

**PARTITION, VIOLENCE, AND RELATIONS WITH THE REFERENCE TO  
BAPSI SIDHWA'S ICE CANDY MAN AND KHUSHAWANT SINGH'S  
TRAIN TO PAKISTAN**

**Ghadge Rahul Kumar Ramesh Rao**

Research Student,  
Dept. of English,  
Vinayakrao Patil College, Vaijapur.

**Dr. Dadasaheb S. Salunke**

Research Guide & Asst. Professor,  
Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada  
University, Aurangabad.

**Abstract**

*Bapsi Sidhwa and Khushwant Singh are most important partition novelists for their countries. Bapsi Sidhwa is a popular Pakistani novelist. She tried to express issues impacted during partition. She was very well successful in that. The partition and women life, violence in cities and villages and changing the face of relations according to situations. The contrast behaviour of people with each other. Khushwant Singh is also a great partition novelist of India. His novel tries to touch all concepts of partition such as political, historical, economical, religion or may be personal. His novel Umbrella covers that the entire partition chronology, violence and its effects and relationships of people with each other of different communities. As the title show both novelist's novels like Train To Pakistan and Ice candy Man are best examples to prove impact of partition and violence on the relations of communities. India- Pakistan partition had done during independence period of India. That was a historical event but it changed the picture of millions of people, hundreds of villages, cities. Bapsi Sidhwa and Khushwant Singh had tried to give voice or way to voice of wounds of partition. How people struggle for lives of their own and familiar. In fact, they never want partition of their hearts as well as nation. But such kind of situation was created and forced for doing that kind of act. And that act showed that they were part of that dirty politics and decisions. All the reality we can watch from novels of these novelists.*

**Key Words-**Partition, Religion, Relations, politics, Violence, trauma.

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**Introduction:**

**A**im of research paper to portrays violence and because of violence what happened with relations during partition. Basically, we have to know what is partition? Partition means as consider as politicians, some social workers who have mask of social work, that Freedom after Freedom. First Freedom we already got from British and second Freedom stands for freedom from other religion. Means the major religion of India is Hindu and Muslim that get separated from each other scientifically, geographically. They will have invisible borders between them. They prohibited to cross it. In a simple language to break down country into two parts. Ok agree, if this processor happened silently and considering opinion of people who were living around border area. But there was no any official announcement of partition. At one side the whole India was totally sink in celebrating 1<sup>st</sup> independence day happily. Politicians were busy to take charge of government from British. People who were living near border hadn't any case of sense what actually was going on in country. They were living happily together Hindu, Muslim, Sikhs. They were caring for each other. They had no any kind of objection from that. But situations gradually changed and those people who loved each other, they became hungry of each other's blood. Millions of people got effected in this. Number of people migrated from one place to another place. No one cares any one. In between that so much of violence had done. Women were most affected area during this partition. And Relation got change good into bad. Good example of that Sidhwa's *Ice Candy Man's* Ayha and her suitors of different communities. And Jugga, his villagers, his lover and Jugga's mother in Khushwant Singh's *Train To Pakistan*. All these people had effect of partition on their relations. Because, in both the novels situation was totally different before and after partition.

Another most affected thing of violence during partition that was 'Train'. Trains of Lahore, Karachi, Amritsar etc. had became carriers of dead bodies at the time of Ind-Pak

partition. Because of that trains explosion of violence spread in all affected areas. So odd community people struggles for survive. In all cities, villages the little lamps burn on the window side, while trains burn in Punjab with green flames of blistering paint and glaring saffron of fired fuel in Lahore. Nehru was saying in Delhi “ At the stroke of midnight hours, while the world sleeps, India is awoken to life and freedom.” But also with that more yells, cries, howls, rivers of blood also arises at one side of country. These are two different contrast things .if we strangely compares colour of our tricolor saffron indicates fired fuel and green indicates flame of paint.

### Violence and Women :

Bapsi sidhwa's *Ice Candy Man* portrays a unique prospective on India and Pakistan history and politics. Their women caught in this historical event. Partition and exploitation always reach to the women. “Victory is always celebrated on women's body. Revenge is taken on women's body.”

In *Ice Candy Man* the child narrator Lenny writes autobiography because at very small age also she witness the violence inflicted by Hindu and Muslim. Lenny's fear tells the truth that violence changed all friendly atmosphere of Lahore. Before that Lenny, Ayha and her friends gathered in garden and had some interesting gossips but now Ayha's friends hadn't gathered in garden. All were in very in shock because when Ice candy man told the incident of train. When he was waiting for train to receive his relatives, that train came but full of dead bodies of Muslims. And worst thing was that there were no young woman among them but two bags full of only women's breasts. Ritu Menon describes the situation of women in partition era in addition to the multination of breasts, other common violations of the female from included. Making the breaks and genitalia with nationalist symbols tattooing and mutilating pregnant bodies.”

