

# Depiction of Malversation elements: in Vikram Chandra's *Sacred Games* and Chetan Bhagat's *Revolution 2020*

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## ***Abstract***

Vikram Chandra and Chetan Bhagat are the greatest contemporary outstanding author belonging to modern Indian generation. These both writers depict contemporary Indian society with different changes in way of living and behaving manners of people. The objective of both authors in revealing such change through their work is to warn the society, that changes which are for the welfare of society should be followed but anti democratic should be evaded. Chandra in *Sacred Games* has presented the people and their life from different strata, which reflects the Indian society. In his novel Chandra stresses on all vulgar and nefarious activities prevailing in modern society which needs to be curbed out. On the other hand Bhagat also presents in *Revolution 2020* the story based on different class belonging three friends. The authors depict through their novels that corruption can be removed from the society with the help of youth. Both the writer describes malversation elements in their novels, through which the story of novels moves forward. These malversation elements are the root cause of increasing corruption and crime in modern contemporary world. The progress of a country depends on its people so they should perform their duties honestly. Bhagat wants to message his countrymen that youth are the foundation of society, so they should come forward and help in eradicating malversation elements and making system healthy. Crime is spreading in country with a great speed for which administration is responsible. People are earning money illegally by forgetting their moral duties. This corruption is prevailing in all fields of life even education sector is also not untouched by it, which needs attention on time.

**Keywords:** Moral depravity, corruption, youth, contemporary, ambition, aspiration

## **Introduction**

Vikram Chandra and Chetan Bhagat both are renowned Indian authors who are known for their writing on contemporary societal issues. Vikram Chandra was born in New Delhi on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1961. He is the son of Navin Chandra, a corporate executive in a company. His mother Kamna Chandra was a successful screen writer, playwright and author who motivated her offspring to be innovative. Vikram Chandra teaches creative writing at California University and lives there with his wife. Thus, he

has divided his time presently between Mumbai and Berkley in California. Vikram was teaching literature and writing, with it he wrote his novels. He was also working as an independent consultant for hardware, and software computer programmer while writing novels. His clients were from different areas like oil companies, Houston Zoo and non-profit organization. Chandra who passes his life between Bombay and Washington is famous as a genuine master in matter of fictionalizing oral story revealing, and also in reverberating traditional epics of India as the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayan*. It's not a matter of issue if Chandra defines himself as a storyteller. A copy of text presents the voice of ontological conception of literature that an author has but in case of Chandra it is the result of his trans-cultural narrative. Through his works he has revealed the border of oral and written fiction which displays inter-systemic dialogue that makes to literature a never ending journey of inter cultural communication.

Vikram Chandra's novel '*Sacred Games*' was published in 2006. The setting of this novel is in sprawling Mumbai city, this is a long story which covers over 900 pages. The chief protagonist of this novel are Sartaj Singh a policeman and the underworld criminal Ganesh Gaitonde. It was suspected that a film star is involved in conspiracy of blowing up Mumbai. Many super stars are caught for having connection with mafia dons, violence, cruelty and bloodsheds is seen everywhere. It is considered black money is behind mega budget, corruption and money laundering becomes normal thing in city and mafia dons are represented as powerful and glamorous celebrities in newspapers. Dawood Ibrahim is a boss of Muslim gang who had been a terrorist behind 1993 bombings. His rival was Arun Gawli who used to be a milkman was surrounded by henchmen in a mid-town fortress. Sartaj Singh is very experienced officer in Bombay police. *Sacred Games* is a saga of different stories which represents the scenario of modern Indian city Bombay. The author got 'Salon Book Award' in 2007 for *Sacred Games*. This novel was also sort listed for the 'National Book Critics Circle Award' for fiction writing. *Sacred Games* was enlisted for countless "Best of the year lists and received lavish critical acclaim". In India this novel was selected by Netflix to make original series in 2016. This renowned novel of Chandra travels through various ups and downs between Indian traditions and popular culture of western civilization. 'Los Angeles Times' magazine called him "Magnificent" and UC Berkeley News referred him "Absolutely incredible" for his best fiction writing.

