

## **SATIRE ON THE PREVALENT EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE NOVEL “REVOLUTION 2020” BY CHETAN BHAGAT**

**Dr. Ashish Gupta**

Associate Professor (English)  
J.H.Govt.P.G.College,  
Betul (M.P.)

**Krishnkant Pandole**

Research Scholar  
J.H.Govt.P.G.College,  
Betul(M.P.)

Chetan Bhagat is a well-known Indian writer, speaker and columnist. He was born to a middle class family on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, 1974 at the capital city of New Delhi, India. His mother was an official in government’s agricultural sector whereas his father used to work in the Indian army. He completed his schooling from the Army Public School situated in Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi (1978 to 1991). He did his Mechanical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi (1991 to 1995) and then he further pursued his education at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM) (1995 to 1997). At the IIM, he was given the title of the “Best Outgoing Student”. During his stay at Hong Kong, Chetan Bhagat worked in Deutsche bank as an Investment Banker for 11 years and then he moved to the City of Dreams, Mumbai with his wife, Anusha in 2008. Then he gave up his job and devoted his entire time to writing. His style of writing is simple with vivid descriptions and linear narratives. In 2004, he received the Society’s Young Achiever’s Award and the Publisher’s Recognition Award in the year 2005. He is the author of five top-selling novels: Five Point Someone (2004), One Night @ The Call Centre (2005), The 3 Mistakes Of My Life (2008), 2 States: The Story of My Marriage (2009), Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition (2011). Many of the aforementioned books have movies based upon them.

In ancient time, the education was considered as sacred as God in India and the gurukuls were the best Institutes to achieve the education with sacredness. In ancient India, the gurukuls were dedicated to achieve the highest ideals of complete human development that included physical, mental, spiritual development as well as leading to God-realization. On the other hand, modern educational institutions have their primary emphasis on moneymaking “I know how the education business works” (pp.170) and materialism instead of concept of complete human development. India’s education system turns out millions of graduates each year, many skilled in IT and engineering. This manpower advantage underpins India’s recent economic advances, but masks deepseated problems within India’s education system. There was a time when corruption was only in Government offices, private institutions, police stations etc. But, now a day’s corruption has spread its roots in education system also.

Revolution 2020 is the story about three friends Gopal, Aarti and Raghav. Gopal is the protagonist of the story. In this novel the author describe about the corruption apparent in the

Indian youth educational system where Gopal is the “most uneducated director” (pp.03) of GangaTech college of Engineering and MBA coaching center and this institutes are approved through corruption, link of corruption from top to bottom. He also describes that our education system is a good business for politicians to invest their black money into the private colleges or institute to make it white “you want me to open a college? I haven’t even been to college”. (pp.120) “Most people who own college in India haven’t stupid people go to college. Smart people own them” (pp.120) this is the condition of our educational institute. The fatal flaw in the system most likely arises from its near-complete government control. Practically all aspects of the system suffer from political and bureaucratic meddling. Education is one of the fundamental objectives of development. It is important to enable people to develop as individuals, raise themselves out of poverty and to empower them so they can use other rights in the society. Education makes man a right thinker and a correct decision-maker. It achieves this by bringing him knowledge from the external world, teaching him to reason, and acquainting him with past history, so that he may be a better judge of the present. A person that gets a good education will become a more dependable worker, a better citizen, and a stronger consumer. All parents hope for a good education for their children. It is the key to the next generation’s future, particularly for the poor. Sometimes too much expectations from children is harmful for the students “Paternal love obviously overestimating progeny’s abilities.” If they unable to fulfill it. It equips young citizens with the knowledge and skills to thrive in their country's economy and to participate fully in society. It is a cornerstone of economic and social development, a human right under international law and a constitutional guarantee in most countries. But in reality education is often characterized by poor quality and unequal access. Classroom overcrowding, poorly maintained primary schools, absent teachers, lack of textbooks and supplies, and unacceptably high fees and expenses were just some of the problems cited. When it comes to higher Education it depends more on the parents' purse and social status than the talent, effort and merit of the student. Our education system makes a great difference between talented and poor students. According to our education system mostly students think about themselves that “I imagined myself in a sea, along with lakhs of other low-rankers, kicking and screaming to breathe. The waters closed over us, making us irrelevant to the Indian education system.” (pp.24) Unfortunately corruption tends to be one of the principal reasons behind all these problems.

