

INTRODUCTION

A movie is a form of visual storytelling that typically involves a sequence of moving images and sound. The movie has the power to change and raise awareness of issues by serving as a medium to address and explore various social, political, and cultural topics. Movies' cultural impact is evident in their ability to influence public opinion, shape narratives, and contribute to the collective consciousness. Since its inception, the movie has been used as a response to current political and social trends as well as being used as a tool to spread cultural ideas and values (Bales, 2020).

One of Indonesia's most recent social issues is nepotism. In the lead-up to the general election, nepotism has begun to dominate the political environment. This adds to an already heated election due to controversial decisions, the latest of which has been the decision by the Constitutional Court to raise the age limit for presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

The term nepotism gets its name in Latin for nephew or grandson. It is interrelated to the English word nephew, derived from Old French from Latin, which defines nepotism as biases used towards siblings and other relationships by awarding them employment because of their association rather than their skills (Kaushal, Ghalawat & Kaurav, 2021). Nepotism can be defined as favouritism towards relatives, usually by offering them jobs. It is considered a particularly toxic phenomenon in the public sector as it goes against the public interest: Citizens generally expect public employees to deserve their jobs, hired according to merit-based criteria (Fisman & Golden, 2017). For instance, in deciding promotions, if an uncle passes over an able candidate in favour of his indolent and inefficient nephew, he is considered to be failing in his duty - requiring him to appoint staff on their merits (Cottingham, 1986). According to Ombanda (2018), the influence of family or kinship in an organization leads to promoting relatives or tribesmen, not based on competence but nepotism. Most people today define nepotism as hiring a relative and a grossly incompetent one (Bellow, 2003).

With regard to this issue, power relations play a key role in enabling nepotism when those given power take undue advantage to favour their relatives. In this respect, the abuse of authority manifests in biased hiring decisions, promotions, or resource allocations. Foucault (1982) emphasizes that understanding power relations involves examining how power is exercised and its impact when one individual exerts control over others. According to him, power shapes human life and morality through discourses constructed by social relations.

Since a movie represents reality that shapes thoughts and ideas based on actual events or even imagination, the issue of nepotism was captured by Frank Darabont in his film *The*

Green Mile. *The Green Mile* is set in a prison in the United States during the 1930s and narrates the story of Paul Edgecomb, played by Tom Hanks, as the chief warden of a Block E prison. It was known as Green Mile because the floor was green, and on that block, convicts condemned to execution were kept. Percy Wetmore, played by Doug Hutchison, is one of the characters in the movie portrayed as a sadistic and power-hungry prison guard. According to Muthukannan (2021), Percy was identified as having a sadistic nature. He is the incompetent little man among the wardens and is the only exception. While Percy's character does not overtly show nepotism in the movie, there is something to do with privilege and power relations that play a role in his presence and behavior in the prison setting. Being the nephew of the state's governor is evidence that family connections played a significant role in securing his position as a prison guard. This family connection gives Percy power and influence that no other guard has. It is a very clear case of nepotism, as he seems to have a sort of immunity against consequences for his abusive and unethical behavior.