



---

## Chetanbhagat's One Indian Girl: A Depiction of Careerist Woman

---

**Dr. Kamble Sanjay Pandit\***

*\*(M.A., B.Ed., SET., NET., Ph.D.), Assistant-Professor, Department of English Yashwantrao Chavan (KMC) College, Kolhapur. (MS)*

*Corresponding Email: [\\*kamble.sanjay77@gmail.com](mailto:kamble.sanjay77@gmail.com)*

**Received:** 20 May 2021

**Accepted:** 30 August 2021

**Published:** 25 September 2021

***Abstract:*** Chetan Bhagat a very popular name among the modern age and new generation because of different style and subjects. Being well qualified man from IIT and IIM he could get the best job in corporate sector specially known as IT industry. In spite of his good educational background he chooses creative writing as his career and passion. He gave new dimension to Indian Writing in English because of his innovative themes and subjects handled in his creative fiction. His fictions have been transformed into movies. He explores cross cultural issues of marriage and career. He earned name and fame in very short period of time and that is the secret of his writing. He discusses the crucial issues of the present world. Almost all his novels are based on IT sector and that are labeled as Campus novels. LPG has brought many changes in the life of thousands of Indian

***Key words:*** Career, IT, Live in Relationship, Education, Packages, Bonus, Compensation.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Today's age is known as LPG, due to that social norms are also changed. It changes some values of society; originally our Indian society is traditional and very rigid. But mobilization and change is inevitable aspect of nature and culture. This change is not in our hand survival for fittest is a proverb by Darwin it is universal. It is applicable to Indian society and culture. It was time when mother used to rule the family, due to globalization, privatization and liberalization each strata of society aware about the fundamental rights. Education is the best means of social change. It changes upward and inward men and women. In this globalized world women are much aware of their rights. Society cannot force for the marriages. This is deliberate and drastic change affects the men of letters. Chetan Bhagat is among them, who is witness of this change. He completed his studies in India's top most institutes like IIM and IIT. His creative writing is centered at this IT sector. Most of his fictions deal with issues of this sector. The present novel is not exception for these issues. The present novel depicts the picture of female character Rdahik who is careerist woman of the age. The present paper is and honest attempt to show the depiction of careerist woman in Chetan Bhagat's One Indian Girl.



Chetan Bhagat is an intellectual magician of the creative world who has given a new dimension to Indian Writing in English. He is one of the popular and new generation fiction writers of the IT sector. He is known for his different style, themes and ideas. But he is famous for career and feminism. When the world was in the modern age, India was in the medieval. For Indians, modernism means to adopt a new way of life and that is fashion. He is a well-qualified man from the IT sector but he chooses to be a creative writer. Upward mobilization is a very slow process of society. Bhagat in his *One Indian Girl* highlights the changing scenario of Indian society and changing relation patterns in the present situation. *One Indian Girl* novel published in 2016. It is a story of a girl called Radhika. Educated at IIM Ahmadabad, she is from the middle class of Khatri family of Haryana. Her journey from Delhi, Ahmadabad, US, London, Hong Kong and Goa brings her into contact with different men.

**One Indian Girl** is a seven novel and the ninth overall book written by the Indian author Chetan Bhagat. *One Indian Girl* is the story of the female protagonist Radhika Mehta; she works at Goldman Sachs, an investment bank. The story begins with flashback techniques Radhika making arrangements regarding her marriage with Brijesh Gulati. He works in the Facebook Company in San Francisco. She exposes her childhood, school, college, and life in Delhi, as a nerdy personality in comparison to her elder sister Aditi. She talks her thoughts and decisions to her inner judgmental voice, or "mini-me" as called. While trying to engage conversation with Brijesh, she is unexpectedly contacted by Debashish "Debu" Sen who wishes to meet her, to which she refuses. Then he suddenly arrives at the Resort in Goa where the marriage ceremony of Radhika was held. She is further shocked when he infiltrates the puja bhajan ceremony at the wedding reception. She later encounters him in the hotel gym and rebukes him for his past conduct. It flashes back four years ago, when Radhika began her job training at Goldman Sachs. One day in the evening, she was acquainted with Debu through Avinash her batch mate from IIMA. Both started dating, eventually starting a live-in relationship. She applies to

Distressed Debt in Goldman and converts intricate in a gruelling schedule. One year later, Radhika decides to plan a prospect with Debu, to which he is skeptical. Furthermore, when Radhika gets a bonus of 150,000 dollars for the previous year and tells Debu, he doesn't react as Radhika expects. The two bicker for a long time, with Debu calling off the relationship due to being pressurized by Radhika about marriage, and wanting instead a simple girl as a housewife for his partner. One month later, Radhika tries to make replacement by departure her job and offering to Debu, which flops when she finds Debu with another woman. Facing depression, she opts for a move to Hong Kong, thereby cutting all ties with New York. Her boss in New York gets her a transfer to Hong Kong Goldman Sachs office.

