



*International Journal of Humanities & Social Science Studies (IJHSSS)*  
*A Peer-Reviewed Bi-monthly Bi-lingual Research Journal*  
ISSN: 2349-6959 (Online), ISSN: 2349-6711 (Print)  
Volume-III, Issue-IV, January 2017, Page No. 390-394  
Published by Scholar Publications, Karimganj, Assam, India, 788711  
Website: <http://www.ijhsss.com>

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## **A Review on the Greatest Upheavals and Stigma of Partition Reflected in Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan**

**Dr. Pooja Saxena**

*Assistant Professor, Dept. of Communication Skills, Radharaman Engineering College  
Bhopal, India*

### **Abstract**

*In this review of paper I have tried to look into the serious effects of partition of India into India and Pakistan. In this endeavor I wished to understand the national trauma of the common people. At the time of partition it could be a helpful attempt by a complete examination of khushwant Singh's literary source Train to Pakistan. Train to Pakistan is a finest novel in the literary history based on the theme of partition. Train to Pakistan is a novel dealt with the communal comparison then competition. That badly turned into a communal fire. Khushwant Singh covered the communal clashing and riots between Hindus and Muslims and Sikhs. In the imaginary village Mano Majra. Hindus and Muslims were together in freedom struggle but with the announcement of independence and partition a gap has been started to take the shape. Partition was simply the division of India into two separate states, two separate religions, with their separate religious rights. Partition created confusions between Hindus and Muslims, it could not have shorted out but it has provoked into the communal fire. Events of partition had been a worst truth but still everyone wants to read about and its effects. Instead of worst experiences of partition faced by Hindus and Muslims, there were some experiences which tell us the reality of honesty and selflessness.*

**Key words:** *Partition, train, different, religion, Hindu, Muslim.*

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**Introduction:** Khushwant Singh one of the best writer of all time, he was a finest novelist, historian, a social critic and a political commentator in English language. He was born in 1915 in Hadali (now in Pakistan). He was educated at the Government College, Lahore at King's College, Cambridge University and the Inner Temple London. He has begun his distinguished career as a journalist with All India Radio in 1951. Khushwant Singh was awarded Padma Bhushan in July 2000; he was awarded "honest man of the year" for his insightful and continuous writing. Khushwant Singh becomes known as novelist to present reality into the variety of writing. After the partition announcement country divided into two parts, then Muslims in Pakistan and Hindus in India wanted to take their side. Everywhere people of multiple religions were present and their efforts to take their sides have become a

big cause of disunity. Disunity had resulted into a great religious upheaval in the world history. Khushwant Singh has dealt with the most debatable event in the world history. In this novel he has tried to explain that how an important decision has been taken in urgency without considering the people who were going to face the results of this decision. A name partition has changed the lives of millions and their generations are trying to healing the wounds of partition till now. Khushwant Singh very authentically explain that how the announcement of partition have changed the peaceful village into a riots, killing, mass murder and all inhumane activities.

**Train to Pakistan and partition of India:** Train to Pakistan is a famous novel considered as masterpiece out of Khushwant Singh's distinguished writing. It appeared under two titles Mano Majra and Train to Paksitan. It has won the Grove Press award and liked by European publishers including Chatto Windus (London) and Gallimard France. After this achievement Khushwnt Singh resigned from his job and decided to work as a writer. Train to Pakistan is finely shaped a historical novel of the partition of India announced on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1947. Khushwant Singh has not covered politics in detail instead he has written with different characters and their surroundings which have changed according to the circumstances. He has very ardently expressed human action and reaction against the announcement of partition. He also served to the readers that how a man's annoy/fury has changed into violence and revenge in apposite situation. Train to Pakistan presented callous realities of the days of partition on the Indo Pakistan border. Either Hindu or Muslim they both wanted their own possessions on their sides. For that they both have made worst efforts so that values have been cheated at the name sake of religious rights. Religious fight has been converted into a religious war between Hindus and Muslims. Muslims started to hate Hindus and Hindus started to hate Muslims. Therefore, partition of India and its related events have been written with black ink in the world history. Train to Pakistan is a written account by which anybody could know the reality and cruelty had been obligated on India Pakistan border. Before partition a harmonious unity was present between Hindu and Muslim and Sikh but after partition it has changed into enmity. Khushwant Singh has shown Mano Majra a place where the people of different religions lived peacefully. After the partition announcement, at the maximum places communal war has been started but Mano Majra was unaffected by the religious competition till now. The communal conflict didn't rise because of the people of different religions presented in Mano Majra rather then it has risen after the arrival of ghost train from Pakistan full of Hindu corpse. Even then the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh were together but some political and religious upheavals have provoked the communal differences between them and then the fire became more aggressive. It ends after the migration of Hindus from Pakistan and Muslims from India. After the partition brutality and sufferings were the common happenings of every day but on the other hand selflessness and kindness was still alive in Mano Majra. Ghost train full of Hindus corpse from Pakistan to India and ghost train full of Muslims dead bodies from India to Pakistan became a symbol of brutality and selfishness. On the other hand peace and passions still were the land marks in Mano Majra. It was the time of great religious tension

when the humanity has been vanished from the hearts of everyone. Customs and values have been the story of past. Good friends of past have become the enemies of present. The worst condition was not in control, neither the citizens were ready to understand the sensitive situation and nor the government was able and interested to apply any law to control the situation. Everyone was trying to survive from the worst and the cruelest situation.

