

The Study of Educational System: A Thematic Study in Select Works of Chetan Bhagat

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Abstract

The prime thing for every people in their life is education. Education can change a person and help each and every part of his life. There are some conflicts and unethical things happening in the education sector. The young generation is facing numerous conflicts and hurdles in the educational system. Some of the conflicts and prime issues in the Indian educational system are shown by Chetan Bhagat through his novels. His writings throw light on how the younger generation gets pressure and expectations from their family and how they overcome the current educational system. This paper shows the thematic evolution of the education system and how the younger generation overcomes the traditional system of learning in the select works Five Point Someone, Half Girlfriend, and Revolution 2020. There are some flaws in the education system such as learning methods, lack of innovation and creativity, deciding the student's ability by grade points, and language problems. In the educational sector, corruption also takes place to obtain permissions and approvals. Bhagat also gives some career advice and solution for the conflicts faced by the younger generation through his works.

Keywords: Education, Language, Youth, Modern, Corruption.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a prime need for everyone in the society. The ancient system of education in India is Gurukula, the student who lives in a guru's house. India is where several branches of the knowledge system originated. In ancient India, education was valued more highly than other virtues. In the beginning period, British education in India was lagged. Later they introduced a new education system, which is still going on in exiting society. English methods were used to replace the country's traditional education system. There are some of flaws in the current education. In the sense of Suganth R. S [2019] "Even education is questioned whether is teaches... pioneers of Nano-technology". The young generation is facing many types of conflicts and issues in the educational sector. The involvement of corruption in the education sector is also a huge flaw within the system.

Chetan Bhagat brings some of the prime flaws in the Indian traditional system of education. He shows the current generation's involvement in the educational sector and society. He elucidates the current issues and conflicts of the young generation through his works. Every work consists of the young generation as a basement, Chetan is also called as youth icon of India.

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SELECT WORKS

Five Point Someone (2004), work purely targets on present generation in the educational sector and some of the notable flaws in the learning system. The novel also throws the conflicts, such as students' mindset, judging manner, GPA, stress, identity etc. It depicts, how the generation overcome the present system of education.

Revolution 2020(2011), the novel throws the light on corruptive mindset in educational institutes and the life story of three friends. It shows, how the bribe involves in the educational approvals and setting of the people. Through the involvement of corruption, the novels depict how the quality of educational institutes get affected.

Half Girlfriend (2014), there are some conflicts in the educational sector shown in the novel. Chetan portrays the use of the English language as a prime in education. It shows the struggle and conflicts of the rural people in the urban educational part and also, it explores the lack of facilities in the part of educational institutes.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Vijay Kumar Mehta and Manju Sharma [2017] in their article Education System in Metros in Chetan Bhagat's Novels depict that the current generation is very positive about their futuristic life. In cities, the youth get worried about their positions and status. For good job opportunities, only reputed institutions can able to get those jobs. These are the only choice for people to live respectively in society. Only the toppers from reputed institutions get hired by premier companies.

P. Revathy and V. Peruvalluthi [2020] in the paper titled Chetan Bhagat's Five Point Someone Portrayal of Youth Society- A Fascinating Novel of Friendship and Creativity explain that faith is more important in life, GPA doesn't judge a person ability. Life is more important than those things in academics, family, relationships, needful are more important in life. Don't decide the person by their academics and position in the job. Every student at IIT must work hard in their studies and too in extra activities.

Mohana Priya K. S [2019] on her paper Interpretation of Elite Education System in Chetan Bhagat's Five Point Someone portrays every issue faced by today's youth in the society. The novel throws a light on the reputed institution's regulations and norms. Chetan Bhagat conveys his academic life involvement in a simple and funny way and also criticizes the educational system. The current educational system affects the students for their reputation. Therefore, the novel doesn't have bad consequences for the educational sector.