In Hong Kong GS Office, she familiarizes well and even gets a big investment deal at Philippines. During her trips to a luxury in Philippines, she gets to know her boss's boss Neel Gupta who is 20 years older than her and finds him very attractive. After signing the deal with the resort owner, after the celebratory dinner, Radhika and Neel end up sleeping together by the beach. After the initial hiccup (on how to go about this, he is married with kids), Neel & Radhika continue with their passionate affair each time they have a business trip together. After about a year, Radhika comes to her senses when she doesn't see a future with Neel. She wants to resign, and Neel tells her, leave me, but not the organization. Thus, she leaves to London Goldman Sachs office after breaking up with Neel.

Radhika attempts to adjust her new life in London and her mother continuously tries to push her for



settled marriage. She finally approves and decides to look through some profiles on Shaadi.com. She connects with BrijeshGulati and said yes for a wedding, which creates her mother happy. Radhika wanted a destination wedding and chose at Marriott Hotel in Goa which costs her 150kUSD. In the midst of her mehendi session, she takes a text from Neel out of the blue asking her about her wedding. As she couldn't reply (with hands full of henna), Neel adopts to show up at the same hotel wanting to express something very important to her in person.

Both her ex-boyfriends realized they want her and proposed a plan to get married leaving the Gulatis behind. Radhika becomes extremely confused trying to manage two ex-boyfriends and one forthcoming husband, frustrating aunts and family members who don't leave her alone. She finally decides to call both Debu and Neel the morning before her wedding and tell them how she feels. She turned down both their proposal and meets Brijesh to cancel the wedding. Radhika apologized to everyone and proceed to take a year off to travel and discover what she truly wants.

After several months, she contacted Brijesh when she was on her way to San Francisco. They encountered for coffee, rejoined and prepared plans to watch concert while Radhika helps Brijesh out on his new startup company.

As far as career is concerned, following things to be noted for the further discussion and analysis of the theme careerist woman. Education is very crucial issue in framing ones career what is her opinion about the importance of education and how it hampers the life of a women with high qualification. Radhika discusses with Debu, 'Exactly. Where did you feminism go? My feminism did not go anywhere. My masculinity did. I told you, I felt insecure. How can my girl make three times as much as I do? I work in a bank. It pays better. You chose your passion, advertising. Why did you have to compare? Wasn't it all our money?' (p.119) This discussion shows light on the qualification and earning depends upon the passion and sense. Radhika is a sensible girl having sense of earning no place for emotions. Debu is working in advertising company on very less package and Radhika in a bank with heavy package. She gives much important to money and career. This discussion declares that due to difference between salaries the relation breaks. So the modern girl like Radhika is not ready to compromise with package.

Marriage is always hurdles in career. It is crucial issue in the life of girls. Marriage is socially mandatory but this compulsion if based on qualification then it quite more difficult. Let's see how it hampers the family life and happiness. The present discussion is between mother and daughter about the marriage. Radhika's mother a traditional woman tries to convince her for marriage with a chemist who is having degree like B.Pharm. Radhika says,

'I know what you are thinking. But this family with six chemist shops in the heart of Delhi. They even have opposite AIIMS. Do you know how much business that can do?

'Mom, you want my husband to sit in a chemist shop. He manages the shop. He doesn't just sit there dishing out strips of crocin. What is his qualification?' I said.

