

FEMALE MIGRATION AND PARTITION OF BENGAL: REVISITING THE MEMORIES

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ABSTRACT

The Partition of Bengal in 1947, a pivotal event in South Asian history, led to the division of Bengal into West Bengal (India) and East Bengal (Pakistan, later Bangladesh). This partition triggered one of the largest mass migrations in human history, displacing millions of people and resulting in widespread communal violence. While much of the existing literature focuses on political and communal aspects, this study emphasizes the gendered experiences of migration, particularly the challenges faced by women. Through a multidisciplinary approach incorporating historical analysis, personal narratives, and socio-cultural studies, this research explores the profound impact of partition on female migrants. Women were often targeted during communal violence, facing abduction, sexual assault, and forced conversions. Despite these adversities, many exhibited remarkable resilience, playing crucial roles in rebuilding their families and communities. This study also examines the long-term effects of migration on women's identities and the transmission of partition memories across generations. By revisiting these experiences, the research highlights the need to acknowledge and integrate women's voices into the historical narrative of the Partition of Bengal, providing a more comprehensive understanding of this transformative period. This paper delves into the impact of the partition on female migration, exploring the memories and experiences of women who endured this tumultuous period. Through a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating historical analysis, personal narratives, and socio-cultural studies, this research aims to illuminate the often-overlooked aspects of female migration during the Partition of Bengal.

Keywords: Partition, Displacement, Migration, Resilience, Rebuilding

Introduction

The Partition of Bengal in 1947, stands as one of the most significant and traumatic events in South Asian history, reshaping the geopolitical landscape and affecting millions of lives. This

division, a consequence of the larger Partition of India, not only redrew borders but also led to one of the largest mass migrations in human history. While much scholarly attention has been devoted to the political and communal aspects of the partition, the specific experiences of women during this period have often been overlooked. Female migration during the Partition of Bengal is a crucial area of study that reveals the profound gendered impact of this historical upheaval.

Historical Context: Bengal, a culturally rich and economically significant region, was split into two parts: West Bengal, which became part of India, and East Bengal, which became East Pakistan (and later, Bangladesh). The partition was primarily driven by religious lines, with Hindus moving towards India and Muslims towards Pakistan. This abrupt division resulted in widespread violence, displacement, and a massive refugee crisis.

Gendered Impact of Partition: The experiences of women during the Partition of Bengal were markedly different from those of men, shaped by their unique social roles and vulnerabilities. Women were not only passive victims of the violence and displacement but also active participants in the migration process. The upheaval had a profound impact on their lives, influencing their roles within the family and community, their economic conditions, and their psychological well-being.

1. Vulnerability and Violence:

- **Targeted Violence:** Women were often targets of communal violence, including abduction, rape, and forced conversions. The violence against women was not just physical but also a means to inflict collective trauma on the opposing community.
- **Loss of Security:** The disintegration of societal structures left women particularly vulnerable. Many lost their homes, properties, and familial support systems, leading to increased susceptibility to exploitation and violence.

2. Forced Migration:

- **Displacement:** The partition forced millions of women to leave their ancestral homes and migrate to unfamiliar territories. This displacement was not merely a physical relocation but a profound psychological upheaval.
- **Journeys of Hardship:** The migration routes were fraught with danger and hardship. Women had to endure long, arduous journeys, often on foot, facing threats from hostile groups and natural elements.

3. Resilience and Adaptation:

- **Rebuilding Lives:** Despite the adversities, many women displayed remarkable resilience. They took on new roles as heads of households, breadwinners, and

community leaders. Their efforts were crucial in rebuilding their families and communities in the aftermath of the partition.

- **Cultural Preservation:** Women played a key role in preserving cultural traditions and practices amidst the disruption. Their ability to maintain and adapt cultural identities was vital for the community's sense of continuity and stability.

Research Focus

This paper aims to explore the multifaceted experiences of women during the Partition of Bengal, focusing on their migration narratives. By revisiting personal stories, oral histories, and archival records, the study seeks to shed light on the often-overlooked gendered dimensions of the partition. It highlights the resilience and adaptability of women, their contributions to rebuilding post-partition society, and the lasting impact of their experiences on subsequent generations. Understanding female migration during the Partition of Bengal provides a more nuanced and comprehensive view of this historical event. It underscores the importance of including women's voices in the historical narrative, offering insights into their unique challenges and indomitable spirit during one of the most tumultuous times in South Asian history.

