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## **Modern Education and its Critical Perspective in Chethan Bagath's Revolution 2020**

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**Abstract:**

*Chethan Bagath, is the much sought after writer in the present scenario, though he writes out of passion for writing, his plots and style entertains the readers with his light subjects, and simple language. His novels are remarkable for their true presentation Revolution 2020, was set in the background of Varanasi. It is the story of the protagonist Gopal who invites Chethan to inaugurate his new batch in his corporate college, which offers courses in Engineering. Gopal, Raghav and Aarthi were classmates, Gopal loves Aarthi, so dearly. She does not want to be in relationship with him. Raghav secures good score in IITJEE, while Gopal lost in the screening test. His father sends him to Kota, the fort of IITJEE coaching, in the lovelorn, uneasy life he could not concentrate on his score and again lost in the exam. Raghav completes his B.tech., and joins in a popular newspaper 'Dainik' as a reporter, with a purpose to serve. Gopal with the help of a local politician establishes a corporate engineering college on the banks of river Ganga, and names it as Ganga Technologies. As he exorbitantly charges, he becomes a millionaire. This is exposed by Raghav in Dainik. With the interference of the politician Raghav is thrown out of the Dainik. Distraught Raghav starts his own news magazine by name Revolution 2020. He wins over the hand of Aarthi and even contests in elections. While Gopal leaves Aarthi despite his true love for Raghav.*

**Keywords:** IITJEE, Life at Kota, revolution, education, love, and sacrifice

Chetan Bhagat is gaining popularity on global scale, his novels are realistic and free from fictitious portrayal, and they attempt to sketch reality without disguise, probably he is the only novelist who writes in a very simple and contemporary language, as literature mirrors contemporary life, his novels succeeds in doing it. The realistic presentation enables the readers to connect themselves with the plot and the characters instantly, the life at cities and colleges make the young readers read rarely in their soft ware lives, his five novels tried to touch different themes, all his novels were adopted in to films which became successful, Chethan always tried to deal with novel subjects, in a very simple language, understood by uninitiated readers in literature, a reason why his works were criticized for lacking in literary standards, Chethan is clear about his plots and what kind of readers he is writing, usually in campus fiction standards are not followed, his thoughts and feelings are written in such a simple terms that made the young readers to connect with his plots. Though he has given only a handful of books, he has dealt with the themes like call center lives, pressure in the lives of modern students, inter-state marriages, and its consequences, etc.,

Chethan Bhagat tries to expose reality in the contemporary Indian life and probably aims at change, most of his works centers around the social realities and makes the reader aware of it so that a change sets in, their attitudes and lives. A particular social evil is taken up and it is made in to the plots carefully, the prologue makes the readers believe that the story is narrated in such a way that it is life of someone else who the author has met! But the plot bears all the commercial aspects which real life incidents lack, the writer might have taken licentiousness to add colour in the otherwise dull and pensive lives of people in the call centers, in the lives of students who carry loads of pressure of their parents aspirations and wishes, on their shoulders, Revolution 2020, tries to expose the corruption rooted in education system in India, and also in socio-political set up, the plot is set in the holy town of Varanasi, it also successfully portrays the life in small town, Varanasi, is the place which every Hindu looks forward to visit at least once in his life time, the protagonist is so lucky to have born and brought up there, the thoughts and lives of people of Varanasi is sketched with real life narration,, the city is congested like the congested attitudes of inhabitants who are not as holy as the river Ganga.

Revolution 2020 is not only an exposure to corruption but also a triangular love story of two young men and women called Aarti, Gopal is the narrator and protagonist while his friend Raghav is his competitor and friend. Three of them were classmates in school, the narration starts with Gopal eating part of the chocolate cake of Aarthi as his father has to cook food for him, it is difficult for him to prepare both lunch and breakfast Gopal says he is not hungry at home and eats half the Aarthi's box, for which he has to take the punishment, he also names her as 'drama queen'. The animosity soon leads to friendship and Aarthi becomes close to Gopal, his mother passes away when he was very young hence he is deprived of the tenderness in life, his father was always involved in property disputes which made him poor and ignorant of sensibilities in life, as an outcome, Gopal determines to earn money when he grows up. Soon Gopal and Aarti becomes intimate, as usual the boy wanted a relationship with the girl but the girl being practical refuses him repeatedly saying she does want any commitments at that stage.

Chethan successfully portrays the wishes and aspirations parents pin on the future of their children, Gopal's father wanted his son to become an engineer so that his fate changes, contrast to it Gopal fares bad in the IIT-JEE entrance exam as he was under pressure. Gopal though pained by the failure and envious about Raghav's success in JEE, congratulates him on his success, which reflects his broadness and an insight is visible that Gopal has the tenderness of heart to forgo his heart throb for Raghav.