On the other hand Chetan Bhagat was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> April in 1974 in New Delhi. He is well known among Indian youth for his writing. He is known as a rising star of present day Indian English literature. Bhagat was born to a government employees parents in a plain middle class Punjabi family. Through his non-fiction work "*What Young India Wants*" he has cleared that at the time of pursuing his engineering his interest was in people than machine. This thing gave him inspiration for getting admission in MBA and passed master degree with excellent scores. Bhagat was an extraordinary student in IIM Ahmedabad and was honoured as the "Best Outgoing

Student” of his batch. He first time left India with his family for Hong-Kong after pursuing his MBA degree. In Hong Kong he realised the reason of many problems related to India like; what is the reason behind of India being so poor in spite of having all the resources, why all the social evils are prevailing only in our country as; people are divided here on the basis of caste and creed, so oppressive unfair and corrupt. Thus he studied comparative economic status of India with other country (*Bhagat What XI*).

Bhagat’s fifth novel ‘*Revolution 2020*’ came in 2011. The story of this novel was also adapted for the Bollywood movie. In this story he represents triangle love between Raghav, Arti and Gopal, also the burning issues prevailing in contemporary society like; corruption, deception, aspirations, love, intimacy, growing capitalism and guileful politics, he has presented before us bitter reality of today’s India. The story of this novel revolves around three friends Raghav, Aarti and Gopal. Through these characters he represents realities of modern middle class. These three friends have different goals to fulfill. Aarti belongs to a bureaucratic and political background family who is more fanciful and wants to be an air-hostess. On the other hand Raghav is more ideal and from well prosper and educated family, who wants to change the world or eradicate the corruption prevailed in society. Gopal represents the middle class society who is very ambitious wants to be prosper and wealthy man. There are some other characters also who are from academic background Bedi and Sunil, besides them we also see some goons who work as a recovery agent for prominent political leaders. We see here love triangle when Raghav and Gopal loves to the same girl Aarti. Through this novel Bhagat represents how modern education system has become corrupt, students are mad after engineering and medical courses, institutes owners are taking the advantage of this, thus there is commercialization of education which has disturbed the budget of middle class and broken the spinal column of middle class economy. To think this writer is more worried about youths and modern coming generation. Both these authors have represented the modern contemporary society through their works. Their works expose the corruption which is prevailing in all sectors of life in a quite realistic way. These malversation elements create hurdles on the way of country progress, so to make a system working well this social evil needs to be eradicated.

### **Purpose of study**

The objective of this research paper is to depict the malversation elements presented in Vikram Chandra’s *Sacred Games* and Chetan Bhagat’s *Revolution 2020*. Vikram Chandra’s *Sacred Games* is an epic saga of various interconnected stories, which represents the different aspects of life in a realistic way. Chandra has exposed the corruption prevailing in administration and government, where officials make illegal use of their power for extorting money. These officers are indulged in corrupt activities for personal and materialistic gains. In the same way Chetan

Bhagat also presents the corruption existing in government and education sector. This is the reason the standard of quality in education is falling every year. We see corruption prevailing in administration and government sector demoralize democracy, which needs to be eradicated to make the system work well. Thus, the study of both the writers proves malversation elements have been presented in their works. These malversation elements are responsible for retrogression in country progress. The purpose of Chandra and Bhagat's in depicting malversation elements is to make modern youth aware with the reality, and prepare them to act against corruption.

### **Research Methodology**

The present research is based on qualitative perspectives of content analyzing method, which is also called as the procedure of summarizing different types of text and content matter in literary field. Observations are made on various aspects of literary content, which inspires more objective evaluation instead of content based or for influencing audience. Though exploring content can be in any form or shape but it has been converted into written form before making its analyzation. This research is based on original source of Vikram Chandra and Chetan Bhagat's novel *Sacred Games* and *Revolution 2020*. The purpose of present research is to establish a relationship between cause and outcomes. This research article throws light on malversation elements presented through the novels of Vikram Chandra and Chetan Bhagat. These malversation elements are the cause of increasing corruption in society. A genuine effort has been made by the researcher through this article to trail the reality of society, and to expose malversation elements existing in administration and government sectors. To making analyzation of content and text for reaching to the conclusion qualitative analysis or method has been used by the researcher. Quotations and passage used in this research article have been taken from the primary source and have been observed in a critical way. The quotations or material taken from primary sources directly or indirectly have been supplemented by the information from secondary sources. The research articles from various renowned critics and scholar also have been used to substantiate this article. To prove the point, matter from online resources also has been taken. Along with primary source different online and offline resources, also have been explored to complete this research article and come to the conclusion.

