

Depiction of Youth Issues in Chetan Bhagat's Five Point Someone

Mrs. Rama Singh¹ and Dr. A.K. Mishra²

Research Scholar, Awadhesh Pratap Singh University Rewa, M.P., India¹
Assistant Professor (Supervisor), SRP College, Hanumana, Rewa, M.P., India²

Abstract: *Chetan Bhagat is one of the most popular novelist of modern society. He writes on contemporary issues which highlights the problem of the youths. This paper is based on Five Point Someone. It focuses on the reality of traditional education system and various problems youth are facing in campus. Since Chetan Bhagat is the product of IIT and IIM he presents the background of these institutes and presents his autographical vent in his style. This paper explores the ragging, education system and other issues prevalent in Educational Institutes.*

Keywords: Traditional, Autobiography, Luxurious, Violence, Prevalent

I. INTRODUCTION

Chetan Bhagat novel throws light on contemporary education system prevailing in metro cities. He has earned popularity in the hearts of today's youth. He has tried to raise many issues in his novels. Chetan Bhagat is the voice of new generation. His novels revolve around the middle class students aspire for the best education in Indian Institute of Technology and Indian Institute of Management. Since Chetan Bhagat is product of these institutes he builds up the background of these Institutes and presents the prevailing condition of education system and other issues in these institutes.

Education system of IIT and IIM

Indian Institute of Technology and Indian Institute of Management are the emblems of higher education in India. These institutes are the pride of India to grant the best education. The idea of education has been expressed by education experts. According to the experts the idea of education is given below.

“There are two aspects to traditional liberal education which should be distinguished, even when they are closely related to each other. The first perhaps most emphasized by writers like Peters, Hirst, and indeed Barrow is that of inculcation into high culture of the civilization which the young person being educated has inherited. -----The second element is the development of character - not just in the sense of moral education but also in the development of an ability to exercise independent thought and judgment (Gingell, John, 2014).”

IITs and IIM are the pillars of technical and management education. These institutes are not only serving the need and expansion of knowledge and expertise not only to India but to the whole world. Five Point Someone is the first novel of Chetan Bhagat, in this novel there is the story of three IIT graduates, Hari, Alok, and Ryan and their life in Indian Institute of Technology. The title of the novel 'Five Point Someone' is taken from GPA system used in IIT for evaluation. In IITs five points are average rank. All the three protagonists are just five point means average.

In the Five Point Someone Hari, Alok and Ryan are the three main protagonist. They all study in the mechanical department. Here in this novel the novelist throws light on the aim and ambition of protagonist, and their focus on making their career by getting their degree from IIT Delhi. As time passes Hari, Alok and Ryan understood that their future is in danger, if they don't get good grades. So they decided to steal paper from their professor office. The protagonist have many expectations when they took admission in IIT. What happened to their plan? What happened to their career and dream. Would Hari be able to get married with Neha? Would Alok be able to fulfill the expectations of his family? At the end, Chetan Bhagat has very beautifully presented the message of the novel in the form of convocation speech.

“This is the message to all students as you find your future. One believe in yourself and don't let a GPU or a performance review for promotion define you. There is more to life than these things-- Your family, your friends your internal desires and goals. And the grades you get in dealing with each of the areas will define you as a person.”

Ragging in the Educational Institutes

Ragging is one of the brutal form of entertainment which is used by senior students in Educational Institutes. Though ragging is against law, every fresher undergo this humiliating treatment. In the Indian campus novel under study, ragging is mostly done in the students hostel especially during the night time.

In the *Five Point Someone* Chetan Bhagat has described the scene of ragging. Hari, Ryan and Alok face reading by their seniors whom they address as sir as per tradition senior rounded up on the Balcony for ragging by their seniors, whom they address as 'sir'.

*"As per tradition, seniors rounded us up on the balcony for ragging at midnight. I was still rubbing my eyes as three of us stood to attention and three seniors faced us. A senior named Anurag leaned against a wall. Another senior, to my nervous eye, looked like a demon from a cheap mythological TV show six feet tall, over a hundred kilos, dark, hairy, and huge teeth that were ten years late meeting orthodontist. Although he inspired terror, he spoke little and was busy providing background for the boss, Baku, a lungi-clad human toothpick, and just a smelly is my guess."*³

This was the first scene of ragging in the campus and three protagonists were terrorized by seniors. The seniors were teasing and making fun of their dress materials, in the name of introduction. The seniors were very cruel in behavior towards the freshers in the IIT Delhi as it happen in the following dialogue between them.

