



## REFLECTIONS OF FEMINISM IN PARTITION NOVELS

**SHETE SONALI SHIVRAJ**

Research Scholar  
Dept. of English and Languages  
Sandip University, Nashik  
(MS) INDIA

**DR. NAMDEV SURYAWANSHI**

Associate Professor  
Dept. of English and Languages  
Sandip University, Nashik  
(MS) INDIA

### ABSTRACT

*In August, 1947, when, after three hundred years in India, the British finally left, the subcontinent was partitioned into two independent nation states: Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan. The feminism always supporting the voice, agency and empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity and others who face discrimination or marginalization around the world. The Reflections of Feminism focused women's pathetic condition during Partition and after women's condition. The approach will be interdisciplinary and will be supported by the Feministic theories. Feminism advocates intellectual, psychological, economic, political, social, and equality for women and men. Feminism defines a political perspective; it is distinct from sex or gender. With Partition, changing scenario, the condition of women in social, political, economic, psychological disturb a lot. Migration, instability, cruelty, rape, discrimination, kidnapping, violence, against second sex. The research methods would consist of close reading, interpreting and in-depth analysis of Partition Novels.*

**Keyword-** *Feminism, Partition, Reflections,*



## INTRODUCTION

The Partition of India is an event which has aroused the creative intuition in many writers. The novels of Partition writers have been explored separately in the field of research, a realistic study of Reflections of Feminism of Partition novel writers remains unexplored. Since such a study is expected to expose the bitter reality and cruelty of human's towards women in terms of their political, social, religious and gender priorities and perceptions in treating the Partition of India as the subject in their novels, such a study is undertaken in this proposed research.

The partition of India and the associated bloody riots inspired many in India and Pakistan to create literary, cinematic, and artistic depictions of this event. While some creations depicted the massacres during the refugee migration, others concentrated on the aftermath of the partition in terms of difficulties faced by the refugees in both sides of the border. Works of fiction, films, and art that relate to the events of partition have continued to be made to the present day. With Partition, changing scenario, the condition of women in social, political, economic, psychological disturb a lot. Migration, instability, cruelty, rape, discrimination, kidnapping, violence, against second sex.

Feminism in India is a set of movements aimed at defining, establishing, and defending equal political, economic, and social rights and opportunities for women in India. It is the pursuit of women's rights within the society of India. The aims of the movement centred on including women in public life with better political rights, access to education and employment in the context of the colonial state. Feminism can be seen as a movement to put an end to sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression and to achieve full gender equality in law and in practice. India needs feminism because a woman is treated with disdain whether she is employed or not. A certain section of our society believes that it is an offence if a woman is well-educated and working, to support herself, or her family financially.

### ***Train to Pakistan* by Khushwant Singh, (1956).**

Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakista* (1956) tells the tragic tale of the partition of India and Pakistan and the events that followed, which will be remembered as one of the blackest chapters of human history. Just on the eve of independence, India was partitioned causing a great upheaval in the whole continent. A train arrives in Mano Majra from Pakistan, carrying the corpses of dead Sikhs. The separation of Hindustan and Pakistan has increased the misunderstandings between all religions. Thousands of people became homeless, even died, during the division. The pros and cons have been equal.

### ***Azadi* by Chaman Nahal, (1975).**



Azadi is the major novel by Chaman Nahal. The novel, Azadi deals with the theme of partition of Indian subcontinent into India and Pakistan. As Chaman Nahal himself was a refugee, he writes with remarkable penetration and realism. The novel is historical, political, and above all, a great work of art. Chaman Nahal's Azadi delineates the psychological consequences of the partition. The present novel focuses the attention of the readers how the ugly event caused havoc in the minds of the people and highlights the predicaments of the souls, shattered by the unprecedented tragedy. It also gives an intensive picture of the effect of partition on the lives of the people living in the border town of Sialkot.