### **Review of Literature**

Pradeepa & Priya (2020) Multi-faceted Indian Cosmopolitanism in Vikram Chandra's *Sacred Games*. In this article the researcher has highlighted corruption existing in government and administration, which is the reason of increasing crime in society. People for personal gain indulge in corruption forgetting their duties. "The government officials use their powers for illegitimate private gain. Corruption demoralizes democracy and better governance subverting formal processes in politics. Public administration becomes inefficient.

Kundu (2015) Some Aspects of Corruption in India in 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In this research paper the writer says “the problem of corruption in India is not today’s problem. The Indian society is facing this problem since the ancient period. Corruption is the misuse of power. When a public officer or a government employee uses his position for its personal gains then it is known as corruption.”

Rout & Satapaty (2017) Impact of corruption and its impact in Indian society: Causes and remedies. Through this research paper the author has presented the effects of corruption in society. “He says corruption is a serious economic issue as it affects the economic condition of a country adversely. It promotes inefficiencies in utilization of resources, distorts the market, compromises quality, destroys the environment and of late has become a serious threat to national security.”

Brai (2016) Contemporary Indian fiction in English: A study of postmodernist narrative strategy of Vikram Chandra’s *Sacred Games*. In this research paper Barai says “Chandra portrays bloodshed and violence in a flash mode in modern Bombay city. He narrates the story in such a way that the main focal point is the individual’s negotiation of his role, space and place in this often hostile urban environment, which he also explores on all levels of Bombay movie starlets, the rich businessman to the airline stewardess, the corruption politician to the high court judge, the gang lord to the spiritual guru, and hairdresser to the policeman.”

Babu & Livingston (2019) Societal evils in contemporary India from Chetan Bhagat’s perspective in *Revolution 2020*. In this research article researcher presents “How the basic inception of corruption in modern times can be traced to opportunistic leaders, who are consumed by ambition, and use corruption as a means to fuel their ambitions. The bleakness existing in Indian society, according to Bhagat is due to political bankruptcy, social sins, malpractices and crimes of various hues.”

Sundram (2014) Degradation of moral and ethical values in *Revolution 2020*. In this paper researcher focuses on falling standard of moral ethics in modern men. “Corruption is main hindrance in the progress of country. It is deep rooted in Indian society. Chetan Bhagat has presented the corruption prevailing in education and government sector. Bhagat has contributed to the society immensely. He depicts the social evils, unemployment and problems of youth. He says no doubt in it that science and technology plays an important role in our life but we should not forget our social values.”

Ali (2015) Rampant corruption in Indian education, politics and love in Chetan Bhagat’s *Revolution 2020*. The writer says in this paper “Mostly corruption in education begins with the process of admission test in India. Colleges, universities and schools organize entrance test for admission. All corrupt educational institutes have started making money through entrance exam.

