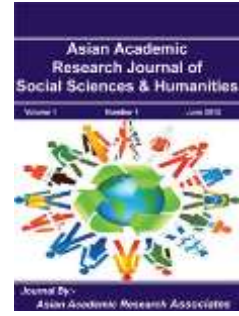




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**WORSHIPPING INTO SUBJUGATION: STUDYING NON-VIOLENT VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN IN POST-PARTITION FICTION**

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ABSTRACT

The Partition of Indian subcontinent had rendered thousands of women on both sides victims of unimaginable violence. In the mad rush to cross borders many of them were left behind by their own family, or abducted and raped or forcefully married off by their own neighbours. Post independence, the governments of either country passed Bills to recover such ‘*abducted*’ women from their places of origin and bring them to their new nations. This act of recovery to undo the initial act of violence was in fact counter-productive, as it made their condition even more precarious. This paper proposes to study the facets of partition violence on women by focusing on Rajinder Singh Bedi’s Urdu story *Lajawanti*. In the process, it raises the issue of double dispossession of women in the act of Independence.

Keywords: Partition, abduction, honour, dispossession.
