



ONE INDIAN GIRL - A SUCCESSFUL OR SHALLOW DELINEATION OF MODERN GENERATION OF INDIAN GIRLS

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ABSTRACT

The story of One Indian Girl by Chetan Bhagat is a confession to be heard, a puzzle to be solved, a problem to find a solution, a question to be answered and an achievement to be proud of.

One Indian Girl is a story of an intrepid girl of Indian origin Radhika Mehta who is astonishingly assertive, escalates to zenith of her carrier with her ability to analyze and precision at decision making. Intelligence combined with alluring and sizzling persona makes her the best choice of men of all walks of life. In fact she is beauty with brain. But with all these qualities, it has become even more difficult finding a suitable man for her. As things unfold, towards the end we find that she is enjoying with her soul's desire.

The character of Radhika Mehta except sensual pleasure, with all her shortcomings depicts a new generation of young Indian girls who are assertive, bold enough to speak out, ready to take up any challenge, become cosmopolitan if required, earn a lot of money and stand on their own legs.

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Chetan Baghat through his writings made the world understand the current trends of India. In Revolution 2020 he spoke vehemently about the deplorable condition of Indian political and education system. It is a clarion call for lavation of political and education system. A call for a revolution to set things right which might bring some change in the education system which in turn can produce world class leaders, leaders who are young and conscientious.

Through the story of One Indian Girl he intended to send a strong message to the world about a new generation of Indian young girls who can surprise the people around them with their ability to compete and emerge with flying colours.

They have their own way of thinking which is quite different from the traditional woman folk of India. They have indomitable will to conquer the world with their qualities of head and heart. It is amazing to know their ability to compete with world's best in the business and even surpass them sometimes with their smart work. It is a call for appreciation and reformation.

In One Indian Girl, Chetan Bhagat presents the story of Radhika Mehta, a girl of Indian origin with her aims, aspirations, dreams and disturbances which make her one Indian special girl. If traditional girls were restricted to sit behind the iron curtains, silent, pious and obedient then the present generation of young girls have cosmopolitan out

look to their lives. They are bold. The hall mark of this generation is that they are smart and pragmatic.

They have the ability to reach to the top most position of corporate ladder within short span of their carrier. This can be noticed as Radhika Mehata secures a job. After completion of her studies at IIMA she had a "job offer on day zero, the prime slot for recruiters. I got an offer to be an associate at Goldman Sachs, New York. The job paid an annual compensation of 120,000 dollars"(9). In fact she is elevated to such position because she really deserves it.

Radhika Mehta is one such Indian girl who is an embodiment of young Indian mindset. She is a daughter who can make her parents feel proud of her achievements. She is a colleague to many top most business professionals who can mesmerize and startle them with her ability to analyze things.

Unlike the traditional Indian girls she is not afraid to move away from her homeland. She has equipped herself with corporate cosmopolitan temperament. She does not feel like fish out of water amidst top business professionals. She is not afraid to speak out. She has a drive and desire to be successful in all her endeavours. Her ability to asses and assimilate things instantly make her the best choice of many corporate circles.

She wants to enjoy life to the maximum extent which is visible in all her business tours. She has a knack of enticing people with her sense and sensibilities. She is very prudent in taking decisions. She has her own way of evaluating things. She has acquired the art to persuading and convincing people. It is this way she wins the hearts of many people.

There is also a lot of difference between traditional girls and modern girls while choosing a groom. The statement below authenticates the views of traditional girls attitude towards life and marriage Aditi, *didi* of Radhika Mehta represents traditional woman. "She (Aditi) had two criteria for her groom. One, the boy had to be rich. Second, well, there was no second criterion really. Moreover "She wanted to be a house wife and look after her husband" (9).

Radhika Mehta has a clear understanding of her life and life partner. She is not afraid even going

to a little further in developing a friendly relationship while choosing her life partner. She is not afraid to wait until she has clarity in her thoughts. This is evident in the episodes of planning and preparation to her marriage. "I will be married in a week. To a guy i hardly know. This guy and i are to share a bed, home and life for the rest of my life. Why isn't it sinking in?" (5).

She is not afraid to raise her voice when it really matters. This is visible in the discussions of Radhika Mehta's marriage, "I am not going to marry a man from the circle of sanitaryware shop owners mom.... You know what, I am not getting married for several years anyway." (9). It is an indication that her decision making cannot either be influenced by parental enforcements or obligations.

She wanted to be free from the age old atrocities perpetrated against women under the guise of marriage. She is ready to alter her ways if they do not seem to be proper. She is not afraid to question. She would like to have her own say when it comes either choosing her fiancy or leading a life. The statement below authenticates modern girls attitude towards life and marriage Finally, when Radhika Mehta tries to speak her mind in her decision to do away with her ex boyfriends Debu and Neel that author speaks for the modern generation girls and their aspirations. . "You know what women really want? We don't want to choose. We want to fly and we also want a beautiful nest. We want both... Woman wants everything. To have a lovely home and be a great mother. To also have a chance to shine in their carrier" (258-259).

She is not afraid to break the ice even if it displeases people around her. As she expresses her unpreparedness to marry Brijesh, she makes it very clear saying that "This just doesn't seem right. I can't get married to you today.... I am going to inform my parents now, after that i will talk to your parents"(261). She is capable of finding time even in the toughest situations if she feels it very important. Her sense of time management appears to be perfect.

She is ready to apologize if it is her fault. She is quick to learn from her mistakes. This can be seen from her apologies to the family of Brijesh when she announced her unpreparedness for her marriage.

“Hello everyone, I will just take a minute. To all in this room, I am sorry, I am really, really, sorry. I am sorry because I was not prepared for this marriage. But i said yes. I am sorry because I brought shame to your relatives. I am sorry because I ruined your happy moments. However, i did this because i felt going ahead would not be fair on Brijesh and his family. ... I folded my hands. I really am sorry, aunty” (265)

She accepts her mistakes and ready to learn from them. “You understand people and you understand kindness. You are a good guy Brijesh I am the one who messed up. I need clarity” (267). She has the courage to ask the toughest question... and even prepared for any response including a bitter and biting response” (272). As things come to close we find her making the best choice of her life. She is truly ‘One Indian Special Girl’ as affirmed by Brijesh.

Even though the character One Indian Girl has so many positive and affirmative chords of modern Indian girls, Chetan Bhagat somehow missed the right thread and caught the wrong one. This in a way made a mockery of greatness of Indian girls. The character of One Indian girl could have been an epitome of modern generation of Indian girls if delineated well by show casing her strengths in an appropriate way but the author gave too much priority to things which are shallow in their nature.

References

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