



The Representation of Youth and Youth Culture in the Novels of Chetan Bhagat

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Abstract

Chetan Bhagat is renowned name in Indian English fiction writing. Especially he has written campus novels, and today his novels are bestselling novels. He is an Indian author, columnist, screenwriter, television personality and motivational speaker. He is known for his Indian-English novels about youngsters. He writes columns on youth and he is youth oriented writer. He has touched every aspect of youth's life in the present novel.

Bhagat strives to portray the mental stirrings of his personnel. He tries to portrait the old traditions of the society. He speaks about the mind-sets of the people, discriminations between woman and man. Woman's having their own goals in their life. His writing holds no restraints and so are the characters of the novels. The main objective of his writing is to appreciate the liberty, rights, and views of women. . Bhagat considers literature as a provocative pill, which works as a strong stimulant to the human mind. Bhagat enthuses the youth to purge sterile dogmatism of the social system. Bhagat writes about the youth and specifically for the youth. However, the people of all age groups love to read him. Everyone feels as if Bhagat writes to him. He writes so simple that everyone likes him. It is reported that Bhagat's . Bhagat is in favour of realism in art. His artistic truth lies within sensory perception. It guides his readers to obtain self-enlightenment. Therefore, character is prior to the plot. His novel Point Someone was published in 2004 and is still on top selling list. It won him the Society Young Achiever's Award in 2004 and the Publisher's Recognition Award in 2005. His characters in the form of youth are social rebels who remind us the Angry Youngmen that dominated English novel in the 1950's. His female protagonists remind us about the female characters who rebel against the poor system of the society. Place of action of his novels is set in the hustle and bustle of Metropolitan Indian cities where life moves at fast speed. He presented vivid pictures of life by highlighting youth and also provided solutions of the day to day turmoil that comes line a roller coaster in everybody's life. The youth at last was triumphed by crossing all the hurdles which comes in his way.

Keywords : Human Psyche, Realistic, Protagonist, Dogmatism, Perceptions, Turmoil, Triumph

Introduction:

Chetan Bhagat is one of the most popular novelists from Indian literature with a versatile personality. He is a gigantic name on the subject of writing of fiction as he has been alluded to as the role model of the present Indian youthful generation. He has made around seven fictions and one true to life and almost in each novel he has not just spot lit his profound worry about the adolescents today. The paper endeavours to toss some light on the aspects of post modernist point of view where the designing youth attempts to remain against the conventional arrangement of the society. His most renowned works include his fiction and one non-fiction that are Five Point Someone, The 3 Mistakes of My Life, One Indian Girl, Revolution 2020, 2 States and What Young India Wants. In most of his work he talks about the problem of Indian society and hopes of youth regarding the change in mind-sets of Indian people.

In *Five Point Someone: What not to do at IIT* (May 2004), Chetan Bhagat focuses on the lives of three friends of IIT Delhi –Hari Kumar (the narrator), Alok Gupta and Ryan Oberoi. The trio suffers ridicule of the teachers as well as the classmates. However, they avow to reform the patriarchal system of education. They dislike the traditional teaching method, which is as old as the college itself. The students are asked to mug the subjects in order to score good grades. It is same as rote learning. Bhagat puts emphasis on the observational teaching or learning by doing. He believes this technique must help the students in getting rid of mugging. It must support them to apprehend the things in a natural way. The observational technique makes the students to observe the things minutely and find out solution in the objects. After all, if they fail to make it out, they are invited to discuss the same with the teachers and other classmates. At last, the student finds answer to his query. Bhagat grieves for the sterile dogmatism of the education system. He finds the professors bigotry not to allow any prolific change in the system. Bhagat is straightforward in his approach to life. He listens to the voice of his soul, which he strongly believes in, is ever true. The man listening to the inner voice may suffer a big loss but finally emerges out victorious. For instance, all three friends suffer ignominy at college campus. All the teachers as well as the students take them for nuts, idiots and losers only because they underperform in the exams and notch five points something. But like others they are not muggers, they are freethinkers, true lovers of life, harbingers of innovative ideas, icons of liberty and precursors of the youth-calling-approach. They never lose confidence, work harder on the lube project and consequently their project is approved and they succeed to achieve big fame and name.

