



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

English

PLAIN SLATES HOLD DARK IMAGES: TRAUMA AND STRUGGLES FACED DURING PARTITION.

KEY WORDS:

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Experience of past keeps crawling in the present because it has never been nullified at the time of occurrence. Haunting pasts, traumatic events often settles beneath, and with time knocks unexpectedly to disrupt the mental peace and long treasured stability. But the question arises “the tragic incidents that falls on a mind/body of a child, diminishes with the time. Do they really forget it? Trauma has always come up with horrifying disasters and dreadfulness which often resulted in Post stress traumatic disorder. It then becomes really difficult to deal with anxiety, uneasiness and with time it starts reflecting on human body, mind and soul. Trauma leaves scars which are unnoticed yet impactful. One similar kind of petrifying effects had been always associated with India. The pain of leaving their own land, not coming across the kin they lived all their life with and havoc all across the Nation.

Division has always been difficult in one's life. Relocation and transportation leaves and takes a lot of emotions, feelings and when the shipment is forceful, brutal. It comes with a price of blood and crime. After Partition, in a span of few months, around million people died and displaced, uprooted from their land and migrated across the borders, thousand women abducted and raped, contagious disease and malnutrition seeped in. Widespread riots and bloodshed marked both sides of the border. This continuing impact of violence has been talked several times taking in consideration Men and Women, marginalising Children (or much not talked). The pain, agony and displacement they went through never hold attention of the mainstream. Even after 74 years of Independence, it is unfortunate enough that Children trauma of partition is yet subversive and not vocalised. A child's mind is plain and simple, it does not understand complex structures of the world but if anything terrifies the young mind, which leaves permanent imprints on the mind. We have seen in our surrounding, children are sensitive and fragile to unfortunate incidents. Young minds during the partition were equally harassed and mortified as the adults but they were never represented as they should be. Mainstream literature is filled with the pain and disasters encountered during partition by adults but there are only few works which is truly dedicated to children or written from a child point of view. In “*CRACKING INDIA*” (1988), Bapsi Sidhwa did try to bring on a girl child perspective on partition but to some extent as it talks about the exploitation, sexuality, social class consciousness and hierarchy but The violence on female body, the riots and the struggles were never faced by lenny (child protagonist), it was never on her body and mind. She came from the elite class and has number of staffs working and protecting her all around. Rushdie also through *MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN* (1981), threw some light on the partition and historical events of pre and post Independent India through Saleem Sinai, the middle aged man narrates true life incidents from his early age and share the hard and difficult life, tragic incidents, hard childhood and unknown parental lineage.

Children are the ones who are always adversely affected of the negative occurrences, their innocent mind are too pure enough to understand the harshness, with violence and tragedy, and these incidents lead to the traumatising past and instable present “*THE NIGHT DIARY*” (2018) by VEERA HIRANANDANI. This book has received two prizes MALKA PENN AWARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILDREN LITERATURE 2018 and NEWBERRY HONOR 2019. This work talks about Nisha, displaced from Pakistan forced to come to

Jodhpur during partition faces identity crisis, loss of mother and homeland. How difficult it was for her to adapt the whole new set up amidst unknowns.

Women are more prone to danger. We have no records of truly how many women and little girls went missing, raped, molested, bought, sold and even rented. The objectification of a woman body is not a new term for people. But dislocation dehumanised the entire set up of humanity but whom to blame? Political leader, society, humans or none? This outcry will always be remembered and discussed across globe. Another work “*SAFAR*” (2018) by AMRIK CHATTHA, is an autobiographical work by 10 year old boy who also migrated to India from Pakistan and suffered higher degree of violence and trauma in childhood. The ill effects on body shook the boy internally and had a tough early days.

“*A LIFE LONG AGO*” (2012) BY Sunanda Sikdar, “*AHIMSA*” (2017) by Supriya Kelkar, “*IKRAMULLAH -REGRET*” (2015) By Faruq Hassan and Muhammad Memon are the other works which drew my attention, concerning the struggles faced by the young minds.

CONCLUSION-

Partition is just not a one-time story rather it sticks with us forever. Leaving behind kith and kin, everything which were dearly to them. Partition literature deals with the human anguish and it is time that we consider the younger and stop marginalising. Through my article I am actually reviving the past and the agonies of children. How they ran barefoot for survival, lost their parents and land, their bodies have also encountered violence and brutality.

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