

Indian Youth; Reflection in Chetan Bhagat's Novels

Jawed Husain Quraishi*; Dr. Anshu Raj Purohit**

*Research Scholar; **Professor, Department of English,
Career Point University, Kota, Rajasthan, India;

Corresponding Author: anshuraj18@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT:

It seems significant to note that *Chetan Bhagat is an imperishable name in the arena of postmodern fiction along with that a symbol of new India. He has captured his deep concern about the youth today i.e. the problems and despairs, hopes and aspirations of the youth in all his works, he has written six fictions and two non-fictions. He specifically deals with the harsh realities of life and also manages to retain the sense of pure humour in his works. His works have striking similarities with parables in offering moral messages, spiritual guidance and technical suggestions; his works can better be defined as postmodern projection of parables. The present paper is based on those issues that deals with the victories and defeats of the youth, finely observed in Chetan's stories.*

Keywords: Chetan Bhagat, Fiction, Non Fiction, Postmodern, Parable, Message.

INTRODUCTION:

It seems significant to note that a parable is a simple narrative that illustrates and elaborates a universal truth. A parable often involves a character who encounters a moral dilemma or one who makes a wrong decision and then suffers the unintended consequences. An important feature of the parable is the presence of a subtext suggesting how a person should behave or what he should believe. Apart from providing guidance and suggestions for proper conduct in one's life, parables frequently use metaphorical language which allows people to discuss difficult or complex ideas in an easier way. Parables manifest an abstract argument by means of employing a concrete

narrative which is easy to understand. The above narrated explanation of a parable is justified by Chetan Bhagat's fictions and non fictions clearly. Chetan Bhagat is a distinguished Indian author, a prolific writer, a noted columnist, a well-known screenwriter, and a motivational speaker, recognized for his English-language dreamed novels about young urban middle-class Indians. Chetan Bhagat is a luminary who is luminous in the postmodern Indian fiction which revolves round hopes and despairs, smiles and tears, fears and cheers, happiness and sorrow, ambition and tribulation, love and separation of the youths of new India. The columns about the youth, career development and current affairs are also written by a celebrated public

intellectual, Chetan Bhagat. Chetan Bhagat rose to eminence in a short span of time. His style of writing is simple, lucid and vivid with graphic descriptions and linear narratives.

As per his view, novels are perfect devices for both inspiration and entertainment and further he disseminates his views and opinion about society and youth.

Discussion Issues Raised In Chetan Bhagat's Selected Novels:

1. **FIVE POINT SOMEONE:** Chetan Bhagat's first novel Five Point Someone.... is not to help people who aspire to get into the IIT, or even help those who are already there to pass out successfully. It discusses an important problem of the youth today – why do students at elite institutes sacrifice their youth for the sake of a successful adulthood. It is general notion that student graduates from India's prestigious technology universities get good jobs, make great money and are eagerly sought-after marriage partners. Contrary to this it is well depicted in Chetan Bhagat's charming debut novel '**Five Point Someone....**' they end up in a Faustian bargain i.e. either they commit suicide or they spoil their career as well as their lives. The story '**Five Point Someone....**' is about a guy, Hari, and his two friends, who consider themselves the underdogs because they have five point something, grade point

averages (GPAs) and their (mis) adventures in the four years they spend at IIT. The whole story talks about the constant struggle to beat a system which judges everyone by their GPA, and which, they feel, suppresses the creativity of a person. So they set out to make the most of extra-curricular college life, by devising schemes which will help them to maintain their five point something averages with just two or three hours of study a day. Further the upcoming free time is spent in boyish adventures, be it playing squash, roaming the city or trying to woo the professor's daughter. On the whole all that they should not do at IIT. But the one thought nagging them all is, will they make it?

The book, also deals with the fears and insecurities of the students in one of the country's top institutions, besides having a humorous appeal. Its description of the lives of the students in IIT or other higher-education institutions such as IIM or NID rings true. Even the chances are that it could be Harvard, except for the regional flavor of the locales. IIT provides the backdrop against which the story unfolds, but it could just as well have been any other elite institution elite in terms of the aspirations of its students but we can say eclectic in terms of their social, cultural and economic backgrounds.

In the competitive atmosphere of IIT the author delves into the minds of the students, their motivations and aspirations. It is important to note that the personal lives of the characters are

also beautifully interwoven into the narrative. The protagonist's involvement with his professor's daughter forms the love angle of the plot, and their love life accounts for more than a few laughs. It is added to the drama that her father is the kind of person no underperformer wants to meet. Further, he is left low-key, but not underplayed while portraying the warmth of friendship or bonds of attachment.

In this book the commonly held notions that IITians generally **have** are dispelled. It seems significant to note that life at IIT is totally performance-oriented, with never ending notes, assignments, lectures etc. It talks about the GPA system, which kills the students' originality. As the story ends, the characters realize that this is the drudgery that makes IITians what they are. The narrative has included many funny incidents, like when Hari sneaks into the professor's house in the middle of the night to wish his daughter a happy birthday, or when he appears for a viva after downing half a bottle of vodka to "boost his confidence". The dialogues used are fresh and youthful and the language used is original. Chetan Bhagat removes the mask of intellectualism with which the IITs are associated and uses casual, easy-flowing style. The everyday realities have been so well webbed that it does not take you to a wonderland, but rather moves you smoothly towards realities that are pleasant and fun-filled. His grasp of the human psyche is well reflected in his works. The author is well aware of the fact that there would be a great readership for

the book, if not for nothing else, simply because it breaks many myths.

