

Portrayal of Youth Cultural in Cheatn Bhagat Novels of the Three Mistakes of my Life and Five Point Someone

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Abstract:

Bhagat was born on 22 April 1974 in New Delhi, India. His father was an army officer and his mother was a government employee in the agricultural department. His younger brother, Ketan Bhagat, is also a novelist. He completed his school years at The Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan in Delhi. He received his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi in 1995 and his MBA degree from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad in 1997. Bhagat recounted in an interview with Newsland that he applied after his studies to the investment banking company Goldman Sachs, where he was finally selected after 27 internal interviews. Bhagat worked for Goldman Sachs in their Hong Kong office as an investment banker for nearly a decade and wrote Five Point Someone while in Hong Kong. When he got fired, he then had to move to Mumbai to focus full-time on his writing career. He has been married to Anusha Suryanarayanan since 1998. She hails from Tamil Nadu and was his classmate at IIM Ahmedabad

Introduction

THE THREE MISTAKES OF MY LIFE

Govind: Govind Jaat Patel is an ordinary guy with whom anybody can relate. He has very few desires. His main ambition is to become a businessman as he thinks that, being a Gujarati, business is in his blood. His best friends are Omi and Ish (Ishaan). Govind is doubtful or noncommittal about something. His father has abandoned him and his mother runs a small business. He makes extra income by tutoring maths. He continues these sessions even after starting the cricket shop. He is the narrator of this story and the one who makes the title's "Three Mistakes". During the course of the story he falls in love with Vidya, Ishan's younger sister for whom he is a private tutor. Govind looks after the financial part of the business as he has good business sense and mathematical skills.

Ishaan (Ish) is a big cricket freak and a patriot. Ishaan was the best cricketer in his

locality and school. He suggests the name of their business as "Team India Cricket Shop". He helps Govind's business by organising daily cricket coaching camps. He has a younger sister, Vidya, about whom he is quite protective. When he discovers that a boy named Ali is a very talented batsman, he decides to go any length to give Ali proper training. Ishaan usually looks after day-to-day shop activities as he has genuine interest in anything cricket-related.

Omi is the son of the Hindu priest of the local temple. His family enjoys great respect among the people. Through Omi's parents and maternal uncle (who own few shops as a part of the temple trust property), they readily get a place to start their business. He is a rather dumb boy and has not many dreams, but he likes to concentrate on having a healthy body. However, he resents growing up and being a saint like his father. He is a religious person and eventually takes active part in his maternal uncle's religious politics. He is, however, confused about his

religious views which are mainly influenced by Bittoo Mama.

Vidya is Ishan's younger sister. She is a rebel at 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 become independent. She, however, despises maths which is required for her medical entrance exams. Hence, Ish asks Govind to take her mathematics tuition. In between their tuition they fall in love which is kept a secret.

Ali is one of the students in Ish's coaching classes and a great batsman because of a rare gift of nature. However, he doesn't play much cricket as he gets tired after three or four balls; he enjoys playing marbles. He is a Muslim and respects Ish like a Guru. He, like Ishaan, is patriotic at heart. He denies the offer of Australian scholarship and wants to play on the Indian side.

Bittoo Mama is the maternal uncle of Omi. Mama runs the trust of the temple and agrees to rent the place to the three friends for the cricket shop. He is an active member of a Hindupolitical party. He follows the preachings of Parekh-ji, a political-cum-spiritual leader and has complete faith in him. He has locked his horns with Ali's father who belongs to the Secular Party. He has a son, Dhiraj. Mama is not fond of Govind as he is an agnostic. He is the main antagonist of the story.

Govind's mom wants her son to pursue a degree in Engineering. She runs a home-made food business. She cares about Govind a lot and supports him well through his hardships and struggles.

Ali's father: He is a devout Muslim and works for a secular party. He is a very kind-hearted person who wants Ali to take his education seriously despite his mediocre financial condition. He treats the three friends very well when they go to visit Ali in his house. Overall he is a good person.

