

ST. MIRA'S COLLEGE FOR GIRLS, PUNE
(AUTONOMOUS-AFFILIATED TO SAVITRIBAI PHULE PUNE UNIVERSITY)

Name of Faculty: Dr. Snober Sataravala

Name of Funding Agency: Tata Trust

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Title of Project: **Safe Passage and Shelter during Partition of India: Exploring Oral Histories to Understand the Minorities Connect**

Type of Project: Minor

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Abstract:

Perhaps more so than any other nation, the uniqueness of being Indian is to belong to a diverse multicultural populous country. During partition the exodus across the border was primarily of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Sindhis. However, on both sides of the border, apart from the communities that suffered directly due to the conflict, there were neutral minorities like the Parsis, Christians, Jews and Anglo Indians whose contribution to partition is often erased in the collective memory of the nation. The problem this research is concerned with is the erasure of human contribution by the neutral minorities in providing shelter and safe passage during the tumultuous border crossing and the carnage it left in its wake.

The funding by the Tata Trust Partition Archives and access to the archives over a month opened up 40 different oral histories of different minorities that substantiated this hypothesis in an extremely rewarding way. The research also enhanced classroom teaching especially when addressing partition literature, border conflict, refugees and migrants.