



Women of 21st Century: Analysis on the Novels of Chetan Bhagat

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Abstract: We can find many authors in the current 21st century who have been successful in portraying social inequality, metropolitan life styles, luxurious and sophisticated life styles, westernised and urbanised influences, increased preference for convent education, and have made their literary narratives sharper, chiselled, effortless, and pitchy through their writings. The depth of these writers' research and study has been widened by their ingenuity and open-mindedness. One of these modern authors, known for his liberal viewpoints, is Chetan Bhagat. His novels' female protagonists in particular capture the emotions and sentiments of the current age. In the selected works of Chetan Bhagat, this paper will concentrate on the major themes of equality, feminism, and the evolving trends of competitive, ambitious, and technologically aware female thought. The concept of societal reflection, the idea of modernity, and how the author portrays contemporary reality through the many characters will also be covered in this essay.

Keywords: 21st Century Women, Feminism, Individuality, Metropolitan Life Style

1. FEMINISM CONCEPT

The Latin word femina, which means "woman," gave rise to the French word "feminisme," which is where the word "feminism" first appeared. It considers women to be socially and intellectually equal to men, and that they should be treated as such. They share the same economic freedoms and authority as males. The early twentieth century battles for women's suffrage and voting rights helped popularise the phrase. Indian writing in English is currently advancing quickly. It has ushered in a new age in literature and won numerous accolades both domestically and internationally. The writing of Bhagat is more feminine than masculine. He gives his female characters more importance and respect than the other male heroes. He has represented and

articulated the thoughts and sentiments of the women. He supports women's equality and their the men who are prominent and influential in their life close to them. The competitiveness of women is widespread. The younger generation of women in today's Bhagat writes literature that is both stylish and modern. Chetan Bhagat's female characters take into account the numerous varieties of women. The stages depicted by the woman characters in his novels are examined here, and an attempt is made to connect them to different stages of feminism. It is essential for this conversation to touch on feminism and feminist literature. In fact, feminism represents a sincere effort to understand, examine, and clarify.

II. IMAGE DEPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH

Characters, especially women characters, are presented very differently in Indian writers' English-language novels than Chetan Bhagat does with his female protagonists. Indian authors who write in English have portrayed the terrible conditions of enslavement, hopeless reliance, and most importantly, men's denial of home, social, and economic freedom in their works. However, Chetan's novels have contributed to the freedom of women in the twenty-first century. Through his works, Chetan encourages women to follow their hearts and reminds them that life is precious and should be enjoyed. It is possible to find Mulk Raj Anand's depiction of female imagery to be more pitiful. Sohni is portrayed as the image of Sohini, Bakra's sister, in the movie "Untouchable." an ugly representation of injustice. Her portrayal as a victim of As a priest, I was subjected to both sexual and caste exploitation. Tries to undermine her when she is performing her usual tasks in the temple. Despite being exceedingly attractive, she lacks sufficient attire to shield her beauty from the greedy eyes of the male onlookers. Therefore, she experiences sexual assault exploitation. In "Two Leaves and a Bud," Anand portrays the pitiful condition of female characters as a result of colonial exploitation. Sajani, Gangu, the hero's wife, is a representation of the meticulous rural women who have been reduced to nothing more than a woman who is just interested in cleaning, washing, cooking, and caring for her husband. Here, women are portrayed as being only housewives with no distinct individuality. Leila, the daughter of Gangu, is approached by Hunt, the assistant plant manager, in the tea garden. She yells as she dashes back to her hut. Hunt follows her up to her hut. He shoots the air with his handgun. Rushing to the location, Gangu is slain by Hunt. In general, this is how women have been portrayed in Indian authors' English-language novels. The way that women have been portrayed in Indian literature for a very long time has somehow made real-life women seem depressing. In situations where they are unable to challenge the system and defend their rights, women have been portrayed as helpless victims

III. Illustration OF METROPOLITAN WOMEN

Bhagat believes that nothing compares to the value of life. For him, having fun does not serve as a short diversion from his daily responsibilities. He recognises the futility of human life and does not perceive any sin in accepting what one believes to be right. We are unable to observe this in other writers. In his books, Bhagat does not emphasise the pain and utter helplessness of his characters; instead, Bhagat shows the tireless efforts they make to escape the gloom. His women are portrayed as the real revellers in human life. They are not affected by adversity for very long. They retain their desire to live life to the fullest. They quickly break free of it and begin to enjoy life. The female characters in Chetan are all capable of making their own decisions, intelligent, and willing to take risks regardless of what they decide. Chetan is successful in getting young people to honestly accept the truths and realities and to treat them as a shared requirement for society's advancement, eliminating the appearance of hypocrisy. He counsels young people to follow their hearts. Bhagat places a significant emphasis on the freedom of women. His female figures hold a "perfect, absolute, pure, and noble freedom." Bhagat so deliberately used the "youth calling" technique in his novels, perhaps in an effort to start a revolution and end hypocrisy through his literature. He depicts the evolving mentality of women in 21st-century metropolitan areas in a lovely way. Girls are equal to boys in every manner, in Bhagat's opinion; they are not in any way inferior. He supports the libation and emancipation of women.

