

**Christian Missionaries and Emancipation of Women
in Princely State of Jammu & Kashmir: A Case
Study of Srinagar district (1854-1947)**

**SUMMARY
of
DISSERTATION**

Submitted to
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University
(A Central University)
Lucknow

BABASAHEB
BHIMRAO
AMBEDKAR
UNIVERSITY



प्रज्ञा शील करुणा
ESTABLISHED 1996

For the Award of Degree of

Master of Philosophy
In
HISTORY

Submitted By:

Owais Ismaeil

ENROLLMENT NO: 931/19

Under the supervision of

Prof. S. Victor Babu

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SCHOOL OF AMBEDKAR STUDIES FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES
BABASAHEB BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY

(A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY)

VIDYA VIHAR, RAEBARELI ROAD, LUCKNOW-226 025 (U.P.), INDIA

2021

SUMMARY

Christian missionary intervention into the remote areas especially Kashmir valley is being considered as an initial step of transformation towards the betterment of the society in general and women in particular. An acceptable estimate is that they were the precursors of positive change in Kashmir. Missionaries, who visited Kashmir valley keenly observed the Kashmiri Society from Ancient times up to the advent of Christian Missionaries and highlighted that Women in Kashmir experienced rising fortunes. In Ancient time there was no field of social activity in which they have not participated with their man folk. But progress did not have a continuous flow, glory did not prove everlasting, and time came when they were gradually deprived of the rights previously enjoyed by them. With the influx of missionaries women had slowly started re-emerging in social life, as Missionaries promoted colonial modernity among women's through various agencies including Modern Medicine & Education.

Christian Missionaries entered Kashmir valley during the reign of the very first ruler of the *Dogra* dynasty Gulab Singh. An initial journey was made by R. Clark and Col Martin in 1854 to explore the Kashmir for missionary activities and gradually made Srinagar as center of their activities. They greatly helped to emancipation of Kashmiri Women & considerably improved the quality of family life. Missionaries enlightened Kashmiri women to live life of dignity & responsibility. They left no stone unturned for attracting the girls to their schools and established many maternity hospitals. Towards the close of the Dogra rule, the impact of female education and the nature of empowerment that the missionaries earned for the women in Kashmir can be seen in different parts of the Srinagar city.

Conceptual Frame Work of the Study

Minorities, women, backward castes, and scheduled tribes have long been considered to be oppressed; hence, a 'history from below' approach is an effective way to address this serious limitation of Indian social science academia. It's said that the second half of the nineteenth century marked the beginning of modernity in Kashmir, as it was during this period that Kashmir's feudal society gave way to a modern one. The most important modernizing agents were advances in the fields of education and health. This research was focused to investigate whether it was really the dawn of modernism for Kashmiri women or not.

Objectives

- To examine the structure of society and role of women before the advent of Christian Missionaries.
- To investigate how Missionaries worked through different agencies i.e. Colonial Medicine & Education.
- To study the extent to which the educational institutions set up by the Christian Missionaries led to the transformation among women of Srinagar.
- To explore the impact generated by Christian Missionaries on Emancipation of Women.
- To study the response of Christian missionaries from different sections of society in Kashmir

Assumptions

- Dogra state was ambivalent regarding the spread of modernity among women in Kashmir.
- Dogra rulers were against the Missionaries in Kashmir.
- Education enhances the status and is a major step for emancipation of women.
- Women's work outside home (i.e. employment) is the primary avenue for their empowerment.
- There is still upper hand of men pertaining on decision making power (within and outside the family).
- Based on gender, there was overt discrimination on the part of the state.

