

Need of the Hour : Present Indian Scenario in Chetan Bhagat's "*What Young India Wants*"

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Abstract

Chetan Bhagat's "*What Young India Wants*" depicts, how young generation should put their back on something or buckle down on the idea of making India awesome and democratic. He pragmatically represents the complete replica of contemporary Indian society through his novels and his non-fiction. He urges the youth of today's society to be sensible and know more about the current situation of India. Contemporary Indian society deals with its current issues, sufferings and problems which are not spoken but could be sensible. This paper aims at dealing with the corruption of political leaders and also focuses on the sufferings of the minorities.

Key Words: Corruption, Indian society, minorities, politics and scams.

Chetan Bhagat is an Indian author, columnist, screen writer and motivational speaker, known for his Indian-English novels about young middle class Indians. The primary centre of Chetan's writing is the youth. He is referred to as the role model of the today's youth. Chetan's books give readers hope and trust.

Bhagat has written many novels and only one non – fiction "*What Young India Wants*". The non-fictional book is divided into three parts. The first part is about the society, the second part deals with politics and the third about the youth of India.

In the second part of the book Bhagat says about the political system of India. Indian politics is always a hard nut to break and it will continue to be so. At the very beginning of the second part he says, "If you want to change things in a democracy, you cannot stay away from politics (55)".

Bhagat emphasizes about the struggles faced by the minority community. The people of the majority community do not understand the problems faced by the minorities. They also have no qualification to say about the struggling minorities since they have not experienced such kind of struggles.

If India wants to become a better country then better leaders should be elected. He also suggests that something should be worked together for a better election. The voting system of India should be proper and systematic. The people of India should learn to vote for a good candidate. Politicians fool the people of India by the voting system. Bhagat commands the minorities to think and insists them to vote for the correct leader. The vote should be loyal and it should not be sold for money. Even, if a student wants admission in a good college he is not given placement unless and until he gets a recommendation from any higher authority. The current scenario continues when a patient is not given treatment properly in a hospital, all these are based only on recommendation and not according to their pathetic situation.

Somehow or the other minorities face oppressions in the society. Each and every citizen of India should be over minded and then make India better democratic nation. He says that, “Vote bank politics and hating the other’s religion should be branded un-Indian. After all, our religions have stood the test of time. It is our Nation, yours and mine, that has to be great now (60)”.

Bhagat then points out to the wrong deeds of the people in electing their leaders. The people of India have prejudice during election time. The people more commonly elect the candidate who belong to their caste. To a certain extent voting is based on caste then it is sure that a corrupted party is elected for generation. People of India are well known for their emotional state and so they do not leave any new budding young generations to bloom. It has become a custom to elect a member from the same family generation after generation. This is one of the major mistakes that Indian people do.

There are also some educational institutions to train young politicians, Bhagat opines, “We create great engineers and doctors but we don’t take our liberal arts courses seriously (67)”. Bhagat calls all the Indians to build a robust political system by electing good leaders and take India to another level. “If we do pay attention to these issues, we can make the beginning towards building a robust political system that elects strong leaders who can take India to the next level (68)”.

In the meanwhile, Bhagat also takes much care about the financial status of India. For this he gives some examples like a place in Delhi were thousand acres of land have been occupied by bungalows of MPs, various offices and quasi government entities, which cost more than hundred crores. Instead if they build those government buildings in slum areas, that place would also develop and the cost of buying the land will also be reduced to some crores. Bhagat

says with that amount they can pay the interest for debt. He cites Delhi as an example but if this system is followed all over the country then a huge amount of money could be saved.

The most important and interesting fact is about the scams. The 2G scam which was highlighted in media was to emphasize the corrupt politicians of congress. Scams have become the entertainment for all the people on the TV channels. People did not even believe any accused leader to be innocent. They took it as a fun while the accused people defended themselves with several reasons. The longer they denied the longer their cases were prolonged. The 2G scams did not bring about a good judgement but only increased the TRPs of TV channel.

Then the accused politicians were asked to resign their position but this was not the just punishment for their crime. Bhagat draws a beautiful example to explain this situation, “A murderer shoots a man. When caught, he offers to surrender the gun. Or rather, he offers to give the gun to his best friend. Now isn’t that how Indian politicians are punished? To give another example, a man batters his wife. When caught, he offers to leave the room. Is this how he will reform? (70)”.

Previously corrupt ministers were asked to resign their position in order to pacify the public, off late situations have changed. Today’s young generation know what is lip service and real punishment. Severe punishment should be given. As a terrorist has no religion, a corrupt politician has no political party, the corrupt politicians should not be given any position in any political party.

If all the political parties, the media and citizens play their role in a right manner then India will be a clean country without any corruption. The future India will be better for the upcoming generation. It is the duty of every Indian to ensure that he plays his role perfectly

well. He has the right to question the government if anything goes wrong. Through “*What Young India Wants*” Bhagat induces the young mind to take active part in politics.

Work Cited

Bhagat, Chetan. *What Young India Wants*. Rupa Publications. New Delhi: 2012.