




Reflecting Epochs: A Review of Social Background's Influence on Interpersonal Communication in Contemporary Television Dramas

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ABSTRACT

Television dramas are vital platforms that reflect societal norms, values, and power dynamics. This study investigates how social backgrounds—such as race, ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status—affect interpersonal communication in contemporary TV dramas. The primary goal is to analyze how these social identities shape communication patterns and behaviors among characters, revealing underlying power dynamics, stereotypes, and inequalities embedded within television content. By examining the intersectionality of social identities in media narratives, this study aims to deepen the understanding of how media representations impact audience perceptions and societal attitudes. This research includes a comprehensive literature review to explore existing studies on social background representation and communication dynamics in media. Additionally, selected TV dramas were analyzed using content and thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns in character interactions and communication styles. The findings indicate that social backgrounds significantly influence communication and relationship dynamics in television stories, mirroring broader societal norms and reinforcing stereotypes and disparities. This research underscores the importance of promoting diverse, authentic, and inclusive portrayals in media. It also highlights the need for critical media literacy and audience engagement initiatives to challenge stereotypes and advocate for positive social change, ultimately contributing to a more equitable media landscape.

Keywords: Television Drama, Social Backgrounds, Interpersonal Communication, Media Representation, Cultural Diversity.

INTRODUCTION

Interpersonal communication shapes television dramas' storylines. Verbal and nonverbal exchanges between characters shape the plot, character relationships, and themes in the theatrical work (Wilson, Pinto Ocampo, Brown, & Tucker, 2020). In television dramas, interpersonal communication reflects and influences societal norms, values, and perspectives (Chang & Lee, 2022). Television dramas, a popular kind of entertainment, affect culture and society. They influence how individuals view interpersonal interactions and social dynamics and affect several audiences (Ramirez et al., 2021). Television dramas have a significant impact on viewer perceptions, attitudes, and actions regarding interpersonal communication, making them an important research topic in media and communication studies (Messerli & Locher, 2024). Scholars have consistently noted the importance of interpersonal communication in television plots and viewer perception. Interpersonal communication in TV

shows has been studied by communication studies and media psychology researchers. Audience connection, character evolution, and narrative structure are examined (Klein, Roberts, Manganello, McAdams, & McKenzie, 2020). Academic study has examined how television dramas communicate profound emotions, resolve crises, and inspire individuals via relationships, communication, and body language. Human communication depictions became more complex and delicate as television storytelling skills and narrative styles improved (Chang & Lee, 2022). Television dramas, including serialized stories, episodic dramas, and streaming platforms, represent human interactions and relationships (Khemamuttanak et al., 2021). Media producers, content creators, and researchers who seek to examine and study current media representations must comprehend the complexity of human communication as demonstrated in television dramas. Media is evaluated sociologically for race, ethnicity, gender, social status, and cultural values. We emphasize social backgrounds because they shape identities, experiences, and social interactions (Ngai, Einwiller, & Singh, 2020). Media scholars and cultural critics are increasingly concerned about how television shows reflect and manage societal problems. Media and cultural studies examine how media portrays social concerns. Close inspection shows how these images may promote or oppose power and inequality (He, Huang, Li, Zhou, & Li, 2020). Television stereotypes, tokenism, and racial and ethnic minority underrepresentation are found by scholars. Harmes, Hudson, and Douglas (2024) say TV shows are full of misogyny, patriarchy, and gender stereotypes. Due to identity complexity and interdependence, scholars have studied media portrayals of social identities and experiences. Intersectional media studies explain how identity, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status affect media portrayals and audience views (Ruben, 2020). Studying overlapping social sources helps researchers comprehend media's social effects.

Social factors affect interpersonal conversation in contemporary TV shows (Gaiha & Salisbury, 2023). One needs to examine the elaborate dating among socioeconomic class, cultural values, race, ethnicity, gender, and social reputation to recognize television characters' communication dynamics. Powerful narrative and cultural portrayal in TV (Ramirez et al., 2021). The plot, characters, and topic of contemporary TV dramas depend upon human interaction. Society strongly impacts those memories' interpersonal communication. Character verbal exchange, interpersonal ties, and interaction styles are stimulated by using the social surroundings' norms, values, and hierarchies (Butz & Hancock, 2019). Modern TV dramas' social settings exchange interpersonal connections, which is essential for many motives. It examines how media fosters social identity prejudices (Huang & Xie, 2021). Melzi, Schick, and Wuest (2023) analyze power dynamics and discourses in television stories by examining how characters from different socioeconomic backgrounds interact. Media's impact on cultural beliefs, perceptions, and attitudes is examined. We examine how TV dramas depict interpersonal communication (Richardson, Mermikides, Firth, & Donetto, 2024). Research examines how media narratives affect social identities and interactions. Media influences customers' interpersonal communication impressions, which affects audience comprehension.

This review examines how social background affects interpersonal communication in modern TV dramas. This requires researching these impacts, trends, and future repercussions. The study initially investigates TV dramas to see how social elements affect character communication and behavior. This study will identify interpersonal communication and social identity TV show themes, motifs, and representations using content analysis and qualitative methodologies. A variety of television dramas are examined for similar interpersonal communication and socioeconomic status themes. The study examines films from diverse cultures, genres, and platforms to determine communication dynamics and social identity. How these findings affect media production, audience response, and cultural representation will be studied. This study critically examines socioeconomic status and interpersonal communication in TV dramas to promote awareness of the media's complicated influence on society. The discourse may affect future research, industry practices, and audience engagement initiatives to enhance diversity, honesty, and inclusion in television social identity depictions.