Bhagat advises the youth not to play Eklavya, who chopped away his thumb and offered it to the teacher for not teaching him a single letter of archery. The boy learnt it with the firm will-to-learn-it anyhow. Other writers of antiquity have taught the readers to obey the order of the teachers whether it is right or wrong. Bhagat just asks the youth to listen to the voice of their heart. A bad thing is to be turned down and a good thing is to be accepted whether it comes from an intellectual or from a layman. Acceptance or rejection depends upon the nature of the thing. It should not concern the nature of the person.

In *2 States: The Story of My Marriage*, Bhagat makes it clear that his children will be identified only as Indians not by the tag of any religion or state. He comments:

*“They will be Indian. They will be above all this nonsense”.*²²

The novel projects the true spirit of nationalism. It is based on the social and amorous endeavours of two main characters –Ananya Swaminathan and Krish Malhotra. The novel is first in its content, which attempts to unite not only two states but also two traditions and cultures. It endeavours to represent the people of the nation only as Indians not as castes, religions, states etc. This is the only thing the novelist ventures to carry to the youth of his country. He advises the youth to fix marriage on the criteria: physical symmetry, education, and financial position and gender skills. He suggests one should find in one’s match four things. First, the match should be almost equal in physical properties. They (boy and girl) should be sufficiently educated. Their financial position should be considerably profound and they should be adept in their gender jobs i.e. the boy should know how to manage family expenses and a girl should know how to properly keep the house. Krish chooses to make Ananya his life partner at different levels. Krish is a north Indian, Punjabi and Malhotra. Ananya is a south Indian, Tamil Brahmin. Their parents cannot even imagine interstate relationship and thereafter inter-caste marriage. Krish attempts to change the conservative criteria of marriage: same caste, same state, and different gotra and bountiful dowry. He proves his eligibility for marrying Ananya by skilfully convincing her parents. He helps Ananya’s father in computerizing bank ledgers and making presentation slides. He helps her mother to perform with big Carnatic singers S. P. Balasubramaniam and Hariharan. Thus the mother proves herself the best singer and Krish, the best wooer. He helps her brother Manjunathan to crack IIT entrance test. He wins the hearts of her parents and brother in order to win the heart of his ladylove. Thus, he proves through his ordeal that one can own anybody by tenderness of heart and agility of mind. He marries Ananya and sets an example before the youth of the country that they should choose their life partner based on the brilliant criteria above stated; not on the conservative and illogical one. One more vital feature of his novels is its lively sense of humour. The characters of the novel, even in difficult days, ward off their problems with laughter.

Chetan Bhagat's second novel *One Night @ the Call Center* exhibits a realistic picture of BPO life. It deals with white collar class social structures and sex acknowledged conduct in the context of social change and economic tempest. Since the call focuses have dispersed its branches everywhere throughout the world, by what method would India be able to stay immaculate with it? India has likewise turned into a major focal point of Call Centers. Call focuses have turned into the image of the developing service economy of the nation. The novelist has attempted to reconstruct the life conditions of the labourers in the barbarous work culture of the call focuses. The life of BPO isn't a simple as the laborers need to work the entire night to address the senseless questions asked by the Americans who are prevalent and injurious too. *One Night @ the Call Center* is an account of lost love, developed ambitions, and absence of family affection, pressures of patriarchal setup, and the working condition of the whole world. It likewise exhibits a horrifying image of the quick changing aspects of the social content. Its story seems less a story and more a reality. Shyam makes genuine discussions on some major problems of life in the contemporary society when he is with Priyanka on their first date. Shyam reprimand the mind of government officials who stay apathetic regarding the sentiments of the general population. The essential structure of life needs ideals and religious faiths. Life is being represented and guided by shopper decision. The discussion among Shyam and Priyanka indicates genuine reflections on the terrible and unsatisfactory conditions of the modern culture. They talk about Vroom's article. Shyam tells Priyanka,

"... 'Well, the article said a wide range of individuals – understudies, housewives, businesspeople, workers and even film stars – end it all. Be that as it may, government officials never do. That reveals to you something..." (Bhagat 42).