In any situation women have been become the target that mat for community, honor or family. Both the community Hindu and Muslim were targeted their women because women were weak and strong reason for disturbing opposition. Female characters were always exploited physically, mentally, socially etc. The violence had reached very mean position. If men caught in riots they got kill. But when women caught in riots they got raped commonly, doing cruel things with her body before killed.

The same thing happened in Khushwant Singh's *Train To Pakistan*. The Mano Majra a village, majorities of Sikhs but living along with Muslims and Hindus also. They had their routine on train which passes from side of village to Pakistan. They were living very happily with each other. That village was very silent and unknown from regional riots. But some enemy of society entered into village and polluted all good atmospheres. Simultaneously some incidents also happened. Trains full of dead bodies came to stations. Government Army asked help to neighboring villagers in form of wood and oil for funeral rites. Sikh and Muslim people were shocked but they didn't fight with one another. They thought we are one. That thing was done by some cruel persons but violence was not stopped. Some motor containers came across the borders to receive Muslim. Who want to go they sat in that by leaving behind all their things and relations.

### **Relation and Trauma of Partition :**

Partition is that kind of thing which affect physically, socially, economically, and psychologically also. The hammer of the incident clash such way on brain that changes the behavior of certain people. Suppose you look every day a gardener taking very good care of garden and one day suddenly you find out the same gardener vanishing plants and trees from garden, up rooted flower plants and so much. That kind of shock, trauma felt to people. In *Ice Candy Man* Bapsi Sidhwa's story narrator Lenny, her Ayha i.e. Shanta and her three-four admires from different communities. Ayha took out Lenny in garden where they gathered together. Ayha Shanta was very young, good looking unmarried Hindu girl. All admires were crazy behind her. Anything could do for her. They always tried to attract her. Especially masseur and ice candy man. They freely talked about politics of India, separation but when actual incident started to happen surrounding, they forgot their friendship. Even Ice candy man, as a revenge of Ayha love with masseur, caught her to Muslim people from house of Lenny. Only because of she was Hindu. Means the person who like a girl at height and he gave her in others hand to spoil her , to use her. What kind of change in relation only because of partition. The gardener of Lenny was from different community but due to fear and no believes on his friends, he changed his religion and became Muslim. Some friend came to make sure is he Muslim? Who met him every day in garden, having fun with him. But see how the situation got change. The friend made him cloth less and checked whether he belongs to my religion and done whole



things like me? Such a frustrated change in relation, believe. Hindu, Sikh killed Muslim in India. Muslim killed Hindu-Sikh in Lahore, Karachi then why we live them in India and vice versa. Such kind of thinking flow in mind of people. That time they totally forgot those people who lived with us are innocent, blameless. They hadn't killed us, who killed our community people they are different. They may be Hindu or Muslim. Everyone was begging for life.

Now if we study Khushwant Singh's *Train To Pakistan* we find Mano Majra a village Jagjit was a thief loved with a Muslim girl Nooran. Jugga was not a professional thief, he became a thief due to system. His father got punish by pre independence government. The point is he deeply loved with Nooran , she also the same. But when violence started and Muslim people migrated to Pakistan. Nooran's father had good reputation in Mano Majra. Mostly Sikh's village but no one will harm him and other Muslims. But from other district Sikh came and diverted their mind and thinking. Now they didn't care for that Muslims. Even Noor was pregnant from Jugga , she went to his mother because Jugga was in jail at the same time. She requested her to let her live here and she was in what condition. I am your daughter in law. After that also Jugga's mother not agreed and insulted her and ran her away. From this incident we understand one woman didn't help to another woman. She didn't understand problem, situation only because of partition and violence. Jugga's mother may accept Noor as wife of her son in other situation. So many examples we can give for changing relations, relationship.

### **Politics, Partition And Violence:**

If we think together then we come to know that politics, partition and violence are inter connected with each other. Dirty politics was behind partition and partition was reason behind violence. Establishment of Muslim league was the first step ahead towards partition. Some of Muslims were unsatisfied in Rastriy Sabha and they felt that we will not get right presentation or justice in that so we should be separated from this. Mohamad Ali Jinnah is the eminent name at the time of partition. He had done important role to do partition. He had no any strong blue print or plan of action for new nation but only he wanted importance in Indian politics. He wanted to display his name along with Nehru, Gandhi. He thought that he was the one and only and correct leader and representative of his community i.e. Muslim.

