

Paper 21- PARTITION FROM POSTCOLONIAL PERSPECTIVES: A STUDY OF BAPSI SIDHWA'S ICE CANDY MAN (CRACKING INDIA)

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ABSTRACT: Bapsi Sidhwa remains a potent voice among the modern writers. She is the only Parsi woman writer to write on the theme of Partition. Bapsi Sidhwa through her extremely absorbing and most important work, *The Ice-Candy-Man*, through the subaltern eyes of a child-narrator belonging to the Parsi diaspora in colonial Lahore, Pakistan. Bapsi Sidhwa describes the traumatic tale of Partition days when the lofty ideal of nationalism was suddenly bartered for communal thinking resulting in unprecedented devastation, political absurdities and deranged social sensibilities. Through her novel Bapsi Sidhwa has not only been successful in questioning the British and Postcolonial perspectives on partition: *A study of Bapsi Sidhwa's Ice Candy Man. (cracking India)* Indian versions of the subcontinent's history, but has also provided an alternate version of history based on the prevalent, dominant Pakistani point of view. It will be explored as to how the novel examines the inexorable logic of Partition as an offshoot of fundamentalism sparked by communal hatred. This novel is the prism of Parsi sensitivity through which the cataclysmic event is depicted.

KEYWORDS: Bartered, Cataclysmic, Communal hatred, Diaspora, fundamentalism, Postcolonial perspectives, Subaltern eyes, Trauma of Partition, Violence.

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