To negotiate the complex media representation and viewer viewpoint network, one must understand how social elements affect TV drama interpersonal communication. While enjoyable, television dramas can change societal norms, values, and power dynamics. Researchers can learn how media images affect audience perceptions and cultural discourses by studying their social contexts. Social factors like race, ethnicity, gender, and money affect character communication. These images often reinforce social norms and inequities. The interactions of characters from different socioeconomic origins in TV shows may expose power relations and implicit discourses. This information is important to evaluate media and make truthful, inclusive TV. Social setting influences TV shows' interpersonal interactions. Media practitioners can evaluate material development, casting, and narrative approaches by understanding social background portrayal. Nuanced depictions of communication dynamics and social identity boost television quality and trustworthiness. It encourages audience engagement and societal responsibility. Social settings and interpersonal communication help communication academics build theory and interact across disciplines. Scholars critically evaluate media depictions to enhance discussions on identity,

authority, and depiction in modern culture. Science studies TV viewer reactions and impressions to understand media reception and social behavior.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Contemporary television dramas feature interpersonal interactions, which are popular in media studies, sociology, and communication studies. Relationships on TV are entertaining and mirror cultural standards Lachlan, Hutter, Gilbert, and Spence (2021) knowing cultural trends and communication patterns requires knowing how social processes create these representations. Television dramas often critique society. Scholars say these dramas' depictions of human communication reflect their civilizations' political, cultural, and historical contexts (Messerli & Locher, 2021). Television dramas illuminate human interaction in various social situations through characters' exchanges, nonverbal clues, and interpersonal relationships. This study found that several social factors affect TV drama interpersonal communication. This study examines how race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class, and cultural values affect media images of interpersonal communication (Jo, Lee, & Cho, 2020). Scholars have studied social group stereotypes and power dynamics in human interactions. Television dramas promote and challenge societal norms and communication practices (L. Chen & Chang, 2024). Scholars can detect societal views regarding authority, friendship, love, and family by studying how characters resolve issues, develop connections, and define themselves. Globalization of television distribution and digital streaming platforms have expanded cross-cultural research on television dramas (Locher & Messerli, 2020). Comparative examinations in different cultures reveal how social context impacts television dramas' representation of interpersonal communication. Additionally, these studies assess how well these depictions resonate with overseas audiences.

Definition and Importance of Interpersonal Communication in Media Studies

Interpersonal communication helps media studies comprehend how people interact, connect, and understand one another in mediated contexts. Interpersonal communication occurs between people with mutual dependency, reciprocity, and a relationship. Many verbal and unspoken exchanges affect human experiences and social dynamics (Formentin & Spaulding, 2022). Media studies examine how media platforms, technologies, and representations affect and shape human interactions, identities, and social realities. Media studies' study of interpersonal communication is important because it affects trade, politics, entertainment, and education (Brammer, Punyanunt-Carter, & Duffee, 2022). Digital communication platforms, television, movies, and social media are worldwide venues for witnessing, mimicking, and experiencing interpersonal interactions (Malik, Shakshuki, & Yasar, 2022). Analyzing communication processes in mediated contexts may help you understand how media form and reflect society's identities, values, and norms. Interpersonal communication research provides the framework for understanding media-related human interaction. Relational dialectics proposes that interpersonal interactions are characterized by tensions between opposing forces like autonomy and connection, openness and closedness, and predictability and novelty (Lagacé, Fraser, S., Ranger, Moorjani-Houle, & Ali, 2021). This approach stresses interpersonal communication difficulties and relationship fluidity. A popular interpersonal communication theory, social penetration theory, states that self-disclosure gradually builds relationships (Guest & Denes, 2022). According to Z. Wang, Wang, Zhang, and Jiang (2019), people reciprocally reveal more sensitive portions of themselves, which strengthens connections. Media studies explore how people manage self-disclosure and closeness on social media and in TV dramas using social penetration theory. Communication accommodation helps partners understand and connect by adapting to their communication style (Deng, Hine, Ji, & Wang, 2021). Mediation encompasses multiple audiences, cultural representations, and language traditions, hence media studies stress it. How characters in internet forums or TV dramas follow or defy communication norms can reveal identity negotiation and intercultural communication (Presbitero, 2021). Power and influence theories explain how social hierarchies, inequalities, and asymmetries affect mediated interpersonal communication. Social exchange theory requires gratifying, reciprocal, and equal connections (Wen & Liu-Lastres, 2021). People desire maximal benefits and minimal inconveniences. Media studies can examine TV drama characters' power, conflicts, and effects using this theory. Media and technology influence interpersonal perceptions, attitudes, and behaviours, according to mediated communication and social impact theories. The uses and gratifications hypothesis states that viewers pick, interpret, and enjoy media based on their wants, reasons, and social situations (Miranda, Trigo, Rodrigues, & Duarte, 2023). Interpersonal communication scholars can use this theory to explore how media use affects social identities and connections and how people meet their social, emotional, and cognitive needs. Media studies analyze mediated interaction theories, methodologies, and ideas. Mediation, power dynamics, relational dialectics, social penetration, and communicative adaptability help scholars understand how media affects social realities, identities, and interpersonal interactions. Empirical and transdisciplinary research shows media,

communication, and humanity's complex relationships.

Social Background Theory and its Relevance to Communication Research

Social background theory is a significant communication theory that describes how sociocultural factors affect media and other social interactions. This theory explains how socioeconomic position, race, ethnicity, gender, and cultural values affect interpersonal and mediated communication perceptions, attitudes, and actions (Pelletier, Hipfner-Boucher, & Doyle, 2013). Social background emphasizes cultural identity—shared beliefs, values, traditions, and behaviours that constitute social groups (Smith & Chao, 2018). Communication styles, personal preferences, and media interpretations are heavily influenced by culture. Cultural identity influences mediated communication, interpersonal dynamics, and linguistic choices, reflecting human variability (Roopnarine & Dede Yildirim, 2018). Communication and identity are shaped by socialization. People learn cultures, ideas, and habits from family, friends, institutions, and media. Socialization shapes people's views, communication abilities, and attitudes. These traits shape their social identities and interactions in mediated and interpersonal environments (Lee & Son, 2022). Social structures and power dynamics affect communication. Communication, media use, and literacy are affected by geography, socioeconomic level, education, and work (Woolfenden et al., 2015). Social structures influence media depiction, inequality, hierarchy, and injustice. Previous research has studied how social backgrounds affect media communication. These studies show that sociocultural factors influence mediated users' decisions, actions, and outcomes (AO & Mak, 2021). Media studies on race and ethnicity show audience perceptions differ from reality. Racial and ethnic minority stereotypes in media often influence audience opinions and group dynamics (Rigolon, Yañez, Aboelata, & Bennett, 2022). Studies show that gender norms, stereotypes, and power structures influence media and communication. Media depictions of gender shape gender roles, identities, and relationships. This prompts gender equality and media portrayal discussions (Tafesse & Wood, 2021). Media intake, access, and consequences vary by socioeconomic position. Socioeconomic factors alter media accessibility and interpretation, demonstrating the complicated link between social environment and media effects.

