

“CHETAN BHAGAT’S ART OF CHARACTERIZATION IN REVOLUTION 2020”**Dr. Kanna Muthiah***Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Sadakathullah Appa College, Tirunelveli*

“Chetan Bhagat’s Art of Characterization in *Revolution 2020*” aims at analyzing the characters in Chetan Bhagat’s novel *Revolution 2020*. It also analyses in detail the contemporary youth’s struggle for their ambition and love in the corrupted society. To judge Chetan Bhagat by the yardstick of the quality, rather than the effectiveness, of his prose is to miss what he is trying to do. He is saying something to young Indians that has not been said before in quite that way; he is reaching an extraordinarily large number of readers; and he is seeking to use his reach to bring about a change in the country, starting with the mindsets of young Indians. This is why he must be read. Chetan Bhagat may not use many big words, but he does have a big idea: to write books that people (Indians who do not normally want to read literary fiction) will pick up and relate to, in prose they can understand without feeling they are being talked down to—and to use these books to call on young, aspiring middle-class Indians to change the India they are living in.

Indian authors have influenced an entire generation with their writing. They have contributed to the world of English literature and books in regional languages, Indian authors in English have portrayed India; its rich cultural heritage and societal rules to readers in the west. The flowering of Indian writers is most remarkable fact in the field of fiction. An Indian author is known by his literary skill, his fondness to write about India and life outside one’s homeland. Since they hail from varied educational and cultural background, Indian authors present a kaleidoscopic overview of the vibrant nation. Their writings have influenced readers from all walks of life and will continue to do so. Chetan Bhagat’s contribution to English fiction is a precious laurel in the crown of Indian fiction. His novels have an extraordinary satirical portrayal of the contemporary society, his psychological depth of the characters, his original style and humoristic approach. He has certainly exercised a great influence on the readers.

The Indian English literature is only one and a half centuries old. The first book ever written by an Indian in English was by Sake Dean Mahomet titled *Travels of Dean Mahomet*, Mahomet’s travel narrative which was published in 1793 in England. Besides the legendary and hugely respected Indian English literary personalities like Rabindranath Tagore or R.K.Narayan, later novelists like Kamala Markandaya, Manokar Malgaonkar, Anita Desai, have ceaselessly captured the spirit of an independent India struggling to break away from the British and traditional Indian cultures and have established a distinct identity. Like that of his earlier novels, the story of “*Revolution 2020*” is also centered on the Indian middle class: their aspirations, anxieties, and battle for love and wealth. Chetan Bhagat, who belongs to the same strata of the society, reveals the predicament of their lives as an insider’s view. This novel depicts typical Chetan Bhagat writing. It starts with the Prologue

which introduces us to the background of the story and how the story originated, and ends with the epilogue, which provides an apt closure. The protagonist of the novel is Gopal, who also narrates the story. Of the three central characters depicted in the book, the author has selected the right person's narration.

"Aarti, he said.

Aarti who? Someone you like? I hazarded a guess.

Like is not the word, Chetan-ji.

You loved her? I smiled.

Imagine every sadhu and priest in Varanasi. More than all their devotion put together, that's how much I loved her." (R2020: P- 7)

The starting conversation between Gopal and Chetan Bhagat is nice and tinctures interest among the readers. Chetan Bhagat is curious to know Gopal's story and so our expectations rise. Soon, the three main characters are introduced in their childhood where their mental images are portrayed with a 'tiffin stealing' scene. Gopal is ready to break the codes; Raghav respects the codes, and Aarti ready for their love. The story has the usual and his own way of focusing the social issues and this time it is 'Corruption'.