M. Krishna Veni and Y. Vigila Jebaruby [2020] in their paper Societal Pressures on Youths: A Study on Chetan Bhagat's Revolution 2020 explain that parents in India think that, students are only able to join reputed companies only through the IIT campus. Some people are judged by a wrong myth by society. Bhagat, through his works, gives solutions to overcome the problems of the youth. Even, one of the reasons that affect the young generation is society and the parent's expectations.

METHODOLOGY

The work of Chetan Bhagat's Five Point Someone, Revolution 2020 and Half Girlfriend is used to analyse the thematic study of the educational system. Some of the sources gathered from web sources, articles, libraries etc.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To bring out the themes in the educational system such as grade points, creativity, language, entrance exams, corruption, lack of facilities etc.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

There are many conflicts in the educational system. In India education differ from state to state, such as syllabus, teaching methods, language, board of education, classroom atmosphere, grade points, entrance exam, facilities etc. Moreover, there is a difference in educational institutes like reputed institutions that guaranteed better jobs. Nowadays parents think to join their children in reputed institutions. There are entrance examinations for getting into the institutions, in India many of the institutions have entrance exams to get into. Students are now hardly preparing for entrance exams to get into the reputed institutions, many of them nowadays spend some years for preparing the entrance exam. There are many numbers of coaching centres available in India to crack those entrance exams. The coaching centres nowadays charge a lot, the current generation is getting into coaching centres to crack the entrance examinations for their placement and parental pressure.

Some of the notable flaws in the education system is deciding the student's ability through grade points. Many of the students have their own creative ideas, but those ideas are not get encouraged by their superiors. The generation nowadays is like a mice race in life, running to get good grades, placement offers, satisfying their parent's needs, working to survive etc. Some of the challenges are faced by the rural students in the metro institutions such as language, behaviour, class conflicts (elite), struggles in studies etc. In every educational institute, the facilities are the prime thing, lack of facilities is also one of the flaws. Students in the current era spend a lot of time in coaching classes to crack the entrance examination to get into reputed institutions. In India, there are a lot of coaching centres for entrance exams to get into engineering, medicine, humanities, sciences and several disciplines etc.

The coaching centres also different from colleges, there are reputed coaching centres are in many places in India. Parents push their children into reputed institutions to get a good job placement. Many students also like to get into those institutions to secure their lives. Those reputed institutions also don't give importance to the innovative ideas of the students, superiors give importance only to the definition inside the book. For the superiors the prime thing is grade points, they decide the students only by them.

THEMATIC STUDY IN FIVE POINT SOMEONE

Nowadays some students are not stable about their future and making wrong decisions. One of the prime matters among the students is suicide, because of stress and study pressure. The young generation nowadays faces pressure from their parent's side to get into reputed institutions and get a prestigious job. Many of the students tried hard to get into the reputed institutions, but some of them failed and take the mislead decisions. The character Samir shown in Five Point Someone states that "He has seen thousands of IIT students in his life, and cannot see why his own son cannot make it...He has not spoken to me for two months" (Five Point Someone, p.169). This scenario depicts the parent's mindset towards the students for the education side. Many students are failed to crack the institutions like IIT, NIT etc. but they tried their best level to get it. Some attitudes from the parent's side make the child's life in danger, such as the parent didn't speak to them and feels like shame about their children for their low marks and didn't able to crack the examinations.

Everyone has responsibilities in their individual or family lives. Some parents put the family's responsibility to their children. Like Alok, her mother put the total family responsibility on him due to his ill father. So Alok fills those responsibilities only with a well-paid job. Reputed job security can only be assured by reputed institutes. Alok tried very hard to get into IIT and finally, he cracked it. This depicts the traditional system of Indian parents regarding their children in education like cracking the entrance to a reputed institute and getting a reputed job in placement and taking care of their parents and family.

