

# Pride, Prejudices and Humanity in Chetan Bhagat's Novels

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## Abstract

Twenty-first century English literature in India has liberated itself from the colonial and post-freedom psyche of the last century. With growing industrial and economic base and multi-national culture India is striving to face new challenges of pride and prejudice. The modern life style is making the generation fun-loving but less humane. Educated youth is tempted to join the Marathon of the society seeking to enjoy fat-packages with administrative and managerial luxury in multinationals-especially abroad. The global scientific wisdom and traditional Indian culture have placed the Indian youth on a cross-road; his is a challenging task of balancing the two contrasting and conflicting traits. Chetan Bhagat comes out with 'dark, witty' tales about modern India; focusing on 'the ethos and isolation of an entire generation' with an undercurrent of humanity centering on the educated youth it's humane concerns, struggle and dilemma.

## Keywords:

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Twenty-first century English literature in India has liberated itself from the colonial and post-freedom psyche of the last century. With growing industrial and economic base and multi-national culture India is striving to face new challenges of pride and prejudice. The modern life style is making the generation fun-loving but less humane. Educated youth is tempted to join the Marathon of the society seeking to enjoy fat-packages with administrative and managerial luxury in multinationals-especially abroad. The global scientific wisdom and traditional Indian culture have placed the Indian youth on a cross-road; his is a challenging task of balancing the two contrasting and conflicting traits. Chetan Bhagat comes out with 'dark, witty' tales about modern India; focusing on 'the ethos and isolation of an entire generation' with an undercurrent of humanity centering on the educated youth it's humane concerns, struggle and dilemma.

### 2. A MAD-RACE

Indian youth is standing on the starting point to "Get-Set" and "GO". He dreams to pursue top class education in prestigious institutions of technology and Management. Successful ones feel 'special' and they join the mad marathon to be an engineer, doctor, or a ten out-of-ten grade achiever. They are 'overworked students' who 'mug and cram' but suppress their individual talents, desires and simple human charms. In *Revolution 2020* Gopal is a loser because he could not crack JEE or AIEEE; he is prejudiced against Raghav who cracks it in the first attempt. "*An IIT rank is a huge event – akin to climbing the Mount Everest or being on a space mission.*"<sup>1</sup> It makes the friends prejudiced – "*True, I did not feel any happiness about his JEE selection. I should have, but did not.*"<sup>2</sup> Gopal gets a chance to counter balance his failure with Raghav's success by somehow earning a lot of money. He makes a mad pursuit of earning money by corrupt practices. Craze to achieve high grades makes them topper like Venkat who '*had a good GPA and everything, but he*

<sup>1</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. New Delhi: Rupa Publication, 2011. P39

<sup>2</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Ibid*

*was hardly human.*<sup>3</sup> Professor Charion is a 10 pointer but he can hardly understand the feelings of others. Contrary to the special merits and distinctions the young generation struggling for, Post-modern civilization declines to accept the difference between high and low class. There is little place for innovation, creativity or individual thinking. *‘Where is the room for original thought? Where is the time for creativity?’*<sup>4</sup> Their concern is to feel high and superior without being original or creative human beings. Bhagat has focused the prejudices of toppers, though *‘there is more to life than these things your family, your friends, your internal desires and goals. And the grades you get in dealing with each of these areas will define you as a person.’*<sup>5</sup> He pleads to competitors- *‘It is great to get into IIT, but it is not the end of the world if you don’t. All of you should be proud to have the IIT tag, but never ever judge anyone who is not from this institute’.*

IIT Prof Charion is prejudiced towards all low-pointers of his institute because he could not accept the fact that his own son failed thrice to qualify for IIT and killed himself in place of carrying the burden of failure. Ryan on the other hand is prejudiced against high-grade mania, and his parents’ attitude towards him. He would not fall for traditional way of studying; wouldn’t reply his parents’ letters as he believes that they love their work and money more than their son that is why he was sent to boarding school very early in his childhood. He would rather take pride in caring for his friends who care a lot for him; with whom he can live his real life.

