



Exploring Psychological and Emotional Trauma in Partition Literature: A study through Amrita Pritam's Pinjar

Divyanshi Joshi

Student, Amity School of Languages, Amity University Lucknow Campus

ABSTRACT :

Trauma the word is difficult to define but the meaning says something about sudden shock or sadness caused by an event. 1947 Partition considered as most cataclysmic crisis in Indian history which created a sense of psychological and emotional trauma where the separation held the victims of partition were deeply scared by the consequences and they did not find solace in their new homeland. Depiction of this situation was captured by Amrita Pritam's book Pinjar which tells about the shock and horror faced by people during partition which made families separated the harmony which was a part of the country earlier was there no more. This paper brings out the other side of partition which is full of anger countless number of battles, sacrifice and communal clashes of partition which brings back the trauma we all being carried these years.

Keywords: Trauma, Partition, Separation, Emotional Connection, Abduction.

Introduction :

Trauma that is a lot caused during partition phase the people were injured, violated and they were all traumatize by the events they saw coming and facing. Imagine a mother giving birth to her child and next she did not know that what she would feed to her child or what would be next in their life that was the trauma the meaning of trauma which suddenly can destroy someone mentally or physically.

Partition is a phase or a shattered pieces of million hearts the trauma that we carried all these years has always been with us even if we try to shook it off, we could not there are some remaining that still will hurt us. Readers are provided with a background of a story as story begins and help them to connect through that. The night of 1947 when freedom just knocked our doors or maybe we were wrong next there were clashes, destruction all over the country. A set of land was supposed to be divided and there was no force that could stop it. Muslim League led by Mohammad Ali Jinnah demanded a part of the land from Bengal to Punjab the part which was dear to country contains a lot of population then it was the time where the mass killings, abduction and rape started all this weakened the "emotional cord" between Muslims and Non – Muslims bringing the country on verge of division. This is where our story takes place with a girl named Pooro who has been through this Partition phase where she saw the fallout and rise through the ashes how painful was it was for her being in that situation and about to all the women's they suffered a lot and this journey of Pooro is not her alone but of all those women's who suffered a silent battles the story covers all the aspects of partition through traumas and the suffrage of people the battle of silent wars one fights within the bond which is made through ended as a beautiful unbreakable one. Through "Pinjar" Amrita Pritam is trying to tell us that not only things break but sometimes the emotions inside someone breaks through or even how it feels when there is no one to listen this is when the character of Pooro came in light when her struggles connect the readers and to made them think about the consequences that happened.

This paper covers the story of Pooro and her struggles and how she overcome through it.

Discussion :

Pinjar depicts the life of the girl named Pooro during Partition and how she struggles for her identity. Story starts her family were told to be described as sahuikars (moneylenders). They had seen bad days and at one time compelled to sell their kitchen utensils on which the name of there forefathers were engraved. Pooro's father and uncle could not resist anymore disgrace so they left village and went to Thailand. There wheel of fortune turned in their favor. When Pooro was a girl of 9 her mother was carrying a baby boy in her hands at that time her father returned and he cleared all the mortgage of the house and gave them all the house to live that was the happiest thing that ever happened since. This time when he went to Thailand, he left a roof a home behind them and by the time Pooro turned 14 and her brother 12 and first thing her father did was to find a young man and marry her off to the son of affluent family of Rattoval her marriage was fixed and so her brothers to with her fiancé's sister who was 2 years. Pooro was really happy about her marriage but little did she know that something big is going to happen. she developed feelings for her fiancé even though they met once.

It was the day when her life took a quick turn when she was unknowingly was facing a storm which she did not know about. The day she was abducted her life changed in all perspective Did she does something wrong? is it her fault?

Those days bottled up with questions and emotions were passing by but heaviness in her heart was not the day she was abducted by a boy Rashida she did not care about anything but to go back to her village her parents were waiting for her to return.

When she opens her eyes, Rashida was by her side massaged her head and leg to let her be comfortable over there but she rejected any help from him as he was the one to abduct or take her away.

“Rashida, have a pity on me! Take me back to my People!”

Rashida picked her up and took her in his powerful arms. “Who will quench the fire in my heart?”

Day passed and the day came nearer when Rashida brought a silk dress of bright red and place in front of pooro. He told her bluntly “Tomorrow you have to wear this; a Maulvi will be coming to perform our nikah. Be ready in time. This took all her courage to take that step which she was afraid of but she did.

Still the question that still haunts was why did Rashida did so?

It’s when the Pooro’s grandfather took the land of sheikhs and also abducted his aunt by her uncle in supervision of her grandfather that was all revenge for her aunt abduction which their community wanted so he can’t step back.

