

## **CHETAN BHAGAT’S “FIVE POINT SOMEONE” WHAT NOT TO DO AT IIT- A FASCINATING NOVEL OF ‘FRIENDSHIP AND CREATIVITY’**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Chetan Bhagat is the author of five novels; most of his novels have been adapted into major Bollywood films. He is one of the best-selling authors in India and he is known for his creative writing introducing innovative techniques in narrating a story. He is a popular fiction novelist who comments on Education, Society and Current Events. Five point someone what not to do at IIT discusses grade point averages of the three students named Ryan, Alok and Hari in particular and IIT students of Delhi in general. The novel focusses on psychological, emotional, moral, social, financial and educational aspects of the students of the present generation. The paper also presents the validity of friendship and creative thinking.

The novel begins with the three friends named Hari, Ryan and Alok on IIT campus, Delhi, facing ragging from their seniors. Hari is the protagonist of the novel and he narrates the story. Hari, Ryan and Alok are Mechanical Engineering students in IIT Delhi and they first met in Kumaon hostel. Anurag and Baku are their seniors. Prof. Dubey, Prof. Cherian Prof. Veera and Prof. Sastry are IIT professors. Their role is pivotal in guiding the students and moulding their characters and bringing them into right path.

Hari Kumar, Alok Gupta and Ryan Oberoi whom we call Hari, Alok and Ryan with their short names come from different family backgrounds. Hari and Alok belong to middle class families and Ryan is from above middle class and his parents live in abroad. Hari and Alok are from Delhi itself. Hari falls in love with Neha who is the daughter of Prof. Cherian and Head, Dean of the faculty of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Delhi.

The novel deals with psychological, emotional, social, moral, financial and educational aspects of Hari, Ryan and Alok. Ryan’s father and mother are both intimately involved in the business and they often visit India to see their son who was kept in boarding school from his sixth year. Alok’s mother is a school teacher and his father has been a patient for a long time. Half of his mother’s salary was spent on his father’s medical treatment. He has also a marriageable age sister and the family is looking for Alok’s help after his studies. He loves his

parents and his sister and he is ready to sacrifice his life for the sake of his family, whereas Ryan is quite against to Alok. He does not love his parents though they have given him everything.

“I said I don’t love my parents.....” (p.38)

“I don’t know why. I mean, I have been in boarding school when I was Six.

Of course, like every kid I hated it and cried when they left me...”(p.39)

“I mean, for me my friends are everything, they are my family. Mom and Dad are nice, but I don’t love them the way I love my friends.”(p.39)

From Ryan’s conversation it is true that he has developed a kind of hatredness and dislike towards his parents for being kept him in boarding school when he was only six years old. He says that boarding school has given him everything like sports, studies, entertainment and friends. Hari’s case is the same like Ryan. His father is a Colonel in the army who is a strict disciplinarian and sent Hari to IIT Delhi against Hari’s wishes. But he neither loves his parents nor hates them. However Hari, Alok and Ryan are good friends. They shared their sorrows, joys, troubles equally to one another. Ryan and Hari stood on Alok side when Alok’s father was hospitalised and he himself fell from large building of IIT Delhi and got fractured his legs. Alok and Ryan also supported Hari’s love with Neha. They also guided Hari in a right direction in his love affair. Hari spends his time with his lover Neha hopelessly. He is very polite, kind hearted and balanced minded and solves the problems peacefully whenever disputes arise among friends. He takes pleasure in the company of Neha because he had had a very tough time with his strict colonel father at home having no music, no TV and no laughing when he was a boy.

The novel also focusses the system of grading and grade point averages (GPA) in IIT Delhi. Hari, Ryan and Alok are underperformers and their grade point average has never reached beyond six. They are always five pointers and are more stressful in doing their assignments, project works, unit tests, quiz tests and majors. Though Ryan is brilliant, clever and fearless he never takes his studies seriously. Alok is a hard worker and mugger but he does not come up to expectations in his studies. He has his own worries and family problems. Prof. Cherian also wanted his son to get into IIT but his son’s ambition was against his father and he wanted to become a lawyer. Prof. Cherian being a renowned professor of IIT Delhi has utterly failed to know the ambition of his own son. The effect was that his son committed suicide for having failed in fulfilling his father’s ambition. Even Alok, Ryan and Hari tried to steal major examination question papers and were caught openly by the security guards. They tried to steal major question papers from Prof. Cherian’s chamber to get through their final year engineering exams easily with grade point average ten. The discipline committee decided to suspend all the three for one semester. In this case, Prof. Veera, Prof. Cherian and Prof. Sastry saved them from expulsion.

Finally they proved their talent by working hard and getting their placements in different companies. Alok and Hari got jobs in Delhi and Mumbai respectively. Ryan was given a project work under Prof. Veera’s guidance which he finished successfully and settled in a company established by his own father.

Chetan Bhagat wants to bring out the defects of present educational system of grade point averages of IITs in India and parental pressure on children’s education in fulfilling their desires through their offspring. The novel also reflects how average students suffer from overburden of workload and restlessness on the campuses. The novel exemplifies teachers support in bringing students from wrong way to right path and it also encourages students’ originality and creativity.

**Work Cited**

1. Bhagat, Chetan: '*five point someone*', published by Rupa & Co. Delhi, 2004.