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ON

## "Unravelling the Scope of Future Research in Humanities and Social Sciences"

# "ICUSFRHSS-2022"

26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

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# Proceedings of International Conference Unravelling the Scope of Future Research in Humanities and Social Sciences (ICUSFRHSS-2022)

26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

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# Reflection of Feminism in the Selected Novels of Chetan Bhagat

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## ABSTRACT

The rise of feminism is spread in all the fields and literature is not the exception for it. The present paper explores the feminism reflected in Chetan Bhagat's selected novels. Sociological elements observed in his novels. The researcher studied the feminist elements as well as gender sensitization observed in Bhagat's novels *One Indian Girl* and *Revolution 2020*. The study of female protagonists Radhika and Aarti were studied in the feminist point of view. Both the protagonists are in search of their true identity. They are bold and beautiful and never underestimate their status as a human being who had emotions also. They make revolt against the injustice occurred with them. They fight for their ambition in this modern but orthodox rooted world. The above mention novels also reflect the cross-cultural issues and the clash between traditional and modern thinking. His novels show the changing women's role as well as finding self in this contemporary Indian society. Bhagat had given the way to the revolting voice of women for their self-esteem.

**Keywords:** Feminism, reflected, gender sensitization, sociological elements, female-self, revolt.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

The following aims and objectives are planned for this study:

- To understand contemporary Indian cultural and feminist issues in the selected novels of Bhagat.
- To explore the female self of the women protagonists in Chetan Bhagat's selected novels.
- To build positive attitude towards literary research.

## Hypothesis

The detailed study of Chetan Bhagat's select fictional works opened the doors to his conspicuous understanding of contemporary Indian cultural and feminist issues which creates revolutionary change in the lives of major female characters.

- In the literary genre like novel the researcher finds various dimensions regarding to culture and female self regarding feminist approach which she has studied.



- Through the selected novels, the researcher has studied and understood the cultural and female self of contemporary Indian society.

## METHODOLOGY

- Deploying contemporary interpretative structure, an analysis of the narratives was evolved. This would centre on identifying the textual approach of the novelist in representing cultural and feministic aspects.
- On the basis of the above classification a textual interpretative of the novel was evolved towards the analyzing the cultural importance.

## INTRODUCTION

In the simple language feminism means both the genders i.e. male and female suppose to have equal rights with respective to work, opportunities in society, politics, education and other fields in which male dominance is observed from ancient times. The founder of the feminism is Mary Wollstonecraft. In 1792 she had published her book *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* in which she argues and demands for women's education. Feminism means the equality of the sexes. From the beginning women are treated unjustly and rudely in these societies. In Indian society the gender discrimination is observed. To avoid this injustice many women rose voice against it. During 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century the First-Wave of Feminism came into existence. In 1960s the Second Wave of feminism takes place. It gives legal and social equality for women. The Third-Wave of feminism rose in 1992 and it is based on individuality and diversity. Now the current Fourth-Wave movement started in 2012 with the help of social media. It talks about sexual harassment, domestic as well as social violence against women and rape culture also. This movement is particularly known as Me Too Movement. At first the term Me Too was used by Tarana Burke in 2006.

In the present study the researcher has taken two novels of Chetan Bhagat and they are *One Indian Girl* and *Revolution 2020*. Chetan Bhagat is popularly known as the writer of new generation. He has given importance to his female characters also. Like Shakespeare Chetan Bhagat's heroines also brilliant and had immense importance in his novels. Radhika is the female protagonist in the novel, *One Indian Girl* and Aarti is the female protagonist in the novel, *Revolution 2020*. In this research paper the researcher briefly discussed about the female issues and female self regarding feministic point of view. Changing role of women definitely made changes in this dynamic advancement world.

