

**Professor Subhoranjan Dasgupta** studied at Presidency College (Kolkata), Calcutta University and University of Heidelberg. He attained his PhD from the University of Heidelberg. His two areas of specialization are the Partition of 1947 and Neo-Marxian aesthetics. He has also acquired expertise on the creativity of Gunter Grass and Akhtaruzzaman Elias. His major publications are: *Bishnu Dey's Poetry in the light of Neo-Marxian Aesthetics*, *The Trauma and the Triumph- Gender and Partition in the East* (two volumes), *Elegy and Dream- An Evolution of the Creative Commitment of Akhtaruzzaman Elias* and *The Tin Drummer's Odyssey- A Monograph on Gunter Grass*

Widely published in India and abroad, the author's essays on Bertolt Brecht, Jibonananda Das, Akhtaruzzaman Elias, Gunter Grass, Heinrich Heine and Shakespeare have won critical acclaim.

### **Partition of 1947: The Trauma and the Triumph**

Most commentators on the Partition of Bengal in 1947 have focused on the trauma experienced by the displaced men and women and the refugees. But trauma is only one side of the coin. What is equally true and important is the fact that the traumatized fought back against all odds in the new country where they had arrived. This was their triumph. Especially women refugees, who not only set up homes but also acquired the qualifications needed to become crucial bread winners. The refugee women became school teachers, clerks, typists and stenographers in the teeming city of Kolkata.

In this paper, Professor Dasgupta emphasizes this memorable dimension of triumph experienced by the refugee-women who, in fact, changed the physiognomy of Kolkata's working world. What also deserves mention is that demure and withdrawn women of West Bengal followed their counterparts and stepped out of their homes to become working women as well.