



# DELINATION OF MENTAL AGONY OF RADHIKA IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S *ONE IN- DIAN GIRL*

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## ABSTRACT

ChetanBhagat is well known not only as novelist but also a columnist, screenwriter, television personality and motivational speaker. He has the young urban middle-class Indians as his source of writing. *One Indian Girl* is his seventh fictional novel published in 2016. It is a heroine-centric novel presenting the nuances of how a woman is thought, treated in Indian context. The aim of the paper is to analyze *One Indian Girl* from a psychological point of view. The novel unfolds the bitter truth of male supremacy and gender discrimination prevalent in Indian society which causes mental pain. As such it is an exploration of the Indian female psyche.

## KEY WORDS

Mental Agony, Patriarchal Society, Social Barriers and Challenges, Gender and ColourDiscrimination.

The novel *One Indian Girl* depicts the continuous mental struggle combined with feminist mind goal which prompted in diverse situations. Women have to undergo various difficulties at various stages of their life. They have to face issues starting from their complexion that which has to be fair and accepted by relatives and society. The greatest factor which gives great mental agony to a woman is that she should be always subordinate to man. She should not be earning more than a man as it hurts male ego. As she plays multiple roles as daughter, wife, sister, mother she is expected to adjust throughout her life with her parents, with her husband, with her in laws, with her kids.

Radhika the protagonist of the novel is a simple Punjabi girl, who was brought up in Delhi. Though she was very good in studies, she has grown up with the inferiority complex because of her dark complexion. As a

teen age, she had never received attention from boys because of her dark complexion. Radhika faces the colour complexion as she has wheatish complexion and her elder sister, Aditididi is fair complexioned to be attracted. She asks why the human beings don't name the truthful-complexioned humans 'rice-ish' (7). Aditi takes care of her shape and colour by dieting and using fairness cream but Radhika is no longer famous like her sister. Aditi gained the name of Miss Hotness at A Farewell while Radhika faces pranks and becomes a subject of laughter. In the Indian psyche too we can observe the instances of shared discrimination even among the own circle of relatives members. But Beauty isn't about having a pretty face. It's about pretty mind, a pretty heart, and a pretty soul. Our society should not discriminate on the basis of God's given complexion. All women are equal with just need to touch their soul with respect and appreciation for their inner beauty and we will be rewarded with joy. The heart is way more important than the package.

Women all over India envisage such mental conflicts. It is an undeniable fact that many parents have to give large dowry if their daughter is dark in complexion. Radhika never succeeds in getting a lover as she is dark complexioned. While working in America, Debu tries to flirt her. He works in an ad agency. Radhika also gets attracted towards him. Radhika does not want to miss him so she takes utmost care of her looks. She takes more effort to look beautiful. She goes to the beauty parlor and concentrates on her make ups. Radhika and Debu date together. On the first date itself, both of them cross all boundaries and continue to be in live in relationship.

As in the course of their relationship Debu was irritated of Radhika's expectation of the nearness of Debu almost all the time. Debu is also jealous over the Radhika's high income than him. This male ego which results in his bad treatment of Radhika hurts her severely. Debu being brought up in patriarchal society could not bear the upper hand of Radhika. Debu also says that he is in need of a docile housewife rather than a woman like Radhika. Eventually they break up. This creates a great mental disharmony for her. She tries to contact Debu several times. After all, Radhika takes the gift and goes to Debu's flat. There she sees Debu along with another girl. She gets very upset. After this she gets her transfer to Hongkong.

Radhika wants to start a new life in Hongkong forgetting Debu. She diverts herself by having relationship with her boss Neil Gupta. Neil is much older than Radhika. He has children and wife. Her loneliness and search for a companion compels her to go on a business-trip with Neil. Her mental conflicts prevent her to continue the relationship with Neil Gupta. She demands a voluntary transfer to London to put an end to the relationship with her boss. Because of the insistence of her mother Radhika accepts for marriage. Being a self-independent girl, she knows how to take her decision with the passage of time. But the family and relatives make her poor in putting her ideas into action. Her own mother is not happy in hearing that she gets a package of 1.20 lakhs dollar per month when she goes to America for a job. Her mother worried for her marriage that how she can find a suitable match for such highly educated girl. It is a common thought among the Indians that a woman cannot be successful in both personal and professional life.

Radhika accepts to marry Brijesh to have a contented life after undergoing break ups. We are dwelling in a society where a woman's opinion is considered either secondary or no consideration at all. There is an evident episode in the novel which forms a very good example of patriarchy which gives mental agony. It is an unquestionable acceptance that a bride's side should treat groom's side with dignity and honour. She does not no longer need to compromise with the much less range of the rooms. Though she doesn't need to be dressed up she has to achieve this, though she doesn't need to get married to a man she infrequently knows she is going to accomplish that. Though Radhika is the vice president at one of the topmost bank, she has to put aside her willingness in front of the needs of society. She loses weight, becomes slim and is going on diet, simply to appearance stunning at her wedding ceremony. The society demands her to change in such a way.

After the engagement with Brijesh, Radhika meets Debu who proposes her to marry. Her Boss Neil also comes to her stating he wants back her in his life by divorcing his wife. Radika's mental conflict is agitated she could not decide. She invites both of them to a cafe and reveals everything. The pathetic condition is that one guy asks her to choose kids over career, the other guy asks her to choose career over kids. They are perfect inverted mirror images of each other. ChetanBhagat tries too hard to evoke sympathy and ends up having the opposite effect: "See, see! This is what women face! Care about this! Now!"!But there is a golden core. It is essentially the story of one lady's battle against insecurity, an insecurity that stems from growing up in an unequal society, a society of discriminations.

Radhika denies marryingBrijesh stating about her past affairs with Debu and Neil. Brijesh says that past is over now. She herself is neither in the past nor in the present. She is lost somewhere. Brijesh is ready to accept Radhika, along with her past. Radhika was completely confused now. She is put up n severe mental agony that she cannot decide her future. Bhagat stated that modern women are put up in dilemmatic situation. They fail to take correct decisions at correct time.

## CONCLUSION

This paper tires to delineate that the present day Indian Women aren't liable, susceptible, weak, but cohesive, determined, persistent, strong willed and stubborn. They are least worried about any social custom and ethos. They have learnt not only to revert but additionally react too skillfully. This indicates an intensive transformation in Modern Indian Women. Radhika the protagonist, listens to her inner need and decides to lead a life without any man, bothering not the society and its norms.. This study also reveals the life of Radhika and the entanglements of her psyche as she gradually withers from existence which lets her break out from the reality and discover comfort by involving in relations. At last, Radhika get her way to lead a peaceful and pleasant life.

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