



A Critical Review on 'Revolution 2020'- an Amalgam of Socio-Political Commercialization World Combined with Love Triangle

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ABSTRACT

The novelist Chetan Bhagat has used his management skills thoroughly to title his book named 'Revolution 2020' who has been successful to make the youth of India revolve around the story about love triangle in the city of Varanasi between the three friends. This paper lime lights the psyche of IIT aspirants at Kota, Rajasthan with the help of author's experience. Nevertheless, it unveils the socio-political commercialization with corruption existing in Education system of India.

KEYWORDS : Love Triangle, Socio-political, Commercialization in Education system, Criticism

As a realistic piece of compositing, 'Revolution 2020' offers nothing unusual or novel in rivalry between two friends vying for the affection of a girl. The fiery out of the way activism of Raghav who wants to bring about a change in society through journalism, despite having graduated as an engineer, is a diversion from the despondency of Gopal's story, which is stronger and more rooted in real life. The character of Raghav can be described as the rarest of the rare ideal characters from the novels of Chetan Bhagat, as almost all his characters do not show the idealism of traditional kind. Though a resident of a holy city, Varanasi who follows the path of an ideal social activist Raghav does not mind to have a girl friend with whom he may have casual sexual relationship. Chetan Bhagat never paints a guy with noble attributes with character intact as if satisfaction of physical need has become the top most priority of young generation that doesn't care the loss of virginity.

'Revolution 2020' remains one dimensional throughout. The story revolves around the narrator Gopal as he shares his experiences with the author. Gopal, Raghav and Aarti have their own ambition in life. Gopal wants to be a rich man, Raghav wants to change the world and Aarti wants to become an air hostess. Gopal and Raghav are school mates from the childhood and share the same bench in school and share the same girl as their girl friend, though for the most of the part Aarti loves Raghav. However, Gopal claims that *"Imagine every Sadhu and priest in Varanasi more than all their devotion put together, that's how much I loved her."*

These lines of Gopal reminds the lines of Hamlet, where Hamlet explains his love for Ophelia beyond any match. *"I loved Ophelia, forty thousand brothers could not with all their quantity of love, make up my sum."*²

Gopal, the son of a retired school teacher, ridden with debt and litigation was bound to fall head first and hard in love with the daughter of the District Magistrate from the importunate day he decided to steal a slab of the chocolate cake; she had brought in her tiffin box for lunch. The unmatched friendship, between rich and poor like Bollywood movies of 70s and 80s, that started through the hapless incident by and by took its own meandering course over the Ganga, over a number of improbable and impractical boat rides and unspoken ballads of love one sided, of course. The characters of Aarti is painted as an ambiguous girl, though the daughter of a DM she appears to be quite insecure for she underwent the course of Air Hostess and later on joins a Five Star Hotel as care taker of hospitality part. Character wise Aarti is not unlike the female characters of the first three novels of Chetan Bhagat, who very easily compromise with the situation in order to indulge her in physical pleasure. If the novels of Chetan Bhagat should be considered as the realistic document of time and society it would be hard to locate a person in present day with the qualities of truth and honour. Aarti, the insecure one, gropes for the possibilities. Her character and her dealing with Raghav and Gopal remind the Eighteenth century coquette Belinda, from 'The rape of the lock' by Alexander Pope:

*"Favors to none, to all her smile she extends, Off she rejects but never once she offends. Bright as the sun, her egos the gazers strike, And like the sun, they shine on all alike. If to her share some female errors may fall, Look on her face, and you will forget than all."*³

