

## The Education System in Modern India in Chetan Bhagat's Novel *Revolution 2020*

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### **Abstract**

The present paper describes the education system in Chetan Bhagat's novel *Revolution 2020*. It is his fifth novel which has been published in the year of 2011. This paper throws light on the education system in modern India. It discusses the role of coaching Centers, their performance and their oppressive nature. The Indian parents don't think about the potential and abilities of their children. They impose the burden of their ambitions on the shoulders of their sons and daughters. They pressurize their children for study. There are many students who are not careful about their education. They waste their valuable time in the trifle things. They give more importance to friendship, love and birthdays than study. The coaching centers are doing exploitation of students by charging high tuition fees. They don't think about the poverty of students. They charge high tuition fees although their performance is low. The corruption is also increasing in schools and colleges day by day. Corruption is becoming a big threat to education system.

**Keywords:** *Education, Ambition, Exploitation, Corruption, Modern etc.*

### **Introduction:**

Chetan Bhagat is an emerging novelist in Indian English literature. In the present novel *Revolution 2020* he handles the education system in India. The education is a sector which can make the good citizens of the nation. It makes the researchers, scientists, teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, and philosophers etc. who are the pillars of an ideal nation. The education makes the clear difference between animals and human beings. Therefore, education is necessary to everyone for their development. The author, Chetan Bhagat portrays the real picture of education system in India in his novel

*Revolution 2020*. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's India vision 2020 and Anna Hazare's Anti-Corruption movement inspired Chetan Bhagat to write this novel. Therefore, it is entitled as *Revolution 2020*.

The novel *Revolution 2020* is set in the holy city of Varanasi. It deals with love, corruption, ambition and education. The novel has a fine story of three childhood friends Gopal, Aarti and Raghav. They are from the different layers of the society. Gopal Comes from a poor family, Raghav from middle class and Aarti from a well to do family. Gopal lives with his old father in a small house. His father is a widower and is a

teacher in a school but is forced to leave the service due to his incurable disease. He Wants to see Gopal as an Engineer. Because doctor, engineer and lawyer enjoy a high status in the society. Most of the Indian people believe in this myth. So, Gopal's father has also this ambition to see his son at a high position. But, he never thinks that, What Gopal wants to be? what is his ambition & what is his interest? and, what are his abilities? Gopal is an average student in study. He doesn't want to become an engineer. Thus, once he said to his father,

‘Engineering is not everything, Baba, I (Gopal) said. But his father forces him to study and answered, ‘It secures yours life. Don't fight now, right before the exams.’

Gopal’s father is a representative of all those Indian parents who impose the burden of their ambitions and dreams on the shoulders of their sons and daughters. They don't think of the abilities and skills of their children. They only pressurize their children to study hard. In such situation, if the student fails in any exam, their parents beat them badly. Gopal is also the victim of such situation. When he fails in the AIEEE exam and tells his father about his failure, his father slaps him and gets irritated and says,

‘What are you thinking? Do you have any Shame?’ he said and went into a coughing fit. His body Shook, he found it hard to balance.

‘Sit down, Baba,’ Gopal said as he moved forward to hold him. His body felt warm.

‘Don't come near me. He pushed Gopal away.

Actually, in such situation Gopal needs the mental support, help and guidance. But his father leaves Gopal alone and makes the situation worst.

The Coaching Centres have become the glamorous field in modern India. Every parent wants to send his child for tuition. These Coaching classes charge high tuition fees even though their performance is low. Gopal experiences the same situation in Kota. He visits many coaching classes like Bansal, AimIIT, Resonance, Career Ignite and Career path etc. but could not find the affordable class for himself. He found some classes who charged less fees but their performance was not Satisfactory. Gopal has experienced poverty from his childhood therefore, he chooses a cheaper coaching class because, he is aware of his father's economic condition well. Every time he hesitates to ask for money to his father. He doesn't want to give more economic burden to his father. Whenever Gopal asks for money on telephone to his father and keeps down the receiver he feels pity and Compassion for his old father. The coaching Centres have nothing to do with the poverty of the students. They are oppressive in nature. There are a number of parents in India who cannot pay the admission fees of the Schools and colleges, get the loans from the banks and from the private money lenders for the education of their children. They keep the hopes that their children will get the good job and will pay their debt. But, when their Children fails in the exams they can't bear this shock. Sometimes these parents commit suicides or dies of heart attack. When Gopal tells about his failure in the exam to his

father, his father could not bear the failure of his son and dies of heart break.

