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## STRUGGLES OF YOUTH IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S *FIVE POINT SOMEONE*

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### Abstract

*This paper is attempted to reveal the struggles of youth in Chetan Bhagat's novel. By analyzing the novel Five point someone the author represent the state of youth in modern India. The novel begins with a disclaimer of that the book is not a guide on how to get into IIT but it cite examples of how screwed up our college years can get if we don't think straight. Although treated in a mild and quite casual way, the story of the IIT contains in it matters deeper than can be seen on the outside. That our structure of technical education has become a lifeless system, and needs new start has been sufficiently clear. The need for understanding the oft-quoted phrase 'Human Resource Development' by our educators is pointedly, though diagonally, suggested. But the real plea of the work is almost surely its faithful symbol of growing years under pressure of conservative aim. The paper tries to throw a few mild on the elements of publish modernist notion procedure wherein the engineering youth attempts to face against the conservative system of presenting technical education and conventional manner of evaluating the cognitive competencies of a scholar on the basis of CGPA.*

There are numerous problems which are faced by the generation of today. Today's youth has become widely outclass. They don't want to be pampered. They consider themselves very responsible. Chetan Bhagat has given a clear picture about these problems faced by the youth in all his novels. *Five Points Some One* tries to expose these follies of society.

In *Five Point Someone: What not to do at IIT*, Chetan Bhagat focuses on the lives of three friends of IIT Delhi – Hari Kumar (the narrator), Alok Gupta and Ryan Oberoi. Bhagat revolves around authentic the life and unravel the mind of the modern youth. His focus is on the life of immature people struggling against the situations that are responsible for becoming weird and mentally sick. He portrays ragging, hostel life, work pressure from the higher authority, increasing suicide cases, a free criticism on educational system in India. Ryan, a new student revolts against the age-old tradition of ragging and the senior-fresher discrimination. Hari Kumar, Alok Gupta and Ryan Oberoi suffer the ridicule of the teachers as well as the classmates. They assert to reform the patriarchal system of education. The novel also touches an important chord-the helplessness of the professors to

handle the brilliant students who can pose challenging questions. He stresses on the observational teaching. The students initially come to the IIT with a superb feeling. But once they fall into the nuts of custom studies, they scale down their dreams. Hence, some of the wishes and dreams of these students in their frustrations have become impossible. Although treated in a mild and quite casual way, the story of the IIT contains in it matters deeper than can be seen on the outside.

There are numerous problems which are faced by the generation of today. Today's youth has become widely outclass. They don't want to be pampered. They consider themselves very responsible. Chetan Bhagat has given a clear picture about these problems faced by the youth in all his novels. He portrays many problems that have been making the Indian youth wary. *Five Points Some One* tries to expose these follies of society, which reflect the society.

In *Five Point Someone: What not to do at IIT*, Chetan Bhagat focuses on the lives of three friends of IIT Delhi – Hari Kumar (the narrator), Alok Gupta and Ryan Oberoi. Bhagat revolves around authentic life and unravel the mind of the modern youth. Adolescent people

form an important part of the society. The secular and broad mindedness of Indian youth is reflected through his characters. Bhagat's focus is on the life of immature people struggling against the situations that are responsible for becoming weird and mentally sick. Chetan Bhagat portrays ragging, hostel life, work pressure from the higher authority, increasing suicide cases, a free criticism on educational system in India.

Chetan Bhagat describes the ragging scene with a tinge of humour. Hari, Ryan and Alok are at the scrutiny of their seniors whom they address as sir. One of the seniors scolds Ryan, Hari and Alok. He says, "You bloody freshers, dozing away? Rascals, who will give an introduction?" (FPS 3) When the seniors ask for introduction of the freshers, the readers are aware about this trio's ranks. Ryan is the sharpest of the three. Their seniors order them to take off their clothes. Hari and Alok submit to their humiliation but Ryan is different. He controls his anger for a while but then he hits back. Such kind of embarrassing incidents in the name of ragging creates a great psychological effect on the minds of students which may increase the suicidal attempts. Ryan, a new student revolts against the age-old tradition of ragging and the senior-fresher discrimination. The following lines give the discrimination of the seniors:

*As per tradition, seniors rounded us up on the balcony for ragging at midnight. I was still rubbing my eyes as the three of us stood to attention and three seniors faced us. A senior named Anurag leaned against a wall. Another senior, to my nervous eye, looked like a demon from cheap mythological TV shows—six feet tall, over a hundred kilos, dark, hairy, and huge teeth that were ten years late meeting an orthodontist. Although he inspired terror, he spoke little and was busy providing background for the boss, Baku, a lungi-clad human toothpick, and just as smelly is my guess. (FPS2)*

