

Delineation of Contemporary Women in the Select Novel's of Chetan Bhagat: An Analysis

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Abstract- This paper throws light on the women in the novels of Chetan Bhagat, he beautifully projects the character in reality according to the situation, though his heroines are brought up in modern world, they are portrayed as innocent and they try to rebel against the norms in the society on the other hand Bhagat brings out the different phase of life which makes the readers easily understand about the life. He projected his women characters as bold and brave enough, he never showed off their cowardness but they stand up for their rights and equal status in the male dominated society, and make themselves to be strong and making their own choice.

Index terms- Metropolitan Society, Modernity, Physical Love, Culture, Tradition, Strong

INTRODUCTION

“Literature is neither a series of unique works with nothing in common nor a series of works enclosed in time cycle.”

- Wellek and Warren

Literature beautifully depicts the life of the individual in the society, and tries to soothe the mind of the reader with satisfaction and fulfilment. At first literature emerged in the form of poetry and later it paved way for fiction through many writers contribution. In the present scenario fiction reached its peak through young adult fiction. Many started reading young adult fictional works as it tries to project the life of the young ones in the modern world, to which they can relate their life with.

There were many young adult fiction writer who hooked the attention of the readers through their style of writing, Chetan Bhagat, Preeti Shenoy, Ravinder Singh, Nikita Singh, Durjoy Dutta, etc, whose novels are based on the life of youth and the society they live in, anxiety, struggle, sacrifice, educational empowerment, etc. As they belong to the modern world of writing, they project their characters as bold,

brave, and strong enough to face the situation, they also depicts things like going against the tradition and culture, friendship, pre-marital sex, etc. Among the above writer, Chetan Bhagat is one such writer, explores the life of women through his works.

In the modern world, he is considered as the most celebrated and famous fictional writer. He portrays the life of modern women in different perspective. Traditional women are portrayed to be shy, silent and they follow traditional way of life style, whereas in the modern world women becomes bold enough, they lead their own life of their own choice. The reason laid behind these changes is their freedom for education, less social boundaries and liberty for their career. Bhagat's novels voice the life of youth and also the empowerment of women.

Truly speaking, as days pass on the position of women changes, they are making themselves to be creative to make them equal to men in the society in all the ways like economically, educationally, politically and legally. Women have all the rights to seek property on their own and they can become economically independent. Bhagat got attracted towards the life of the women through the women characters he come across in his life. In an interview Bhagat says that:

“I like women who are smart, independent and individualistic. They should have their own identity, dreams and goals. Intelligence in a woman turns me on. It feels good to be with a woman who is sure of herself and knows who she wants to be. I am inspired by real women whom I meet. All my women characters are strong, feministic women, be it Ananya or Vidya. I want my characters to be role models for young girls. They should be women of substance and not just props that fill up space” (Interview)

Bhagat's novels are set in Metropolitan Indian cities, so this made him to project the life of empowered

women in the modern world. According to Bhagat positive effect of globalization can be seen through women empowerment.

Women in the postmodern world considered themselves to be bold and stylish, they portray them as modern through their outfits, grooming and also through their attitude. They believe that they have all the rights to decide their life on their own and they stay against the caste, tradition, religion, superstitious belief. In India women are assumed as a sign of prestige. To maintain the reputation of family they are forced to follow many rules and regulations, but where as in the present scenario they try to get rid of those rules and regulations, in order to bring some changes.

In the novel *One Night @ the Call Centre*, there were number of men and women working in call centers equally, and women prefer to work even in the night shift. They earn their own living and make their own career choices. Esha, resides in Delhi leaving her home in order to show off herself as a model. She was pretty enough and struggling quite hard to become as model but her short height becomes a barrier for her career. To make her dream come true she decided to sleep with a Designer, who cheats her at the end. Though she was a modern woman she felt guilty for doing so and she decides to give up her dream and pursued and changed her work at the call center whereas Priyanka in the same novel is portrayed as an intelligent and a practical girl. She does not allow anybody to intervene in her personal life, and she wants to lead her life of her choice. Contrary to that her mother is of traditional mind set and she wants her daughter to be of traditional women. She was in relationship with Shyam her colleague, but her mother wants her to marry a person who got settled in his life. When she finds out that Shyam does not show any sign off settling in life she decide to breaks-up with him and marry the person of her mother's wish. Though she lives in the modern world, she accepted to marry the person of her mother's choice only for her safety and comfortable life. She confesses to Shyam that:

