



The film Pension is one not to miss this weekend

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Let's talk about the Pension. Vimal is a widow with a young son who tries her best to do everything for her son. Unfortunately, she has no family to provide for; the only person who can help is her aged mother-in-law. Vimal's father-in-law had served in the military, but since her mother-in-law's death, she no longer receives a pension. Vimal is left all alone with the responsibility on her shoulder.

When it comes to providing for one's family, some people will do nearly anything. Pension is the story of one such woman, Vimal (Sonali Kulkarni), a widow, who is trying her best to help

her young son Balu (Sumit Gutte) do well in life, whilst taking care of her frail mother-in-law (Nilambari Khamkar) While Vimal earns her living by carrying out odd jobs, including stitching and grinding, among others, the family is largely dependent on the pension her mother-in-law

receives due to her late husband's job in the military. But with her health worsening every day, there is a grave possibility that the family may not be able to survive once Vimal's mother-in-law is no longer alive.



The rest of the film is devoted to exploring the daily lives of Vimal and Balu and the general atmosphere of the village. We are introduced to various characters, Vimal's helpful neighbors, the generous sarkar, an obnoxious Baban mama (shopkeeper), Balu's friends, and more. Many of these characters do nothing more than adding more people to the frame. The trailer hints towards the fact that Vimal's mother-in-law may breathe her last at any time due to her condition. But when this happens, what do Vimal and Balu do? Balu, who is ready to go to high school, needs money for paying the fees, while Vimal needs it to run the house. The 'what' and 'how' in this equation forms the latter part of this film.

Director Pundalik YL Dhumal's film is based on a touching premise. The story has a compelling core, but the final product lacks polish. Daily life in the village, petty quarrels, and

peculiar characters—the director spends too much time exploring everything else instead of the crux of the matter. This hampers the film's flow and doesn't hold viewers' attention for long.

The highlight of Pension is Sonali Kulkarni's portrayal of a struggling widow. Her onscreen demeanor is flawless and her performance powerful. The audience can feel her fear, her pain, and her heartache; they can sense her attempts to control her life as well as they do her emotional breakdown. Unfortunately, even a strong performance by one great actress can't lift an uninspired film to greatness. The performances by Nilambari Khamkar and Sumit Gutté are good, as are those of some supporting actors, including Vrunda Baal and Narayan Jadhav.

If you are a fan of drama films, you may enjoy this one. However, diehard drama fans as well as casual film viewers will be disappointed.