

## State Patronage By The British Raj Grants in Aid or Political Pensions In Ludhiana District

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### GRANTS IN AID OR POLITICAL PENSIONS IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT

Delving deep into the etymology of the word “Patronage” we find that the word has been derived from the Latin word *patronus* which meant protector/father. Today the word refers to the support, protection, or encouragement that a patron gives to a person, cause, or an institution. Earlier also in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, patronage largely meant the support or favour provided by rulers to those who held influence with the general population; the purpose was to help them in various ways to maintain their popularity. This tradition of giving grants has an ancient history in India. These grants were known as *brahmadeya*, *agrahara*, and *devadana* in ancient times and *milk*, *wazifa*, *in'am*, *augafand* *rozina* during medieval times. The terms *milk*, *amlak*, *siyurghal* and *madad-i-ma'ash* became current During the Mughal times. The term *madad-i-ma'ash* continued to be used in the late eighteenth century but the term *dharmarth* came to be widely used. The terms like *ardasnama*, *ikramama*, *bhetnama* and *bakhsishnama* have been used for *sanads*, containing the information regarding grants. The terms *uz-dharm-khurd*, *dharmnama* and *sibanama* were used on rare occasions.<sup>1</sup> In the context of the region of Punjab the grant named *dharmarth* constituted a significant part of the state patronage under the rulers. It meant the land revenue alienated in favour of a religious individual or institution by a ruler or subordinate acting in his place. It was given as a religious duty.<sup>2</sup> It is significant to note that the grants bestowed upon the recipients were of many kinds under the British rule. Present article will explore specifically the patronage provided by the British in the form of grant-in-aid to educational institutes and political pensions in Ludhiana District,

#### I

The British gave aid or pensions to different types of institutions or persons. Under them the needs of even private educational institutions were taken care of through grants in aid. As a result, it boosted the growth of many private schools. The Presbyterian Christian Mission was the first mission established under British rule in Ludhiana in 1834. It was first of its kind in Punjab. This mission established many educational institutes not only in Ludhiana but also in other different cities of Punjab. *Ludhiana Mission School* received a grant of 125 rupee in 1861.<sup>3</sup> *Ludhiana Female Mission School* received 51 rupees as grant from the British Government in 1861. *The Christian Boy's Boarding School* received a grant worth rupees 2015 from the British Government in 1907.<sup>4</sup> *The City Mission High School of Non-Christians* received a grant of 1967 rupees in aid.<sup>5</sup> This mission also had three branch schools in different places. While the first, Branch was

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near the main School, second was near town Hall and last was in Maliganj. All three branch schools received 24 rupees of grant in 1907 C.E.<sup>6</sup>

*The North India School of Medicine* for Christian women was established in Ludhiana in 1894 C.E. by Miss Edith Brown. This place was chosen for the school because Miss Greenfield kindly placed the clinical work of the Ludhiana Zenana Hospital at the disposal of the school, and because an empty school building was available there. The school was opened with four medical students, two compounders, and two doctors of the American Presbyterian Mission. The amount that was granted to this school as donations and subscriptions was Rs.9000 that year. On the other hand, the Baptist Zenana Mission also promised a yearly subscription of Fifty Pounds to this school. The Memorial Hospital was also opened in the year 1900, along with this school. Between 1885 to 1905, the Punjab Government provided land for the expansion of the Hospital. The Municipal Committee and District Board also sanctioned annual grants-in-aid to it. In 1906, after the school lived up to the expectations of annual inspection of the Punjab Government, it received generous Grants-in-aid for numerous causes like the grants for students or nurses in training, for enlarging the Hospital, or for the purchase of better teaching apparatus.<sup>7</sup>

In the year 1911, the name of the school founded by Dr Edith Mary Brown was changed from *The North India School of Medicine for Christian Women* to *The Women's Christian Medical College*. In 1915, the Punjab Government closed their Women's Department at Lahore Medical College, transferring all the girls, both Christian and non-Christian, to Ludhiana. The name was again changed to *The Punjab Medical School for Women*.<sup>8</sup> During the year 1906, the Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 11,355 for the purchase of apparatus. For Hospital on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1909, this institute received a grant of Rs. 2000 per annum for three years, and shortly afterwards, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1909 government renewed the sanction for another three years of the Grant-in-aid to the School on the condition of improvement.<sup>9</sup> In 1915, the Punjab Government gave two scholarships of Rs. 20 per menses each tenable for four years were awarded annually to non-Christian students entering the Sub-Assistant Surgeon class. In the School of Pharmacy for the training of Compounders government awarded four scholarships of the value of Rs. 10 per menses each tenable for two years to non-Christian students.<sup>10</sup> In March 1924, the Government gave Rs. 72,460 total Grant-in-aid to this institution, out of which Rs. 7200 for the year 1923-24 was extra sanctioned for the employment of three extra teachers.<sup>11</sup> During the same year, apart from the Government, the Faridkot State issued a Grant-in-aid of Rs. 500 to this institute.<sup>12</sup>

