

CHETAN BHAGAT'S YOUTH CALLING APPROACH

Dr. Bharti Savetia and Dr. Prabhakar Singh
Asth. Professor, Deptt. of English,
S.N. Govt. P.G. College, Khandwa (M.P.)

ABSTRACT:- 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. A good piece of literature soothes extra agility of the mind. 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. Bhagat considers literature as a provocative pill, which works as a strong stimulant to the human mind. Bhagat enthralls the youth to purge sterile dogmatism of the social system.

KEYWORDS:- Youth, human psyche, social system, misery, melancholy.

INTRODUCTION:-

A novel is a genre of literature. It is the youngest issue of literature for it came into the existence, late in 18th century. Novel is the pure produce of England. W. J. Long considers it as one of England's most original contributions to the world. He adds further, "this form of literature or the idea of the modern novel seems to have been worked out largely on English soil".¹ However, other genres of literature such as epic, romance and drama are sown in the oriental nations. Of course, they (genres) are properly cultivated in the western countries, specifically in the soil of England. Novel is an extract of all genres of the literature. It includes the most attributes of these genres. "The novel is essentially a social form. It explores the condition of the human beings through the mental struggle and body language, quite before they get

into action. It is like focusing on the stalking of the lion rather than pouncing upon the prey."² Bhagat strives to portray the mental stirrings of his personnel. His characters read the words and foresee the action. Hence, novel is a comprehensive literary form. Bhagat's *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* consists of a profound story decked with beautiful rhymes.

"Indian English novel is primarily a phenomenon that arose as a consequence of the colonial encounter in India. The pre-independence novels are generally monochromatic dealing with the movement against political subjugation or economic exploitation. But after the Independence, new horizons opened up inviting the novelists to diversify their themes and techniques".³

DISCUSSION:-

Chetan Bhagat has merged both highbrow and lowbrow genres into one, which is now approved as best-seller genre of the Indian English literature. He chooses the personnel from the real-life metropolis. His novels go around the lives of the youth. He exactly depicts their real-life pictures and entertains all class and cadre of people. Bhagat writes about the youth and specifically for the youth. However, the people of all age groups love to read him. It is reported that Bhagat's *Five Point Someone* is prescribed for some tribal children. Perhaps, this has happened first time in the history that an English novel referred to the youth has been prescribed to teach English, the tribal children of the primary school. First time, Bhagat has exposed the rubbish coated with so-called wisdom-cream of the top institute of the country, IIT. Unlike Tagore and his contemporaries, Bhagat is in favour of realism in art. His artistic truth lies within sensory perception. It guides his readers to obtain self-enlightenment. Unlike Tagore, Bhagat wants both "man and truth" in literature. Character is the soul of Bhagat's novels. The plot i.e. the story is the second important ingredient. Therefore, character is prior to the plot. His novel *Five Point Someone* was published in 2004 and is still on top selling list. His characters are social rebels who remind us the Angry Youngmen that dominated English novel in the 1950's. His female protagonists

remind us the female characters of G. B. Shaw for their vitality viz. natural female instinct. Place of action of his novels is set in the hustle and bustle of Metropolitan Indian cities where life moves at fast speed.

In *Five Point Someone: What not to do at IIT* (May 2004), Chetan Bhagat focuses on the lives of three friends of IIT Delhi –Hari Kumar (the narrator), Alok Gupta and Ryan Oberoi. The trio suffers ridicule of the teachers as well as the classmates. However, they avow to reform the patriarchal system of education. They dislike the teaching method, which is as old as the college itself. The students are asked to mug the subjects in order to score good grades. Bhagat puts emphasis on the observational teaching. He believes this technique must help the students in getting rid of mugging. It must support them to apprehend the things in a natural way. The observational technique makes the students to observe the things minutely and find out solution in the objects. After all, if they fail to make it out, they are invited to discuss the same with the teachers and other classmates. At last, the student finds answer to his query. Nonetheless, such method is a good for nothing in the big sci-fi institute. Bhagat grieves for the sterile dogmatism of the education system. He finds the professors bigotry not to allow any prolific change in the system. Bhagat is straightforward in his approach to life. He listens to the voice of his soul, which he strongly believes in, is ever true. The man listening to the inner voice may suffer a big loss but finally emerges out victorious. For instance, all three friends suffer ignominy at college campus. All the teachers as well as the students take them for nuts, idiots and losers only because they underperform in the exams and notch five points something. But like others they are not muggers, they are freethinkers, true lovers of life, harbingers of innovative ideas, icons of liberty and precursors of the youth-calling-approach. They never lose confidence, work harder on the lube project and consequently their project is approved and they succeed to achieve big fame and name.