The chapters involving the AIEEE and JEE preparation focus on the psychological trauma in the child unable to compete for the competitive exam is brought out well. Some dialogues like, "Nine lakh fifty thousand of us didn't." (R2020: P- 32), "I imagined myself in a sea, along with lakhs of other low-rankers, kicking and screaming to breathe. The waters closed over us, making us irrelevant to the Indian education system. Three weeks and the AIEEE tsunami would arrive." (R2020: P- 24) are really good and reflects the reality. The scenes are perfectly relevant in the Indian context and Chetan Bhagat did a nice job by exposing them out. The inferiority complex developed in the child as a result of not cracking the exam is also brought out well. This is the main factor that has forced Gopal to embrace the corrupt practices. Promise of a seat in a decent college would have stopped him. It is pretty common in India and every student who prepared for JEE and AIEEE would correlate with it. The writer has very well portrait the life of a student who went to another city for studies but failed in his education. The author has clearly highlighted the rotten Indian education system and corruption that exists till date. Gopal's cribbing about not getting a good rank is the fate of Indian Education system and most of the student community would have crossed this pace in their life. This is where the fate of a student's life is chosen by the ranks they get than they themselves choosing it. Gopal's chats and sms's with Aarti are decent and sometimes very funny. Chetan Bhagat has got in to the shoes of his characters. The inclination of Aarti towards Raghav which results into Gopal's jealousy and frustration are also nicely brought out. The Varanasi backdrop is fine but is not captivating as there is no specific description made in the novel.

In the meanwhile, some glimpses are provided about Raghav's passion by Aarti. "Raghav believes there will be a real people's revolution in India one day, that's his thing" (R2020: P- 149). Excepting the fact that he is busy himself most of time he turns out to be a

disappointment for Aarti. This busy factor only served the purpose of love blossoming between Gopal and Aarti. All the things Raghav did are expected, predictable and the consequences are also likely. Chetan Bhagat has portrayed in such a way that the corruption part where Gopal rises with the help of MLA is brought out well. Chetan Bhagat has done good amount of research in it. The anti corruption movement of Anna Hazare also reverberates in the novel by the crusade of Raghav against the Shukla MLA ,who stands for the corruption incarnated of Indian politics. When he is jailed for the scam, he tells to Gopal “Six months maximum. Plus they get me everything. You want to eat from Taj Ganga?” (R2020: P- 254). There is no dearth of such examples in Indian polity. Chetan Bhagat, as an individual has done much in that direction and the novel also, no doubt, share the writer's views and attitudes which are very much noticeable in “*Revolution 2020*”.

The character of Aarti is confusing both to the author and to the readers. Raghav ‘termed’ as a passionate and inspiring individual loses importance in the last two chapters. The only character with which the reader can stay in tuned is Gopal. In the end, the readers are left to wonder who is right and who is wrong. Probably Gopal is right since he has purified his soul being a part in Varanasi and is responsible for Raghav to contest in the election. May be Chetan Bhagat expected every corrupt one would have to do the same by 2020 and hence the name of the novel.

“*Revolution 2020*” portrays how corruption is prevalent in the education system, how bribes are taken and given at every nook-n-corner, how everyone even the uneducated and the illiterates are eligible to open educational institutions - if one has adequate land.

“*You want to open a college? I haven’t even been to college,’ I said.*

“*Most people who own colleges in India haven’t. Stupid people go to college.*

“*Smart people own them,’ said Sunil.*” (R2020: P- 120).

ChetanBhagat provides us the image of corruption through the bags full of cashes, false inspections, and fraudulent degree certificates that have become the bane of India. There is also wonderful material in the novel on the vast decline of coaching institutes and tutorial centers that have mushroomed around the country. “*Revolution 2020*” also touches upon the plight of students in India and how important it is to get into one of the “top” colleges. And finally, it shows how one man can actually make a significant difference in the society, if he is passionate enough. The most striking feature about this novel is that it is written so appealing that it compels the readers to complete it in one sitting. He can satisfy the readers with his style of writing and his popularity indicates they are enjoying it. He shows a conversational intimacy towards his readers throughout the narration. He is not an outsider in the story, but in all of his novels one can identify the presence of a man who went through all of the similar situations what he narrates.