During World War II, and before April 1943, the Government of Punjab provided a grant to this institution of Rs. 80,360 per annum. In 1942, the institution's authorities requested additional financial aid from the Government on the grounds that, due to the international situation, subscriptions and donations from abroad had decreased, and expenses had risen significantly across all items owing to high prices. It was realised that the institution might not be able to operate without the additional assistance of Rs. 15000. In 1944, the Government recommended this special war emergency grant to the institution until 1947-48.<sup>13</sup>

The other missionary group name *The Salvation Army*,\* established a School at Ludhiana in November 1908. This school was also known as Sir Louis Dane Weaving School (*Sir Louis Dane was a Lt. Governor of Punjab at that time*).<sup>14</sup> This school was started

with an object of being not merely a school of instruction or a factory for the production of cloth, but, so far as possible, a central heart and head for the promotion of the Hand loom weaving Industry of the Punjab. This school held under the premises of Old Ludhiana fort. The Punjab Government had granted it a donation of Rs. 2800, a loan of Rs. 5000 at 6.25 percent interest and a subsidy of Rs. 3000.<sup>15</sup> In 1910, this school also gave free instructions to the Punjab weavers.<sup>4</sup> During this time several District Boards had sent weavers to take training in the Sir Louis Dane Weaving School, and paying their travelling expenses.<sup>17</sup> To improve the condition of weavers and to teach them methods of weaving, the Government of Punjab gave a grant of Rs. 300 per menses to this Salvation Army Weaving School of Ludhiana from 1908 to 1911.<sup>18</sup> In 1912, the Punjab Government approved an additional grant of Rs. 100 per menses to this institution for the scholarship of weavers from outside Ludhiana who were taking training in this institution.<sup>19</sup>

Apart from the schools of Christian missionaries, Arya School for Boys, Arya School for Girls, established in 1903, received government aid during the British Raj.<sup>20</sup> *Hindi Parcharak High School (Sanatan Dharam Parcharak School)* was established in 1904, it is located on Hazuri Road. The British Government brought this school on the Grant-in-aid list in 1922-23. This school, during the year 1924-25, received Rs. 1013 and in 1925-26 received Rs. 1272 aid from the Government. Islamia High School, established by Anjuman-I-Islamia, also brought on the Grant-in-aid list in 1922-23 by the British Government. During the year 1924-25, this school received Rs. 1534, and in 1925-26 received Rs. 2088 aid from the Government.<sup>21</sup>

## II

Now talk about the refugees who received pensions from the British government in Ludhiana District. Many of the political pensions the British Government gave in Ludhiana went to the Sadozai royal family of Kabul. The members of this family were the descendants of two kings of Afghanistan who made that place their asylum, namely, Shah Zaman and Shah Shuja. Shah Zaman was the first Afghan elite to be granted a British pension in Ludhiana in 1801. When Shah Shuja was exiled from Kabul, he arrived in Ludhiana at the end of September 1816. The British decided to give an annual pension of Rs. 50,000 for Shah Shuja. This figure included all previous arrangements with his dependents including his wife Wafa Begum and remained valid while he and his household remained under British jurisdiction.<sup>22</sup> The Afghan King resided in a building Bhadaur House, (then the Bhadaur fort) near Mata Rani Chowk, where the Central Post is located these days.<sup>23</sup> Even after the death of Shah Shuja, the British Government continued to provide pensions to members of the Sadozai family and other Afghan refugee in Ludhiana. After Shah Shuja, Shehzada Shahpur, son of Shah Shuja received an allowance of Rs. 4800 per annum from the Government until he died in 1884, when Shehzada Nadir was president of the Municipal Committee, an Honorary Magistrate, Sub-Registrar of Ludhiana, a provincial Darbari, and enjoyed a pension of Rs. 3600 per annum.<sup>24</sup> Sardar Safdar Jang, another son of Shah Shuja, died in 1899 and his pension of Rs. 3000 lapsed to the Government except a compassionate allowance of Rs. 1080 per annum which was divided up among his three widows and five daughters. His son Muhammad Rafiq Jang was a record keeper in Ludhiana.<sup>25</sup>

