

## EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN IN SELECT NOVELS OF PARTITION

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### ABSTRACT

The partition of India is a significant historical event. It witnesses the exploitation of women and the bloody riots. India was the colonial country. Britishers ruled India for over 200 years, when the Indians realized that the westerners are ruling us then they fought for freedom that is first started in 1857, but it was a failure for several reasons. It gives the message for Indians to fight for freedom and our country is acquired by Britishers. Thus, the freedom fight is started in many groups, mainly Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent agenda with the Congress party and the Muslim League and Communities and violence agenda group. Many people participated in several groups for freedom. Mainly Gandhi, Nehru, Tilak, Subhash Chandra Bose, Bhagath Singh, etc. These all personalities struggle and sacrifice, until British government gave independence to India. In the partition of India and Pakistan many people suffered and women suffered with great cruelty. This unforgettable historic moment has been captured as horrifying by the novelists like Khushwant Singh in *Train to Pakistan* (1956), *A Bend in Ganges* (1964) by Manohar Malgaonkar, Amrita Pritam's *The Pinjar* and Attia Hosain's *Sunlight on a Broken Column* (1961), Balchandra Rajan's *The Dark Dancer*, Bipsi Sidhwa's 'Ice candy Man' and Bhisham Sahni's *Tamas*. Even now, 70 years of after Partition, some novels and films are made to unfold trauma and pain of the victims. Most of the writers presented Partition as the main theme of their works. A number of novels in the Indian subcontinent have been written on the theme.

**KEYWORDS:** Partition, Abduction, Rape, Murder, Massive Violence

### INTRODUCTION

Partition is commonly understood as the division of a state into two or more entities, where at least one successor states assume continuity with the pre-divided whole. The grand vision about the traumatic condition of the Partition in these novels is looked at with a microscopic vision in the short story. However, the intensity with which the writer has looked at the horrific visions of Partition. But in this situation the Muslim league wants a separate nation for Muslims, then British empires utilize this situation and they divided India into two- India and Pakistan. Thus Britishers give freedom by dividing rule. In 1947, the two countries take birth, on 14<sup>th</sup> August Pakistan is created and 15<sup>th</sup> August India is created.

In the partition of India and Pakistan, many people suffered and women suffered from great cruelty. The situation was very critical to people who were refugees in India and Pakistan. Thus the partition associated with bloody riots. Thus the partition inspired many creative minds in India and Pakistan to fictionalize it. While some creations depicted the massacres during the refugee migration, others concentrated on the aftermath of the partitions in terms of difficulties faced

by the refugees on both sides of the borders. Even now, more than 70 years after the partition, fictions and films are made that relate to the events of the partition.

The fictional representation of Partition has been a popular theme in literature of different languages. The narrative of colossal human tragedy during the partition of the Indian subcontinent is increasingly popular in the literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Partition novels have covered a wide range of literary works in different languages like Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi and English. The cataclysmic event stirred many creative minds in India and Pakistan to write stories and novels and to make movies on it. At the time of partition massive violence and slaughter occurred on both sides.

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These novels belong to the genre of partition novel, which effectively and realistically depict the vulnerability of human understanding in life caused by the throes of Partition. Partition affected women more than men, mentally and physically. Women lost their happiness, hopes and dreams and mental identity during the partition.

The novel '*Train to Pakistan*' is the first novel on the theme of partition, which is a brilliant and realistic story of political hate redness, violence and of mass passions during those turbulent days that preceded and followed the partition of British India. The people from both sides were affected and were involved in violence, rape, murder, shot, stabbed, speared, clubbed and abducted, etc.

In '*Ice candy Man*', Sidhwa shows how friends and neighbors turn out to be enemies overnight. The story begins with the place Sialkot (now in Pakistan) where Muslims are in the majority and were living peacefully with Hindus and Sikhs before partition, but it got affected in every which way overnight when Lord Mountbatten declared the creation of India and Pakistan. A mix of fear, hatred, and enmity suddenly peeped in the lives of the people and the city which is the backdrop of the entire story.

A Muslim village PirPindo is attacked by Sikhs and Muslims, men and women are killed. Sikh families in Lahore are attacked in Lahore and chain reaction continues. People like Hari and Moti become converts to save their lives. In such an atmosphere of communal frenzy and hatred, simple people like *Ice-Candy Man* lose their temper when he sees the mutilated bodies of Muslims. Revenge becomes the only motivation in his life, friendships and personal relations is forgotten. The novel conveys a serious warning of the dangers of communalism and religious obscurantism.

Amrita Pritam's novel *Pinjar* records the history of the times and Poor the protagonist of the novel. Pro is first abducted and then married by a Muslim youth named Rashida, and her final reconciliation with her fate. Disappointed Pooro escapes from Rashida's house and goes back to her parents who ask her to back to Rashida. Hence, she goes back to Rashida, adjusts herself and gives birth to a child. Now she is given a Muslim name Hamida, who finds it difficult to live in a Muslim house. The Indian police and army come back to take the abducted Hindu and Sikh girls home. Many women

go to India very happily, but Pooro decides to live with her husband and son in a newly created Pakistan.

*Azadi* is one of the famous novels of Chaman Nehal, which deals with the theme of partition and Gandhian ideology. With the life like description Nehal presents a comprehensive vision of life, demonstrating the havoc that partition played on the people of the country on the social and individual level. The novel discusses the realistic historical records of the horrible incidents caused by the partition through literary perspective.

## CONCLUSIONS

Thus we see the partition situations and exploitation of women, which expresses the division of the nation in reference to all these novels. In the partition we see communal war and nationality war where women are totally not involved, but they are the ones who suffered the most, as they are the ones who are subjected to the avenger of men. In the partition women are looking as sexual objects and hence they suffer in man dominant society. A woman is a property, when she is abducted she becomes the property of the abductors, without questioning, she lives a terrible life adjusting with her fate. No one hears her pain or feelings. These entire novels capture the real situations in their writings about community quarrels, image of nationalism and cruel treatment of women by men.

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