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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Depiction of Female Protagonists in the Fictions of Chetan Bhagat

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### Abstract

Chetan Bhagat is one of the most famous living novelists of India. He is a favorite of youth and has many times been crowned as an icon of them. His novel depicts the youth with westernization and modernization in their life style and manners. This review article focuses on the picturaization of female protagonists in the fiction of Chetan Bhagat.

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## INTRODUCTION

**Chetan Bhagat** is seen more as a youth icon than just an author. His characters are social rebels and stand for their vitality. Men and women are no more seen through the old concept which categorize men as superior and women as inferior. As by product of globalization and modernization men and women are given their due place and respect, in their own intellect and abilities, they are seen to be working or studying shoulder to shoulder. In an interview Bhagat says that he like women who are smart, independent and individualistic. They should have their own identity dreams and goals. It feels good to be with a woman who is sure of herself and knows whom she want to be. According to him all his woman characters are strong, feminist women, be it Ananya or vidya. He wants his characters role models for young girls. They should be women of substance and not just prop that fill up the space

**Five Point Someone (2004)**: Five Point someone is about three boys in IIT who can't cope with the system. Their poor grades five point average, brands them as the underperformers of IIT society and test everything else they hold important-friendship, love, dreams and responsibilities. Hari, Alok and Rayan are three main characters. Hari narrate the story. He is an average in study, fatty, unattractive, seems less confident, but keeps all three friends together. Hari meanwhile gets in to romance with Neha, daughter of the dreaded Professor Cherian, a tyrant of campus.

Neha, the beautiful attractive young girl has a painful past reliving memories of her dead brother, Sameer and a father who is a disciplinarian. She get involved with Hari and she offers him Ice-cream, they walked together through remote areas. She takes first hand to fix dating for movies, walks and ice-creams. When Hari offers drinking, smoking, and sex, Neha shows her active participation in those all anti social things. At first Hari, reluctant to share vodka by saying that she is a good girl, so it is not good to have alcohol, but she entertains herself with too much vodka. Neha enjoys her lose of virginity and thanking her partner, which shows her hunger and want of sex. When Hari says in an understatement "That was quite.....amazing (page 169) Neha says, Thanks, I like it too" (page 169) The word thanks is very important here, which suggests how earnestly she might have pained for it after getting which she thanks her lover so deeply. It is just like thanking of a thirsty traveler who is in search of water and after a long search when somebody quenches his thirst, he thanks, he thanks the person heartily. After this sexual intercourse with Hari, she seems to be attained all her desires fulfilled. Even though they are talking about marriage, at the climax got lose ended, there is nothing particular mentioning about their future relationship

In Five point someone Chetan Bhagat brings a female protagonist with beauty and liberal mentality to do the wrong things like pre-marital sex ,alcohol, taking cigarette ,all the thing that is against social moral rules

**One Night @ call centre (2005)** : It is the story about six people working in the call centre, set in one night, Esha, Shyam, Varun, Priyanka, Radhika and major uncle are the six characters working shoulder to shoulder in a call centre . it is all so move through the relationship between the six , especially shyam and his ex- girlfriend, priyanka and Ganesh, intended husband of Priyanka

Priyanka is liberal, not only she rejects Shyam and Ganesh for different reason, she also slaps against run's face, for the sake of Esha. The novel talks about the youth dreams, their hallucinations and their nightmares. Shyam always thinking of his past days spent with ex-girlfriend who had rejected him because her mother doesn't want shyam as priyanka's husband and also because of their relationship.

Here Bhagat celebrate the pre marital sex of priyanka and shyam. All their colleagues enjoying DJ inside while they come out and enjoy sex in the company Quails. In this scene Bhagat gives command in his lady's hand .She is a modern girl and not she like the old generation girls. She asks Shyam "By the way, do you have condom..?"(104). It is as if she was making an enquiry about books or chocolates or something like that. In this act of Pre marital affairs, the beginning is a credit to Priyanka. She starts kissing Shyam in his face after knowing he had it. After finishing shyam says "Amazing, that is simply amazing, Ms Priyanka (page 104) .Her reply also remarkable like Neha's "My pleasure sir" (104). Pre-Marital sex for her is not a thing of regret. She is happy to perform and thanks for it like any common help given to her by his colleagues. She feels it as a common activity , like sipping and glass of juice.

Priyanka's happiness at her new found love, Ganesh turns in to frustration when she learns of her parents plans to get her married the very next month. When Priyanka become aware of the hidden baldness of Ganesh with the help of Shyam and varun ,she denies Ganesh and approves Shyam's love towards her. She gives less consideration to her parent's wishes on her marriage, she decides and chooses a life of her own.

**The Three Mistakes of My Life (2008)**: It is the story of three friends, Govind, Ishan and Omi. They are dreaming of achievements in business, cricket and love relationship.