Saleh Muhammad Khan Came to Ludhiana from Kabul in 1842 with the British. He received 1000 rupees per menses of pension. His son Yar Muhammad Khan got a 500-rupee pension per menses.<sup>26</sup> After the death of Yar Muhammad, his two widowed wives and four children were left behind. In 1893, the British granted 200 rupees as an aggregate grant to Yar Muhammad's family members. Out of which Rs. 80/- per menses was to be given to Yar Muhammad's son, Ahmed Yar Khan for a lifetime. Mehbub Sultan Begum and Be Nazir Begum widows of Yar Muhammad received 45 rupees each per month till death or remarriage. Three Daughters of Be Nazir Begum received 10 rupees each per menses from the British until their death or remarriage.<sup>27</sup> In 1904, there was only one women left from his family who got a pension of Rs. 120 a month.<sup>28</sup>

Mussammat Korish Begum received a compassionate allowance of rupee 10/- a month for life during widowhood in 1897. She was the widow of Sultan Azad of Ludhiana. Sultan Azad was a grandson of Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk.<sup>29</sup> Mussammat Mahbub Sultan Begum widow of the late Sardar Alamgir (Extra Assistant Commissioner under the Government of India) died on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1900. She has enjoyed a charitable pension of Rs. 50/- per menses. After death, she left seven children. They demanded the British Government to continue this pension. But the British Government allowed only three of those children to be pensioned. British Government in 1901 approved Musammat Faruq Begum and Mussammat Durrani Begum the unmarried daughters of Mahbub Sultan Begum, received 5 rupees each per menses Charitable pension and 10 rupees to minor son Ghulam Mustafa, whose pension should lapse on his attaining the age of 18 or failing to attend a school.<sup>30</sup> The two widows of Sheikh Nizam-ud-din of Ludhiana (the great-grandson of Shah Shuja) named Agar Sultan Begum, got pension of Rs. 10/- per menses and the second widow Mussammat Nawab Sultan Begum received a pension of Rs. 5/- per menses in 1904 from the British till her death or remarriage.<sup>31</sup> In 1922 C.E. British Government increased the political pension of certain members of the Saddozai family. Here list is given in which showing the Saddozai family members whose pensions were increased in 1922 C.E.

Timur Shah was the son of Shah Shuja. Timur Shah's son, Sultan Jalal-ud-Din, was instrumental in saving the lives of some members of the American Christian Mission at Ludhiana in 1857, for which service he received a special reward. He died in 1892, and half of his annual allowance of Rs. 3000 was apportioned to his three surviving sons and his widow and his daughter-in-law.<sup>32</sup> In 1925 British Government granted a political pension to the dependents of the late Sardar Muhammad Tahir, Saddozai. He was a descendant of the fourth generation of Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk and the son of Sardar Sultan Sikandar, who supported the British Government in the Mutiny of 1857. He had received a life pension of Rs. 300/- per menses. After his death, he left one widow, Musammat Nawab Sultan Begam. Then she was 50 years old. The British granted a pension of Rs. 40 /- per menses for life or until her marriage. Apart from this, Sardar Muhammad Tahir's three sons from his other wife were also alive. The eldest Sardar Muhammad Jahangir was a widower, aged 62. He was granted a pension of Rs. 40/- per menses. The second son was Sardar Sultan Ali, who was 53. He received a political pension of Rs. 75/—per menses. The third son, Sardar Muhammad Zaffar, was once an Urdu copyist in the Deputy Commissioner's office at Ludhiana. The British granted him a political pension of Rs. 10/—per mensem.<sup>33</sup>

