



## Sindh in Persian Age: A Research work by Dr. Zahoor Ud Din Ahmad

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**Abstract:** Dr. Zahoor ud Din Ahmad ( 1914- 2014), a renowned writer and internationally acclaimed Scholar of Persian Language and Literature in Pakistan and his best expertise is “ Persian Language and Literature in Pakistan in 06 Volumes” and the editing of Persian Manuscripts with their introduction and best description for Persian world. The first and most important goal of his life was the development and promotion of Persian literature. To achieve this goal, he spent a long period of his life spanning almost a century with great joy, patience and perseverance. Dr. Zahoor ud Din Ahmed has rendered invaluable services to the Persian language and literature. He has authored , edited, translated about 60 books in Urdu, Persian and English and also hundreds of research articles on topics ranging from history, biographies especially Persian Literature.

His major work is the book of Persian Literature in Pakistan in 06 volumes named: ( Persian Works in Pakistan) پاکستان میں فارسی ادب. These volumes are considered the Master pieces of Persian Language and Literature. This is noteworthy that almost one chapter of every volume consists the history, culture and Persian Literature of Sindh. Although Dr. Nabi Bakhsh Baloch did a pioneering work on the classic Persian literature of Sindh in 10 volumes, but Dr. zahoor has also outlined the contributions of prominent Sindhi Researchers, Poets, Writers, Saints Books especially in the field of Persian Language and Literature and said that Sindhi scholars have played significant role in the development and revival of Persian Literature. His work is a chronology of events (He describes the historic and literary events and description of Persian sources chronologically.) and also a critical description of Persian Language and Literature in Sindh. Three Volumes of this great book have been translated (in Persian) and published in Tehran,Iran.

Furthermore, Dr. Zahoor ud Din Ahmad had close association with different eminent Literary figures of Sindh like Pir Hassam ud Din Rashidi and Dr. Ghulam Muhammad lakho etc.

The primary objective of this research is to acknowledge and describe the efforts of Dr. Zahoor ud Din Ahmad towards History, Lexicography, Culture and Persian Literature in Sindh.

**Key Words:** Dr. Zahoor ud Din Ahmad, Persian Literature in Sindh, Persian Literature in Pakistan ( پاکستان میں فارسی ادب)

### I. INTRODUCTION

Dr. Zahoor-ud-Din Ahmed (1914-2014) has been an erudite scholar who rendered his entire life for the development of Persian Literature. A centenarian who dedicated his whole life for Literature, Dr.Ahmed was an embodiment of persistence and perseverance. The salient features of his personality were sincerity, selflessness and nobility. He was a kind-hearted Professor, and an extra-ordinary intellectual who had a vast panorama of research article (in Urdu, Persian and English) on his credit. Dr. Zahoor ud Din Ahmed’s oeuvre consists of a myriad of such scholarly works that speak volumes for his vast study of literature. The six volume work “Persian Literature in Pakistan”(1) is an extensive work of research that Dr. Zahoor ud Din Ahmed compiled. This excellent work of research consists of the great political and literary contribution of the Indo-Pak subcontinent towards Persian Literature. This extensive research work consists of three thousand seven hundred and eighty seven( 3787 ) pages that were compiled by Dr. Ahmed’s tireless efforts, and his access to thousands of rare manuscripts, and he has also edited and consulted numerous of manuscripts for critical evaluation of life history and works of literary personalities and find out the accurate historical figures.(2) This scholarly work is now considered to be the reference book for every student of Persian Literature. Dr. Zahoor ud Din Ahmad is well respected in the intellectual community in and outside the country as he has been honored by “ Writer guild” Award in 1969 In Pakistan and “ *Iraj Afshar Award*” in 1993 in Iran for his lifetime achievements.(3)

His books consist of vast range of topics that demonstrate his command over his work. He had a special interest in manuscripts. Dr.Moeen Nizami states his observation regarding Dr.Zahoor-ud-Din Ahmed's keen insight regarding the rare manuscripts:

