

# International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

## *Golden Research Thoughts*

Chief Editor  
Dr.Tukaram Narayan Shinde

Publisher  
Mrs.Laxmi Ashok Yakkaldevi

Associate Editor  
Dr.Rajani Dalvi

Honorary  
Mr.Ashok Yakkaldevi

## Welcome to GRT

**RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595**

**ISSN No.2231-5063**

Golden Research Thoughts Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

### ***International Advisory Board***

Kamani Perera Regional Center For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Mohammad Hailat Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Carolina Aiken	Hasan Baktir English Language and Literature Department, Kayseri
Janaki Sinnasamy Librarian, University of Malaya	Abdullah Sabbagh Engineering Studies, Sydney	Ghayoor Abbas Chotana Dept of Chemistry, Lahore University of Management Sciences[PK]
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania
Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ilie Pintea, Spiru Haret University, Romania
Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Xiaohua Yang PhD, USA
Titus PopPhD, Partium Christian University, Oradea, Romania	George - Calin SERITAN Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi	.....More

### ***Editorial Board***

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade ASP College Devrukh, Ratnagiri, MS India	Iresh Swami Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur	Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur
R. R. Patil Head Geology Department Solapur University, Solapur	N.S. Dhaygude Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur	R. R. Yallickar Director Management Institute, Solapur
Rama Bhosale Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education, Panvel	Narendra Kadu Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune	Umesh Rajderkar Head Humanities & Social Science YCMOU, Nashik
Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur	K. M. Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	S. R. Pandya Head Education Dept. Mumbai University, Mumbai
Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai	Sonal Singh Vikram University, Ujjain	Alka Darshan Shrivastava Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar
Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar Arts, Science & Commerce College, Indapur, Pune	Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director, Hyderabad AP India.	Rahul Shriram Sudke Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary, Play India Play, Meerut (U.P.)	S. Parvathi Devi Ph.D.-University of Allahabad	S. KANNAN Annamalai University, TN
	Sonal Singh, Vikram University, Ujjain	Satish Kumar Kalhotra Maulana Azad National Urdu University

**Address:-Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India  
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.aygrt.isrj.org**



## A STUDY OF CHETAN BHAGAT'S 'HALF GIRLFRIEND' FROM THE SOCIO-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE.



Sudhir Dayram Chavan

Asst. Prof. and Head Dept.of English,  
Shri Vyankatesh Arts, Commerce and Science College Deulgaon Raja,  
Dist. Buldana, Maharashtra,

### ABSTRACT:

Chetan Bhagat is an Indian author who has six bestselling novels at his record. He is the writer of modern India and has thrown light on many problems of youth through his novels. His novels have tried to express the concern of the modern youths. He has not only tried to put forth in his novels the social and cultural milieu in the Indian society but its effect on the young Indian mind, attitude, behaviour, and approach. Hence he is regarded as the youth icon. The sociocultural theory describes awareness of circumstances surrounding the individuals and how their behaviours are affected specifically by their surrounding, social and cultural factors. According to Catherine A. Sander son, "sociocultural perspective describes people's behaviour and mental process as shaped in part by their social or cultural contact, including race, gender and nationality". This theory applies to every sector of our daily lives. How we communicate, understand, relate and cope with one another is partially based on this theory. Our spiritual, mental, physical



Sudhir Dayram  
Chavan

emotional, physiological beings are influenced by sociocultural perspective theory. The present paper aims at revealing the sociocultural aspects in Chetan Bhagat's 'Half Girlfriend'.

**KEY WORDS:**Chetan Bhagat's ,socio cultural theory , mental process .

### INTRODUCTION:

Madhav Jha, a Hindi speaker, a Bihari boy is the protagonist in this novel. He is having a good descent and good personality with the skill of the game like basket ball. Though he belongs to the royal family, the present status of the family isn't glorious as it used to be in the past. His mother runs a school in his native town, Dumraon,. Dumraon is not a city so is devoid of many urban facilities that makes a man exposed to many urban cultures. He answers in his interview **"People don't have any exposure to modernity and hold on to backward values. There is poor education. Nobody invests in my state."** (12)



Hence the person who belongs to such contextual hope less about the college like St. Stephen in Delhi. But his accomplishment in the game like Basket Ball offers him this chance to get admission in this college. Even his interview for admission upsets him as he cannot communicate in English well with the Professors. This cannot be taken as his fault, as he hasn't been available such an exposure is his school, town or surrounding to make him fluent in English. Even at his home nobody speaks English. The people in the place like Dumraon will not be thinking so seriously about learning the skill of English language. As soon as he gets admission in this college he tries to overcome this lacuna by focusing on the need of learning speaking English. The surrounding in which he now lives makes him think about the necessity of learning English which he never felt in his Dumraon. In his interview, he revolts he says-

***"I really wanted to know why they had to interview me in English when I was more comfortable in Hindi"***(10) But later on he realizes that English is an important tool for surviving in St. Stephen College.