In *Revolution 2020*, Chetan Bhagat has exposed himself as the master weaver of characters. In “*Revolution 2020*”, the main characters, Gopal, Raghav and Aarti are

youngsters and all these characters reflect the attitude and life style of common people living around us. The protagonist of "*Revolution 2020*" acts as a mouthpiece of Chetan Bhagat. The readers could relate themselves with these characters. Gopal, Raghav and Aarti are childhood friends and the story revolves around them and their hankering in life. Chetan Bhagat wants a corruption free nation and he conveys this idea through these characters. Gopal is a round character. He has many complex traits and his characteristic features develop and change in "*Revolution 2020*". Aarti could be classified as a dynamic character. She represents the events and experiences happening in the novel and has a change in attitude. The antagonist in "*Revolution 2020*" is the corrupted society. The contemporary society is unfair in law and rules and it is an obstacle for these three main characters. They struggle hard to achieve their goal. Gopal's goal is to marry Aarti and to make "quick money" and succeed his friend Raghav. Raghav's goal is to make India a corruption free nation. Aarti's ambition is to be an airhostess and marry the boy of her wish and not of her parents. The main twist of the story is that both Raghav and Gopal loved the same girl, Aarti. The other supporting characters are Baba (Gopal's father) and Shukla (Corrupted Politician). Baba represents the nature and attitude of most of present day's parents of today's society. Shukla is the foil character in "*Revolution 2020*". His character is a contrast to Raghav's in nature. Shukla is a corrupt politician. Raghav fights against him and Gopal is carried away by the wicked principles of Shukla and thus Gopal succeeds in his goal of making "quick money". But towards the end, Gopal realizes his mistakes and blunders. He indirectly helps Raghav to make a revolution to reform the society from the clutches of corruption and thus Gopal does his character as portrayed by Chetan Bhagat in "*Revolution 2020*". It is only through the character of Raghav, Chetan Bhagat fulfils his dream and conveys his message of "The corruption free India" to his readers. Raghav is the one who makes the revolution but the path is laid by Gopal and he is the real hero.

Gopal is the protagonist of "*Revolution 2020*." The narrative thereafter continues in the first person and the readers see and experience things through Gopal's eyes. However the author writes so deftly that though Gopal narrates 99% of the story, we are able to detach ourselves from him and judge him critically in a manner. Gopal's story is quite different from Raghav's. A local corrupted politician identifies him and uses him, through this youth he corrupts the education system sets up a local engineering college. Through telling the story of Gopal's entanglement in the murky world of corruption, Chetan Bhagat provides some fascinating material on the dark underbelly of privatized higher education in India.

The character of Gopal is well sketched out, and Mr. Chetan Bhagat has clothed him in flesh and blood adding more teeth to his character than any other in the book. He is a common man with a common life. He has all the emotions love for Aarti, vengeance for his father's brother, inferiority in front of Raghav. All he wanted is to do something to make a living and get an Engineering degree but just the 15 acres of land turned his life to a place where he wouldn't have even dreamt of. There was a hint of villain in his display during the

situation when the small kid of his father's brother was kidnapped but what can you expect he is just an ordinary man who enjoys when its pay time. The story evolves and revolves around him. Aarti is the soul of this story and the prime motivating reasons for Gopal to embark on a lifelong quest for her love that had started in his childhood. The character mirrors the majority of people in India and can therefore be readily identified by anybody as to be his own.

Through the character of Gopal, Chetan Bhagat has tried to convey that what an aspiring student goes through if he somehow does not end up qualifying to leading educational institutions in India. These educational institutions have created a myth for themselves in the minds of students and parents. The desire to reach the coveted seat is high and Gopal is swept off his feet in this wild hurry all the time craving for the love of Aarti. "Look at Raghav", yes the new medicine being shoved down every Varanasi kid's throat right now." (R2020: P- 41). Gopal keeps sulking and is determined to get Aarti somehow but the more he pressurizes her, the more distant she goes. He is also jealous of his best friend Raghav's success. He becomes aware that getting into the hallowed halls of any IIT would make his beloved fall in love with him again. Therefore Gopal decides to go down man level and this is brought out effectively by the author and gets the readers very keen and immersed into the story. The story next effectively mirrors the unfortunate drowning of multitude of students who are forced to pursue a dream not of their own liking and eventually accept after a brief struggle.