You have this hang up about this qualification. Mom, how is education is hang up? I am MBA. So he has done B.Pharm. He is thinking of doing and MBA she lowered her volume, through correspondence' (p.194)

Careerist woman is always cautious about the qualification and Radhika is not exception for it. She underestimates the boy for having the degree of B.Pharm and his business of chemist and druggist is not suitable for her to marry. How a careerist woman is careful about salary and career? Just see I



quote,

'Thanks. I said, still absorbing my gross compensation. My total base salary and bonus came up to half a million dollars. Keep up the good work'(p.200)

Money matters are very essential in the fashionable world of today's young generation. They want to become rich as early as possible. This is upward mobilization of middle class family to rich class. Further conversation too shows same mentality and preference to money not to need family custom like marriage. Radhika's mother insists for marriage she appeals Radhika,

'You made so much money last year. You are a vice president. What else do you want career wise? Mom it's not career, I am not ready'(p.202)

Radhika's mother tries to persuade her for the marriage but Radhika is not ready for the marriage. Radhika's mother is restless to know this.

Modern woman is advanced in thinking pattern too. She doesn't want to be a traditional woman of dependent on the income of her husband. She wants to earn more money for her growing needs. She is not ready to adjust for needs of money. She much is aware of her rights and identity of her own. Following discussion clears the identity crises of Radhika who is a careerist woman of modern age. I quote,

'Just get back at her. I rejected some men due to their looks. Other didn't make it because they had job in India. Where, they earned a few lakhs a year. Despite all my feminist learning, I did not want to someone who made so much lesser than me. Why does a woman feel a man's income is more important than her's? My be because it is important to men and very few men are secure enough to just let this issue be'(p.221)

Woman having full aware of her identity will never subvert her personality to anyone. Here in this quote Radhika is stubborn woman of age who does not want to turn her attitude of womanliness. Goodness is next to womanliness is simple philosophy of traditional Indian culture. Let's see the strong nature of Radhika who can very much firm on her decision. Decision making and taking is very important aspect of careerist woman and it proved with the following interpretation made by Radhika.

'I turned towards her and interrupted her. What do you mean even better attitude? I should be more subservient. What is that word adds? Homely? It is just means submissive right? You want to be me more homely, well, yeah!

I am not homely. So maybe I will just stay single. Don't say such horrible things. There is nothing horrible about it. I said, this money and international jobs have gone to your head. You are not even girl any more'(p.225)

Her mother surely confirmed that her daughter Radhika is overflowed with trance of career. She is even ready to stay single, without marriage for the sake of her job, and career. For her career is most important than the marriage a social bondage.

The final discussion between Neel Gupta DebshishSen and Radhika explored that really the present novel is depiction of careerist woman. It explores the idea of career in the life of woman of modern age. She remains unmarried due to the career. It is a controversial issue in the present situation what is first career or family and time will give the answer.

I noticed Debu scratch his head as he also heard and tried to figure out what I said.

Meaning? Neel said.

What do you want? Career?Home?Debu said, I am really confused. Yeah. What do you want? Choose whatever you like Radhika, Neel said.'(p.258)



## **2. CONCLUSION**

Chetan Bhagat is representative of modern age and sensibility. He experiences the same in his life and his writing too is representation of his experience. The present novel *One Indian Girl* is depiction of a woman having sense of career. Education has created this attitude among the men and woman. Today's young generations are like ATM machine for their parents. Education has declared a competition for career and settlement. Above discussion and exploration it proves that Chetan Bhagat's *One Indian Girl* is a depiction of careerist woman. Really, Radhika is representative of this modern age who is more careful about her career. For the sake of her career orient nature she dares to stay single. There are no other options for the young generation of Radhika's age. She is not a single but representative of her period. The novel *One Indian Girl* is voice of young girls in India who have chosen career as life. They give more important to career and break the traditional make up of society. Radhika having two affairs and live in relationship but unable to make adjust for marriage. Or there is no time for the need of society. *One Indian Girl* stands as an epitome of Indian girls. The present paper is an honest to prove *One Indian Girl* is a depiction of Careerist woman of the modern sensibility.

## **3. REFERENCE**

1. Bhagat Chetan, *One Indian Girl*, Rupa Publication India Pvt. Ltd., 2016.
2. Jump up^ "One Indian vs Chetan's Indian Girl". *The Telegraph*. Retrieved 29 May 2018.
3. Jump up^ <http://www.hindustantimes.com/brunch/greatest-indian-novels-you-cannot-afford-to-miss-part-i/story-UNfsvAbm5Jm6IVNGhIhRdL.html>
4. [www.chetanbhagat .com](http://www.chetanbhagat.com)