

Can you give us a break, please?



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What's your initial reaction when the promos of a new promising serial features on the small screen? Excitement! That finally there would be something interesting to watch... A concept beyond the shackles of an unrealistic world. Something that would keep the interests alive.

Indeed. Post the little ripples of revolution on the small screen courtesy Anil Kapoor's 24, the expectations have sky-rocketed. People hope something innovative and not the stereotypical *saas-bahu* sagas will dawn and the idiot box will finally show some sanity.

Television has undoubtedly grown by leaps and bounds. "Earlier, there were cameras acting for you, but now it's you and only you," opines Iqbal Khan. But when you flip through the shows, you would either find a re-make of Bollywood films like *Jodhaa Akbar* or an adaptation of novels like *Saraswatichandra* or hordes of reality shows. And the latest to join this bandwagon is Life Ok's new show *Tumhari Paakhi*, inspired from the novel *Navvidhan* written by legendary writer Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay.

The show is about Anshuman (Iqbal) and Paakhi (Shraadhya) who get married in childhood. While Paakhi awaits the return of her husband for 18 years, Anshuman is unaware of the relationship.

We wonder why an adaptation of a

novel? Can't we rely on the work of the scriptwriters? Or is it to ensure TRPs? "Creativity comes up with a new idea. But any story would certainly reflect someone else's life. So, it's not about adaptation. In fact, it's quite challenging to come up with a book-inspired fiction and maintain the authenticity," explains Shraadhya Arya, who portrays the lead role of Paakhi.

The actress, who was at JW Marriott, Chandigarh on Tuesday along with co-star Iqbal to promote their new show *Tumhari Paakhi*.

And after a span of two years, Iqbal is finally making a comeback with

the show. This model-turned-actor created a stir on television with his debut *Kaisa Ye Pyar Hai*. What kept you away? "Every time you finish a serial, you need a break to get back with the same amount of energy. And that's exactly what I did," he smiles.

If we go by the trends, the outcome of nearly all the shows is marriage, irrespective of the storyline.

Don't you think we have had enough of unrealistic drama? As now when women talk about liberty, it's only the daily soaps which show women as the main sufferers.

"The shows are directed as per the preferences of the audience. It's all about family drama these days. However, what makes a show unique are the emotions, narration and concept," says Iqbal, adding, "If you look at the making of the serial, it involves intense research about what the audience prefers. It provides an overall balance between drama and reality." Do we agree?

Iqbal says shows are directed according to audience choice