Village women learn to be good mothers

A woman becomes a good citizen by teaching her village neighbours about clean, modern childbirth.

Social worker Sita Devi realises that she has a role to play in building a strong Indian society by taking action against the backward traditions of childbirth in her village and spreading knowledge about modern scientific practices. Released as India won independence, the film shows ‘the right way to be a mother’ while encouraging middle class women to offer their services to the new nation.

Made with the support of the United Nations, there are many aesthetic and stylistic similarities with the infomercials produced by the Government of India’s Film Divisions film in the 1940s and 1950s, which promoted the Nehruvian government’s modernising agenda and sought to instruct Indians in how to be good citizens.

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