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Impression of Inferiority Complex on Youth in Chetan Bhagat's Select Novels

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Today's young generation is most criticized young generation whatever implemented by them would be attached with unethical or uncultured by society. Youngsters have so much potential and lot of creative ideas but all are under the label of immaturity. India has a big mass of youth than other countries in the world. Indian youth are also suffered from so many issues like love, marriage, sex, inferiority complex, job dissatisfaction etc. Chetan Bhagat is the author of Youth. He tries to throw the light on the youth problems by his characterization in the novel. The question is what is inferiority complex? Inferiority complex is the condition in which an individual feel himself inferior to others. Especially young people have this feeling in the situation of study, love, job, competition, achievements etc.

When a young person tries to cope up with difficulties and with issues of life with courage the factors of society or family add more pressure in their condition. Sometimes the youth are surprised to face the situation which they never expected in their mind, "due to their sensitivity teenagers feel a void when what they get is completely different from what they expected. A rational assessment of one's strengths and weaknesses is also missing in teenagers" (Birajdar, 2). The young age is a very sensitive age in which the young people attract towards any part of life by using their sensitivity and try to take decisions by emotions only. Not only the stress youngsters also face the problem of inferiority complex and put themselves in such mental condition from there they have no any ray of hope. What is inferiority complex? We can find the answer from some research, a psychologist in 1912 whose name is Alfred Alder produced a book 'The Neurotic Character' in which he described the inferiority complex as the term of individuals' feelings about oneself to others. Inferiority complex influenced by individuals' social status, strength, pride and dominance. Inferiority complex generates when you think that people are superior to you. Inferiority complex is the condition in which an individual feels inferior to others. In an abstract situation or at the strange place a person finds him or herself inferior. In the presence of intelligent person some other personalities also feel inferiority complex. Inferiority complex is the special condition of mind. Young age is the period of changing hormones, thinking or to gain mental maturity. Young generation should adjust themselves in many ways in this period. Their bodily changes are also beginning in this age so many unanswered questions and queries are in their minds and the level of eagerness is also high in this period. This is the time in which embracing questions or situations takes their curiosity on the high level. They are very confused in such a



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condition when they have no any concrete option to take the decision. Young guys have a strength for their thought but no direction. They have the courage to establish their creative principle of life but no support. They have the confidence yet they fail to explain their feelings to others. High expected parents, over expectations in the educational field, family quarrel and its impact on childhood, familial responsibility are the main causes of stress in young age. Parents, who have no positive attitude for their children increase the stress on their young. As, Ms. Shivani Manchanda, the counseling coordinator at IIT-Bombay, says:

“There are three broad reasons for (depression) – One of the reasons no doubt is the high level of competition for admissions and then jobs that young students face. The second probably is how increasingly young adults in urban families are being brought up with a sense of entitlement and a reduced sense of frustration tolerance and or resilience. The third is the stigma against the use of counseling which limits the help a young person can receive which potentially lowers the numbers of students who might otherwise utilize mental health services (“A Student Opens Up”).”

“An inferiority complex is the conscious or unconscious feeling that one is not as good as others. Along with concepts such as traits, the unconscious, and self-actualization, in psychology the concept of inferiority complex is used to explain personality. First developed by Alfred Adler in the 1920s, the concept played an important role in Adler's theory of individual psychology. All people, Adler proposed, seek feelings of achievement and superiority. However, as children, people feel inferior to adults, who are stronger and provide security. People with a primary inferiority complex never overcome these childhood feelings of inferiority, which are persistent and excessive. A secondary inferiority complex results from an adult's feeling that it is impossible to be successful (“Inferiority Complex”).”

As per the Adler's view it is psychological situation but he also put emphasis that it will start from childhood. It will start from the entrance of the house from where Parents ever compared their child with other's child. The child is a young plant. The child is a separate flower grown by the parents in the worldly life of their own world. The flowers have their own fragrance, they are different from their own. Parents begin to compare the child with the other though they are different personality and having different skills. Parents put the seed of inferiority complex inside the mind of their child and nourished this seed by their negative approach of comparison and at the end there is a big tree of inferiority complex inside the mind of child while they will be young.