He has an extraordinary command rare ability I call him "The Father Of Manuscripts is just like a Sufi who grts submerged in the way to "sulook-o-Irfan, Dr.Ahmed too has immersed himself in these Manuscripts". I have observed this quality in just another person whose name is Dr. Arif Noshahi."(4)

The same Dr. Noshahi express his views about Dr.Zahoor-ud-Din-Ahmed's book "Persian Literature in Pakistan" in these words: This is the first organized and comprehensive work on Persian Literature. Since it is the outcome of one man's labour, it deserves accolades. The distinctive feature of this book is its author's direct approach to ancient texts. It not only gives an elaborate introduction to the texts under discussion' it also points out the merits and demerits of the said texts. Moreover, there is a possibility that there will be very few errors that sometimes occur due to the use of secondary sources in research."

The salient aspect of this wonderful work is that it deals with the ancient province of Sindh in a peculiar manners that is the cradle of an ancient culture and civilization. Sindh is also important for being the seat of Persian Language and Literature. Despite the fact that the British Imperialism put restrictions upon the development and propagation of Persian language and Literature in the colonized Sindh, the land still bears the indelible marks of Persian language and art. Dr.Zahoor-ud-Din Ahmed delineates the political, economic, social and literary history of Sindh along with the Persian influence in other provinces. His writing style is captivating and giving in to details. He gives a detailed introduction of the region, its historical background, its government system including autocracy, Persian Literature and how it gained currency in Sindhi poets and writers of this region and their detailed introduction are the salient aspects of this amazing piece of research. He gives a comprehensive introduction to the poets and Sufis of Sindh, for example: Mir Masoom Bhakkari , Laal Shehbaz Qalander, Fazil Harwi, Hazrat Sacchal Sarmast, Shah Abdul Latif Bhitae, etc.

Dr.Zahoor-ud-Din Ahmed has consulted some valuable sources during the compilation of this book. These sources include Chach Nama, the history of Ibn-e-Hawqal al- Nasibi, Muhammad Ibn-e-Ahmed Maqdisi's Ahsan Al-Taqaaseem Fi Marifatil Aqaleem."

As regards the history of Sindh, Dr.Zahoor-ud-Din mentions the following dynasties, rulers and administrates.

**\*Somrah (Somru) Dynasty:**

Somrah-448 Hijrah,Bhongar-446 Hijrah,

Doda-491 Hijrah,Sanghar-503 Hijrah

Phato-510 Hijrah,Omer-556 Hijrah,

Hajjo-570 Hijrah,Dodah-600 Hijrah

Khaira-619 Hijrah, Tae-486 Hijrah,

Bhongar-648 Hijrah, Chanaisar-696 Hijrah,

Dodah-700 Hijrah,Bhongar-740 Hijrah,

Omer-775 Hijrah, Tahir-813 Hijrah,

Ormail-822 Hijrah, Humair-843 Hijrah

**\*Samma Dynasity:**

Annar Bin Babnita(founder)

Jaam Jonah Bin Babniya(he ruled for 13 year)

Jaam Tamachi Bin Jaam Annar

Jaam Khair-ud-Din(son)

Jaam Babniya(son ruled: 15 years)

Jaam Tamachi ,son of Khair-ud-Din (second son, ruled:13 years)

Jaam Salahu-ud-Din(ruled 11 years)

Jaam Nizam-ud-Din(son)

Jaam Ali Sher Bin Tamachi(ruled:4 years)

Jaam Karan

JaamFateh Khan Bin Sikander(ruled for 15 years and few months)

Jaam Tughlak Bin Sikander (ruled for 28 years)

Jaam Sikander(son)1.5 years

Jaam Sanjar-866-874 Hijrah

JaamNanda Bin Babniya Bin Annar Bin Salahuddin BinTamach;;874-924 Hijrah

Jaam Feroz:924-926 Hijrah

**\*Arghon Tribe:926-961Hijrah**

Jaam Babniya(son ruled:15 year)

