

## SOCIAL AWARENESS OF YOUTH IN “THE THREE MISTAKES OF MY LIFE”

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### ABSTRACT

*Chetan Bhagat has dealt with such burning problems like expensive education, lack of advancement in less significant town, conventional approach fanaticism in politics, fraudulent, politicians and religious extremism chauvinism towards agnostics and atheists poverty amid the brighter lower-middle course group youth, extreme contest in access exams for college admissions, rift between religions, castes, conservative mentality of parents etc. “The Three Mistakes of my life” is the third novel by Chetan Bhagat. In it author portrays scores of problems which we comprise been facing in India and which are making the Indian youth heedful and sentient of some biggest problems that pestilence our society. But finally the novelist shows us in an optimistic way not to this condition by depicting people like Govind, Ishaan and Omi comprehend the real value of life and mean to do well for India.*

**Key Words** – Fanaticism, chauvinism, heedful and sentient

Chetan Bhagat was born in New Delhi in a middle class Panjabi family on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 1974. His father was an army office and mother, a government employee. The major part of his education was done at Delhi he studied in the Army public school, Dhaula kuan, New Delhi during the year 1978 to 1990 after which he chose to do Mechanical Engineering at the Indian institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. After pursuing engineering he took a management program offered at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahamedabad. Being an outstanding student he was no wonder when he was recognized as the “Best outgoing student” of his batch by IIM Ahmedabad. He later got married to Anusha Suryanarayan in 1998; she was his fellow student at IIM Ahmedabad. Chetan then went to Hong Kong along with his family and worked as an investment banker with Goldman sach. He worked in Hong Kong for eleven years and then shifted to Mumbai and started writing. It was his passion. He has six novels against his name: *5 point someone* (2004), *One night @ the call centre* (2005), *The Three Mistakes of My Life* (2008), *2 States* (2009), *Revolution 2020* (2011) and *Half Girl Friend* (2014). He also wrote two essay collections, *What Young India Want* (2012) and *Making India Awesome* (2015) By chance or by choice of all his novel had numbers associated with them. He now leads a happy life with his and twin sons Ishaan and Shyam.



Chetan Bhagat's contribution to the field of entertainment is noticeable. He never confined his literary to just writing novels. As a responsible social person he also writes columns in newspapers, citing and dwelling on various social and national issues. Social influence is a factor in every individual's life. Social influence take place when one's thoughts, action and feeling are affected by other people. It is the way of interaction that has an impact on individual behaviour and can occur with groups and between groups. It is a fundamental process that affects ways of socialization, conformity, and social change. He won the *Society Young Achiever's Award* in 2000 and the *Publisher's Recognition Award* in 2005. Chetan Bhagat also found himself place in the Time magazine's list of "World's 100 Most Influential people" in the year 2010.

Literature is the device to project human psyche in aesthetically realistic way. It delegates the writer to salve humanity from misery and melancholy. Mind is the cause of human misery. It persuades a person to weave big dreams. He spends his entire life chasing them. He forgets the real purpose of human life on the earth. The continuity of happiness is the only goal of every human being. Man finds it in the physical facilities. He fails to achieve it there. Instead, he accumulates more means that are mundane. Still, he fails to achieve it. This continues and he falls sick of trials and flunks. The moment comes when he takes life for a useless thing. He takes pleasure as if it is a sin and the main hurdle on the way to his destination (continuity of happiness). A good piece of literature soothes extra agility of the mind. Literature is capable to satisfy a person with ideal fulfilment. A person, who fails to achieve the real goal of life, attains it in the ideal world of literature. Even though, it is a kind of illusion, the literary striver finds composure and pleasure herein. It is the power of literature, which assists a man to build stairway to the heaven. Along with, the literary artist can take others on the journey to the stars –the world of brilliance and bliss. Literature is not only a sedative pill, which calms down anxiety of mind. It also works as a proactive pill, which stimulates the mind to bring innovative changes in the patriarch society. Bhagat considers literature as a provocative pill, which works as a strong stimulant to the human mind. Bhagat enthuses the youth to purge sterile dogmatism of the social system.