Further down the story, the failure of Gopal is seen. "We are losers. We don't get things easily. Marks, ranks, girls- nothing is easy for us" (R2020: P- 79). The failure in the entrance exam for engineering courses and subsequent death of his father makes the life of Gopal miserable. Even though he fails to get admission to engineering college, he himself becomes a director of engineering college with the help of a corrupt politician named Shukla. He selects the path of corruption along with Shukla, the MLA and manages the illegal money of the MLA. When the magnitude of his failure sinks in, he decides to somehow fulfill the dream of his father. "You have to give it your best. Look at Raghav. He's set for life, Baba said." (R2020: P- 41). The narrative of Chetan Bhagat, delicately captures the burden of most of the parents who thrust onto the shoulders of their children of their own unfulfilled dreams and achievements. And the young Gopal is seen rushing off to fulfill his father's dream without having the maturity to understand the complexity of this decision or its consequences. Gopal gets a chance to encounter with a confident marketing executive, suddenly the luck changes in his favour for the first time. Now the story deals with the complex business of setting up a college in India. The irregular and twisting laws which could be easily influenced with the right amount of cash. He is no stranger to struggles in life whether it is tackling the entrance exams of IITs and NITs or finding his ambition in life. He feels that only money can get you happiness. This conversion never stops to amaze the reader throughout the story. Gopal is again swept off into the confused movement of setting up a college. Gopal slowly intrudes into the life of his

beloved, Aarti and makes silent efforts of bringing her away from the object of her affections.

Somehow Gopal's college gets inaugurated and he settles down to run it all the same time trying ways to get closer to Aarti. After many encounters he manages to quite a major degree to change the perception of Aarti about Raghav. Love can make people do silly things and try harder when the odds are stacked against you. Gopal incessantly makes the effort and they are treated to some very good conversations which show the deep insecurities that women in India live in with all the time.

The jealousy so strongly felt by Gopal for Raghav for stealing away the love of his life has slowly, with time, changes completely into revenge. Now he has Aarti safely secured with him, now he has an urge in getting even with Raghav. Basically, deep down, Gopal is fighting a duel with himself, he cannot let go of his past failure of not being able to break into the ranks of IIT and is holding a lifelong grudge against his friend. Now that he has won back some respect for himself, he tries to face his own guilt. Gopal has a guilt which he owns to his father. But the encounter with Raghav changes Gopal psychologically and emotionally and the sense of jealousy and feelings of revenge gives way to respect. He wins the love of Aarti also. But his notions of victory change when the novel ends.

Gopal has a change of outlook in life and the sense that he should do something to change the tide of corruption because of his bitter experience while setting up the college, Gopal decides that the right thing that needs to be followed is to take a step back from the life of his beloved, Aarti. He chased Aarti for his entire life but now he lets her away for a good cause. He sacrifices his love for Aarti. He leaves her back to his once estranged friend, Raghav. With his sacrifice he seals the love of Aarti and Raghav. He does so, so that Raghav, who is a idealist, who wants to change the nation into a corruption free land could to become a MLA, because who ever marries Aarti, who is from a family which has political power, will have the chance to contest in the election. Gopal thinks that Raghav will be the perfect youth to change the world rather than him. Gopal makes Aarti believe that he is a lustful lover and thus he sacrifices and also does his part for the revolution.

In the end Gopal returns to the beginning, emotionally trying to find solace in alcohol for his self inflicted wound which is seconded as good by the author. Perhaps Chetan Bhagat has a moral obligation of letting the generation of youngsters who believe in his words that it is not a crime to hold onto values and one is perfectly moral of not sacrificing it for the greater cause. It is the weakness of Gopal as a person which made him step back and passed up the gauntlet to his friend whom he found far more capable than him to be the agent of change that he yearns but lacks the courage to do it himself.

Aarti is heavily toned down in beauty and appeal. "Statements such as 'the most beautiful girl in Sunbeam School', 'she should be an actress,' or 'she can apply for Miss India' became increasingly common", "Aarti did make Varanasi skip a heartbeat." (R2020: P- 21). Not for even one, Chetan Bhagat refers to her physical beauty and so one is left to imagine as one pleases. There is not a single direct introduction of her goodness or chastity

that will get Gopal devoted onto her. So in a sense Chetan Bhagat has perhaps deliberately avoided the physical description of each of his creations.

