

Ifra Siddique

This was a short interview given by the granddaughter of Bashiran Bibi; who had witnessed partition. I asked her questions all together because she was in a hurry.

When I was young, I heard stories from my grandmother, that how she came from India to Pakistan after the partition. As far as I recall, she was 14 years old at that time when she came from a city called Jalandhar to a small town Karyal, which is near Faisalabad. Before the partition, she said everyone Hindu, Muslims and Sikhs lived happily together. They didn't know the difference between them due to the same culture. Muslims would go to Hindus temples and Hindus to Muslims mosques. Everyone enjoyed and participated in each other's festivals such as Eid, Diwali etc. all together. But after there was a call for partition, some people were happy but others were furious since they didn't want to leave their wealth behind. People were divided; some close friends and families broke such as some of her cousins were left in India. According to her, when the war broke out then and everyone escaped for their lives. It was bloodshed everywhere; somehow she managed to move across the border after staying at different places like in refugee camps or lived under a tree. She used to travel on feet for miles and on bullock carts and some people would on train. After a long tiring journey she along with her family reached a place which is called Karyal now and they decided to settle down there. As they left back everything, at that time and the town was a small under-developed place for example no schools or any type of work place was there so they decided to do farming for living as they had some knowledge related to agriculture then. As they were no schools at that time so they only had basic education in Urdu and Punjabi.