The name of Chetan Bhagat is highly appreciated in the field of English literature. He is a personality, who expresses the present scenario experience as he realised he takes upon the sensitive issue which concern to the society in his novels ranging from the romantic love story to a deplorable condition of the present educational system. Chetan Bhagat in almost all his novels highlights the problems faced by the youth. "The Three Mistakes of my life" is the third novel by Chetan Bhagat. The book was published in May 2008. In the "Three Mistakes of my life" author portrays scores of problems which we comprise been facing in India and which are making the Indian youth heedful and sentient of some biggest problems that pestilence our society. Chetan Bhagat has dealt with such burning problems like expensive education, lack of advancement in less significant town, conventional approach fanaticism in



politics, fraudulent, politicians and religious extremism chauvinism towards agnostics and atheists poverty amid the brighter lower-middle course group youth, extreme contest in access exams for college admissions, rift between religions, castes, conservative mentality of parents; hypocrisy among the public politicians and everyone alike lack of awareness, foresight and ideas due to lack of quality education. People just want to earn and the passion for anything is dead prodigies and talented people are mostly unrecognized and all that dies away as unharnessed potential. Due to above mentioned problems that people of India are struggling with their people of India are struggling with their given circumstances to make their lives liveable, such condition of India is due to politics religious communalism, racism, caste - ism fanaticism.

Chetan Bhagat's "The Three Mistakes of My Life" is a representation of modern culture and modern people. There is a story of three friends Govind Patel, Ishaan and Omi. The narrator of this sensational story is Govind himself. The three friends have occupied with different life-style Govind is more obsessed with business. Ishaan has passion of cricket while Omi is more concerned with religion because of his parents' attachment with the city temple. So business, cricket and religion seem to govern the life of three growing people. Govind is man of strong outlook. Now he is ready to set-up his own business. He projected himself to be less emotional and more practical in his life. He has something different views regarding emotionalism as far as I can remember, I was never good with emotional stuff I love maths, I love logic and those subject have no place for emotions. I think human beings waste too much time on emotions. The prime example is my mother. "Dad's departure was followed by months of crying with every lady in every poll coming down to sympathize with her."(4)

Chetan Bhagat's "The Three Mistakes of My Life" is about three friends Govind, Ishaan and Omi. Govind is the protagonist of the novel. All of them have their ambition. They were young they have to achieve many things. Govind wants to become a businessman, he wants to explore his business. He wants to buy a shop in a mall at Naurangpura chok. Govind says he is emotionless. He has his one business idea, he gives his mom's example she used to sell snacks. Govind says "Her snacks were great but she was no businessman. Emotional people make terrible businessman. She would sell on credit and buy on cash-the first mistake a small business can make" [9] Govind has passion for maths in class X. He started taking tuitions new source of income. Though his father was not he had to support his mother and could study less for the entrance exam. Engineering or other courses in India are costly. Education has become business in India lower class or middle class people cannot afford good courses this is very big problem of today's youth. The portrayal of Govind, Ishaan and Omi is quite realistic because such characters are visible in our society everywhere. So, the novel seems to be the realistic presentation of the events and incidents occur in their struggle for survival Govind and Ishaan succeed in their mission. While Omi sacrifices his life for the noble cause. He was less influenced by the fanaticism of his Bittoo mama and more impressed by the secular outlook of his friend-Ishaan and Govind. Three friends are symbol of modern society.

In this way the presentation of Chetan Bhagat seems original. There is some real incidents like earthquake on the Republic day, the Test match between India and Australia at Iden Garden in which India wins marginally. These portrayals give unique blends the socio-political motive with psychological realism in a brilliant way of storytelling.

