

# Partition Of India And Its Enormous Impact On Bengali Literature

Dr. Sreyasi Ghosh

Assistant Professor and HOD of History Dept.,  
Hiralal Mazumdar Memorial College For Women, Dakshineswar, Kolkata

*Abstract: India got her coveted freedom from the clutches of barbaric colonial rule on August 15, 1947 and this incident was a remarkable event in History of Third World undoubtedly. But this independence was interlinked with curse of Partition and refugee problem especially with tremendous upheaval in world of women as they were subjected to abduction, molestation, rape and prostitution etc. In this study I have tried my level best to establish that its impact on our Bengali literature can be studied through elaborate discussion of various novels, short stories, poems and plays etc. We can find picture of inhuman suffering of people on Eastern border of India during days of bloodbath of Partition in Prantik Manav written by Prafullakumar Chakraborty, My people uprooted: A Saga of the Hindus of Eastern Bengal written by Tathagata Roy, and The Trauma and the Triumph: Gender and Partition in Eastern India edited by Jashodhara Bagchi and subhoranjan Dasgupta etc. Jashodhara Bagchi, Renuka Roy, Rachel Weber, Meghna Guha Thakurta, Urvashi Butalia were eminent researchers in the world of Partition related Historiography and Gender History connected to this matter. We can expect that our future literature will definitely prosper a lot through influence of their research work.*

*Keywords: Partition, refugee crisis, Eastern Border, Bengali literature, Women.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Undoubtedly the price of independence of India was bloody holocaust during days of her Partition. Coming of Hindus from Eastern Pakistan was related to one of the largest refugee problems in world history. Amount of trauma linked to bloodbath in western frontier of India was also huge; but in eastern side its lingering effect was enormous. According to Prafullakumar Chakravorty Hindus of Eastern Pakistan commenced leaving country after infamous riot of Noakhali in 1946 and its first phase was completed in 1949. In second phase (1950) unarmed and helpless Hindus of Eastern Pakistan were forced under circumstances to face wrath of Muhammedan people who were in position of majority there and minority population went through robbery, brutal mass murder, rape of womenfolk etc. This inhuman treatment forced the minority population mentioned above to take shelter in West Bengal after being uprooted. Third stage of coming of those people was in 1960-1961. Uprooted population in western frontier of India achieved reparation and our Indian Government built modern industrial city for them. But our central government did not take such initiative for

refugees of eastern side and their rehabilitation process became delayed. In the eyes of people of West Bengal also they were unwanted intruders. But those uprooted people had endeavour, bravery, creative spirit and indomitable will power. Their young people were filled with fathomless anger and rebellious spirit and this spirit was used by left political forum during the Food Movement of 1959-1960. In the world of Bengali literature novels, short stories, drama and poetry became enriched by impact of enormous struggle of refugees of eastern frontier and gender related trouble related to Partition.

## II. INFLUENCE ON SHORT STORIES

Debesh Roy has skilfully shown in the preface of the book entitled *Raktamonir Hare* (collection of short stories about Partition and Independence) that four renowned authors – Narendranath Mitra, Ashim Roy, Atin Bandopadhyay and Prafulla Roy reflected trauma of Partition in their writing extremely well. Narendranath Mitra wrote stories like *Kathgolap*, *Dicharini*, *Headmaster*, *Charai Utrai* etc in which