Jaam Tamachi,son of Kai

\*Shah Beg Arghon (926-928)

\*Shah Hassan (928-962)

**The Tarkhans:(962-1001 Hijrah)**

-Mirza Eisa TarKhan (962-980 Hijrah)

-Mirza Muhammad Baqi(Son) He was the ruler of Thatta (993-Hijrah)

-Sultan Muhmmad Khan,ruler of Bhakkar (982 Hijrah)

-Mirza Jani Beg

-Jala-ud-Din Muhmmad Akbar entered Sindh in 1001 hijrah

-Mirza Ghazi Beg Khan

**-The Moghul Empire (lasted from 1001-1118 hijrah)**

Nawab Zafar Khan

Khaneh Zad Khan

Hafiz-ullah Khan

Amir Abuil Qasim Sultan

Mir Abdul Razzaq

AbulMakarim Shuhood

### **\*Books and Tazkirahs:**

Beglar Nameh, Tarikh-e-Tahiri, Tarikan-e-Sindh, Chach Nameh or Fateh Nameh, Roza tu Salatin, Idraki Namah, Lataif Nameh, Jawahir-ul-Ajaeb, Tuhfatul-Habib, Sanabi-ul-Hassan, Haft Kishwar, Jawami-ul-Hikayat, Rahat-ul-Qulab, Asrar-ul-Awliya, Fawaid-us-Salikin, Kitab-ul-Aurad, Tazkira-e-Hamidiyya, Tazkira-e-Qutubiyya, Siraj-ul-Hidaya, Jawahar-e-Jalali, Khazana-e-Jalali, Mansha'at-e-Mahroo, Jawahar-ul-Quran, Chanaiser Nameh, Tuhfa-tul-Ikram, Maqalaat-us-Shuara, Hadiqa-tul-Auliya, Tuhfa tu-t-Tahirin, Farhang-e-Rashidi, Muntakhabat-ul-Lughaat-e-Shah Hamidani, Mansha'at-e-Namkin Nigar Nameh, Tarkhaan Namah, Zakheerat-ul-Khawaneen, Tazkira-e-Mashaikh-e-Sewistan, Risalah Fatahiyya, Dalil-ul-Zakireen, Yemen-ul-Barakat.

**Academic Books:** Miftahul Makhan, sharh-e-Makhzan, Sharh-e-Makham, Sharh-e-Mathnavi are the books, that have been discussed in detail.

Dr. Zahoor-ud-Din Ahmed also discusses the scholars, poets, sufi and noble man of Sindh in great detail in this book.

Ulema and Religious scholars of Sindh:

Sheikh Hammad Jalali Bin Sheikh Rashid-ud-Din (during the reign of Jaam Tamachi, residence of samoi)

Sheikh Eisa Burhanpuri, Sindhi (died: 831 Hijrah)

Asir-ud-Din, son of, Makhdom Abdul Aziz Muhaddis (in the regin of Jaam Feroz)

Syed Ali Sani Shirazi (989, compiled: Adaab-ul-Muridain)

Sheikh Hussein Safaee (died: 931 Hijrah)

Laal Shahbaz Qalander, Sheikh Usman Marniandi (died: 673 hijrah)

Hakem Syed Hameed-ud-din (died: 737)

Ganj Shakar, Sheikh Fareed-ud-Din Masud (compiled "Rahat-ul-Qulub", Asrar-ul-Auliya, Fawaid-us-salikin, Ganj-e-Asrar, Risalah-e-Wujudiyya, Jogi Nameh)

Sheikh Bahauddin Zakariyya Multan

Sheikh Jamal-ud-Din Abu Bakr Bin Sheikh Abdul Fateh

Syed Jalal-ud-Din Bukhari Makhdoom Jahaniyan, Jahan Gasht.

Sheikh Suleman Saifi Sindhi (died: 1005)

Sheikh Eisa Jand-ul-Lah (962-1031)

Sheikh Buba Fateh Mohammad (died: 1084)

### **The Poets and Compilers of Sindh:**

Jaam Nand (died: 914 Hijrah) the ruler and Poet of Thatta.

