



Idiosyncrasy Indian Youths: A Study of Chetan Bhagat Select Novels

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Abstract

Chetan Bhagat is a prominent writer of the young generation, and he has effectively raised issues pertinent to youth through his novels. This paper examines the differences among the various cultures and religions present in India as depicted in his works. The selected novels for this analysis include “Five Point Someone” (2004), “One Night @ the Call Center” (2005), “The 3 Mistakes of My Life” (2008), “2 States” (2009), and “Revolution 2020” (2011). Furthermore, this paper endeavors to explore cultural depiction, societal representation, and rational depiction of youth. This paper portrays the present situation of society where vividness and unity have emerged in a different form. In the post-modern world, division exists among religions, castes, and the conservative mentality of parents. Individuals mainly focus on earning their livelihood, which eventually kills the passion for many things. The youth of India are fighting life's challenges to build long-lasting living conditions for themselves. Such conditions evolve from political factors, religious influence, communalism, racism, casteism, and other forms of discrimination. The youth today are considered privileged participants in the postmodern era, since they make up the first generation truly to experience this transforming environment characterized by media culture, computers, and other emerging technologies that considerably change all dimensions of human life. In the contemporary post-modern world, the youth of the day rely more on the technological landscape and technical education that develops technical skills and a rational attitude to make youngsters enjoy the gadget-driven world. Bhagat's novel is a reflection of society, offering suggestions and guidance for the youth.

Keywords: youth, representation, idiosyncrasy, fervor, culture

Chetan Bhagat is an Indian writer, a creative writer, a notable reporter, a renowned screenwriter, and a good speaker, all known for his English language dramedy novels that go deep into young urban middle-class Indians' lives. Chetan Bhagat is a light in the postmodern Indian fiction which rotates round expectations and gives up, grins and tears, fears and cheers, satisfaction and distress, aspiration and tribulation, love and detachment of the young of new India. Youth is the essential focus of Chetan's books. The period of youth is full of dreams ignited by hopes and interspersed with tales of despair over accomplishments and failures within the system.

Though the belief in the power of youth energy can be able to move mountains and change the course of rivers, it has its own battles to fight when up against deeply rooted traditions and a failing infrastructure. The themes of success and disappointment among the youth are typical of Chetan's writings.

Chetan Bhagat is a highly popular novelist among Indian youths and has so far written ten novels that have turned out to be best sellers. Moreover, he has been titled as “the biggest selling English Language novelist in India's history” as the New York Times reports. Indeed, two of his novels have inspired Bollywood films, one being “3 Idiots.” After reading



"2 States," I can vouch for the huge popularity that surrounds Bhagat. The novel revolves around the love life of a Tamil girl named Ananya and a Punjabi boy named Krish, who are determined to marry each other. It follows the plot line typical of any Bollywood movie. I would like to claim that there were considerable deviations from this premise, but that was not so. Still, the book is an interesting read. Before the couple decides to get married, Bhagat gives readers a full view of the pre-marital life of the couple, which surprised me. I can assure you that very few Bollywood films capture the complexity of the relationship between Ananya and Krish like Bhagat has. He handled this in a tasteful yet authentic way, not making a big deal about the subject of premarital sexuality, a tendency one so often finds in South Asian media.

Bhagat effectively introduces the reader to both the families and, when both parties were present, brings out the palpable tensions and discomforts well through and resonated with the audience. The novel, on other themes, does its part in expanding on family toward the utmost importance of how approval from one's family before getting into the relationship with a significant other need to be sought first. After reading this book, one comes to know why it is so popular among couples in India. It also clarifies the stand of the new generation about relationships and love marriages. If you like Bollywood stories with more realistic flavor, then this story will surely strike a chord with you. Chetan Bhagat has written books on young love, and he has a very unique and authentic way of writing. It's what makes a book fun to read by using the language that the young generation uses these days. He was once asked this question in an interview as well. Chetan Bhagat adopted a more freely going style to reach masses. The topic going style to reach masses. The subjects he chooses are always those a middle-class Indian youth would identify with. With such a reach, it is tempting to suggest that he should write on just such themes but with appropriate awareness of the issues involved. With his success, though, this advice would best travel in the opposite direction.