***The Broken Mirror* by Krishna Baldev Vaid (1994).**

Krishna Baldev Vaid, writing about the impending doom of Partition through the eyes of Beero, a village boy in western Punjab, the anguish must have been no less. But the art of a writer becomes even more difficult when autobiographical experience becomes literature. Damnation is a foregone truth when the reader looks back upon that phase of Indian history. The novel begins with the breaking of a mirror by Beero as his father returns to his shrew of a wife, conjuring the superstition of bad luck. If the title is an allegory, where you expect to see doom unfold in pieces of distorted reflections, you will be disappointed. This book, now available in an English translation, is no simulacrum of that dark atmosphere, but rather a narrative of human tragedy too simplistically told. When Beero's sister Devi throws herself into a well, Hindus don't want a Muslim to jump in and save her because the well would get polluted. Beero's journey to Lahore is a travelogue of suspicion, as Hindus and Muslims spew venom at each other.

***The Other Side of Silence* by Urvashi Butalia (1998).**

Urvashi Butalia in her book, *The Other Side of Silence*, attempts to analyze the partition in Indian society, through an oral history of Indian experiences. The collection of traumatic events from those people who lived through the partition gives insight on how history has enveloped these silences decades later. Silence is a tool that has been utilized in literature to heighten emotion, magnify suspense or drama, and let a character grow into their own being. In literary fiction, silence is often prioritized over action. Private contemplation and deliberate gaps left in pages speak louder than a thousand words ever can.

***Partitions* by Amit Majmudar (2011).**

As India is rent into two nations, communal violence breaks out on both sides of the new border and streaming hordes of refugees flee from blood and chaos. At an overrun train station, Shankar and Keshav, twin Hindu boys, lose sight of their mother and join the human mass to go in search of her. A young Sikh girl, Simran Kaur, has run away from her father,



who would rather poison his daughter than see her defiled. And Ibrahim Masud, an elderly Muslim doctor driven from the town of his birth, limps toward the new Muslim state of Pakistan, rediscovering on the way his role as a healer. As the displaced face a variety of horrors, this unlikely quartet comes together, defying every rule of self-preservation to forge a future of hope. A dramatic, luminous story of families and nations broken and formed, "Partitions" introduces an extraordinary novelist who writes with the force and lyricism of poetry.

***Victory Colony 1950* by Bhaswati Ghosh (2020).**

Amala Manna lands in Calcutta's Sealdah railway station on a humid day in 1949, she has managed to flee from the communal violence in her village, but not from all her trials. Within moments of crossing over to India as a refugee from East Pakistan, she loses Kartik, her younger brother. Thanks to a group of young volunteers, Amala finds her way to a refugee camp in Gariahata where she meets Manas Dutta, who is the leader of the volunteer group. Despite the sordid camp life, Amala finds sustenance in her quest to find Kartik and the new familial bonds the camp allows her to forge with complete strangers. With dwindling official support, the situation in the camp deteriorates, and the refugees take things into their own hands. They establish Bijoy Nagar literally meaning Victory Colony by occupying a zamindar's vacant plot of land. This dramatic event is a harbinger of radical shifts in Amala's personal life. Victory Colony, 1950 is the story of the resilience of refugees from East Pakistan, who found themselves largely unwanted on either side of the border following the partition of India in 1947. In the face of government apathy and public disdain, the refugees built their lives from the bottom up with sheer hard work and persistence, changing, in the process, the socio-cultural landscape of Calcutta the city they claimed as home forever

**CONCLUSION**

The Partition of the Indian sub-continent is the most traumatic event in our recent history. These books and accounts that partition is still living in our memories. Almost 70 years have passed since that day, yet we still feel it's so vivid. It depicts moments of sadness, anger, hatred, and happiness varied emotions. Partition has always evoked mixed feelings amongst us Indians. While there is the joy of freedom from the shackles of British rule, there is also the horror of separated families, grief, hatred, bloodshed, and extremism. Over all Critique study of Women's condition during & after Partition.



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