CHAPTER - VI

DR. SIR ZIAUDDIN
AND
ALIGARH MOVEMENT
Dr. Sir Ziauddin
Founding Pro Vice Chancellor: Dec. 17, 1920 to 1928
CHAPTER-VI

DR. SIR ZIAUDDIN AND ALIGARH MOVEMENT

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad whose career and contributions not only span an important era of Modern Indian History but his role in Aligarh Movement is more significant than the other Vice Chancellors of the Aligarh Muslim University as he received his school education and graduation from premier institution of Sir Syed i.e. M.A.O. College, where later on he served with much devotion on Sir Syed’s request. His contribution to the development of modern education among the Muslims of India resembles the aims of the founder of College. He was to some extent a successful in his attempt to bring the Muslims into Government service as it was one of the principal goals of Sir Syed’s Aligarh Movement.

In this chapter an attempt has been made to high light the personality of Dr. Sir Ziauddin and his contribution to the development of Aligarh Movement in 20\textsuperscript{th} century. An attempt is also made to analyze his role in the in the expansion of the MAO College into a University. Focus has also been given to assess his role during the Non Cooperation and Partition Movement in the 20\textsuperscript{th} century.

(A) Biographical Sketch of Sir Ziauddin

Ziauddin Ahmad was born in 1877 at Meerut, in a well-known Zubairi family. The family of Sir Ziauddin had the tracts of intellectual lineage in the western U.P.’s towns of Marehra, Amroha, Bareilly and Meerut.\footnote{David Lelyveld, Three Aligarh Students; Aftab Ahmad Khan, Ziauddin Ahmad and Mohammad Ali. Modern Asian Studies, Vol. IX. 1974.} There has been some land holdings in Bareilly but Ziauddin’s grandfather had lost them in family dispute. His father was a Tehsildar in the British Revenue Administration, posted away from home and he was brought up by his maternal grandmother. He received his early education at Meerut from a Kambu Maktab. Later he
went to the Government School in Meerut and afterwards he joined M.A.O. College in 1889 with his elder brother at the age of twelve.² He got his graduation degree from M.A.O. College in 1895 and secured Honours in Mathematics and received the Strachey Gold Medal from Sir Allen Cadell, Governor of U.P.³ After that he went to Trinity College, Cambridge and also joined Gottengen University (Germany) for Ph.D. He also studied at Bologna University at Al Azhar and had distinguished himself in Mathematics. He was a favourite student of Sir Theodore Morison who secured for him a nomination as Deputy Collector but he declined the offer and made a solemn promise to Sir Syed that he would serve the institution of his alma mater to his last breadth and the same he fulfilled.⁴

The career of Sir Ziauddin started as a temporary teacher at the High School section of M.A.O. College at a salary of Rs 16/- a month. After the exam results were out Mr. Beck,⁵ who was then Principal of the College, and Sir Morrison suggested that Ziauddin Ahmed accept a position as Deputy Collector with U.P. Government which paid Rs. 500/- at that time. Some of his relatives also encouraged him to do that. Yet, he declined the offer and accepted a position as assistant lecturer at the College at a salary of Rs. 60/- per month. Something quite interesting happened at this time. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan had a contract drawn for Ziauddin to sign. The contract stated that Ziauddin would serve the M.A.O. College for a period of no less than five years. Ziauddin told him that he planned to spend his entire life there. He further stated that if a person is forced to stay there because of a contract then it would not be worth keeping him. At this point Sir Syed Ahmed Khan tore up the contract, and thus began the career of Ziauddin as a teacher.⁶

³ S.K. Bhatnagar, MAO College, op.cit., p. 132.
⁵ The Principal of the MAO College (1883-1889) who was very close to Sir Syed.
Although he was hired to teach Mathematics, he taught other subjects as well when in 1897. Professor Arnold, who taught Logic at the college resigned and due to the paucity of funds, did not permit the College to hire a new faculty member from England therefore Ziauddin was assigned to teach logic. In addition he coached students who were seeking admission at Roorkie Engineering College. He often left Aligarh to complete his education. For example he went to Europe where he completed Ph.D. at Goettingen University in 1904, then spent two additional years in various countries before returning to Aligarh in 1906. He also served as an Acting Principal of M.A.O. College for a short time in 1913. In 1917, he was nominated to serve on Calcutta University Commission, known as Sadler Commission. When in 1919, the term of Sir Sunder Lal, Vice-Chancellor Allahabad University, serving as a member of the Provincial Assembly came to an end the university nominated Dr. Ziauddin as their representative in the State Assembly. In 1922, He was re-elected to the State Assembly. In 1930, Dr. Sir Ziauddin was elected to Central Assembly (now Parliament) form Gorakhpur, Banaras, Allahabad and Jhansi Muslim Constituency. He was repeatedly elected from different constituencies and served in the Central Legislature until 1947. He served his alma mater in capacity of Pro-Vice Chancellor (December, 17, 1920 to 1928) and Vice Chancellor on first term from 13th April 1935 to 29th April 1938, and for the second term from 24th April 1941 to 23rd April 1947. During his last days he resigned from the office of Vice-Chancellor over some petty issues and went to England to collect funds for Medical College and died after some months in 1947 and he was laid to rest in Aligarh.

