Introduction

Islam is not only a complete way of life but a faith meeting to the demands of human nature. It does not want its followers to be inactive and lacking in any walk of life, hence imperfect. Therefore, It does not leave its followers in dark in any aspect of life. But Islam is the most comprehensive philosophy and way of life for mankind. Islam provides the blissful solace in the life hereafter, nevertheless it touches this worldly life in all its aspects and provides guidance to those who seek it. Its holy scriptures the Quran, is claimed to contain the final edition of instructions and guidelines revealed by Allah for the eternal benefit of mankind. Whatever be one's faith and dogma, the fact, however is that the last fourteen hundred years of world history have seen this religion as a vibrating force, moral as well political, influencing the courses of history covertly or overtly.\(^1\)

It is not sufficient to say that education has proper place in Islam because nobody will believe if he sees the position of Muslims Socio-Religious educational Institutions presently. However, the greatest source of knowledge in Islam is the Holy Quran and sayings of the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him). Since holy Quran occupies the first pivotal position and sayings of the Prophet second one, the proofs from the two can be given in the same order. If we study the holy Quran, we come to know that revelation of the holy Quran began with the verses on education it runs as follows.

"Read: in the name of the Lord who createth, createth man from a clot. Read: And thy Lord is Most Bounteous, who teacheth by the pen, teacheth man that which he knew not." (soura Aluq)

In these verses human beings have been told to remember Allah, read holy Quran and get education through pen. It has also been told that human beings have got all necessary instructions and education from Allah only. In another verse the holy Quran says,

"Allah will exalt those who believe among you, and those who have knowledge, to high ranks. Allah is informed of what ye do." In these verses human beings have been advised that those who attain knowledge they will be exalted to high ranks. These verses

clearly tell that those who have been given knowledge and those who believe in Allah will be raised in status.\textsuperscript{2}

The world reacted to this new awakening and resurgence of Islam in diverse ways, ranging from open and outright hostility to sympathetic understanding and accommodation. The healthiest and the soundest is, undoubtedly, the academic response and attitude towards it. For a proper understanding of the phenomenal rise of Islam and the eternal inspiration it provides, it has come to be considered essential to subject its various systems and Socio-Religious educational Institutions to the severest possible scientific inquiry and investigation. For this purpose universities, Institutions and Departments of Islamic studies have come to be established in various parts of the world. Our own Aligarh Muslim University is presently running two separate departments of Islamic Studies and West Asian Studies. Besides the formal governmental academic agencies, different voluntary social organisations too in different parts of the world are encouraging and research studies on various aspects of Islam. As a result, a good number of scientifically conducted research studies on various aspects of Islam are now available to help draw inferences and conclusions about Islam.\textsuperscript{3}

It is generally felt that while other aspects of Islam in Kashmir have received comparatively greater attention on the part of researchers, its Socio-Religious Educational aspect has remained largely neglected. This is why the present work entitled, "A study of Modern Socio-Religious Educational Institutions of Kashmir with special reference to Anjuman-I-Nusratul Islam" is undertaken, in the contemporary society, Kashmir has been rich in producing ulama, and reform movements. In the past ulama and reformers have done a considerable service to the Muslim community and during the present times a great number of Muslim religious movements are performing their reformative and educational obligations. Some of the prominent religious Institutions of Kashmir played an important role in the Socio-Religious and educational fields are relatively oldest Institutions of Kashmir. They are Jama'iatul Ahl-I-Hadith, Tabligul Islam of Kashmir, Tanzimul Makateeb of Kashmir, Babul Ilm Budgam, Darul Uloom Rehemiyyah, Mianuf Islam Sopore etc., etc. The viable idea to provide alternative and

\textsuperscript{2} Pickthall, The translation of the Holy Quran, Al Mujadla-11.