Madhav is quite well aware of the circumstances surrounding him in Delhi. He does not lose his hope rather he tries to learn English language by reading English books and listening English songs. After his graduation he gets an offer in a well renowned Multinational bank- HSBC for a bulky salary. It means that by this time Madhav has adopted adequate skills to satisfy his employers that too in such renowned bank. In short Madhav has got adjusted though partially with the circumstances in the city like Delhi. It is because the same problem of English speaking occurs in his way of getting the grants from Bill Gates for his school run by his mother in Dumraon. But he joins classes in Patna and due to Riya's help he is able to present himself well in English before Bill Gates. Riya and Samatha and the speech to be delivered before Gates arouses his passion for learning English. It means his behaviour and mental process are shaped by the persons and circumstances to which he comes into contact with.

Madhav's has known to look at the girl only to love her and to establish physical relations with her. This isn't only the will of Madhav, but thousands of youths who have not been thinking in a broad way about girls and who have not yet changed their mind sets about girls have the same feeling yet in their minds. It is because they don't think even today that a girl and a boy can only be the good friends. They still believe that the relation between a boy and girl only lead to the sexual relations. Madhav's hostelmates inspire him to misbehave with Riya by saying ***"Make Bihar proud, make yourself count"***.(71) Probably Madhav has never been in contact with any girl in his life, so instead of just being friendly with Riya, he always wishes to kiss her and to enjoy her physically. When Riya explains him that they are friends but he retracts that ***'Yeah, I'm close to you, we spend time together. We can have affectionate hugs. But nothing more'***. (67) Riya explains to him that "You are obsessed with kissing, aren't you? Is that all I am to you, a pair of lips"(68)In fact at this stage he thinks Riya only as his sexual partner and he is devoid of any spiritual love. In his next attempt he tries to trap Riya in his sexual whims when she is in Rudra, a boys' hostel, he directly explains his wish in a very uncouth manner in Hindi language-***"Deti hai to de, varna kat le"***(75) that means " Fuck me or fuck off" or "Love me or leave". His, this attitude makes Riya think seriously about him and his manners and his conception about girls. As a result their relationship is broken permanently. He is not yet convinced that a girl and a boy can have casual friendship like a boy and a boy. But their parting makes him think about the spiritual love, yet he does not miss a chance of kissing Riya on the terrace of his house in Dumraon. But in Patna when Riya allows him to stay at her apartment at night, he does not cross his limits though they sleep together. It means that his spiritual, mental, physical, emotional beings are influenced somewhat during his second visit with Riya. Even in their New York visit it is Riya who kisses him for long time holding his face in her hands and prompts him for further actions. He says ***"She guided my right hand to her back, she removed my pink T-Shirt"***(257) And the further actions take place. In short circumstances have taught Madhav to live as a normal human being. His efforts to get his lady (love) back are praiseworthy. Right

from his journey to New York to his final meeting with Riya, Madhav is found as a true lover finding his love and not his sex partner as he neglects Priya in New York. It is worth mentioning that he has ample love and respect for his mother in his mind. He sacrifices the HSBC job for the sake of his mother. He even returns from New York straight to Dumraon after getting Riya, his love back to him. He is found having a good bond between he and his mother. He after living in the city like Delhi hates the title of Prince because he knows the present dilapidated conditions of his family.