Literature Review

The Partition of India in 1947, resulting in the division of British India into India and Pakistan, is a subject of extensive historical and sociological research. This literature review focuses on the Partition of Bengal and the associated migration, with a special emphasis on the gendered experiences of this period. The review highlights key works that address the historical context, communal violence, mass migration, and the specific impact on women.

- **"The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan"** by Yasmin Khan: Khan provides a detailed account of the political decisions and communal tensions that led to the partition. She emphasizes the administrative chaos and the human cost of the division, highlighting how unprepared the British and Indian leaders were for the scale of the ensuing violence and displacement.
- **"The Long Partition and the Making of Modern South Asia: Refugees, Boundaries, Histories"** by Vazira Fazila-Yacoobali Zamindar: This work examines the aftermath of partition, focusing on the long-term effects on refugees and the establishment of national boundaries. Zamindar discusses the bureaucratic processes that affected the lives of millions of displaced persons.

- **"Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition"** by **Nisid Hajari**: Hajari provides a vivid narrative of the communal violence and mass migrations that accompanied partition. The book describes how the political decisions taken by leaders like Nehru, Jinnah, and Mountbatten translated into widespread chaos and human suffering.
- **"The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India"** by **Urvashi Butalia**: This seminal work is a collection of oral histories that gives voice to those who lived through the partition. Butalia focuses on personal stories, particularly those of women, to reveal the profound impact of displacement and violence on individual lives.
- **"Borders & Boundaries: Women in India's Partition"** by **Ritu Menon and Kamla Bhasin**: Menon and Bhasin's work is a pioneering study on the gendered impact of partition. They document the abductions, rapes, and forced conversions of women, emphasizing how violence against women was used as a tool of communal conflict. The book also highlights the resilience and agency of women in rebuilding their lives post-partition.
- **"The Trauma and the Triumph: Gender and Partition in Eastern India"** edited by **Jasodhara Bagchi and Subhoranjan Dasgupta**: This collection of essays examines the specific experiences of women in Bengal during partition. It includes personal narratives, literary analyses, and historical studies that explore how women coped with and resisted the violence and displacement.
- **"Remembering Partition: Violence, Nationalism and History in India"** by **Gyanendra Pandey**: Pandey explores the role of memory and oral history in understanding the partition. He argues that the personal memories of those who experienced the partition provide critical insights that are often missing from official historical accounts.
- **"The Footprints of Partition: Narratives of Four Generations of Pakistanis and Indians"** by **Anam Zakaria**: Zakaria collects narratives from four generations to examine how the memories of partition have been transmitted and transformed over time. Her work underscores the lasting impact of partition on personal and collective identities.
- **"Partition's Post-Amnesias: 1947, 1971 and Modern South Asia"** by **Ananya Jahanara Kabir**: Kabir investigates how the partition has been remembered and represented in cultural forms like literature, film, and art. She discusses how these representations influence collective memory and identity in South Asia.

- **"The Partition of Bengal: Fragile Borders and New Identities"** edited by **Bashabi Fraser**: This edited volume brings together essays that explore the cultural and social impacts of the partition of Bengal. It includes discussions on how the partition influenced regional identities, literary expressions, and socio-political structures.
- **"Refugees and the Politics of the Everyday State in India"** by **Ria Kapoor**: Kapoor examines the everyday experiences of refugees in post-partition India. She discusses how the state managed the refugee crisis and how refugees navigated the bureaucratic and social challenges they faced.
- **"Lines of Control: Partition as a Productive Space"** edited by **Hammad Nasar and Iftikhar Dadi**: This book explores the concept of partition not just as a moment of division, but as a productive space that shaped new identities and socio-political realities. It includes case studies on the long-term impacts of partition on various communities.

Historical Context of the Partition of Bengal

Pre-Partition Scenario:

The Partition of Bengal in 1947 was a critical event in the history of the Indian subcontinent, significantly influenced by political, social, and economic factors. To understand the context and background, it is essential to delve into the following aspects:

1. Colonial Rule and Communal Tensions:

- **British Colonial Rule**: The British colonization of India began in the mid-18th century and significantly altered the socio-political landscape of Bengal. The British policy of 'Divide and Rule' exacerbated religious and communal tensions.
- **Communal Divisions**: By the early 20th century, communal identities among Hindus and Muslims had solidified, partly due to British policies that emphasized these differences. The formation of the All India Muslim League in 1906 and the Indian National Congress's increasing push for independence highlighted these growing divides.