Shah Beg Arghan

Shah Hassan Beg, Poetic name: "Sipahi"

Sheikh Obaid-ul-Lah (died: 952 Hijrah)

Abdul Baqi, son of, Sheikh Kala (grandson of Bahaud-Din Zakariya)

Sheikh Mehmmud Sheikh Bin Abu Saeed Porani Arabshahi (died: 962 Hijrah)

Shah Hussein Takdari (compiled Rauza-tul-Salatin)

Maulan Maslihind-Din Lari (compiled:Footnotes of Tafseer-e-Baizavi,Sharh-e-Farsi Mantiq)

Sheikh Abdullah Muttaqi

Mirza Jani Beg Halimi Bin Mirza Paenda Beg(died:1008 Hijrah)

Mirza Ghazi Beg Khan

Da'ae Mullah Jelal(during the reign of Mirza Jani Beg)(died:1000 Hijrah)

Mohammad Roshan Thattari(died:1009)

Mohammad Reza Bhakkari(during the reign of sultan Mehmmod, the ruler of Bhakkar)

Jehangir Hashmi(wrote Massnavi:Mazhar-ul-Asar)

The ruler:Syed Hamid-ud-Din(died:737)

Makhdoom Sheikh Muhammad AL-husni Al-Jilani

Haider Kaloch Niazi(died:959)

Mir Masoom Bhakkari(Historian,Calligrapher,Poet,Wrote the History of Sindh)

Fakhri Harwi (compiled Lataif Nameh,Jawahar-ul-Ajab,Tuhfat-ul-Habib)

It is important to note that Dr.Zahoor-ud-Din Ahmed wrote an extensive,26 page article on the life and times of Fakhri Harwi( 5)

\*Ain-ul-Mulk Mahroo

\*Mullah Ahmed Thattavi

\*Mir Razi-ud-Din Fidaee

\*Hafiz Dawood Badini

\*Muhammad Roshan Thattavi(died:1009)

\*Salami Thattavi

\*Shohrati

\*Ziai-e-Multani

\*Rezai Thattavi

\*Idraki Beg

\*Muhammad Tahir Nisyani

\*Sheikh Fareed Bhakkari

\*Mir Abdul Qasim Namkeen

\*Mullah Abdul Rasheed Thattari

\*Mathra Das Kanboh Multani

\*Nusrat Bin Jamal Al-Multani

\*Ali Bin Ahmed Bin Abu Bakr Kufi(compiled/translated Chach Nameh/Fateh Nameh)

\*Sadid-ud-Din Muhammad Afi (wrote many books including “Labaab ul-Albab”, Jawami-ul-Hikayat-wa-Lawami-ul-Riwayat)

All the above mentioned detail is derived from only two volumes, whereas the whole volumes allocate six hundred pages to Sindh History. Dr. Zahoor-ud-Din Ahmed has done an extensive research while compiling his magnum opus. His excellent work on Persian Literature is not only useful for the Pakistani readers of Persian studies but also greatly beneficial for Iranians and the ones living in the Central Asian region.

There is no doubt that this scholarly work has been a great milestone in the field of Sindhology. This book has been translated into Persian, by Dr. Shahid Chaudhary, Professor, Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies, Iran.(6) This Book has paved a way for Central Asian Countries and Islamic Republic of Iran to know more about Sindh and Pakistan.

Dr. Ghulam Rabbani Aziz writes in a letter to Dr. Zahoor-ud-Din Ahmed: “You have sacrificed the best part of your life for writing this book. This work is extraordinarily valuable and extremely extensive addition to the whole body of research in Urdu Language, and bears an encyclopaedic worth.” (April, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1991)

Dr. Zahoor ud Din Ahmed, through this book, has set high parameters for research on Sindhology. He travelled to far off areas of the country to conduct his research in the libraries of Lahore, Multan, Karachi, Peshawar and had to sift through the ancient manuscripts.