**Table. 1**  
**Increased in pension and Grant of new pension to Saddozai family members**

Serial No.	Name of The Pensioner of the Saddozai Family	Amount of Original pension	Amount of raised or continued pension in 1922
1.	Kaisar Maluk Age 60	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
2.	Badar-ud-Din, Age 50	Rs 5/-	Rs 7/-
3.	Muhammad Mukarram	Rs 5/-	Rs 7/-
4.	Tahawar Jang, Age 50	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
5.	Mussammat Fatma Begum, Age 55	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
6.	Mussammat Kiyani Begum, Age 55	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
7.	Mussammat Sharafat Begum, Age 53	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
8.	Mussammat Durrani Begum, Age 48	Rs 5/-	Rs 7/-
9.	Muhammad Amtul Faruq Begum, Age 50	Rs 5/-	Rs 7/-
10.	Muhammad Zafar-ud-Din, Age 43	Rs 20/-	Rs 23/-
11.	Mussammat Sarwar Sultan, Age 30	Rs 8/-	Rs 10/-
12.	Mussammat Aghar Sultan Begum, Age 50	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
13.	Mussammat Akhtar Zamani Begum, Age 50	Rs 6/-	Rs 8/-
14.	Mussammat Hajabat Begum, Age 30	Rs 5/-	Rs 7/-
15.	Mussammat Fakhra Sultan Begum, Age 55	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
16.	Mussammat Sharaf Sultan Begum, Age 50	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
17.	Mussammat Kamar Sultan Begum, Age 54	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
18.	Mussammat Aflahah Sultan Begum, Age 50	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
19.	Mussammat Nastaran Begum, Age 65	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
20.	Mussammat Aishan Begum, Age 30	Rs 5/-	Rs 7/-
21.	Mussammat Hayat Begum, Age 60	Rs 4/-	Rs 6/-
22.	Mussammat Bi Sahiba, Age 65	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-
23.	Mussammat Wali-un-Nisa,	Rs 5/-	Rs 7/-
24.	Saulat Jang	-	Rs 10 Continued
25.	Mohammad Adham	Rs 100/-	Rs 10/-
26.	Mussammat Anwar Jan	Rs 10 Compassionate allowance + Rs 10 Military Pension	Rs 10/-

Source: - *Foreign and Political Department: Frontier, 9 December 1922, File No. 210-7, Serial Nos. 1-2, National Archives of India, New Delhi.*

The Family of Abdul Rahman Khan, the Nawab of Jhajjar executed in 1857, were sent here after the Mutiny. This family received an aggregate of 2300 rupees of pension in 1889.<sup>34</sup> In 1915 C.E. Mussamat Gauhar Zamani Begam another family member of the Jhajjar family who resided in Ludhiana received Rs. 7/8/- menses Charitable pension from the British Government. The official reports said that Mussamat Gauhar was the widow of Nasir Ali Khan who also received a pension from the British of about Rs. 16/10/8. He died in 1913 leaving behind Mussamat and a son named Imtiaz Ali from his first wife, who had died. Since her husband's death, she had been supporting herself by selling her household goods. In these circumstances, local officers had recommended the grant of a charitable pension to Mussamat Gauhar.<sup>35</sup> In 1898, the British granted an aggregate of Rs. 50/- per month pensions to certain family members of the Late Faizal Hassan Khan of Jhajjar in Ludhiana District. Siraj-ud-din Khan, son of Faizal Hassan, got 15 rupees per menses, Mussammat Karam Nisa, widow of Faizal

Hassan, got 25 rupees and Daughter Mussammat Shirafat Nissa received a Rs 10/- per menses grant from the British.<sup>36</sup> Another family who received a pension was the family of the Late Sirdar Ahmed Ali Khan who resided in Rawalpindi or received 369 rupees of pension from the British in 1891 C.E. But this family requested the British to permit to reside in Ludhiana with all pensions which they were getting in Rawalpindi and permission was granted them to reside in Ludhiana with all previous benefits in 1894 C.E.<sup>37</sup>

The main reason for the British providing pensions to Afghan rulers was purely political. The British initially provided pensions and asylum to Afghan rulers such as Shah Shuja because they believed that Shah Shuja was a deposed former ruler. They supported and pensioned him in the hope that he would become pro-British once he regained his throne. This would enable Afghanistan to act as a buffer state against Russian expansion into India, thereby protecting their valuable colony of India. However, the British later attempted to capture Kabul themselves. Apart from this, some Afghans remained loyal to the British during 1857 uprising and they helped the British during the uprising and saved the life of Christian missionaries in Ludhiana. Due to which the British provided jobs and pensions to some afghans as reward.

## CONCLUSION

In this article, we aimed to understand the patronage provided by the British Government in Ludhiana, even though most research on State Patronage in Indian history has focused on the patronage given by Indian rulers. Through this article, we have attempted to ascertain what kind of patronage was mainly offered by the British Government in Ludhiana and to whom. Of course, the purpose of providing political pensions by the British Government was to fulfil its political interests. But these pensions also fostered a class loyal to the British. On the other hand, the financial aid given to educational institutions in Ludhiana significantly contributed to the development of education in the district.

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- \**The Salvation Army* was founded by William Booth in 1865 at London. This is a Protestant Christian Church and Charitable organisation operated on a military pattern.
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