Chetan Bhagat does not use the bombastic writing style. His language can be defined as simple, clear, and not less readable even for some elementary

readers. This is actually why his novels are needed and welcomed by educational colleges and schools. Chetan Bhagat points out that matter is more important: content is more important than speech itself. Even when talking features have priority, characters go and talk to the observer in quite simple terms. The language, being very elementary, still manages to convey the intended impression. The story of my wedding comically yet still effectively points out that one of the auto-drivers knew only a few English words. Chetan's fluency in language makes it easy, comfortable yet absorbing for the readers; they never find it difficult to ride over the language barrier despite being taken aback by the surprise jolts and twists in the plot. The center of gravity for Chetan's novels remains the youth. The aspirations initiated by glimmers of hope for the young generation have been marked with challenges they face simultaneously.

Chetan Bhagat's theme is universal: the lack of confidence that the class of young people who were admitted to elite educational institutions would have to feel with high expectations and dreams about measuring up to, then even bettering results in the United States and Europe. As related to globalization, India has put security in preference over efficiency. All of his works encapsulate human experiences and portray a sense of life and identity like stained glass windows. There is no denying the fact that Chetan Bhagat, in these works, reflects the contemporary Indian social, cultural, political, religious, and economic frameworks and sub-frameworks. But these works are not reflections of the ruling region. Instead, they embrace the broad spectrum of perspectives that are articulated with the philosophical truth of life. Most of these perspectives represent humans strive to discover meaning, obtain fulfillment, and attain harmony across existence.

Five Point Someone, the whole idea of this book is the three mechanical engineers. Hari Kumar, Ryan Oberoi, and Alok Gupta are not very able to adjust to the grading system that the Indian Institutes of Technology have in place, an issue that can be attributed to their past reliance on rote learning. The narrative voice of the book is compelling enough, yet sometimes drifts into the darker themes, particularly as this concerns the families of the protagonists.



The book tries to bring out aspects of postmodernist thinking wherein innovative youth attempts to break into the traditional model of providing technical education and the conventional method of judging a student's cognitive ability on Grade Points Average. It is very evident in this novel that our frame of technical education has turned into a static system, and it requires rejuvenation along with heavy restructuring. Each student receives a talent and GPA should not be the measure of their knowledge.

Alok is from the lower middle-class section of the present Indian social setup. Ryan is the son of a NRI white collar class society couple. Ryan spent his school life in the hostel and boarding school. He doesn't receive paternal love and affection since his parents' first interest is in making money in US dollars. Neha stays away from her father, Professor Cherian. She is dating Hari, another one of the three main protagonists of the novel.

The professor feels he is doing a good job of keeping his students in line; however, he fails miserably at keeping harmony and peace within his own family. The teachers, including Professor Dubey, Professor Vohra, and Professor Cherian, who are part of the system, hardly adopt any changes in their traditional teaching practices. Chetan Bhagat has portrayed the present educational system of Indian society with a realistic view. In the modern post-modern world, people rely more on professional knowledge and training that enhances specialized skills and an objective outlook, which, in turn, defines the lives of the young generation who operate within a technologically driven society. Bhagat's novel reflects society, offering advice and prescriptions to the youth. Chetan Bhagat comes from an urban middle class. His description of the counterpart in his books reveals the hidden truth of the present-day Indian city. The educational system as depicted in **Five Point Someone: What Not to Do at IIT!* is not developing on an exciting trajectory. The model is conservative and not very elastic. In the novel, students like Alok and Hari are kept under constant psychological tension of being examined, results, and uncertain future events surrounding them.

The main characters of the novel, Hari, Alok, and Ryan, are from lower or middle-class family

backgrounds and face a lot of problems in life. "One Night @ the Call Center" depicts a realistic view of life in the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry. The text outlines the social structure of the white-collar class and some of the gender-recognized behaviors toward social change and economic disruption. The protagonist, Shyam, has his first date with Priyanka, and on that date discusses with her several tough and crucial issues that are current problems in modern society. Showing profound understanding of the miserly and unacceptable situations seen in modern society, the two have a serious discussion. The relationship between Military Uncle and his child, as well as the relationship between Priyanka and her mother, is a perfect example of cultural gap.

Esha's life, full of disappointment and dissatisfaction, unfulfilled dreams, and loss of confidence in life, brings many questions that were earlier thought to highlight and polish society. This story depicts the everyday struggle of the people and is based on the present world of India's new generation. The plot caters to the youth and their issues. The main concern and interest of the author is the problems that the youth face in society. Young aspirations, desires, and the moral dilemmas among characters in the *3 Mistakes of My Life* all portray religious, social, and ethical challenges many Indians go through. Govind Patel portrays a logical description of his life up to now. He and his friends-Ishaan and Omi-set up a sports equipment store. They take the help of Bittoo also, Omi's maternal uncle who is a devout Hindu.

