

Joyful Memories of Idyllic Times: Remembering Shillong in Leela Majumdar's *Pakdandi*(1911-1919)

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Abstract: The hill stations of colonial India, like Shillong, functioned as sanctuaries of the British ruling race, forming enclaves of British culture and administration that was juxtaposed with the existing local cultures. Falling within the ambit of local history which implies not merely everything that has happened in a town, village or city but is often interrelated to national and international events, Shillong and its inhabitants, institutions and scenic beauty occupy ample space in the incomplete autobiography of *Leela Majumdar* called *Pakdandi* (The Winding Mountain Path) published in 1986. This article demonstrates how her personal narrative is knitted with the kaleidoscopic interplay of events in Shillong in a colonial era, touching on themes such as society, economy, education and gender relations and thus contributing significantly to the field of historical studies on Shillong.

Keywords: Shillong, Sahebs, Khasis, Brahmos, Loreto Convent, World War I

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