\textsuperscript{3} Khan, Sharief, Mohammad, Dr. Islamic education, Pub. New Delhi 1986.
substitute to harmful influences and impact of European domination its culture and education in India stood in the background of founding of such type of Muslim Institutions. As the imperialistic and missionary activities of the British were not confined to Indian masses only but extended to Kashmir and were of serious concern to Muslim elite here. The main objective of these religious Institutions were revolving round the idea to react to European intentions and to protect as well as promote Islamic culture and Education in Kashmir. 4

The preaching of Islam and setting up educational Institutions and centres in Kashmir region has been the main activity of such Religious Organisations of Kashmir. The Muslim Institutes and educational centres were established at various corners of the Valley and were meant for imparting general as well as Religious education in Kashmir. These centres of learning were got gradually promoted up to higher standard. In these religious seats of learnings education on Tafaseer, Hadith, Muslim jurisprudences etc. was introduced in the syllabus on the pattern of Muslim Institutes of India.

Significance of the Problem

Apart from this attitude of neglect, whenever, present day scholars feel the need to write on Islamic education, They focus their attention only on Madrassa system of education. They take for study only Maktabas and Khuttub as the primarily institutions of education and Halqas, as the higher institutions of education. No one can deny the place and importance which the Madrassa has had in the Muslim educational system. It needs however, to be noted that this system of education was founded in the fifth century after Hijra. 5 However, the system of education, which existed in the contemporary society of Kashmir has not been taken due cognizance of moreover, by the scholars. The information available on certain aspects of Islamic education is too scanty to allow any systematic study and evolution. Consequently, anyone, trying to sketch out the system of Islamic education in Kashmir comes to face difficulties of diverse nature.

However, in view of its great importance the system of Socio-Religious education in Kashmir with special reference to Anjuman-i-Nusratul Islam of Kashmir needs intensive study, particularly of its modern period.

In this connection even the minutest information which may cursorily appear in significant and negligible in order to be taken into consideration as some thing very significant to establish bit by bit the system of Socio-Religious educational institutions of Kashmir with special reference to Anjuman-i-Nusratul Islam of Kashmir, we have undertake this research project. Every complex system develops from its simple form and if the simple form is ignored, the complex system itself cannot be correctly comprehended. The study of Socio-Religious educational institutions with special reference to Anjuman-i-Nusratul Islam of Kashmir is therefore, attempted, starting from the early traditions of Islamic learnings and then gradually working out the system of Islamic education in a systematic and scientific manner. In fact the spirit of literacy and education among the Muslims took place through the medium of religion. Through their ever increasing desire to know more and more about Islam and its application in the individual and social life.

During this century these Muslim Institutions though worked in the direction of cherished objectives. However, they extended their activities in Socio-Religious and political affairs also. The social problems of Muslims of Kashmir in general were taken care of by the founders of these Institutions. The units of these educational centres increased gradually throughout the Valley and gained good support from the masses. At the same time their contribution in the missionary reformative developments in the field of education in Kashmir Valley is equally remarkable.

Anjuman-i-Nusratul Islam is one of the important modern Muslim Institution of Kashmir founded in 1889 A.D. This Institution had a great contributions in the field of education, social reform and politics in Kashmir society.

A comprehensive study of the religious educational Institutions of Kashmir with special reference to Anjuman-i-Nusratul Islam of Kashmir region has been always

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deemed very important and relevant. The present thesis aims at general study of the Muslim Institutions of Kashmir with special reference and indepth study of Anjuman-i-Nusratul Islam of Kashmir. The thesis consists of the following chapters.

1. Introduction.
2. Role of religious Education during pre-modern times in Kashmir.
3. Historical background of Muslim educational Institutions of Kashmir.
6. Conclusion.

**Method and limitations of the study:**

Since the subject of the study is mainly of a historical nature, therefore, analytical and conceptual method of study as the most suitable method has been used. It is mainly a library based study. The authentic material sources of information available in English, Urdu and other translations have been utilized substantially. Wherever needed and possible, Arabic texts have also been consulted. The researcher has tried to consult relevant material available in journals, magazines, encyclopaedias and other types of documents. For the theoretical portion, we have mainly relied on the primary sources of Islam, i.e., Quran and Hadith.

The limitations which made us some what handicapped was the paucity of time and funds. This study therefore, suffers from limitations more than one. In more favourable circumstances, perhaps this study could have been conducted in a much better manner than its present form.