

A STUDY OF HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF EDUCATION FOR MUSLIM WOMEN IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE ROLE OF ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

Aauthor

Tasneem Yusuf

Supervisor

Prof Talat Aziz

I.A.S.E., Faculty of
Education

Jamia Millia Islamia

The present study is an attempt to understand the social and historical aspects of education for Muslim women with special reference to the contribution of Aligarh Muslim University. The study deals with the period ranging from late 19th century up to the end of the 20th century.

The study had set before itself the following objectives:

- 1 To provide some description of the state and status of education among the Muslim women in the later half of the 19th century and the pre-independent India.
- 2 To document the efforts of individuals and institutions who contributed to the debate on education for Muslim women.
- 3 To critically examine the thoughts and endeavours of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and his contemporaries in promoting education of Muslim women.
- 4 To analyse the role of Muslim Education Conference (an offshoot of the Aligarh Movement) in creating and clarifying issues in education for Muslim women.
- 5 To document the history of the establishment of girls' school in Aligarh (which later developed into Women's College) and study its role in the spread of education among Muslim girls.
- 6 To study the role of Aligarh Muslim University in relation to the spread of higher learning among Muslim women during the last five decades.

The study deals with the period ranging from late 19th century up to the end of the 20th century. The present thesis carries ten chapters including the introduction and the conclusion. The second chapter examines the colonial perception of education of women in Indian society in the early 19th and 20th century through various documents that were officially produced during the time. The purpose is to understand the extent of the presence and absence of Muslim women at various levels and areas of education.

Chapter III examines the concern for Muslim women's education as represented in the

Urdu novels written between 2nd half of the 19th century up to 1912 in north India. The chapter selects the universe of Urdu novels written by men and women who were actively engaged in the issue of women's education. The chapter explores how the authors use the literary medium of novels for the purpose of bringing about a major change in the moods, manners and social customs which were creating obstacles in the educational uplift of Muslim women. The chapter selects two novelists, Deputy Nazir Ahmad and Maulana Atlat Hussain Hali for their novels that focused on the educational transformation of Muslim women.

Chapter IV examines some popular Urdu magazines around early 20th century for the information and ideas relevant to Muslim education. The chapter explores the relationship between the contents of the articles and the agenda of social reform and social relevance related to Muslim women's education. Another area which the chapter examines in the various magazines is the depiction of the struggle and tension between women's world in the household and outside, between the religious and secular knowledge.

Chapter V focuses on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and his contemporaries for their role in promoting the cause of education among Muslim women. The group is divided into three sub-groups related to three distinct phases of the movement for educating Muslim women. The personalities described in the three phases belong to the generation that may be termed as contemporaries of Syed Ahmad Khan.

The seventh Chapter is a case account of Muslim Girls' Intermediate College at Aligarh that owes its origin to the efforts of Sheikh Abdullah.

The Eighth chapter is an account of Aligarh Muslim University and the development of Muslim women's education. The complex story of women's participation in various curricular activities are traced as well as the reach of female students to subjects where they were earlier absent, is outlined.

The Ninth chapter focuses on selected case studies of female alumni of Aligarh Muslim University. These cases were selected during the course of doing the present research. The chapter relates to the profile of selected female students who were admitted for various courses in the university and passed out with professional and non-professional degrees. The chapter examines the mutual influence of the processes of education and society in the biographies of female alumni.