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RESEARCH ARTICLE

DILEMMA AND INNER CONFLICT OF THE YOUTH IN FIVE POINT SOMEONE

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ABSTRACT

Chetan Bhagat's novels are deep-rooted in the contemporary society. They take up the lives, incidents and psyche of the new generation. In his debut novel *Five Point Someone*, Chetan Bhagat raised the issues related to education system like lack of disciplines, ragging, mindless mugging. Bhagat shows the behavior of students in campus and college. Lack of disciplines and Rowdiness of student is very big problem in contemporary education system. He shows students' problem they face in institution and their personal, family and social problems. The present paper deals with the dilemma and inner conflict of the youth and present education system.

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INTRODUCTION

Literature is said to be a reflection of the society in which it was born. Different periods and styles of literature reflect the changes that took place in that particular society at various points in time. Political and economic changes affect the psychology of the people and since literature is created by human beings, it cannot help being influenced by such changes. So the novelist writes what he feels. Fiction transforms the actual world into the imaginary world. The novelist's interpretation of the social scene around him conveys, nevertheless, his conviction and purpose. Literature deals with the period and its problems, hopes and fears. A novel is not merely a photographic picture of society but a reflection of social facts and conditions of the particular moment in which it is written. The sufferings and problems of people are the sufferings and problems of the characters. Literature shows both the good and bad sides of the society, criticizes and appreciates them and this pattern may be termed as social criticism. If an assessment is made of the last three decades, it can be seen that industrialization, demographic changes, social mobility, modernization, advancement of information technology, globalization, capitalist production, consumerism, extent of urbanization, etc. are the factors which cause 'anarchy' in the present times.

Their impact is tangible on literature also. The raw material for the novelist comes from the actual world in which he lives, people he meets, social customs, traditions, beliefs and superstitions, etc. When he recreates his fictional world, they swarm into his memory and find a place in his fiction.

Concept: Chetan Bhagat is one of the famous celebrities of India. By profession, he is an Indian writer, journalist and screenwriter, known prominently for his English-speaking books, usually in light of the lives of young urban working-class Indians. Bhagat has had over seven million duplicate sales of books and in 2008, The New York Times called Bhagat "the greatest English-speaking writer in the history of India". There are many Bollywood films that have been based on Chetan Bhagat's novels, such as *Half Girlfriend*, *Kai Po Che*, *Kick*, *2 States* and more. Throughout the journey, Chetan Bhagat gives us a lot of inspired books, novels that we should read at least once in our entire lives. Chetan Bhagat's novels are deep-rooted in the contemporary society. They take up the lives, incidents and psyche of the new generation. His novels sell like anything. In his novels, Bhagat takes up the problems of the masses which have been directly affecting the popular Culture. Chetan Bhagat's characters try to negotiate the contemporary situations by gaining immediate success. They propagate the middle class and capitalistic values with a purpose to refine them.

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Analysis: Chetan Bhagat's debut novel *Five Point Someone* was published in the year 2004.

The Hindi movie *3 Idiots* is based on this book. The subject matter of the novel is very simple and lucid. His writing style is straight forward. In the beginning of book he tells his reader that this book is not going to tell you how to crack IIT. This book tells, how to live in IIT and what not to do in IIT. This is a story of three friends Kumar, Ryan Oberoi and Alok Gupta who are Mechanical Engineering students, studying in IIT-Delhi. Hari Kumar is the narrator of the story he belongs to middle class family he is average student. Alok Gupta comes from poor family he is average student he has family responsibilities so he wants to get job as soon as possible to help his family. Ryan Oberoi is intelligent than both of his friends. He belongs to rich class his parents lives abroad. The very first day of college they face ragging. Ryan saves Hari and Alok.

Ryan has a different perspective to look at things and situations. He is not a 'yes' personality. He is very innovative in his ideas and opinions. In the classroom his ideas and creative thinking is not accepted he is scold when he try something different to solve the problem or when he presents any creative idea. All three friends cannot cope with the current academic atmosphere in their institution. In engineering institutions they always lives in pressure of exams and grades. Hari and Alok start mugging because there are so many exams and surprise test. Ryan does not like mugging and suggest them to get some time for enjoyment. They start enjoying their life ; they drinks and smoke. There is a girl, Neha Cherian, the daughter of Prof. Cherian. Hari and Neha are in relationship. They frequently meet and once enjoy physical pleasure also. As the result of this they get poor grades in that semester. After that they try to adjust them in the rigid and lifeless system of education in one of the most reputed technological institutions of India. They do not find interest in the lengthy assignments, surprise tests and mugging the theories. The fear of not getting good grades made them to commit mistake and they try to steal questions paper from Prof. Cherion's office and caught red handed. They are expelled for a semester Alok could not bear it and commits suicide but saved. Another character who committed suicide is Samir, Prof. Cherion's son. His father wanted him to become engineer he gave entrance but could not pass the exam under parental pressure and he committed suicide. In the end of the novel all three friends ended about five point grades but Hari and Alok gets job. Prof. Veera recognizes Ryan's talent, creativity and put him as his research assistant.

