



EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S *REVOLUTION 2020*

DR. PRIYANKA KAUSHAL

Assistant Professor of English
Career Point University
Tikker (Kharwarian), Bhoranj
Hamirpur (HP) INDIA.

ABSTRACT

Chetan Bhagat frames real pictures of modern women. He explores the empowerment of women in education, career, business, politics, family, fashion and society. A study finds a pretty, young and modern female character of novel, Aarti with two main characters of novel like Gopal and Raghav. Her impressions of beauty, intelligence, smartness, innocence admire others. Her love, devotion, friendship, status and appearance attract readers as well as critics. The writer of novel expresses women empowerment through Aarti in realistic manner. He presents her as an educated girl, loving daughter, passionate student, faithful friend and dear beloved. A research finds women empowerment through education which Chetan Bhagat focuses on quality education. Another side, financial freedom also comes to notice in his writing. The inner strength and positivity of Aarti bring sensation in the world of literature.

INTRODUCTION

Women empowerment comes through career-oriented quality of female. In postcolonial India, woman looks independent and confident to make her career. Chetan presents the ratio of women freedom in his writing through career, education, relationship, fashion and skills. In a history, S. Sujarith presents “the colonial Indian women”(199) with “reformation against societal evils”(207). Priyanka Kaushal also focuses on “Indian womanhood”(41) in his study of Rabindranath Tagore’s *The Wreck* where Hemnalini a female character of novel presents “the conditions of woman in Indian society”(41). Similarly, Aarti an ambitious girl of Bhagat’s novel presents herself as goal-oriented woman when she starts her career as an air hostess in Indian airlines. A scenario of modernity also reflects through working women’s dreams. The study also introduces modern thinking through Indian female character of novel. Aarti also joins “an aviation academy” (130) and also compare with a flight of feminism. Her commitment, desire and struggle for her career bring women empowerment in postcolonial in India. The author expresses a modern setup female education especially in airline where an

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educated woman comes as “a flight attendant” (130). In modern world, parents also please to send their daughters to fashionable jobs. In addition, Sangeeta also talks about “the fast changing interior landscape of these women caught up in feudal and patriarchal system, undergoing deep economic transformation” (123).

Women consciousness comes to notice when Aarti and Gopal meets in a restaurant. She enquires Gopal’s life, job and profile like an instructor and well-wisher. The novelist proves self-conscious of female when Aarti alerts her friend “you have faced more difficult things in life before. You will make it”(131). The writer also shows woman’s intelligence when she warns Gopal, a childhood friend not to indulge himself in illegal affairs. The truth and honesty of woman glorifies her personality.

Woman looks bold to be having relationship with others. A main heroine of Chetan Bhagat’s fiction expresses love for Raghav. Actually this boy is a childhood friend of her and now she is in relationship with him. Her audacity brings sensation among young females of modern India. Sometime, she looks confuse to give her like and dislike for Raghav’s work and style. “No, but I have no choice. If it makes him happy, so be it”(131) Aarti expresses her feeling for her lover.

The study also explores purity and modesty of woman where the author discusses men’s politics against woman for their benefits. The advance woman involves in corruption unwillingly through her father and friend. In novel, Gopal uses Aarti’s contacts for some professional approvals to be opening an engineering college at Varanasi. Bhagat raises Indian affiliating system to start any private organisation with informal meetings and discussions. “We manage to please every Indian government official on this earth”(169) brings the high form of corruption in education. Aarti, a daughter of DM colonizes in the man dominated society where Gopal also plays some politics with her.

In the first part of the novel, readers meet with Aarti as an airline trainee. After that, she joins as a guest relation counselor in a new constructed hotel of Varanasi. Actually, it really shows a freedom of woman in career. The author presents Indian family where a girl doesn’t hesitate to do a job of “Guest Relations Trainee”(181). A woman character of novel looks “different”(181) and “formal”(181).