The novel likewise raises some legitimate issues and concerns and it additionally contains some social analysis.

The relationship between Military Uncle and his child and among Priyanka and his mom are run of the mill instances of a cultural hole. Military Uncle neglects to keep up an enthusiastic connection to his child. It is a profound misery for him and that is the reason he lives in isolation. They are suffering from the problem of generational-hole and communication hole. It is basically a suffering conceived out of the separations of relationship. It is a run of the mill problem in modern contemporary society that there is an extraordinary bay between the old generation and modern generation. The concept of human relationships has changed in the contemporary society. The traditional setting of society has been stunned by the modern development. Some of the time present generation does not comprehend the enthusiastic connection to the guardians and it is by all accounts the primary driver of the failure of parent-child relationship in formal and traditional society. The present youth, constantly, stay occupied in talking at Facebook, Whats App, Mobile and other web social locales. They don't have even a brief period to go through with their folks. This causes a communication hole. The main thing the guardians need from their kids is an organization. The craze of the family unit in the modern culture is ruining the essential structure of the general public. Esha's life, her failure and disappointment, her unfulfilled dreams and her loss of faith in life raise numerous questions previously supposed civilized and refined society. We are reaching, the climax of logical and technological development in the twenty-first century, however we are still in the stone age of our human brain science. From one viewpoint, incredible importance has been connected to modern culture, and then again, there is extraordinary degradation in morality and ethics which are the fundamental tools of secured life in this world. Esha gets the money as pay for lying down with someone. This money prize for moral distortion is the image of degradation in morality. The novel focuses on youth and their problems. The problems of youngsters in the general public are the primary concentration and worry of the novelist. The novel additionally gives the feeling that the working class relatives endure a ton in the general public. The social depiction is terrifying with the decaying of the value framework and very disarray because of absence of the clarification of values with context to the new challenges. Consequently, the novel burdens the importance of re-examining the social value

Chetan Bhagat's third novel *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* deals with different contemporary social and political issues. Social issues like the unified scream of Godhra, religion, politics, a compound of politics and religion, love, companionship, cricket and so on are the problems talked about exceptionally pictorial in the novel. The novel additionally communicates how caste brings hindrances and how social values contrast from caste to caste. The novel likewise deals with the issues of suffering and disarray that the novelist believes youthful Indians feel about religious

values. It features the hazardous blend of religion, politics, and economics, business, and cricket that is the Image of contemporary Indian culture. I examine the lives of connection of youth in an emerging contemporary society.

The characters of *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* are youthful, aspiring and lustful and have a similar moral, social and religious issue the same numbers of the youthful Indians face today. The novel is additionally founded on the genuine occasions of the united scream that occurred in Godhra, Gujarat in 2002 when the Sabarmati train was ambushed and its ruin impact. The start is emotional just as it has a feeling of reality. Govind Patel portrays the realistic picture of what he has encountered in his life up until now. The feelings, sentiments, perspectives, and brain research examined in the novel are progressively real, increasingly genuine and progressively attractive because of their standard quality. He sets up a games decent shop with his two companions, Ishaan and Omi. They are helped by Bittoo, Omi's maternal uncle, who is the genuine follower of Hindutva. He is under the impression of a warm Hindu leader named Parekhji. The principal meeting between Bittoo Mama and Govind sets joined predisposition existing for Hindus and Muslims. Their first gathering gives the look of their changed perspectives and the reflection of United harshness between two races conquering in an Indian contemporary society. Being a follower of Hindutva, Bittoo Mama has come to welcome them to the gathering of Parekhji. Chetan Bhagat in all respects realistically depicts the scene of the mix of politics and religion at the gathering. At the point when Govind gets some information about the general population affecting all over, he is replied that

"It is very basic," Omi said "The general populations in saffron are clerics or other sacred men from around the city. The general populations in white are the ideological group individuals" (Bhagat 41).