Fred Li: He is an Australian Cricket Team member and a fast bowler. He invites the three friends and Ali to Sydney when they travel to Goa to see India-Australia One Day International and meet him in the stands. He spots talent in Ali and wants to help him getting a chance to be trained in his academy in Australia. Loosely based on Brett Lee.

The Three Mistakes

1. Govind had paid a huge amount for buying a shop in Navrangpura shopping mall even though his friends tried to stop him. The mall later got destroyed due to 2001 Gujarat earthquakes .
2. He fell in love with and had physical intimacy (sexual relationship) with Vidya, Ish's sister
3. He waited a split second and dived too late to save Ali because of his own selfishness. Ali's wrist was destroyed.

Critics across the country were not too impressed with the book and some even suggested that it was not as good as his previous work. The public reception was good and The 3 Mistakes of My Life sold a lot of copies in the first few weeks.

FIVE POINT SOMEONE

The book is narrated by Hari, with some small passages by his friends Ryan and Alok, as well as a letter by Hari's girlfriend Neha Cherian. It deals with the lives of the 3 friends, whose elation on making it to one of the best engineering colleges in India is quickly deflated by the rigor and monotony of the academic work. Most of the book deals with the numerous attempts by the trio to cope with and/or beat the system as well as Hari's fling with Neha who just happens to be the daughter of Prof. Cherian, the domineering head of the Mechanical Engineering Department of their college. It takes some dark turns every now and then, especially when it comes to the families of

the protagonists. Most of the action, however, takes place inside the campus as the boys, led by the ever creative Ryan, frequently lamenting how the internationally lauded IIT system has stifled their creativity by forcing them to value grades more than anything else. Uninspiring teaching and numerous assignments add to their woes, though the boys do find a sympathizer in Prof. Veera, the new fluid mechanics professor. This book was made into two films, 3 Idiots in Hindi and Nanban in Tamil. The names of the characters and their attributes were changed. Also, both the films were not full adaptations of the books, as many of the scenes from the book, including the climax, were changed in the films.

- Ryan Oberoi : Ranchoddas Shamaldas Chanchad (Rancho) aka Phunsukh Wangdu (played by Aamir Khan (Hindi))/Panchavan Parivendan (Pari) aka Kosaksi Pasupugazh (played by Vijay (Tamil)), – A young, energetic and supposedly wealthy college going student who is passionate about engineering. Though Rancho wants to be an engineer, he leans more towards inventing rather than seeking for a job in an MNC unlike his other college-mates. According to him, one's profession should be something he or she loves doing, irrespective of how much it pays. He also keeps stating throughout the film that one should run after excellence, not after success. Rancho also believes in the concept of "All Is Well", in which people should focus on the present and live it as it is, instead of worrying over the future. There are many significant differences between the Ryan and Rancho characters, both in their background and attitudes.
- Hari Kumar : Farhan Qureshi (played by Madhavan (Hindi))/Venkat Ramakrishnan (played by Srikanth (Tamil)) – The narrator of the story, a young college going student who loves wildlife photography, but is being forced by his parents to become an engineer. Hari's background (as acknowledged in one chapter of the book) was not elaborated upon. However, Hari seemed to be auto-biographical and the "Krish" character in Chetan Bhagat's 2 States (who apparently continues on from the Hari character) would provide greater details about Hari's background.
- Alok Gupta : Raju Rastogi (played by Sharman Joshi (Hindi))/Sevarkodi Senthil (played by Jiiva (Tamil)) – A young and insecure college going student who isn't confident enough to deal with problems in life all by himself and always relies on God. Raju's only mission in life is to pull his family out of poverty, improve their economic status and get his elder sister married. This character is very similar to the one in the book.
- Prof. Cherian : Viru Sahastrabudde (Virus) (played by Boman Irani (Hindi))/Virumaandi Santhanam (played by Sathyaraj (Tamil)) – A hugely competitive, efficient, strict and disciplined man who has been running the Imperial College of Engineering (Ideal Engineering College in Tamil) for the last three decades. He believes that life is a race, the ones who are not efficient about work and time get crushed. He sneers at Rancho's concept of studying for knowledge rather than marks and constantly spars with him and his friends due to this. He is known as "Virus" among the students. Virus has a greater role at the college when compared to Prof. Cherian.
- Neha Cherian : Pia Sahastrabudde (played by Kareena Kapoor (Hindi))/Ria

