



Concept Note
One Day National Seminar (Blended Mode)
28th February 2023

On
Contribution of Indian Non Muslims
to Islamic Studies

Organized by
Department of Islamic Studies, MANUU, Hyderabad

In Collaboration with
Islamic Fiqh Academy India, New Delhi

Islamic Studies is a vast and multi-dimensional discipline. It is the study of Islam and its religious sciences and different issues of life from Islamic point of view on one hand, the study of Socio-political, economical and ethical aspects of cultural diversities of the Muslim societies, settled in different parts of the world, on the other hand. Mysticism is also a very important part of Islamic Studies which includes the study of the academic works, practices, teachings and contributions of mystics. Interestingly many Non Muslim scholars and academicians had contributed a lot in many areas of Islamic Studies. In this regard the contributions of orientalist in the field of Islamic Studies and the contribution of Indian Non Muslims are very precious and remarkable.

India has a very long history of academic relation, with Islamic Studies. There have been many Muslim dynasties established in different parts of India in long periods of time in history. Those Muslim rulers appreciated the knowledge and patronized the academic works of academicians and scholars with great generosity. Not only the rulers of Sultanate and Mughal periods but also the rulers from different regional dynasties like Jaunpur, Gujrat, Kashmir, Bengal, Bahmanids and dynasties after Bahmanids also patronized the scholars and promoted their works with a great zeal. In pre and post British era many such scholars and writers contributed a lot in this field.

It is a fact that the Indian Non-Muslims have done academic works in different fields of Islamic Studies, like translation and explanation of the Quran, biographies of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the Teachings of Islam, Poetries on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Islamic Culture and Civilization and specially the History of Muslims. Mysticism has also been their area of interest as they were very impressed by the teachings and traditions of mystics in India.

The contribution of Munshi Nawal Kishore in research and publication of books on Islam and specifically on Islamic Science is a great worth. The only index of the edited and research Publication on Islamic Sciences consists of hundreds of volumes based on Quran & its explanation, Hadith and its commentaries, Fiqh and Fataawa etc. For this important cause Munshi ji has taken help of the famous muslim scholars, writers and experts of arabic language, had produced a number of notable edited books of original Islamic sources.

Many other Non Muslims have also done a great job in the field of Quran and Quranic Sciences. For instance, Vinay Kumar Awasthi has translated Tafseer-e-Majidi in Hindi language which published in 1983. His father Nand Kumar Awasthi had also done translation of Quran in Hindi Language, published in 1949. Chillukuri Narayana Rao has translated Quran in Telugu Language, published in 1930, and many other Non-Muslim scholars translated Quran in regional languages. Apart from this, Acharya Vinoba Bhave's "The Essence of the Qur'an", R.B. Harish Chandra's "Khuda-Quranic Philosophy", and O.P. Ghai's "Selections from the Quran" are the books written on Quranic Studies. On biographies of the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W), many books written by Non Muslim Scholars are also remarkable, like "Hazrat Muhammad aur Islam" by Sundar Laal, "Arab ka Chaand" by Swami Laxman, and Pandit Ved Prakash Upadhyay's "Kalki Avataar aur Muhammed Saheb" (Muhammed in the Hindu Scriptures).

The works by Non-Muslim Scholars in the field of Muslim History are also very important. Brindra Ban Das Bahadur Shahi's "Lub-ut-Tawareekh" in nine volumes is a great documentary work on Muslims and Islamic History. Munshi Sajaan Rai Bataalvi's "Khulasat-al-Tawareekh", and Munshi Ram Sahae Tamanna's "Ahsan-al-Tawareekh", Afzal-al-Tawareekh" and "Ashraf-al-Tawareekh" are important books on Indian Muslim Dynasties. Master Ram Chand wrote "Tazkira-tul_Kaamileen" on the biographies of important personalities like Ibn-e-Seena, Rumi, Saadi, Sheerazi, Urfi, Firdausi, Abul Fazal, Faizi, Mehboob-e-Ilaahi and Ameer Khusro. Like this Anand Ram Mukhlis's "Baday-e-Waqaaye" contains interesting and important informations about the decline of the Mughals. Pandit Ram Karan Joshi has thrown light on the history of Tonk in his book "Tareekh Parganaat Tonk". Like this Munshi Basavan Lal shadan's "Ameer Naama" is also an important work on the history of Tonk. Laxmi Narayan Shafeeq's "Ma'aasir-e-Aasifi" and Girdhar Lal Ahqar's "Tareekh-e-Zafarah" on the history of Hyderabad, and Ratan Singh Zakhmi's "Sultan-al-Tawareekh" on the history of Awadh are very precious books.

Poetries on Prophet Muhammad (SAW) has also remain the subject of interest of Non-Muslim writers. They had expressed their devotion and gratitude towards Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by writing such poems. Some such poets are Dillu Ram Kausary, Maharaja Sir Kishan Prashad, Munshi Shankar Lal Saqi, Manohar Lal Bihar, Jyotiba Phule and Jagan Nath Azad.

Malik Ram's "Aurat aur Islam" and writings by Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. B. N. Pandey on Islamic Studies in the contemporary period are worth mentioning.

In conclusion, it could be said that the contributions of Non Muslim Scholars in various fields of Islamic Studies are not only highly valuable and important, but also this is the demand of the time to explore such contributions in the context of Islam, to promote harmony among different groups of religious communities. This should be brought to the fore, and these details should come to the hands of the scholars, and by taking analysis of their

value, the new generation should be made aware of this valuable asset of Indian composite culture. This step would be helpful in promoting “Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb” of India. And this initiative would highlight the participation of India in Islamic Studies, which will surely create the environment of peace and harmony among different religious communities in India, and will foster the atmosphere of communal harmony, tolerance and respect for each other. This will also strengthen the academic relationship, which would lead to new horizons of knowledge and Research.

MANUU is now celebrating its Silver Jubilee year. It will be a contribution from Department of Islamic Studies to academic world and to our beloved country to organize a National Seminar on such important theme.

It is requested to prepare the paper on core or co related subject of the theme.

1. The Contribution of Non Muslims to Islamic Sciences

- Quranic Translations, Tafaseer and Quranic Sciences by Indian Non-Muslim Scholars.
- Indian Non Muslim scholars and Prophet Muhammad (SAW).
- Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in poetries of Indian Non Muslims Poets.

2. Writings of Indian Non-Muslims on History of Muslim culture and civilization.

- History of Indian Muslim Culture and Civilization.
- History of Muslim Culture in different regions of India by Non-Muslims.
- Islamic Culture and civilization and Non-Muslim writers.

3. Indo-Islamic Culture.

- Impact of India on Muslim Culture and Civilization.
- Impact of Islam on Indian Civilization.

4. Islamic Teachings and Ideologies and Indian Non-Muslim Writers.

- Books of Indian Non-Muslim Writers on the Teachings of Islam.
- Contributions of Indian Non-Muslim Scholars to Islamic thoughts and Ideologies.

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Important Dates for papers:

- Abstract Submission : 25th January 2023
- Confirmation of Acceptance : 27th January 2023
- Submission of Full Paper : 20th February 2023

Papers should be in Urdu or English, and to be mailed to below ID:

seminardois2022@gmail.com, 7505279270, 9885775629.