Significance of the Study

There have been a glaringly insignificant number of studies on women's emancipation in the Kashmiri Society. But there has been no serious study done till date on women Emancipation through Christian Missionaries perspective. Therefore, the study assumes great importance for analytical study of the role of women in Kashmiri society before & after arrival of Missionaries. The impact generated by Christian Missionaries on Kashmiri Society in general & Women in particular, their changing status and their role in the present day world. Meanwhile, the 19th century was a great landmark for the Kashmiri Society and more so for the women folk as the century witnessed a transitional period from traditional to modernity with the advent of Christian Missionaries. Many changes took place in this period, all these need to be studied. We believe that we are now able to present a significant amount of data

regarding the impact of Mission of Missionaries and the nature of empowerment that the missionaries earned for the women in Kashmir.

Methodology

This study is based on historical, descriptive and analytical methods.

Sources

The study draws its sources from the National Archives of India, New Delhi; State Archives located both in Jammu & Srinagar. Various government records, General Annual Administrative Reports, Educational Administrative Reports, and other sources were reviewed. Christian missionaries such as Mr. Tyndale Biscoe, Robert Clark, and the Neve brothers also left accounts behind. Contemporary leader's writings have also been included. Several vernacular newspapers have shed light on the social situation in Kashmir in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Folklore and folk tales have also been used to investigate the problem.

Chapterization of the Work

The study is divided into five chapters; the first chapter begins with Introduction of the study.

Chapter I: Introduction

This chapter deals with the concept of emancipation of women, followed by area of research in which concentrate was given on the city of Srinagar, which was capital city of princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. Besides Area of studies, review of literature, conceptual framework of study, objectives, assumptions, significance of

study and methodology were incorporated in it. Meanwhile this chapter is a partial attempt to highlight the changes that took place in the condition of women from ancient to the modern period and also highlight the contribution made by Christian missionaries for emancipation of women.

Chapter II: Condition of Women in Srinagar: Historical Background

The second chapter highlights the general conditions of women in society before coming of Christian Missionaries and throws light on how missionaries acted as catalyst for changing position of women in Srinagar. Missionaries highlighted that from the ancient times to Advent of missionaries women witnessed rising fortunes. They were deprived of their rights and were treated like dumb, with the arrival of Missionaries in Kashmir, they left no stone unturned for emancipating Women to live life of dignity and responsibility.

Chapter III: Christian Missionaries and Women Education

The third chapter throws light on the contribution of Christian Missionaries in field of women education. They were the real founders of modern education in Kashmir, who transformed the whole society of Kashmir. We discover that girl's education has often been viewed as inferior to that of their male counterparts. We seldom hear from writers that there was ever a girl's school. There were, without a doubt, some maktabas where girls were taught, but it was all religious in nature. The situation changed with the arrival of Christian missionaries in the second half of the nineteenth century, and somewhere in the late 1880s, one of the Mission Ladies opened a girl's school in the premises of Srinagar City. In response, numbers of girl's schools on modern lines have been developed in different parts of Kashmir, particularly in Srinagar later. The

chapter also analyses the role of various socio-religious reform movements in the reformation of Kashmir society in general and position of women in particular. The role and position of Anjuman-i-Nusrat-ul-Islam is discussed in detail. This chapter also discusses the government's response to these organisations with respect to the question of educational initiatives.

Chapter IV: Christian Missionaries and Women in Health Care

The fourth Chapter deals with the Health condition of women in Srinagar before and after advent of Christian Missionaries. This Chapter highlighted the missionaries tirelessly made efforts to improve health conditions of women's in Srinagar. They establishment many hospitals exclusively for women's in Srinagar City. Moreover it also throws light on efforts which missionaries done for emancipation of Women including the abolition of Women trafficking and Prostitution in Srinagar city in 1934, which were the most evil practice in Srinagar and were the core factors for degrading the health of women. Surprisingly, Dogra rulers were encouraging these evils in society. However missionaries coupled with some reformers made good efforts to erode this practice to improve the condition of women.

Chapter V: Conclusion

At one level, this chapter tries to provide an overview of the analysis, while at another level it tries to present key findings. A concerted effort has been made to highlight the most promising aspects of our research while also addressing the shortcomings and potential prospects of this field.