

Analytical Study of the Book *Tawareekh-e-Zila Dera Ghazi Khan* and its Significance in the Historiography of Dera Ghazi Khan

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Received on: 10-01-2025

Accepted on: 10-02-2025

Abstract

The work on the regional history is considered remarkable in the initial historiography of Colonial period in Indo-Pak Subcontinent. With British diplomats the officials also expressed their interest in historiography during their official duties in different areas. As M. S. Elphinstone, Potinger, Hattu Tam, Hukam Chand and Munshi Charn Cheet contributed through their historiography. This paper is an analytical study of the famous book *Tawareekh-e-Zila Dera Ghazi Khan* authored by Munshi Hukam Chand who was an official in British Government. The book has historical significance as the book is remarkable and as it is considered among the primary document of the regional history of Dera Ghazi Khan especially it covers the Colonial era. Hukam Chand worked on this book and it was first published in 1876. Hukam Chand was basically an official in revenue record and he was an extra Magistrate at that time. The book is a deep study of the socio-cultural, geography of the region. The book covers the different aspects of the Dera Ghazi Khan i.e. religion, culture, and civilization. Therefore, this paper is an analytical study of the book and it explores and evaluates the condition of the district during the colonial era.

Keywords: Hukam Chand, Colonial, Dera Ghazi Khan, Historiography, Region.

Introduction

It is impossible to deny the importance of local historiography in any era, and it has had an important place in every field. But those who started it were always red-headed. Working on the history of a backward and remote area like Dera Ghazi Khan was not an easy task but an impossible concept in the era when both sources and resources were scarce. And it was a very difficult task for the researchers. In the sub-continent, history and culture also changed

during the English period, so British and local historians mainly assisted and were associated with British officers in administrative affairs and contributed to the work of historiography by writing the history of local areas. Among these local historians, the names of Syed Muhammad Latif, Kanhaiya Lal, Munshi Charan Chet, Hattu Ram and Lala Hukam Chand are worth mentioning. One of the historians who did early work on the local history of Dera Ghazi Khan is Lala Hukam Chand. Hakam Chand has a central position in the historiography of Dera Ghazi Khan and Hakam Chand is the first historian who compiled his book on the social and economic history of Dera Ghazi Khan for which government support was available. Nutkani in his book *Murqa Dera Ghazi Khan* has included this book in his sources and acknowledged its importance.¹ Hukam Chand is notable for having worked on the history of two of the most important areas. Among the two most important areas he worked on was the British-era district of Dera Ghazi Khan, which included the districts of Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur. Multan, which has been considered the most important region in the subcontinent since ancient times. The *District Gazetteer*² also compiled with the help of Hukam Chand work as it was published by Deputy Commissioner and Hukam Chand was also an extra assistant Commissioner. Abdul Qadir³ Laghari also recognized the work of Hukam Chand as primary source in his work to compile colonial history. Malik Siraj Ahmad⁴, Ihsan Changwani⁵, Hashim Sher⁶, Hafeez Gurmani⁷, Dilbar Molai⁸, Mazhar Lashar⁹, Manzor Bhutta¹⁰, Malghani¹¹, Korai¹², Tareekh Rajanpur¹³ and all local historians recognized the book *Tawareekh-e-Dera Ghazi Khan*. In this sense, writing the history of these two regions is an important event which added a new chapter in local historiography.

Discussion

The aim of the discussion on the above topic is to find out what place the history of Dera Ghazi district has in the regional historiography of Dera Ghazi Khan and to find an answer to the objective and unsolved problem, while critically reviewing this book, an attempt was made to evaluate the book in the light of the text of the book and the scholarly and academic expertise of the author. Basically, Hukam Chand was a government employee and was closely examining the conditions and events, history and culture, society and economy, politics and government system of the British era while being attached to the Revenue Department. In the meantime, when the British forces took possession of Punjab and turned west and headed towards Balochistan under their expansionist ambitions, they asked local intellectuals to collect information to understand the conditions and events, lifestyle and their way of life of the local people. British military officers themselves were also observing the regional culture and taking interest in it, as in Multan, O'Brien started collecting vocabulary related to the local language and compiled it in the form of a book glossary. "O" Braine *Glossary of a Multani Language*,¹⁴ Similarly, Robert Sandeman himself was working on it. Then Henry Pottinger and M.S. Elphinstone¹⁵ had also come as tourists to assess the conditions in the area. So it was as if the government was looking at the regional background as a precaution. After the occupation of Dera Ghazi Khan, when Sandeman came as Deputy Commissioner under the Forward Policy, he ordered the information collected during the land management to be compiled in book form. So Hukam Chand, who was a senior management officer and had seen a large part of the revenue records, wrote this book on the orders of the brave Deputy Commissioner Sir Robert Sandeman and named it *Tawareekh Zilla Dera Ghazi Khan*.¹⁶ If we

