

Interpretation of Elite Education System in Chetan Bhagat's *Five Point Someone***Mohana Priya K. S.**

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Chetan Bhagat is a modern Indian Novelist, Activist, and columnist. He is known as a youth icon and he has voiced the problems and aspirations of the younger generation in his own way. All the lead characters in his novels have the proper place and also fit in today's burning problems such as an affluent educational system, corruption, love and friendship, politics, class conflicts, inter caste marriages, etc., The present composition of the novel *Five Point Someone* depicts the hard knocks of the younger generation inside the IIT campus and get a clarification to conquest these troubles in an optimistic way which comprehends the real significance of life.

Keywords: faulty education system, disciplinary ethics, transformation of thoughts.**Introduction:**

Among the various genres of literature, the form of novel writing is in power to represent the actual situation of Indian society. In fact, contemporary, young and enthusiastic writers like Aravind Adiga, Pankin Mishra, Raj Kamal Jha, Kiran Desai and Chetan Bhagat are prone to write the burning situations and the problems of the existing younger generation. All these writers are alarmed with the questions of alienation, rootlessness, boredom, disillusionment and melancholy caused by conflicts. Among them Chetan Bhagat pre-occupied with modern man's struggle for endurance in this globalized world.

Novel readership in India is progressively increasing across the length and breadth of the nation. The major credit of this remarkable preference towards English language novels can be credited to the popularity and prominence of the novels. The phenomenal success of Chetan Bhagat's debut novel, *Five Point Someone* is qualified with the revival of popular readership in India. The success of this novel paved way for an era of popular English Literature subjugated by Campus-based novels. Soon afterwards, the campuses of some of the most prominent universities and colleges of India such as IITs, IIMs, and JNU instigated being featured in the pages of the upcoming novels.

Chetan Bhagat has dealt into the youth culture and their problems in *Five Point Someone*. In this novel he depicts a youth's world, their culture, challenges, problems and in addition, there are college-life-culture, sick education system, stressful exams and GPA, canteen-chats, movie-goings, ragging and fresher-senior classification. This novel dealt with an identity crisis of the younger generation, youths' unrest towards the faulty education system, their alienation, chaos, their ambitions, and their broadened views.

Five Point Someone is the first novel released in 2004 which is not a book to teach the reader how to get into IIT or even survive there but reveals how bad things happen if one do not think in a straight way. It is the story about three Mechanical Engineering students Hari, Ryan and Alok. The story revolves around them and they are thick friends but do not have any common attributes. Each of them has different objectives, strength and weakness. The narrator of the novel is Hari and he narrates their four years of campus life in IIT and how they overcome their weakness and obstacles but still stick together and graduate from IIT.

The trios want to get good grade in their respective exams. Among them Ryan does not like to follow the faulty education system. After tiring a Quanto-Physics assignment dead line Ryan says, "What a crazy weeks, classes, assignments and not to mention the coming attraction quizzes. You call this a life" (Bhagat 48). Through the character of Ryan, Bhagat expresses that the younger generation in the nation are not interested in the faulty education system. This shows that the students become tired because of the laborious works given by the professors. The students did not get much time in relaxing themselves in these scheduled activities. Ryan observes this as, "This is

high standard working like moronic drones until midnight to. Man pro yesterday, AP mech day before, Quanto today.....It never ends....I need a break man. Anyone for a movie” (Bhagat 14).

Alok is very conscious about his grades because he wants to be in good job to fulfill the family requirements. When they get the result of their first semester, Hari gets 5.46, Ryan receives 5.01 and Alok obtains 5.88 for what Bhagat rightly called them as Five Pointers. Alok is not happy about his grades and he wants himself to be high in his grades. Because of this, Alok rejects the celebration arranged by his friends. But Ryan is a cheerful, confident, outspoken athletic and smart student. He is the leader of his group. He is creative and full of new ideas who loves engineering, but hates the system. He thinks that this scheme does not encourage the original thoughts, rather creates engineers who mugged up theoretical aspects and rates students not on the ground of their creativity but on the ground of their scores.

The five pointers reveals the darker side of the elite education system of the nation. Ryan’s plan to encounter with IIT challenge is above his grading and results. He is busy in preparing C&D (Co-operate to Dominate) plan to encounter the traditional faulty education system. Ryan is of the view that their degree does not work if they fail to get a good grade in their semester exams. They decided to steal the question paper from Prof. Cherian’s cabin under his plan of C&D strategy. Because, according to Ryan, “IIT system is not just. It suppresses talent and individual spirit. It extracts the best years of one’s life from the country’s brightest minds” (Bhagat 170).

The greatest creative minds of the youth are spoiled because of their system. This makes them frustrated and deviate them from their mainstream in their educational life. This initiates them to admit in ‘Operation Pendulum’ which is designed by Ryan and the main idea is to steal the key of Prof. Cherian’s office to get the question paper of that semester. Ryan forces Hari to get the Key who takes the key of Cherian’s office without the Neha’s notice. After a long struggle they steal the copy of the question paper for which they have been caught red-handed. This incident shows us the real picture of the student life. When the students are not in a situation to cope up with the exam, they indulge themselves into discriminating means like the approach of Ryan and his friends.

Prof. Veera, Prof. Duby, Neha and Alok's mother are the minor characters in the novel. Among them Prof. Veera a young professor is able to understand the feeling of the trio. Due to the humble efforts of Prof. Veera the trio are saved from the Disciplinary Committee of the college in stealing the semester question paper. Prof. Cherian realizes the whole situation and decide to unburden his heart by disclosing all the hidden facts regarding Samir and the reason for not accepting Ryan's plan. He then criticizes GPA (Grade Point Average) system. At the end of the novel, there is an inevitable transformation in the attitude of Prof. Cherian. For the first time in the novel he realizes the importance human relationships, rebukes the materialistic approach of the human beings. Prof. Cherian makes a clean breast at the last and additionally he adds,

And that is when I realized that GPAs make a good student, but not a good person. We judge people here by their GPA. If you're a nine, you are the best. If you are a five, useless. I used to despise the low GPAs so much that when Ryan submitted a research proposal on lubricants, I judged it without even reading it. But these boys have something really promising. I saw the proposal the second time. I can tell you, an investor who invests in this will earn a rainbow. (Bhagat 261)

Thus, the novel contains some memorable characters who are different in nature, ambition and attitude. Ryan's aristocratic living is contrasted by Alok's seriousness towards his grading. But Hari makes the balance between the two. Among the trio Ryan is more intelligent and possesses an inventive brain. His research project as well as his C&D plan is the clear evidence of his resourceful brain. In the same way Prof. Cherian's character is quite transformational in the novel. At the beginning of the novel, he is rigid, serious, dry and disciplined. He never allows any kind of trivialities in life. The transformation which takes place in his character is not dramatic, but the result of his own failure to understand the importance of human relationships. His own son is the victim of his own dream. Then he understood the essence of relations, but time has already run out from his hands. His declaration about the grading system and the fact that the students other than IIT are not inferior to anyone in talent. Thus, at the end of the novel provides poetic justice to the thoughts of Prof. Cherian.

Conclusion:

Chetan Bhagat thus has succeeded to reveal the burning issue of the today's younger generation. Thus, the story line of the novels *Five Point Someone* finally speaks about the harsh rules and regulations existing in Elite Engineering colleges. Bhagat has expressed his entire experience that he had in the technical college in an epigrammatic manner. Chetan Bhagat in the true sense has made a mockery of the educational system. The system which eats two to three students every year due to its impression is exactly what he wanted to reveal. The novel makes no negative impact of Indian Education System

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