### Reflection of Feminism in Chetan Bhagat's *One Indian Girl*:

In 2016 Chetan Bhagat published his revolting novel *One Indian Girl*. It is really a new dimensional novel which had shown the modern Indian woman with the example of Radhika Mehta. Bhagat focuses on the traditional values and the crumbling walls of male hegemony and patriarchal authority presented in the contemporary Indian society. In the present novel most of the feministic elements are observed. According to Bhagat *One Indian Girl* is a feminist novel. According to some readers though Radhika had two ex-boyfriends finally she was ready to marry with Brijesh which is arranged by her parents. She compromised with tradition. In the present novel Radhika do as she wants. She chooses a right mate for her as her life partner. It shows her quality as a beauty with the brain. The novel represents the feministic culture through the example of female protagonist Radhika Mehta. She is a career oriented woman. Her cultural background influences the feminist culture. Here her fiancé Brijesh is also have respect towards women and follower of feminism.

His thoughts are in favor of feminism. She is a free minded thinking and she has individually her own opinions on everything. In her life she takes decisions on her own point of view. She is straight forward woman. Radhika is likeable for some readers but some readers didn't like her bold attitude. Bhagat skillfully depicted the modern Indian girl in this contemporary India.

Radhika Mehta is brilliant girl. She made a status in her bank career. Though she is career oriented she has





emotions also. When she was working in Goldman Sachs becomes very favorite among the colleagues. She is professionally a very skilled person so she gets higher salary. Above all these qualities she also has a traditional mind set. Her concept 'mini-me' remembers her feeling of unconscious guilt over her great achievements. Her achievements are far beyond traditional gender expectations on women. Her both affairs are only contained with only physical attraction there is no intellectual and spiritual love in these two affairs. When Radhika realize this she become frustrated and left these two boyfriends. She has had her own self respect. She is in search of her own self-esteem. It shows her revolt nature and feministic approach.

Debashish means Debu is a very conservative person. According to him women's role is only of child bearing, hospitality and consolation. They are perfect only for domestic roles. He wants a mother-figure. He had no respect for Radhika's intellectuality and her professional success. Radhika left him when she saw him with another girl on a bed. He is a lire. As a traditional man Debu is frightened of having a wife with intellectual brain and practical efficiency in work.

Radhika's second boyfriend, Neel is also same in nature. He is married man bu the had an affair with Radhika. According to him Radhika is a perfect professionalist and she is fit for the motherhood as well as family life. His views hurt her tremendously because it hurts her feminine pride. Neel wanted her as a professionalize and satisfy his lust only. He forces her not to involve in motherhood and family life. Radhika feels insulted and so she left her and moves to London.

Then Brijesh enters in her life. He is her parent's choice. Their marriage is arranged in Goa. Here her two ex-boyfriends came her wedding destination. Both are realized the importance of Radhika in their life. They are ready to accept Radhika's wish. On the other hand Brijesh is the person who is ready to accept Radhika for what she is. He is ready to wait her in his life. She really understands Brijesh true manliness. He is a true lover and good life partner for her. Bhagat beautifully handle the dilemma presented in the mind of Radhika. It shows the feministic issues are found behind all the episodes presented in the novel. The novel explains the true greed of men. Radhika is the best example of feminine character who has feministic approach in her ideology. She revolts against the male hypocrisy. She has a perfect decision making and taking power. Her final decision of choice of Brijesh as her life partner is absolutely right. The novel is the true representative of the feminist views of a feminine character Radhika. She is in search of her female-self and her self-esteem.