## Results

### **Comparative analyzation of malversation elements in *Sacred Games* and *Revolution 2020***

Vikram Chandra's novel *Sacred Games* is based on the complexities of criminal world and modern city Bombay. The author has portrayed the realistic view of both the world and corruption prevailing in society. Through this novel Chandra has presented various elements with concise information like a storyteller. Bombay is a city, where people of different religion and profession reside. The author has presented a scenario of modern city where, series of action establish a complicate network of greed, jealousy, Politicians involved in corruption, civil servants connection with underworld don, slumlords and Bollywood. The story of the novel revolves around underworld don Ganesh Gaitonde since his childhood to death. Sartaj Singh is another prominent character who is a police inspector discovers the life mystery of Ganesh Gaitonde. There are many characters in this novel some of them are criminals, police officers, politicians and ordinary men. Chandra has also portrayed a realistic scene of India-Pak division and class conflict between Hindu and Muslim, through the nostalgic memories of Sartaj mother's childhood. The story presents crime and corruption prevailing everywhere in society. Even, the police officers and politicians who are known as saviour of society are also not corruption free. Police officers can be seen taking bribes and having connection with underworld, which is the cause of increasing corruption in society. This is the reality of modern contemporary world which has been exposed by Vikram Chandra in his *Sacred Games*. The author has revealed malversation elements through *Sacred Games* which contribute in increasing crime and corruption in modern society.

We see government officers make use of their power illegally for their personal benefits or gain. The corruption existing in administration and government demoralizes democracy, and efficiency of works. Parulkar is a deputy commissioner in police departments. He takes bribes from various people to get their work done. He is also in connection with Suleiman Isa underworld mafia don. Parulkar takes huge amount of money from Suleiman Isa to carry on his reprehensible heinous activities. These police officers get monthly allowance from underworld don's clubs and dance bars also. Parulkar's consultant Homi Mehta funnel his unofficial earnings to Swiss account on a reasonable charge commission, Sartaj carried this illegal money of Parulkar every week to Mehta;

“Paralkur was after all the commissioner for a very rich zone. It was a very wet posting and Parulkar drank deep from its burbling faunt of money. He was an avid earner but not greedy and he was very careful about the disposal of the money. The money disappeared from India and re-appeared abroad where it, sit safe and accumulated interest in hard currency”. (Chandra, p -83)

Thus, we see how much money Parulkar earns illegally and get it transferred to Swiss bank with the help of consultant Mehta and Sartaj. He carried it to Mehta, a full bag of money every week because Parulkar has connection with the company of Suleiman Isa, and with many other illegal Gangs from where he gets money. He purchased Gaitonde's whole gold and convert it in money. Gopal math in starting was the place of Anil kurup later it belonged to Gaitonde who murdered Anil and seized his property. In usurping Anil Kurup's property Parulkar helps him. Gaitonde murdered Anil kurup with all his boys and get constructed house at Gopalmath. Once, Paritosh shah told Gaitonde that he will have to spend money for making money. Gaitonde follows his advice and develops good relation with sub- inspector, in charge of area from G.T station. Gaitonde starts to meet with him on every weekend slipped them envelops full of money. He gives them, many thousands rupees. Gaitonde tells the more he spent the more he gets with the help of them. In this novel we also see enmity between two group of Gaitonde and suleman Isa. They were killing people of each other group one by one with the help of police and deputy commissioner Parulkar by giving them bribe. Parulkar, the deputy commissioner of Mumbai police is very disturbed because he had been threatened by Mathija and sons who is a builder. Parulkar tells to Sartaj that DG had a call from the home minister that Mathija had threatened to file a case. He said that he was forced by Parulkar to do some work of construction. Parulkar got his ancestral house constructed from that builder to this Parulkar used strong words illegally to get his construction complete as soon as possible. Sartaj responses to Parulkar after listening his words that let Mathija go to court and do what he want and let him see what we makes his life here at his sites. These lines make it clear how much corruption is prevailing in police department how they use their power to exploit the people. Samant, inspector in police department is also indulges in unscrupulous activities. He develops connection with underworld don for earning money. Gaitonde fix a meeting with inspector Samant and meet him at a hotel in Sakinaka, he tries to convince him so that he may help him to get killed Vikas Ranade by making bargaining with ten petis of money. At this inspector Samant gets ready and asked for fifteen lakh to get this work done, because Gaitonde was born before when Vikas Ranade was in this city. Thus corruption is prevailing in the society, for money sake inspector gets ready to help Gaiotonde. These things show the corruption of Police department in India, Samant helps Gaitonde to recognize Vikas Ranade, first he himself talk with Ranade to confirm him personally then Gaitonde murdered Vikas Ranade. It is evident the saviour of the society are indulging in corruption, then how it is possible to imagine a corruption free country. These things make it clear Chandra has used malversation elements to fulfill his purpose of bringing corruption into the notice of people, which is fastening its root in the society rapidly. The progress of a country depends on its incorruptible administration and youth. Youth are the cornerstone of the society on which future of a society depend, so they should take step in making country corruption free.

