

The Socio-Political Contribution of Nawab Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani in District Muzaffargarh

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Abstract

This study is the first basic work, which primarily deals with the socio-political contribution of Gurmani tribe in district Muzaffargarh. The contribution of the family is examined through their services in multi-sectors of the society to uplift and improve the life standard of the people in the region. From the colonial era the family of Mian Mehboob Gurmani considered important and had a status in the region as he was appointed an honorary magistrate with judicial powers. Later Nawab Mushtaq Gurmani and Mian Ghulam Jelani also played a remarkable role in the politics of united India particularly in elections 1945-46. After the emergence of Pakistan Nawab Mushtaq Gurmani played an active role in the politics of west Pakistan as he served governor of west Pakistan during one unit. Later the foundation of Gurmani welfare foundation is a significant work which is a multi-dimensional organization which is serving the people in the region through education and health. This research article explores and highlights the services of Gurmani Family in Muzaffargarh.

Keywords: Mushtaq Gurmani, Muzaffargarh, Politician, Social Worker, Society

Introduction



History is the study of the biography of great men and it examines the contribution of great men in society. Although Muzaffargarh is considered a backward district but Gurmani, family played its role in social development. This study covers the Gurmani tribe and its socio-political contribution and highlights the services of Gurmani foundation which played a remarkable role in the upgradation of the society in a backward district of Punjab Muzaffargarh. Gurmani is a well-known and prominent Baloch tribe residing in Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan. A large-scale population of the said tribe is resident in Dera Ghazi Khan Division especially in District Muzaffargarh. During Colonial period, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan Gurmani and Mian Ghulam Jelani who belonged to this tribe played their role in politics. Mushtaq Gurmani formed a charity foundation as Gurmani Foundation in 1980, which was a multi-dimensional organization, and it has been working in different sectors of the society like schools, college and hospitals. In this paper it has been made an attempt to explore the contribution of this foundation how it is working in uplift of the society through different projects. Education, health, social services, stipend for students and other social welfare programs of the foundation are strong share in the society of Muzaffargarh after Sardar Kaurey Khan Jatoi.

Research Objectives

- In this analytical study the main objectives of this research are following;
- 1- To know about the Gurmani Tribe and its socio-political contribution in District Muzaffargarh.
 - 2- To study about the political role of Gurmani family in the regional politics of Muzaffargarh.
 - 3- To find out the role of the Gurmani foundation in the social uplift of the people in Muzaffargarh.

Research Questions

The following study is an attempt to search the answers of the following questions;

- 1 When did Gurmani tribe settle in this region?
- 2 How did Gurmani tribe played a role in the political development of the District Muzaffargarh from Colonial era to modern period?

3 How much role has played by the Gurmani foundation in social development of the region?

Review of Literature

The integral part of research is considered review of literature, particularly in the research of the social science. The said topic is important in its nature and different scattered form of material has consulted to compile this research article. Among the most relevant material are the documentary sources as Chiefs of Punjab¹, Tareekh-e-Muzaffargarh ² , District Gazetteer ³ Muzaffargarh, Tareekh-e-Muzaffargarh Adab-o-Saqafat, Tahreek-e-Azadi Men Punjab Ka Kirdar are remarkable.⁴

Research Methodology

Although the research was initiated with a deductive method regarding the Gurmani tribe of Muzaffargarh. It will be a constructive model with an empirical approach. The method is combined with qualitative and historical method. Therefore, the following source will use during research for getting information and collection for the reliable data. Historical data was collected, Government records, reports, District Census reports, District Gazetteers, Newspapers, Magazines and encyclopedias were analyzed.