"You bastards," Baku was shrieking, "off with your clothes." "Aw Baku, let us talk to them a bit first," protested Anurag, leaning against the wall, sucking a cigarette butt. "No talking! Baku said one scrawny hand up. "No talking, just remove those damn clothes.

Another damn grinned at us, slapping his bare stomach every few seconds. There seemed to be no choice so we surrendered every item of our clothing, shivering at the unholy glee in Baku's face as he walked by each of us, checking us out and grinning.

Nakedness made the difference between our bodies more stark as Alok and me drew figures on the floor with deeply embarrassed toes trying to be casual balloon figures.-----

Baku told Alok and me to step forward, so the seniors could have better view and a bigger laugh.

"Look at them mothers fed them until they are ready to Explode, little Farex babies," Baku cackled. (P-03/04, Five Point Someone)

The senior were making fun of freshers in every possible manner. On the other hand the freshers were shivering in their naked condition and requesting their seniors to finish the dirty game of introduction. "Sir, please sir, let us go sir," Alok pleaded to Baku as he came closer.

"What? Let you go? We haven't even done anything yet to you beauties. C'mon bend down on all fours now, you two fatsos." (P-04, Five Point Someone)

It was the worst condition seniors were asking the freshers to be animals in the naked condition Hari Ryan and Alok were in tears and they were very sympathetic condition under seniors who was looking like demon because of his personality and he repeated the command. "C", man to what he says the demon admonished (page04, Five Point Someone)

As a result Alok and his friends bent down on all fours and suffer the pain of becoming animals in their naked condition. Ryan one of the fresher became irritated with the nonsense command of seniors and reacted against their and reacted with the nonsense command of seniors and reacted against their orders.

"Come, you bastard," Ryan shore his face scarlet like a watermelon, slice, Baku and the demon retreated a few paces."(Page 05, Five Point Someone)

Thus the whole scene of ragging came to an end when the freshers, revolted against the cruel seniors. It is a bad practice in all the institutes. Later on after the ragging by seniors, these three strange students became close friends and they remained united for each other during the four years of IIT along with their issues and complex conflict.

Student vs Teachers Issues

Teachers and students are significant factors of teaching learning process. Students are techno savvy and today's education system has become student oriented. Student arises question about their teachers from authority. There is no general disrespect for the teachers but they are perceived as humans with flaws. Ryan's outburst in Five point Someone justifies this.

And 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 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. Profs who have no idea what science and learning are about. Yes, that is what I think of the Profs. (101)

Student vs Parents issues

It is a general idea that parent want to provide everything best to their children. Here in the novel 'Five Point Someone' we find Prof. Cherian do not like Neha's friendship with his student Hari. Even Hari and Alok do not have good terms with their parents. Alok wanted to become a painter but due to his father illness and bad financial condition of his family he worked hard and get admission in IIT in the hope of making his career best. In 'Five Point Someone' the chapter titled 'Ryan Speaks' we come to know about Hari's problem. Hari's father was a colonel in the army very strict. He used to punish Hari when he commits any wrong thing. When he came in IIT, he becomes nervous and cannot face viva. Acc to Ryan this problem get rooted in Hari just because of his parents' way of upbringing Hari.

And your mother –she turns silent for days, right? Oh, wait a minute, I am not supposed to talk about that. What about the belt your father hangs in the closet. Do you still Dream of that sometimes, Hari? He told you not to answer back. If you answer your superiors back, you will be punished. Severely. Is it viva-time? Does it still hurt, Hari? (218)

II. CONCLUSION

The detailed analysis of the novel *Five Point Someone* from the prime perspective of education system in India, presents various noticeable finding. The present youth in the novel s of Chetan Bhagat is passionate and career oriented. They have a mind set up that their status can be raised through the degree from higher institutes like IITs and IIMs. This is the only way to raise their economic status, their life style and their status in society. Young people in cities are very curious about their status and status so they focus employment and career.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Bhagat, Chetan 2004. *Five Point Someone*, New Delhi Rupa Publication.
- [2]. Gingel, John 2014, *Education and the Common Good: Eessays in honour of Robin Barrow*, New York
- [3]. Routledge. Merriam, Webster. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th Edition, Merriam- Webster, Inc., 2003.
- [4]. Subsequent quotations from this novel are from this edition and page numbers are given in parentheses.