look at it, it is clear that Hukam Chand wrote this book with the help of government resources and Hukam Chand, who was working as an Extra Assistant Commissioner and preparing a report on land management in the Revenue Department, had the full patronage of British officers. Taking advantage of this, Hukam Chand wrote a very voluminous book on the history of Dera Ghazi Khan after Hattu Ram and this was the second book written in the local language on the history of Dera Ghazi Khan after Hattu Ram's Gulbahar.¹⁷ Unlike Hattu Ram, this is a detailed book and its content consists of history. Whereas Hattu Ram mostly made the Baloch tribes the subject of his speech. It seems that Hukam Chand is one of the founders of the historiography of Dera Ghazi Khan. The history of Dera Ghazi Khan district is an important historical document which is of great importance in terms of research on regional topics and is a basic and primary source. And if these pages of the past are viewed historically, this book holds a prominent place in local historiography, and despite the passage of a century and a half, its importance in the historiography of Dera Ghazi Khan is still undeniable. Similarly, if we look at the arrangement and editing of the book, the important thing is that its style is a bit difficult in which the author adopted the script prevalent at the time of his time. Since the author was a Hindu, he chose his own script and since most of the book is in Devanagari script, it is difficult for the general reader. Similarly, by adopting an official and official style in the figures, this book was made effective for the educated people, which is certainly difficult for the general reader. Similarly, the arrangement of the genealogy in the book is also not standard. But he wrote down whatever information he found. If we look at the topics of the book, the first thing in the arrangement of the book is its chapter arrangement. The author has initially divided this book, Tawareekh District Dera Ghazi Khan, into four basic parts and each of these parts consists of different chapters. Unlike Chaman in Gulbahar, the chapter arrangement is clear. And the first part of this book has a total of 13 chapters, the second part has nine chapters, and the third part also has Nawab Bhai, while the fourth part has 14 chapters, and there are a total of 45 chapters in one book. Thus, it is a very thick book on Dera Ghazi Khan, which completely covers the history of Dera Ghazi Khan and describes the conditions and events in detail. A study of this book shows that the author has worked with great dedication and dedication. If we talk about Hukam Chand, then he has written this book in great detail and the first part of this book consists of the geography of Dera Ghazi Khan district and in its first chapter he has described the four boundaries of the district and the reason for its name, along with a brief description of the status of the district. In which the British era is prominent. In the second chapter, along with all the rivers, the conditions of the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Biyasas and nature, as well as the conditions of the Indus River are described in great detail, and the factors related to the economy are mentioned. Along with the conditions of the people living near the river, they have also mentioned their lifestyle, animals and plants, which animals and plants are present in this area. He has also included maps of the different villages and towns in the area in the book. In chapter number 2 of the first part of the book, he has discussed the climate, rainfall, animals, hospitals and the method of treatment prevalent among the Baloch people for tuberculosis. The author has divided the first part of the book into 13 chapters. And in this description, the first chapter contains the boundaries of the four geographical areas of La, while in the second chapter, he has made the direction of all the rivers as his subject. Along with the rivers, the author has also mentioned animals and trees, and in the third chapter, the climate, the overall

condition of the weather, rain and hail have also been recorded. The third chapter generally discusses the animals and hospitals in the district, as well as the way in which the Baloch nation is treated. The days of the rains that occur in the rains and the various bad events caused by the rains and their paths and flood drains have also been discussed. In the fourth chapter of the first part of this book, Hukam Chand has also mentioned those types that were once uninhabited and were not inhabited, along with mentioning the deserted and deserted places, he has described the old and present condition of the city and the houses and structures there in full detail. While mentioning the old types, he has mentioned the family, triple Yasmin, Mari Sindu, Janbur, Harand. He explains the city and its different areas with the help of maps. Similarly, in mentioning the mosques, he has also described the Masjid-e-Masjid, Abdul Jabbar, Chota, Haji Muhammad, Masjid, Kalan, and Masjid in a special way. He has made the urban and rural population a separate topic of discussion. In the soles of the feet, it has fully indicated the age of the city of Dajjal, its construction and the conditions and events here. Similarly, if you look at this book, it is that it has a lot of information. Later, Mufti Ghulam Sarwar Lahori's book Ali Qamar Tone is also available in Punjab, in which various areas of Dera Ghazi Khan Division are mentioned in detail. This prayer has been discussed in detail in the morning, there are roads above Rajanpur and its houses, rivers and other matters have also been discussed. Along with mentioning the songs Jampur, Rajanpur district, Dajjal, Hajipur and its nearby areas, it also says that gardens were planted in the vicinity of the city and that is why the city's decision and forests are also good. The census also shows that there are a lot of people who are interested in it. The description of the weather of the city has been written here and during this time, different nations have also been mentioned. Subh also talks about Kot Mithan that it is located in the south of Rajanpur and has a lot of population. He says that there is a lot of population, there is greenery around the city and there is population on all four sides of the city. People have also planted gardens around the city which are located on all four sides of the city. Hukm Chand also talked about the monasteries and shrines that there are a lot of shrines in this area, including the magnificent palace of Khwaja Muhammad Aqil. He also talks about the town of Rojhan that this area belongs to the Mazari people and Bahram Khan is the Tamandar of Mazari. There is also the Tamandar of Imam Bakhsh Mazari who lives here and is mostly an area of Mazaris. Mazaris are numerous. The city is surrounded by walls and they are inhabited by a lot of people. Apart from that, he mentioned other small towns like Kotla Mughalan, Kot Chatta, Mangrotha, Pir Adil, Shah Sadr Din, Kala, Shadan Lund which were also present at that time.