Previous Studies on Social Background's Impact on Communication in Television Dramas

Previous research on social situations and communication in TV dramas helped us grasp the complicated interaction between sociocultural elements and interpersonal conflicts in mediated narratives (Nascimento, Moreira, & Welker, 2019). Synthesizing literature reveals similar themes, patterns, and theoretical frameworks that explain how social forces alter TV dramas' communication, identities, and relationships. Television dramas often discuss how race and ethnicity affect interpersonal relationships (Bai & Song, 2014). A comprehensive study evaluated how TV stories portray racial and ethnic minorities and shape viewers' identities. Popular TV shows stereotype and tokenism minority characters, according to research. Many shows also misrepresent race and ethnicity. Studies have also investigated how socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender, and racial and ethnic identities create complicated cultural dynamics and interpersonal relationships in television shows. The literature shows that gender and sexuality depictions in TV dramas affect interpersonal interactions (C. M. Chen & Chen, 2021). Cinema depicts men, women, love, and eroticism according to power, gender, and assumptions. Television dramas have been examined for authenticity and underrepresented group exposure (Cai, 2016). Studying how television plays reflect and challenge gender stereotypes affects media depiction and gender parity. Academic research has explored how socioeconomic position and culture affect TV drama communication (Yue, Wang, & Singhal, 2019). TV shows' portrayals of social class and economic inequality and how characters' backgrounds affect relationships have been extensively studied. Messerli and Locher (2021) say collectivism, individuality, and family dynamics affect television dramas' communication and relationships. TV plays reflect society's trends and issues through communication dynamics and social context, say academics.

Television dramas' social settings and communication have been extensively studied, but there are still undiscovered angles. TV does not often depict intersectional identities and reviews (Turvey, 2023). The prior examination has tested how personal social history affects verbal exchange. More studies are wanted on intersectional social identities and virtual interactions (S. S. Kim et al., 2020). An intersectional framework allows scholars to apprehend TV collections' complex strengths struggles, illustration, and identity negotiation. This illustrates how social surroundings affect media communication (Araujo-Battle, Garay-Tamajón, & Morales-Pérez, 2023). Cultural differences in television drama improvement and intake need extra investigation. Current substances forget about non-Western visitors' opinions and reports by way of specializing in Western TV and clients. Global research on TV dramas can display target audience viewpoints and how cultural similarities and versions affect communication dynamics (Huang & Xie, 2021). TV drama production may also show how social settings impact representations, creativity, and choice-making. Experimental and longitudinal methodologies are needed to observe TV dramas' long-term outcomes on viewers' attitudes, behaviours, and perceptions. Television swiftly adjusts audience responses. Longitudinal studies can also compare how these influences are exchanged

over time and through the target market (Laramy & Madore, 2019). Experimental studies can illustrate how communicate dynamics and social milieu representations affect TV. This may show attempts to ensure accurate and inclusive media coverage. A summary of key findings from the literature review is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Summary of Key Findings from Literature Review

Author(s)	Key Themes/Concepts Explored	Major Findings/Contributions
Nagata et al. (2023b)	Representation of race and ethnicity in television dramas	Minority characters are often stereotyped or underrepresented in mainstream television content.
Li, H. Liu, and Liu (2022)	Gender roles and power dynamics in TV dramas	Female characters are often portrayed as subordinate to male characters, reinforcing traditional gender norms.
Cai (2016)	minority representation in Chinese television dramas	Positive representation of minority characters leads to increased audience empathy and understanding.
L. Chen and Chang (2024)	Socio-economic Disparities in television narratives	Television dramas tend to romanticize wealth and perpetuate class-based stereotypes.
Kong (2014)	Cultural values and communication patterns in TV dramas	Cultural values such as collectivism versus individualism shape characters' communication styles and interpersonal dynamics.
Park, Lee, and Seo (2019)	Intersectionality in television representations	Intersectional identities are often overlooked in television narratives, leading to incomplete or stereotypical portrayals.
Huang and Xie (2021)	Portrayal of family dynamics in Chinese television dramas	Television dramas serve as a reflection of changing family structures and values in contemporary Chinese society.
Gaiha and Salisbury (2023)	Media effects of television dramas on audience perceptions	Exposure to positive representations of social backgrounds in television content leads to increased empathy and tolerance.
Eranfeno, Gameda, and Bamano(2024)	Representation of ethnic minorities in historical TV dramas	Historical dramas often distort or romanticize the experiences of ethnic minorities, perpetuating stereotypes.
D. Kim, Park, and Bang (2022)	Power dynamics and communication strategies in TV dramas	Characters employ various communication strategies to negotiate power dynamics and achieve their goals.
Ressa (2022)	Media literacy and interpretation of TV dramas	Audience members with higher media literacy levels are more critical of social background representations in television content.
Ramirez et al. (2021)	Intercultural communication in global television dramas	Global television dramas reflect diverse cultural perspectives and communication patterns, fostering intercultural understanding.
Zeng and Sparks (2019)	Gender representation in Chinese historical television dramas	Female characters in historical dramas often exhibit agency and resilience, challenging traditional gender roles.
Harmes et al. (2024)	Class and status in contemporary Chinese television narratives	Viewers relate to characters from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, highlighting the universality of human experiences.
Villegas-Simón and Soto-Sanfiel (2021)	Cultural adaptation and localization of international TV dramas	Television adaptations of international dramas reflect cultural norms and values, resonating with local audiences.