The interest of woman in politics comes when she goes to the engineering college of Gopal. Aarti’s powerful wordings shows her ambitious style like “it’s not money. It’s the content that matters”(197). As “a practical girl”(197) Bhagat mentions her freely talks and visits with friends and boyfriends in hotels, restaurants, colleges, theaters and tourist places of Varanasi. As a social reformer, she supports her lover when he loses his job. Bhagat looks confuse to promote actual nature of Aarti because she doesn’t favour illegal method of earn money. She says “it will never make money” (198) and another side “eating cakes in a five- star



hotel”(198) shows her consciousness of brand and status. In colonial study, the foreign ladies during British rule “concentrated on societal discriminations on women such as sati, female infanticide, child marriage and Hindu widowhood and treated it as white women’s burden to relieve/ save the Indian women”(Sujarith 207).

Empowerment of women in style and fashion, Bhagat also highlights a curiosity of women for drugs with new approach. Aarti presents a fashionable approach where she says “give me a puff”(201) and presents woman’s psychology. She provokes against the narrow thinking of society and says that “just because I am a girl? True colours of a Varanasi man”(201). Woman cuts all chains of hesitation and innocence when the writer writes about “she took a few puffs”(201). In this phase, Bhagat presents a positive mindset of men to take drugs and also enjoy with friends as the modern and fashionable personality, instead of woman whose criticizes negatively to do all these things in Indian society.

Another side, Bhagat presents mysterious Indian woman in his context. He writes about Aarti’s unclear vision of life. Through Gopal, who explores the confusion of female “since *Girlese* often means saying the opposites of what is meant, did this mean- call me”(205) and “why can’t girls be direct”(209).

An individual freedom of woman comes to notice where a girl lives freely with her choices. Aarti a modern girl wants all comforts of life. She adopts modern life styles of youngsters like spend some time with friend in a hotel. Her fearless and frankness find when she expresses that “you have to check no staff is around when I come or leave”(214). Another side, the author presents a practical girl who takes wine for enjoyment. The women empowerment in style presents through bold character of novel. “Nice. What is it”(215)? Aarti does this for her happiness and acceptance.

Bhagat also presents selective thinking of Aarti where she listen the desiring part of conversation but she upsets also if any discussion doesn’t concern with her likes. A state of mind of man comes when Gopal actually feels “men are born on earth to listen to girls”(225). Another side, the author presents a female as “sensible girl” (225). A female always looks emotional in terrible situations but her emotion makes her strong. The novelist writes about “tears rolled down her cheeks” (225). Gopal in man- dominated society finds as a well-wisher and loving friend of Aarti who “picked up a tissue and leaned forward to wipe them”(225).

A female character of Bhagat’s novel looks smart, intelligent, emotional, practical and confident. The author proves women empowerment through her intelligence like “in every relationship, there is a weaker person and there is a strong person. The weaker person is the one who needs the other person more”(226).



The novelist appreciates management of woman in a domestic and professional life. In this novel, Bhagat presents smartness of woman in society, family, amity, fashion, personal and professional life equally. The author talks about Indian parents where a heroine of novel expresses that “my parents are pressurizing me to get married”(226) and Indian obedient daughter says “I can’t fight them forever”(226). The author writes about Indian family system “when it comes to daughters, Indian parents are insane”(265).

The author writes that “girls are contradictory”(228) and in another way, “they will say they like communication, but on certain topics they calm up”(228). Actually, the author proves woman’s dare where she covers topic cleverly and also control the situation. In this part of novel, where Gopal “played with Aarti’s hair as she spoke to Raghav”(230) a multi - talented female parameter comes in the story.

The author also introduces latest technology like email chat, messages and cell phones chat to communicate. Technically advance women are main attraction of his writing. Aarti one of these characters of novel. The special references of fiction’s contexts like “how’s the move gng? When do I c the place”(233)?