In India, the traditional way of education still exists. Getting good grades and a place in an amazing job to secure a life in society. In many of the institutes, the superiors give priority to the explanations inside the book, not appreciating the innovative ideas of students. In some of the institutes, the superiors judge the students by their grade points. They didn't encourage the creative ideas of the students and didn't support changing the traditional method of teaching. Ryan attacks the traditional system and states that "tell me, how many great engineers or scientists have come out of IIT?" (Five Point Someone, p.34). This portrays that, all educational institutes don't give any role of creativity and innovation. Some of the student study only for getting a good job, they don't study for knowledge. Alok, who study only for good placement in their group because of his family situation.

When Ryan did the suspension bridge design, Prof Bhatia get excited and known about the grade points of Ryan. Prof Bhatia rejects the idea of Ryan due to his grades. Some of the superiors didn't accept the ideas of the low-grade students, because they think that ideas can be incorrect. Many students have their own creative ideas, but due to improper guidance, those ideas cannot be considered. The prime importance in education is grade points, deciding the student's ability through grades is still going on in the institutes. Prof Veera always motivates and encourages Ryan's innovative ideas, when Prof Veera finds out an unreliable answer in Ryan's term exam, he appreciates the answer because the answer is a somewhat innovative idea.

On the other hand, the placement is a prime role in education. The placement offers came to every institution, especially only the reputed institutions that bring prestigious job offers. This is one of the prime reasons why students crowd towards those institutes. The placement offers jobs to the candidates through their skills and creative ideas, then they hire the selected candidates. In the present scenario, the interview members give importance to the grade points of the candidate, they didn't consider either skill or creative ideas. Ryan says "They only asked about my low grades" (Five Point Someone, p.252), these grade points affect the creativity and innovative ideas of the students. Superiors need to appreciate every student; they play a role equal to the involvement of students. Some of the superiors didn't allow the students to change the learning process, when Ryan make some modifications to the figure of the screw-jack Prof Vohra says "If you don't want to be in my class or follow my course you may leave" (Five Point Someone, p.118). In the conversation, the professor clearly states that the traditional process of learning only through the book still exists.

The generation today tries to overcome the traditional process of learning. Many of the institutes still decide the quality of students through marks and they didn't approach the innovative ideas of them. Those ideas are spoiled by their superiors in the name of grade points. Treat every student equally to bring their ideas to the globe.

THEMATIC STUDY IN REVOLUTION 2020

The coaching centres for the entrance examinations of the reputed institutes is the prime one in our society. Every reputed institution has an entrance exam to get into it. These exams decide the student's ability to get into the institution. Even in the present condition, every institute has its own entrance exam. Today's generation is working hard for the entrance to get into reputed institutions. In India, there are much of coaching centres available for students to crack those exams. The government institutes also have entrance exams such as JEE, NEET, CAT, TANCET etc. are some prime entrance exams in India.

Parents also pressurise their children to study hard for the reputed or government institutions. Nowadays the generation is going to coaching centres to crack those exams. Even running the coaching centre is a great business today in our society, because everyone needs education. Gopal the character from Revolution 2020 studied in the coaching centre to get into NIT, only for his father's wish. Some of the parents are implementing their own dreams towards their children. Gopal didn't like engineering, and

only for his father's wish he agrees to study for the entrance exams AIEEE and IIT JEE. These exams are used to get into IIT and NIT, when Gopal wasn't able to crack the entrance, he noticed a sudden change in his father's face. Today's generation is between the expectations of parents and study pressure. Gopal's father says a statement that anyone didn't give an opportunity for a single academic degree, this is the mindset of the parents depicted here.

Kota is the place of coaching centres for various disciplines. Even some of the coaching centres also have an entrance exam to get into there. Gopal tries to get into some of the reputed coaching centres. Finally, Gopal is in Career Path and starts to prepare for exams. In Every coaching centre, they pin the hectic schedule for the students to crack the exams. Those schedules make somewhat pressure on them. The centres also say students to only memorising the subject, not give any of the practical ideas. The mode of treatment varies between high marks and low marks; the rank holder gets royal respect in centres. There is discrimination inside the coaching centres deciding them on marks still exists in present society. Gopal cannot able to crack the exam on another attempt. Even in the coaching centres, there are much of flaws in their method of teaching and deciding the students.