The character of Aarti is fashioned generically without special credits, successful without making much effort, like many of her generation girls, through choices. Chetan Bhagat was solely interested to expose or show the plague of corruption that seeped into one's life. Aarti could have been done away with her being so intense and enchanting. She is a kind of girl who takes stupid and swift decisions on relationships and is not able to stand by that. "Aarti and I had a deeper relationship. We saw Raghav as a friend, but not a close one." (R2020: P- 25). She was in love with Gopal, if had he not left Varanasi for coaching she would have loved him but things happened in a different way without her expectations. Aarti was always in need of company, when Raghav provided it she falls in love with him and when he was busy with the his ambition, he did not have time for her and when Gopal gave her his love and time she falls in love with him betraying Raghav. This is the way Chetan Bhagat had portrayed her character. Aarti is weak in nature; she does not make a firm decision in her life. She has an unsteady mind and she is not able to judge people. Aarti is not able to understand what life is and what her contribution to this society is. Her character is a replica of most of the teen girls in the contemporary society who are often indecisive and make wrong decisions in life being unable to understand what life is. Aarti steps in to fill this; it would have been a void in narration without her. She surrenders to powerful men, men who lust, long and cherish her. The readers are treated to her insecurities, her aspirations, her loneliness and her expectations which mirror the average girl next door but she is educated, ambitious and intelligent and like the modern generation of her times still subservient to her family wishes and to generic Indian sensibilities and traditional values. So in a sense she is much more that what meets the eye. Aarti is the perfect example of Indian cultural and traditional values regarding women. The patriarchal values have slowly given way to accommodate an educated girl, freedom to pursue her dreams and tolerance of her sexual needs. So Aarti is an embodiment of partially free women of India obedient enough to uphold the traditional values of a patriarchal society and intelligent enough to pursue one' desires and dreams.

Above all Aarti stands out as the glue which holds together the framework of the narrative "*Revolution 2020*" works on another level too, it works as a modern fable of youth and corruption and here Raghav is the hero. He is a straight forward guy he is scared when Gopal took the chocolate cake in 5th grade but he grew up bold enough to progress as a Journalist after coming out from an IIT. He brings out the message - "you don't know what will you become", and also convey that "If you are bold enough you can make your passion as your profession". He turns from a profitable career in engineering to campaign for social justice on the campus of the university he attends in Varanasi. He is the grass roots whistleblower, uncovering corruption. He tells his supporters that real revolution will take time to happen. "The revolution will come in 2020". At a moment when India is exploding

with campaigns against corruption, many of them led by youth, Chetan Bhagat's novel is full of relevance.

The entire revolution is resting on the shoulders of Raghav and the author intends to start a revolution and subjectively and objectively uses the character to carry on his arguments. Raghav is an engineer turned journalist with a peculiar kind of firebrand journalism, his journal "Revolution 2020" caused unrest and kindles a revolution. Like any idealist, the system is not very kind of his particular taste in exposing corruption and thus begins his quest for understanding of his self. The author could have infused much more passion into the character but perhaps it was beyond the scope of the novella. Therefore it becomes an exercise of self indulgence.

Raghav's character is flat. Raghav, who gets admission to IIT, turns to be a sort of idealist. Even though he gets a job, he turns to journalism as the way to clean up the society. He gets a partial success, but has financially drained. He can only circulate his publication "Revolution 2020" less than 500 copies. Yet he can bring out the secret deals of Shukla and succeeds in sending him to jail. That affects the future of Gopal as his business deals are also closely connected with the politician. But Gopal realizes that Raghav's path is right and sacrifices his love for Aarti and makes her turn away from him. She finally selects Raghav. The narrative is unbalanced because it is being narrated by Gopal, so all the characters that grace this novel are told as what they mean to Gopal. So the characters are the projections of Gopal only and how he perceives them to be is the essence of the novella. The road seems to run out for Gopal by the end of the novel. But Raghav ends the story still hoping for a bright corruption free nation.