Religion plays a major role in the Indian way of life. Rituals, worship and other religious activities are very prominent in an individual's daily life; it is also a principal organizer of social life. Inter-community clashes have found widespread support in the social mainstream and it is generally perceived that the causes of religious conflicts. Just as business and cricket, religion is also a political issue. In this novel Omi, the best friend of the protagonist who does not have big dreams but being the son of Hindu priest he is expected to follow his father. On the other hand Bittoo mama, an active member of a Hindu Political Party, follows the preaching of Parekh-Ji, a political cum spiritual leader. For example, when Bittoo mama comes to meet Omi at the shop and sees him wearing shoes, he says to Omi, "your shop is in a temple and you are wearing shoes? A Brahmin priest's boy Do you do puja every morning before you open, you are Hindu boys. You have your shop in such a pure place. At least remove your shoes light a lamp"(22)

Politics and religion are inter-related. Political parties have been using religion as a tool. Parekh-Ji is a senior Hindu party leader. Omi's mama Bittoo is an active member of his party. Parekh-Ji was well educated and rich man but he was only concerned with Hindus. He and his party hate other religion's people. All the political parties want young people to join the party and follow their ideology Bittoo mama wants Omi to join the party but Omi was more attracted towards his friends' secular view. Bittoo mama invites Omi, Ishaan and Govind for feast in Parekh-Ji's house. Religion plays major role in politics, this we have seen in 1947 when India was divided into two parts Pakistan and India. There was election in Gujrat. Parekh-Ji, senior leader of a Hindu party wants Hindu votes. He raises the Ayodhya temple issue to take Hindu voters in his favour. He says 'Devotee, the Hindu religion teaches us to bear a lot and we do been a lot. So today's discussion is "How much bearing is enough? Until when does a Hindu keep bearing pain?"'(42)

It is harsh reality of our politics that politics divide people in the name of caste religion and God and temple and mosque. In the novel we also find secular view. Ali's dad was a leader of a Muslim Party. He had secular image. He say's "The gods we pray to stayed away from politics in their time. If we truly want to follow our gods, we must keep our religion separate from politics. Religion is private, politics public. [152] While Parekh-Ji was speaking in a rally about temple and religion Ali's dad was speaking in another rally that "Gujrat is a place of intelligent people who knows politics and religion are separate".[152]

In Godhara kand Bittoo lost his son, he wants to take revenge by killing Ali. Godhara was a communal riots though Bittoo mama was angry but what he says to Ali shows what he feels for muslim people he says to Ali "the more innocent you look now the bigger devil will be in

ten years.”(242) In our country people with any religion are fanatics. In India, people follow a great number of religion and these religions do not agree with each other and consequently people have barriers of religions and disturbance are very frequent in our country. The partition of our country resulted in bloodshed of thousands and thousands of people following Hindu and Muslim religions.

In India many people like Bittoo mama and Parikh-ji create lots of problems in society and these problems are suffered by many innocent people. We have seen dozens of communal riots among which the barbarity of the Gujrat riots will always remain the ugly face of modern Indian democracy in which more than 2000 innocent people lost their lives. Still we believe that no religion gives permission to kill innocent people and rape women. And if someone is doing it in name of religion it is not religion but the so called followers of religions who are doing wrong in the name of religion. It is paradoxical that when all religions intend to preach brotherhood and universal love, yet we are always in arms against a person who said to worship a different God. But in the modern world there should have been no place for this kind of insanity. India is a multi-cultural and multi-religious society. Culture describes the many ways in which human beings express themselves for the purposes of uniting with others, forming a group, defining an identity, and even for distinguishing themselves as unique. Values have a moral and regulatory role and have a wider significance in going beyond specific situation. For example in this book post-Godhra riots put all the protagonists into a really perilous situation where Govind and Ishaan lose their friend Omi. But they are successful in saving the life of Ali, which was a major challenge at the time of crisis. The Indian society is not a monolithic one. This is a natural corollary to the fact that diversity is a part of the Indian way of life from region to region diversity in the social structure is prominently seen. Unity in diversity is best seen in India in a maze of seemingly disparate people. One social unifier is the Indian system of caste adhered to by all the racial groups belonging to the Hindu religion. Moreover, communalism, fanaticism also plays their destructive part in Indian socio-cultural life.

The novelist shows us in an optimistic way not to this condition by depicting people like Govind, Ishaan and Omi comprehend the real value of life and mean to do well for India. They walk on the right track. But sometimes conditions are difficult which obtain annoyance. These circumstances are of politics and this politically disjointed culture makes it very difficult to take any critical action.

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