Hamida became her new identity from where her journey begins even though she wants to run away leave behind all but she knows that now her family will not accept her she accepted herself and new challenges coming towards her. Even though she could not help herself in the situation but maybe she can help others.

The pain and agony of the women’s who have been abducted is they go through with it everyday even though if you try to shook it off you could not those times, days haunts. That how those partition bring a wave of Emotional and psychological turmoil when some of the studies shows that half of the population was affected deeply by partition and they developed signs loss of memory.

Each person suffered in their own way and that’s how pooro suffered too nothing was in her hands but it already happened.

Hamida was a mother now she gave birth to a baby boy named him Javed now she as a mother her child was world for her and no more hatred for Rashida because even, she had been abducted by him but he was never hard on her he took care of her. So, taking up the identity as Hamida and to continue rescuing some girls that really needed help like Lajo, Kammo and Toro.

Lajo was her sister -in law whose marriage was fixed with her brother but she was too abducted by a family to save her Hamida had a strong feeling that Lajo was still in Ratto Val. She had left her home with her brother but not been able to join the convoy. Rashida went on search but didn’t find anything or any clue he was did not know anyone in Ratto Val.

One day Hamida forced her way into the old woman’s courtyard.

“Amma, you don’t have to buy anything for seeing my things”.

“May Allah bless you!” she said,

“Give me a drop of water to slake my thirst

“You can have a tumbler of buttermilk instead of water.

A young girl emerged from the room suddenly she somehow could be Lajo. She asked the old women that is the girl doing well. Women replied she is alright just a little of sorts but there was something in her tone that did not go well with Hamida.

She felt suspicious so after having the butter she asked the girl to let her check the pulses to find about if she is fine then that was found out it was Lajo as her name was mentioned in her wrist and Hamida knew that it would be her.

You are Lajo My sister-in-law

“Are you Pooro?”

Both were emotional by seeing each other and as Lajo has never met pooro but remembered a similar glimpse when she was getting engaged to her brother at this point Lajo was all alone and helpless so seeing someone close, she was looking for help from Hamida.

Hamida was ready to help Lajo this situation reminds her about her situation when she was all alone and helpless but there was no one everyone she knew rejected her and came up with the plan that she would be ready for Rashida outside village in night.

Lajjo was not very happy in her house she did not take any interest in any activity that she did everything cleaned lentils made chapattis then served the man’s favourite double distilled brandy , flavored with cardamom , which he kept from other bottles they were surprised that Lajjo was finally accepting her and the night came when Lajjo escaped from the family far away out of town where she found Rashida and then went to Hamida’s home when the Lajjo’s family came to find about it they searched for her but she could not be found as Hamida went as being a litter collector with unwashed utensils , caked with flies . It was obvious that no food had cooked in the house that morning

“Have you seen that ill- started anywhere?” the old women face wrinkled like crumpled parchment.

“Who, Amma?” asked Hamida, dumping her bundle of khes on the ground.

“That witch – may Allah punish her”! The old woman’s face was puckered with hatred.

“Hai, Hai! exclaimed Hamida, clasping her hands. “Where is your daughter -in- law”?

Vanished! May she burn in hell!”

With whom? I’ve bought charm for her

“Amma where are her parents?”

I warned him on the very first day that you could not build a happy home with a stolen bricks it explained about Lajjo that she could not ever considered it as her home because she was always away from the family and that bottles up with her new emotions she was not happy there she want to run away and that is why with the help of Hamida she could find her husband and was able to go to home as the person who abducted her was in love with her but she could not feel the same as when a girl been taken by a man whom she did not know how could she express the emotions the same . That man says to love her but at the same time was checking Hamida and asking where do you come and who are you in the sense of knowing if she was Hindu or a Muslim definitely, he was meant to take her but she acted smartly and said no I am not what you are thinking look my name is Hamida engraved in my hands. This was how the man treated those abducted women at that time.

Finally, when Lajo was back home, she was really happy found again because of the efforts put by hamida that made a change in their lives which she could not have possibly but try to gave to every other girl that she found.

Life was tough for Hamida but she did everything to make it meaningful and to be tough and try to do everything she can with her own self this tells how brave the protagonist is even though she lost everything she could leave it all and sorrow over past but she decided to give life second chance to see what's ahead of her. This whole time the bond between Rashida and Hamida grew stronger especially for Hamida as she realized that Rashida was not bad for her even the one supporting her throughout. It's true that he abducted her and bring her without knowing but he did not want to do anything bad for her as he explains at first when he saw her, he did fell in love with her and he could not resist his eyes from her. Rashida do not want to do so but because of the force of community he has do it both of them struggle a lot from there life to so at the time they met they could not clear the baggage they have.