2. Economic Factors:

- **Economic Disparities**: Bengal, a province rich in agriculture and industry, experienced economic disparities that fueled communal tensions. Hindus dominated the commercial and landed sectors, while Muslims were primarily involved in agriculture.
- **Partition of 1905**: The first partition of Bengal in 1905 by Lord Curzon aimed to create administrative efficiency but was seen as a move to divide and weaken the

nationalist movement by separating the largely Muslim eastern areas from the largely Hindu western areas. This partition was annulled in 1911 due to strong opposition.

3. Political Developments:

- **Rise of Nationalist Movements:** The early 20th century saw the rise of nationalist movements demanding independence from British rule. The Indian National Congress and the Muslim League became prominent political entities.
- **Demand for Pakistan:** The demand for a separate Muslim state, Pakistan, gained momentum under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League, who argued that Muslims needed a separate nation to protect their interests.

The Act of Partition

1. Mountbatten Plan:

- **Plan for Partition:** In 1947, Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India, proposed a plan to partition India into two separate dominions – India and Pakistan. This plan was accepted by the major political leaders.
- **Radcliffe Line:** Sir Cyril Radcliffe, a British lawyer, was appointed to draw the boundary line between India and Pakistan. With little prior knowledge of India, Radcliffe had to complete the task in just five weeks, leading to numerous issues.

2. Implementation of Partition:

- **Announcement and Immediate Impact:** The partition plan was announced on June 3, 1947, and the boundary lines were published on August 17, 1947, two days after India and Pakistan gained independence. Bengal was divided into West Bengal (India) and East Bengal (Pakistan, later becoming East Pakistan and eventually Bangladesh in 1971).

Immediate Aftermath

1. Mass Migration:

- **Displacement:** The partition led to one of the largest mass migrations in human history, with an estimated 10-15 million people crossing borders. Hindus and Sikhs moved to India, while Muslims moved to Pakistan.
- **Refugee Crisis:** The migration resulted in a massive refugee crisis, with millions of people losing their homes, properties, and livelihoods.

2. Communal Violence:

- **Widespread Riots:** The partition triggered widespread communal violence, with estimates of up to a million people killed in the ensuing riots and massacres. Women were particularly vulnerable, facing abduction, rape, and forced conversions.
 - **Humanitarian Crisis:** The violence and displacement caused a humanitarian crisis, with refugees living in dire conditions in camps and makeshift settlements.
3. **Socio-Political Changes:**
- **Political Realignments:** The partition led to significant political changes, with new governments in India and Pakistan focusing on nation-building amidst the chaos of migration and violence.
 - **Long-Term Impact:** The partition left a lasting impact on the socio-political fabric of the region, with continuing tensions between India and Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh in 1971 after a bloody liberation war.

Female Migration during the Partition

The Partition of Bengal in 1947 resulted in one of the most significant human migrations in history, with an estimated 10-15 million people displaced. While much has been written about the overall migration, the specific experiences of women during this period have often been overlooked. Female migration during the Partition of Bengal was marked by unique challenges, traumas, and resilience, significantly shaping the lives of those affected and the socio-cultural landscape of the region.

Patterns of Migration

The migration patterns during the partition were complex and varied. Women, often accompanied by their families, undertook perilous journeys to cross the newly drawn borders. The primary routes for migration included:

- **West Bengal to East Bengal:** Predominantly Muslim women migrated to East Bengal (Pakistan) from Hindu-majority areas in West Bengal.
- **East Bengal to West Bengal:** Predominantly Hindu women migrated to West Bengal (India) from Muslim-majority areas in East Bengal.

These journeys were undertaken by various means, including trains, bullock carts, and on foot. The migration was not a singular event but a prolonged process, with waves of people moving over several months and even years.

