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Trends and Reflections of modernization on young generation: An Overview of Chetan Bhagat's Select Novels

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ABSTRACT

Chetan Bhagat the writer of the youth, changes the trend of writing and describes the changing trend in youngsters by impacts of modernizations. He narrates his novels by putting youth in center and tries to describe their minds sets as per changing world's life style. Bhagat's novels are interwoven around the various issues of young generations like hopes and aspirations, campus life, education system, love, sex, marriage, ambitions, impact of modernizations on the lives of the youth, cultural changes, human relationships, political, social, religious issues, corruption and significance of communication in English in this modern world. This research paper highlights trends and the reflections of modernization on the young generation with reference to Chetan Bhagat's select novels '*One Night @ the Call Center*' and '*Five point Someone*'.

Chetan Bhagat presents the changing scenario in the life styles of young generation through his novels. Modernizations affects the life of young people very fast. Chetan Bhagat gives a perfect picture of young generation who lead themselves towards the trend of new horizon of the world which is colored with modernizations. Chetan Bhagat narrates the young people's thinking style, dressing style or behavior which is changes as per the effects of modern culture. Chetan Bhagat sometime worried about the valueless or moral less life of youngsters who are no care for their own personality. Through his novels Chetan Bhagat creates his characters who are modern and live their life with modern pattern and are influenced with western culture. Bhagat criticized some aspects of youngsters and also describes their attraction towards the modern era.



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Five Point Someone

Chetan Bhagat writes '*Five Point Someone*' to put light on problems of young generation especially in the field of education but he also takes our attention towards the modern effects which affected the young life. Modernization change the trend and life style of young people from its root. The dressing style, food, like and dislikes of young people, careless attitude and unethical culture are the trends of today's young guys. The outlook of young people is enough to understand that how they attracted with modern culture. Chetan Bhagat represents the life style of young girls who are using so many cosmetics and other things to pretend that they are modern. In the meeting of Hari and Neha,

“There are two types of pretty girls in Delhi. One is the modern type, girls who cut their hair short, wear jeans or skirts, and tiny earrings. The second is the traditional type who wears salwar-kameez, multi-coloured bindi and large earrings” (Bhagat 44).

It is enough to understand that there is modern trend in the culture of society by which the person is judged on the base of their cloths or ornaments. Especially young girls are affected much with the modern trends and using jeans and T shirts to show their personality more modern. Young girls are so much careful for their get up that they are using so many gadgets. Hari also narrated Neha's character with modern touch in his dialogues,

““Yes I even got a license,” she chirped and opened her handbag to show it to me. She started taking stuff out of her handbag and a million things came out-lipsticks, lip balms, creams, bindis, earrings, pens, mirrors, wet tissues and other stuff that one can live without” (Bhagat 45).

Here Chetan Bhagat expresses the modern trends in young generations which is necessary for them in today's life. The modernization and its effects touch the mind set of young generation. Young people believes in party, dance, celebrating anniversaries or birthdays by trends of western or modern culture. Today's young people use mobile phones, I phone and laptops, WhatsApp, Facebook etc. as the imitating foreign or modern trends. Not only young guys but young professor Veera who is working in IIT and coming from U.S.A. is also settle his look as modern as young students,

“Prof. Veera was completely different. For one, he was like twenty years younger than other profs. No more than thirty, he dressed in jeans and T-shirts which bore his US university logos. He had like five degrees from all the top universities - MIT, Cornell, Princeton etc. And T-shirts



from all of them. He carried this CD-man with him, and after class he would plug it into his ears before he left” (Bhagat 83-84).

Not only in look up but Prof. Veera also behaved as modern teacher that he took the packet of chewing gum with him in his first class and offered it to his students. The behavior of Pro. Veera is different than other professors who are more orthodox and behaved like superior scholars. Students loved his lectures and presence due to his mature and mixing nature. By his look up and by his behavior we can say that he was totally influenced with modern trend. It is also boon for the students who are very afraid from their stubborn professors. Ryan, Alok and Hari was saved from their mistakes by Pro. Veera, but we can say it firmly that he was really modern which we can find in his behavior at his first lecture,

“Hi everyone,” Prof. Veera said as he entered class. He offered chewing gum to the first row students. The front row guys were all mugging nine – pointers, and freaked out at his offer. They declined, and he shrugged and popped a piece in his mouth and turned to the board”(Bhagat 84).

Chetan Bhagat describes so many modernizations in the life of youngsters and its impact in the form of Vodka, hotels, movies and free sex. Chetan Bhagat describes the young modern culture in the campus of IIT and using vodka by these three of friends Ryan, Alok and Hari. Sometimes Neha also joined Hari to drink Vodka on the roof of Kumaon hostel. This shows the trend of modern culture among the youngsters. Hari drank vodka to remove his tension of Viva which is enough to understand that the young generation found the modern ways to relieve from tension. Chetan Bhagat writes so many scenes of his novel in which he narrates his characters to use drinking, outing and flirting with girls.

“...Hostel life is all about friends, alienation from families, smoking cigars, drinking vodka and listening to Pink Floyd. Commitment to relationship overrules the fresh admitted undergraduates to such an extent that they are ready to do anything for earning name and fame”(Biswas,1).

The love between Neha and Hari and their attraction or kissing scenes and sex between them are enough to understand their modern mentality. Neha allowed Hari to join her in sex in without presence of her parents at her home and wished to smoke also after sex which shows her carefree or modern thinking styles. Chetan Bhagat expresses his worry about this changing trend in which young generation attract towards the materialistic trend or pretentious behavior. It is also the topic of worry that the young people is now forgetting or losing their ethical cultural values and make their lifestyle as per modern effects and trends.