IV. 21st-CENTURY WOMEN IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S NOVELS

Author, pundit, screenwriter, and motivational speaker Bhagat is best known for his English-language dramedy novels about young, middle-class Indians living in urban areas. Due to his modern ideas, he is a youth favourite and has been dubbed an icon of the youth. Chetan paints a wonderful picture of the relationship between Hari and Neha in his debut book, Five Point Someone. She is intelligent, self-reliant, and individualistic. She is unique in her individuality, dreams, and aspirations.

Neha herself offers ice cream and extends an invitation to hang out, but Hari is too reticent to approach women. Neha's character illustrates how women in Bhagat's novels take the initiative bravely, boldly, and it demonstrates how contemporary women don't wait for others' approval and are wise enough to know what is best for themselves. In the classic novel *The Three Mistakes of My Life*, Vidya gives Govind pizza and, under various pretexts, takes him out. The character of Vidya is portrayed as a woman of the twenty-first century who approaches her relationships with boldness, whether it is with her brother Ishan or Govind, who is both her friend and mathematical professor. She is successful in getting Govind to confess his love for her. She was the only one who had the guts to speak up about how she felt about Govind. In his book, Vidya's persona demonstrates how 21st-century women are capable of making decisions on their own terms without having to think about the consequences later. She was brave in expressing her love for Govind, and it resulted in a relationship that would last a lifetime. In the novel *One Night at the Call Centre*, we can picture Priyanka as a smart and sensible young woman who is overly preoccupied with her mother, who had a significant impact on her life. She breaks up with her boyfriend Shyam for her mother and weds Ganesh, an NRI of her mother's choosing. In the end, though, things work out differently, and she decides to put her pleasure ahead of her mother's wishes. Here, Priyanka's persona is unabashedly portrayed as a woman who can make her own decisions, even if they require her to look through the façades of Indian culture. Through Radhika Jha's persona in one night at the contact centre, Bhagat shows his women as emotionally strong. . She makes an effort to fit in with an orthodox household against her wishes, but when she learns of her husband's adultery, she decides to leave and prefers to break free. The women in his stories exhibit their liberation in many different ways. In the book *Two States* by Chetan Bhagat, The narrative of my marriage Unlike her religious family, Tamilian Brahmin Annanya Swaminathan is a girl with liberal views. Caste, culture, and

personal preferences have no bearing on her. Ananya, a woman of the twenty-first century, is prepared to overcome prejudice, pride, and cultural differences in order to protect the person she loves. Her personality is that of a powerful young woman who can mend her relationships in her own way to fulfil her goals. In Bhagat's *Half Girlfriend*, Riya's character embodies the idea of a strong girlfriend. A strong sense of self is necessary for success because if you don't, you risk being sidetracked by other people's perceptions. Riya's persona captures the current young culture that emphasises the necessity to be confident and have a clear understanding of what one wants out of life. The character of Arthi in *Revolution 2020* (2011) is typical of all the girls in Chethan's works. She is also looking for a loving partner who will adore her and be by her side. She truly cares for Raghav, her boyfriend, but she gradually begins to drift away from him as she realises that he is too preoccupied and engaged with his political career. Gopal, who is her suitor and shows her a lot of love and time, cares for her. When she decides what is best for her, she shows courage. In the end, she decides to marry Gopal rather than Raghav since she loves him more. This demonstrates her crystal-clear vision for her life and her profound awareness of the influence her decisions have on it.

V. CONCLUSION

Chetan Bhagat has demonstrated skill in handling the uniqueness of his female characters. A careful examination of his books reveals that each female character exemplifies power and clarity of thinking. Chetan women are prepared to take on difficulties and dangers. Bhagat is a reformer and the architect of a new, liberated society. Chetan Bhagat's female protagonists embody the attribute of Vitality. They bravely accept their courtship's initiation. They express their opinions clearly and firmly believe in a flawless and noble freedom. Chetan inspires young people through his writings to live their lives in accordance with their desires and inner selves rather than slavishly adhering to the antiquated traditional ideas that have been passed down through the past.

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