

## GLOBALIZATION: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE NOVELS OF CHETAN BHAGAT

Itishree Acharya

UN (autonomous) college of science and technology,

Adaspur

### Abstract

*In the genre of fiction, few Indian authors flourish out their thoughts and talents and Chetan Bhagat is one of them. He is the trendsetter and role model of all the youth. He starts to create a new trend and style in postmodern India English fiction with his own way of writing about the contemporary issues related to Indian youth. And here he wins the attention of all section of youth. What Wikipedia says that he is the author of best-selling novels Five Point Someone (2004), One Night @ The Call Center (2005), The Three Mistakes of My Life (2008), 2 States (2009), Revolution 2020(2011), What Young India Wants (2012) and Half Girlfriend (2015). In every novel he deals with different issues, segment and his deep insight about the youth. Moreover, he has raised some problems that the youth are facing today. Some major problems that are shown in his novels are- career, work pressure, love, stress, ambition, corruption and language problem. In Half Girlfriend Chetan Bhagat warns the youth for their speaking and writing skills. The novel confirms the old saying that where there is a will, there is a way. Perseverance in love and importance of English language are the two issues that Bhagat describes here. In the globalized era youth of rural areas are facing many trials and tribulations due to their lack of communicative skills. They fill themselves inferior in every field of life despite of their talent and ability of man management.*

**Keywords-** love, marriage, job, generation-gap

India's advanced educational institution like IIT and IIMS have been influenced by the new trends of globalization. The top institutions are facilitating the students of lower middle class to avail of opportunities of sophisticated technical education in the world class Elite

institutions. Before the era of globalization, it was a distant dream for girls to get technical education and be employed in the reputed companies with handsome packages inside and outside the country but globalization brings the opportunities for the young people to reap the benefits of higher education. The IT-parks opened in Bangalore and Hyderabad in 2000 have begun to spread all over India. They are employing more than one millions of people annually and giving them wide exposure in life. A large chunk of young engineers are drawing an annual package of 5 to 10 million dollars. Thus these developments changed the status of family and the circumstance around them. They have proved to be quintessential boys and a source of inspiration for other in their neighbourhood. IT-parks have really brought about the industrial revolution in India breaking the past record of exports both in software and hardware. It has created a radical change in India both in social and economic spheres. Globalization has helped Indian young men to go abroad for employment, higher education and trade. They get the chance to adopt the same ways of life as the Western people. Globalization helps to develop newly invented and discovered knowledge through research which is being easily accessible to the young people through the sophisticated information technologies. The top class universities get the opportunities to exchange their new findings among affiliated institutions promoted by the top class universities of the world; as a result knowledge has started to flow from the foreign universities to the under graduate students of our country. The Western society has changed from the agricultural to industrial power, as a result the simple to complex, homogenous to heterogeneous. The higher education helps the young people to become learned, gather wisdom not only in professional life but also in personal social life while accepting many social trait. It has brought about radical changes in social systems in India bringing about significant decline in the traditional values. The social systems like marriage, family and kinship in India are diluted due to the impact of the Western culture and civilization. Now a days the joint families have become a strange surprise to those residing in the metropolitan cities. The nuclear families blooming of

mushrooms in the rain, it arises a distance between older generation and younger generation. Now a day, children consider their parents as burden in their state of adulthood.

Chetan Bhagat in his novel Half-Girlfriend presents cyber world brings union between two lovers Madhav jha and Riya Somani. Though the Google Maps Madhav is able to reach Bleecker Street in seventeen minutes and he walked for an hour and ten minutes like a mad boy with pack of wolves chasing him, finally he gets her. “We just looked at each other and cried after some time we stepped forward. That is all Riya does. She gives us a little clue that she is ready. You just need to be alert to pick it up. I opened my arms. They shook as she came closer. I took her in my arms” (225).

In campus both boys and girls get the scope and chance to mix each other freely and develop friendship. Friendship converted into love when it becomes intimate. It is the nature of love in campus but sometimes love becomes one sided in campus. Out of two friends one wants to convert the relationship into the bond of love and another does not like it. It is common incident that one sided love frequently surfaced in campus and its consequences become dangerous. Such a one sided love in campus is the central subject matter in the novel HALF GIRLFRIEND which is certainly new word to the readers. Riya-Madhav jha relationship is a common incident in the campus. Jha who hails from one of the remote village of Bihar loves Riya in his first sight simply because of her height. His attraction for her becomes further deep when her communicative skills in English are sugar-coating. Riya weds Rohan but the marriage is simple a social recognized union which does not root from love. Bhagat shows how the modern marriages do not often get the shape of love and loves are not materialized into marriages due to material and status incompatibility. Jha’s heart is shattered going through the wedding-cards of his beloved whom he loves most and more than anything in the world. He consoles himself wandering in the fool’s paradise that one day Riya will return to him because both of them are physically and mentally compatible. Bhagat emphasizes on the physical and marriage with Rohan is dissolved with a bitter conflict because the modern and educated Indian Girls no longer tolerate the husband atrocities. It is better for them to quit the

husband as urbanites change the rented house. Riya prefers service and free life to the life marriage which is meant for a disciplined and to mortgage freedom. She returns to serve in the school run in the village of Madhav Jha. Again life is difficult here due to lack of comfort though she enjoys freedom. She is bound to surrender herself to Jha as she does not have any alternative ways to ride the success in life. The author criticizes the condition of the village school due to inefficiency of fund exposes the real interest of the government when Madhav had to help his mother in running the school.

