



## Partition and Women in Fiction

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**Abstract :** *The Partition of India was the process of dividing the sub-continent along sectarian lines which took place in 1947. Partition affected the masses in general but women were the worst sufferers. This research paper is based on the study of three novels—Khushwant Singh's **Train to Pakistan** Bhisham Sahni's **Tamas** and Bapsi Sidhwa's **Ice-candy-Man** to find out the impact of partition on women.*

**Key Words:** *Partition, Women, Victims, Violence, Massacre.*

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### Introduction :

The Partition of India was the process of dividing the sub-continent along sectarian lines which took place in 1947 as India gained Independence from the British rulers. The predominantly Muslim states of India became the nation of Pakistan, while the rest remained with the Republic of India. The two self governing countries legally came into existence at the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947. The ceremony of the transfer of power was held a day earlier in Karachi, at that time the capital of the new state of Pakistan, to allow the last British Viceroy, Louis Mountbatten, to attend both the ceremonies in Karachi as well as in Delhi.

The Partition of India and the associated bloody riots inspired many creative minds in India and Pakistan to create literary depictions based on this event. While some works depicted the massacre during the migration, others concentrated on the aftermath of partition in terms of difficulties faced by the refugees on both sides of the border. Some of these important works in fiction are Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan* (1956), Bhisham Sahni's *Tamas* (1971), Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* (1980), Bapsi Sidhwa's *Ice-*