2. THE THREE MISTAKES OF MY LIFE:

It is significant to mention that this book is a good come back by Chetan Bhagat after **One Night @ the Call Center**. It involves the major headlines of early 2000 like the Gujarat earthquake, India- Australia test series, and the 9/11 and not to forget the Godhra train mishap. Apart from cricket, business and religion it also has the mesmerizing love story between Govind and Vidya. The Novel deals with recent incidents and the story is fictitious, its not about Chetan Bhagat's life. It is sentiment, romance, social message, business, life, relations, and religion and of course Cricket. Chetan Bhagat has addressed a sensitive issue in the most sensible and unique way. He has presented the facts, narrated a story in a neutral way. The story is about three friends Omi, Govind and Isha and it is presented through Govind's eyes and it's his three mistakes of life that are presented. Govind is a true Gujarati, interested in coming up on his own in life, through business. Further it talks about Ish who is an avid cricket player whose passion lies in playing, teaching and watching cricket. Omi is a priest's son who doesn't have any ambition of his own and just moves along with his two friends. The journey of these simple people in life, how their lives get affected by the worst disasters in Gujarat's history is portrayed in a simple yet efficient way by Chetan Bhagat. You get inspirational lesson by this book, it teaches you how your dreams crash into pieces by unexpected

events but how with support from people around, you get back on track, focus and ultimately rebuild your dreams. This novel especially comes at a time when people only want to come up with excuses to show or feel how different they are rather than see the common aspects and bring oneness which can keep us together and achieve our common goal of growth, peace and prosperity. The language throughout the story connects well with the youth of India, the narration has improved, and all in all Chetan Bhagat has improved in all the departments of writing a book. He has again proved that to As per his writing we can deduce that if you want to be a best novelist you don't need fabulous vocabulary or you don't need awesome critics review, all you need is a thread to connect to the plain minds of people. To sum up we can say that this book has the same type of narrative storytelling, the homely Indian girls trying to lose their virginity and the so called boys felling shy and guilty after having sex with them.....Neha in **Five Point Someone** and **Vidya in 3 mistakes of my life...**, well there are many people out there and each person's life is a different best-seller on its own. Chetan Bhagat writes in his simple, charming vocabulary with the lingo of typical Indian youth- with his homework done he has again published a good book; and got his work out there in the market. The book is really good, and induces curiosity and Overall it's a good book. Chetan Bhagat has been clever by stating 3 mistakes and you keep flipping the pages for knowing the other two as the 1st mistake you'll come to know quite

soon. It's a book with nice ingredients of real events and fiction perfectly cooked for a delicious dish. We curiously read about all the mistakes.

3. **2 STATES:** The Story of My Marriage, Chetan Bhagat disapproves the social and linguistic differences in the people belonging to different states and also their discrimination on the basis of their colour, face, dress, language and manners. based on Chetan Bhagat's own life. It is the story about a couple coming from two different states in India, who faces hardships in convincing their parents to approve of their marriage. The story begins in when Krish, a Punjabi boy from Delhi catches sight of a beautiful girl, Ananya, a Tamilian from Chennai and they meet in the IIM Ahmedabad mess hall. Gradually, within a few days their friendship turns into romantic involvement. Further, they make serious plans for their engagement after their employment. At first Krish tries to convince Ananya's parents by helping Ananya's father to do his first PowerPoint Presentation, her brother, Manju, by giving him IIT tuition and later convinces her mom by asking her to sing in a concert organized by Krish's office, i.e. Citi Bank. It is significant to note that she is convinced as her biggest dream of singing at a big concert comes true; she sings along with S. P. Balasubrahmaniam and Hariharan. After that they try to convince Krish's mom. The real problem occurs when his mother's relatives reject the idea of their engagement. They opine that Krish should not marry a Tamilian but end up agreeing with them when Ananya tries to help one of Krish's

cousins to get married and succeeds to do so. Krish neither shares his feelings nor keeps a harmonious bonding with his father. He has had a strong hatred for him. After convincing both their parents they now try to introduce each other's parents. They go to Goa. But this dream of theirs shatters as Ananya's parents smell something suspicious between Krish's mom and him. Ananya's family ends up deciding that Krish and Ananya will not marry each other. Although, Krish's father, was like an enemy for Krish, helps Krish and Ananya to get married as he convinces Ananya's family successfully. Krish now realizes his father's love for him. The novel is narrated in a first person point of view in a humorous tone, often taking digs at both Tamil and Punjabi cultures. At the end of the novel Ananya gives birth to twin boys. He says that the babies belong to a state called 'India'; Chetan 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. If all young people marry outside their community, it is good for the country. This is the greater purpose.”**(P-103)

The novel records the supreme spirit of nationalism. It is based on the social and amorous endeavours of two main characters – **Ananya Swaminathan and Krish Malhotra**. The novel attempts to unite not only two states but also two traditions and cultures. It tries 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 inform the youth of his country. He advises the youth to fix marriage on the criteria: physical symmetry, education, and financial position and gender skills. As per his suggestions one should find in one's match four things. First, the match should be almost equal in physical properties. They 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. Chetan Bhagat further gives important suggestions and says the youths should follow their heart; knowing what they want and sticking to their decision is most important.

CONCLUSION:

To sum up, Chetan Bhagat's Novel has laid bare various social issues pertaining to young generation ranging from love marriage, generation gap, dowry & other many social issues. Usually, it provides solution of all the problems. He has emerged as a realistic writer with objective opinion but leaves his readers to contemplate the prospective solutions of the problems they are grappling with. His novels leave a lasting impact through narrative technique, language selection, episode selection and cinematographic treatment of the subject content are par excellence.

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