

Five Point Someone to Three Idiots: An Adulterated Journey with an Optimistic View

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Abstract: Chetan Bhagat's *Five Point Someone* to Hirani's *Three Idiots*, we witness the transformation of a bestseller into a blockbuster in a very interesting and captivating way. Both the outputs consist of the ethos of the sense of tension and turmoil present in the lives of engineering students especially of good institutes; the chaos and disorders that come in this context demand much labour in the field of study to fetch good marks or CGPA. The film interrogates so many relevant questions in the context of education and makes us feel really numb and dumb. As we make a profound study of the fiction and the movie, we come to the conclusion that there are moments where we find resemblance, but at the same time we do get deviations beyond measure. But most of the differences provide the movie a fresh and different look giving it a status of repute and recognition. The book as well as the movie is replete with fun, entertainment, laughter, and equally both are full of tears with sublime messages of career and life. As the caption suggests this paper is deeply rooted in the aroma of adulteration.

Keywords: fiction, movie, adulteration, CGPA, education, comedy

Any piece of literature is not just a representation of its author's inner state or something related to its creator. It may be a permanent and eternal source of inspiration and delight. In this discussion of instruction and delight, that is, the aim of literature, we may speak that the same is true for cinemas also as cinemas are essentially based on literature. We too feel that in the absence of literature films may not come in the proper sense of the term. If a film is based on any literary piece, the product would certainly contain the virtues and essential qualities of both the terms. Nowadays, with the growth of technology films are easily accessible to any person. When a novel turns into a film, it becomes more attractive, more elucidating and more convincing, and in this way, it attains and fulfills the true purpose of literature. The Hindi cinema is a very popular term throughout the world.

“Though Hindi is a regional northern language, Hindi cinema's audience transcends lingual-regional boundaries within the nation, making it fit the national cinema billing like no other. Beyond national boundaries its aesthetic and affective mode attracts nonwestern audiences in Africa, Eastern Europe, Russia, and the Middle-East. It resonates powerfully with the Indian diaspora, often becoming their only connection with the homeland and the main intergenerational culture diasporic families share while located in places as far-flung as Australia, Britain, Africa, Canada, the Caribbean islands, Southeast Asia, and the United States.” (Virdi: 02).

Chetan Bhagat's *Five Point Someone* to Hirani's *Three Idiots*, we witness the transformation of a bestseller into a blockbuster in a very interesting

and captivating way. Both the outputs consist of the ethos of the sense of tension and turmoil present in the lives of engineering students especially of good institutes; the chaos and disorders that come in this context demand much labour in the field of study to fetch good marks or CGPA. The pattern of syllabus and examination brings a dilemmatic situation, and we find it even in the cases of small children also. It is a common sight to see that a child's school-bag has more weight than that of the child's itself. The movie contains moving details of the negative aspects of overburdening system of education. In a state of utter frustration, a student has to commit suicide. The film interrogates so many relevant questions in the context of education and makes us feel really numb and dumb. As we make a profound study of the fiction and the movie, we come to the conclusion that there are moments where we find resemblance, but at the same time we do get deviations beyond measure. But most of the differences provide the movie a fresh and different look giving it a status of repute and recognition. The book as well as the movie is replete with fun, entertainment, laughter, and equally both are full of tears with sublime messages of career and life. As the caption suggests this paper is deeply rooted in the aroma of adulteration. But it does not mean that this adulteration has lessened the original fragrance of the fictional output. 'Adulteration' has been defined in the Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus as 'debase (especially in food) by adding other substances'(Elliott: 11). The adulteration that we encounter in the present discussion may be called 'positive adulteration' as the positive aspects of the changes are adequate to make the film a unique exercise to meditate upon.

