

Exploring Modern Indian Society through Chetan Bhagat's *Revolution 2020*

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Abstract

This paper explores how Chetan Bhagat's Revolution 2020 presents contemporary Indian society. The study examines socio-cultural, political, and economic facets that are shown in the narrative using a thematic analysis. Understanding the intricacies of modern Indian life, themes including corruption, the educational system, societal pressures, and youth aspirations are examined. Through an analysis of the experiences and interactions of the characters, this paper illuminates the difficulties people have when confronted with systemic problems such as socioeconomic inequality and corruption. It also talks about how Bhagat's story reflects the values, goals, and moral conundrums that characterize contemporary Indian culture. An enhanced comprehension of the complex tapestry of modern Indian life as it is shown in Revolution 2020 is made possible by this paper.

Keywords: Socio-Cultural Dynamics, Corruption, Education System, Societal Pressures, Youth Aspirations.

The way that society is shown in *Revolution 2020* is a fairly true representation of Indian society today. Money has more power in this culture than morality or any other form of values. In this culture, might makes justice. This is a community where the weaker people are subjugated by stronger powers. This is a civilization where moral principles such as honesty and truth are dying. It is a civilization where there is a generalized social and moral disorder. It's a society where situations involving the survival of the fittest have become common. Through the creation of fictional characters and events, the author has presented a realistic portrait of modern Indian culture.

The current novel's tale takes place in Varanasi, an ancient city that has long been revered by Hindus as a sacred site. The city is also known by the names Kashi and Banaras. It is believed to be the location of the entrance to salvation. In Hinduism, dying in Kashi is considered incredibly auspicious. This is where the Ganga River flows, which is once more regarded as the holiest river in India. Hindus believe that taking a bath in the Ganga's sacred water can erase all of their sins. Year after year, devout Hindus from all across the nation and the world travel to Varanasi. Despite Varanasi's rich religious and mythological past, the novel *Revolution 2020* presents a picture of the city that would startle any visitor to no end.

It appears that the author has presented a realistic portrait of society with great honesty.

The "Varanasi Model," which is imagined in the current novel, can be applied to any other Indian city as a representation of the

reality of the country's urban environment today. Similar to Varanasi, the entire nation has a rich and affluent human civilizational past, but the state of Indian society now hardly seems to promise even a fraction of that past.

The three main characters stand in for three distinct social classes in Indian society today. Gopal is a representative of the lower class, Raghav is from the affluent middle class, and Aarti comes from the upper class; her father is the city's district magistrate and her grandpa is the former chief minister of the state. Raghav's dad works at GAIL as an engineer. Gopal's father's failing health forced him to retire as a school teacher. His salary is insufficient to pay for further care. A recurring problem in Gopal's household is money. In addition, there are family arguments concerning the inherited land. His father is likewise fed up with the court system's delays. In order to support his family, he wants his son Gopal to pursue a career in engineering and a rigorous education. One could interpret Gopal and his father's struggles as a true portrayal of the lower classes in Indian society today. Gopal, Aarti, and Raghav experience mental strain when studying as students.

They are afraid of not succeeding. Parents put a lot of pressure on their children to perform well enough to be admitted to reputable engineering schools. At any costs, Gopal's father wants him to become an engineer. I mean, he's willing to spend all his savings on it.

The author appears to have captured the essence of the middle class mindset of modern India in this piece, where children must work hard in school to meet their parents' high standards. These circumstances occasionally cause people to develop several mental illnesses, which also cause suicide. The author has also seized the opportunity to criticize the coaching class culture of Kota, Rajasthan. Kota is well-known for its coaching programs, which annually prepare thousands of students for numerous entrance exams, including the AIEEE and IIT-JEE. Gopal, the main character, travels to Kota to receive tutoring as a repeater for the engineering entrance exam.

