CONCLUSION

It is quite evident from the discussion in the preceding chapters that the history of Sind in Pre-Mughal period has great importance from different aspects, particularly geographical, political, social and the economic points of view. From geographical point, the main importance of Sind lies in the fact that it was gateway of India and had provided great opportunity for foreigners, specially the Arabs, to establish their commercial and cultural relations with India through this route. The Arab rulers used it as a base for the military operations to conquer the region further north of the Sind. During the Arab rule, the Umayyad and Abbasids governed the region with the help of their governors. Due to the fact that the region was situated on a considerable distance for the centre of the Caliphate, it turned out to be a hot bed of the Ismailis who always incited the people to revolt. Being a frontier region, Sind became a centre of rebellion and a refuge of rebel princes and chiefs even from the mainland of the Caliphate. The strategic importance of the province always compelled the rulers to be extra vigilant in guarding their frontiers.

An important point that emerges from the above discussion is that the region of Sind was politically unstable. The political instability of the region is very much evident from the fact that during the period under discussion, it had seen many political upheavals and had experienced the rule of a number of
dynasties. Apart from being a part of Umayyad and Abbasid caliphate for about two hundred years, it had been under the rule of different independent ruling dynasties mainly Habbari, Banu Sammah, Ismailis, Sumirah and the Sammahs. It was also governed by the Turkish Sultans as a part of Delhi Sultanate and finally Sind came under the rule of Arghuns of Central Asia in 1520 A.D. before passing in the control of the Mughals during the reign of Akbar.

The Chapter on socio-cultural history shows the nature of society and progress of cultural activities. The society of Sind was divided into many sections of people and people belonging to different castes and creeds lived there together. The main components of the non-Muslims population were Meds Nikamrah, Channah, Sammah, Sahtah, Machhi, Halier, Korijah, Bhattis, Jats, Buddhist, Samijah and Brahmins. The Muslim society of Sind comprised of different sections of Muslim population. More distinguished among them had been the Saiyids, Abbasids, Qazis, Quraish and Phanwars. The Hindus and the Muslims lived in harmony and the rulers did not interfere in the matters of religion, traditions and customs.

The period of Arab rule was also marked for the progress of learning and education. A number of madrasas and institutions were established during this period. They were mostly maintained by the state from its own resources. The primary educational institutions were called maktabs and there was a chain of these
maktabs spread all over the region. The madrasas were the institutions meant for higher learnings. A number of distinguished scholars flourished in Sind and they contributed to the progress of learning and knowledge through teaching and compiling works on different aspects of Islamic learning. The Muslim rulers built a large number of different cities. These cities not only accelerated the process of urbanization but grew into a centre of Islamic learning and culture. The cities of Mansura, and Debal were the famous centres of hadis. The sultans of Delhi also took keen interest in the promoting education and learning. They established new madrasas in the city of Uchh and Multan. Sammah dams of Sind and the langah rulers of Multan were famous for their patronage of ulama and other religious dignitaries.

Among mystic orders that flourished in this region and had great impact on its social life, the most prominent was Suhrawardi order. The order introduced and headed in India by Shaikh Bahauddin Zakriya was expanded and popularised by his descendants mainly Shaikh Sadruddin Arif and Shaikh Ruknul Alam. The other important saint of Sind was Saiyid Jalaluddin Bukhari known as Makhdum Jahanian. The main centres of this order were Multan and Uchh. Besides, the Qadiri order has also some influence in this region. The tomb of Shaikh Bahauddin Zakariya was famous for its architectural beauty in the region. During the course of Pre-Mughal period an indigenous style of architecture was introduced in Sind.
As regards the economic conditions of Sind, the geo-physical factor of the region provided the base for different structures of its economy. The plains and the fertile regions of Sind were capable to produce large quantity of grains and other things. In hilly tracts large numbers of livestock were maintained to sustain the economy of the region. The Indus river was the backbone of the economy of the region and besides other things it also proved to be an important source for the transportation of commercial commodities. The main items of import were horses, slaves, arms, weapons, silk, dry fruits, clothes, gold, sugarcandy and dates. The export goods were campher, indigo, costus (Medicine), Bamboos, civet-cat, hair-dye, rhinoceros, peacock, hens, various perfumes and herbs. The flourishing trade and commerce contributed to bring prosperity not only in the region but also other parts of the sub-continent. Moreover, the foreign trade and the custom duty fetched a large sum of revenue to the state. The cattle breeding and the fishing were the main profession of the people. The agriculture and the cattle raising were mainly done by the people who lived in the fertile plains of Indus and the desert and the Kohistan regions.

The fertile land of Sind was famous for horticulture. The region of Mansura was known for apples, grapes, walnuts, mango, lemon and dates. The cities of Sind were celebrated for their natural beauty and used to be surrounded by gardens, orchards and water canals. Besides agriculture, horticulture, fishing and animal husbandry, the people of Sind were engaged in several other professions like, handicrafts, textiles, leather work, wood work, dying, sword making and ship building etc.