His research work stands equal to Dr. Nabi Bux Baloch’s work “The last period of Persian poetry in Sindh” (سندھ میں فارسی شاعری کا آخری دور)

rather a step ahead because Dr. Zahoor ud Din Ahmed has a sound grip on Persian language and he gives a detailed analysis of the poetry of all notable poets.

I am of the view that there is no other valuable work and considerable amount of information regarding Sindhology except for Dr. Zahoor-ud-Din Ahmed’s. That is why he is considered to be an scholar par excellence.

#### Foot Notes:

1. Each volume of “*Pakistan Main Farsi Adab* ( Persian Literature in Pakistan)” consists of a specific period of kingdom of Hindustan: Vol 1 : from Ghaznavid period to Akbar Bashah ( 400-1000 AH) ( published in 1968 in Lahore.; Vol: II : from *Jahangir to Aurangzeb* (1014 – 1118 AH) Lahore ,1974; Vol III: from Bahadur Shah to decline of Mughal empire( 1119-1259 AH ) Lahore ,1977; Vol IV : *Seekh* period( 1185 – 1265 AH) Lahore , 1985; Vol V : British Rule ( 1849-1947)Lahore , 1990 ; Vol VI : Pakistan Independence ( 1947-2000) Islamabad , 2006
2. Arif Naushahi, Danesh, A Quarterly Journal of Iran Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad, Vol. 4, pp: 217-231
3. کارنامه موقوفات دکتر محمود افشار یزدی ، یادبود آغاز دهمین سال درگذشت واقف، ص 46-48
4. Shahzana Akhtar, MA Persian Thesis titled: *Doctor Zahoor ud Din Ahmad or Unki Farsi Khidmaat* , session: 1992-1993, Supervisor: Dr. Nasreen Akhtar, Oriental College ,University of the Punjab, page: 35-36
5. Pakistan main Farsi Adab ,from page 260-284
6. تاریخ ادب فارسی در پاکستان ، مترجم: دکتر شابد چودہری، تهران، ۱۳۸۵، ۱۳۸۷

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4. Nabi Bux Baloch, *Sindh main Farsi Shaeri ka Akhri Daur* ( *The last era of Persian Poetry in Sindh*), *Muqtadara Qaumi Zaban ,Pakistan, 2007*
5. Zahoore ud Din Ahmad, *Pakistan Main Farsi Adab* ( *Persian Literature in Pakistan* ) , Vol. 1, Lahore ,1968
6. Ibid, Vol. 2, Majlis tarqqi Adab , Lahore , November 1974
7. Ibid, Vol. 3, Idara Tahqeeqat e Pakistan, Lahore, June 1977
8. Ibid, Vol. 4, Idara Tahqeeqat e Pakistan, University of the Punjab, Lahore, June 1985
9. Ibid, Vol 5, Lahore, 1990
10. Ibid, Vol. 6, Iran Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad, 2005
11. Zahoore ud Din Ahmad, *Irani Adab*, In Sub Continent, with collaboration of , Iran Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad, 2002
12. Shahzana Akhtar, MA Persian Thesis titled: *Doctor Zahoore ud Din Ahmad or Unki Farsi Khidmaat* , session: 1992-1993, Supervisor: Dr. Nasreen Akhtar, Oriental College ,University of the Punjab.
13. Arif Naushahi, Danesh, A Quarterly Journal of Iran Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad, Vol. 4, 1364, pp: 217-231
14. Nazeer Ahmad, Prof., Paper title: "*Mirza Ghazi Beg Tarkhan motakhallas be Waqari*" translated by : *Dr. Hasan Abbas* , Iran Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad, 2010, pp: 9-30
15. Zahoore ud Din Ahmad ,Dr. Paper title: *Barr e Sagheer Pak o Hind main Farsi Zaban o Adab ka Irtiq*, published in Research Journal of Government College , Lahore "Kawash", Vol. 9-10,
16. Danesh , A Quarterly Journal of Iran Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad, Vol. 86, 2006