Time is the most important factor for students. But, the students waste their precious time for the trifle things. Gopal is the best example of it. He should have consent- rate on his study but he spends hours longing about Aarti. He spends time and money in cyber cafe to chat with Aarti. He runs five kilometers distance to call Aarti on her birthday and to be the first to wish her Happy Birthday. Gopal says,

I (Gopal) also ran five kilometers and will walk back five more, I wanted to say but didn't. 'I've been trying to reach you for an hour.'

'Really?' Aarti Said.

'Yeah, the line was busy. Who were you talking to? I wanted to be the first,' I said.

Sometimes the education institutions pave the way of corruption. When Gopal and MLA Shukla-ji decides to build an education institution on the disputed land of Gopal, they have to take permission for construction from the Varanasi Nagar Nigam (VNN). Gopal Visits Sinha, the deputy director in VNN for the approval of the Construction. Here, Gopal bargains about bribe with Sinha and says,

'It's a College, please be reasonable,' I (Gopal) said.

'I am being reasonable. But ten is too less. Fifteen,' Sinha said.

'No Concession for Shukla-ji?' Gopal said.

'This is already half of what I take,' Sinha said.

'Eleven?' Gopal said.

Then Sinha answered, Twelve and half. Done!

(R-140).

In this way, Gopal starts to walk on the way of Corruption. Gopal builds an educational institution named *Ganga Tech Engineering College* which becomes one of the reputed institution. Gopal becomes a young Director of this institution.

There are a number of schools and colleges who do not provide the basic facilities for students. They don't have laboratories, playgrounds, instruments, furniture, libraries and washrooms for students. The sanstha owners give money to the inspection committees and get approvals and good remarks. The same condition in Ganga Tech College is observed. When the inspection Committee from AICTE Comes for the inspection of the college, the inspector asks,

'How many lathe machines are there in your machining lab?'

'Eight', Shrivastava said. 'We will take a round later?'

(R-165)

Shrivastava neglects the question and says we will take a round later, it obviously means, there are no lathe machines in the machinery lab. Without the machinery the students will not be able to do the practical in labs. Therefore, the students won't get the work experience and such students fail to get jobs in the market.

The next question was asked by Bhansali to Gopal-

‘What are your qualifications?’

‘I have built this college.’ He (Gopal) said, ‘and I have hired the best faculty.’

(R-165)

Gopal's answer to inspector's question is not appropriate. He does not tell his qualification but speaks about the faculty. This is a great tragedy of education system. The people who have no any relevant qualification, run the education institutions. That's why the quality of education does not increase. These people give bribes to the committees and get approvals of schools and colleges. Here also Srivastava goes to Gopal and suggests him about the distribution of money among committee members. The following dialogue reveals the fact-

‘Two for Yadav, and twenty-five each for the rest. I said.

Make it fifty for Bhansali,  
‘Shrivastava Said.’

The owners of education institutions give bribes to the inspectors but don't spend the money on providing facilities to the Students and improving their schools & colleges. If the sanstha owners spend money on facilities for students, the skillful generation will come out of these institutions.

### ***Conclusion:***

The novel Revolution 2020 presents the real picture of education system in India. The parents should not impose the burden of their dreams on their children. The students also should focus on their study and career. There is a need to improve the performance of schools and colleges to stop the exploitation of students by the private coaching centers. The Government inspection committees should not be corrupted. If they continue doing corruption, the education system will never improve. The corruption should be uprooted from the education system to provide the quality education.

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