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Chapter 9

SOCIETAL MALEVOLENT IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA FROM CHETANBHAGAT'S PERSPECTIVE IN REVOLUTION 2020

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Abstract

The paper entitled "Societal Evils in Contemporary India from Chetan Bhagat's Perspective in Revolution 2020". Chetan says that though writing in a developing country youngsters are failing to get recogorize Chetan Bhagat the creative writer in the field of Indian English Literature has portrayed the mechanical life of youngsters in

9	Societal Malevolent in Contemporary India from Chetanbhagat's Perspective in Revolution 2020 A. Meenaz Banu & Dr. Peruvalluthi	103
10	Love: Salvation of Mankind with Special Reference to Gita Mehta's Raj and a River Sutra Ms. R. Gomathy	111
11	Finding her Own Voice: Subarnalatha S. Sukitha	125
12	Literature and Arts Impact on Society Dr. Rekha Gore	143

his novel Revolution 2020. The paper brings forth the empathetic life of youngsters and the political problems in a vivid manner. It shows the life of the protagonist and the burden faced by them through relatives and society

Keywords: societal, contemporary, get recogorize, developing and burden.

Introduction

Chetan Bhagat is usually considered to speak on behalf of the Indian entrepreneurial community. Al! of his novels has been bestsellers and has gained huge readerships worldwide. His novels Picture out to rock Indian sensibility, by providing thought provoking insights as a result of delving into the ever changing paradigms of human conditions that find it entangled in the maze of love, corruption and ambition in his novel, Revolution 2020. This research paper brings out a detailed account of the happenings of Indian society, mainly in the fields of education and politics.

Corruption - A Deep Rooted Poison

The various ingredients that make contemporary Indian society seem despicable were pointed out by Bhagat in his fifth novel, *Revolution 2020*. Chetan Bhagat delves deep into a very serious malaise of Indian society - corruption. Corruption has existed since time immemorial and has pervaded every facet of Indian society, from getting a certificate, to getting a government job or getting approvals to start a school or

1

college. The bribes paid could run into many lakes of rupees. The despicable and uncouth reality of Indian society has been laid threadbare in this novel.

The novel talks about how the basic inception of corruption in modern times can be traced to opportunistic leaders, who are consumed by ambition, and use corruption as a means to fuel their ambitions. The bleakness existing in Indian society, according to Bhagat, is due to political bankruptcy, social sins, malpractices and crimes of various hues. Revolution 2020 discusses in detail about how the Indian government aids in corruption. Bhagat's book talks about how government employees and political Leaders actually operate, which lead to untold corruption everywhere. Corruption, the dark side of Indian society that Indians are generally accustomed to, manifests itself in the rotten educational system, coupled with the dishonesty and bribery that exist in public life forms the essence of this novel.

The protagonist comes from a humble background that faces tremendous pressures in life. The novel describes him as an ordinary person with a slight paunch. It goes on to add that the "rest of him was whitish complexion, modest five- feet seven-inch height, and his side-parted hair was reassuringly normal. His father didn't give him any pocket money and he didn't have much in his own pocket." (1) The protagonist lost

one of them. But he is not successful. His father sends him to Kota, Rajasthan, which is renowned for institutes that impart training for one to clear the JEE. Yet, the protagonist fails in his subsequent sitting for the JEE. His father passes away in the meanwhile. He starts to live by himself. His relatives do not seem very interested in taking him under their wings.

They give him a little bit of money and gradually move out of his life. Bhagat highlights a major problem that exists among the young who are abandoned due the loss of their loved ones no one in society cares too much for them! The young are running out of role models who can mould them to become leaders who not only follow their passion, but also make this world a better place.

The protagonist, who has lost both of his parents, is now an orphan, who is despised by his relatives. It is at this juncture of his life, that through a friend of his, he is introduced to a political leader Shuklaji. Shuklaji has been portrayed as one who fits the stereotype that one usually finds in Indian movies – corrupt, loaded with unaccounted cash or black money and quite heartless. Shuklaji is corruption personified. Revolution 2020 rubs it in when it comes to corrupt politicians. According to Bhagat, politics is only for criminals and criminals are meant to be in politics. He goes on further to point out that elections have become associated with a host of criminal activities. Shuklaji finds a way to launder his

through the eyes of the protagonist of his various novels and through leading newspapers. The youth of India form a significant proportion of Indian society and cannot be ignored. The aspirations of the youth need to be understood and Chetan Bhagat has attempted to give voice to it through his writings. The dark and grim reality of Indian society is also being pointed out in his novels, which the young person can relate to. Revolution 2020 is another such book. The reason why his book click with his readers is because Bhagat does not seem to give answers to the various challenging situations that a young person faces. Rather, he faithfully tries to highlight it to the world. The young person feels that he or she has a voice in Chetan Bhagat's novels, as young people's views are not being seriously considered. It is the elder's voice that matters. The young person is forced to confront this ugly dual reality, and come up with ways to counter it. Does the title of the book offer some clues into the time frame by when it could be eradicated - 2020? Chetan Bhagat, in his novel Revolution 2020 very clearly elucidates the fact that the weak stem of 'love' ends up being the only consolation for human survival in the midst of the creepers of corruption that have been watered by unbridled ambition. Can the 'weak stem of love' strengthen to a point where in a potent, unadulterated, unselfish love could solve the problem? By highlighting the sickness, and stating that there is a glimmer of hope in love, Bhagat seems to remind his

black money – give some of it to the protagonist to start $_{\rm a}$ college named Gunga Tec.

Life is More Than Corruption

Chetan Bhagat, in his novel Revolution 2020 talks about how meaningless education has become. But, it also highlights that everything in life is not that depressing. Revolution 2020 is a story of a young person's ambition and love in the background of corruption in Indian society and how youth react to these other very important facets – ambition and romance. Bhagat adroitly delineates the issues of contemporary Indian society which affect Indian youth through his characters in this novel:

Conclusion

In all of Chetan Bhagat's novels the stories revolve around the young person. His novels have attained popularity among this section of society as he is able to weave in a very seamless fashion everything that is happening in today's India from the perspective of the young person. At the same time, he is able to infuse interest in the reader by highlighting on the various challenges that a young person faces – anger, competition, bitterness, romance, sacrifice and rash decision making. His novels present a clear picture regarding his concerns in the current scenario prevailing in 21st century India. Most of what he wants to convey is

About the Editor



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