Every educational institute in India needs approval from UGC and AICTE. Many of the approved institutions are facing a lack of facilities apart from the guidelines. Whenever the new college is open, they need to get approval from the UGC (University Grants Commission) and after the over of construction work, members from the inspection committee will inspect the college for approval. In these situations, the bribe took a prime charge. The character MLA Shukla gets the approval for college building from VNN by using bribes and power. One of the statements depicts that "No, any government work, especially in education, requires a fee" (Revolution 2020, p.138), the statement clearly portrays the involvement of corruption in the educational system.

During the inspection day, many colleges fabricate the needs. Moreover, when the institute is not eligible for approval, the institute offers bribes to the inspection committee to get approval. Dean Shrivastava, help Gopal from the inspection committee and manage the committee members. They pay a huge amount to get approval within a week. This depicts that the power of money changes the whole method in the education system.

THEMATIC STUDY IN HALF GIRLFRIEND

The place for language is still running in the current system. Many institutes are using English as the prime language in education, and very few of the institutes use the regional language for teaching and communicating. Nowadays the English language become elite in many places, especially in education. This causes an impact on the regional language people, the students from rural areas. Half Girlfriend depicts the struggle of a boy named Madhav from rural Bihar. Many students face language problems in several fields, and even though there is discrimination in language, English is now considered an elite language. When Madhav gets into the college, some of the students imitate him for communicating bad English. In addition, Madhav says that "They all seemed to be the rich, English types" (Half Girlfriend, p.08), this states how language affects person to person.

At the time of the interview, Madhav faces the same issue in there. Some of the members consider communicating skills more than subject knowledge. In India, many people communicate in English and Hindi, and in educational institutes English became a superior language. Madhav answers in his regional language in the interview, but Prof Gupta one of the interviewers states "Can you answer in English?" (Half Girlfriend, p.10). This shows the involvement of English in educational institutes. Students from rural areas are facing language issues in many institutes, some of the institutes don't consider the candidate for selection due to a lack of communication skills. Apart from English medium students, others are suffering in society still now. Moreover, the government has also taken some action for the language problem.

In India, some of the entrance exams are available in all regional languages. So, people from different regions can crack the exam and get into the institute. English is a crucial language nowadays, so every institute and school must teach English to every student for their future use. For people from the English medium, the communication level is just a cakewalk for them. Many Institute in India proceeds English as a source language, Prof. Fernandez state “English is no longer foreign language, Mr Jha. It’s a global language” (Half Girlfriend, p.13). After Madhav graduated from the college, he went to Dumraon and help his mother to manage their school.

Many schools in India face a lot of facilities issues. Even in the urban areas school also have no full of facilities for students. Schools in rural places are facing a lack of facilities and didn’t get support from the government side. Facilities are crucial in the educational part, improper facilities make the education standard too low. When Madhav visited The Dumraon Royal School, he noticed that there was a lack of classrooms, staff cabins, no power for the school, cracked walls and no toilet facility for students. Everything in the part of education is to be perfect, all the necessary things are needed. Even though the government sanctioned some amounts to the schools in rural areas to improve the educational facilities, some of the politician’s pockets if filled by those funds.

CONCLUSION

The above statements depict the notable flaws and issues in the educational part. Education is one of the crucial needs in everyone’s life. The generation today hardly tries to get into reputed institutes to safeguard their future. Inside the part of the educational field, everyone decides the students by their grades and doesn’t consider their innovative ideas. The generation today gets pressure from family and institutes to get valuable grades. The crucial matter is facilities in education, there are improper facilities in the same field still exist. Every student's hectic schedule for study is to get into a valuable job in placement. In the placement, the members also give priority to grades and communication more than skills. Every superior encourages and motivate the students and treats them equally.

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