Privatization of education has emerged in several forms in the recent decade in India. Government has allowed to opens self-financing private institutions with recognition but as a result it becomes business “sixteen hundred students now, chetan-ji, across all batches. Each paying one lakh a year. We already have a sixteen-crore turnover. And you inaugurated the MBA coaching today. That’s another new business.”(pp.03) Which may be termed as commercial private education institutions. Many private institutions have started courses on many discipline without basic infrastructure and qualified teaching faculties. Similarly mushrooming and practices have been noted in engineering, medical, nursing, pharmacy and management discipline and faculties in many private institutions are compelled to sign on affidavit that they are being paid as per UGC scale, although they are not even paid half of what is recommended by the government.

The uncontrolled growth of private education especially in engineering, medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy and management disciplines created a huge unwaged youth and the professional degrees are made into a commodity and are being sold. Student’s rooms are full of “Beer bottles outnumbered, cigarette butts exceeded pens. The walls had posters of scantily-clad women.” (pp.80) Due to the mechanical and pragmatic process the private institutes are unable to

produce a complete ‘human capital’ with ethical standards. On the contrary every year they are producing thousands of money minded machines and India has the world’s largest number of unskilled, untrained and unpaid professionals.

Internet and social sites are also We all need to realize that social networking communities are here to stay, considering the millions of users that they have. In addition, there are blogs as well as the video blogs. And there are students who are actively engaged in all these online communities. But we also need to look at the kind of effects that these sites are having on the youth, the especially students. Students today have begun to rely on the accessibility of information that is available on the social media platforms specifically as well as the web in general in order to get answers. This means that there is a reduced focus on learning as well as on retaining information. In addition, students are attempting to multi-task. They are trying to check various social media sites while they study. This leads to reduced academic performance. Besides, their ability to concentrate on their task at hand gets significantly reduced due to the distraction that is brought by all these social media sites. The other negative effect on students is that they are spending too much time on social sites, and much lesser time on socializing in person. In fact, there is a lack of body signals besides other nonverbal cues, including tone and inflection in case of social networking sites. Thus they cannot be considered as an adequate replacement for any face-to-face communication. Not only this, students who are spending a great deal of time on these social networking sites are not able to communicate in person in an effective manner. These social media sites have become so popular in such a short time because the information gets published in a fast way. This has actually created a lax attitude for using proper spelling as well as grammar. In fact, the students are unable to write effectively without the aid of the spell check feature of a computer. The kind of anonymity that is available on the Internet has made many students forget that they need to filter any information that they post. In fact, many colleges as well as potential employers tend to investigate the social networking profiles of an applicant before they grant any acceptance or an interview. And there are many students who are not constantly evaluating the content which they are publishing online. All this can lead to negative consequences even later on in their life.

Tuition system is predominantly found in India, but not in any other developed country or in country where education is given much importance. Modern version of tuition centre is the coaching centre and some of these are so popular that these even have branches all across India. These so called tuition centre or coaching centre take full advantage of today’s competition and quickly make money. “In reality, the class XII students never went to school. Career path had an agreement with a cooperative CBSE school, which had a flexible attendance policy. It was rumored that CBSE school received a handsome kickback from career path for the cooperation extended.” (pp.65) By seeing the mushrooming of so called tuition centre, especially run by the college teachers, the government has also passed directions that college teachers teaching at colleges cannot take private tuitions and if they continue to do so it is illegal and harsh steps will be taken against the guilty. But it is very difficult to uproot this problem in India as we no longer consider tuitions a problem, but part of schooling and education. Also it is widespread and well accepted. One of the major setbacks of tuition system in India is the decline in quality of education at schools as both parents and teachers rely more on tuition studies than school. Also every parent cannot afford this as tuitions are no longer free and some charge very high rates. So here again the quality depends upon the money you are willing to pay. Poor people are actually seen curbing their basic needs to send their kids for tuitions. Tuition business in India has gained so much importance is that teachers’ lack of concern as, they do not teach well at schools. Also