On the other hand we see Chetan Bhagat's *Revolution 2020*, is a story based on corruption prevailing in education sector. Gopal the main protagonist of this novel becomes an orphan after the death of his father. He is only twelfth pass but gets the opportunity to be a director of engineering college with the help of MLA Shukla a corrupt man. Gopal belongs to a rural family one day while searching good college at carrier fair in Varanasi, suddenly he got hurt and start escaping from there seeing the greedy people quarreling over students, who were giving many offers to attract students to get them admission, though their institutes were not constructed by that time. In India condition of Education system is very poor. The regulatory bodies pay poor attention on it. These educational institutes should be run by honest and educated person but Gopal becomes the director of Ganga Tech and works for morally corrupt MLA Shukla. In a moment MLA gave him ten thousands rupees as black money and Gopal starts working for college, thus Shukla made him active in the world of corruption. Gopal handled the situation with force. He had money that he uses to transfer into power. He runs the college well and also keeps up good terms with upper classes and proved himself as a best player of corrupted game. Shukla has good terms with CM this is the play of minister power that he is constructing a college building in a no fly-zone area, though it is just violation of law constructing an educational institution on agricultural land.

The main purpose of education is to educate people and make them corruption free but here the foundation of Ganga Tech College is on corrupted and disputed land, of Gopal's uncle Ghan Shyam usurped forcefully. Though Gopal is novice in this field but brokers are everywhere to help. Bedi is aware with the whole system and knows how to settle the matter he helps Gopal. The deputy corporator Sinha who works in VNN takes a huge amount of bribe in giving approval for opening the college. At the time of bargaining Gopal ask Sinha if there is no concession for Shukla g Sinha tells him that this has been already half of what he takes. Corrupt greedy people, pretends to be honest sometimes and follow worst methods for taking bribes. Corruption is prevailing on higher post also which is the symbol dignity, a respectable and responsible post but in modern age the meaning has got change, it has become the source of earning money in illegal way. All India council for Technical Education has been made to make inspection if the infrastructure and system in these colleges is eligible to provide good education or not. Their purpose is only to find out shortcomings not on improvement of education, but in modern age everything depends on money. At the time of inspection Bhansali a member of AICTE ask the qualification of Gopal as he is a director of the college, but Srivastav arrange everything. Two lakh are given to Bhansali and twenty five thousand to each for other member of inspection committee, with relish breakfast, lunch, dinner and many other things. Srivastav insist that Bhansali should be given five lakh to get approval as soon as possible. Though, Ganga Tech College doesn't fulfill the criteria of inspection but approval is given on the basis of money, which is the sign of corruption prevailing in education system. The author has revealed malversation

elements disguised in form of CM, MLA, clerks AICTE inspection committee and retired professor who all are contributing in making the system dirty. In this way, we come to know, both writers have used malversation elements in their works for portraying the reality of corruption prevailing in society.