All these characters Gopal, Raghav and Aarti in "Revolution 2020" have their own strength and weakness. Gopal, throughout the novel has been a loser. At first, he lost the love of Aarti and when he regained it he voluntarily sacrifices her for a good cause. Gopal's weakness is that he did not have an ambition regarding his career. He became a failure in his studies and is jealous of Raghav. Gopal is money minded and bribes many politicians. But he realizes that he is imprudent and feels guilty in the end. The strength of Gopal is seen in sacrificing Aarti. She is the dream of his life he lives for her and her desires. Sacrificing Aarti is the greatest thing Gopal could never do. But he did it for the sake of the nation and that is the strength of Gopal's character. His character reflects how present day youth should be. They should come out of their illusion world to the reality.

Raghav's strength is that he is very intelligent, sincere and also ambitious. It is through him Chetan Bhagat tries to convey his message. Life is not all about merry making and working just for the sake of earning money. One has to follow his dreams; this is the message brought out through Raghav. Raghav is the most inspiring character in "Revolution 2020". Though Raghav had a good academic profile and is selected in many colleges he gave up all those offers just to become a journalist and through his writings he decides to root out the evils from his corrupted city or nation as a whole. The only weakness in Raghav's character is that he does not know to keep Aarti safe by his side. He does not give her

importance and space in his life. He loses her but gains her back and thus Chetan Bhagat justifies that the good will be rewarded.

Aarti is independent and a fun-loving girl. The strength in her character is that she chose to be independent but she is a traditional Indian girl. She wants to be an airhostess but is under her parents clutches as all Indian girls. The weakness in her character is that she is unable to make a firm decision and is also unable to judge people. She believes in whatever she sees and she does not stay faithful to Raghav and that is the grave mistake she commits in her life. She also has an insecure feeling and chose Gopal and not Raghav but at last she marries Raghav. Her character reflects the confused state of mind of a girl especially because of her age.

Chetan Bhagat tries to convey that amidst all their plus and minus, they struggle hard to achieve their ambition. Raghav achieves his goal but Gopal does not, Gopal has money but does not have a peaceful and happy life. Some of them fail and some of them reach their goal. To reach to the height of success one needs to sacrifice many a times the important moments and sometimes they even had to lose their loved ones and also their high position but sacrificing purifies their soul and makes them glorious. This is the message Chetan Bhagat brings out through his "*Revolution 2020*".

Chetan Bhagat has shown his revolutionary attitude especially to the contemporary youth and the corrupted society in the novel "*Revolution 2020*". The novel exposes corruption in India and how it is depriving the poor and feeding the rich. In fact the picture Chetan Bhagat shows is shocking by itself. It raises several questions in our minds about the present state of politics in our country which is dominating everything from education to the media. The portrayal of the youth characters struggling for their love and ambition is brought out effectively by Chetan Bhagat. He is considered a youth icon rather than just an author. With his vivid and humorous way of depicting stories, he has inspired reading habit in many young Indians. Chetan Bhagat has taken steps to provide youthful solution of reducing corruption. "*Revolution 2020*" is a love triangle story with the "revolution" theme taking a backseat for a major part of the book. Also, the theme is rather serious compared to his earlier novels and hence there is less humour in the book.

Chetan Bhagat's characters are pretty well etched that one can associate with any live character living next door. The narrative and flow of the story is well planned as it moves effortlessly from their childhood in Varanasi to Gopal's coaching class in Kota to them becoming adults. Gopal is a relatively poor fellow who's barely making ends meet. He is no stranger to struggles in life whether it is taking the entrance exams of IITs and NITs or finding his ambition in life. He strongly feels that only money can give him happiness. Raghav on the other hand is ready to mount a revolution against everything corrupt and wrong happening in the society. He strongly believes that someone has to stand up against the system to reform the society. Aarti is a happy girl who every boy would dream of having as his soul mate.

