



Controversial issues in the novels of Chetan Bhagat

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Abstract

Chetan Bhagat is one of the most popular novelist of the modern society. He writes on the contemporary issues which relate to the life of the common man. In all his novels, Bhagat highlights the problem of the youth. This paper is based on two novels *Five points someone* and *one night @ the call centre*. This paper shows the reality of traditional education system and the problems youth are facing at the call centre. These issues affect our values which are gradually declining.

Keywords: contemporary issues, values, modern society, call centre

Introduction

In the contemporary world the opportunities and lifestyles open to people seem to multiply exponentially as new ideas, technologies and fashions appear at ever increasing pace. Space and time shrink almost to nothing and we go around the world at break neck speed. Borders become more fluid and the conventions, customs and ways of life that once distinguished one place from another turn into matters of choice for an internationalized customer. The world is now quite literally at our fingertips as we choose and purchase lifestyles from wherever we please, piecing together images and sign to produce our identities.

We all belong to a community that is society. There are so many contemporary issues in the society that reflect human life. In the present scenario because of the issues we are losing the values which bind the society. Without values human life is meaningless. If we want to have a safe and healthy environment then we need to think over the contemporary issues.

Chetan Bhagat is one of the prominent contemporary novelists who have earned the popularity in the hearts of the youth today. He has tried his level best to raise many issues in his fictions.

Chetan Bhagat is a voice of new generation. In all his novels he presented the phenomena of day to life of modern society. His novels revolve the youth today. His novels deal with the aspirations, ambitions, motivations and manipulation, struggles, and strategies of survival, compromises and confusion, questionable and controversial values system of youth.

Chetan Bhagat highlighted all aspects of life in under including the political, educational and social system. Chetan Bhagat is called the voice of youth. He wrote about the challenges faced by the youth in the modern society. The present paper focuses on the current issues in the top institution of education and problems of the call centre employee face in their day to day life.

The first novel *Five point someone* deals with dilemma of today's engineering students and professors in India. The

novelist has formed his first hand experience, clearly portrayed ragging, hostel life, work pressure from the higher authority increasing suicide cases, a great criticism on education system that such the students creativity by forcing them values grades more than anything else. *Five pint someone* is about a guy Hari and his two friends, who consider themselves the underdogs because they have five points something grade point average (GPAS) and misadventures in the IIT. The institution judges everyone by their GPA, Life in IIT is totally performance oriented with never ending notes, assignments, lectures etc. "This system of relative grading and overburdening the studies. I mean it kills the best fun years of your life. But it kills something else, where is the room far original thought? Where is the time for creativity? It is not fair" (*Bhagat, 35*)

Disgusted with the IIT system, Ryan gives vent to his dissatisfaction:

"And the ITT system in nothing but a mice race. It is not a rat race, mind you sound somewhat shrewd and clever. So it is not about that. It is about mindlessly running a race for four years, in every assignment and every test. It is a race where profs judge you every ten steps, with a GPA stamped on you every semester. Profs who have no idea what science and learning are about. Yes, that is what I think of the Profs. I mean, what have IIT given to this country? Name one invention in the last three decades."

There were tales of professors applying so much pressure on their kids to get in to IIT that leads the kids to rebel and possibly commit suicide, even professor Cherian son get suicide, because he couldn't get IIT and fulfil the desire of his father. But when professor Cherian realizes his mistake then he feels sorry and he gives the message on the convocation day 'One believe in yourself and don't let a GPA, performance review or promotion in a job define you. There is more to life than these things' (*Bhagat, 261*)

"And that is when I realized that GPA makes a good student, but not a good person. We judge people here by their GPA. If you are nine, you are the best. If you are a five, you are useless. I used to despise the low GPAs so much that when

Ryan submitted a research proposal on lubricants, I judge it without even reading it. But these boys have something really promising. I saw the proposal the second time. I can tell you, any investor who invests in his will earn a rainbow." (Bhagat, 261)

So Chetan Bhagat wants to give the message parents don't impose their wishes' on the kids if they are not interested. The novel very realistically describes the present scenario while revealing the fact that in India young people had begun to have for more options than their parents, but their choices remain circumscribed by traditional education system and overbearingly high expectations.

One night at the call centre deals with the problems of people working in call centre 'which is the recent issue of today's world as the youth by and large are fascinated by his kind of working system, the story revolves around six people, they are shayam. Varun, Priyanka, Esha, Radhika, and military uncle. All the characters work in the call centre not out of interested but because of highly paid salaries. The employees suffer in day to day life and they feel the reality of cultural and racial abuses.'

Shayam Mehra, Call name Sam Marcy is the protagonist of the novel pretty confused in his like, he is a disappointed guy. He has him to be the team leader company soon and waiting for the promotion of team leadership, his boss Subhash Bakshi given him extra lord or work and convince him as soon as he will be a team leader."Bakshi was sucking into several outside my shift to teach new recruits" (Bhagat, 37)

He is love with Priyanka but she broke up with hum due to her mother's persistence request to marry a successful guy instead of a person with tiny jobs these money problem disturb him more.

Varun Malhotra Call name victor mell, is a jolly lad who loved pizza. He is very smart man and loved speed. He worked in a newspaper once and is generally into social issues and all that stuff." He joins in the call centre to lead a happy life as he is paid a good salary. But later he realizes that he has the golden time and total mind of creativity in his job and he feels just an American slave.

Radhika call name Regina, is only character in which some traits of Indians or Indian womanhood is found. She works hard day and night to keep her parents in low in good sense. Shyam comments on her condition. "Cooking three meals a day and house hold chores and working all night and" (Bhagat, 17)

Esha, who inspires to be a model, she finds her dream shattered when she agrees to sleep with a forth years old designer only to realize later on that she has been rejected as a model, which leads her to an attempt to commit suicide, He military uncle is not accepted by his grandson and daughter-in-law and he is forced to stay away from his grandson. He is a man of few words but very loving and caring at heart. So all the characters doing work in the call centre mainly for the salary. Even though work for the raise of US economy, the amount of salary given seems higher according to India economy. Despite all the difficulties like racial abuse, frustration, mental stress, Corruption they are running behind money. Working of such places with no values of self ability but only money to drive along is naturally depressing and frustration. Racial and cultural abuses are the main impacts of

globalization faced by the callers are mainly American and Europeans, for all call centre employees are those who have seized their jobs. Many times the American customers behave rudely with the employees call centre workers do not produces anything of lost value for their country.

One night @ call centre author convey this more effectively through the character Vroom:

"Not because they are better people. But because their country is rich and ours is poor. That is the only damn reason. Because the losers who have run our country for the last fifty years couldn't do better than make India one of the poorest countries on earth. Great job, thank you, dear great fucking leaders" (Bhagat, 100)

This has resulted in call centre workers in India increasing becoming victim to hate calls by over areas customers that include rudeness, racial and cultural abuse and sexual harassment. In call centre clients are American Companies and our jobs are dependent on their whims and fancies. So there is a frequent downsizing and many lose their jobs, in corporate life. Characters in these novels get the solution of their problem from the motivational and soul searching advice from inner call. Inner call guides in the direction and the four principal which creator success or intelligence, Imagination, self confidence and to be really successful one must face failure, so this novel presents the day to day problems of the people. It's about like you and me, presents problems of yours and mine, this novel is centred on the contemporary world of India's new generation.

In both the novels we observe how old values and customs seem to be fast declining as we enter the age of new India voice and follow the way of true values.

References

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