From the moment, the movie starts we feel to start a different kind of freshness and enthusiasm. It is the depiction of three students doing their bachelor degree in engineering in India's one of the most prestigious colleges. It presents the dilemmatic situations of engineering students doing their best to have good result or CGPA. In this context, we find that the students do not get any chance to have fresh Sunshine and air. All the day, they have to lead a very hectic schedule in pursuit of higher marks. Most of the parts of the film are presented before us in flash-back. Farhan, Raju and Rancho are room-mates in Imperial College of Engineering of Mechanical Branch. Veeru Shahastrabuddhi is the director of the college, and he is very strict and disciplined, guided by his own principles of life and career. According to him, whatever he thinks is right and should be followed by his students. Except Rancho, every student abides by his theory of presentation. It is only Rancho who challenges even the director and talks of the required changes in the prevalent education system. One scene is very interesting when the director orders him to teach in the class and he sits beside students. Then Rancho writes the following terms on the chalk board and asks everybody to interpret:

FARHANITRATE

PRARAJULISATION (00:37:25hrs.)

Neither any student nor the professor could reply because there are no such words. Both the terms contain the names of his friends. Here,

Rancho tries to make others understand to be free from a race-like situation in the field of education. The adulteration from book to movie may be seen everywhere. The presence of the character of Chatur Ramlingam is an important step to a greater extent. The movie adds such an interesting character to provide both comic and serious effects. His attitudes and behaviour give fun and laughter, but after thoughtful consideration one may get the tension and pressure of students. Chatur represents those who only believe in marks/CGPA above knowledge. His Teacher's Day Speech is a 'case-study' of how things go horribly wrong if we only memorize and do not understand the real meaning or genuine essence. Rancho changes the word 'chamatkar' (miracle) to 'balatkar' (rape) and 'dhan' (wealth) to 'stan' (breast). The use of such words makes the scene very different and the context becomes almost inexplicable. The scene is hilarious and amply demonstrates the point that how dangerous memorizing can be without proper understanding the meaning and context. Later on, Chatur, after suffering the ignominy due to the speech, challenges Rancho to prove his mettle, and to show who would be more successful in having a career. We find Chatur after a long gap very successful, but Rancho achieves greatness with success. In this context, we may refer to the scene of one of the classes. In *Five Point Someone*, we have the definition of machine, and Ryan argues with Professor Dubey, and speaks that if a machine is such a thing that reduces human effort then what to talk of a gym machine. It remains a machine, and it enhances human effort:

“Sir, what about a gym machine, like a bench press or something?”

Ryan interrupted the bonhomie. 'What about it?' Prof. Dubey stopped beaming. 'That doesn't reduce human effort. In fact, it increases it.' (Bhagat: 10)

In the movie, we find the same description with some recreating elements. Here we find the simple definition by Rancho that a machine is anything that reduces human effort, and we see that the Professor is not satisfied. Here Chatur gives a Bitzer-like definition and the teacher gets pleased. In Dickens' *Hard Times* Bitzer defines a horse in the following terms:

“Quadruped. Graminivorous. Forty teeth, namely, twenty-four grinders, four eye-teeth, and twelve incisive. Sheds coat in the spring; in marshy countries, sheds hoofs, too. Hoofs hard, but requiring to be shod with iron. Age known by marks in mouth.” (Dickens: 13).

Resembling the same Chatur describes a machine, and speaks:

“Machines are any combination of bodies so connected that their relative motions are constrained and by which means force and motion may be transmitted and modified in a screw in its nut or a lever arranged to turn about a fulcrum or a pulley by its pivot etc. especially a construction more or less complex consisting of a combination of moving parts or civil-mechanical elements as wheels, levers, scales, etc.” (00:22:48 - 23:06 hrs.)

Rancho gives his rejoinder by saying that it is a bookish language, and knowledge is more important. But the professor gets angry and makes him get out of the class-room. Just then, we see Rancho coming back to

the class and in his inimitable style gives the definition of books by making a parody of Chatur's definition:

"Instrument that record, analyze, summarize, organize, depict and explain information that are illustrative, non-illustrative, hard-bound, paperback, jacketed, non-jacketed, with Foreword, introduction, Table of contents, index that are intended for enlightenment and understanding, enrichment, enhancement education of human brain through sensory roots of vision sometimes touched."(00:24:00–24:14 hrs.)