Vidhya is Ishan's younger sister. She is a rebel of heart and dreams to break free from the constraints of a typical middle-class family and society, to go to Mumbai, do a course in PR and becomes independent .She however, despises maths which is required for her medical entrance exam. Hence Isha asks Govind to take er mathematics tuition. In between their tuition they fall in love which is kept secret. Here also Vidhy takes initiation. Only Omi figures out the relationship, Govind and Vidhy share and reminds govind about the consequence of Isha finding out about the relationship. Bhagat's ambition to celebrate the lose of his lady's virginity is on its peak in this novel. His heroin Vidhya is so anxious to lose her virginity, that she chose to do it right on her birthday. Moreover, she chooses her tutor and her brother's best friend to unburden her load of virginity. She is younger but bolder than all other lady characters of Bhagat. She rather seduces Govind and uses him to take off her load her virginity from her. She celebrate it more than her birthday. She makes preparations on the terrace and as soon as she find the opportunity. She takes govind there and starts seducing him. Govind is a rational man ,he understand that it is wrong , but vidhya does not let him think anything at all. After that she says. "Wow I am an adult and I am no longer a virgin, so cool. Thank God" (201)

**Two States: The Story of my Marriage (2009)** :Two states: The story of my marriage is partly autobiographical. Story is about couple, Krish and Ananya, who hail from two different states of india ,Punjab and Tamil Nadu respectively, are deeply in love and want to get married.

"The best girl of the fresher batch". The story begins in IIM Ahamadabad. Ananya the beautiful girl quarreling with the mess staff about food and comments that the system will not change until they never complains. She hails for change in the existing system. Krish is a Punjabi boy from Delhi, attracted towards her, become friends and decided to study together. Here also it happens, the pre-marital sex between Krish and Ananya. It is oblivious that the attitude of their generation towards sex is not loaden with guilt. Pre marital sex for them is nothing of that feeling of regret or so. She enjoy the lose of virginity in her dormitory room before the pictures of her family members. She is not anxious to lose her virginity, but she is satisfied to begin it. "This is my first time.." (Page26) Even though she is a Brahmin girl, she enjoys drinking alcohol ,smoking and sex .This is the way Bhagat tries to bring out liberated women in his works. By liberation, he means acting against the existing social-moral taboos. But in this novel Krish and Ananya wants to be married with the consent of their families, those who belongs to different states and different cultures. Ananya the modern girl with free attitude wins Krish's family with her nature. She is hypocritical in practicing Brahmanism.

**Revolution 2020(2011)** :In his revolution 2020 Bhagat has tried to imitate the age old tradition of love and sacrifice. Gopal, the son of a retired school teacher ,ridden with debt and litigation as bound to fall head first and

hard in love with the daughter of district magistrate from the important days day he decided to steal a piece of cake, she had brought in her Tiffin box for lunch.

Innocent friendship from childhood turns in to love relationship from the part of Gopal, but she is reluctant toward him in that way. She is attracted towards Ragava's revolutionary thoughts. It gives rise to a triangle love. In this novel Bhagat has tried the age old tradition of love and sacrifice. Still he is strict in regard to his celebration of pre-marital sex between his frantic hero Gopal and his most beautiful girl Arati.

In this story he has learned from the past experience and had tried to give this new look as far as possible. Here Govind initiates the love and Arati only cooperates to him.

The character of Arati painted as an ambiguous girl, though the daughter of DM, she appears to be quiet insecure for, she underwent the course of Air Hostess and later on joins a five star hotel Ramadan as care taker of hospitality part. Character wise Arati is not unlike the female characters of first three novels of Chetan Bhagat who easily compromise with the situation in order to indulge in her physical pleasure. Where Arati sees that Ragav, the ideal youth has managed to secure a seat in prestigious engineering college, she roots for him. But never has she dropped Gopal but after the death of Gopal's father when the luck shines on Gopal and he taste the ultimate materialistic success as an owner and the director of a massive engineering college, She doesn't hesitate to adopt Gopal as her prospective groom. She leaves Gopal fully when she tried to sacrifice his love for the sake of Gopal by playing a foul game with prostitutes in front of Arati.

**Half Girlfriend (2014)** : Madhav Jha, the bihari boy from Damraon, meets Riya Somani, an upper class Delhi inhabitant at St. Stephen's college basket ball court. He is attracted towards her beauty and elegance though her attitude towards him moderate.

Here Riya Somani is reluctant towards his proposal to keep herself as a girl friend of him, he stress for that, Madhav represents a traditional male chauvinist, who want her to share everything that he wants. She is highly practical minded and she does not want to marry a boy, who belong to the rural part of Bihar and also he lacks proficiency in English. When he attempt to seduce her in hostel room, she says good bye to this relationship and marries Roha, an high class family friend, who lives in Europe. Riya is bold enough to leave her husband too, when she finds out that he got another face of cheating her and wants to be a super power or dominated husband as his wife. Riya realizes the need of love and care, Thus she comes back to madhav, after solving hurdles in their relationship. She yields to him physically. later they got married

In Bhagat's opinion 'girls are in no way inferior to boys. they are equal to them in all respective. He is an advocate to the liberation and empowerment of woman, but the pity is that he has equaled them only in doing the wrong things and taking wrong turns like taking alcohol, smoking cigarettes and having pre-marital sex. Even though Chetan Bhagat claims to be modernist and feminist, he is not able to cross the traditional aspects of heroine depiction, such as beautiful enchanting appearance. Female should be always an eye-catching epitome for man. He is not giving much importance to the male characterization on his physical appearance. Some time they are represented as dull fatty and unattractive just like Hari in five point someone. Man is not valued with quality, woman is not.....

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