The topic, “The Punjabi Suba Movement and the Press, 1947-1966” is the authentic and systematic study of the Punjabi Suba. The demand for Punjabi Suba was at the centre of politics in Punjab right from 1947-1966 and has been the basis of an extraordinary, long range political combat between Congress and the Akali Dal. The study is focused on the struggle for Punjabi Suba, keeping in mind the role of press during partition and after independence.

The perspective of my research is historical. The study is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter deals with the growth of Akali demand with the role of press. The second chapter deals with the attitude of the Congress Party towards Punjabi Suba demand before partition and after independence as reflected in the press. The third chapter focuses on the response and reactions of the Communist Party and the Praja Socialist Party as reflected in the press. The fourth chapter deals with the Hindu organizations and press opposition towards Punjabi Suba demand. The fifth chapter analyses the reasons why Akalis were not satisfied with the formation of Pepsu. The sixth chapter deals with the formation of Punjabi Suba and the role of press. The seventh chapter focuses on the response of the backward classes towards Punjabi Suba demand with the role of press.

The period has been studied by two scholars who had dealt with Punjabi Suba directly. Krishan Gopal Lamba in his book, the Dynamics of Punjabi Suba Movement (New Delhi, 1999) deals with the political history of Punjabi Suba movement, its roots and ramification and Hindu response. It deals with the movement of Sikh struggle for the demand of Punjabi Suba.
Though the writer has not discussed the impact of partition on Sikh community in details. He has not used vernacular press.

The second important book written by Ajit Singh Sarhadi, Punjabi Suba, The Story of Struggle (New Delhi, 1970) is the study of the demand for Punjabi Suba. The study deals with the emergence of the Gurdwara Reform Movement and Shiromani Akali Dal and ends up with the formation of Congress Ministry in Punjab in 1977. The writer was in politics and has been a top leader of the Akali Dal so his work is written from political and party angle. Though this work provides an insight of the movement but it seriously lacks the analytical and critical interpretation of the events. The writer has not consulted contemporary vernacular press.

Admittedly, the above mentioned studies are scholarly but it may be pointed out that they have been written from a particular angle and therefore, do not tend to explain the phenomenon in a holistic manner. They have left many gaps to be filled up. The scholars have written only from the view point of some Sikhs of the Akali Party but they have not used vernacular press.

The study is based on primary and secondary sources. The study is based on proceedings of Home (Political) Department, Government of India proceedings of the SGPC, Reports of various Commissions, private papers of prominent leaders of the Punjab Debates, selected works and documents, newspapers, etc. Relevant information has also been gleaned from secondary sources such as books, journals and unpublished thesis.

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Rekha Rani