METHODOLOGY

The study used a literature review to synthesize existing evidence on how social factors affect communication dynamics in television dramas. To identify key themes, trends, and gaps in the literature, the literature review involves finding, analyzing, and merging relevant academic articles, books, and other sources (**Table 2**). Social conditions impact interpersonal communication in television dramas, which this research sought to understand. The study used prior studies to achieve this. The literature review method was chosen because it integrates existing knowledge and identifies research literature gaps. A literature review on social issues and communication in television dramas was efficient and complete due to the extended examination. The literature research also integrated different perspectives and theoretical frameworks, making the analysis more complicated and deeper. To find relevant research and television dramas for analysis, a set of criteria was developed. Studies and television

dramas that examined how socioeconomic backgrounds affect dramatic communication were chosen first. Based on publication or broadcast dates, research papers and television dramas were selected for their recent and highly cited content. To provide a global perspective, television dramas and research from many cultures were employed.

Table 2. Criteria for Selecting Relevant Studies

Criteria	Description
Topic Relevance	Studies focused on social backgrounds and TV dramas
Methodological Rigor	Use of qualitative or mixed-methods approaches
Publication Year	Studies published within the last 10 years

For the selection of television dramas from China (**Table 3**), five notable series were chosen for analysis: "Story of Yanxi Palace," "Eternal Love," "The Untamed," "Nirvana in Fire," and "Guardian." These dramas were selected based on their popularity, critical acclaim, and representation of diverse social backgrounds and communication dynamics. Each of these dramas offers unique insights into how social backgrounds shape interpersonal communication and relationships within Chinese television narratives.

Table 3. Selected TV Dramas for Analysis

TV Drama Title	Genre	Social Backgrounds Represented
Story of Yanxi Palace	Historical Drama	Race, Ethnicity, Social Class
Eternal Love	Fantasy Romance	Gender, Socio-Economic Status
Nirvana in Fire	Historical Drama	Socio-Economic Status, Power Dynamics
Guardian	Supernatural Fantasy	Cultural Values, Interpersonal Relationships
The Untamed	Fantasy Adventure	minority Representation, Social Identity

In addition to TV dramas, scientific papers and other materials were examined utilizing multi-stage data collection. To find research and literature on how social backgrounds affect television drama communication, academic databases, internet repositories, and library catalogues were searched. The search keywords included gender, race, socioeconomic status, television dramas, interpersonal communication, and social backgrounds. A complete examination and analysis of relevant studies focused on television drama communication dynamics and sociocultural circumstances (**Table 4**).

Table 4. Keywords for Literature Review

Keywords
Television dramas
Social backgrounds
Interpersonal communication
Media representation
Cultural diversity

Data extraction involved tagging and categorizing content by recurrent patterns, theoretical frameworks, and empirical evidence. The selected TV dramas' character dynamics, communication techniques, and social contexts were also assessed. A team of researchers screened, extracted, and synthesized data from selected sources to ensure data collecting validity and reliability. The study team explored disagreements and established a consensus. Multiple perspectives and interdisciplinary approaches sped data collection and yielded richer, deeper insights, resulting in a complete grasp of the research issue (**Table 5**).

Table 5. Themes and Sub-themes Identified in TV Dramas

Theme	Sub-theme 1	Sub-theme 2	Sub-theme 3
Race	Ethnic Stereotypes	Racial Discrimination	Cultural Identity
Gender	Patriarchal Norms	Gender Roles	Empowerment
Socio-Economic Status	Class Disparities	Education Access	Economic Struggles
Cultural Values	Tradition vs. Modernity	Filial Piety	Supernatural Beliefs

Theme analysis examined social environment and communication patterns in selected TV shows. Visual and

textual qualitative data are analyzed and interpreted using thematic analysis shown in **Figure 1**. This strategy helps scholars discover data's underlying meanings, perspectives, and social complexities. Subject analysis began with an understanding of TV dramas. Read episode transcripts, evaluate character interactions and plots, and watch episodes. After identifying social origins, communication methods, and interpersonal linkages, the data was sorted and encoded. Data segments with study subjects, ideas, and trends were coded. Data were sorted into thematic clusters of comparable themes and codes after coding. Further study of these issue clusters revealed TV drama social and communication themes. Validation and data comparability were needed for theme iteration. To show how societal events affect communication, character relationships, and thematic elements in selected TV dramas, the themes and patterns were combined into a storyline. Theme analysis clarified television's complicated social environment. Thus, media portrayal, identity, and cultural interactions were hotly disputed.

