

Abstract

Event, Memories, and Homemaking : Lived Narratives of the Indian Partition from South India

The 1947 partition of the Indian subcontinent and the creation of the twin states, India and Pakistan, led to a unique rupture in world history. The creation of borders became the defining traumatic event of the shared histories of these two nation-states. Much of partition historiography has considered the partition a predominantly 'North-Indian' affair and erroneously overlooked its implication on the states culturally and geographically removed from the North. In the partition scholarship spanning over seven decades, there has been a lacuna on the ramifications of the Indian partition of 1947 in the southern states of India. In spite of the 1947 partition of India being considered a foundational myth of the nation, there is a silence and aphasia regarding the effects of the event in southern states. The research in consideration begins from this scholarly juncture, and it aims to investigate how South India has been impacted by the rupture of 1947.

To understand the reverberation of the Indian partition in South India (Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu), this scholarship will attempt to perceive the lived narratives of the division from South India. And towards this objective, the research will conduct ethnographic research on the states in consideration; particularly the lived histories of the Sindhi partition refugee community in Bangalore (Karnataka), Mappila community in Malappuram (Kerala), the Multani Shikarpuri community from Kozhikode (Kerala), and the Punjabi partition refugee community in Madras City (Tamil Nadu). By analysing the narratives, the research seeks to theorize the different contestations of belonging, memories and homemaking practices in South India engendered by the moment of 1947. These research concerns are answered by borrowing the theoretical framework of Memory studies and theories of Home and Homemaking.

Keywords: Indian Partition, South India, Memories, Homemaking, Mappila Community, Multani Shikarpuri Community, Punjabi Partition Refugees, Sindhi Partition Refugees