Another important character in this novel is Riya. She is a girl from upper class family. Unlike Madhav she is quite matured with respect to the man-woman relationship at the young age. She believes in friendship of a boy and girl. She is neither too conscious of her family status in this matter. Material things have less value in her life. She goes close to Madhav irrespective of his family set up. His interest and his mastery over the basket ball bring them close. She is of the view that even a poor boy and a rich girl can be good friend with respect to their likings. She is having a broad view about their relations and doesn't care for the rest of the students in the campus as she herself is sure about their relations. When Madhav says to her that people in college talk about us. How we are always together. Riya says that **"So? Let them. As long as we know there is nothing between us."**(36) But it is Madhav who always wishes to spoil the relations by taking this relation to the physical fulfillment. Riya very well defines the relations between a young boy and girl by asking Madhav **"If we kiss, we have something. If we don't, then nothing?"** (38) This is a question to all young boys who spoil the friendly relations by such thoughts. It is because she also says that **"All you boys are the same."**(42) Riya is a different kind of girl from the other members of her family. She feels insecure even in her own house. She says **"I have a fucked-up family. (31)** She explains to Madhav that this house belongs to my father and brothers. Though she has several types of comforts available at her home, she feels suffocated with this cramped atmospheres. She feels uncomfortable even with her family members. She also explains to Madhav that all males in her family are busy with their business and in the thought of only money making. Her emotions, feelings, wills, and ambitions have less value in her life. So she is married at the age of nineteen while pursuing her college studies successfully. She is a victim of patriarchal system in her family. She is married to Rohan, a family friend of them, who is the richest man and is believed to keep Riya happier than they. But Rohan humiliates her by comparing his wealth to her father's and ultimately deserts her. Riya is also a marginalized factor of her family as after her divorce with Rohan, she is not paid adequate attention by her family members. Even her father secretly bequeaths some money for her after his death. Even nobody is serious about her whereabouts. Riya's decision to fly off to New York is not because of her frustration in love with Madhav, but she takes this decision for the welfare of Madhav, after listening the thought of Madhav's mother. She is not even happy at her parents' house. Riya's parents are too rich to understand her feelings. They think that giving a BMW car to take her to the college means they are taking good care of their daughter. They impose the decision of marriage upon Riya. It is Riya who, being a sensible girl does not oppose this decision and meekly accepts the proposal. Her decision to come back from London to Delhi from Rohan's house is due to the severe mental and physical torture imposed by Rohan. She has been born and brought in a high class family and hugging is a very normal attitude for her to which Madhav misunderstands and develops the feelings beyond that. She has less value in her mind for material happiness. As she describes **"I don't want to marry a billionaire. I just want to sing in peace, surrounded by passionate people. I want to own a house in Manhattan, my house, filled with books and music CDs. I want to play basketball on weekends. I don't want to check out a dozen lehengas for my engagement."**(33) It shows that she does not like to be displayed before a suitor for marriage is such a way. She has a very simple notion about marriage in her mind. She wishes to be independent and expects that her liking need to be

considered by her partner and her in laws which does not take place at Rohan's house. She expresses her feeling of suppression in the lines ***"Sucks, being a girl in this country, I tell you suck. I told them, I want to study music after the college. They want me to marry in to some rich Marwari family and live like a queen."***(32)She explains to Madhav about her ambition that ***"Nothing is simple for girl in a family like mine."***(34) She clearly explains her status in her family that she is supposed to shut up and get married and leave. The high point of her life is to have kids and shop according to her parents. She wishes to be a free woman who can have liberty in thinking and in behaviour. But she explains the traditions of her family that the women are gushing over their last shopping trip and figuring out which marriage to attend next. She lives in such a circumstances that she says "Yeah, I barely talk to anyone at home, me and my guitar we're happy"(35) On Madhav's insistence of becoming his girlfriend she humbly suggests him that she is not comfortable with all this. It means she is well aware of her status as a woman and as a young girl. Because she has awareness of all these things she advises Madhav to appreciate their present relations and not to spoil it. She goes to watch cinema and also with Madhav to the boys' hostel with full faith in Madhav with respect to her safety. Even she retracts his will and does not surrender to his lust. She scolds him, ***"Madhav Jha, Learn about the girls, or figure it out. But don't ruin it. Understand.?"***(44)

On their reunion at Dumraon she sensibly leaves Dumraon on being noticed the reactions and views of Madhav's mother about a divorcee. She neither offends Madhav nor his mother but departs slyly by giving such a convincing reason to which Madhav is easily agreed. She is not even too obstinate and understands Madhav's love ultimately and comes back with him from New York to his village Dumraon by making her surrender physically at New York. She finally gets married with him and lives a happy life with him busy in music classes.

## CONCLUSIONS

In this way the novel 'Half Girlfriend' denotes the theory of sociocultural as it shows how both Madhav and Riya are shaped as they are exposed to the different kinds of circumstances surrounding them. Later on they go on changing and learn to communicate, understand, relate and cope with one another and with the circumstances of their lives.

## REFERENCES

1. Bhagat Chetan, ***'Half Girlfriend'***, Rupa Publications, 2014
2. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/sociocultural\\_perspective](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/sociocultural_perspective)

# Publish Research Article

## International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

### Associated and Indexed, India

- ★ International Scientific Journal Consortium
- ★ OPEN J-GATE

### Associated and Indexed, USA

- EBSCO
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database
- Directory Of Research Journal Indexing

Golden Research Thoughts  
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra  
Contact-9595359435  
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com  
Website : www.aygrt.isrj.org