In the novel *Five Point Someone*, Chetan Bhagat shows the behavior of students in campus and college. Lack of disciplines and Rowdiness of student is very big problem in contemporary education system. The class rooms are mostly found empty and canteens are always houseful in institution. Students want enjoyment more and education less. Many institutions face this problem it affects the institution. Lack of discipline among students is something that's affecting the society. The use of abusive language , disrespect towards teachers, free fighting in educational institutions, insisting on copying in the examination, ragging, strikes by students, etc. It can be commonly seem among students. The future seems dark. There are many other causes of indiscipline like the lack of attention from parents , pressure from friends or peer pressure, absence of value based education, lack of a good role model , our defective educational system- where too much stress is given only on the completion of the textbooks within allotted time. As teachers are under pressure of completion of the textbooks

they just stop to give moral education to their students. As a result, character formation becomes secondary. In his debut novel *Five Point Someone*, Chetan Bhagat raised the issues related to education system like lack of disciples, ragging, mindless mugging. He shows students' problem they face in institution and their personal, family and social problems. Chetan Bhagat shows IIT Delhi reputed institution produces many engineer every year faces this problem of lack of discipline. One student's behavior affects other and gradually many students leave proper way of living and behaving. In the novel Ryan who does not like the education system it seems him like a burden of exams and the only thing students do here us mugging for exams. He influences his friends who believe in mugging saying that "This system of relative grading and overburdening the students. I mean it kills the best fun years of your life" (FPSO-35). He suggests decentralization of education and draw a line they decide "A day of classes, then three hours a day of studies and rest is our time"(FPSO-40).

As in Bhagat's other novels, it is almost entirely about friendship, a trio of young men thrown together. Chetan Bhagat's *Five Point Someone* is a story about three friends and four years in IIT. Three hostel mates — Alok, Hari and Ryan get off to a bad start in IIT— they screw up the first class quiz. While they try to make amends, things only get worse. It takes them a while to realise: If you try and screw with the IIT system, it comes back to double screw you. Before they know it, they are at the lowest echelons of IIT society. They have a five-point-something GPA out of ten, ranking near the end of their class. This GPA is a stain that will remain with them, and come in the way of anything else that matters — their friendship, their future, their love life. While the world expects IITians to conquer the world, these guys are struggling to survive. We can see the results of this the main character Hari, Alok and Ryan frequently found drinking Vodka in the terrace of the institute building, smoking cigarettes and turning the pages of pornographic magazines in hostel rooms. Ragging is any disorderly conduct whether spoken or written or by an act which causes annoyance, hardship or psychological harm to a student. It is generally committed by senior students upon the first year students. There are a few senior students in every hostel who do not take enough interest in studies. They indulge in raging, bullying, etc. They create an image of themselves as rowdies. Indian college and higher education institution have common problem of ragging. Ragging involves abuse, humiliation or harassment of new entrants or junior students by the senior students.

Ragging is the practice being in educational institutions across the world. Ragging is any disorderly conduct that has the effect of teasing or handling with rudeness any student, which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, harm or to raise fear in a junior so as to adversely affect the psyche of the junior. In the novel novelist has raised the issue of ragging in Indian institutions. All the freshers are called on balcony for ragging by senior students like Anurag, Baku and other seniors. Baku screams over them "You bloody freshers, dozing awayeh? Rascles, who will give an introduction? " (FPSO-3). Seniors uses abusive languages "You bastards, Off with your clothes."(FPSO-3) They make their fun laugh on their naked body Baku says " Look at them, mothers fed them until they are ready to explode, little Farex babies".(FPSO-4) poor juniors had no option they removed their cloths. Imagine the condition of fresher students who is just arrived in college living in hostel far away from his family and facing humiliation before so

many seniors. Alok pleads “sir, please sir, let us go sir.” But the seniors are not in a mood to let them go and they force them to bend down. Baku says: “what? Let you go? We haven’t even done anything yet to your beauties. C’mon bend down on all fours now, you two fatsos” (FPSO-4). In this novel Chetan Bhagat showed the education system and such type of evil practices happening in higher education institutions in India. Ragging has become a culture in our higher educational institutions where seniors humiliate and torture junior students, next year when junior become senior they also treat their junior as they were treated by senior. In this way it has become a tradition in our education institution just like a social customs which has to be followed. This evil practice raises fear in junior students the victims of ragging suffer maximum in forms of depression, isolation, demoralization and many other forms of detrimental effects on the personality. In extreme cases, the victim can even commit suicide due to the mental pressures that develop over a period of time. This spoils the careers of the innocent students in previous year students who could have given their best to society. Due to spoiled career they take sometimes wrong path. Which exploit our society.