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Chetan Bhagat reveals the mental condition of today's youth who wants freedom to select their field of carrier, their life partner and their life style. Modernization effects the young generation on such level that youth can never settle in the atmosphere of old trends and orthodoxy. Modern trends and modernization are mixed with young blood and with their thinking styles too.

One Night @ The Call Center

Chetan Bhagat writes his second novel '*One Night @ the Call Center*' in which he represents many issues related to young generation like unemployment, exploitations in BPO sectors, locus of women in the society etc. Chetan Bhagat also expresses some other issues which are because of modernization like marriage, love, pre-marital sex, tension, fear and generation gap.

Young characters of Chetan Bhagat's this novel are victims of exploitations in call centers which are the outcome of modernizations. Modernization and its effects change he trends of living the life in whole of the world. In '*One Night @ the Call Center*' all six characters were going to Dance bar for relaxation from the stress of the job. The description of the atmosphere of this dance bar is enough to understand the modern living trend of people,

“Vroom went to the bartender to collect our drinks while I scanned the disco. A remixed version of 'DilChahta Hai' played in the background. As it was Saturday night, the disco had more than three hundred customers. I noticed some stick-thin models on the dance floor. Their stomachs were so flat, if they swallowed a pill you'd probably see an outline of it when it landed inside. Esha's looks are similar. Vroom came back with our drinks and we said 'cheers', trying to sound lively and happy, as people at a disco should”(Bhagat 89).

The Indian culture will never allow the young girls to go in the dance bar but Radhika, Esaha and Priyanka were easily ready to go at dance bar with another young guys. It was the Saturday night in which more than 300 people were at the dance bar which shows the trend of youngsters to live their life with modern touch in urban cities. Chetan Bhagat portrays the young costly culture in which youngsters were shouting against unemployment or increasing prices and on the other hand they paid 300 for a one cocktail. The surrounding of that dance bar is totally colored with western touch.

The relation between Priyanka and Shyam describe the thinking pattern of young guys who lead themselves towards the modern or western trend of free sex, love affairs or marriage. In the meeting of



Priyanka and Shyam they both indulged in physical relation at that time the dialogue of Priyanka proved the today's views of youth for sex,

“It's alright. Clumsy sex is better than choreographed sex. And certainly

better than no sex,' I said as I pulled her close.

'By the way, do you have a condom?' she said.

'Yes sir. We live in constant hope,' I said as I pulled out my wallet” (Bhagat 96).

This shows how the young generation are now being common about sexual relations or using it as the relaxation activities before marriage. The Use e of Bacardi, cigarette and vodka show the modern trend easily. The young generation of urban city run after such modern era that they have no any limits to stop themselves. College campus and restaurants are full of today with youngsters and their party culture. Yong generation change their dressing style, thinking style, presenting style or living style as per the trend of modern era and its trends. The life style of people is change and they use so many modern gadgets. We can find it in Shyam's dialogue,“... we deal with customers of home appliances such as refrigerators, ovens and vacuum cleaners...” (Bhagat 33). We can find some young characters in his noel who has a goal to live free life with awesome modern pattern. Shyam also describe the mentality of young mind which was totally transformed into western by the example of Vroom,““Well, look at him—jeans, phones, pizzas and bikes. That is all he lives for. And this whole new girlfriend every three months, c'mon, at some point you've got to stop that, right?”” (Bhagat 41).Some other writes also gave reviews about Chetan Bhagat and his writings which are totally on the base of modern trends and its impact on young generation. Chetan Bhagat also creates his characters on the path of modern society with having free thoughts and behavior,

“Bhagat has installed it in the willingness of the woman.Bhagat tries to show the actual position or condition of today's society. Society has been changed from normal to modern aspect. Bhagat has served it as the unifying force. His men and women perform it and break virginity knot without social rituals. At last, they either get married or committed to live together happily without any conditions and norms”(Joshi51).

Chetan Bhagat expresses generation gap between two heritages which is imported from modernization. In this novel Military uncle and his son didn't live with together due to their generation gap. His son never



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allowed him to maintain the relation with his grandson so Military uncle had to work in call center. This scene is not of Indian trend but now it will of Indian trend which is affected by modernization. The generation gap between Radhika and her mother also found in this novel. We can find parental mentality in this novel too who forced their daughter to marry a NRI groom for wealth only which shows their modern mind set. Chetan Bhagat creates character like Esha who disobeyed her parents and came to another city by leaving them. Esha a young girl wanted to make her carrier in the field of modelling but she put her character in stock to develop her carrier and prepared to sleep with strange person for getting opportunity in the modeling field. This is the dangerous effects of modernization. Chetan Bhagat describes pre-marital sex of Esha, Radhika's husband Anuj and Vroom who was the fond of young girls.

Conclusion

Thus Chetan Bhagat tries to narrate modernization and its effects on the young minds in India by his novels and his characters. He informs us about the changing trends of modern life style or dressing style or thinking style by his novels. The trends of party, drinking, dancing bar and liberalize sex are increased among the young generation. Young people enjoyed the western culture and its trends in their college life or in the young age freely by attracting from modernization. Modernization is now becoming the important part of the young people which never be distinguished from them. Chetan Bhagat put the real condition of young people in front of us by the medium of his novels in which the modernization plays an important role. Young minds are now covering through modern effects and its trends and inspired their next generation to go through it.



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