### 3. ACHIEVER’S PRIDE

Insensitive pass-outs of top institutes feel proud to rule the world with their bookish theories. Persons at the top with their vanity look down upon their subordinates. Bakshi in *One Night @ the call center* is proud of his administrative position and vague wisdom. He even boasts his superior position with pride, *“I always use the executive toilet.”*<sup>6</sup> The big firms patronize their insurmountable ambitions. In *2 States* the candidate says *“I’d heard Citibank had four hundred vice-presidents to accommodate careers and egos of hundreds of new MBAs that joined every year.”*<sup>7</sup> Anil, MD won’t compromise with his high profile, *“And why do I have a Honda City to pick me up? Tell them I am eligible for BMW if they don’t have Mercedes...”*<sup>8</sup> The novelist satirizes the trade norms in which rich customer are pampered, *“My first stint involved working in a group that served ‘priority banking’ clients, a politically correct term to address ‘stinking rich’ customers.”*<sup>9</sup>

### 4. BAD-NUTRILIZED

The post-modern culture has neutralized the distinction between good and bad, moral and immoral, right and wrong. If there is choice to select modern generation would not hesitate to go for one which is traditionally named as bad. That’s why Neha ‘wants to be bad’ because *“nice people are completely boring.”*<sup>10</sup> The trend of minimizing vague difference between morality and immorality is marked in Bhagat’s novels also. *“One good thing about banking is you don’t feel about lying at all.”*<sup>11</sup> The protagonist in a rage punches the face of his grumbling father, *“It was a reaction to decades of abuse. Or that’s how I defended it to myself. For how else do you justify hitting your own father?”*<sup>12</sup> Postmodernist consecrate the profane, Krish frustrated in love justifies something unusual, *“An item girl with her picture in a bikini said she wanted to be taken seriously. I*

<sup>3</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Five Point Someone*. New Delhi: Rupa Publication, 2004. P65

<sup>4</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Five Point Someone* Ibid P30

<sup>5</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Five Point Someone*. New Delhi: Rupa Publication, 2004. P264

<sup>6</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. New Delhi: Rupa Publication, 2005. P 117

<sup>7</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P34

<sup>8</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. New Delhi: Rupa Publication, 2008. P118

<sup>9</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P82

<sup>10</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Five Point Someone*. Ibid P80

<sup>11</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. New Delhi: Rupa Publication, 2009. P86

<sup>12</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P167

*found her request quite reasonable.*"<sup>13</sup> In the same way those who are not perfect also claim for their rights; Krish's father says, *"I'm not perfect. But don't deprive me of my son in my final years."*<sup>14</sup> Morals are brushed aside for having political and personal vendetta; Gopal and MLA Shukla-ji in *Revolution 2020* keep their career above all moral, social or national interests. *"Your friend. I had him fired. He got me fired."* *"He tried to ruin my life. I will ruin his life."*<sup>15</sup>

## 5. MIDDLE-CLASS SOCIAL TABOOS

Social obligations of middle class traditions are dragged along like 'unwanted burden'. *"Alok's elder sister was getting near what he mournfully called 'marriageable age'... 'she wasn't breathtakingly beautiful either."*<sup>16</sup> Limited earning makes a person prejudiced with the people with lucrative sources. The harried call-center operatives face this predicament. Priyanka's mother lures her to marry a boy from US. *"Just someone rich, or someone who gets predictable cash flows at the end of every month. Except parents do not say it that way because then it really sounds like they're trading their daughter to the highest bidder. But in some ways, they are... 'Show me the money and keep our daughter for the rest of your life.' That is the arrangement in an arranged marriage."* Shyam sulks, *"And tell your drama queen mom to come say it to my face that I am a loser. And she can send you off with whichever...settled annuity income earner she likes. I am what I am..."*<sup>17</sup> He gets prejudiced with Ganesh who is Priyanka's would be husband working in Microsoft, *"He was probably one of the thousands of Indian geeks coding away in Microsoft. But to his in-laws, he was Mr. Bill Gates himself."*<sup>18</sup> A father thinks, *"He is my son, he is from IIT, see what deal I get for him at the right time."* That is why, *"For all my father's principles, I was his trophy to be sold in the market to the highest bidder."*<sup>19</sup>

