

# Chetan Bhagat: A Writer of Contemporary Era

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## Abstract

Since independence fiction writers had been brought into focus the new emerging social problems. The scarcities of food, unemployment, expansion of education, economical instability were the major issues which needed to be addressed. The post-partitioned novelists who had come from unflinching circumstances highlighted ongoing issues in their works and made

## Research Analytics

masses aware about the problems first and suggested ways to deal with them. The Indian youths who learnt about their freedom struggle in books and folklore, cultivated the struggle in their blood and remember struggling moments with proud eyes. The modern generation which has opened eyes in free air and could not comprehend the essence of freedom movement, met the challenges bravely. Indian youths have education and enough experience to prove his mettle. Chetan Bhagat, like any Indian youth perceived India from its rich culture and tradition and described his tales from youth's point of view. He wrote numerous novels. All of them facilitated him to touch the prestigious place in the world of literature.

**Key Words:** Call Centre, Black Sheep, Connection, Retirement, Ditch, Advertisement.

### Introduction

Chetan Bhagat is a contemporary writer. In his works he concentrated on the technological world which provided little comfort but disappointed more. To make his thoughts more prominent he made Shyam his mouthpiece in his novel "One night at the call centre". Bhagat employed one person narration in the entire story. This work gave boosted his career as it is one of the best sellers in Indian masses. Bhagat described Shyam as an ordinary youth who aspired to do something huge in his life but lucky gave him a job at call centre. Shyam realised his parents expected a lot from him but he disenchanted them as he just landed a job at the call centre. Actually he was taken as black sheep (15)<sup>1</sup> in the family. Shyam has other colleagues too in the call centre i.e Military uncle. He was in

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post retirement age. He was staying alone in his flat once he was staying with her son, daughter-in-law and Grandson. He left them on a small issue after that he was staying alone. He felt satisfaction in earning money. Bhagat showed that a retired person like a military uncle has become a soft target of the age. Once he opened his heart before his colleagues and narrated his miserable life. Radhika, another connection mate of Shyam. She was an adorable daughter-in-law. Through Radhika, Bhagat showed the plight of modern daughter-in-law who was bearing double burden over her lean shoulders. Her husband often travelled to other parts of the country in connection with business. In absence of her husband she took care of her mother affectionately. Before coming to the call centre she arranged everything for her mother-in-law. Even she always made use of leisure in knitting scarf of her mother-in-law. Shyam showed his sympathy for her in these words "just that and cooking three meals a day and household chores and working all night and "(17)<sup>2</sup>. Through the woes of Radhika, Bhagat showed that woman has become sandwiched in both the roles she finds no respite. Radhika tried to balance her job with household duties. It is her luck that favoured her and she is successfully doing her duties. Esha, a hotties of call centre.. She wanted to be a model and struggled for acquiring a model assignment. Esha looked beautiful with only one shortcoming she has I,e she is five-five only two inches shorter than the real height of a model (20)<sup>3</sup>. Esha was too eager to get a job offer but she was struggling for work at this stage. She was made to take few inches back as she has no god father in celluloid. Esha, who was prettier and talented, always shown the

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door by big agencies in advertisement industries because no one promoted her in getting any assignment. Bhagat spoke on length on the advertisement and film world through the passion of Esha. Esha's rejection in modelling proved nepotism prevailed at the top most label in bollywood. In the film industry connection and association always play a role and who lack these two important things, industries treat them like pariahs. Varun Malhotra, another worker in the call centre, loves speed. He lives with his mother and he is a divorcee. Varun is proficient in computer and he resembles that section of society where children could not receive the love of father and mother at the same time. His father gave up the family under the pressure of illicit relationships beyond the circle of family. Bhagat talked on man- women relation and how their illegal love affects the grooming of their only child in the family. Varun was a typical example of broken families. Varun's father did not hesitate to have liaison out of marriage to satisfy his high class status. Shyam talked about Priyanka. She was the girl to whom shyam likes and wants to marry. Once both were a couple and they finished off their relationship on friendly terms Bhagat through the love relationship of shyam and Priyanka picturised the picture of modern love which ends at any moment. Earlier they were in love with each other but circumstances made their ways parted. As Priyanka mother wanted to wed her daughter to some rich man and shyam did not match the standard of Priyanka's mother choice. Priyanka who was obedient to her mother rejected shyam and gave the right to her mother for selecting partner for her. Bhagat started his career in 2000 by the crisis of these young people he is trying to highlight those problems

## Research Analytics

of society in which the youths have been struggling. Bhagat tries to say what a family demands trust and mutual cooperation. If father deserted his family for sexual pleasures what he would inherit to his progeny. Varun was the worst hit of this obscenity but Esha too bore such type of injustice. Bhagat delineated the personality of Esha to expose the adversities in film industry. He elaborated every youth of country wants to see him/herself on silver screen and how many would have got the chance to be part of that dreamy world. Esha has a dream to be flourished in advertisements but she lost all of her hopes. She approaches couple of agencies for getting assignment for herself but she got hopelessness only. Here Bhagat raised question is not Esha talented enough. Only one shortcoming she has i.e. she is a little shorter really the length of the body can bring so much change in the celluloid world. In hope of getting a single opportunity she felt into well of compromise. She had spent a night with a man who owed Advertisement Company but like always this time too Esha denied to act in advertisement. She did not get any call from this agency also. The man who had promised her and advertisement sent her money with excused words. Esha could not grasp the reality of words. Through this episode Bhagat critically lashed over glamorous world here everything is on sale. Even big personalities do not hesitate to put stake on new entrants industry. The compromise of Isha for a career in agencies revealed the hollowness and disintegration of society where once the real purpose of sexual relationships is to procreate now it has been perverted. Radhika felt the taste of infidelity; she was heat-broken, failed to understand why her husband had done to her whereas she

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was very submissive to him. The betrayal of Anyu, her husband provided her small hole to her where she thought about herself. Chetan Bhagat described the circumstances that have block the ways of these six human beings. All the workers were frustrated and tensed in connexion. The night made them more tense so they made a plan to go outside for a few moments for relaxation. This small get together ushered them in ditch where they received a call from God. This God metamorphosed their lives. As soon as they came out of the ditch all of them, determined to select their respective ways.

Bhagat, through his characterization slammed over artificial values of society. Shyam deserved everything but he could not prove himself due to lack of opportunities. He awaited all the chances whatever came in his way. In the end he decided to leave his job and wanted to try his luck in other works. Similarly Priyanka also learnt lesson after the God-Ditch episode. She has formed her opinion about Ganesh, her fiancé and made up her mind for shyam. She hoped she would convince her mother foe Shyam and she tried to build a cordial relationship with her mother. Like Priyanka, another protagonist in Shashi Deshpande's short stories broke the silence with her daughter and noticed her daughter is dependent upon her "But she is sleeping, her finger loosely clasped round my hand. I sit still and quiet. Unmoving."(16)<sup>4</sup>. Like Priyanka Radhika asserted her being and determined to leave her in- law family. Military uncle was mending his attitude and patching up with his son's daughter-in-law. Varuna too was not behind. He thought of opening his own company and earn independently. Esha left the connection and made herself

## Research Analytics

a volunteer of NGO.

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