**Train to Pakistan and deprivation of human values:** Imaginary village at the border of India and Pakistan Mano Majra was now declared the part of Hindustan. The violence has been grown all over the country and it has been more aggressive when it reached to Mano Majra. People of Mano Majra were not aware of the partition riots but a train had reached on the platform at unscheduled time. It was full of the Hindus' corpse. Dead bodies were in heaps and it was very difficult to criminate single-single body so, Deputy Commissioner and Inspector decided to criminate all the bodies together. For that they have called all the available wood and kerosene in the village.. The same ghost train has been sent to Pakistan full of Muslims' dead bodies and that was the routine of daily. Uploaded trains had written on the engine "gift to Pakistan" or "gift to India". Cruelty and degradation from both sides sent the people in a hysterical condition which they have not forgotten in the sleep. Novelist very honestly notifies that it was also a collapse of human and social values. It was very pathetic because the people had a time of unity, honesty and respect together in the past and the same people were the victim of disarray, dishonesty and disrespect in the present time. In spite of completing the migration people have a scar in their mind and they have told the tale of brutality and cruelty. Even people and government are still trying to fulfill the wounds of partition. For Muslims from India and Hindus from Pakistan it had become a dream that once they lived happily on their ancestral land, but now the reality was opposite. Several novels have been written on the theme of partition but Khushwant Singh tried to examine the real condition of India at the time of partition. Twelve million of people have been uprooted from their homeland and they had to move on by leaving everything behind. Thousands have become homeless, helpless, fearful, looted and assassinated. They knew that they could be butchered at any time even than they have joined caravans and foot convoy. An unexpected cruelty degradation and bloodshed mark a scar in the consciousness which they could not forget in the sleeping also. Communities were stood apposite for their equal right and equal presence just because they were Hindu or Muslim and their worship manners were different. Partition was a word which had a deep a psychological gap between two communities and it has taken a face of communal war and became a national trauma. Same strain and pain focused in the present novel with historical, social, political and religious background. Novelist convincingly brought some importantdifferent facets of partition that not only friends but how were families divided, and they could not know that separated family member was still alive or not? How they reformed their lives? They all had a bridge of challenge in between ruined and to rebuilt lives. It was near to impossible because they have dealt with the sufferings of partition events; even they didn't know that what rational and physical sources would apply to survive again and more important how

they would overcome from the acidic experiences of horrible event. Most and long awaited freedom came but followed by the announcement of partition of Indian subcontinent. Communalism has been started after the independence and the gap between Hindus and Muslims was widened due to the continuous attacks from both sides. Mohammad Ali Jinnah demanded a separate state for Muslims but the formation of separate state for Muslims could not stop the religious fight.

Partition of India have been written in the world's history for its mass murder and mass migration. People have suffered from the starvation so as the cattle. They both have suffered as never before and after. Cattle had proved as a means of communication to carry moveable belongings at the time of migration. But in the lack of adequate safty, food, first aid and other medical treatment not only people but cattle also have suffered a lot.

Partition of India was the quick decision of government without any consideration for the common man who were going to face and suffer the results of this hard decision. In a very short period they have to migrate to the newly formed country. Juggat Singh introduced in the as a Gunda of the village and illiterate. He was in love with Muslim weaver girl Nooren,he also knew for frequently go to jainl. But When Juggat Singh has come to know about the train going to Pakistan carrying Muslim refugees, he immediately concerned for his beloved Nooren because she was also travelling in the same train. He also knew about the massacre of the refugee train and at any cost he wanted to save the train. He sacrificed his life, not only to save his beloved but the lives of thousands of Muslim refugees. This act made Juggat Singh the hero of the novel which added positive and vibrant quality in his character. Juggat Singh who was famous for his illiteracy and frequently going to jail, his life sacrifice for his love and strangers made him a prominent part of the novel, on the other hand the government and the politicians who in spite of having power, were failed to protect the pride and honor of the people of undivided India. Juggat Singh acted as a single man army and on the contrary it shows the incapability of government who acted just as an audience. Juggat Singh knew that it is not possible to get marry with Nooren and he wins the love by sent her safely to the new state Pakistan. Theirs love story could not have better climax than it. After sacrificing his life for love and other Muslim refugees he became a real hero. He has also proved that no matter a person does wrong all through the life but at the right time if he decides to does something good for his love, for the strangers and for the nation then it is worth respecting and worth remembering. It is considerable when government was unable to protect the dependent population who were totally depending on them. Refugees were in trauma as they were helpless and didn't know how to survive? Not only Juggat Singh but many others also have put the examples of kindness and mercy as they helped out the refugees on the land. Nobody can forget the freedom and the partition of India those who think for any other partition, they must read the fiction of traumatic experiences.

**Conclusion:** To conclude it could be said that partition was an individual decision of government which has been faced by the common men as a worst reality of our past. Country was celebrating the most awaited freedom from the British rule, but the partition

announced the stark destruction, mental trauma, and bloodshed. Train to Pakistan is a fiction covered the harsh reality and also a stunning picture of the partition between Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. Juggat Singh love and life sacrifice for a Muslim girl Nooren presented an example of true love against the hatred and hostility. Khushwant Singh has attempted to look at the two-faced reality of man of apposite religions. From the Khushwant Singh's point of view after the declaration of partition frustration and sufferings have been the reality of everyman in Mano Majra even then the love of a Sikh boy Juggat Singh for the Muslim girl Nooren was the greatest experience in the last. Another character Iqbal Singh said that the announcement of partition will have a great bloodshed if somebody wants to do something to stop it. Khushwant Singh said that ethics have been removed from the religions. People were not together for any religion but they were apposite for the religious differences. It must be kept in mind that freedom has achieved very expensively at the cost of pain and sorrow, lives and deaths, cruelty and sufferings.

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