Discussion

This Baloach tribe is resident of the different part of Dera Ghazi Khan and Muzaffargarh. Bakhu Khan Gurmani had resided at Thatha Gurmani nearly 200 years ago. By means of his large fraternity and spacious estate.⁵ Nawab Mushtaq Ahmad Khan Gurmani a former Governor of West Pakistan, politician and social worker who belonged to District Muzaffargarh. Mushtaq Gurmani had profound a political insight and recognized a heavy weight in the politics of District Muzaffargarh. Along with other family members like Mian Ghulam Jelani, who elected MLA of All India Muslim League, in the elections 1945-46 during colonial sub-continent. This research article makes a systematic study of the services of the Garmani clan in Muzaffargarh, the important socio-political figures associated with it, the political, and social services have helped to improve the quality of life of the people in the area. Similarly, Garmani Foundation established by Nawab

Mushtaq Gurmani has a definite role in regional development, which is the main component and objective of this analytical study. In Kotadu Gurmani, family was much famous. The father of Nawab Mushtaq Gurmani was an honorary magistrate. All these had studied only "Masnavi Molana Room". Mushtaq Gurmani was very eminent to correct the writing of master degree holder.⁶ Nawab Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani was born on October 25, 1905, at the home of Mahboob Ali Gurmani in Kot Addu, Muzaffargarh District, Thatha Gurmani, Pakistan. His education and support were done in a richly atmosphere according to the common custom of the Nawab's of that age. He belonged to the influential Gurmani tribe in Pakistan. Several members of his family were honored with the title of Khan Bahadur by the British, including Khan Bahadur Mian Mahboob Ahmed Gurmani (d. 1875), Khan Bahadur Mian Sheikh Ahmed Gurmani, and Khan Bahadur Mian Zaman Ahmed Gurmani. He got his early education as a private candidate despite to admit in any school college. Later on, he got admission in M.A.O College Aligarh. He completed his education from there. His father Mian Mahboob Ali Gurmani had a close relation with English Government. He completed his graduation from Ali Garh. Engaging in practical politics at a young age, he joined the Unionist Party in 1930 and became a prominent leader. Nawab Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani was elected as a Member of the Legislative Council in the 1930 elections and was appointed to the Ministry of Health and Education in the province.⁷ But Mushtaq Gurmani was the first person of the Gurmani family who took interest in the national and regional politics. Nawab Mushtaq Ahmad Khan selected the member of the Punjab legislative Assembly in 1930 in his youth. He remained member till 1936. In 1937 he once again became the member of the assembly till 1945. Gurmani was appointed the joint secretary of Labour Minister of government of India. He remained the Director General of Employment and Population of India 1942 to 1945.⁸ He was selected for the planning the Employment Exchange service in India and represented the India in the Conference of international Labours in 1946. Nawab Mushtaq Gurmani was elected the Prime Minister of Bahawalpur state in 1947. He has performed different responsibilities in Bahawalpur state till 1948.⁹ When the Pakistan movement was in progress, he was a civil servant. After the freedom Pakistan he joined Muslim League.

He nominated the member of the provincial legislative assembly; later on, he became the director of publicity in Delhi. He was appointed the Minister in the government of Pakistan in 1949. He appointed the Minister of Kashmir affair in 1950-1951. He remained home Minister from 1951 to 1954.¹⁰ After this he had become the governor while I was the chief Minister. He became the governor of the Punjab in 1954. He remained Governor from November 1954 to 14 October 1955.¹¹ It is said that Gurmani was mastermind of the establishment of Republican Party, when the proceeding of EBDO was in progress against Gurmani seven members of assembly had given the witness that Governor Gurmani was also involved to make Republican Party. These Seven members were Jamil Rizvi, Gul Nawaz Khan, Ch. Mohammad Ahsan, Sh. Mohammad Saeed, Rai Nosheer Khan, Hakim Khursheed Ahmad and Qazi Mureed Ahmad.¹² When Republican Party opposed Gurmani and Republican Party demanded to Mr. Suharwardi to dismiss Gurmani as a governor. He asked to Gurmani to resign and he saved his government. After this Gurmani gave resign on 27th August 1957, when he was the governor, he was the Raja of West Pakistan. He had done all that he had wanted. Once his relative asked him. You had done everything for us, but did not stop the train here. The next day run through train stopped at Gurmani Railway Station when it was going on, because the Nawab's brother wanted to travel in it¹³