If there is no similarity between two different colors, flowers or stars too so how we try hard to compare



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two personalities. It should be noted here that if every seed growing on this earth have their different existence and they have different fruits and flowers as same way every personality on this earth have their different potential and skills or creativity. In Indian society, the young people are pressurized to become doctor, engineers and IAS officers in the society. It is acceptable that we should give much importance to the doctors and engineers but at the same time, we should not neglect people who wants to lead themselves towards special art fields like acting, painting or cooking and singing. Chetan Bhagat portrayed a perfect picture of most of the family who expected lot from their young generation that they chose their field as per the trend of society.

One Night @ the Call Center

We can find same situation in *One Night @ The Call Center*, When Shyam left his job at an ad agency, he has been despised by all the family members. As he said, "Every cousin of mine is becoming a doctor or engineer. You can say I am the black sheep of my family" (25). Here Shyam finds himself as black sheep because of his comparison with other his cousins. Sometimes youngster suffer from inferiority complex due to their exploitation or job dissatisfaction. We can find inferiority complex of Vroom whose dialogue is enough to understand young generation of India who believe themselves inferior to American youth. Vroom describes the pathetic situation of Indian youth who worked hard in less salary in Multinational companies and though they are counted in law profile in comparison of American young generation. Vroom says, "We get paid well, fifteen thousand a month... that is almost twelve dollars a day... as a US burger boy makes in two hours." (109). In this scenario we can find a perfect picture of inferiority complex of youngsters of India in which they are exploited and found themselves inferior than other country's young generation.

Sometimes immaturity and big dreams are also leading the young generation towards the inferiority complex. In *One Night @ The Call Center*, Esha left her parents for being a model and she put character in stock to reach up to the goal. Her words are enough to understand that how she felt herself inferior to other girls in the office. "Yes, my agent said this man was connected. I just had to sleep with him once to get a break in a major fashion show... this wound in my leg feels like a tickle," (93). She hated herself by impression of the black side of her character, "I hate myself, Shyam. I just hate myself. And I hate my face, and the stupid mirror that shows me this face. I hate myself for believing people who told me I could be a model. Can I get my face altered?" (162-163).



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Thus it can be seen in the mindset of the young generation who passes through so many hurdles of life like comparison, education, love break ups, lose in business and their physical and mental exploitation. The all incidents puts negative effects on their mental situation which will be converted into inferiority complex. Love breaks up contributed too to develop inferiority complex inside the youngsters. In *One Night @ The Call Center* Priyanka loved shyam but her mother judge the marriage relation on the scale of money as common Indian mother and forced Radhika to marry with NRI groom Ganesh. This incident touched Shyam's mindset as much that, He says to Priyanka, "I am a loser according to your mom, isn't it? (109). 'Show me the money and keep our daughter for the rest of your life.' That is the arrangement in an arranged marriage today. The relations are rationalized like a deal or settlement in the business world. The youth of present era find themselves lost in the dilemma of the two contradictory perceptions of life.

Here two things should be observed by Chetan Bhagat that every young personality should pass away from this situation in which society would judge them by their education, post, achievements and their capacity of completion with their cousins and friends.

Five Point Someone

Parents try to understand that a field of career is the field to catch your inner skills and try to mold it in right direction. Especially in the field of Education when in Ancient India the definition of Education is "sa vidya ya vimuktayai" "means the art which liberate the personality to grow is real education. But today parents change this definition that their aspiration and big expectations from their child is called education. Young minds cannot be allowed to choose their own field or stream of education too. We can find in Chetan Bhagat's novels in which his characters are suffered from such parental mentality. In *Five points someone* Hari wants to be a good photographer but his strict father creates pressure on him to join IIT and to become an engineer. Parents should also understand that not everybody can become an IITian. Neha's brother Sameer wrote to his father in his suicide note in which we can find that he was under the deep impression of inferiority complex.