Pre- Partition turmoil, refugee crisis and communal riot were depicted undoubtedly. Travel of womenfolk from limited sphere of household to big world following necessity of those days of extreme hardship also took place in the stories of that eminent author. Rameshchandra Sen, Dineshchandra Roy, Manik Bandyopadhyay, Satinath Bhaduri, Bibhutibhushan Mukhopadhyay, Samaresh Basu, Dibyendu Palit, Jyotindra Nandy, Mahashweta Devi and Premendra Mitra showed trauma and triumph of uprooted people in their short stories. Sunil Gangopadhyay in his story *Puri Expresser Rakshita* depicted endless crisis and despair of a helpless woman who was a victim of gang rape during days of bloodbath. Here we can remember this author's autobiographical writing *Ardhek Jivan* where extreme poverty and struggle for survival of refugees was shown. He also showed in a very skilful manner that people of West Bengal were not at all sympathetic when those uprooted people were going through fathomless trouble. Ramesh Chandra Sen was famous for his *Pather Kanta* story in which traumatic situation of women and children during Partition and delayed rehabilitation process took place. *Dhoadhulo-Nakshatra* story written by Ashim Roy depicted life of a nostalgic woman *Phelur Maa* who always used to cry for their smooth sailing life in Eastern Bengal and after being uprooted from the life of peace and tranquillity enormous struggle during days of crisis in Sealdah station. Shyamal Gangopadhyay in *Uipoka* wrote the story of childhood love of Mrinalini and Saiphul, trauma of Partition and death of Saiphul, and after a long time journey of Mrinalini to Khulna for the sake of her old memory of romance with Saiphul etc. Pratibha Basu in her short story entitled *Dukulhara* described helpless situation of uprooted women, molestation, prostitution and brutal death. In a famous short story entitled *Apad* written by Manik Bandopadhyay we can find elaborate description of financial trouble of middle class people of West Bengal when they had to give shelter to relatives who were uprooted during days of Partition and bloodbath. In *Harano Sur* of Bibhutibhushan Mukhopadhyay, *Pasarini* of Samaresh Basu, *Madhubanti* of Narayan Gangopadhyay, and *Machh* (short stories) of Dibyendu Palit one can see extreme upheaval in world of women due to socio- economic changes related to Partition. They suffered from extreme poverty, trauma of journey from home to big and bitter world, fatigue and fathomless despair. Unsympathetic attitude of people of West Bengal was also skilfully depicted in short stories of renowned authors.

### III. IMPACT ON NOVELS

In the renowned novel entitled *deshdrohi* written by Ashim Roy we can find Bhabaniprasad, who was undoubtedly the hero of the story related to Partition and independence of India. Tragic storyline and nostalgic feeling was the backbone of the novel mentioned above. Here in conclusion one can see that Jessore Road which went from Calcutta to Eastern Pakistan was transformed into a symbol. This author wrote another novel *Abohomankal* where trauma of Partition was reflected but the reflection in *Deshdrohi* was more painful. *Nilkantha Pakhir Khonje* novel written by Atin Bandopadhyay

was skilful depiction of Partition, human relationship between different religious communities and also of Bhasha Andolan. In *Keyapatar Nauka* novel of Prafulla Ray we can see vivid description of Eastern Bengal 1940-1950, Communal riot and bloody Partition. Here one can also remember *Purba- Paschim* novel of Sunil Gangopadhyay and *Pitamohi* novel written by Shanta Sen. Sunil Gangopadhyay showed us how helpless people of Marichjhapi were ruthlessly thrown out of West Bengal.

### IV. INFLUENCE ON DRAMA AND POETRY

Partition related extreme crisis and wretched condition of our people was depicted in the world of drama such as *Notun Ihudi* written by Salil Sen, *Bastubhita* of Digindrachandra Bandopadhyay, *Dalil* of Ritwik Ghatak, *Dinanter Agun* of Sashibhushan Dasgupta and *Gotrantar* of Bijan Bhattacharyya etc. Bijan Bhattacharyya showed us how social structure changed a lot due to Partition. Birendra Chattopadhyay and Bishnu De were eminent authors whose poems had shown us deep- rooted trauma of Partition. In the poem entitled *Bhisa Officer Samne* of Birendra Chattopadhyay (in the book *Jatak*) we can see enormous trauma connected with the incident of Partition. Various books of poems such as *Sandiper Char* (1947), *Annishtha* (1950), *Nam Rekhechhi Komal Gandhar* (1953) written by Bishnu De were very important in this discussion because Partition, riot, utter despair and extreme trouble were reflected in those books. Here one can remember epic poem of Bishnu De entitled *Jal Dao*.

### V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion we can remember Arun Sen who while discussing about the book entitled *The Trauma and the Triumph : Gender and Partition in Eastern India* ( edited by Jashodhara Bagchi and Subhoranjan Dasgupta) wrote- *Moner je bhagabhagike ter paoa giyechhilo prakito deshbhager agei, je deshtyag chhedhin chale aaschhe deshbhager anek pareo, tar itihash jatatuku byakto hoyechhe srijanshil sahitye, kingba aaj tene bar korar chhesta cholechhe sei durbhog – natyer abashisto kushilaber gopan smritilok theke, ta niyei abichal thakte hobe amader. ...Koto anubhav je harie gelo chirakaler jonyo, sahitya hoye uthlo na, tar jonyo nijeder banchito mone kora chhara ki-i ba korar aachhe!* But undoubtedly we all can hope that extensive research work will highlight enormous impact of Partition on Bengali literature in a more skilful way.

### REFERENCES

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