The novel *Five Point Someone* throws light on serious issue of contemporary Indian education system, that is, mindless mugging. Mugging has become the very serious issue in our education system. Students do not pay attention what is being taught in the classroom they prefer to buy readymade notes like 20 question or any market guide. They want to read specific study materials which only could pass them with good marks. Our society has become obsessed with marks and grades. Parents pressurize their children to get good marks, grades so that they may feel proud. Anyhow student want to get good marks so that they can get admission in any course. for obtaining maximum score in the examination they cram out the notes and theories mindlessly is becoming an unavoidable constraint. People who pass through mugging gives nothing new to the society because they do not have deep knowledge of things so they can not add anything to the existing knowledge. The novel *Five Point Someone* exposes the examination pattern in IIT, which produces engineers to our country and to the world. In the novel Hari says "Boss, mugging is the price one pays to get the IIT tag. You, mug, you pass and you get job." (FPSO-25). He accepts to get in IIT he mugged and by mugging he can get good grades and will get a job. In present time mostly student thinks like Hari to achieve good grades and success. But in the novel Ryan, one of the chief protagonist doesn't believe in mugging he scornfully says to his other two friends: “Let us mug and cram, otherwise, how we will become great engineers of this great country”(FPSO-18).

Chetan Bhagat through his novel throws light on such professors who do not motivate students, do not allow new ideas of students considering it nuisance by them to distract the class. If someone raises questions they humiliate or shut him up by scolding. So students keep listening passively in class room this also crushes the innovative ideas and new thinking of students. This is shown by Chetan Bhagat in the novel when professor Vohra asks students to draw a car jack design to lift car to change flat tyre. Ryan tries to make innovative idea for same problem. When Prof. Vohra sees it he becomes irritated. He is the professor who do not allow new innovative ideas from students he wants them to do things as he wants. His conversation with Ryan shows it:

“What is this?” Prof. Vohra said, twisting his head around to make sense of Ryan’s unfamiliar drawing.

“Sir, this is a modified screw-jack,” Ryan said, “It can be attached to the car’s battery...”

“Is this an electrical engineering class?” “No sir, but the end need is the same...”

“Is this an internal combustion engines class?” “Sir, but...”

“If you don’t want to be in my class or follow my course, you may leave.” (FPSO-117)

“Sir, this is a new design,” Ryan said,

“Really? And who told you to do that?” Ryan did not answer, just lifted his assignment sheet. Then there in one stroke, he ripped it apart in two pieces. “There it is useless now,” Ryan said. Prof Vohra’s face contorted and turned red, “Don’t act smart in my class.” “Sorry sir,” I said, though it was not for me to say it (FPSO-118).

This type of professor do nothing new in their teaching and not allow students to think different ideas. If we just mug up the existing knowledge how could we discover new things. If it had been always we could not have invented anything in science and engineering. Running behind grades has crushed creativity in our society and country. Person of class want to achieve good marks and grades if it can be achieved through mugging they don't see any harm in it. Getting success through mugging has become social thinking every parents forces their children any how to get higher marks. If a student understand concept and learns thoroughly for him it could be difficult to finish the semester syllabus. So he also leaves understanding and learning and focuses on mugging so that he may perform well in examination. Ryan seems the indirect voice of Chetan Bhagat himself against the lifelessness and rigidity of the contemporary Indian education system. The issue of mindless mugging has been criticized very strongly in the novel. The author wants to convey a clear message how the creativity and original ideas are crushed under the domination of rigidity and mindless mugging in contemporary education system of India. The present education system forces students to follow traditional direction and there is no scope for an original idea. Students live in constant mental pressure of examination like Alok and Hari in the novel. The education system of the contemporary Indian society is depicted in the novel is very disappointing. Students become victims of the system. Students are not happy with the prevalent atmosphere of the institute. The protagonists of the novel, Hari, Alok and Ryan are from lower or middle class family they face hardships in institutions and they have their family and personal problems and responsibilities. The portrayal of the society and the life of the people in the novel *Five Point Someone* is the representation of the ground reality of contemporary Indian society. Chetan Bhagat draws a very appropriate and realistic picture of it.

CONCLUSION

Though the nations are trying to do a lot for youth but on the other hand they are worried about them as they are sometimes wasting their time for useless things or using talent for wrong works, etc. The story of the novel takes some dark turns every now and then, especially when it comes to the families of the protagonists. Most of the action, however, takes place inside the campus as the boys, led by the ever creative Ryan, frequently lamenting how the internationally lauded IIT system has stifled their creativity by forcing them to value grades

more than anything else. Uninspiring teaching and numerous assignments add to their woes. India is also trying to focus on youth and issues of youth. Society should give special attention towards the issues related to youth because they are the future of nation. So it is necessary to utilize the power of youth as well as intelligence of youth for better building the nation. Indian writers of this age are also trying to present such issues through their works. Chetan Bhagat through his *Five Point Someone* depicts youths, youth oriented views, youth's problems, and their inner struggle while coping with the present education system as well as the picture of youth culture.

The present paper is an attempt to analyze Chetan Bhagat's *Five Point Someone* in the context of dilemma and inner conflict of the youth and present education system. It also deals with the youth issues and their protesting voice about the present education system reflected in the novel. *Five Point Someone* is deeply objectionable in the lack of a moral code, and even generous acts of friendship are often arbitrary or deceived – and there is much in writing. But it is definitely readable, and even has a pretty fascinating story with all its flaws.

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(Abbreviation“FPSO”)