"...True, I did not feel any happiness about his JEE selection. I should have, but did not. After all, we had been friends for ten years. (p 39)"

Gopal's father even sends him for corporate coaching at Kota, the place popular for corporate coaching to pursue technical degrees at AIEEE\ IIT-JEE, probably Chethan might have experienced all these pain in his pursuit of a seat in IIT Delhi, in spite of repeated efforts Gopal fails miserably in securing a seat while Raghav scored high and joined in prestigious IIT-BHU to study engineering. Ragav always wanted to become a journalist and wanted to bring forth a change in the outlook of the society, while Gopal is away at Kota, his absence gives a chance to Ragav to come in terms with Aarti and both of them become close and starts to see each other, which makes Gopal distraught, and heartbroken, the pangs of unrequited love between friends has been discussed in a detailed way. Though Aarti declines Gopal's proposal, she at times misleads him by showing undue interest in him, she pays his shopping, helps in everything, gives him hope saying she will even cook for him when she comes to Kota, probably Chethan feels the ways of women are mysterious.

"Why do girls send confusing signals? She had rebuffed me on the boat the other day.....she calls me three times a day to check if I've had my meals. Does she care for me or not? (p44)

Partly due to the emotional pain and partly due to disappointment Gopal could not perform well, this failure becomes fatal to his father who submits unable to endure the pain. Gopal is left orphan, neither parents nor lover to take care of him, his father's debt is loaded on him to be paid, with this Gopal needed money desperately, he then with the help of a friend meets a powerful MLA, who helps him start an engineering college in his father's disputed lands, Mr. Shukla accedes to back him with financially and politically, to establish the new college "Ganga Tech", Gopal is now the director of the college, to make it possible Gopal has to handle corrupt politicians, with heavy envelopes during the different stages of building the dream project Ganga Tech, on the banks of Ganga, which washes the sins of humanity.

Chethan Bhagat in an interview in India today says "India's education system is broken somewhere and that the college cutoffs should not bog one down because hard work can also take people places,"(9-12-2014)

In the due course Raghav finishes his engineering and procures a job as a journalist in a popular newspaper, "Dainik". He writes a critical article throwing light on Shukla's corrupt ways, he also proceeds to interview Gopal on the day of its inauguration. Gopal this time takes it to heart, while Shukla uses his power to get him out of Dainik, however Raghav starts his own newsletter and names it Revolution 2020. Every effort to destroy Raghav catapults him to success. The fighter in Raghav will not accept his failure so easily, again he pursues the aspect, and he publishes an article which unveils the corruption in Ganga Tech, with strong evidences such that Shukla has to resign his job. Raghav goes on publishing articles on corrupt people, in that process Gopal becomes his foe as he focuses only on money making.

A slow transformation occurs in Gopal, he realizes his avaricious traits, he also sees that virtue always have an edge over evil, after seeing what Raghav had faced all these days and Raghav's heroic combat, he retrospect his role in the vengeance on Raghav, he appreciates Raghav's unflinching courage to face the evil and the strength in the determination to bring revolution in the people to fight, he determines to help his friend anonymously, he feels he is not right for Aarthi, as he has given himself to the corrupt ways while Raghav is fighting for his principles, he wanted to do something so even he contests in elections, Gopal stops seeing Aarthi, finally Raghav marries Aarthi, in the epilogue when Chethan asks Gopal why did he left Aarthi despite his true love for her, he says he is not right for her.

The character of Gopal is delineated in such a way that he is shown as a boy next door, in his child hood and his primal youth he is very prototype of youngsters now-a-days. Protagonists were embodiments of virtue once, but the present and emerging trend is that protagonist has every negative trait the present generation has, they boos, tries to impress girls, they presents envelopes with money, to the corrupt officers to get things done. Yet somewhere Gopal wins over the hearts of the readers with his redeemed self and when he willingly leaves Aarthi for Raghav, though he says he is antagonist not protagonist, readers go with Chethan to say that Gopal is too good. Irony plays with Gopal's life, when he wanted tenderness he had lost his mother, his father followed her, leaving him orphaned amidst poverty. When he could get every happiness on earth with money, he is left all alone in prosperity. The way he books a suit to have a glance stealthily at Aarthi as bride touches everybody.

Probably the role played by modern education has made Gopal's life beset in loneliness, if he had secured a seat in JEE or IIT, he would have married Aarthi and would have lived normally, his failure made him to establish College, charge lakhs of rupees for a seat and turn a millionaire, it is the way parents are spending lakhs on children, when everything is said and done, only a handful of them are prospering while the rest are back on roads. Chethan succeeded in his portrayal of modern education with a critical perspective.

#### • References

1. Bhagat, Chethan Revolution 2020, Rupa Publications, New Delhi: 2011, p296.
2. Chethan Bhagat's interview on Education system, source internet dated 29th November 14.