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THE MULTICULTURALISM IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S *THE THREE MISTAKES OF MY LIFE*

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Abstract:

Chetan Bhagat is the one of the most talented, motivational speaker, columnist and vary creative writer. He always sheds light on the various cultural issues in the society through the multiculturalism. His every novel deals with the various multicultural themes like religion, culture, society, tradition, gender, race, caste system, family conflict, marriage system, education system and unemployment etc. Chetan Bhagat has written many best-selling novels like - *Five point Someone*, *One Night @ the Call Center*, *The Three Mistakes of My Life*, and *2 States: The Story of My Marriage*. The present research paper focuses on the multiculturalism in Chetan Bhagat's novel which is widely appreciated by readers in India as well as across the world, the novel that is *The Three Mistakes of My Life* is written in 2008.

Keywords: *Multiculturalism, Religion, Caste System, Family Conflicts, Love Affair, Unemployment, Sport, etc.*

Introduction:

Chetan Bhagat is one of the most talented, motivational speaker, columnist and vary creative writer. He bore in middle class family. He has explored many various social issues, culture, cultural conflict, family conflict, education, marriage system, bad tradition, love affair, and tries to establish equality, multicultural society and global society through the multiculturalism. Multiculturalism is trying to build humanity, respect, secularism, appreciation of different culture, respect of various religions in the different society.

Multiculturalism is a system of beliefs and behaviors that recognizes and respects the presence of all diverse groups in an organization or society, acknowledges and values their socio-cultural differences, and encourages and enables their continued contribution within an inclusive cultural context which empowers all within the organization or societies (Caleb_ www.rosado.net).

Globalized society has diverse groups and every diverse group has unique valuable important according to their culture, religion, tradition, gender inequality, race, caste system. Every diverse group contribute to established multicultural society because multicultural society has provided opportunity to

eradicate bad custom like hate about other religion, culture, caste, race and establish to respect, development, about the different culture, religion, tradition, humanity each other cultures in the society through the multiculturalism.

Present research paper has shed light on the multiculturalism through *The Three Mistakes of My Life* has the aspects related to multiculturalism like religion, culture, gender inequality, friendship, relationship, love affair, business, family conflict etc. *The Three Mistakes of My Life* is revolves around the three best friends Ishan, Govind and Omi. They have different ambitions. Ishan wants to be a cricket player but his family against his dream. Ishan sacrifices everything for cricket like he avoid education, job, and he became jobless. Ishan's father always scolded him about his unemployment. Here Bhagat represent the multiculturalism through the family conflict, break the dreams, parents expectation and frustration of young generation: Ishaan had always avoided this topic ever since he ran away from NDA a year ago. His dad had already sarcastically commented, 'Cut a cake today to celebrate one year of your uselessness (Bhagat, 3MML, 3).

The renowned writer, Chetan Bhagat has beautifully elaborated the multicultural theme like major issues of unemployment of India in *The Three Mistakes of My Life* through the protagonist, Ishan. The Indian person wants to established social status in the society from their children and also himself. Everyone has their some responsibility and expectation towards family from their children. But most of today's generation doesn't have much more interest about their career. Ishan in *The Three mistakes of My Life* didn't care about his career and he became jobless; his unemployment impacts on his family and also his father's frustration. Unemployment has become the causes of family conflict between father and son. Omi, the friend of Ishan and Govind who belongs to Brahmin and Priest family who visited the Ali's home:

No, no,' Omi said, horrified at the idea of eating in a Muslim home. 'Please, I insist...The plates had simple food - chapattis, daal and a potato-cauliflower vegetable. Omi sat down. He did not touch the food. 'Sorry I can't offer you meat. This is all we have today.' 'I don't eat meat. I am a priest's son,' Omi said (Bhagat, 3ML, 65).

Chetan Bhagat has explored the religious multicultural aspect through the Omi's statement. The prejudiced mind of orthodox community has seen throughout the reference because Omi denied eating meal at Ali's home. Ali belongs to Muslim community and as per the Omi's religious background concerned his community prohibits to visit house of Muslim people. The hatred about Muslim religion was deeply rooted in the mind of most of the Brahmin people. Brahmin people treat Muslim people as equal to untouchables. The younger generation of Brahmin like Omi has to sticky follow the stereotypes of Brahmin community. The term 'religion' was beautifully elaborated by Thomas F. O'Dea: "Religion, like culture, is a symbolic transformation of experience" (<https://www2.kenyon.edu>).

The world has included many types of religion like Hindu, Christen, Buddhist, Muslim and Shikh etc. Every religion has unique culture, tradition, custom. It was become the symbols of imitation and transformation to the upcoming generation. The legacy of this culture was transformed contemporary generation to future generation. Thomas has cleared defined religion. According to Thomas religion is nothing but the transformation of cultural experience of human in entire life. The same way Chetan Bhagat has represented religious tradition and culture transformation through Omi who belonged to Brahmin and Priest family. According to Hindu philosophy if any person wants to achieve success in life, he/ she should have to follow *karma*:

I finally saw the sense inherent in the Hindu philosophy of being satisfied with what one had, rather than yearn for more. It wasn't some cool philosophy that ancient sages invented, but a survival mantra in a country where desires are routinely crushed. (Bhagat, 3ML, 115).