In modern India, the education industry has turned into a lucrative venture. Middle class parents are taken advantage of with their lifelong savings under the pretense of providing the best coaching and supervision. This applies not just to Kota but to all Indian cities and towns, no matter how big or little. The educational system has been completely overtaken by the coaching class culture. There has long been a belief that coaching is essential for greater academic performance and higher rankings. Throughout India, hundreds of parents make numerous financial modifications for their children's additional tutoring. It is also noted that a large number of professors are connected to the coaching class culture. They are seen pressuring their pupils to enroll in their coaching sessions or threatening them with failing grades. The way the author portrays this facet of modern Indian life here shows how realistic he has gotten. In the current fiction, the privatization of education has also received a lot of attention.

The modern Indian education system is in the wrong hands, with the sole intent being to amass ever-greater wealth from it. The job fair's description accurately captures the state of affairs in society. Large sums of money are being invested in the education industry by those who have no experience in it. In the book, the author satirically critiques these individuals. Politicians, businesspeople in the sari industry, the liquor industry, and builders all have an interest in education because they view it as a one-time investment that will provide lifetime profits.

In the current context, it is impossible to dispute this truth of modern India. The current literature portrays a society that is heavily involved in corruption of all kinds. Everyone is shown to be involved in corrupt activities of one kind or another, from top-ranking officers to small-time vendors and large corporate executives. Shop owners of cremation materials sell common wood as sandalwood by applying artificial fragrance to it; proprietors of ration shops engage in various forms of illicit marketing; LPG cylinders are sold illegally; and RT officers accept bribes.

Raghav exposes all these unscrupulous practises in *Revolution 2020*, his newspaper. The local constituency's current MLA, Shukla, is the main opponent.

He is deeply involved in a variety of corrupt activities. In the Ganga Action Plan, he has contributed thousands of rupees with the goal of purifying the Ganga River's water. He makes far more money by investing the illicitly obtained black money in a variety of ventures. Gopal, the novel's protagonist and the recipient of Shukla's illicit funds, founded and oversees an engineering college. Shukla is the college's silent partner. Gopal bought off a number of officials to construct the college, from Varanasi Nagar Nigam to the AICTE inspection personnel, in order to obtain various types of licenses. Such dishonest people bury the revolutionary voice of honesty and truth.

The author has demonstrated how corrupt people silence others who speak out against them by introducing Raghav. It also affects the press, which is regarded as the fourth pillar of Indian democracy. The influential individuals and the media leaders stay on good terms. They accept bribes without hesitation in exchange for publishing positive news.

The current novel's portrayal of a corrupt society clearly captures the essence of modern Indian culture. It may be difficult to locate a single government sector in India today that has not been bitten by the deadly sting of corruption. Gopal, Aarti, and Raghav embody the values and beliefs of the younger cohort within modern-day India. Their goals in life are lofty. Gopal aspires to become wealthy and powerful. Aarti's dream is to tour the world as an air hostess. Unlike the other two, Raghav is unique. His ambition is to bring about a revolution in order to address the current ill state of society. Gopal turns as one of the most corrupt people in the city in his heedless pursuit of money. He makes a lot of money by sacrificing some moral principles. After reaching the pinnacle of his alleged success because to his overly ambitious mindset, he discovers that he is alone. Aarti likes Gopal and is in love with Raghav. Raghav's labor for the country's cause keeps him too busy to spend time with her. Even as Aarti and Gopal become physically close, she doesn't think she has betrayed Raghav. The young characters in this story exhibit complicated thought processes and behavioral patterns that are indicative of the youth of modern-day India.

All things considered; the current novel's depiction of civilization is a true account of the real human society found in modern-day India. In the current work of fiction, the author has deftly captured the realistic image of contemporary society. Every observation and emotion made throughout the narrative touches on a different facet of the modern Indian social structure. In the current setting, nearly every incident in the book seems plausible. Every character and circumstance reflect the well-rounded normalcy of contemporary Indian culture. The novel's portrayal of modern India is essentially the same as the actual India outside of the country. The narrative can be overblown, but the reader is not misled by an idealistic universe; instead, it reads more like a social document of modern-day India.

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