



Representation of Youth and Youth Culture in Chetan Bhagat's Novels

1Poonam Gupta, 2Dr Richa Pathak

1Research Scholar, 2Assistant Professor

1Sam Global University, Bhopal (M.P.),

2Sam Global University, Bhopal (M.P)

Abstract :

Chetan Bhagat is one of the most renowned and contemporary novelists in Indian English Literature. When it comes to youth and their concerns, the only writer whose name strikes in one's mind is undoubtedly Chetan Bhagat. Most of his novels revolve around the life of the youth and the issues they encounter.

Chetan Bhagat advises the youths to follow their heart than brain. He portrayed the aforesaid topic in a very apt way. His novels deals with social issues pertaining close to the youths as love, betrayal, marriages and so on, although, he tried hard making the young dynamic and modern Indian youth to be successful in their lives. He deals with various aspects of human life especially the problems faced by the young generation and this is the biggest reason that the circulation of his novels is gradually increasing by leaps and bounds across the length and breath of the country. This paper focuses on the open minded youngsters, who always pursue change to create a new era distilling irrelevant customs of the society.

Keywords : Youth, open minded, distilling, society

Introduction:

Youth is the most powerful generation of any country., this is the most honest generation. As the youth belongs to a digital world, they believe in transparency. They are very clear about everything. They hardly live in doubt. If they appreciate something, they appreciate it wholeheartedly; and if they reject something, they will reject

it outright. They are clear about their relations as well. They accept the same from the people around them too. Talking about today's youth, they are not ready to accept the conventional system of the society. They possess a logical outlook towards any situation and they frankly asked the reasons if forced to follow any old aged tradition.

Problems faced by the youth in different situations:

Chetan Bhagat has very beautifully crafted the problems and challenges faced by the youth especially *student's life* in his novels. Bhagat's famous novel 'Five Point Someone' is the best example where an IIT student talks about the cons of the Indian Education System. The story is grounded, and you can actually imagine the struggles of being average where generally toppers are the privileged one. Chetan Bhagat's witty style and metaphoric language conveys a befitting social message that GPAs are not the ultimate factor to decide students' potentialities and creativity.

This IIT system is nothing but a mice race. It is not a rat race, mind you, as rats sound somewhat shrewd and clever. So it is not about that. It is about mindlessly running a race for four years, in every class, every assignment and every test. It is a race where profs judge you every ten steps, with a GPA stamped on you every semester...what have IITs given to this country? Name one invention in the last three decades.

As for the fact the youth as posed in the novel and in the real life too is seen struggling for grades, stubbed in the interviews due to lack of intellect and suffers excruciating pain to prove to be a winner. The creative and the colourful part of their life is left behind. It is also an honest self-experienced attempt to convey the message to the young generation that what could happen if they fail to score good marks in educational exams.

If it is to portrait the female character, Chetan Bhagat has presented the female characters having qualities such as determination, candidness and potency. They are suppressed by the society for doing wrong deeds and sometime they fight for their rights to set a benchmark in the society. As in 'Half Girlfriend' the a half-character who speaks English and is called Riya. Like most of Bhagat's heroines, Riya is the unattainable college girl. You'll find her in Five Point Someone as Neha, a professor's daughter who has attractive toes. Or in 2 States as Ananya,

"She had perfect features, with her eye, nose, lips, and ears the right size and in right places. That is all it takes to make people beautiful, normal body parts – yet why does nature mess it up so many times?"

the Tamil classmate whose conservative parents are an obstacle for the Punjabi protagonist.

One Night @ the Call Center is the second novel of Chetan Bhagat. It presents a realistic picture of BPO life. It deals with middle class social structures and gender accepted behaviour in the context of social change and

economic storm. Each character is different from the others in terms of their temperament and behaviours.

But there is only one primary factor that is common between them. That is lots of problems in their lives.

Working at the call centers was at its pinnacle as a new job prospect. Since the call centers have scattered its branches all over the world, how can India remain untouched with it? India has also become a major focus of Call Centers. Call centers have become the symbol of the growing service economy of the country. It was widely accepted job accepted by my young minds to meet the requirements of their families.

The novelist has tried to reconstruct the life conditions of the workers in the cruel work culture of the call centres. As the lines in the novel focuses on the harsh realities of the job.

That was reality, and as is often the case with me, reality sucks.

The life of BPO is not an easy as the workers have to work all night to answer the silly questions. Being educated, they are forced to do the job to earn money. Whole novel deals with the despair. But as Chetan Bhagat always gives a solution to the problems. Here there is a turning point when the characters attend an unknown call, who guides them to solve all their problems. Thereafter they all live happily and learns to live tension free life.

God sighed before speaking again. I think you need to understand how my system works. You see I have a contract with all human beings. You do your best, and every now and then, I will come behind to give you a bonus push. But it has to begin with you, For otherwise I can't distinguish who needs my help most.

The author suggests the youth to get rid of the situation they are stuck in and start living a happy life without looking at their barren past. One should learn to cope with the problems by implementing relevant action.

On the other hand 2 States: the story of my marriage' is the fourth novel written by the author following a story of inter-state marriage in India. The synopsis of the book, which was printed at the back side of the book states the problems still prevailing in inter cast marriages in India. It says:

Love marriages around the world are simple.

Boy loves girl. Girl loves boy.

They get married. In India, there are a few more steps:

Boy loves girl. Girl loves boy.

Girl's family has to love boy. Boy's family has to love girl.

Girl's family has to love boy's family. Boy's family has to love girl's family.

Girl and boy still love each other. They get married.

2 States highlights the love story of a Punjabi guy Krish, and a Tamil Brahmin girl Ananya. Life is great for them. Somehow both ended up in love. Krish feels it's the end of the story, but he is not aware of the fact that the real story is about to begin when the families meet each other. It takes sometime before they realize that they may not be able to convince their families to support their marriage. The twist in the tale is, they want to marry with their parents' consent rather than choosing the easy way of eloping.

"Do not use this 'girl's side and 'boy's side logic with me again. I don't like it".

Here author tries to point out the flaws of not considering the both sides equally. Inter-caste marriages are still a taboo in India. Like other stories, this particular book finely presents the cross cultural difficulties to be dealt before tying the knots.

A realistic novel gives a profound pleasure since it results in better comprehension of life and its issues. To Sum up, Chetan Bhagat's character and stories are realistic in nature. The readers can easily imagine themselves as the protagonist of the novel. What the author has depicted is not a fairy tale or an imaginative picture of the society. He has represented the hard-core reality of Indian people and their predicaments. But the best part is in all his work, the youth emerged out as a determined and passionate human. As it is rightly said " The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph".

References :

- 1) Bhagat Chetan Five Point Someone. Delhi: Rupa Co., 2004
- 2) Bhagat Chetan, One Night @ The Call Centre. Delhi: Rupa Co.2005
- 3) Bhagat Chetan, 2 States: The Story of My Marriage. Delhi: Rupa Co. 2009