“*Revolution 2020*” is based on youngsters and the characters Gopal, Raghav and Aarti are moulded in such a way that they are the replica of the youth in the contemporary society. In “*Revolution 2020*”, “One wants to use his intelligence to make money. One, wants to use his intelligence to start a revolution” (back page of the blurb). Chetan Bhagat has crafted a dramatic plot with such sharply defined characters and the issues he deals are those that today’s youth will instantly relate to. The overall theme of “*Revolution 2020*” is being young, being corrupted, being confused, being in love and the human attitude of making “quick money”.

One of the prominent themes of the novel, which merit our attention, is the author’s truthful portrayal of the murky world of politics and manipulative journalism is tackled well. Chetan Bhagat presents realistically the inhuman and unworthy situations in the corrupted education system in India. The story is centered on Indian middle class, their aspirations, anxieties, battle ad struggle for love and wealth. Chetan Bhagat, who belongs to the same middle class strata of society, clearly reveals the predicament of their lives. “*Revolution 2020*” is an attempt to highlight the corruption rooted in India’s education system and bring out the anomaly of education. The fiery activism of Raghav who wants to bring about a change in society through journalism, despite having graduated as an engineer, is a diversion from the despondency of Gopal’s story, which is stronger and more rooted in life.

“This has to stop. We have to clean the system. Che Guevara, the great revolutionary, once said, ‘Power is not an apple that falls from a tree into your lap. Power had to be snatched from people who already have it.’ We have to start a revolution, a revolution that resets our corrupt system. A system ,that shifts power back into the hands of the people and treats politicians like workers, not kings.” (R2020: P- 205).

Chetan Bhagat tries to convey that amidst all their fortitude and foible, they struggle hard to achieve their mission. Raghav achieves his goal but Gopal does not, Gopal has money but does not have a peaceful and happy life. Some of them fail and some of them reach their goal. To reach to the height of success one needs to sacrifice many a times the important moments and sometimes they even had to lose their loved ones and also their high position but sacrificing purifies their soul and makes them glorious to attain success. This is the message Chetan Bhagat brings out through his “*Revolution 2020*”. The story wraps many issues in its folds - the corruption in education, mad rush for the coveted seats in esteemed engineering and medical colleges, the extent to which people are ready to endure to ensure a safe future through the lofty degrees and the pressure of performing and proving oneself which many times gets out of hands. But the story is basically a love triangle and the previously mentioned issues become the tributaries of the love saga between three friends.

“*Revolution 2020* a novel as such and there is no political agenda either. However when you look at politics in the broader sense in terms of making people think in a certain manner, then I am hoping *Revolution 2020* will do that to a certain extent”, says Chetan

Bhagat. It is inevitable that some of Chetan Bhagat thought about social issues will creep into his stories. However, he is very strict about not indulging in social messages too much. The book portrays how corruption is prevalent in the education system, how bribes are taken and given at every nook-n-corner, how anyone and everyone are eligible to open educational institutions-if you have adequate land. The book also touches upon plight of students in India and how important it is to get into one of the top colleges. And finally, it shows how one man can actually make a significant difference to the society, if he is passionate enough. To sum it up, the author has come up with a complete package of relationships- love, emotions, boy-girl relationships turning into man-woman relationships, jealousy and systematic loopholes- corruption, power-misuse and education system. On the whole the characters expose the corrupt education system, the profit- making private engineering colleges, issues of bribes, etc.

“Revolution 2020. That’s his goal. That India must have a full-blown revolution by 2020. Power will be the youth. We will dismantle the old corrupt system and put a new one in place.” (R2020: P- 197).

Chetan Bhagat brings out his message in the above lines. To conclude, if India has to change every individual has a role to contribute their share towards a great revolution. Everybody must give up a part of life to build the India of our dreams. The revolution has begun and the present day society especially the youth ought not to let this fire extinguish. Gopals have done their dues, Raghavs have started the march and Aartis have sacrificed what they required. Far behind the horizon laden with black clouds lies our goal. The characters of Chetan Bhagat shall be the flag marchers of “*Revolution 2020*”. This is the vision the writer expected from the society. Today’s youth shall be the architects of new India.

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