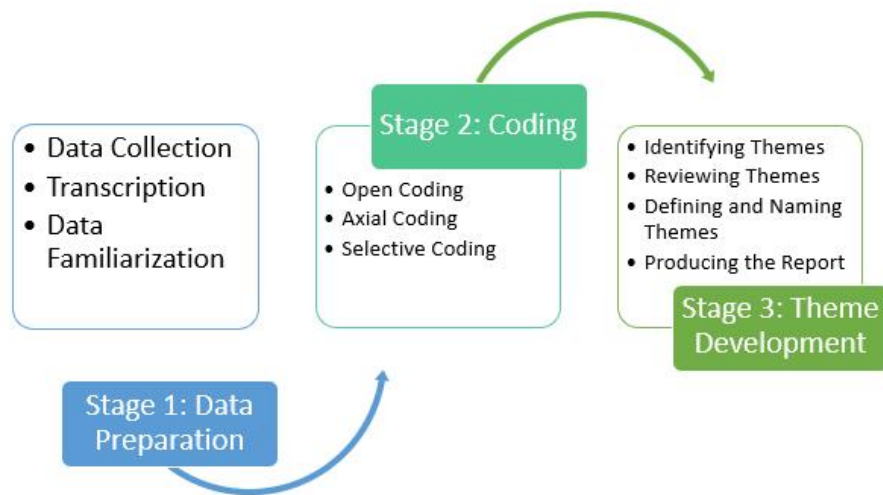


Figure 1. Data Analysis Process

RESULTS

Overview of Key Findings

Numerous findings from the study on social background and interpersonal communication in television dramas illuminate the complicated relationship between sociocultural elements and mediated narrative communication patterns. Some TV shows showed how social backgrounds affect communication, relationships, and identity. Discovering how TV shows portray race and ethnicity affects human communication is crucial. Minority characters in the selected TV programs were often stereotyped and racially stereotyped. Minority characters were villains, comic relief, or supporting roles, reinforcing social norms. Mainstream television lacked racial and cultural variety, emphasizing the gap between media portrayals and public opinion. The study also revealed substantial power dynamics, gender roles, and interpersonal interactions in TV dramas. The selected TV dramas depicted women as submissive, emotional, or dependent on men. Male protagonists led their partnerships, highlighting the power discrepancy. This reinforced masculinity and femininity in television narratives, reinforcing gender inequity. The study found that socioeconomic inequality and cultural norms affect TV dramas' interpersonal communication. Communication and relationship styles vary by socioeconomic category, reflecting social disparities. Poverty hindered communication and social growth, while wealthier people were fluent, confident, and authoritative. Individualism and collectivism also affected mediated story transmission. Culture impacts character communication and interactions. The selected TV dramas exhibited common themes and patterns that illuminated interpersonal interactions and social settings. Managing identification and affinity in varied social contexts is worth researching. Due to cultural and social norms, the characters battled to express themselves, identify their identities, and belong. Characters with several social identities including race, gender, and class demonstrate how human lives are interconnected.

Diversity in social origins affects relationships and communication. The following TV series demonstrates how community and family affect relationships and communication. Stories highlighting families' complexities and linkages emphasize the cultural values of family and societal bonds. Resolution of family disputes requires

family support. The protagonists' lives had been additionally affected by network relationships. These interactions gave humans social support, an experience of belonging, and a framework for deciphering their identities in society. The study examined characters' energy relationship bargaining and verbal exchange adaptability. Characters elevated intimacy by way of the use of matching their verbal exchange and conduct to their spouses. Different bargaining strategies have been applied to gain independence, confront strength inequities, and obtain desires in interpersonal relationships. These communicate strategies highlighted the characters' enterprise and autonomy as they created relationships and navigated complex social techniques. These worries formed characters' identities, relationships, and verbal exchanges. Television dramas additionally confirmed the complexity of human communicate through topics on the side of identity negotiation, circle of relative dynamics, verbal exchange flexibility, and negotiating strategies. These findings explain how mediated narratives hyperlink social settings and communicates. Television illuminates social challenges and cultural techniques. Theme and sub-themes are shown in **Table 6**.

Table 6. Theme and Sub-theme

Theme	Sub-themes
Representation of Race and Ethnicity	- Racial and ethnic stereotyping - Underrepresentation of diverse racial and ethnic experiences
Gender Roles and Power Dynamics	- Traditional gender norms and stereotypes - Power differentials between male and female characters
Socio-economic Disparities	- Communication patterns based on socioeconomic status - Cultural values and communication dynamics
Negotiation of Identity and Belonging	- Identity negotiation within diverse social contexts - Representation of intersectional identities
Family and Community Dynamics	- Role of family structures and dynamics - Importance of community relationships and networks
Communication Accommodation and Strategies	- Negotiation strategies within interpersonal relationships - Adaptation of communication styles

Analysis of How Different Social Backgrounds Influence Communication Patterns and Behaviors in the Selected TV Dramas

Certain television dramas revealed minor effects of social diversity on communication patterns and behaviors in mediated narratives. Case studies and examples showed how socio-cultural elements including race, ethnicity, gender, social status, and cultural values affect interpersonal communication. This study examined the complexities of power struggles, interpersonal interactions, and identity negotiation in the media shown in **Figure 2**. The study examines how television dramas portray race and ethnicity affect interpersonal communication. In theatrical performances, characters of different races and ethnicities spoke and interacted differently due to cultural conventions and preconceived notions. In the theatrical masterwork "Story of Yanxi Palace," Han Chinese characters venerate and admire authoritative figures, promoting hierarchy and obedience. The existence of Uyghur characters showed cultural identity and representation disparities. Gender roles and power dynamics are important issues, showing how societal factors affect interpersonal communication and behavior. TV series plays like "Eternal Love." maintained age-based gender conventions and prejudices. Female characters were humble, sensitive, and defendants on men, while male ones were dominant, aggressive, and protective. Gender dynamics affected communication because patriarchal power systems were maintained by male actors influencing female characters.

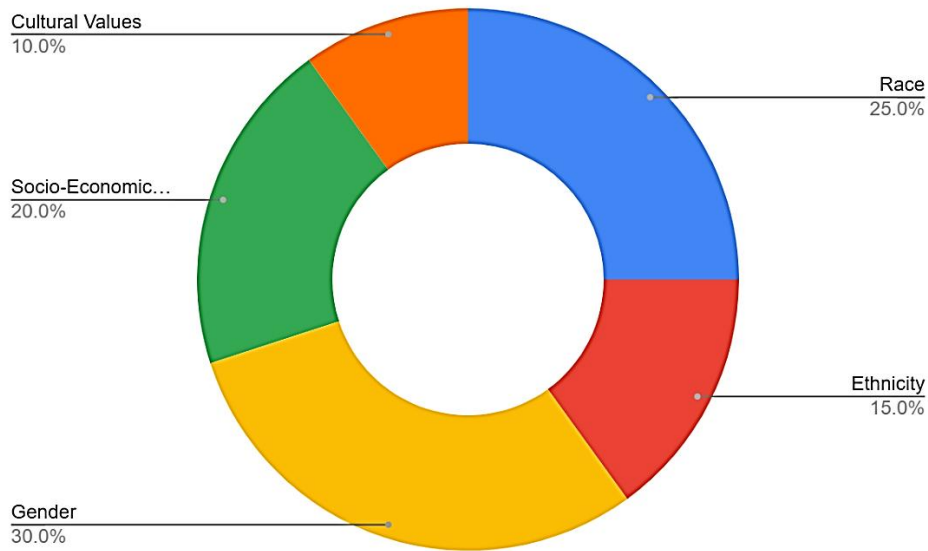


Figure 2. Distribution of Social Backgrounds in Selected TV Dramas

A study of socioeconomic inequality and cultural views in TV shows revealed communication patterns. Rich, confident communicators usually have education, money, and social connections shown in **Figure 3**. Rich people dominated in "Nirvana in Fire," using strong language and conversation. However, low-income people face communication issues such as insufficient knowledge and bad social judgments. The obstacles impeded their speaking and social abilities. Communication was used to study how people navigate cultural expectations and social conventions, stressing the process of identity and belonging in varied social situations. In the play "Guardian," people with multiple social identities struggled to communicate, especially minority ethnic people. These characters employed code-switching and self-disclosure to maintain multiple identities and gain favor in their societies. Family and neighborhood factors also shaped these TV shows' communication and conduct.