They call IIT system as a rat race where quest for innovation and knowledge comes next to the obsession of balancing the grade system. The young generation possesses a sense of competition. They want to do everything that is possible to climb up the vocation

ladder as high as possible. Competition is so intense in IITs which has created lot of pressures among the students. One of the professors remarks at the end of his class:

*Best of luck once again for your stay here. Remember, as your head of department Prof. Cherian says, the tough workload is by design, to keep you on your toes. And respect the grading system. You get bad grades, and I assure you – you get no job, no school and no future. If you do well, the world is your oyster. So, don't slip, not even once, or there will be no oyster, just slush. (FPS11)*

Hari Kumar, Alok Gupta and Ryan Oberoi suffer the ridicule of the teachers as well as the classmates. They assert to reform the patriarchal system of education. They dislike the teaching method. The students are asked to mug the subjects in order to score good grades. The unheroic hero, Ryan attempts some other eccentric manner to improve the grades. Disgusted with the IIT device, he offers vent to his dissatisfaction:

*And this IIT system is nothing but a mice race. It is not a rat race, mind you, as rats sound somewhat shrewd and clever. So it is not about that. It is about mindlessly running a race for four years, in every assignment and every test. It is a race where professor judge you every ten steps, with a GPA stamped on you every semester. Professor who have no idea what science and learning are about. Yes, that is what I think of the Professors. I mean, what have IITs given to this country? Name one invention in last three decades. (FPS 101)*

Hari and his friends after studying up to three o'clock in the morning every day passionately pray that India must go to war on the morning of their first major so that their examinations will get postponed. In a mood of depression, Hari wonders if he can work "at the ice-cream parlour, filling cones all day and never have to worry about classes, courses, grades and Alok-Ryan arguments." (FPS)

The students initially come to the IIT with a superb feeling of being among the chosen children of Saraswati goddess. But once they fall into the nuts of

custom studies, they scale down their dreams. Hence, some of the wishes and dreams of these students in their frustrations have become impossible.

Chetan Bhagat has tried to expose the consequences of the unfair system of institution. Out of depression and failure to conform to the decision of Disco, Alok decides to commit suicide. He develops a sense of alienation where he fails to seek his belongingness in the institution. The white sheet of bed becomes red with the blood of Alok. The following description is pathetic:

*I guess with thirteen fractures you kind of deserve a bed. These sheets were originally white, which was hard to tell now as Alok's blood covered every square inch of them.*

*Alok lay there unrecognizable, his eye balls rolled up and his tongue collapsed outside his mouth like an old man without denture. Four front teeth gone, the doctor later told us. (FPS 211)*

The novel also touches an important chord—the helplessness of the professors to handle the brilliant students who can pose challenging questions. Prof. Dubey, Mechanical Engineering Department, mentions: "The definition of a machine is simple. It is anything that reduces human effort. So, see the world around you and it is full of machines." (FPS9) A student, Ryan asks:

*Sir, what about a gym machine, like a bench press or something?" "That doesn't reduce human effort. In fact, it increases it."*

*The class fell silent again.....*

*"Perhaps it is too simple a definition then?"*

*Ryan said in a pseudo-helpful voice.*

*"What are you trying to do?" the professor asked tight lipped as he came close to us again, "Are you saying that I am wrong?"*

*"No sir, I'm just....."*

*"Watch it son. In my class, just watch it," was all prof Dubey said as he moved to the front. (FPS)*

The strange behaviour of Prof. Dubey is revealed in the above lines.

Bhagat stresses on the observational teaching. This technique makes the students to observe the things

and find out solutions. Indian youth demands for better education, employment driven training and brighter future. Youth wants skill based education. More emphasis should be laid down on career oriented courses. There should be a connection with real life scenario. Youth from non-urban setting lacks good communication skills. It acts as an obstacle to get job.

He points out that getting into IIT is not that difficult. He puts it, "If you can lock yourself in a room with books for two years and throw away the key, you can probably make it here." Bhagat indirectly conveys a serious message in a humorous tone that it is a wakeup call for the best technical institutes to replace the traditional teaching style of 'I teach; you listen' with an approach that develops students.

Like others they're not muggers, they're freethinkers, proper enthusiasts of existence, harbingers of modern ideas, icons of liberty and precursors of the youth-calling-approach. They by no means lose self-belief, paintings harder at the lube challenge and therefore their venture is approved and they be triumphant to attain big reputation and name.

The growing cognizance of technology and the utilization of it have exposed India to an incipient. This change is due to vigorous wish of childish people to participate in the cognate to computers and science revolution. The perspective way of youth towards love, espousment and sex are very casual. Bhagat through his fictions represent the factors affecting the life, experience, dreams and postures of today's youth.

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