Chetan Bhagat has expressed his intention regarding 'Hindu philosophy' as multiculturalism. From ancient times India has great legacy of multiculturalism like culture, tradition, customs, and

festival it showed the way of successful life according to Hindu philosophy. Hindu culture has deeply rooted in Hindu religion through the ancient sage in India. As the same way Govind, Ishan and Omi has established cricket sport shop in Omi's temple. It was became the symbols of 'karma' according to Omi's parents because he belongs to Priest family. 'Karma' has great important in Hindu philosophy because according to Hindu philosophy dreams didn't have value without 'karma'.

If everyone thinks that way, where will India's sportsmen come from?' Ish said. 'From rich families.' The head took out his glasses and wiped them calmly. 'But talent is not distributed only among the rich. We have to expand the pool.' 'Do you know half our classrooms leak in the rain,' the head said. 'Should we get shiny balls or fix the leaks?' (Bhagat, 3ML, 131).

Here Chetan Bhagat has highlighted on the burning issuelike class diversity, caste system, rich and poor, sport and education in India. Generally class diversity plays a vital role because the poor sportsman unable to spend enough money on sport training and equipment. Due to this rich sportsman avail entire opportunities in national or international athletic. Thus conscious and unconsciously it provides manure to create valley among rich and poor. It has deeply impacted the class diversity. Nature has endowed equal talent to everyone but the rich and poor class diversity has created such a long distance between them that unable to fill out within specific period of time. "A priest's son teaching a Muslim boy" (Bhagat, 3ML, 62). India was recognized for its diversity. Religion is also one of them because in our country we have much religious diversity and it became a matter of discrimination for the religious bigot of any religion. But Chetan Bhagat has disclosed inter-religious-relationship it was depended on religious secularism among Omi and Ali. Omi, the son of Priest who belongs to Hindu religion and Ali belong to such community with whom Hindu has rivalry religion that is Muslim.

The camp had won Mama many fans in the neighbourhood, Technically, anyone could seek refuge. However, a Muslim family would rarely go there for help. Even if they did, camp managers handed out rations but emphasised that everyone in the camp was a Hindu. Despite this soft discrimination, the new-me found it a noble exercise (Bhagat, 3ML, 116-117).

Though the human being was caught in terrible calamity; yet they denied accepting help from other religious people. The same situation was revealed by Chetan Bhagat in his *The Three Mistakes of My Life*. Belrampur city has undergone natural disaster that is earthquake in such a condition Hindu people started a camp to help the suffered people; whereas the religious bigot person intended to help only their belonging community and denied to help Muslim people. At least entire human race should have to accept principles of multiculturalism such as humanity to protect for self from such disaster like earthquake, riot. Because the main intention of Multiculturalism is to establish humanity in the world; it avoids religious classes for the unique existence of humanity:

The mob had Muslims. They had an argument with the Hindu kar sevaks and burnt everyone - women, children,' the tea vendor said. . . They burn little kids, see what kind of a community is this,' a florist said to his neighbouring mithai shop owner (Bhagat, 3ML, 215).

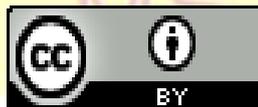
Chetan Bhagat has shed light on impact of religious riot in *The Three Mistakes of My Life*. It caused to demolish the morality in human race. The same way above quotation has showed the impact of riot in which the innocent people become victim. This religious conflict has created slaughtering's of women, children and kids; the public property like buses, train and shops were burned by rioters. The religious bigotry has deeply impacted to eradicate humanity in human thus

the modern civilization has freely accepted principles of multiculturalism. Multiculturalism provides humanity, fraternity, morality, secularism. Mostly the religious riots and rivalry among Hindu and Muslim still exist in our society due to lack of these principles of multiculturalism.

Chetan Bhagat has shed light on basic assumption of multiculturalism like religion, caste system, inter-religious-relationship, education, sports, marriage systems, class diversity, family conflict, frustration, business, and love affair etc. in *The Three Mistakes of My Life*. To conclude in brief the novel has dealt with such kind of aspect. The burning issue of unemployment was beautifully described by the author through the wok. Ishaan fails to take his proper education for the bright future. But his father forces him to complete his study but he has passive interest in education and other hand he would like to become a cricket player; it has created conflict between father and son. But the father was worried about his children future that is Ishaan it results into frustration, takes place into family conflicts. Further writer has revealed the untouchability through incident of Omi's visit of Ali's home. Ali's father offered meal to Omi but Omi simply denied meal. Generally upper class people thought that if they disrespect offered meal then it was related to the humiliation of God. Yet he has denied eating the meal because Ali belongs to Muslim religion; whereas the multiculturalism provides equality among the human being in universe. But the religious bigotry didn't like secularism instead they prefer to help their community member; such as in riot and earthquake situation such people preferred to help their community only. The multiculturalism intended to establish secular and peaceful atmosphere for every human being in the world.

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