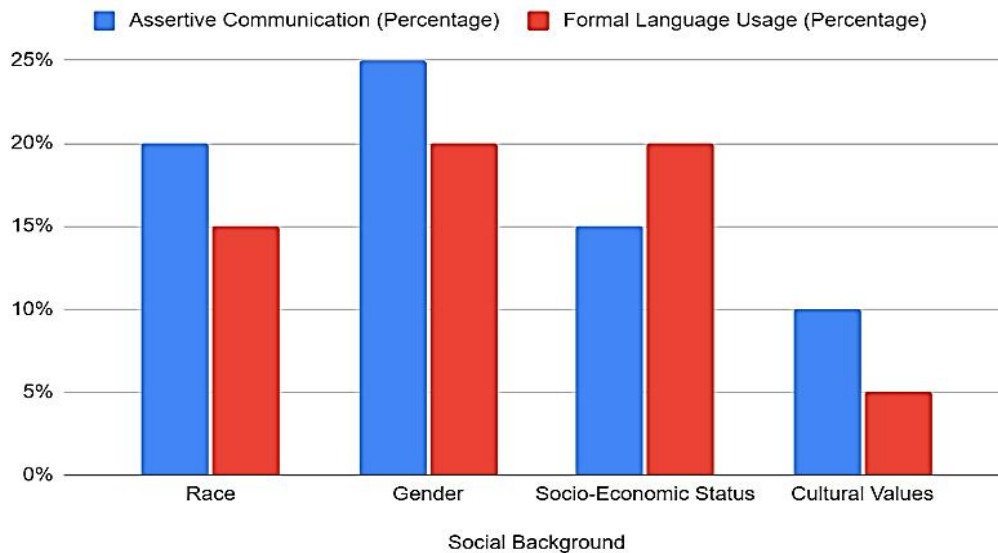


Figure 3. Communication Patterns across Different Social Backgrounds

In plays like "The Untamed," peer and familial links affected communication and relationships. Family, customs, and values influenced characters' identities and beliefs; communication displayed disputes and reconciliations. The characters' community affiliations and networks gave them a sense of belonging, identification, and social support in larger social circumstances, highlighting the importance of interpersonal connections in forming human identities and experiences. Character interactions showed that they were using

communication accommodations and negotiation methods to change power dynamics and relationships. Audience perceptions of social background representation are shown in **Figure 4**. In the drama "Eternal Love," people use their actions and conversation to build trust and love. Characters used compromise, aggression, and persuasion to explore power relations, display agency, and achieve societal goals. Some TV dramas show how socioeconomic status affects communication and behavior in mediated narratives. Case studies demonstrate how gender, race, socioeconomic class, and culture affect interpersonal communication. Television's power dynamics, identity negotiation, and relationship connections are complex. These findings show how social issues and cultural dynamics in media affect television dramas' communication and behavior.

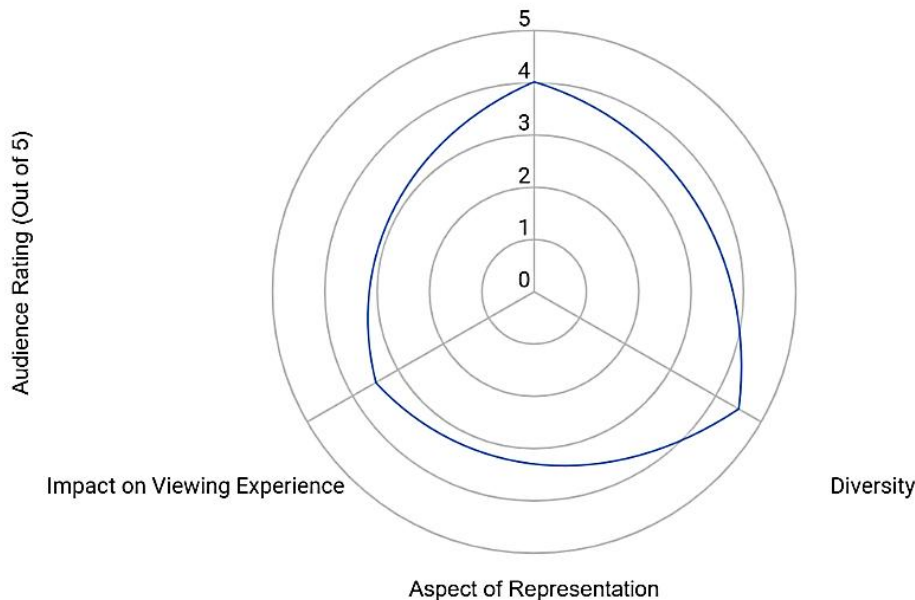


Figure 4. Audience Perceptions of Social Background Representation

Presentation of Empirical Evidence and Qualitative Insights from the Reviewed Literature

Information and opinions on how social backgrounds affect television dramas' communication dynamics are examined in the literature (**Table 7**). Previous research has shown crucial findings and patterns that help explain the complex interaction between sociocultural factors and interpersonal communication in mediated narratives. Content studies of television dramas provide social background representation and depiction patterns, revealing media biases and inequalities. Academic research on television dramas' race and ethnicity depictions shows this. Minority characters often assume conventional roles or propagate society's biases, research reveals. Racial and cultural variety is lacking in evaluations, reflecting media and public opinion disparities. Research on gender in TV dramas has identified gender stereotyping and unequal power distribution in relationships.