### **Reflection of Feminism in Chetan Bhagat's *Revolution 2020*:**

Chetan Bhagat portraying modern India and modern youth in a patriarchal attitude in his novel, Revolution 2020. The present novel deals with the acumen and issues of the modern youthful generation in their life, their goals, dreams, difficulties encountered in their life. In this novel the author also discussed about the education system in India. Aarti Kashyap is a female protagonist of this novel. Bhagat present realistically the old traditions presented in the contemporary Indian society. People in the society make discrimination between men and women. According to them men are superior to women. They don't give equal rights to the both genders. Here we observed the gender discrimination. Now a day's every woman has her own goals and dreams in her life. Bhagat's writing shows that he had given and appreciates the freedom, equal rights and presented views of women. Definitely Bhagat is a follower of feminism. His work shows he had given equal standard and status to male and female characters. Aarti is caught between the two boy friends, Gopal and Raghav. She is a daughter of District Magistrate and belongs to wealthy family. She is an ambitious girl. She wanted to become a air hostess in her life. But due to traditional views of his father and family members, they won't give her permission to leave Varanasi so she devoted her career and accepts a job in the hotel which is inside Varanasi. She is the best friend of Gopal but actually Gopal is in love with her. She is in love with Raghav, he is her boyfriend. She belongs to political background. In fact there is a possibility for her to bean MLA. Raghav is busy for the fight of truthfulness. He is an activist. He decides to become a journalist and do a career in a newspaper publishing house. Aarti is an icon of free women in contemporary India. She has possessive nature so she feels that Raghav is ignoring her and doesn't pay any attention towards her. So she is attracted towards



Gopal. She had a platonic relationship with Gopal. But due to Raghav's negligence she has an affair with Gopal. She physically involved with him. She drinks alcohol when they met in the hotel where she did job. It shows Arati wanted to live and enjoy life fully. It is an example of feministic approach. Her boldness shows it. Though Gopal is in love with Aarti he also have proud on his friend Raghav who faught against corruption .He also wants revolution. So he decided to apart from Aarti and makes a plan. In it he deceives Aarti, actually he himself is hurt. When she comes to know that Gopal's deceive nature, she left him and takes a decision to marry with Raghav. It shows her feministic approach towards life. Aarti is a wealthy woman, she has modern views but she respects her parents and their orthodox views. She is dependent yet independent woman. She adjusted her self according to the situation happened in her life. She boldly has relations with Gopal at that time she doesn't care about people, society and her fiancé also. It shows her bold attitude towards life. But it also shows that she is a weaker woman who is in search of a male counter part. She is beautiful, kind, smart and innocent woman. Her loving nature, appearance, friendship and devotion attract the readers also. The strength and positivity brings sensation in the Indian literature. As a beloved she married with Raghav and as a daughter she never disappoints her parents also. In contemporary modern India such types are women observed and Bhagat skillfully portrait the picture of modern Indian woman. He has given freedom to his female characters to choose their life according to their mind set. Arati's example shows that she is a very practical girl. Every times he takes decision practically.

Chetan Bhagat is always alert about women's self-esteem, self-realisation and ambitions. He had given importance to their thoughts and views. They have freedom of speech. His female protagonists actions are beyond the cultural and social boundaries. They have rebellious nature against the contemporary Indian patriarchal society. Though these female characters suppressing because of physical, economical, social, psychological individual possibilities, they freely takes their own decisions and make revolt against the male dominated system. No doubt that Bhagat is in favour of women empowerment and he proved that women have ultra modern attitude towards life.

## CONCLUSION

One Indian Girl has a truly feminist approach. The protagonist of this novel, Radhika is in search of gaining self knowledge and self realization. She also accepts that there is nothing wrong in accepting an arranged marriage. She is not passive in her life, she actively takes a decision to accept Brijesh as her true life partner. Though Radhika is unaccepted in the society, most of the readers like her dashing nature which is like a feminist. She is a dashing and courageous girl. She always speaks what she believes in. She lives life according to her mind set. She doesn't have care what the other people say about her.

Aarti is a contemporary modern Indian woman. She is both customary and modern views. It is reality that modern Indian woman is not free from male dominated system. In Bhagat's novels we observed that his heroines are from white colour class, they faced problems and issues in their personal life and at the end of the story they settle down in their life. Above all this the Indian society is rooted in the patriarchal views. Chetan Bhagat's female protagonists are bold and beautiful and they revolt against the in justice and discrimination between men and women in the male dominated society. They made changes in traditional society. It shows that Bhagat also in favor of women liberation and their self realization.

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