In the cyber world of Chetan Bhagat curiosity and passion for job and success becomes important and vital. It spreads connectivity through the proper educational system with perfect infrastructure and internet facilities. In the cyber world of Chetan Bhagat there is a great fascination for internet and computer. Globalization offers unity between two different states with its diversion culture and life style in the novel 2 states. Krish Malahotra, an MBA student who is studying at the IIM, Ahmedabad, Gujarat belongs to family of Punjabi heritage. The heroine Ananya Swaminathan belongs to a conservative Tamil Brahmin family. They become friend and fall in love. They are staying together in live-in relationship. Modern youth are no more guided by the traditional rule and regulation for them sex is more important than marriage. Due to the culture difference between Krish and Ananya both the families are not interested for their marriage. Both Ananya and Krish has to face lots of problems and difficulties in their journey of love and united after a long trial and tribulation. At last they convince their parents. In the globalization era the convergence of computer network and telecommunication facilitated by the digital technologies, highlight the importance of cyber world which stands as a platform for the galaxy of human activities which converge on the internet. Chetan Bhagat in his novel 2 states highlights how connectivity develops the consciousness among youths whom they will marry and with whom they will spend their night. Cyber world conveys there is generation gap between father and son, between husband and wife and mother and daughter. Girls are no more under the custody of their guardians. When the young people are highly qualified and job secured

they never ask for permission of their parents to make love. They happily ready to sleep with their co-partner before their marriage. Cyber world of Chetan Bhagat described the importance of geeta, the essence of forgiveness. God has given us life we should surrender him through meditation so that we can get his blessings. In the Cyber World of Chetan Bhagat love is limitless passion. The lovers are not reluctant to kiss each other in public places. They never care to hurt their parents in the public places. The youth are becoming very violent regarding their parents because of their rude and exploiting attitude. Chetan Bhagat attempts to focus on the inter-caste marriage system of the community. The cause is not the differentiation about the community but the reason that a daughter has selected a boy for her marriage in the growing advanced country. It is said that women are treated as equal as men but in really it is not so, still women are not independent. In the Cyber World due to impact of globalization, there is a widening gap between older generation which can be seen and felt through the family and family members because of their traditional attitude, materialistic obsession and shortage of time. Chetan Bhagat highlights now two different characters from two different states come closer because of their great technical institutes like IIM and IIT. They have become a puppet in the hand of modernity and traditionalism.

“It is always easy to fight and rebel, but much harder to convince”. India has to cope with the changing global scenario to get over the trivial issues of inter-caste, inter-religion and interstate conflicts; we are all human beings through come from different religions, sects, communities, casts and culture. In the Cyber world of Chetan Bhagat inter-caste marriages which will be the best strategy for national integration. The new cyber world gives us not only new opportunities, new challenges, new partners but also new dangers, in order to gain something we have to work hard, run fast so that we can able to connect and collaborate and innovate with each other and we can make our surrounding better create the world of perfection”. Krish and Ananya have tried a lot to convert their love story into a love marriage and they won a tough battle in front of them with their parents, relatives, belong to two different culture.

The Three Mistakes of my life becomes famous as it deals with the world wide known Gordha-riot of Gujarat that took place in 2002 and put India in shame abroad. Again the story portrays the calamity of 2000 in Gujarat that rocked the entire state by bringing a death toll more than ten thousand.

The novel covers to sum up the most crazy affairs of cricket of India-Australia series and the most heart-tendering 9/11 incidents. These current social, political and the issues of calamities could be easily related with the real incidents that Bhagat weaves in his novel. Apart from cricket, business and religion have become the subject matter of the novels. There is a find love between Govind and Vidya which is the hot –spot of this novel. Fiction, sentiment, emotion, business, religion, romance and social messages have been proportionately balanced in the novel. The young people of India get valuable socio-cultural information from this novel because it is meant for them and for their society which is going to be more complex and complicated in future. The novel is a preparatory note which gives a detail socio-cultural picture of India through different incidents and events.

The Three Mistakes of my life portrays three characters-Omi, Govind and Isha who are friends are very close to each other. Govind is a true Gujarati who want to lunch his own business. But Omi is very much interested to play and watch cricket matches. Omi is the friend of Govind and Isha. He is the son of a priest and he does not have any aim and ambition. He only moves with his two friends. There are many young people India who are like Omi who do not skill themselves to pass time. The simple and humble life of these three friends has been seriously affected by the worst disaster in Gujarat.