The journey of adulteration invites our particular attention in the following scenes and situations:

1. In the novel, we find that all the three friends are five pointers whereas the movie presents Rancho as the topper. In presenting him a topper, the film conveys a positive message to be like him in gaining everything and concept in pure and perfect way.
2. Professor Cherman, the HOD of Mechanical Branch is very much different from that of Veeru Shastribuddhi. Their outlooks to study and other aspects are very much differing.
3. Hari's meeting with Neha in the book is again very much different and we see Rancho seeing Piya for the first time in the wedding ceremony of her sister. The scene of the wedding party is again very interesting and serves a practical purpose too. Here in the feast, we find Suhas, the fiancée of Piya. He is completely an adulterated presence because in the novel we do not have any character like him. Rancho speaks of him as a price-tag, as he is very conscious of his commodities without having any care for other's feelings and emotions(00:45:39–45:50 hrs). Later on, in the film we see Rancho's observation that he is not a genuine guy because first he did engineering, then MBA and now he works for a bank. If he wanted to work in a bank then what's the need of engineering.(01:03:36–04:00hrs).
4. Joy Lobo's character has been added, and his struggle and mental suppression resulting in suicide forces us to think upon the pressure of so many students. Rancho terms his suicide as a murder because it is the consequence of the director's behaviour that he has committed such a deed.
5. The context of the heroine's brother suicide has resemblance but her father comes to know the thing in differing circumstances. The stealing of examination papers and the description of getting the keys have also been adulterated.
6. The last part of the film is completely a new and fresh treatment by the director of the film. It has nothing to do with the book. Ultimately, we see Rancho as a great scientist. His success is beyond measure, and with the help of his friends he gets his life-partner Piya.

Three Idiots highlights a very significant aspect of present day considerations and endeavours to make it clear that there are so many scopes and ways other than engineering and medical for students. It is not necessary that a boy should opt for a degree in engineering and a girl should opt for a degree in medical. If a girl aspires for an engineering course and a boy for a medical course, it would be equally beneficial. The matter of being a girl or boy does not consider much. As in the movie, we witness that the director provides his daughter a medical degree, and his

son could not fulfill his dream of getting an entry pass to the Imperial College of Engineering, he remains very tense. And resultantly, we find that his only son commits suicide. The main narrator of the movie, that is, Farhan informs us that the minute he was born his father announced him as a future engineer whereas in his actual life he has deep inclination towards becoming a wild-life photographer. But according to the will of his father he gets admitted to the Engineering College. The present situation reminds us of Arun Joshi's protagonist Bimal of *The Strange Case of Billy Biswas* who goes against the desires of his father, a justice in the Supreme Court of India, achieves a good knowledge and qualification in Anthropology instead of Engineering. We do see further that his love for his subject makes him able to be one of the renowned and successful professors of Delhi University. He speaks to his friend about his father's reaction when he comes to know that his son is studying Anthropology:

My parents do. My father is mad with rage. 'Anthropology!' he screamed in amazement when I told him. 'Anthropology! Of all things you had to go and do anthropology.' He thinks man is governed by only engineering and law and nothing else, rather a disgraceful point of view for a justice, don't you think? (Joshi: 25).

The present film makes us aware that there are brighter aspects of career even beyond engineering. If a student does not get the qualifying marks for admission in reputed technical colleges it does not mean that he would not do excel in life. There are numerous examples where we find that these types of students have elevated their career in different fields with flying colours. Rancho, the most inviting character of the film gives us instances of Lata Mangeshkar and Sachin Tendulkar, and clarifies that these two great personalities have done marvel in the field of their own likings. If Mangeshkar were forced to be a cricketer and Tendulkar to be a singer then the situation would be chaotic. So we must opt for that thing as our career that fulfills our inner satisfaction. The likes and dislikes of our relatives and friends do not play a very vital role in this direction. The concluding statement by Farhan, echoing the words of Rancho, is very significant:

“*Kabil bano kabil, kamyabi to jhak mar ke peeche aayegi*”
(02:40:48 – 40:55), that is, if you are deserving you will certainly get success.

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