---

(B) Sir Ziauddin and Khilafat and Non Cooperation Movement

Dr. Ziauddin’s role during the Non-Cooperation Movement earned for him harsh criticism from nationalist trend at Aligarh. When Mohammad Ali entered into the Non-Cooperation and Khilafat Movement in M.A.O. College in 1920, it was a tense situation at the strong bastion of traditional loyalty to the British Government of which Sir Syed was pioneer. Mohammad Ali and his supporters were also the members of Board of Trustees at M.A.O. College, sent an ultimatum to the Board of Trustees to give up any further grants in aid from the government and to refuse any kind of government interference in the affairs of the College and to disaffiliate the College from Allahabad University but the Trustees did not comply by 29th October as it was the date of ultimatum for them and they extended to call upon the teachers and students to withdraw from the College. At this critical juncture, the College authorities and the principal of the M.A.O. College, Dr. Sir Ziauddin, who acted upon the situation and wrote a letter to all parents of the Aligarh students, requesting them to come and take charge of their boys before the fateful day and thus he prevented the onslaught of the radicals to MAO College. The Tribune observed the efforts of Dr. Ziauddinas:

"...the efforts of the Sir Syed; of his successors and the combined devotion and energy of the community for the last forty five years... from being washed".

Under the able guidance of Dr. Ziauddin and the College authorities they rejected the ultimatum of radicals demand to change the institution of Sir Syed into a National University and any sort of co-operation of British Government, he saved the College from onslaught of the British Government. In this way the role of Dr. Ziauddin in Non-Cooperation Movement was not anti-national, but it was the need of the time to maintain traditional loyalty of the founder and to gain the British favour and support for the immature efforts of the University Movement which was launched by the successor of Sir Syed to get a University

See, Independent, 15 October 1920.
The Tribune, 21 October, 1920.
of their own terms and after some days the same was granted in the form of Aligarh Muslim University in 1920.

Dr. Ziauddin had learned from Sir Syed Ahmed Khan that Muslims should not get themselves involved in politics until such time they were at par in education with other communities in India. He, as a loyal follower of Sir Syed, approached the university authorities, and convinced them to keep the College out of this struggle. He, therefore, firmly opposed the actions by the student body and, when the crisis deepened, closed the College for a short time and sent students home.

(C) Sir Ziauddin and His Role in National Politics of the country

Dr. Ziauddin was also blamed for the pro-Muslim League politics in the Aligarh Muslim University, and during his second term of Vice chancellorship from (1941-1947), the influence of Muslim League increased in the AMU campus. Though he was an active supporter of Muslim League and he also attended the Lahore Session of Muslim League in 1940 where Pakistan Resolution was passed with much fanfare. He together with the Nawab of Chattari represented Aligarh at the Lahore session.11 But in true sense he was not in favour of the partition of the country. As a member of the Legislative Assembly he also signed the Pledge for Pakistan, framed at Madras in 194112 but he did not believe in the partition of the country. He believed in some constitutional safeguards for the Muslims to protect their rights and he felt that Aligarh must have a different role that what it was playing.13

Before few days of Partition, Dr. Ziauddin’s approach to partition was different as is reflected from his meeting which he called of the senior members of the staff to focus on the of Muslim League’s politics in the campus. He had the opinion that the political realism demanded that Aligarh should withdraw itself

---

from the political forefront. Dr. Ziauddin's views on the League’s politic became known to the students and when he was still speaking, a group of students belonging to Punjab and North-Western Frontier Provinces (NWFP), in great resentment entered the Strachey Hall, the venue of the meeting with anti-Ziauddin slogans and demanded his resignation which he did under pressure.\textsuperscript{14}

After his resignation he went to London to collect donation for Medical College at Aligarh but fell ill and died on December 23, 1947. The \textit{Indian High Commissioner} at London Mr. Krishna Menon and the \textit{Foreign Secretary}, Sir Grija Shankar Bajpayee to whom, he was very close, arranged to send the dead body to Aligarh where amidst tears and sorrows by tens of thousands of his admirers, government officials and University community, he was laid to rest on the right side of Sir Syed, a place he actually deserved. In his last days Dr. Ziauddin opted for his homeland and his country welcomed him in death with all care it could offer. Thus the Aligarh School lost one brilliant son who withstood the challenges of the time.