Bhagat writes for the young people who have dreams and ambitions in life. Many cases such dreams do not get translated into reality due to different socio-economic and political reasons. As a result the young people become frustrated and depressed.

Chetan Bhagat aptly says in the era of Globalization the young generation suffer from frustration not only in their personal family life but in their academic life. The impact of modernisation and materialism pollutes the relationship also degrades the relationship

between a father and son, mother and son and husband –wife. Those young masses are so passionate, enthusiastic and money-minded that they only care for money nothing else . Parents are taking every initiative for the better life of their children. Even they do not want to listen to them. Now-a-days, sons forget their parents. They are busy with their new girl’s friends and conscious about their happiness and success. In the modern era, young people are deeply involved with love and sex. Lovers are very excited not for their spiritual love but it is the mere physical infatuation which attracts them.

Chetan Bhagat wants to focus how love plays an important role among the young youth inside the campus. They take interest in love more than their career. They forget everything for the sake of love. In the book Five point someone there is a love relationship between Hariharan and Neha. In the modern era, Young students are brilliant and fearless; they are also incapable to cope with the present educational system. In India, their over-confidence kills their talent and creativity and leads them towards failure. The expectation of parents is so high, they forget the dreams of their children’s life. They also cannot tolerate the failure of their children, if they do not get a seat in IIT or any other institute of science and technology of national repute, it creates disappointment, frustration and they commit suicide. Suicide becomes an important factor in case of the failure of a student. As we know prof. Cherian has a strong disliking for his own student Hariharan as he is a lower GPA holder. When he caught the students red-handed while stealing the papers, he says”. You stay away from my home and my daughter. Just away understand”. It breaks heavenly relationship between teacher and students. Both the teachers and students are inter-related and inter-dependent. They are like two sides of one coin, one without other is half and incomplete.

Prof Cherian as a teacher he never tries to help his students and never solve their problem rather he always used to scold them.” You are criminals. You realize? You are criminals, Call the police”. Prof Cherian is very rude and selfish person. He can go to any extent to destroy the career of the students. As a teacher he never guides the student. He always looks at them as inferior for their lower performance. His own son Samir becomes the victim of his rude

mentality and ego. When he discovered the truth from the letter, his daughter had kept , cried and came to know about the truth of his son’s death. He confessed regretfully.

“My son wanted to be a lawyer, hated maths. I hated him for hating maths. I pushed him just as I pushed students in my class. He failed to get in first time and I made life hell for him. He failed second time and I made life an even bigger hell. Then he failed to get in third time. “And this time, he killed himself”.(pg-262)

At the end we find Prof Cherian completely in realization. He feels himself guilty for all the drastic apologizes.

I am sorry for everyone for bringing up this sad story on your special day. I told myself that if I admit mistake publicly, perhaps my son will forgive me. And I wanted to than the one student in the class because of who I found out the truth. It is my daughter’s boyfriend- Hari. And he is here sitting right in front row.(pg-263)

These young students consider the IIT system is useless as it suppresses their individual talent and individual spirits. It develops a negative idea in their mind and want to change the whole system of the IIT. They consider the whole IIT system is unfair because it suppresses the talent and individual spirit and it also extracts the best years of one’s life from the country’s brightest minds. After getting higher degrees in their technical course the students who are selfish and want to earn money with minimum effort go to USA or abroad work for multinationals companies, where as other students who went abroad, is having GPA ‘seven point something’ join in MNC or BMW and their turnover has reached around two hundred million dollars per year. Some of them have also opened their personal company mostly in computers and software. But those students who their country never use their educations for selfish pursue and personal achievement they stay in their own country to do their research project. The novel depicts hostel life, friendship, alienation from families, smoking cigars, drinking vodka. The process of globalizations highlights how the grading systems to assess the student the performance has not only over burdened the students but also spoiled their peace of mind. The observational technique makes the student to observe their problem



minutely to find out solution. They should discuss with their class teachers and classmates. As the bright future of the country they should not run after money rather they should concentrate on their study and career to make a better life.

**Words Cited:**

Barua Janhavi. *The Rebirth*. New Delhi: Penguin Books. 2011. Print.

Bhagat, Chetan. *2 States*. New Delhi: Rupa & Co Publishing House. 2009. Print.

.....*Five Point Someone*. New Delhi: Rupa & Co Publishing House. 2004. Print.

.....*Half Girlfriend*. New Delhi: Rupa & Co Publishing House. 2005. Print.

.....*Making India Awesome*. New Delhi: Rupa & Co Publishing House. 2015. Print.

.....*One Night @ the call center*. New Delhi: Rupa & Co Publishing House. 2005. Print.

.....*Revolution 2020*. New Delhi: Rupa & Publishing House. 2011. Print.

.....*The 3 Mistakes Of My Life*. New Delhi: Rupa & Co Publishing. 2008. Print.

.....*What Young India Wants*. New Delhi: Rupa & Co Publishing. 2012. Print.