

RESEARCH ARTICLE



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA

2395-2636 (Print);2321-3108 (online)

Sensitization to Problems and Desire to Succeed
A P J Kalam's *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium*
Vs
Chetan Bhagat's *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition*

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ABSTRACT

Two greatly celebrated literary works by the two most widely celebrated contemporary authors of twenty first century with one benchmark in common i.e. by the decade 2020 made me write this research paper. This research is an attempt to pursue a comparative study in the literary works of the two contemporary authors; *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium* by Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam co-authored with Dr Y S Rajan; and *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition* by Chetan Bhagat. Both the writers in their respective works have set one benchmark for bringing up a new revolution in India by the decade 2020. The former write up with a documentary style while the latter one in a fiction style appeals to the loads of the youth of India to unite along with their loads of enthusiasm and energetic potentials to transform the developing India into the developed India. This paper is an attempt to realise this benchmark, as an ideal call for today's youth from the works of these two literary writers in order to sensitize the problems in the path of success and the firm desire to achieve success. The present work focuses on three major themes; love, ambition and corruption comparatively in the two works under research. This research is an attempt to draw out self-realization amongst today's youth who is the engineer and manager of the tomorrow's nation. He requires reading good literature, to define and refine his vision, mission and goals of life. He needs to touch the horizons of successes at several national and international fronts. But due to certain indispensable distractions, he derails and gets lost in the dull and dim streets of life. The research tries to clarify the differences between 'what is' and 'what must be' through the comparative study of the two literary works under-attempts to offer a clear-cut vision of how India can be amongst the developed nations with its strong pillars of the youth.

Keywords: benchmark, determination, devotion, perseverance, disappointments, distractions, indispensable, love-corruption-ambition, potential, self-centred, self-realization

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The two greatly celebrated literary works by the two most widely celebrated contemporary authors with one benchmark in common i.e. by the

decade 2020 is the main reason to write this research paper. This research is an attempt to pursue a comparative study in the literary works of

the two contemporary authors; *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium* by Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam co-authored with Dr Y S Rajan; and *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition* by Chetan Bhagat. Both the writers in their respective works have set one benchmark for bringing up a new revolution in India i.e. by the Decade 2020.

The ignited minds of the youth are bubbling with the spirit of 'I can do it ; I must do it' but 'something is baffling me; what's that, let me know'. And the answer is point-blank by at least two worth readings and contemplation upon the two literary works referred under the present research paper i.e. *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium* by Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam co-authored with Dr YS Rajan; and *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition* by Chetan Bhagat. And the belief that India will become a developed nation will undoubtedly come true. If the youth feels that he can do it, India will certainly get the necessary creative leadership at all levels from panchayat to Parliament. These ignited minds will sing the song of youth and lead the nation towards sustainable development. It is strongly believed that the youth of our nation, by entering into fair politics will build a brand of integrity, honesty, courage, value system, commitment and responsibility with accountability around them and practise politics for the betterment and development of our country. Ignited young minds are doubtlessly the most powerful resource of a nation's development. "This resource is mightier than any resource on the earth, in the sky and under the sea. We must all work together to transform our 'developing India' into 'developed India' and the revolution required for this effort must start in our minds. . The book *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium* is hopefully a great source for igniting these young minds (Kalam Preface:xvi)". But on the other side, no one can deny the fact that this energetic youth of India at the same time is full of bewilderment and does get deviated of the real goals of his life which has been thrown light upon very literary in the book *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition*. These real goals lie in the development of the society, the state, the nation and thereby to see India as 'the developed country' in the near future. The books *India 2020: A Vision for*

the New Millennium which Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam co-authored with Dr Y S Rajan; and *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition* by Chetan Bhagat, the writers have set the only benchmark i.e. the Decade 2020. This paper is an attempt to realise this benchmark, the ideal call for today's youth from the works of these writers in order to sensitize the problems and the firm desire to achieve success.

As poetry appeals to heart emotionally while prose strikes to mind rationally so are these two great works of the two reknown contemporary authors focussing the same issues with different appeals as an exemplary eye-openers to the youth of today. *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition* is a 2011 novel by Chetan Bhagat. Its story is concerned with a love triangle, chasing ambitions, laddening corruption and a journey of self-discovery. The protagonist of the novel wants to bring revolution by 2020 by eradicating the roots of corruption from the country. On the other hand, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium* is a very inspiring and thought-provoking book. The book envisions India to attain the status of a developed nation by the decade 2020 where the national economy of the country is one of the largest in the world; there is upliftment in the general living standards of the common man well above the poverty line including high standards of education, health and above all, national security. The four chief areas to facilitate development: the people, economy, strategic strength and infrastructure and to achieve all this, technology is the answer.