Bhagat also uses messages kind of language in his writing sample. Like Aarti uses that “r u sure? Am so nervous about u meeting him”(233).

In another part of story, Aarti also favours truth and honesty. A focus of revolutionary news explores against the corrupt politicians through her lover. She believes to do something for a truth. She does favour for Raghav “but he is only speaking truth. Someone has to stand up for the truth”(236).

A leading character of novel, Gopal does everything for his love and passion. He becomes a big man for Aarti. It comes like a motivational female symbol of story. A man also takes advantages of woman for his personal benefits. For example, Aarti’s blind faith on Gopal is a major cause of Raghav’s tragedy. “They attacked his office” Aarti tells Gopal “*Revolution 2020* can’t be published. The press is broken”(245).

Modern woman also feels free and comfortable in living relationships. She prefers her enjoyment and happiness instead of typical restrictions of society. “She wanted to get closer”(250) to Gopal, Bhagat pretends “perhaps to justify leaving Ragahv”(250).

A female character of novel also shows interest in politics and awareness. Like novel’s heroine asks “well, you know the CM fired Shukla, right? He didn’t resign or go to jail himself as he said on TV”(251). As a realistic writer, Bhagat presents an actual image of woman in society, home, politics and business. In professionalism, the novelist writes about



business woman “imagined her as the principal of the GangaTech College of Hospitality” (251).

Woman’s involvement in politics shows her awareness and alertness for a country. Bhagat writes smartly on the political interferes in a life of Aarti “they clipped my wings from flight attendant to guest relations”(252). It shows the political awareness among women “they will make me visit a thousand villages and sit with seventy-year-old men all day”(252).

A simple woman becomes a political symbol where she plans “a good dinner with the politicians”(253). It is a new innovation of women in politics. A high profile of woman where Gopal comments “you don’t want to become an MLA”(254). Politics is “power meant people”(256) which “is never a bad thing in India”(256). Aarti feels “boring”(257) on “the Pradhan family’s duty towards the party”(257). Women gives statement “it’s politics”(257) come “things aren’t decided so fast”(257).

A self-realization of woman “I am cheating on him with you”(265) presents woman’s consciousness. A dignifies behaviour “should I talk to him”(265). Priyanka Kaushal also presents woman as “a symbol of love, compassion, sympathy and pity”(181) in the poetry of D.C. Chambial. She always looks alert and protective for future possibilities. It proves through “I need to speak to my parents too”(265) Bhagat’s presentation on women empowerment successes to attract reader in his writing context.

In another side, the author shows a man-dominated nature in society, home, commercial, education and professional also. “Men dominated woman as colonizers”(Kaushal 180) explores in her study of colonization of woman. A suggestion of woman doesn’t appreciate positively in her profession. The novelist expresses a poor mentality of male employees for the females. A scene of conversation in the novel where “Mrs Awasthi, a professor of mechanical engineering”(273) and “Jayant is the placement coordinator”(273). A female professor raises doubts on “personal payout”(273) like an advisor but Director Gopal as a symbol of man-dominated person interrupts her “this is not your department. You better update me on applied mechanics”(273). Gopal as a professional avoids her suggestions like “these are managers of reputed companies”(273). Finally these contexts show that Mrs. Awasthi is a well qualified and educated personality in a field of engineering. She competes with men-dominated courses like mechanics. It shows women empowerment in education and engineering. Whatever, she faces criticism by those who just half qualified than her.

The author presents lovable, struggler, professional, social female in various contexts. Aarti as a friend proves her loyalty. As a beloved, she stays with her lover. As a daughter, she never disappoints her parents. Bhagat presents her positivity and humbleness in every relation. The writer highlights the powerful images of woman. She performs like a source of energy in men’s life. Such as Gopal and Raghav, both male characters of novel find helpless,



careless and unproductive without her. Fortunately, the novelist writes the realistic parts of women in Indian society and culture. He explores modernity, adoptability and liability of women in his writing contexts.

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