He is inspired by a righteous Hindu leader named Parekh-ji. It depicts the first meeting of Govind with Bittoo Mama which truly represented what everybody among Hindus and Muslims considers their emotions against each other. In other words, it was a contradictory belief among the people in the society during that time since both the tension with unison exist there among both the Hindus and Muslim community people of the present-day India. Realistically portray Govind, Ishaan, Omi; actually, all of us move around these guys all across the Indian subcontinent. The three friends embody society today. In this regard, the novel creates the illusion of being a thoughtful and reflective consideration of



all the happenings and occurrences in their lives. It is the story of fighting for survival. Govind and Ishaan succeed where they have aimed, and Omi sacrifices himself for a nobler cause. He was less influenced by the behavior of his Bittoo Mama and increasingly impressed by the transient perspectives of his friends, Ishaan and Govind. Bhagat successfully focuses on the enthusiasm involved in expressing aspirations and desires as well as disappointment and dissatisfaction experienced by his generation, quite powerfully, in his third novel, *The 3 Mistakes of My Life*. In an incidental manner, the epic unravels some hard facts regarding human existence that now tends to be swayed not by emotion or ambition, but by passion.

Bhagat has defined his heroes as leaders. Other writers also, in times long passed, have cast their heroes, their protagonists, in that role as victims of the whims and fancies of parents and masters. Bhagat differs from most writers in encouraging young people not to obey each and every word of parents and authority figures without raising questions. The progressive essence of Bhagat is found in his statement: "Humanity would not have progressed if people listened to their parents all the time." *Two States* is a story of a couple who belongs to two different states in India. The story portrays an individual who fails to make their parents agree with them when it comes to marrying someone. It is an outstanding example of patriotism in the truest sense. The story occurs in the social and emotional lives of two central protagonists: Ananya Swaminathan and Krish Malhotra. The story is outstanding since it seeks to unify not only two states but also two traditions and cultures. It addresses the general populace of the nation and argues that Indians are not defined by caste, religion, state, or any other similar division.

The primary aim with which the author aims at explaining is the youthfulness of his nation. This is a novel written in the year 2011, by Chetan Bhagat. The book centers on a love triangle, an issue of corruption, as well as a self-discovery journey. The epic addresses the concern of how private tutoring institutions for courses like IIT JEE exploit ambitious engineering students. The book reveals the stark reality of this coaching industry, thriving on deception, corruption, and a myriad of criminal activities.

This book narrates the story of two friends, separated by their ambitions and interests yet united by their affection for the same girl. *Revolution 2020* is the climax of Chetan Bhagat's innovative mind. In this book, Chetan Bhagat uses the symbolism of language to state that strong will, real hard work, true love, bold deed, and ardent passion are the essential requirements with which one has to face the world in order to emerge victorious. The novel, *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition*, is the story of three best buddies—Gopal Mishra, Raghav Kashyap, and Aarti Pratap Pradhan—along with their dreams. This epic gives a very practical presentation of contemporary society as it deals with the question of corruption. The characters developed by Bhagat still reflect superficiality which even makes the positive outcome feel like some sort of accidental affair. While it does this, both the books and the character of Gopal, in a way reflect an adolescent sensibility and not that of an adult; it is characteristic to see from the perspective of the myopic adolescent, the management of relationships and the resulting emotional pain. Gopal can't help but keep a distance from Raghav on account of his persistent feelings towards Aarti.

Their friendship alternates between periods of intimacy and distance. The Internet, in many ways, is Gopal's primary source of comfort as it allows him to communicate with Aarti. In his non-fiction work, *What Young India Wants* Chetan Bhagat expresses through his narratives penetrating observations and analyses on the issues that affect Indian politics, society, and the economy while at the same time advocating for the necessary measures to address these challenges. Bhagat's suggestion to the nation towards preserving their youths' vigor deserves praise. The freshers of any nation are its treasured energy; they are the powerhouse along with an energetic reservoir. Furthermore, Bhagat highlights the role of women empowerment. He makes his female characters believe in an absolute chance, pure freedom, and self-identity.

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