\section*{(D) Achievements of Sir Ziauddin}

While Ziauddin was at Aligarh, he was highly impressed by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and his approach to modernize education so that Muslims could be brought into the main stream of Indian life in a way that was consistent with new political realities. Even before completing his B.A degree he went to Marehra, a small town in District Etah where a number of his relatives lived, and convinced them to start a school on the same pattern as M.A.O. College. He invited Sir Morrison, a faculty member at M.A.O. College, in 1894, to Marehra to lay down the foundation stone of Morrison Islamia School.\textsuperscript{15}

\textsuperscript{14} K.A. Nizami, \textit{History of AMU}, op.cit., p. 224
\textsuperscript{15} Habeeb A. Zuberi, \textit{Sir Ziauddin}, op.cit., p.2-3
Tarikh al Talim written by Dr. Sir Ziauddin contains the educational ideals of Dr. Sir Ziauddin. Dr. Sahib often bent rules to help students. Dr. Amir Husain Siddiqui states that: “Dr. Ziauddin created educational aids, reduced fees and other expenditure, relaxed the rules for admission and examinations and encouraged extra lectures for those who fell short of attendance.” These policies made him very popular among students as well as among the parents of the students. He even introduced the system of private examinations because the government of India did not permit the affiliation of Colleges and Schools to the University. It was not clear whether students could appear in exams as private candidates, but he continued this practice while he served as P.V.C. He encouraged informal relations between faculty and students.

He often used to help students to get their degrees and find employment. Sometimes his actions, to accomplish this goal, undermined the quality of education.” When the struggle for the University Movement was on its peak, Sir Ziauddin suggested for the residential University and had the opinion of an affiliating cum residential University which would bring in its fold all the Aligarh model institutions and aimed at enabling its graduates to complete successfully with other Indians and to win political leadership of the Muslim community.

He made long speeches in the Assembly arguing that minorities should have proportional representation in government services relative to their population size. He recommended students for all kind of employment ranging from clerical and administrative to military. Dr. Sir Ziauddin wanted to establish Engineering College in the campus. He, therefore, launched a program to establish an Institute of Technology. For the implementation of this program Nawab of Jungadh donated Rs 50,000/. Nawab Muzzamil Ullah

---

20. David, Campaign for University, op. cit., p. 149.
Khan, a great benefactor of the University, in a letter to the Executive Council wrote that he was happy to see a Technical School being established and to make its success he would donate his Johnson Factory Building. He also donated two of his old cars so that students enrolled in motor engineering course could work on those cars.\(^\text{21}\)

The Department of Technology received the highest priority in Dr. Sahib’s preferences for the advancement of education at AMU. In 1937, he proposed to establish a College of Technology. This College, he stated, would prepare students for electrical, mechanical, sanitary, civil engineering and agricultural farming. Other related subjects to be developed included applied chemistry, electro-chemistry, and chemistry of textile. Same year, the Technology workshop came into existence. Its foundation stone was laid down by Nawb of Rampur. At the same time a radio station began to operate from the Technical Institute under the supervision of Durrani, who was appointed Superintendent of the Technology Institute. In 1937, Girls Intermediate College became a Degree College and was affiliated with the university. At the same time, upon his recommendation, for the first time, girls were admitted to Teachers Training College.\(^\text{22}\) He proposed to establish a military college on campus. He sent this proposal to the Government of India in October, 1937. He also invited Lord Wellington, Governor General and viceroy of India, to come to Aligarh and receive an honorary LLD degree. At that time His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad also came to Aligarh and donated funds for the construction of the Cricket Pavilion. He made an effort to establish an airport near the University in 1942 for which Nawab of Bhopal contributed Rs. 50,000/- to build an aeronautic workshop. The University acquired a plane as well, enabling

\(^{21}\) Ifthikhar Alam Khan. op.cit., p.149.

\(^{22}\) See for details, Zia-i-Hayat 2nd edition.
students to take flying lessons. He proposed to establish a department of applied physics and to attach it with the College of Engineer College.\textsuperscript{23}

As mentioned earlier, Dr. Ziuddin’s commitment was not limited to Aligarh but he was succeeded in convincing the people of North West Frontier Province to establish a College in Peshawar. He laid down the foundation stone of Islamia College there as well as the foundation stone of Islamia College, Lahore. Now he devoted the rest of his time in India raising funds for the medical college at Aligarh. M.S. Aney, Governor of Bihar, wrote about Dr. Sir Ziauddin “...Last I met him was when he came to Colombo on a deputation of the Aligarh University to collect funds for the Medical College. I believe he made handsome collections there and was received very warmly, not just by Mohammedans at Colombo, but by other communities also. I had great respect for his learning and versatility.”\textsuperscript{24}

Thus we could see the attempts made by Sir Ziauddin to the developments of Muslims not to raise their educational standard but he made his earnest efforts to improve their economic condition.

\textsuperscript{23} See for details, Habeeb A. Zuberi, \textit{Sir Ziauddin, op.cit.}