After the failure in getting through JEE and AIEEE exams, Gopal is forced by his father to repeat the exam next year. For that reason, Gopal was forced to stay at Kota: the Gateway of JEE and AIEEE; by his father, who for this purpose, further, increases the pile of debt on his head. Chetan Bhagat describes the life of a struggling student in Kota, where initial few days are like hell before the final settlement at the place. The search for coaching centers, lodging and boarding, the kind of students who land at Kota, everything, have been described by Chetan Bhagat with minute detail. He includes the name of the maximum possible number of cities in this book. Raipur, Bhopal, Lucknow, Varanasi, Indore, Kota, Allahabad and the names of other cities come every now and then in the pages of the novel. It may be a kind of marketing strategy in part of the novelist because a reader from a particular place loves to come across with the name of his native city. And the sale of the novel must have increased multiple times with the inclusion of the name and description of the Kota city as almost every students in India studying in class 10th must have pondered over going to Kota and thousands of students physically stay there to crack Medical and Engineering entrance exam. As the novelist does not do anything without commercial consideration the inclusion of the names like Bansal, Career point, Resonance along with Kota may have helped the writer in making some money. It is like that of using a certain brand of potato chips by a popular Bollywood heroine in some scenes of a movie, thereby helping the financial cause of the producer of the movie. However, the description of the 'psyche of an aspirant' in Kota by Bhagat is a very pleasant experience to read.

The students are given various categories based on their performance. The novelist gives humorous detail of a special class of the student. *"The top twenty students in every class test received royal treatment. They were called Gems, a title still elusive to me. Gems stood for 'Group of Extra Meritorious Students'. Gems comprised for ultra gees who prefer solving physics problems to having sex, and for whom fun meant memorizing the periodic table."*⁴ And in Kota, People have no other consideration; it is a mad race. Either one is in or out. The writer gives words to a very realistic sentiments of youth trying hard to do the impossible.

*"We don't have a home we are like people stuck in outer space. No home, no school, no college, no body only Kota."*⁵

Bhagat's reflection on the coaching system that forms the first check-in point at the pearly gate of technical higher learning is not just tongue-in cheek but a dark sensor of the reality for students who leave their homes to try hard repeatedly for a course that is mercilessly fabricated to eliminate the weakest. As the plot of the novel takes Gopal, Raghav and Aarti to the depths of desperation, love, ambition and crushing disappointment; the novelist very realistically tries to reflect the state of India's private education that is not just the lifeblood

but sometimes the only hope for millions of students from small town and villages turning their bright eyes at an assured and uplifting future.

Where Aarti sees that Raghav, the ideal youth, has managed to secure a seat in a prestigious Engineering college, she roots for him. But never has she dropped Gopal as a reserve option. She appears to always be a good friend of Gopal but after the death of Gopal's father when the lady luck shines on Gopal and he tastes the ultimate materialistic success as an owner and the Director of a massive Engineering college, she doesn't hesitate to adopt Gopal as his prospective groom.

Raghav comes out with his thoughts of social change in his article 'Because Enough is Enough'. A man trained as an engineer is not doing the job of engineer instead of a journalist is a corrupt person himself. So how can he talk of bringing change to the society and the system?

'*Revolution 2020*' can be seen as an attempt to bring to the fore the inherent corruption rooted in India's education system and to bring out the anomaly of non-profit organizations and commercialization of education. The role of politicians who are not very literate but still holds the courage of opening an insatiate of higher education has been comically depicted by the author. Shuklaji, the MLA said, ***"If we had a straightforward and clean system, these professors would open their own colleges, blue chip compares and software firms could open college. The system is twisted; they don't want to touch it, that is where we come in."***⁶

The description of job fair, where brothers who have fallen apart, compete to market their own private colleges is a laugh out loud moment from the book. People offering seats in their colleges like hawkers selling bananas in street throw light on the mushrooming of private engineering colleges. The admission process comes to an end with a kind of comic pandemonium.

Conclusion:

Chetan Bhagat's idea and description of people's revolution is not just naive but also incomplete and the reader is left wondering till the end, what exactly the nature of it will be if at all it happens. Given that this central theme is the surmise of the book, the idea of '*Revolution 2020*' deserved more time and better indulgence instead of being relegated to a few chapters in the end. The murky world of politics and manipulative journalism is tackled with an outsider's viewpoint and lacks sincere research and depth. Similarly, the ending of the novel is unnecessarily vague, clearly inspired by Bollywood family dramas of 90's where the antagonist-protagonist has a change of heart, gives up the girl in the corniest situation possible and drinks himself silly as the narrator weaves a life story into a long emotional wringer. The novel disappoints simply because a lot is expected from an author who is said to have not just nudged millions of youngsters from their iPod into reading, but also given a face to the average Indian students buried under parental expectations.

Primary Source:

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