Reasons for Migration

The reasons for migration were multifaceted, influenced by both push and pull factors:

- **Push Factors:**
 - **Communal Violence:** The partition triggered widespread communal riots and massacres, with women often being the targets of violence. Fear of abduction, rape, and murder forced many women to flee their homes.
 - **Economic Hardship:** The breakdown of economic structures and loss of livelihoods compelled families to migrate in search of stability.
 - **Social Pressure:** In some cases, women were forced to leave due to social and familial pressures, ensuring their safety and honor in the face of potential communal violence.
- **Pull Factors:**
 - **Promise of Safety:** The prospect of finding safety and security in areas where their religious community was in the majority was a significant motivator.
 - **Reunion with Family:** Women often migrated to reunite with family members who had already relocated, seeking the comfort of familial support amidst the chaos.

Challenges Faced

Women faced numerous challenges during migration, which can be broadly categorized as follows:

- **Physical Hardships:**
 - **Exhaustion and Starvation:** Long journeys on foot or in overcrowded trains led to extreme physical exhaustion and starvation. Pregnant women and those with young children suffered the most.
 - **Exposure to Elements:** Many women had to endure harsh weather conditions without adequate shelter or clothing, leading to illnesses and fatalities.
- **Violence and Exploitation:**
 - **Sexual Violence:** Women were particularly vulnerable to sexual violence during the migration. Reports of abductions, rapes, and forced conversions were rampant.
 - **Abandonment and Trafficking:** Some women were abandoned by their families or fell victim to human trafficking, losing their identity and freedom.
- **Psychological Trauma:**
 - **Loss of Family Members:** The violent upheaval resulted in the loss of family members, leaving many women to fend for themselves and their children.

- **Displacement Trauma:** The trauma of being uprooted from their homes, losing their belongings, and facing an uncertain future left deep psychological scars.

Resilience and Adaptation

Despite these immense challenges, women exhibited remarkable resilience and adaptability. Their experiences during migration contributed significantly to their personal strength and the socio-cultural fabric of their new communities.

- **Rebuilding Lives:** Many women played a crucial role in rebuilding their families and communities in the aftermath of the partition. They adapted to new environments, learned new skills, and became active participants in economic activities.
- **Preserving Cultural Identity:** Women were instrumental in preserving and transmitting cultural traditions and practices. Through festivals, rituals, and every day practices, they maintained a sense of continuity and identity amidst the disruption.
- **Community Support Networks:** Women often formed support networks within refugee camps and new settlements, providing emotional and practical assistance to one another.

Long-Term Impact

The long-term impact of female migration during the partition had extended beyond the immediate aftermath. The experiences of these women influenced subsequent generations, shaping collective memories and identities. The trauma and resilience of migrant women became part of the cultural narrative, reflected in literature, films, and oral histories.

- **Intergenerational Transmission:** The stories and experiences of migrant women were passed down through generations, influencing the identities and perceptions of their descendants.
- **Cultural Narratives:** The partition and its impact on women have been depicted in various forms of cultural expression, ensuring that their stories are remembered and acknowledged.

Socio-Cultural Impact on Women

The partition of Bengal in 1947 was a monumental event that led to one of the largest mass migrations in history. As India gained independence from British rule, the subcontinent was divided into two separate nations: India and Pakistan. Bengal, a region rich in culture and history, was split into West Bengal (India) and East Bengal (later East Pakistan, now

Bangladesh). This partition caused significant upheaval, forcing millions to leave their homes and cross borders in search of safety. Among the most affected were women, who faced unique socio-cultural challenges during this tumultuous period. This article explores the profound impact of the Bengal partition and subsequent migration on women, examining their struggles and resilience in the face of adversity.

Displacement and Loss

The displacement caused by the partition of Bengal was unprecedented in its scale and intensity. Women, in particular, suffered immense loss as they were uprooted from their homes and communities. Many families were separated during the chaotic migration, with women often left behind or forced to fend for themselves. The loss of home and community meant the loss of social networks that had provided support and stability. Personal stories from this period highlight the depth of the trauma experienced by women. Accounts of women witnessing the murder of family members, enduring sexual violence, and losing their homes are harrowing. The psychological impact of such trauma was profound, leaving many women with lasting scars. The loss of homes and displacement also meant a loss of identity for many women. They had to navigate new environments where their cultural practices and social norms were often unfamiliar. This dislocation led to a sense of alienation and a struggle to maintain cultural identity in the face of overwhelming change.