such teachers ask their students to get private tuition from them after school hours. Most of the teachers at schools and colleges are not interested in solving the problems of their students but still there are many teachers who are willing to help students at any time and are against tuitions. They promote self study and also guide well in school or college classes. But number of such teachers is diminishing in India. Tuition culture in India now seems inseparable from the normal schools. the tuition system in India is a great set back to the entire education system as well as schooling. Pupils and parents find going for tuition a very normal part of their curricular activity. Apart from this, seeing other students going for tuition, parents also force their kids for the same, whether they need this or not. Though it started with upper and middle class, but now private tuition is not only limited to these sections. Students belonging to families that are not doing so well are also seen attending tuition. Hence, today education is not the transmission of knowledge, but has become a very successful trade. Children are forced by the parents to study in that field which parents want or are interested in which makes their good reputation in the society but not according to the children what they want to study and their interest in which stream. It depends on the capability of student to choose subjects according to his or her interest. They try to teach their children for earn money and get good job, they never mind about knowledge and how to live a better life. Our education system is totally based on theoretical, we learn only those things which are inside the textbook but study in practical life is much better. Some children of our society commit suicide because their parents are expecting too much from them but sometimes they fail to complete their expectations. Talented students are suppressed because of lack of proper guidance.

All the educational institutes are governed by regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTE, MCI etc. These governing bodies form rules, regulations and guideline from time to time to regulate the functioning of educational institutes. “Which faculty goes to teach every day in private colleges? Don’t worry I will tell the AICTE inspectors I am there every day”. (pp.157) Therefore presently many education institutions do not fulfill eligibility criteria of affiliation to these regulatory bodies because they do not have minimum teaching and non-teaching staff, laboratory, and equipments as prescribed by the regulatory body, even they do not fulfill minimum demands of basic facilities for essentials like water, electricity, ventilation, toilets, sewerage etc. however many corrupt private institutes have been affiliated without following rules, regulations and guidelines of the statutory, regulatory bodies by means of bribery, nepotism or favoritism. Therefore “New engineering college opens in city with corruption money.” (pp.175)

Mostly colleges and schools organize Entrance Test for admissions in India like “AIEEE tsunami”. (pp.24) All corrupt educational institutes have started making money through entrance exams. Many coaching institutes are making money “If you have the cash, you are welcome” (pp.57) in the name of preparation of these entrance examinations. On the other hand most Indian education institutes whether they are college or schools, get donation for admission in their institutes under the name of management seats quota. They are abusing the noble word “donation” to get bribes for the admissions. These institutes also conduct their own entrance test and take admissions according to their own interest “I’ll print you a degree if you want, you do not even have to attend classes”. (pp.148) Many students have ability to perform their best but this educational privatization is indirectly depriving the child from taking education. Many reputed institutions demand very high charges for admission fees and hostel fees, saying that this is management quota fee. Talented students or backward class student try to take loans which again create a problem for them. This problem makes their life worse and some who do not find

a way out of this problem often ends their life “He didn’t get through, so he killed himself”. (pp.53) The suicide rate is increasing every year in students who do not get their desired institutions.

**Work Cited-**

Bhagat Chetan, "Revolution 2020", Rupa Pub. India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, India, 2011  
All subsequent references in parentheses are from this edition of the novel.