MAP OF THE JULLUNDUR AND HOSHIARPUR DISTRICTS

REFERENCES

- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- TEHSIL BOUNDARY
- ROAD
- VILLAGE SITE
- TEHSIL HEADQUARTER
- DISTRICT HEADQUARTER
- PART OF KAPURTHALA DISTRICT
- OLD BANK OF SUTLEJ
- RIVER AND STREAM
- JHEEL
- HILL RANGE
- PART OF KAPURTHALA DISTRICT
- HILL RANGE
The Punjab was annexed by the British in 1849 and from then on to the present day it has witnessed some vast changes in its social and economic life. This study presents an overall picture of the status of women and social reforms in the districts of Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur starting from 1849 and ending with 1980. The two districts have been specially chosen for this study because they are truly representative, socially and culturally, of the present day Punjab. An additional advantage is that in themselves they constitute a homogeneous area with a common language, culture and history. This study makes a critical survey of the status of women in the Punjab in general, and these two districts in particular, and records the changes brought about in their status through social reforms and governmental action.

Certain inadequacies were felt in the existing literature on the subject, hence, this new study, Dr. G.S. Chhabra's book, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE PUNJAB FROM 1849 TO 1901, (1962), gives a good deal of information about the economic and social life of the Punjab but it deals only with the period up to 1901 and does not go beyond that. This leaves out a great deal that is of immense significance.

Dr. B.S. Saini's book, THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
HISTORY OF THE PUNJAB 1901 - 1939, (1973), leaves out much before 1901 and after 1939. Again the focus is on general history and not the status of women in particular.

Shiva Dua's thesis, "SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN INDIA IN SECOND HALF OF THE 19th CENTURY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE POSITION OF WOMEN", (Delhi University, 1965), covers only the nineteenth century while for the subject of our study the twentieth century is much more important than the nineteenth. Devinder Lals' thesis, "SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE IN THE DISTRICTS OF JALANDHAR AND HOSHIARPUR 1846-1901," (Punjab University, Chandigarh, 1973), does not focus on the status of women which is the major target of our study. It deals mainly the economic aspects in general. Considering all these inadequacies in existing literature, it was thought that a specific study on the status of women from 1849 to 1980 would fulfill a genuine need.

To understand the process of change in the status of women of the Punjab during the period under study. It is necessary to have an idea of the pre-existing society. Hence the First Chapter gives a historical background of the province and describes the physical features, demographic trends, occupational structure etc. A brief account of the important religious communities and castes, with their chief characteristics has also been given in this chapter. The historical background of the Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur
districts has also been given in this chapter. An attempt has been made to give the real position of the women in these two districts.

The education of women is very essential for happy and healthy homes, improvement of society and economic prosperity. Education leads to the development of the overall personality of the individual. The Second Chapter concentrates on Women's Education and explains how tremendously it has progressed by all means in the two districts.

The Third Chapter focuses attention on the Legislation on Women in the Punjab. In this chapter comprehensive study has been made regarding the social evils such as Sati, Female Infanticide, Prostitution, Child Marriage, Dowry, Sex Determination etc. and the various laws passed by the government to eradicate these social evils.

Chapter Four highlights the religious and social reform movements that have played a unique role in the eradication of social evils like child marriage, widowhood, sati system, purda system, infanticide, dowry, etc.

The efforts of certain women who strove against unimaginable odds to improve the status of women deserve to be recorded. Chapter Five presents an overall picture of the women of Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur districts who played a significant part in the freedom movement and also played great part in the reform movements. To make the study more
comprehensive an attempt has also been made to highlight the views of the principals/lecturers/school teachers, social reformers, social workers, freedom fighters, administrators regarding the position of women in the society.

The Sixth Chapter deals with socio-religious organisations and their work in the districts of Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur for the welfare of women. The history and aims of these organisations have been dealt with in order to make the study comprehensive. For this purpose we had to depend extensively upon oral evidence where we could not get the proper record.

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