Chetan Bhagat has all around realistically depicted the incidents of Gujarat seismic tremor and Godhra riots. As the matter of the three companions to be sound, they book new supposition at an up and coming shopping center at Navrangpura on the outskirts of Ahmedabad with bunches of trust and ambition. In any case, their expectations are broken into pieces. It is the day of 26th January. Govind is break in his rest by the seismic tremor. The day brings the loathsomeness of calamity not exclusively to the sound city yet in addition to the life of these three accomplices. The novelist gives a realistic image of a quake,

"I discovered it, finally. Just that the six storyes that were unblemished multi day prior had currently transformed into a solid load..." (Bhagat 107).

Chetan Bhagat gives the message of love, peace and joined through the penance of Omi. Govind's mom articulation toward the finish of the novel totals up the message of the novelist. She shows the exercise of life which is the exercises of love and victim. She says,

"Life will have numerous mishaps. Individuals near you will hurt you. Yet, you don't sever it. You don't hurt them more. You attempt to mend it. It is an exercise you, however our nation needs to learn" (Bhagat 255-256).

The delineation of Govind, Ishaan, and Omi is very realistic because such characters are detectable in our general public all over the place. Three companions are the image of modern culture. In this way, the novel gives off an impression of being the realistic introduction of the occasions and incidents happen in their lives. It is by all accounts the narrative of their struggle for lives. Govind and Ishaan prevail in their task while Omi penances his life for the extraordinary cause. He was less impacted by the conduct of his Bittoo Mama and progressively impressed by the temporal standpoint of his companions – Ishaan and Govind.)

Bhagat has introduced some unique trends in the Indian English literature. He has focussed the interest of the youth. He has written about their aspirations and for them. He has attempted to guide their ripe energies into proper direction. This is no surprise if they acclaim him as the youth writer. His novels touch an emotional chord of the third generation. These display the ambition of the youth, mixed with fears and tinged with tears. His men and women observe morality in the warm heartedness of the human relations. They are epicureans in nature. Therefore, they take life for pleasure. They enjoy even being called five pointers that is sort of insulting. Their concern lies specifically in the innovation of education system and the society as a whole. They believe in success comes to those who crave for practicability not for mugginess in life. Bhagat puts stress on liberty of women. His woman characters believe in "an absolute, a perfect, a pure and a noble freedom". Hence, Bhagat has purposefully employed youth calling approach in his novels.

According to him, literature is not only a sedative pill, which calms down anxiety of mind. It also works as a proactive pill, which stimulates the mind to bring innovative changes in the patriarch society. His novel has the theme of present day outgoings. He composes on the present issues of modern culture. His novels are not political or sociological in character but rather are engaged in uncovering the maze of the human personality and indicating the approaches to mental satisfaction. Consequently his themes will in general wedge off the track of novelists. Every perspective converges with the other and now and then one finds various themes woven together. Utilizing these themes as a foundation the author can develop his characters in to a significant entirety. Chetan Bhagat is straightforward in his approach to life. He tunes in to the voice of his spirit, which he emphatically believes in, is ever valid. Chetan Bhagat's novels are in this manner progressively intense endeavor to find the importance of life. They attempt to devise available resources for eliminating the disparity between the individual's interest and his satisfaction. Bhagat's saints are beautiful rebels on the planet in which they need to live and confront the uselessness of life. His characters simply need to enjoy the life to its fullest. Despite the fact that they are not religious or virtuous, they are sufficiently unassuming to learn exercises educated to them by life's issue. While encountering the typical claims of affection and contempt, questions and predicaments, they attempt to confront difficulties of their good for nothing life by overwhelming the restricted bounds of their troubled selves.

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