"He has seen thousands of IIT students in his life, and cannot see why his own son cannot make it. He has not spoken to me for two months .What can I do? Keep trying until I die? (167). Sameer wrote a letter to his sister Neha it is not only a letter but it is suicide note in which he tries hard to explain his own situation he added,

"I have tried three times to get into IIT, and each time I have disappointed dad. He cannot get over the



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fact that his son cannot handle Physics, chemistry and maths. I cannot do it Neha; no matter how hard I try, no matter how many years I study or how many books I read, I cannot get into IIT. And I cannot bear to see Dad's eyes." (Sameer's suicide note-168-169)

Professor Cherian gave a speech on the day of convocation in which he said about every parent's ego or aspiration which would be the reason of their child's inferiority complex by his own experience.

"I wanted him to carry on my family's strong intellectual tradition. But it was just my ego. My son wanted to be a lawyer, hated maths. I pushed him just as I pushed my students in my class. He failed to get in the first time and I made life hell for him. He failed second time, and I made his life even bigger hell. Then he failed to get in the third time. And this time, he killed himself (259)."

Not only parents but sometimes Teacher or Professors are also delivered negative statements that lead the young generation towards wrong psychological direction or towards the inferiority complex. In *Five Points Someone* When Hari, Ryan and Alok reached at college class and this was their first lecture Pro.Dubey delivered such negative speech, Prof. Dubey as he says before leaving the first lecture, "...respect the grading system. You get bad grades and I assure you—you get no job, no school and no future" (11).

Today's education system put so much emphasis on grades that it will become the agenda of education. Students have clear picture into their mind that they got admission in valuable institutes only for grades and parents have also the same mentality. Sometimes it will create negative effects on student's mind who are unable to gain more grades. "... third-semester results had just come out that day. How irrelevant they seemed now; another five-point something, another tattoo stamped on your worth as an individual in IIT society" (76). Ryan's above dialogue is the impression of law results in which young generation believe themselves inferior.

This dialogue depicts the real situations of young students who are judged by their results or grades in a college campus, family and society. Even their individual position is also depended on their results though they have more creativity in other fields. The main reason of inferiority complex is to getting less marks. It creates strong negative effects on youngster's minds. In *Five points someone* after getting five points only in exam Alok became sad there is no doubt that these students, who are not aware of their mentality, are more pronounced here by the dialogue of Alok. Get this. "Today I got GPA of 5.88. Damn it, a 5.88 over two hundred students have done better. Do you know in my twelve years in school I never even got a second rank?" (63) and then he took one decision to jump from insty Roof he said to Ryan,



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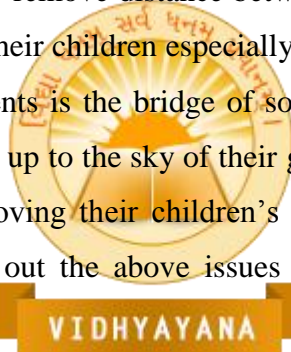
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“For once Ryan, I agree with you. I’ve had enough too. I think I’ll just go down. There was something messed up in the tone of Alok’s voice. I turned around to look at him. He stood straight, then one jump up and then straight down. In half a second, he was out of sight. Gravity had done its job (210)”.

Conclusion

Thus we can find so many issues in the life of young generation like love or breaks ups, unsuccessful in education, career, getting good job, loss in business, parents high expectation, aspirations or life partner and to cope up with him or her etc. Chetan Bhagat describe all above issues in his novels which affected to young generation and lead them towards inferiority complex. It is our ethical duty that to prevent such type of issues by counselling young generation and understanding their proper problems and guiding them for perfect possible solutions. Government should interfere for proper changes in education system and try to design it on the base of skill which would help young generation a lot for their career and their creative future. Parents have a big responsibility to remove distance between their own and their next generation by developing harmonious atmosphere with their children especially with teenagers and transforming their own dreams with their youngsters dream. Parents is the bridge of society by which next young generation can cross the limitations of their life and reach up to the sky of their goal. Parents should never pressurized their youngsters to fulfil their dreams by removing their children’s dreams. The united effort of government, educationist, and parents will be solved out the above issues and provide the young generation a new direction.



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