
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF MEDIEVAL BENGAL

Rise of Islam in Bengal

A more significant role was played by the activities of sufi teachers. Sufis arrived in Bengal for propagation of Islam much earlier than the political conquest of the area by Muslims, almost surely by the mid-eleventh century.



Rise of Islam in Bengal

Sufis belonging to four major orders;

- ❑ Chishtiyah
- ❑ Suhrawardi'yah
- ❑ Qadiriyah, and
- ❑ Naqshbandi'yah

They exerted a great deal of influence in Bengal.



Example-

Shah Abdullah Kirmani introduced Chishtiyah order in Bengal at the beginning of the thirteenth century.

Another Chishtl sufi, Akhi Sirajuddin contributed to the spread of the order in Bengal



Example-

Shaikh Jalaluddin Tabrez introduced the Suhrawardi'yah order in Bengal before the establishment of Muslim rule.

His piety, ideal character, and humanitarian services are reported to have had a great impact on the common people of Bengal.



Suhrllwardi'yah

Shaikh Jalal, popularly known as Shah Jalal, has been credited with spreading Islam in Sylhet district and adjacent areas.



why Bengal witnessed such intensified
islamization?

Language

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The Brahmanic Sen kings suppressed the Bengali language and attempted to impose Sanskrit on the Bengali-speaking population. After the establishment of Muslim rule the use of Bengali language received a remarkable boost.

First, Persian speaking rulers appointed Bengali poets at their courts in order to promote the language as well as to communicate with the common people in the region.

why Bengal witnessed such intensified islamization?

Second, the sufi teachers learned the language and adopted it as the medium of their da 'wah activities in Bengal. Their contribution to the development of puthi literature and of ascetic ma'Tifan and murshidi songs is remarkable.

Most of these works deal with the life of the Prophet of Islam and stories of his disciples, or with the miraculous activities performed by the Muslim saints.

why Bengal witnessed such intensified islamization?

The theory of low caste Hindus converting to Islam in Bengal is difficult to accept on historical grounds.

For, if that were the case, then all low caste Hindus would have accepted Islam and now modern India would not have been a low-caste Hindu majority area.

Hindu Society

A caste driven society was prevalent.

The custom of Caste originated from different occupation

Major four caste was Brahmin, Kayastha, Baishyo and shudra.

No social integration among these four caste.

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SOCIAL LIFE OF MEDIEVAL BENGAL

Muslim Society

- Sultans had the highest social esteem and leader of Muslim society.
- Had three tiers-upper, higher middle and lower class.
- Sayed, Ulema (experienced in Islamic education) and similar classes were influential of that time.
- The sheikhs would impart the public relations and spiritual education.
- Aristocratic community-shaped themselves as an exclusive class of people.
- Social festivals- Akika, Khatna, Marriage, Milad and so on were celebrated.
- Elite Muslims eat- Kabab, rejala, roast and so on lavish foods and common people eat plain rice, fish and vegetable.

- Pajama, panjabi, pagri, tupi, lungi weared by muslim male.
- Elite leaders used various cosmetics and gold ornaments.
- Deveopment of muktab, madrassas and boys and girls received education from here. Hindu Society.
- There were nothing change in the social system of Hindu society between medieval and ancient periods.
- Different occasions, caste system, food habit, dress code were similar with the ancient period but Kaulinyo system were existed.

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Economic Condition (Agriculture)

Main agricultural crops in the middle age included paddy, wheat, cotton, sugarcane, jute, mustard etc.

Fruits- Mango,
Banana, dates etc.

Jackfruit,



Economic Condition (Industry)

The prosperity in the textile industry was remarkable in Bengal. Cloths made here very famous for quality and standard. They had great demand in foreign countries. Example, Dhaka was famous for Moslin, a kind of very fine cloths.

Jute and silk cloths were remarkable.

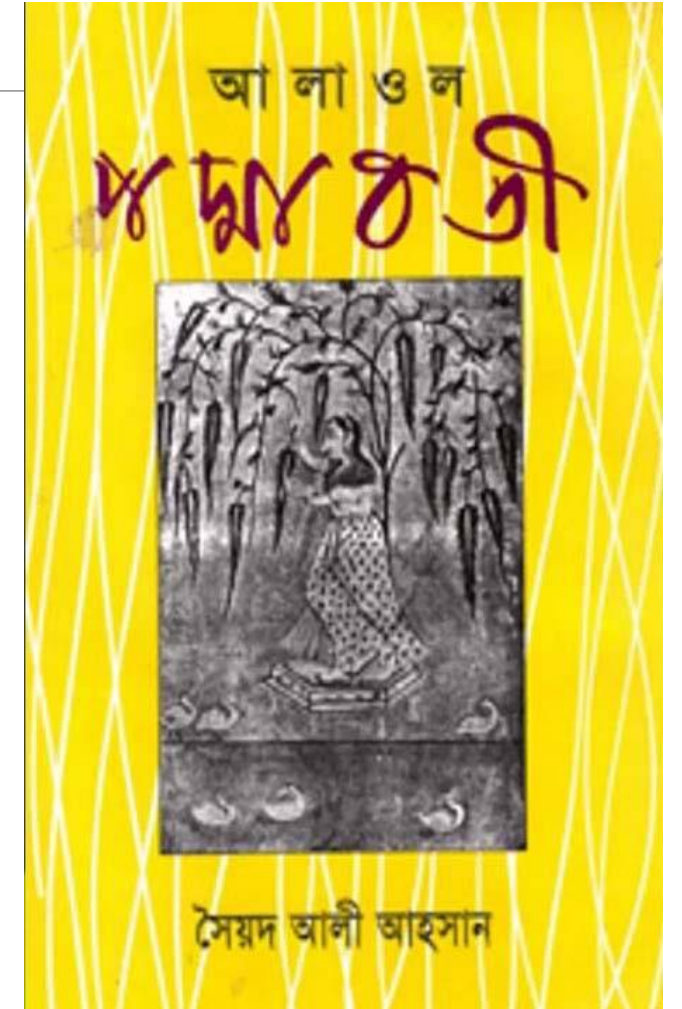


Language and Literature

development of Bengali language and literature in this regime was remarkable.

Shah Muhammad Sagir wrote Yousuf Julekha, padmavati etc.

Persian and Sanskrit literature was translated.



ARCHITECTURE

The Muslim rulers built many palaces, mosques, graveyards, dargahs etc in different places of Bengal in different times in order to establish the glory of Islam and make their conquests and regimes memorable.

- For example: Adina Mosque(Gaur), Graveyard of Giasuddin Azam Shah, Sonarga; Eklakhi mosques(pandua); Bara sona mosque(Gaur), Choto sona mosque, The Tomb of Khan Jahan Ali (Bagerhat), Shatgombuj mosque, Kadam rasul, Bara Katra(Dhaka) and so on.

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Administrative life

1. Sulatan, Subadars and Nawabs in different ruling ruler operated the region and hold the higher position.

2. To protect the territory, rulers established military outposts in the border area.

3. Different areas of the territory to the military chiefs for maintenance of law and order and collection of revenues. It was also their duty to look after the well being of people under their charge.

4. Building a naval power.

5. Introduced a welfare administration and led Bengal to prosperity