We see all the characters who are showcasing the sense of trauma emotionally and physically because some fear they have developed within themselves this shows how humans go through the pain and processes it. It would take some time but for some it is a quick response so to read human emotion in some perspective is difficult emotion change and one can never tell what is coming next.

In this story we see how the topics as identity crisis, Isolation, Loss, Anxiety, Adaptation is been covered.

Identity crisis is shown when the change from Puroo to Hamida due to abduction takes place symbolize the loss of self that many experienced during partition. Forced identity changes reflection of larger identity crisis faced by many who were caught between two formed nations. The scene after abduction when Puroo was transferred from her home to some stranger's home who she did not know at that time she felt was all alone sometimes it felt like and other places were dissolved her inside. This gave her insight of **loneliness and isolation**.

The **fear** of violence and insecurity during partition is depicted through Puro's experiences. Her fear of being abandoned or harmed again reflects the constant state **anxiety** man lived. The societal chaos and unpredictability contribute to a sense of helplessness and ongoing fear. Despite the trauma, Puro's journey also reflects **resilience** and the human capacity to **adapt** her eventual acceptance of her new life while with pain, shows the signs of trauma.

The new perspective in this novel through the study which shows the emotional connection between Puroo and Rashida during partition when finally, both countries were dividing then some people were taking a step towards Pakistan or some were to Hindustan. Lajjo said to Hamida to come along with her to Hindustan but she did not to Hindustan she said Pakistan is my home now. This shows how time has passed and things resolved and how Hamida handled the connect with his husband keeping aside all the feelings and moved her family forward. This story was a rollercoaster ride about trauma through the time when things seem to be tough and it reminded about as a same story about the trauma which hits different was "**Beloved**" written by Toni Morrison the story is written after the American Civil War, it deals with the slavery in the United States. The protagonist, Sethe, is haunted by the ghost of her deceased daughter, Beloved, symbolizing trauma of slavery. As well as "**Pinjar**" set during the partition of India in 1947 shows violence and displacement experienced by people during this period. The protagonist, Puroo is abducted and forcibly converted, symbolizing the personal and communal trauma of partition. Both stories show the sudden connections in protagonist life which they cannot live without even if it was the pain they had suffered through but now that pain has take part as their life. In Beloved Sethe struggles with the haunting memories of her past and length she went to protect her children from the horrors of the slavery. In Pinjar Puroo deals with the horror of abduction , identity crisis that reflects the struggle of females during partition it shows that how both the protagonists have there own sense of traumas but in some way it is relying with each other like the identity crisis which was faced by puroo was the same for seethe she goes through the experience of loosing her child just to protect her from the people she knows that can hurt her and then after the death of her daughter she cannot put away the deep thought about the incident which actually developed a sense of trauma which she could not get away with some historical incident like slavery and partition affect individuals on a deeply personal level . The characters' lives are irrevocably changed by these events. But by letting the new connections in and to give life another chance maybe every dark side has bright place which is not seen characters try to heal by letting go off there past and making the life happy. As for now as they had made new deep meaning from there life from making bond from people which they were quite unknown but now they know those people were somehow the part of their life when they needed them the most and supported them the most.

This demonstrates that Trauma can have a long – lasting effects but connections have a power to heal through overcoming the darkest phase of the time.

CONCLUSION :

The story gives poignant view about the Psychological and Emotional trauma experienced during partition of India. Novel depicts the impact of this upheaval on individual lives through the life experience of puroo as it shows the scars which are still left by the traumatic experience. Puroo's journey in Pinjar reveals the nature of trauma, feeling loss, displacement and the struggle for survival and dignity. The narrative not only reflects the personal anguish and societal breakdown of the time but also underscores the resilience and strength of individuals. By focusing deeply on personal and human aspects of partition, Amrita Pritam provides readers with a profound understanding of the long – lasting psychological and emotional effects of catastrophic event. Her work remains critical contribution to literature, offering valuable insights into the complexities of trauma and enduring quest for identity and belonging in the aftermath of collective violence overwhelming adversity. It also tells us about how the characters try to keep the past behind and to make

a peaceful life by reminding them of future even though Poro could not forget her parents her home and the time spend over there but as time moves forward, she understand the meaning of life where she need to be happy for the people she has been surrounded with.

That was Poro the little girl who saw all the hardship surround her and go through it to have the bold and confident mature self that she turned into this character inspires the readers that even though a person is surrounded by a lot of stress and those past memories which are haunting but though they decide to come through it and have a new life ahead them. A lesson, challenges and a ray of hope to start a new chapter of life.

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