Modernity is essentially the name of deviation from tradition in every way. It is that denying attitude in which affirmation is only for one's self. The modern man wants to free himself from that historical determinism whose entire stock is continuity. This attitude has made the past unattractive for men. He wants to move beyond his personal experiences in it and is adamant about rejecting traditional ideas by putting them in full force. The results of this favorite activity of the new man are that today we do not feel any ecstasy in the mention of our elders. The traditional man must attempt to rediscover his past, he makes the relationship between past and present meaningful. From the mine of the past, he should discover the lustrous pearls whose shine can also dazzle today In 1937, he was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary for Education. He was a young and courageous player in the field of politics, always standing firm with his convictions. Even his opponents acknowledged his insight. His political journey began in undivided India and

concluded in Pakistan. Despite facing numerous challenges in his political journey, he remained steadfast. In 1942, Nawab Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani was requested by Nawab Sadiq Abbasi-V of Bahawalpur to serve as the Prime Minister of the state, and he was bestowed with the title of Nawab. From 1942 to 1947, he served as the last Prime Minister of Bahawalpur and eventually merged the state into Pakistan. After the creation of Pakistan, he was appointed as the Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs. During this time, when tensions and conflicts over Kashmir between Pakistan and India were high, he played a crucial role. In October 1949, Nawab Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani was sent as Pakistan's representative to the United Nations, where his efforts led to the signing of the ceasefire agreement and the Line of Control.

He visited Egypt and other Arab countries to gain the confidence of the Muslim world on the Kashmir issue. During the tenure of Khawaja Nazimuddin, you were appointed as the Federal Minister of Interior. He served as the Interior Minister from November 26, 1952 to October 1954. When the issue of constitution making was at hand in Pakistan, he not only proposed the One Unit scheme but also took practical steps, which facilitated the constitution-making process in Pakistan.

On October 14, 1955, he was appointed as the Governor of West Pakistan (Punjab, Sindh, NWFP, Balochistan, and Kashmir). It was a great honor that he was the all-powerful Governor of the entire West Pakistan, but due to this extraordinary position, his opponents started conspiring against him. Various tactics were used to weaken him, but he administered the duties of his office with utmost wisdom.

He remained the Governor of West Pakistan from October 14, 1955 to August 27, 1958. When Ayub Khan imposed Martial Law in October 1958 and started victimizing politicians under the black law called EBDO, he was the only politician who knocked on the doors of the court and raised his voice against the tyrant ruler.

When Ayub Khan decided to contest the presidential election against Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, Nawab Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani wholeheartedly supported Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah and bravely confronted every tyranny and oppression of Ayub Khan. In the 1965 war, he dedicated a part of his

property to the Muslim League of Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan, which is a testament to your patriotism. After 1966, you became somewhat detached from practical politics and did not participate in the 1970 general elections either. After the secession of East Pakistan, he became so disillusioned with politics that you bid farewell to practical politics forever.

In 1980, along with his family members and other elders of the clan, he laid the foundation of the Gurmani Foundation. He donated a huge sum of one billion rupees to the Lahore University of Management Sciences. He bequeathed all his property to a trust, directing that its income be used for educational and other welfare projects. He passed away on October 25, 1981, and was buried at his residence in Lahore. He had no male heir, and after his demise, his daughters carried forward this mission. They provided education and other facilities to the underprivileged people of the backward areas of Muzaffargarh District. Now, the Gurmani Foundation has educational projects running across Pakistan.

However, after the 2010 floods, his granddaughters launched projects worth millions of rupees to alleviate the educational and economic backwardness of Muzaffargarh District. These include:

- 1. Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani School System**
2. Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani Science College
3. Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani Vocational & Technical College
4. TCS School System
5. Indus Hospital
6. Water Filtration Plants

And they established several welfare institutions. He was the pride of Muzaffargarh District and our area. Many people are unaware of his educational and political services.

When Ayub Khan enforced Martial Law, he separated himself from the politics. Actually, he was a great leader of the country. But he never remained a politician of common men. On the basis of fraternity and rent holderly he remained in politics. He left politics when he saw these bases are trembling, he left the political field. After leaving politics he spent his mostly time in prayers and in study. He died in 1981. He left three daughters behind him. ¹⁴ Another member of this family was Mian