### **Discussion**

Thus, the study proves Chandra and Bhagat both are Indian authors who have depicted malfeasance through their works. In modern society corruption is spreading all over the world, for which malversation elements are responsible. These malversation elements should be removed from the society, to work a system well. Chandra and Bhagat both presents corrupt politician, on whose shoulder is the responsibility of nation if they are corrupt then how ordinary people will be safe. Where ruler is involved in nefarious activities with mafia dons then how a nation can progress. Chandra delineates corrupt police department where everyone takes bribe, on the contrary Bhagat represents corrupt clerks, inspection committee, and retired professors who are contributing in increasing corruption. In the words of Honmode (2019) "Mumbai is a cosmopolitan city which consists of diverse social classes, religion, caste, and the vibe of city is itself different. Mumbai is known as the city of dreams and on the other side, it is portrayed as a sin city. Sacred Games is a classic example of a gangster narrative as it depicts the rise of slumlords, garbage lords and drug lords." According to Rao (2015) "The relation between richness and power, friendship and betrayal, crime and detectivity and ruthlessness and sentimentality are quite opposite to each other but continue with in the novel". On corruption the opinion of Babu & Livingston (2019) are as "corruption has existed since time immemorial and has pervaded every facet of Indian society from getting a certificate, to getting a government job or getting approval to start a college. The bribe paid could run into many lakh of rupees, the despicable and uncouth reality of Indian society has been presented in *Sacred Games*." Sharma (2015) reveals through his research paper "Babus are also exposed to be very expert in taking bribe and bargaining, Sinha the deputy corporator in VNN takes a huge only for the approval to open a college." According to Kulkarni (2016) "The novel projects the picture of unfair society in which the Indian youth are struggling to fulfill their ambition". In the words of Malar & et al.(2020) "His all characters are continually battling either against people, against social condition or even against their own internal identities." Many scholars have written their research papers on corruption prevailing in society. Human beings themselves are the part of increasing corruption in every sphere of life. Corruption is prevailing all over the world since starting. Modern man can go to any extent for money ethical values have no importance for him. The saviours have become corrupt which demoralizes common man. In every department malversation elements can be observed. These are the root causes of increasing corruption in government offices. The corruption prevailing in administration and government is obstacle on the way of country

progress, which needs to be eradicated. Both the authors present malversation elements in their novels, in a quite realistic way to represent the reality of modern society.

## **Conclusion**

Vikram Chandra and Chetan Bhagat both the writers present corruption, bribery and scam spreading, its roots in government and administration system. This increasing corruption is the cause of falling standard in quality of government services and education. The future of a country depends on youth and their education, if it is faulty then how a country or nation can progress. In modern society we see from government to administration all officers are corrupt, in this condition it's impossible to work a system well. In education field if this corruption exists for a long time, soon all youth will face the problem of unemployment. Though, no doubt in it these students will get good degree from the institutes like Ganga Tech but without proper knowledge it will be useless. This corruption has demoralized the democracy. People don't get justice from police department, which de-motivate them. Both authors present the reality of modern contemporary society through their novels. We see, to make the story feasible so that they may portray the corruption, Chandra and Bhagat has used malversation elements in their work. In *Sacred Games* novel we see police has connection with mafia dons. They are taking a huge amount of bribe from Hindu gangster Ganesh Gaitonde and Muslim don Suleiman Isa, both are opponent to each other. Ganesh Gaitonde is a criminal and he has many murderous charges against him. Though he has been sent on a parole but police record reveal that he is absconding, meanwhile Gaitonde is working on his nefarious activities in Bombay city. It doesn't matter for Parulkar what criminal activities are taking place, he is only concerned with money. In the same way Bhagat also presents corruption in education like AICTE, and UGC, clerks take bribes in government offices to give approval for starting a college. Bhansali by taking two lakh rupees becomes ready to make a good inspection report of Ganga Tech college for its approval.

Thus, it is obvious malversation elements have been used in *Sacred Games* and *Revolution 2020*, through these elements authors have portrayed the corruption in society. These malversation elements are the root cause of increasing crime and corruption which needs to be curbed timely. These both novels are popular, on *Sacred Games* the first Netflix original series has been made, and *Revolution 2020* has been picked up by UTV motion pictures, on which a Bollywood movie *kai po che* has been made. Chandra and Bhagat both are the modern contemporary authors, who portray the reality of contemporary modern world in narrative form. Their purpose is to draw public attention towards corruption, which exists in government offices, so that it may be eradicated timely from society. Though, change should be followed but only those which are for the betterment and upliftment of the nation. Those which are retrogressive should be avoided. Corruption in government offices and police department also make corrupt to those, who go there

for getting solution of their problems, by making them habitual of giving bribe. Thus, the faith of ordinary man has lost from the police, which is the cause of increasing crime in the world or any country. This needs to be curbing out timely. Corruption is like a poison which makes to the society poisonous, so it should be eradicated from the society.

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