"She married my dad who was just a government employee only because he seemed like a decent human being. Her sisters waited better qualified boys and they are richer today. Her concern for me comes from there. She is my mother. It is not as if she does

not know what is for me" (*One Night @ the Call Center* 131)

Through this novel Bhagat projects that, though the women live in the postmodern world somehow or other they still have the traditional touch in their live which can be seen through the life of Esha and Priyanka, even though they are from modern world and work in the call centre, they search for safety and compatibility which made them to change their career and wish of their life according to the acceptance of society.

The novel *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* is a complex novel where Bhagat expresses his view on various social and political issues and among that he beautifully focuses on the women character Vidya, she searches something new in her life and wants to decide on her own in her life. In the modern world women are forced to follow the words of the parents, in the same way Vidya's parents wish her to join in a medical college, but she wants to be a fashion designer. They are forced by their kith and kin to go against their passion and aim. Vidya doesn't care about her studies, but her parent's forced her to learn maths because it is mandatory to qualify her medical entrance exam, she states that:

"Let me make myself clear. I positively hate maths. For me it occupies a place right up there with cockroaches and lizards. I get disgusted, and depressed by it. Between an electric shock and maths test, I will choose the former." (*The 3 Mistakes of My Life* 45)

As young and bold women, she believes that she has her own identity and she is very keen in asserting her own feelings and opinions. She feels that she has grown up and she has all the rights to decide her life and do what she wishes. In the post modern world women are portrayed as bold and dominant, they feel that they are grown up and they considered themselves to be stylish, this attitude develops not only in their outfits or grooming but also in their whole personality. She even establishes sexual relationship with her beloved Govind before marriage. This shows the outcome of modern women in the modern society.

In the novel *2 States* Ananya is a brilliant woman with good academic record and she tries to hold the familial values, she is considered as a perfect example of an empowered woman of the twenty first century. Ananya too believes that as they belong to

the post-modern world she has got all the rights to take decision on her own. Ananya in the novel represent the women belongs to second generation and Krish mother represents first generation. Ananya as a contemporary woman, she is ready to adopt all modern style of living at the same time she tries hold the traditional values, but as a first generation woman are stern to follow this new version of life.

Ananya doesn't believe in caste, creed, religion, and culture and she falls in love with Krish, a Punjabi boy. In India the marriage is not between two hearts but between two families and communities, but younger generation believe in love and marriage and they want to decide their life on their own and they don't believe in horoscopes, they even elope if their parents do not accept their love. Contrary to that Ananya as highly educated women, rooted towards the family traditions, but doesn't carry any baggage of her culture and religion on the contrary Krish's mother carry the baggage of tradition and culture and she wants to select bride for her son according to her choice, so she compares Ananya with Hema Malini and Sridevi who according to her fall in love with north boys and finally married them. But Ananya doesn't give up and she makes herself ready to accept the challenges in her life.

Bhagat projected the suffering of the young women to make her love story to end in marriage; she tries to bridge the gap between two cultures and generations. Atlast Ananya won the heart of Krish's mother and also she brings out that the love in the post-modern world love knows no boundaries whether it be of caste, creed, religion or region added to it a successful marriage is built only on aspects of mutual understanding and compatibility. Ananya seems to be more matured enough and advanced as compared to other characters in the novels of Bhagat.

Bhagat projected women in the post-modern world as more modern, advanced, optimistic and more individualistic in nature. All most all the women characters in his novel are depicted as more advanced and does not care anything about the society; they even crossed their limits of idealism in their lives. Though they adopt the western lifestyle, their moderns rooted in the past thoughts, traditions of society. So the fictional forte of Bhagat gives new direction to the stream of Indian English fiction.

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- [3] ---. *Two States: The Story of My Marriage*. New Delhi: Rupa and Company, 2009. Print
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