Bhagat advises the youth not to play *Eklavya*, who chopped away his thumb and offered it to the teacher for not teaching him a single letter of archery. The boy learnt it with the firm will-to-learn-it anyhow. Bhagat just asks the youth to listen to the voice of their heart. A bad thing is to be turned down and a good thing is to be

accepted whether it comes from an intellectual or from a layman. Acceptance or rejection depends upon the nature of the thing. It should not concern the nature of the person. That is why Ryan suggests his friends a plan how to keep away from the cynicism of the teachers and enjoy the prime days of the life at the institute. This is not with other writers of seniority. They focus the suffering and helplessness of the people. Bhagat manifests the untiring efforts of his characters to come out of the slough of melancholy. He portrays his men and women as the true revelers of the human life. Adversity does not stay with them for long. It does not subdue their will to enjoy life. They very soon emerge out of it and start delighting in the life.

Bhagat's *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* is a novel of the dark passion. It records the sexual audacity of the woman protagonist. It unites the three friends to preserve the national talent, Ali. This is the first time when an Indian English writer has elevated his characters above the trifles of the society such as casteism, religion and idolatry. Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan* depicts the horrible realities of the partition. It projects the Hindus and the Muslims slashing each other in the name of religion. Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable* describes social ignominy Bakha suffered due to lower caste. The novel in hand mainly focuses on the venture of three friends –Govind, Ishan and Omi. The trio have vowed to portray Ali as the approved cricket talent of India. Govind is the narrator in the novel. He is the strategy maker. He is the artist-man in true sense. He believes in himself and his potentiality. He loves to do what his conscience allows him. He has been the city topper in mathematics in 10+2 exams. If he had willed to pursue an engineering programme, he could have done it successfully. However, his interest lies in business. He drops his further education and goes with business. He emerges out a true businessman. Bhagat has portrayed his characters as decision makes. Other writers of the past have delineated their protagonists subjected to the will of their parents or their boss. Unlike other writers, Bhagat advises the youth not to follow every word of their parents and the boss blindly. Revolutionary spirit of Bhagat thus appears in his comment: "Humanity wouldn't have progressed if people listened to their parents all the time".⁴

This is a message to the youth for taking decision personally for their own welfare and for the humanity as well. Vidya marks at the selfishness of the most parents. They decide the future of their kids for the sake of their pseudo social image. They do not bother to invite suggestions from their children even in the crucial matters of the life. Bhagat disregards this attitude of the elders towards the younger.

Omi lives in the temple but he never realised the presence of God there. He never found mental repose and bliss in the temple. When he started business with Govind, he felt the presence of the almighty in the fatigue after the whole day travail, in serving the curious kids asking for the sport goods, and in training Ali with body building tips. Bhagat conveys God resides in the satisfaction after the arduous labour of the day. He (God) is always there with a person in his firm will-to-achieve-it anyhow. He lives in the will of the person directed to serve the humanity for no personal gains. Bhagat does not install God in the temple. He installs Him in the natural instinct of his personnel. However, he adores the supreme power with devoutness of the business. He worships Him with fidelity towards his friends. Omi supports the Muslim boy, which is against the will of his parents. He fights against his uncle and other rioters to save the life of the boy. He saves him for the sake of nation. In Ali, he saves the priceless asset of the country. He dies while fighting against the killers of humanity. Bhagat keeps humanity far above sectarianism –caste, religion etc. This virtue of Bhagat's outlook distinguishes him from other thinkers of his age as well as of the ancient times. He finds only a human being in the people of all sects and religions. One more thing, which distinguishes him from others, is his treatment of love. His men do not chase women. The women are the chaser and the men are the chased in his novels. Vidya has hunted him and he is the hunted. Bhagat's women take initiative in the courtship. They steer forth the courtship until it converts into the commitment of living togetherness. The men make all attempts to avoid the snoop of the women's charms. When they fail to

exorcise vitality of the counterparts, they become passive in the game. They neither expel nor receive the stimulus. Things happen to them naturally.

CONCLUSION:-

Bhagat has introduced some unique trends in the Indian English literature. He has focused the interest of the youth. He has written about their aspirations and for them. He has attempted to guide their ripe energies into proper direction. This is no surprise if they acclaim him as the youth writer. His novels touch an emotional chord of the third generation. These display the ambition of the youth, mixed with fears and tinged with tears. His men and women observe morality in the warm heartedness of the human relations. They are epicureans in nature. Therefore, they take life for pleasure. They enjoy even being called five pointers that is sort of insulting. Their concern lies specifically in the innovation of education system and the society as a whole. They believe in success comes to those who crave for practicability not for mugginess in life. Bhagat puts stress on liberty of women. Hence, Bhagat has purposefully employed youth calling approach in his novels.

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