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REPRESENTATION OF YOUTH IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S REVOLUTION 2020

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ABSTRACT

Today's youth is quite energetic, creative, innovative, vibrant and ready to do anything to achieve their desired goal. But along with all these positive qualities, they are desperate, directionless, rude and egotistic. They are not quite clear about their roles and responsibilities. They are aggressive when they fail to get what they are looking for.

Chetan Bhagat is a social critic who presents the dark areas of the society in a light-hearted manner in his novels. Chetan Bhagat's *The Revolution 2020* deals with the issues of youth such as dreams and aspiration, victories and defeat. This is a story of three childhood friends Raghav, Gopal and Aarti. One wants to use his intelligence to make money. One wants to use his intelligence to start revolution. They struggle to find success, love and happiness. The protagonist, Gopal has accumulation to join engineering. So, he doesn't join anywhere. He decides to open college as a shortcut to become rich. At the end, Gopal faces failure. Gopal seems to be convinced that Raghav can be a role model for the future generations. Young generation has quite high hopes and aspirations. There may be trials and tribulations before the success but one who is steadfast in his actions can always be a winner and be successful.

Today's youth is quite energetic, creative, innovative, vibrant and ready to do anything to achieve their desired goal. But along with all these positive qualities, they are desperate, directionless, rude and egotistic. They are not quite clear about their roles and responsibilities. They are aggressive when they fail to get what they are looking for. When they don't get it, they become restless. Young people aspire for prestige and respect in the society, which they believe that it can be gained only by becoming rich. Such aspirations and expectations in relation to economic outcomes are strongly related to socio-cultural influences and the degree of society. This is portrayed by Chetan Bhagat in his novels. Chetan Bhagat is a social critic who presents the dark areas of the society in a light-hearted manner. In each novel, Bhagat picks up one of the

ambiguities of the society. Bhagat has covered major issues of Indian society like education system, troubles of campus life, corruption, aspiration and expectations of youth predicament in the job and cricket craze.

Chetan Bhagat's *The Revolution 2020* deals with the issues of youth such as dreams and aspiration, victories and defeat. This is a story of three childhood friends Raghav, Gopal and Aarti. One wants to use his intelligence to make money. One wants to use his intelligence to start revolution. They struggle to find success, love and happiness. This novel speaks about the corruption in the social, political and education sectors.

In *Revolution 2020*, the protagonist Gopal has accumulation to join engineering. Hence, he doesn't join anywhere. He decides to open college.

His weakness is inferiority complex and lack of money. He creates this college not with the students in mind but as a shortcut forever to become rich. "One stupid exam, half a dozen mistakes in multiple – choice problem changes your life. When people achieve something, they become self-obsessed." (R40) "Stupid people go to college but smart people own them" (R 117)

Raghav starts his works as a news reporter in Dainik newspaper. He publishes an article on *Ganga Technical College* which is built by an MLA Shukla and Gopal. Shukla does the scam of 20 crores. It gives bad reputation to Gopal's College. Raghav publishes an article about Ganga treatment scam and provide that some MLA Shukla ji is a corrupt man of political family. Gopal is only twelfth passed director of corrupt college. He does not know the value of education. He does it to full his dream of rich man. They open the college not for the welfare of society but to earn money. "I saw Shukla-ji. Every inch of him felt wrong. But he offered me a chance. A job, an admission, a fucking chance, that is all one needs in life sometimes. 'I'll do it. It isn't like I am the only guy in India paying bribes,' I said. 'But I want to be big'". (R 127). At the end, Gopal faces failure.

Raghav leaves his engineer job and works as a journalist. He exposes the scams of corruption including the Ganga scams, illegal trade of cylinders and cements in Varanasi. His mission is to eradicate the corruption from Varanasi till 2020. In his any other work, *What Young India Wants*, he says that we are responsible for corruption because we choose the corrupt leaders. We send them to parliament to make laws in our favours but they do not do. In India, the people spend their whole life in slums and footpath. But our corrupt leaders live lavish life and have money in foreign banks. We see the political leaders as king and their little princes are automatically next in lines.

The desire to covet seat runs too high. Gopal is swept off his feet in this mad rush all the time. He pines for love of Aarti and is jealous of his best friend's success. When the magnitude of his failure sinks in, he decides to somehow fulfil the dream of his father. Most parents thrust onto the shoulders of their children of their own unfulfilled dreams and

achievements. Gopal is rushing off to fulfil it without having the maturity to understand the complexity of this decision or its consequences. "In relationship, there are always two types of person: one weaker and the other stronger one. It's never easier to live being as weaker one!" (R206)

Gopal has desire in getting even with Raghav. Gopal is fighting a duel with himself. He cannot let go of his past failure. But the encounter with Raghav changes psychologically and emotionally and the sense of grudge and feelings of revenge gives way to respect. "A few japs at the heart are better than a complete nervous breakdown." (R 88) "Losers, even if they do not have a brain, have a heart." (R 102)

Chetan Bhagat clearly portrays the psychology of the youngsters in his work, through the characters of Gopal and Raghav. According to Sigmund Freud's psychological theory, the goals aspired to be achieved are not always based on one's actual striving to achieve them. They do indicate the operation of such motivational factor. He has highlighted his deep concern about the youth today - what are the problems, hopes and aspirations of the youth.

Gopal suffers through education. Sometimes the stress and sufferings urges the person to be in heights of high-esteem. He is from poverty and has suffered through due to lack of money during his adult age. Due to the lack of money and unable to enter into engineering college at his young age, he wants to become rich in the society. "It is amazing how the brain will connect one thought to another until it gets to where it wants to be" (R 159)

Gopal will be familiar and he wants to show that he is a wealthy rich person in the society. His inferior thought makes him feel like if he has more money, everyone is around with him. He becomes money minded. He thinks that through money he can buy all the things and live sophisticated life as well. He is running college for making money. He has money to rule over the educated people in the college. "Shouldn't academicians be opening colleges? Like ex-professors? Education is not for wusses. There's a food chain of people at every step". (R 117)

The young generations are hurt not only through education systems but also love and habit

of drink. They find consolation in liquor, forgetting all their problems. But this habit leads them to commit suicide and murder. It spoils their health as well. Due to instability and insensitivity, youngsters are unable to face the problems in life. "I went straight to the bar near the dining table. I opened a new bottle of black Label whisky we'd bought for the inspectors. I poured it out in a glass to the brim. I poured another glass. I drank half of it in one gulp, but when my body rejected it, I had to spit it out" (R 293) Due to immaturity, young people are not strong in fixing their goal. Due to distraction, their mind is not stable to cope with the situation and they are afraid to handle the unexpected incidents. At that time, young people should have self-motivation and move towards the goal in the positive direction.

Bhagat advises the nation regarding the preservation of the power of youth is admirable. Gopal seems to be convinced that Raghav can be a role model for the future generations. He seems to be convinced that our nation requires people like Raghav who are persistent and wise to lead the nation. If people like them enter politics, then at least some rust can be cleared and become an effective pesticide to the politicians. This is possible only with young generations who are ready to battle it out till the last minute.

Passion and predicament is about hopes, aspirations and problems of youth. Today, young generation has quite high hopes and aspirations. Young people may indulge themselves in certain kinds of mistakes which is shown in *Revolution 2020*, just to be rich overnight. When they realize, what has happened it is too late for them to regret back and to talk about their problems. The problem is a universal and genuine one. The problems and aspirations of youth have been crumpled since ages and there will certainly be a generation gap. There may be trials and tribulations before the success but one who is steadfast in his actions can always be a winner and be successful.

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