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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT - II

**Editor**  
Anand Bihari

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*Women Empowerment-II*

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# Women Empowerment Depicted in the Novels of Chetan Bhagat with Reference to *One Indian Girl* and *Revolution 2020*

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## **Abstract:**

Chetan Bhagat raised the questions on the social issues especially women empowerment. Now in India, he is role model for the youth and his novels always motivate the youngsters. He focuses on the voice and has concern towards women characters. His literary work describes that he gives women the equal rights and the freedom of expression in the society. He portrays the true representation of modern Indian women. He defines the empowerment of women in society, education, career, business, politics and family. The present study describes a beautiful, intelligent, enthusiastic, young and modern female character in the novels of Chetan Bhagat. The inner strength of women is the financial freedom and positivity and these qualities are seen in his writing. He shows the boldness, self-esteem, revolutionary nature and decision making power of women in his novels which bring revolution in the world of literature. The purpose of the study is to discuss about the empowerment of Indian women in the novels of Chetan Bhagat.

**Keywords:** Women empowerment, women Strength, self-esteem, revolutionary nature.

## **Introduction:**

Chetan Bhagat, a multidimensional personality and a famous writer of young generation. His novels show the real picture of contemporary Indian society. In his novels, most of the issues are deal with the family, society, women, men, culture, education, politics, tradition, modern views and so on and on. The present paper is deal with Chetan Bhagat's selected novels which shows a revolutionary nature and empowerment of women. The young generation puts effort to embark upon the established tradition, customs and ideas. In his novels he shows a direct comparison between modern and traditional women in the present society. He tried to show how the modern Indian women empower themselves and make a revolution among this traditional society and its ideology. His female characters look smart, intelligent, emotional, practical, struggler and confident. The main objective of his writing is

to appreciate the liberty, rights, self-esteem, women empowerment and views of women.

### **Women Empowerment in Chetan Bhagat's *Revolution 2020*:**

*Revolution 2020* is a fine example of corrupt education system and corruption presented in political field. In the novel the female protagonist, Aarti is rapt between the love of Gopal and Raghav. She is the daughter of a District Magistrate. She is rich, beautiful, emotional and having sensibility. She always supposes Gopal as her best friend and Gopal is also feel affection for her from the day he met her. She becomes the girlfriend of Raghav when Gopal is preparing for JEE at Kota. Aarti too faces problems in the society because of the patriarchal stress. She has a desire to become an air-hostess but her parents never gave her the permission about it. It shows the narrow mindedness of the parents. So she decides that she has make compulsory to search a job in and around the city. Her orthodox parents allowed her to do a course in Aviation, but they never allow her to work. She states,

“My parents can't see why I want to work. They can't understand why the DM's daughter has to slog” (220).

Aarti can't achieve her ambition and joins a job as Guest relations trainee at Ramada

Hotel, Varanasi. Her dreams are shattered. As women who are trapped in the moral values of the traditional society, she tries to accept what she has. And on the other side, her love, Raghav is of her own choice but now she is not happy in that too. Her parents force her to get married; but Raghav is not willing to do because of his involvement in journalism. She is shown as a victim who has a burden of patriarchy. In the centre of the traditional ties, she recognised her own identity with her inner strength of womanhood and independence.

Chetan Bhagat shows Aarti as an educated, strong minded, admirable and bright woman who is respectful to her family's demands and has define her identity in the society She is partially free from the traditional value of a patriarchal society. She is the representation of the modern Indian woman commonly struggles and fights against culture and traditional values presented around her. Bhagat has focuses on the socio feminist issues which exist in the contemporary Indian society. He brings out how the social norms that underestimates, disturbs and presents the image of the Indian women as the subordinates of the male dominated society. Aarti challenges the conventional roles and try to create her own identity in the centre of the traditional values. Bhagat's inner urge is that women will become successful in the all fields of life as men. But he has given the whole authority in the hands of the youngsters to end the issues against the conventional roles and ideas. Bhagat's novels are the evidence about women who have found the way to adjust between the modern life and the traditional life. She makes her capable in herself by throwing the rigid traditional customs and makes her an independent victorious woman by creating her true successful identity. Aarti is an example of women empowerment. Empowerment of women in modern style and fashion, she represents woman's psychology and strong desire of freedom. She boldly revolts against the narrow thinking of society. Bhagat also highlights a curiosity of modern women for drugs. Aarti presents a fashionable approach where she says,

“Give me a puff” (201)

“Just because I am a girl? True colours of a Varanasi man” (201).

She had cut down all traditional norms. Bhagat shows the harsh reality of the society if the men take drugs it is thinking as a fashionable personality; but if women do this, they will criticize negatively. This discrimination is found in the society. Men have the authority



to do all things freely but Aarti refuses all these things and try to become a modern woman of the new generation. Revolution takes place in the nature and behaviour of woman also.

### **Women Empowerment in Chetan Bhagat's *One Indian Girl*:**

*One Indian Girl* represents the new approach of a modern Indian woman with the example of female protagonist, Radhika Mehta, having a good job at Goldman Sachs' New York first and next at Hong Kong and last at U.K. She is bold and beautiful character having intelligence. Just before her wedding, she realises that she must live life on her own terms and conditions so she refuses to marry. It's her revolutionary decision. According to Bhagat, Radhika is not the archetypal Indian woman, who is fascinated with jewellery, cosmetics and cosmetic procedures. She introduces herself to her readers as she is not likeable because she earns enormously, has self opinion about everything and has had two boyfriends. She first evolves from being desperate to do what her boyfriend wants her to do but she takes her own decision and refuses to live according to them. Another decision is of not doing what her family expects of her an arranged marriage. She had agreed to it believing that:

“.....all the women's empowerment and feminism bullshit didn't really take me anywhere, right? Maybe Kamla bua and mom's way was the right way.”(6).

She chooses a right man as a life partner and it was her journey towards self-dependence. Debashish wanted to leave her job then he will marry her and Neel Gupta can't understand why she would give up successful career for the right in the man-woman relationship which becomes the requirement for fulfilling the responsibility of a mother –providing legitimate parenthood to her child in society. Radhika is an independent girl she realizes the narrow mindedness of the two and left them. It shows her empowerment nature. She chooses Brijesh as her life partner which is her perfect decision because when she declare her decision of not marry with him all are scolded her except Brijesh. He knows about the women psychology, he accepts all her past and ready to marry with her. He gave her time for the decision of marriage. Radhika have to balance both the responsibilities professional as well as personal. Debashish is a hypocritical in nature and Neel is selfish in nature; but Brijesh is a great supporter of feminism. She has raised a step towards self-discovery. According to her neither Debu nor Neel are worthy of her. She better understands that only Brijesh supports humanism and become shield to protect her and respects her.

### **Conclusion:**

Chetan Bhagat is a renowned creative writer; he gives the readers a real picture of modern Indian women. Though the female protagonists of these two novels are modern, they are bind with their traditional families and traditions. They emotionally suffer a lot, but at the end of the novel they took the right decision which is socially acceptable. In the middle of the novel we see these female characters like Aarti and Radhika thrown out the traditional values and behave such as that is not acceptable in the society. They come to know their mistake and took the correct decision of their life. Chetan Bhagat gives us the true representation of a revolutionary nature of women in the above novels with empowering women in the society.

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