Sriram Balasbramaniun finds Bhagat 'portray relationships in a natural way.' The prejudices of the parents and their children's new approaches create problems difficult to resolve. The two love birds of *2 States* wish to have their marriage with the consent of their parents and share their overconfidence, *"But we are their overachieving children, the ultimate middle-class fantasy kids. Why should they have an issue?"* But the parental prejudice and ego can't be satisfied, *"Because they are parents. From biscuits to brides, if there is anything their children really want, parents have a problem."*<sup>20</sup> Hand shaking with would-be mother-in-law would be too bold to digest, *"Anything modern doesn't go down well with the parents."*<sup>21</sup> Mother's pride shatters when his son becomes too modest towards his in-laws, *"I thought you were going to touch Ananya's mother's feet."*<sup>22</sup> (Ibid) The pride and prejudice of parents having educated children give them edge over others to boast of. Krish's mother reminds her son of his greater value in marriage-market. *"Should we give a matrimonial ad Verma aunty downstairs gave it; she got fifty responses even though her son is from donation college. You will get five hundred."*<sup>23</sup> What is thought to be special about a girl is that his father has six petrol pumps. And each daughter would get three. The author hints at the logical base of new Indian psyche against emotional stuff. *"I think human beings waste too much time on emotions... Dad's departure was*

<sup>13</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P243

<sup>14</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P246

<sup>15</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P242

<sup>16</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Five Point Someone*. Ibid P13

<sup>17</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P109

<sup>18</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P136

<sup>19</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P167

<sup>20</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P39

<sup>21</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P40

<sup>22</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid

<sup>23</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P57

*followed by months of crying with every lady in every pol coming down to sympathise with her.*"<sup>24</sup> Children's today feel different from traditional thoughts – *"if you have to choose, passion should win. Humanity wouldn't have progressed if people listened to their parents all the time... Weren't we all conceived in a moment of passion."*<sup>25</sup>

## 6. COMMUNITY PREJUDICES

The prejudices of communities against each other drag the country's development and prestige down to national shame. *"If politician fuel a fire, there is no fire brigade to check it."*<sup>26</sup> The problem has been dealt with an intellectual secular mind that looks forward to a homogenous and developed Indian society. Ali's father, a moderate politician criticizes fascist politics that flare up religious emotion, *"all political parties spend more time playing politics than working for the country. Creating differences, taking sides, causing divides – they know this too well."*<sup>27</sup> Communal prejudice block rational thinking of the people – *"They burn little kids, see what kind of a community is this."*<sup>28</sup> In communal violence – 'eye for an eye' humanity is burnt alive. Protagonists stand for *'reconciliatory mechanism'* like one in the chimpanzee society. Male chimpanzees of the same pack fight violently with each other – for food, females, whatever. However, after the fight, they kiss each other, on the lips. *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* narrates melodramatic struggle of three friends in business, cricket, love and ethnic violence. They overcome the devastation by earthquake, by religious fanatics and hurdles in love with their determination, strategic maneuvering, secular indomitable spirit and patience. People rise over their pride and prejudices. Genuine pride wins over communal prejudices and victory of good sense of humanity prevails.

## 7. STATE PREJUDICES

The cravings and attitudes of the people of different states become their pride and form their prejudices. *"Marble flooring is to a Punjabi what a foreign degree is to a Tamilian."*<sup>29</sup> *"Political correctness is a necessity in Chennai"*<sup>30</sup> North Indians believe that *"South Indians are top class number two officers, but horrible in number one positions."*<sup>31</sup> We find 'young lovers stealing kisses while turning their back to their parent's conventions'. Parents adhere to their prejudices and social taboos to the extent that every other person going against them is looked down upon. *"Ananya's parents had committed a cognizable offence. You don't meet the boy's side empty handed."*<sup>32</sup> The pride and ego of the parents is satisfied by petty rituals that sweeten their otherwise dry life without fun. Bride's father takes the bucket of idli from the server and serves one to groom's mother. *"This is what grown-ups live for anyway, considering they have so little fun otherwise."*<sup>33</sup> One of the prejudices of the parents is that they feel hurt when their children choose their own way. If a daughter chooses her life-partner from other community, *"why do parents object to this? It is not only about another community. It is the fact your daughter has found a boy for herself. We as parents feel disobeyed, left out and disappointed? ...How much we hate love marriages..."*<sup>34</sup> Aarti in *Revolution 2020* interprets

