



Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies

School of Humanities

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

Established By Act (W.B. Act (XIX) of 1997 and Recognised by U.G.C.)

Head Office: DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700064; Phone: 033 40663214

Partition Lecture Series (Fifth Lecture): Report

In continuation with the activities of the Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies, a lecture on partition was organized on 30th April, 2019 at the Conference Room of the University, NSOU City Campus, Salt Lake, Kolkata. On this occasion, Professor Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, Pro Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University, Bangladesh, delivered the special lecture on “The Dilemmas of Diaspora in the context of Bengal Partition, Refugees and Politics: An Overview on Women’s Vulnerability.” Prof. Manan Kumar Mandal, Professor in Bengali & Director, School of Humanities, was the Chairperson for the occasion. The Lecture was attended by lots of scholars and the researcher group of the People’s Project.

Professor Hossain has analyzed the various efforts being made by eminent historians, social scientists, writers, novelists, poets, film makers, and social reformers on Indian Partition, especially the Bengal Partition and its Aftermath with special focus on women’s vulnerability. He pointed out that most of the researcher has identified the diaspora issue in the context of ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, minority, caste, social class, and creed. They have specifically highlighted on the Bengal Partition and women’s sufferings in the context of violent oppression, exploitation, killings, torture, abduction, forced marriage, conversion, subjugation, confinement, exclusion in the context of their social, cultural, religious, psychological, mental, sexual, biological, health, nutrition, empowerment, and political, communal and economic perspectives as highlighted by different authors, researchers, writers, film makers, story writers and poets. Professor Hossain has used plethora of discipline to embark on this thought. His study on the subject was the result of his enormous exploration of the field of partition specially on women’s subject related area.

This study has followed an interdisciplinary approach combining historical, sociological, political, economic, cultural, religious and anthropological in the context of politics, partition, migration, gender and diaspora. This article explores the experiences of Bengali migrant’s sufferings and vulnerability out of religious and political riots, and sectarian communalities too.

It has identified how the communalism used by British Raj representatives as a triumph card to divert people’s attention from freedom revolution, lack of control homogeneity, distinct antagonism, and sharp political bifurcation among Hindu and Muslim community. The method followed by the researcher is mainly literature review and some content analysis.



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The researcher has consulted a number of eminent researcher's work of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Among them Urvashi Butalia (The Other Side of Silence) , Ritu Menon (Borders and Boundaries), Kamla Bhasin (Borders and Boundaries), Amrita Pritom (Pinjar), Manto (Films), Kartar Singh Duggal (Abducted Not), Subahasri Ghosh, Debjani Datta, Jasodhara Bagchi, Subhoraj Jan Dasgupta, Kaiser Haq (Border), Hasan Azizul Haque (Hearth and Home; Agunpakhi), Syed waliullah (The Escape; Ekti Tulshi Gacher Kahini), Taslima Nasreen (Nostalgia; Fera), Niaz Zaman (Divided Legacy), Abul Fazal (Ranga Provate), Ala-uddin Al Azad (Kshudha O Asha), Sarder Jainuddin (Onek Suryer Asha), Shahidullah Kaiser (Sangshaptak) Methodological Approach Studying the Politics of Diaspora Dilemma Abu Rush, Aktaruzzaman Elias, Supriya Chowdhury, Mahmud Rahman, Vishayti Ghosh (This Side and That Side) and many others.

The study started to analyze why is diaspora a dilemma? It further discussed about causes of two partitions of Bengal and its aftermath. It also discussed about the politics of Bengal Partition. Finally discuss about the women's vulnerability due to Bengal Partition.

Each lecture of our partition lecture series is uploaded on the website for the global audience. This audio-video lecture will be uploaded soon on our website.