Any nation aspiring to become a developed one needs to have strengths in various strategic technologies and also the ability to continually upgrade them through its own creative strengths. For people-oriented actions as well, whether for the creation of larger-scale productive employment or for ensuring nutritional and health security for people, or for better living conditions, technology is the only vital input. From the early discoveries of X-ray as a diagnostic tool or penicillin as an antibiotic or preventive health care, we have come a long way. (Kalam: chapter 10)

Kalam emphasises on two important facts to achieve this vision; sensitization to problems and the firm desire to overcome these problems and achieve success at various walks of life. To be able to achieve this vision, one should rise above one's routine, mundane problems and try to achieve certain goals across the ordinary.

We believe that as a nation and as a people we need to shed our cynicism and initiate concrete action to realize the second vision for the nation. The first vision seeded around 1857, was for India to become politically independent; the second one is to become a fully developed nation. Our successful action will lead to further action, bringing the vision much closer to reality. Perhaps in a decade from now we may even be urged as having been cautious and conservative. (Kalam 29)

This means that although at the time of articulation of vision, the goal may perhaps appear to be improbable but at no point of time should it seem to be impossible. Both the literary works project the similar themes but with different writing styles.

It is a well-known psychological fact that if the child is indulged into the prescribed TO Do's right from the beginning, he needs never to be pointed out for the Don'ts in his life. The respective books from the respective authors are a wonderful and worth reads in order to know what are the real goals placed fourth in front of the today's youth and what are the barriers and distractions under or of which the youth finds himself trapped into and deviated ahead. The book *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium* showcases all those aspects in front of the youth where our energetic and fragile youth must need to look for, to perform and to progress and thereby transforming India into a developed nation through his efforts in the near future. The book is a powerful call for the youth to be targeted. It acquainted us with all those resources where a lot of development can be achieved through our talented and perseverant, intellectual and intelligible, determined and aspiring youth. On the other side, the book *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition* is exemplary of all those mundane problems where really the youth gets trapped and forgets the real goals of his life. The

(whole class of the young literature readers) youth becomes empathize when he reads the love trilogy as it might be an incident of his own life. The ultimate mission of human life is to perform tasks only in the path of welfare of humanity but letting himself as a puppet or slave to his ill wills and a lot of distractions, he derails from his ultimate mission. Lack of adequate and timely guidance, disappointments and frustrations all around, poor nurturing and sick mentality, poor company and negative ambience, lust for over-materialism etc are the factors which deviate the youth of today from his real vision and mission of life.

On the other hand, Kalam's *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium* sets forth the optimistic ambience for his readers and let them feel inspiring and patriotic in spirit. It encompasses all possible horizons of exploration and development where today's vigorous youth can create wonders. It envisages great aspirations and ambitions in their blossoming minds to get ready to fly high with feathers of success. It also makes us face to face to the importance of cent per cent commitment to a vision and an extraordinary perseverance to attain it. It brings forth the various highly challenging opportunities along with their solutions with greater strategic approaches. It boosts us up with inspirations, patriotism, the spirit of perseverance along with technological advancements for the development of the country to make it a great count amongst the developed nations.

It is interesting to note the background of some of these great achievers. Richard Branson, who established an empire of music-related products, was from a family of lawyers and high school dropouts. Andrew Carnegie, a name synonymous with the American steel and had no formal education. Henry Ford, who was a farmer's son with a modest background not only established a largest company of his times but also revolutionized manufacturing techniques. One common feature of all these people is their commitment to a vision and tenacious hard work of an ethnically diverse population and great natural resources that lead to the nation becoming the world number one. (Kalam 28-29)

It throws light upon certain most common problems like: lack of resource-management, lack of adequate vision and mission, prevailing corruption and greed all-around etc. with suggestions of how to realise these problems and how a country-wide awakening and protest can be brought against them is the appeal of the book. Similarly, but unsimilar in writing style, Bhagat's *Revolution 2020* has showcased the same poisonous issues of corruption deeply rooted into the Indian society. "Earlier education was aimed to achieve the highest ideals of complete human development that included physical, mental, spiritual development as well as leading to God-realization but today, modern educational institutions have their primary emphasis on moneymaking and materialism, "I know how the education business works" (Bhagat 170) instead of concept of complete human development. India's education system turns out millions of graduates each year, many skilled in IT and engineering. This manpower advantage underpins India's recent economic advances, but masks deepseated problems within India's education system. There was a time when corruption was only in Government offices, private institutions, police stations etc. But, now-a-days corruption has spread its roots in education system deeply. *Revolution 2020* is the story about three friends Gopal, Aarti and Raghav. In this novel the author describes about the corruption apparent in the Indian youth educational system where Gopal, the protagonist is the "most uneducated director" (Bhagat 03) of Ganga Tech college of Engineering and MBA coaching centre and these institutes are approved through corruption, link of corruption from top to bottom. He also describes that our education system is a good business for politicians to invest their black money into the private colleges or institute to make it white "you want me to open a college? I haven't even been to college.... Most people who own college in India haven't stupid people go to college. Smart people own them"(Bhagat 120). This is the condition of our educational institutes. The fatal flaw in the system most likely arises from its shear-complete government control. Practically all aspects of the system suffer from political and bureaucratic meddling. Our education system makes a great