Research shows that female characters are submissive, emotional, or dependent on male characters, whereas male characters are authoritative and self-sufficient. Gender communication patterns and actions affect how audiences understand mediated gender roles and identities. Research on socioeconomic differences on TV indicates class-based and culturally-influenced depictions that alter communication. People with wealth speak confidently, signaling they have information, resources, and social connections. Low education and social marginalization can make communication difficult for underprivileged populations. They struggle to communicate and be independent in social situations due to these barriers. Socioeconomic characteristics affect TV drama viewing, according to qualitative audience reception research. TV viewers' views of social events and communication were explored through interviews, focus groups, and questionnaires. Qualitative findings reveal how diverse perspectives, experiences, and cultures affect mediated storytelling audience responses. Qualitative TV studies also illuminate identity and belonging in different social contexts. Experts examined TV shows' identity, cultural adaptability, and interpersonal connection using narrative analysis and theme coding. Qualitative views illuminate complex social dynamics and communication patterns through characters' experiences and interactions. Case studies and comprehensive reviews of television shows can also reveal how social situations and communication dynamics are portrayed. Academics can understand how social situations, communication styles, and behaviours interact in mediated narratives by analyzing character progression, narrative frameworks, and

theme aspects. The evaluated academic literature's factual and subjective material greatly enhances our understanding of how social contexts affect television dramas' communication dynamics and patterns. Content analysis, audience receptivity studies, qualitative analyses, and case studies help scholars understand interpersonal communication in mediated tales. These methods reveal recurring patterns. These findings support media studies research and theory. They illuminate social issues and cultural processes in television.

Table 7. TV Dramas Based on Social Background Representation

TV Drama	Social Background Representation	Brief Description
Story of Yanxi Palace	Ethnicity (Han Chinese, Manchu)	Set in the Qing dynasty, the drama follows the story of a palace maid who rises to power in the imperial court. The drama explores themes of loyalty, betrayal, and intrigue within the royal family and courtiers of different ethnicities.
Eternal Love	Socioeconomic Status (Noble Families)	A fantasy romance drama set in a fictional world, Eternal Love follows the love story between a mortal woman and a deity. The drama features characters from noble families, each with their political ambitions and power struggles.
Guardian	Education (University Students)	A fantasy-action drama centred around a supernatural investigator and his human partner, Guardian depicts the friendship and camaraderie among university students who become entangled in supernatural mysteries.
Nirvana in Fire	Socioeconomic Status (Aristocracy, Peasantry)	A historical drama set in ancient China, Nirvana in Fire portrays the power struggles and political intrigue among aristocratic families and commoners. The drama highlights themes of justice, loyalty, and revenge.
The Untamed	Ethnicity (Chinese)	Based on a popular web novel, The Untamed follows the adventures of two cultivators in a fantasy world inspired by ancient China. The drama explores themes of friendship, loyalty, and identity within a diverse cultural landscape.

DISCUSSION

Social environments impact interpersonal communication in television dramas, and the discussion chapter summarizes the study. After analyzing literature and television dramas, the book summarizes the main ideas and facts. Next, these data are compared to earlier studies to determine similarities, differences, and advances in our understanding of how media narratives reflect socioeconomic origins. A sample of television dramas revealed how social backgrounds impact communication patterns and actions in mediated narratives. These studies examined how television shows portray cultural values, race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status and how they affect interpersonal communication. Cultural conventions and preconceived assumptions affected the communication and relationship dynamics of characters of different races and ethnicities. Han Chinese and Manchu subjects at the royal court mirrored historical hierarchies and power dynamics in "Story of Yanxi Palace". Minority figures typically fit traditional roles, promoting cultural prejudices and inequality. The lack of various racial and ethnic experiences in television calls for more inclusive and authentic portrayals. Female characters were submissive or helpful, whereas masculine ones were authoritative and autonomous. In the literature "Eternal Love", masculine characters dominated and controlled female characters, illustrating patriarchal power systems. Female characters were impacted by male characters, changing communication patterns. Male and female roles were reinforced. Wealthy, confident communicators usually have education, money, and social connections. Due to societal stigma and inadequate education, low-income families confront communication challenges. These constraints make social speaking difficult. Aristocrats utilized sophisticated language and savvy communication to express their social level in "Nirvana in Fire", whereas commoners grappled with power dynamics and social levels. Characters' communication styles were influenced by their culture. In "Guardian," college students mingle via supernatural rituals. The importance of cultural context in screen communication is highlighted by how individualism and collectivism affect characters' communication and relationships. Race, gender, and socioeconomic status affected character communication and relationships. Society discriminated against ethnic minorities attempting to express themselves and connect.

Comparison with Literature

Compare the results to academic literature to understand television dramas' social portrayals' theoretical

foundations and factual support. The study findings are integrated into current scholarly literature in this chapter to assess their practical and theoretical implications. This study examines media tale social origins' alignment, differentiation, and evolution. Cultural studies and media representation promote TV dramas' race and ethnicity portrayals. Media content fosters racial and ethnic stereotypes and inequality, according to numerous research (Hofhuis, Gonçalves, Schafraad, & Wu, 2024). Previous research shows that mainstream media underrepresents varied racial and ethnic origins, contradicting public perception (Nagata et al., 2023a). This study emphasizes the necessity for authentic and inclusive racial and ethnic diversity on TV. Feminist media studies and gender theory improve power dynamics and gender roles in television dramas. Media depictions of gender stereotypes and power imbalances reinforce male-dominated norms and inequalities, according to a previous study (Walker, Reed, & Fletcher, 2020). Furthermore, academic study has focused on the complex link between gender, identity, and agency in mediated narratives. This shows how characters disrupt gender stereotypes (Li et al., 2022). Gender roles and power dynamics affect television dramas' communication patterns and actions, as the study shows. These findings corroborate gender studies theories empirically. Critical media studies and cultural sociology investigate cultural values and social inequality assemblies. Media stories enhance social class and cultural hierarchy prejudices, according to a previous study (De Laat, 2019). Additionally, scholarly studies have investigated how cultural norms and values affect media communication patterns. This shows how culture affects social dynamics and relationships. This study shows that socioeconomic status and cultural values affect communication patterns in television dramas. They also reinforce cultural studies theories with actual evidence. Identity studies and intersectional theory are used in the examination of intersectionality and identity negotiation in television dramas. The literature stresses the need to consider many social identities and experiences in media study. It reveals how overlapping social origins impact social interactions and lived experiences (Black et al., 2023). Academic studies have also investigated identity negotiation in different social situations, showing how people negotiate and express their identities to societal systems and conflicts (Ross, Eastman, Laliberte, & Rawle, 2022). In the research, characters in television dramas manage their identities across overlapping social environments. The study also supports intersectionality analysis theories with actual data.

