glacier from which the Ganges derives is receding by 25kl a year and by 2035 will be a dry riverbed. In a country struggling to support life, an extinct Ganges River could be catastrophic for the 500 million-plus people who use it to sustain life.

Films Media Group has perfected the art of transition, moving at the right pace, from topic to topic. The producers understand that lingering on one piece of information could distract viewers or leave them bored. They are careful to walk a fine line, not leaning on any side of the problem. They also do not run through the information, which also could be boring and confusing. Films Media Group allows the viewer to take in information and absorb the footage they present on the Ganges River. The producers deliver a powerful documentary focused on leading people to make a change of life.

Films Media Group understands how to make a successful documentary. One element is convincing information; furthermore, it must be informative giving truthful educated passages. They focus on developing information that is researched and interesting to viewers. Using footage of local people who are dealing with the pollution problems, combined with the researched information, they succeed in drawing in the audience's attention. The producers are effective in capturing the true depth of the problem in India, leaving limited questions unanswered.

Films Media Group strives to create solid educational videos for colleges across the country. Using powerful images, the producers of *Ganges River: Sacred and Sullied* grab the



The chart shows how far the Gangotri Glacier has receded. Science estimates it to evaporate by 2035.

(Source) Serreze, M. *Glims data at nsidc*. N.p., 2003. Web. 17 Jul 2012.

audience's attention. The producers are motivated by extending personal knowledge and presenting only facts to help in educating the viewer. By introducing the audience to a sadhu that has photographed the receding Gangotri Glacier and then providing scientific research that predicts the extinction of the glacier only signifies the importance of the need for drastic

change (see Figure 1).

Strangely, there is a bias in the documentary, but it helps the viewer understand the gap in cultures. They state that religiously devoted individuals make thoughtless decisions largely based on faith. Films Media Group shows how educated people make irrational decisions based on their devoted hearts. Many people understand what can happen when they drink the polluted

water but still do so because they believe that the river is impervious to pollutants. In reality, women and children are getting sick at a great rate and many are even dying. Still as proof of pollution builds up on riverbanks, the Hindu people make pilgrimages to cities located along the Ganges River. The producer harnesses this fact and uses it to prove their point.

Finally, expectations of a good documentary are all satisfied. All the people who wish to expand their personal knowledge on the global pollution problem should watch *Ganges River: Sacred and Sullied*. It is intriguing to see how people ignore science to follow a religious path, fully aware of the deadly consequences. Even more strange is to see people willing to bathe and drink such inhospitable water, with no desire to clean it up. Films Media Group has presented a powerful documentary with firsthand experiences and scientific discoveries.

Work Cited

Ganges River: Sacred and Sullied. Films Media Group, 2008. Web. 19 June 2012.

<<http://digital.films.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=1835&xtid=40146>>.

Serreze, M. *Glims Data at National Snow and Ice Data Center*. N.p. 2003. Web. 17 Jul 2012.

<<http://nsidc.org/glims/glaciermelt/>>.