<sup>24</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P9

<sup>25</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P103

<sup>26</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P71

<sup>27</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P70

<sup>28</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P215

<sup>29</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P124

<sup>30</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P132

<sup>31</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P143

<sup>32</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P222

<sup>33</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P253

<sup>34</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P265

Raghav's new thinking, *"He feels the revolution begins at home. Society changes only when individual family norms are challenged."*<sup>35</sup>

The regional pride and prejudices vitiate bitterness and poison the minds of the people from different states. Their 'one country and one nation' pride is pushed in the background. Petty differences in their ways of living become subject of prejudice, satire and humour. People from south are satirized for their complexion and ornaments, *"Given their dusky complexion, everyone's teeth shone extra white. All old women wore as much gold as their bodies could carry and silk saris shiny as road reflectors."* And that *"How can such scary looking parents create something so cute?"*<sup>36</sup> Regional prejudice turns into jealousy, *"these South Indians don't know how to control their daughters. From Hema Malini to Sridevi, all of them trying to catch Punjabi men."*<sup>37</sup> They believe that the people of other states are 'uncultured', mean and of low category; they envy each other. That's why the author puts a question, *"Aren't they all Indian? Can't they be good human beings?"*<sup>38</sup> Pride and prejudice is observed in their life-style, *"A Punjabi house is never this silent even when people sleep at night."*<sup>39</sup> The author's clarion call is for unity in the diversity of the country. *"These states make up our nation. These states also divide our nation. And in some cases, these states play havoc in our lives."*<sup>40</sup> Pride and prejudices of the people reflect in their genuine concerns about the place they live in. *"I finished my joint and contemplated the holy river. The world came to wash away their sins in Varanasi. Did they ever stop to think about Varanasi for a moment – about what its people would do with all the sins they left behind?"*<sup>41</sup> Corruption rampant in every field of the social life is pride for politician that they can do anything, *"Yeah, politician, builders, beedi-makers. Anybody with experience in a shady business does really well in education"*.<sup>42</sup> MLA Shukla-ji is proud of solving entangled problems, *"We don't fix cases. We fix the people in cases."*<sup>43</sup>

## 8. GENERATION'S DILEMMA

The dilemma of the young generation finds expression in his novels. Vidya grumbles over the boring mathematical burden in academics – *"Why do you have to do something so uninteresting to become something in life."*<sup>44</sup> In *Five Point Someone* Neha being a girl is confined by her father to her 'Cultured' image that she strives to defy. She wants to defy her father's pride as a 10-pointer despot. Alok fails to cross the average grade limit and he discards Ryan's 'life is a fun' concept that proves fiasco for him. Affirming to his orthodox thoughts he moves out of his friendship trio. But later on approves and works on Ryan's Practical approach. In *One Night @ the call center* Bhagat depicts the gross materialistic life-style and the frustration caused by it in the youth. *"All the ads had one thing in common. Everyone looked incredibly happy."* *"What the hell are they so happy about?"* The boy who is fostered by a fighting couple grumbles, *"The people who gave birth to me can't stop hating each other enough. What does that tell you about me? Half my genes must*

<sup>35</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P149

<sup>36</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P14

<sup>37</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P48

<sup>38</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P69

<sup>39</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P89

<sup>40</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P248

<sup>41</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P202

<sup>42</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P116

<sup>43</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P125

<sup>44</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P156

*be fighting with the other half.*"<sup>45</sup> Young people grudge the old generation, *"Why do these old people poke their nose in our affairs so much? Like, would we care if he hung out with three grandmas?"*<sup>46</sup>