Santhanam (played by Ileana D'Cruz (Tamil)) – A young, beautiful, eccentric doctor, daughter of Viru Sahastrabuddhe and Rancho's love interest. This character is a complete departure from the book, because in the book, she was Hari's girlfriend. Also while Pia and Rancho finally end up together, Neha and Hari leave each other due to Hari's job.

- Venkat : Chatur Ramalingam (played by Omi Vaidya in Hindi)/Srivatsan (played by Sathyan in Tamil) – A competitive and studious South Indian college student (NRI student in Tamil) who believes rote learning is the only way to excellence and also believes that there is no time for creativity and innovation in the turbulent and competitive race of life. Venkat has a small role in the book, while Chatur is one of the major characters in the movie.

Following the success of 3 Idiots in East Asian markets such as China and Hong Kong, the producer Vidhu Vinod Chopra has announced that Hong Kong film star Stephen Chow (known for comedy films such as Shaolin Soccer and Kung Fu Hustle) will be producing a Chinese remake of the film. Chopra also announced that there are plans for a Hollywood remake, and is in talks with three different American studios interested in remaking the film. Chopra also stated that there is an Italian film studio too interested in remaking the film.

Characters

Hari Kumar

Hari Kumar is the narrator of the story. While he talks about others a lot he doesn't really talk about himself. Hari lacks confidence and is very bad at vivas. He is dating Neha Cherian, daughter of Professor Cherian. He isn't very attractive and is a 'loser' like Alok.

Ryan Oberoi

He is rich, creative and likes original ideas (like Professor Veera). He cares a lot for his friends and claims not to love his parents, even though he hints he misses them every now and then.

Alok Gupta

He is a 'cry baby', fat and a loser as claimed by his friend Ryan. His family is poor and he is in IIT for them. His sister is not getting married as he does not have enough dowry to give the groom's family. In the start of the story he dislikes Ryan as he is always having fun and not studying but, after he comes back after breaking friendship with Ryan and Hari, his perspective about Ryan changes. Alok is played by Sharman Joshi in the movie 3 Idiots and by Jiiva in Nanban.

Conclusion:

Thus, the novel finally puts lot of emphasis on oft-quoted phrase 'Human Resource Development' which is one of the objectives of technical institutes. The technical institutes should develop the technical skills, key competencies and enhance the organisational performance of an individual. A resourceful and skilled employee can enliven the achievement of an organisation where he or she is a part and for these the technical institutes should motivate the budding technocrats to think beyond the textbooks.

Chetan was and is serious about his passion for writing. He knew there were thousands of people waiting for his magical combo of words, drama and stories. He left his job and dedicated his life for writing good books for the public. So, that is the kind of earnestness and responsibility he had towards writing. When you have such passion and dedication to your writing and your readers, success will be inevitable. He tried this technique with the first two books

he wrote. On noticing that he attained success, he had no more doubts as to what trend will suit his fans and how he should carve his writing. Chetan does not claim to be a perfect writer but he surely does know the pulse of the normal Indian youth and their reading interests. The messages it sends are terrible it is deeply objectionable in its lack of a moral code, and even the generous acts of friendship are too often arbitrary or involve deceit and much of the writing is too, but it's certainly readable, and even with all its flaws is a pretty catchy story.

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