Economic Challenges

Economic challenges were another significant aspect of the impact on women during and after the migration. Many women who had been financially dependent on their families found themselves in dire straits. The loss of family breadwinners in the violence of partition meant that women had to seek employment to support themselves and their families. In the unfamiliar cities and towns where they sought refuge, job opportunities were scarce. Women often had to take up low-paying, unskilled jobs to survive. For many, this meant working as domestic helpers, laborers, or in small-scale industries. The economic pressure also forced some women into exploitative situations, including prostitution. Additionally, the loss of property and assets during the migration meant that women lacked the capital to start new ventures or businesses. This economic marginalization further entrenched their vulnerability and limited their opportunities for upward mobility.

Social and Cultural Adjustments

The social and cultural adjustments that women had to make in the aftermath of partition were profound. Moving to new areas often meant adapting to different social norms and cultural practices. For many women, this was a challenging and isolating experience. In West Bengal,

women who migrated from East Bengal found themselves in a society with different social customs and expectations. They had to navigate these differences while trying to maintain their cultural identity. This often meant negotiating the pressures to conform to new societal norms while preserving their traditions and practices. Community support played a crucial role in helping women adjust to their new environments. Migrant communities often formed close-knit networks that provided support and a sense of belonging. These networks helped women find employment, access resources, and navigate the complexities of their new lives.

Gender-Based Violence

The partition of Bengal saw a horrific increase in gender-based violence. Women were subjected to widespread sexual violence, including rape, abduction, and forced conversions. These acts of violence were often used as tools of communal revenge and humiliation. The trauma of sexual violence had long-lasting effects on women. Many survivors faced social stigma and ostracization, further compounding their suffering. The psychological impact of such violence was profound, leading to issues such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Efforts to rehabilitate and support survivors of gender-based violence were often inadequate. The social stigma associated with sexual violence meant that many women were reluctant to seek help or speak out about their experiences. This silence further marginalized survivors and limited their access to support and justice.

Psychological Impact

The psychological impact of the partition and migration on women cannot be overstated. The trauma of displacement, loss, and violence left many women with deep psychological scars. Depression, anxiety, and PTSD were common among women who had experienced the horrors of partition. Coping mechanisms varied among women. Some found solace in community support and solidarity, while others turned to religious and spiritual practices. However, the lack of mental health resources and support systems meant that many women struggled to cope with their trauma. The psychological impact of partition also had intergenerational effects. The trauma experienced by women often affected their children and families, leading to a cycle of psychological distress that persisted for years after the initial events.

Resilience and Agency

Despite the immense challenges they faced, many women demonstrated remarkable resilience and agency during and after the partition. Women found ways to adapt, rebuild their lives, and support their families in the face of adversity. Stories of resilience abound. Women took on new roles and responsibilities, becoming breadwinners and community leaders. They formed support networks, started small businesses, and advocated for their rights and the rights of other

survivors. Community organizations and women's groups played a crucial role in empowering women and providing them with resources and support. These groups helped women navigate the challenges of displacement, access economic opportunities, and heal from their trauma.

Policy Implications

The partition of Bengal in 1947, resulting in one of the largest mass migrations in history, profoundly affected millions of lives, with women bearing a significant portion of the burden. The socio-cultural upheaval, economic instability, and increased vulnerability to violence necessitate targeted policy responses. This article explores the essential policy implications required to address the unique challenges faced by women during and after the Bengal partition and migration, aiming to support their recovery, empowerment, and integration into new communities.

Immediate Relief and Rehabilitation

In the immediate aftermath of the partition, the primary focus should be on providing relief and rehabilitation to the affected women. This includes establishing shelters that offer safety and security, particularly for women who have been displaced or separated from their families. Medical aid is crucial, addressing both physical injuries and reproductive health needs. Food supplies and basic necessities must be ensured through coordinated efforts between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international aid. Special attention should be given to the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women, as well as children. Establishing women's help desks and dedicated support centers in relief camps can provide immediate assistance and address specific needs.

Economic Empowerment Programs

Economic empowerment is a critical component in helping women rebuilds their lives after displacement. Governments and NGOs should collaborate to create job training programs tailored to the skills and aspirations of displaced women. These programs can include vocational training in fields such as handicrafts, tailoring, and small-scale manufacturing, which can provide immediate employment opportunities. Microfinance initiatives can offer women access to small loans, enabling them to start their own businesses or invest in income-generating activities. Entrepreneurship support, including mentorship and market access, can help women establish sustainable livelihoods. Additionally, policies should facilitate women's access to property rights and financial services, ensuring they have the necessary resources to achieve economic independence.