## 9. NATIONAL PREJUDICES

Bhagat hints at International politics and diplomacy that overtly favor humanity but secretly foster the individual or national interests, ambitions and pride. Pride and Prejudices of countries turn out into open or cold war. Pseudo national pride leads to international unrest imperialistic ambitions, exploitation and annexation. America waging war against Iraq is taken as *'a despotic dictator annexed another despotic dictator's country'*<sup>47</sup>. American wealth flame the prejudices of the people of the poor countries. *"Americans are sick," Vroom said as he pointed to a US politician who had spoken out in support of the war. 'Look at him. He would nuke the whole world if he could have his way.'*<sup>48</sup> The customer care talk turns bitter when one American customer teases Vroom with his racist remark, *"Yeah, I'll change the dust bag. What about you guys? When will you change your dusty country?"*<sup>49</sup> Vroom's hurt pride of being Indian bursts out, *"Guys, there are two things I cannot stand... 'Racists and Americans.'"* <sup>50</sup>The grudge and prejudice against rich is not without reason, *"Why do some fat-ass dim-witted Americans get to act superior to us?" Not because they are smarter. Not because they are better people. But because their country is rich and ours is poor."*<sup>51</sup> The pride of being Indian comes out with a cool rage, *"Look at our country, we are still so behind these Americans. Even when we know we are no less than them."*<sup>52</sup> Ali's pride as Indian gives him enough strength to reject proposal of Australian citizenship. *"It's ok if I don't become a player, but it's not ok if I am not and Indian."*<sup>53</sup> He is determined – *"Even if I have hundred next lives, I want to be an Indian in all of them."*<sup>54</sup> But pride also makes us rigid and that should be resolved – *"If I don't break their pride, they will stay hoons for the rest of their life... Sportsmen are not movie stars, mate. Even though your country treat them like that... If he isn't humble enough, he won't last long."*<sup>55</sup>

He points out to a 'beefy bouncer' (and a 'door-bitch') at the entrance of a 'Disco-bar'. *"Like Bakshi he belonged to the in-human species of mankind."*<sup>56</sup> Educated youth has to mortgage his self-respect and his identity for money and security owing to gross materialistic life-style. *"Yes, this salary has hooked me. Every night I come here and let people fuck me. Vroom said and picked up the telephone hand set. "The Americans fuck me with this, in my years hundreds of times a night. Bakshi fucks me with his management theories, backstabbing and threats to fire us. And funny thing is, I let them do it. For money and security – I let it happen. Come fuck me some more."*<sup>57</sup> The angst against inhuman behaviour and injustice pent up in human mind like a dormant volcano, *"We dropped the topic of killing Bakshi. Though if the law allowed me one free murder in life, I am clear who will top the list. No wait, I am forgetting my ex-girlfriend's mom here. I really wouldn't know whom to kill first, that's the truth. Perhaps the law would see me as a special case and allow*

<sup>45</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P211

<sup>46</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P85

<sup>47</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Five Point Someone*. Ibid P48

<sup>48</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P267

<sup>49</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P122

<sup>50</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid

<sup>51</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P123

<sup>52</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P209

<sup>53</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P178

<sup>54</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P179

<sup>55</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P159

<sup>56</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P263

<sup>57</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P191

*me two murders.*"<sup>58</sup> The prejudice and angst against politician is one of the blatant truths of society, "***Why Don't Politicians Ever Commit Suicide?***"<sup>59</sup> Gopal in *Revolution 2020* doesn't hesitate to fall to corrupt practices- "***I'll do it. It isn't like I am the only guy in India paying bribes***", I said. "***But I want to be big.***"<sup>60</sup> Then there are people who are, "***Honest enough to not take money. But not so honest that will stop others from taking it.***"<sup>61</sup>

## 10. MALE-FEMALE PREJUDICES

We find myriad of examples of male pride and prejudices against the females depicted with a tinge of gentle sarcasm and humor in Bhagat's novels. When sweets are distributed, "***Radhika took two pieces while Esha broke the tiniest piece possible with human figure. I guess the low-cut jeans figure comes at a price.***"<sup>62</sup> Gross materialism leads them nowhere Priyanka complains against the aimless male-life, "***Well, look at him – jeans, phones, pizzas and bikes. That is all he lives for. And this whole new girlfriend every three months, c'mon, at some point you've got to stop that, right?***"<sup>63</sup> Women's craze for looking good is satirized with humour, "***How did women manage before mirrors were invented?***"<sup>64</sup> Women protest if they are bossed, "***that women are intelligent people don't like to be told what to wear or do, especially when they are adults.***"<sup>65</sup> They won't spare men's hypocrisy, "***how you men need so much time to think about commitment, but how you need no time at all to decide when you have to sleep with the girl.***"<sup>66</sup> While Gopal impatient in Aarti's love sighs, "***How can god give girls so much power? How can they turn productive, busy and ambitious men into a wilting mass of uselessness?***" Male pride of Gopal gets hurt - "***Life is a bitch when the only woman you can think of belongs to someone else.***"<sup>67</sup> Girls weird behaviour is a puzzle for men, "***How can girls pretend that nothing happened? Do they stuff from their brains, brush it aside or they just good actors?***"<sup>68</sup> The author feels the new status of Indian women, "***I think it is only in my generation that Indian women started slamming their husband.***"<sup>69</sup>