CONCLUSION

Individuals can understand how social environments affect communication and behaviour in mediated narratives by studying individual television dramas and related literature. A study evaluated how TV shows represent culture, race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic level. Shows complex and diverse societal origins. Many TV shows portray race and ethnicity unjustly and without variety. Traditional roles for minorities foster cultural biases and inequity. This underscores the need for TV series that accurately and inclusively portray more races and ethnicities. This can also increase target audience comprehension, empathy, and unity. Television electricity dynamics and gender roles show how gender stereotypes affect conversation. Male characters are dominant, and at the same time, woman ones are subservient. Gender dynamics make stronger societal inequality and masculine and female standards. Dispelling those myths and boosting gender diversity and have an impact on can make media narratives extra equitable. The study suggests how socioeconomic inequality influences TV dramas' conversation. Speaking confidently suggests rich characters have knowledge, resources, and social authority. Due to societal stigma and limited education, low-income people struggle to communicate and attain independence. This shows media must handle social disparities and accurately portray varied socioeconomic realities. The study found that cultural norms and values affect television communication. Culture influences character speech. Media cultural context and cross-cultural understanding are stressed in this study. The study also shows how shared experiences and social identities affect communication and behavior. Finance, race, and gender affect character connections and communication. Understanding the diversity and connectivity of social identities may help TV show diverse perspectives more honestly and sympathetically.

IMPLICATIONS

Media producers, content providers, and industry stakeholders gain from studying TV dramas' societal foundations. Tests suggest media should be varied and honest. Television dramas can better depict real-world diversity by depicting a range of social origins, including race, ethnicity, gender, money, and culture. This improves story quality, authenticity, and audience appeal. Viewers learn media literacy and critical thinking from the study. Learn how social backgrounds affect TV communication to critically assess media portrayals. This lets consumers analyze media narratives, criticize biases, and lobby for more diverse and fair content. The report

promotes industry diversity and inclusive hiring. Media businesses can build stories by aggressively hiring actors and teams. This boosts creativity and guarantees TV indicates appropriately and morally depict varied critiques. In communication concepts and media research, the social roots of television drama are important. First, it advances media studies by highlighting the complicated hyperlinks among social identities and reports. Race, ethnicity, gender, economic status, and subculture help scientists understand media's social effects. This research examines how social factors affect TV viewers' responses and perceptions, improving target market reception and media results information. Qualitative methodologies like audience reception studies screen media narrative perceptions. This illustrates the complex dating among media, viewers, and society. Studying how media narratives perpetuate social norms and inequities advantages critical cultural studies. Researching TV shows' social origins can reveal power relations, ideologies, and discourses that shape cultural identities and media representations. This study analyzes how media forms and challenges social realities and influences diversity, representation, and social justice debates. Research on TV dramas' societal portrayals shows how media affects society. This emphasizes media narratives' influence on attitudes, beliefs, and actions and information providers' moral duty to utilize them responsibly. Television dramas can challenge beliefs, inspire empathy, and unite society.

LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Television dramas provide benefits, but sociological background studies are limited. Due to its narrow emphasis on television dramas, the study should be improved. This narrow focus may limit the results' generalizability. The chosen dramas give important insights into how media portrays social backgrounds, yet they represent just a small portion of the television business. Additional research may include more television content spanning genres, formats, and platforms. We will better understand how media portrays social backgrounds. Content analysis and qualitative methods are prone to interpretation and bias, another drawback. Thematic analysis and other qualitative methodologies use researchers' assessments of themes and patterns rather than media sources' subjective views. Although the researchers ensured the analytical procedure's rigour and reproducibility, their opinions and prejudices may affect the results. Mixed-method, longitudinal, and quantitative data triangulation methods may improve the study's validity and reliability. Since it investigates Chinese television dramas, the research may be limited in its scope. These plays offer insights into societal backdrops in their cultural contexts, but their findings may not apply to television series from other cultures. Additional research might compare social backgrounds in television programs across cultures. The goal is to find cultural media narrative similarities and differences.

Research on socioeconomic background in television dramas suggests several areas for additional study, despite these limits. Exploring how audience agency and reception shape media perceptions and meanings is exciting. Reception studies and other audience-centred methods can help academics understand how TV viewers receive social background representations. Qualitative interviews, focus groups, and audience ethnography can reveal audience viewpoints and experiences. Another research topic is how social context presentation affects audience attitudes, beliefs, and behavior. Researchers can use experimental or longitudinal surveys to evaluate how varied and realistic social backgrounds in TV shows affect viewer views of social identity, stereotypes, and cultural norms. This approach may illuminate how media narratives affect social transformation and inequality. Future studies may examine how media portrays social identities and experiences. Researchers can use an intersectional method to study how race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and disability affect television dramas' communication and relationships. To understand how media storytelling intersects social identities, qualitative assessments of character depictions, narrative themes, and audience perceptions may be needed. Future studies may examine worldwide television dramas' development and reception. Media globalization is causing television content to cross-cultural and national barriers. Transnational television dramas allow scholars to study how social background representations are discussed, modified, and understood across cultures. This may entail comparing regional television material and studying viewer response and cultural adaption.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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