difference between talented and poor students. According to our education system mostly students think about themselves that "I imagined myself in a sea, along with lakhs of other low-rankers, kicking and screaming to breathe. The waters closed over us, making us irrelevant to the Indian education system." (Bhagat 24)

Unfortunately corruption tends to be one of the principal reasons behind all these problems. Thus both the books lay stress on the contemporary education system but in the form of two sides of a coin. One projects the ideal system of education which must be the sovereign proud of each nation whereas the other presents the idle system of education full of commercialization and corruption.

The former calls upon for an intuitive human instinct which demands honesty with integrity and excellence and without compromising the core values that build our confidential society. The latter is the accident of that real instinct which brings up empty and shallow ambitions; demands for prosperity without perseverance. Moreover, privatization and commercialization of education has emerged in several forms in the recent decades in India. Government has allowed to open self-financing private institutions with recognition but as a result it becomes businesses; "sixteen hundred students now, chetan-ji, across all batches. Each paying one lakh a year. We already have a sixteen-crore turnover. And you inaugurated the MBA coaching today. That's another new business"(Bhagat 03).

Another most burning issue in the life of youth is the issue of love and ambition. This theme is also presented in both the works but differently. Youth is driven by love; in fact any living being is just hungry for love and affection. He runs after wherever he finds love; What is required is the genuine direction. APJ Kalam's *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium* calls for the divine love when once the youth is moulded towards will certainly result as a human strength. This will lead to patriotic love, true love, love with yourself, candid love, love that brings life into the body and the soul; love that leads towards peace, progress and prosperity. The outcomes of such a divine love are determination, dedication, devotion thereby turning

dreams into reality with lots of applauds and happiness all-around whereas Chetan Bhagat's *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition* presents love as a human weakness, love of opportunities, love for sexual lust and shallow attractions, love that brings doom and destruction to the real ideals of life. The outcomes are disappointments, frustrations, bewilderments and a directionless life. The protagonist of the novel wants to bring revolution by 2020 by eradicating the roots of corruption from the country. Among the three childhood friends Raghav, Gopal and Aarti, one wanted to use his intelligence to make money. And another wanted to use his intelligence to start revolution. They struggled to find success, love and happiness. This novel speaks about the corruption in the social, political and education sectors. It throws light on the corrupted leaders of Indian politicians. Thus Chetan Bhagat has very well treated love, sex, marriage and aspiration, hope, premarital relation and struggle of Indian youth. It is the Indian youth that made Chetan Bhagat India's ever best seller Indian English author. The former ends with an optimistic message for Today's youth while the latter ends with a tragic note. Thus the two books present pictures of love, affection, kindness versus lust, greed and hypocrisy and target to bring revolution in all possible ways in the very near future.

As stated earlier this research attempts to showcase the different styles of the two great contemporary authors Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam 'the missile man of India' a great inspirational writer and the most celebrated writer by Indian youth Chetan Bhagat, an engineer and a management student a favourite of the youngsters. Their respective works *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium* and *Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition* present the single most mission of bringing up revolution and lead India towards development by the decade 2020 as a benchmark. This research appeals to the readers for reading both the books one by one but twice at least; for it definitely leaves the readers with lots of self-evaluations and self-resolutions for themselves. The ultimate objective of every literature is to reflect the mirror image of the contemporary society and to create constructive

and progressive message for the betterment of the society at large. The research purposes to highlight the worth of the two literary genre with their authors' distinguished writings patterns; one as a documentary while the other as a novel. The former is full of information on scientific and technological resources loaded with facts and personal observations that show the depth of knowledge, research, passion and vision for India. It will be a great achievement for the country if it is able to follow in the footsteps of such great leaders to take India in the league of truly developed but most importantly, empowering nations in the world; the latter is a love trilogy, a common incident with Indian youth, chasing ambitions, gladdening corruption and a journey of self-discovery. As a researcher I have a lot to express over the two readings for which I cannot afford to quote much nor give summary of the books with suitable lengths. The limitations of writing a research paper also inhibit me of doing so.

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