Legal and Social Protection

The increase in gender-based violence during and after the partition highlights the urgent need for robust legal and social protections. Governments must enact and enforce laws that specifically address violence against women, including sexual violence, abduction, and forced marriage. Establishing special tribunals or fast-track courts can ensure timely justice for survivors. Support services such as legal aid, counseling, and shelters should be readily available to women who have experienced violence. Community awareness programs can educate the public about the rights of women and the importance of gender equality, helping to reduce stigma and discrimination. Additionally, training law enforcement officials and healthcare providers on gender-sensitive approaches can improve the response to violence and support for survivors.

Education and Skill Development

Education and skill development are fundamental to the long-term empowerment of women affected by partition and migration. Governments should prioritize the enrollment of displaced girls in schools, providing scholarships and incentives to encourage attendance. Adult education programs can help women who missed out on formal education acquire literacy and numeracy skills. Skill development initiatives should be designed to meet the specific needs of displaced women, offering training in areas with local employment potential. Partnerships with private sector companies can create job placement opportunities for women who complete these programs. Additionally, vocational training centers should be established in refugee and resettlement areas to make skill development accessible.

Psychological Support and Counseling

The psychological trauma experienced by women during partition and migration necessitates comprehensive mental health support. Governments and NGOs should establish counseling centers that offer professional psychological support, including trauma-informed care. Group therapy sessions and peer support networks can provide a safe space for women to share their experiences and support each other. Training community health workers to recognize and address mental health issues can extend the reach of psychological support services. Additionally, integrating mental health services into primary healthcare can ensure that women have access to the care they need without stigma. Public awareness campaigns can also help reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues and encourage women to seek help.

Community Integration and Social Cohesion

Promoting community integration and social cohesion is essential for creating inclusive environments where displaced women can thrive. Governments should implement policies that encourage interaction and cooperation between host communities and displaced populations.

This can include community-building activities, cultural exchange programs, and joint economic projects. Support for women's organizations and community groups can enhance social cohesion by providing platforms for women to voice their concerns and participate in decision-making processes. These groups can also offer practical support, such as childcare services and cooperative businesses, which can help women balance their responsibilities and economic activities.

Long-Term Policy Frameworks

Addressing the ongoing needs of women affected by the Bengal partition and migration requires long-term policy frameworks. Governments should establish mechanisms for continuous data collection and monitoring to assess the effectiveness of support programs and identify emerging needs. This data can inform policy adjustments and ensure that interventions remain relevant and effective. Collaboration between governments, international organizations, and civil society is crucial for sustaining support initiatives. Regular reviews and evaluations of policies can help identify best practices and areas for improvement. Additionally, investing in research on the impacts of partition and migration on women can provide valuable insights for future policy development.

Conclusion

Female migration during the Partition of Bengal was a profound and transformative experience. The unique challenges faced by women, coupled with their resilience and adaptability, highlight the gendered dimension of this historical event. By revisiting and acknowledging the memories of these women, we gain a deeper understanding of the partition's impact and the enduring strength of those who lived through it. Their stories are a testament to the human spirit's resilience in the face of unimaginable adversity.

The partition of Bengal and the subsequent migration had a profound socio-cultural impact on women. They faced immense challenges, including displacement, economic hardship, social and cultural adjustments, gender-based violence, and psychological trauma. Despite these challenges, women demonstrated remarkable resilience and agency, finding ways to rebuild their lives and support their communities. The legacy of partition continues to affect the lives of women in Bengal, highlighting the need for ongoing support and recognition of their experiences and contributions.

The socio-cultural, economic, and psychological challenges faced by women due to the Bengal partition and migration demand comprehensive and targeted policy responses. Immediate relief and rehabilitation, economic empowerment, legal and social protection, education and skill development, psychological support, and community integration are all critical components of a

holistic approach. By addressing these areas, policymakers can help women rebuild their lives, achieve economic independence, and contribute to their communities. Ensuring the well-being and empowerment of women affected by partition is not only a matter of justice but also essential for the overall development and stability of society.

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