He has mentioned the shrine of Pir Adil in the north of Dera Ghazi Khan. He has mentioned that there is a shrine of a great man here. Ghazi Khan was his disciple and Ghazi Khan made fun of him and it was solid and it is said that a building was built here and one lakh rupees were spent on the construction of the building. All the boys from Ismail Khan to Sindh are disciples. Muslims come here to visit their children. In Rajanpur district, he has also mentioned the shrine of Khawaja Muhammad Iqbal that this is a magnificent shrine here which is present here in Rajanpur and according to his opinion, Haji Muhammad Sharif Kot Mithan and his shrine are also here. The most detailed talk has been made regarding Hazrat Khwaja Muhammad Sulaiman Taunsvi that he was the son of Khawaja Zakaria and a famous Pir Pathan. His tribe was never from Khorasan in the past and he was born near which one. In this chapter, the marriages of others mentioned include Kot Adu, Daar Din Panah, and

Imam Shah. Khawaja Noor Muhammad Narowal Zinda Pir and Khanqah Naurang Shah Khanqah Shah Kamal Khanqah Hazrat Zinda Pir and Hazrat Khan's Muhammad Akram his Hazrat Shah Sadruddin, Khanqah Iftar Khwaja Karam Ali Khan's Syed Nabi Shah Rukh Khan's Maulvi Noor Muhammad Khan's Masnoon Shahjahanpur Khan's Parwana Jampur Khan's Ishaq Sahib Bahadur along with many others are very worried that Muhammad Hassan and so on. The author has made small Khanqahs a part of this book and reflected the social condition here. He has also given answers to the Hindus and mentioned them in which the temple serial Gopi which was present in the city has made it clear that it was an important center here. Similarly, in addition to this, the nature of the famous temples is also described in it and then the condition of the temple IJ along with Singh and Dhoul along with some others which are located in small temples at different places in which Dalir Chand Lalgar is important. In the sixth chapter of the first part of this book, some nations The mention of the ancient tribes of this region and its details, among them are the people and Rajputs are also present within them and they also have many groups, from there we have read through which it is known that these tribes exist. Commenting on the Baloch nation and in the office, the Baloch family tree has been described in detail, which especially starts with Amir Jalal Khan and from Meri Jalal Khan to different tribes. The family tree of the major tribes included in it is given, including Laghari, Gurchani, Mazari, Dareshk, Buzdar, Khatran, Qaisrani, Khosa. Along with giving details about the people, he has also included other tribes of the Baloch in this book and has also clarified their different areas, including Dasti, Pitafi, Lashari, Sukhani, Sirhani, Jaskani, Mirani and many other tribes. Among the other nations, the Syeds and their various branches as well as the Paks, their branches, who punish criminals, etc., are included in this book. Similarly, the different nations present in the Quran have also been included and a map of their traitorous nation has been given that the nation like Syed, Bukhari and besides them, all the Baloch tribes of the Baloch, the Pathans, different tribes and others have been described with them. During the war, the Baloch and Hindus had a break in Dera Ghazi Khan, he also discussed these two nations in detail, in which first it was mentioned that the Baloch nation is their customs and traditions, birth, marriage, then other rituals and rituals used to come and in it, death occurred, then we explained to all of them.

Conclusion

Dera Ghazi Khan, which was considered a remote and backward area, seems to have been absent from historiography before the British era. Because the style and focus of the historians sitting in the center were on central and royal matters, unlike regional historiography. This is why, whether during the era of the Sultans or the Mughals, the conditions of the Dera Ghazi Khan region were absent from the pages of history. During the British era, government officials promoted regional historiography. So, local officers and intellectuals tried their hand at writing. An important name among them is Munshi Hukam Chand. whose book *Tawareekh Dera Ghazi Khan* is an authentic historical document. Wrapping up the above discussion, the book of Hukam Chand is a unique book in local historiography in Dera Ghazi Khan District during the British rule. In which the geographical, social and administrative status of the region has been described in a universal way. It is among the earliest books in the historiography of Dera Ghazi Khan. Despite the problem of difficult style and script, the importance of this book is certain in its place and is helpful for

contemporary researchers and historians. This is the reason why it is still used as a primary source in the various researches on Dera Ghazi Khan. Seen as status.

Recommendation

1. By making possible the reprinting of this book, it should be made a part of various libraries for students and researchers.
2. Along with the publication, the style of this book needs to be printed in common sense and simple language.
3. Simple script so that the common reader can easily read the book.

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