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Ghulam Gelani who belonged to this remarkable Gurmani family. but he used for him Jillani. In this family Khan Bahadur Mian Mahbob was a landlord of Thatha Gurmani and an honorary magistrate of Thatha Gurmani. He died in 1895. After him his son Mian Sheikh Ahmad made the chief of Gurmani family. He was also an honorary Magistrate. His son Ahmad Sultan was died in 1917 Punjab government admired him and gave Sheikh Ahmad 10 Sq mile land as a regard of the services of his family during war and for army. Mian Sheikh Ahmad died in 1932.¹⁵ And after him his son Mian Mahbob Ali was also appointed Zaildar, honorary magistrate and member district board. Mian Mohammad Ghulam Jillani is the son of Sultan Ahmad and was the grandson of noted Gurmani Chief Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Shaekh. He was born in 1915. He had become orphan when he was only two year and his father was died at Multan in 1917. His Family had a strong back ground in the district. His uncle, Nawab Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani served as Member Punjab Legislative Assembly, Interior Minister. He remained the Governor West Pakistan. Mian Ghulam Jilani used the word Jillani than Gurmani.¹⁶ He entered in politics and elected in the election 1945-46 from the north electoral Halqa. Mian Ghulam Jillani was the candidate of All India Muslim League while his opponent candidate was Malik Qadir Bukhsh Jhakar Unionist. The president of Muslim League Sardar Abdul Hameed Khan Dasti also visited in this Halqa and advised the people it is the time to make Muslim League strong. He said Pakistan is our destination. His speech put a magical effect and Mian Ghulam Jillani Got 7524 votes, which was a record in the district at this time. Malik Qadir Bukhsh got 3741 votes and was defeated by 3783 votes. Sardar Abdul Hameed Khan Dasti Said on this occasion Muzaffargarh is a fort of Muslim League.

Election 1945-46, Result Halqa Muzaffargarh Shumali			
Candidate	Political Party	Votes	Position
Mian Ghulam Jilani	Muslim League	7524	Winner
Malik Qadir Bakhsh Jakhar	Unionist	3741	Runner Up

In this election Nazar Hussain Shah, Pir Faiz Mohammad Shah, Malik Ali Mohammad Samtia, Fazal Ahmad Khan Sehar and all others opposed the Unionist candidate Malik Qadir Bukhsh and they were supporting Mian Ghulam Jilani the candidate of Muslim League. As result, Malik Qadir Bukhsh was defeated and Mian Ghulam Jilani elected MLA.¹⁸ After the creation of Pakistan, he remained as a senior member of Muslim League and he was including in the group of Sardar Abdul Hameed Khan Dasti in election of provincial assembly. He served as Member Punjab Legislative Assembly during 1946-47 and 1951-55; as Member, West Punjab Legislative Assembly during 1947-49 and as Member Provincial Assembly of West Pakistan during 1956-58 ¹⁹ His son Mian Tariq Gurmani is in politics. He obtained the degree of M.A. (History) in 1982 from Baha-ud-Din Zakariya University Multan. He is an agriculturist. He elected as Member District Council and has been elected as Member Provincial Assembly of the Punjab in General Elections 2002 and remained as Parliamentary Secretary for Wildlife.

Conclusion

This analytical study is mainly a summary of the social and political role of Nawab Mushtaq Ahmad Khan Garmani belonging to the Gurmani Baloch tribe at the regional level and his services in regional development. This article is an effort by the writer to make scholars, students, and locals aware of his services and social development efforts. In this historic form of study which primarily deals about the role of Mushtaq Ahmad Khan Gurmani and Gurmani Foundation. Mushtaq Ahmed Khan Garmani was one of the leading politicians and leaders of West Pakistan. Mushtaq Gurmani participated in politics during the united India and after the emergence of Pakistan; he served as Prime Minister of Bahawalpur State and the Governor of West Pakistan in 1955-1957. He recognized as an expert in political engagement, in his time and he had a special place in the politics of District Muzaffargarh. With politics, he also contributed to uplift the society. Shortly, analyzing this research article, the discussion can be summed up in such a way that the efforts of the Garmani tribe played a key role in the political and social

development of Muzaffargarh district and served the people in the fields of education and health, but for this, political and economic. Also assisted. During the British imperial period, Nawab Mushtaq Khan Gurmani and Mian Ghulam Jilani gave strong political representation to Muzaffargarh. Especially the politics of Tehsil Court Addo revolved around Garmanis.

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