The All India Muslim League's Lahore Resolution which was later known as the Pakistan Resolution on 23<sup>rd</sup> March,1940. It was a turning point in history of movement for

Pakistan. Then communal politics generated an intense heat and cries for a separate nation from all quartets of Muslim community started reverberating. Jinnah put all these in front of British Government. British were partly responsible for two nation theory and establishment of separate nations. Now most thinkable thing was that that was OK at their politics level, Hindus will be in Hindustan and Muslim will be in Pakistan. But who knows at ground level. Even some of people, villages just like Mano Majra in *Train To Pakistan* didn't know anything. They might heard name of M.A. Jinnah and what was he doing? As per Khushwant Singh describe in novel when violence started in Calcutta and spread all over. They knew it after some days but even then also they hadn't affected their relations between Sikhs and Muslims, Hindus had only one family in village that was Ram Lal's. But game of politics was done by any of community. Result was the same Violence.

As far as the novel is concern 'Hukumchand' also a lead character. He was a district magistrate. He was trying to maintain peace of Mano Majra by various ways. He was also doing politics but for good cause. Ram Lal was killed at one night by Bhai Meet Singh and gang. At the same time, Juggat Singh a doctor prohibited to leave his home at night. But that murdered night he was with his lover Nooran out of home then he got arrested. Another one turning point Iqbal Singh a people's party's member entered into village for social work and to calm people in riots. Mistakenly, he had also arrested. So much things happened during this , situation was going out of hand. Rioters from another places visited villages and tried to convert thinking of people for violence. So deputy commissioner Hukumchand ordered his officer leave Meet Singh from murdered case of Ram Lal. And declared Iqbal as Muslim league supporter Jugga still was in jail. But when Hukumchand knew about the plan of some Sikh's to destroy train of Muslim refugees who were going to Pakistan. Immediately he ordered leave Jugga also. When Jugga came, he came to know about Nooran his love. He tried his best to save the train and his love at cost of his life. This incident was greatest one. That was done by Jugga. But the main planner and master was Hukumchand behind that.

If we think about politics of partition, we still are facing so many problems and we totally unable to solve it. India had couple of time big war against Pakistan after independence. So much damage had done in that war. Defense forces of both nations have been fighting with each other. Millions of people were killed at the time of partition and thousands of people and families are killed or destroyed even today. Many women are becoming widows, many children are

becoming orphans. India had a war in 1971 against Pakistan. In that war 54 Indian soldier officers are in Pakistan as prisoners. Pakistan is not escaping them to India. Even after 45 years their families have hope that they will come back. But nothing can happen at national political level. Shocking thing is that many of that officers already died because of age and who are alive they have hope from their government. Another one very big fact is that, as Pakistan have 54 Indian officers or soldiers, India had 93 thousands Pakistani. But when war stopped, as per one agreement both countries have to leave all officers or citizens in their country. Tolerant India had left their all 93 thousands Pakistani very honestly. But Pakistan cheated India and Pakistan even was not agree that they had some Indians. But after a strong investigation in 1982-83 that was proved Pakistan had some Indians. Then their relatives reached in Pakistan but they had only disappointment till today. After 1971 kargil war also taken place. Means, partition has been doing continue effect, damage to the relation of nations, tendency of people. Although we want to forget partition, incidents and all of that, but that incident has roots in very deep in heart, in brain that can't be erased ever. So many government changed in both countries but no one could able to solve this problem. Only writers like Khushwant Singh, Bapsi Sidhwa, Chaman Nahal or Malgonkar try to give loud voice to this from their novels or films.

### **Conclusion:**

To conclude, I would like to share that even writers point of view, common man had nothing relation with partition. Partition was nothing but a political game, bunch of unwanted elements for common people. It resulted only in violence. Incident of partition that was told in history, not a correct one or much justice able. Ruler had written story by their point of view. But actually how survived the violence expressed by writers. Partition created a trauma physically, psychologically. That wounds which formed in violence not erased after death. That live alive in minds of people forever. Even after 70 years of partition or independence, both nations are trying to patch up the conditions. India Pakistan have war two times because of partition, they have violence and weaken their relation today also in form of Kashmir. And because of that stress and stain between Hindu and Muslim. Hindus who are living in Pakistan and Muslim who are living in India have been facing fear of death only because of that line which was drawn before 70 years.

When we talk about literature then, we come to know that literature of partition have done better work than contemporary leaders of communities. That we can see in Khushwant Singh's *Train To Pakistan*. Relation of people was expressed very genially. Partition literature showed real face of partition than leaders or ruler one. But the ruins, the trauma of violence only come in part of common people that is the fact.

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