The human prejudice of jealousy in love is not very wild but forms the base of rivalry in *Revolution 2020*. Gopal expresses his feeling, "***I imagined Aarti at Raghav's place, in peals of laughter. My insides burnt.***"<sup>70</sup> "***She had gone three hundred kilometers away from Varanasi with Raghav.***"<sup>71</sup> To prove better and richer than Raghav Gopal enters into the Gangatech project. He finds that Raghav is a hurdle in this shady deal, he involves in conspiracy against him. Raghav's career is doomed by state politics involving Gopal and the mussel power of the MLA in spite of being a true human and sensitive journalist. However humanity persists and Raghav;s clarion call for revolution against corrupt machinery works; Gopal recognizes his sacrifice for the cause and restores his lost career. Gopal finds Raghav more suitable match for Aarti and a deserving candidate for MLA. He breaks up with Aarti posing himself as a characterless brat engaged in debauchery and prostitution. The author consecrates the profane.

<sup>58</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P196

<sup>59</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P49

<sup>60</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P127

<sup>61</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P135

<sup>62</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P62

<sup>63</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P48

<sup>64</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P261

<sup>65</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P20

<sup>66</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P32

<sup>67</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P159

<sup>68</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P210

<sup>69</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. "*Prologue*". *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid xvii

<sup>70</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P50

<sup>71</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P73

## 11. PREJUDICES AMONG RELIGIONS

There is prejudice of religion because, as Bakhtin argues, the scientific mind cannot accept religion-God but it wants to create intellect-God. God and faith is a puzzle for the young generation, ***“His God had made him pay a big price in life, but he still felt grateful to him. I could never understand this absolute faith that believers possess. May be I missed something by being agnostic.”***<sup>72</sup> The author of *One Night @ the call center* asks, ***“things need to have a rational, scientific explanation”***. ***“Calls from God don’t happen a lot. How can I write about that?”*** He has other options like Military uncle to say what God says. Still, the author goes for, ***“The one with God in it”***... ***“Just like life. Rational or not, it just gets better with God in it.”***<sup>73</sup> Post-modern author adopts no ‘make-believe’ technique. He knows that the readers know it is fiction and not real. God appear in front of Krish in *2 States* he talks with the God to get selected for a job though he ***‘hasn’t said one true thing in that interview.’*** But God assures him, ***“They don’t want to hear the truth”*** but puts a condition that he should take decision to do right thing of marrying his girlfriend. He knows, ***“Of course, my rational mind knew I was being completely moronic. Both the events are not connected. But there is only so much our rational mind knows. May be, events and karma are connected.”***<sup>74</sup>

## 12. SEARCH FOR IDENTITY

There is search for identity and self-pride to stand out of crowd in the age of identity crisis. ***“There could be jobs that define me, make me learn or help my country.”*** ***“Think about what you really want and what you need to change in your life to get it.”***<sup>75</sup> As Aarti in *Revolution 2020* says, ***“My deal is simple, Money or revolution, everyone should follow their heart.”***<sup>76</sup> The author pursues it in almost every novel. One is identified by his individual talent that can make difference. Govind’s pride is his talent in *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* that satisfy his prejudice towards rich – ***“God gives talent so that the ordinary person can become extraordinary. Talent is the only way the poor can become rich. Otherwise, in this world the rich would remain rich and poor would remain poor.”***<sup>77</sup> The new Indian generation would cross the barricades of ancient philosophy to march ahead. ***“I finally saw the sense inherent in the Hindu philosophy of being satisfied with what one had, rather than yearn for more. It wasn’t some cool philosophy that ancient sages invented, but a survival mantra in a country where desires are routinely crushed.”***<sup>78</sup>

## 13. LOVE-A HUMANE VALUE

Chetan Bhagat depicts the pride and prejudices of Indian society throwing the fetters of inhibitions and taboo in the matters of sex. Liberty in sexual matters equally for women signals opening up of confined sex behavior of Indian society. It sounds like a panted cool-blooded revolt against male dominated sex empire. Neha in *Five Point Someone* allows Hari to have sex just for his daring act against her despotic Father Prof. Charion. Priyanka seduces Shyam to have sex in a confined place on the back seat of a Qualis triumphantly. Vidya is glad to lose her virginity- ***“Wow, I am an adult and am no longer a virgin, so cool. Thank God.”***<sup>79</sup> She enjoys a kind of liberty from the parental yoke.

No matter what they tell us

<sup>72</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P92

<sup>73</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P287

<sup>74</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P37

<sup>75</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P228

<sup>76</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P198

<sup>77</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P97

<sup>78</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P115

<sup>79</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *The 3 Mistakes of My life*. Ibid P201



No matter what they do

No matter what they teach us

What we believe is true

Radhika, however, cannot digest her husband's secret relations with Payal and revolts against her husband and his melodramatic mother-in-law. Ananya in *2 States* first restricts Krish from kissing her and then pulls down all the restricted floodgates of sexual emotions voluntarily. Dolly, however, is clever enough in sexual matters with Mr. 'wrong number' boyfriend, confesses ***'because this guy is insisting I kiss him. But I don't want to get pregnant.'***<sup>80</sup> Bakshi satisfies his sex emotions by surfing porn sites. Casual sex with anyone can be the need of the hour, it's quite natural; it's humane. The thing that he insists on is 'love' that matters. Faith in your chosen life partner and faithfulness are time-tested Indian values. This is pride of Indian culture but it is not a taboo in the young generation; though premarital or extra marital sex naturally revokes bitter prejudices in man-woman relationship.

The undercurrent of humanity beckons through-out his works. In *Five Point Someone* the Author calls youth to adhere to the basic human values in the wild race of competition of the modern world. Again in *One Night @ the call center* the characters stick to humanity in cut-throat age of competition. Priyanka acts a CBI Inspector-women-cell and threatens consequences to dowry-hungry husband and mother-in-law harassing daughter-in-law for three years. We observe a cry against injustice and appreciation for humanity. ***"I love it when you stand up for something that you feel for."***<sup>81</sup> A Tamilian father hurt by her daughter's marriage with a Punjabi boy in *Two States* realizes, ***"Yes, the Tamilian in me is little disappointed. But the Indian in me is quite happy. And more than anything, the human being in me is happy. After all we've decided to use this opportunity to create more loved ones for ourselves."***<sup>82</sup> In *Three Mistakes Of My Life* ethnic violence caused by misguided crowd is resisted vehemently and good sense of humanity prevails. Educated peace-loving youth exemplify humanity in winning over narrow ethnic spree. In *Revolution 2020* Gopal's prejudice becomes stronger and his human sensitivity gets suppressed until he encounters Raghav's human concern over the death of several children caused by Ganga Action Plan scam of the MLA Shukla-ji. Repentant Gopal tries to compensate his corrupt association with the MLA in his Gangatech Project and his several revengeful acts against Raghav. Gopal rises above his human prejudices and realizes the basic humanity deep-seated in his heart. ***"Once upon a time I was Keshav – sweet, innocent and unaware of the world. As life slapped me about several time, and thrashed the innocence out of me, I had killed my Keshav, for the world didn't care about sweetness. Then why didn't I crush Raghav completely yesterday? May be that innocent good part of us never dies – we just trample upon it for a while."***<sup>83</sup>

## 14. CONCLUSION

Chetan Bhagat insists on humanity to rise above shallow pride and narrow prejudices. His humanistic approach reflects in his concept of characterization. He communicates with his characters and his readers as a postmodern author, ***'I' ll let the readers decide how they want to consider you. I simply write about people. I don't cast them as heroes or villains.'***<sup>84</sup>(R-295) His mission is a social change that may come through revolutionary thoughts and action of the Indian youth in the twenty-first century. For expected social reformation by a bloodless revolution he talks with humor about pride and prejudices of his characters as basic

<sup>80</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P66

<sup>81</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *One Night @ the call centre*. Ibid P91

<sup>82</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. Ibid P 266

<sup>83</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P267

<sup>84</sup> Bhagat, Chetan. *Revolution 2020*. Ibid P295

human traits but his faith in humanity never wavers; he expects from this generation, “you will Keep the Spark alive...I hope not just you, but my whole country will keep that spark alive, as we really need it now more than any moment in history.”<sup>85</sup>

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