**Dr. Amjad Saqib – A Profile:**

A medical graduate, Dr. Amjad Saqib was selected for the nation’s topmost bureaucratic institution, the elite Civil Service of Pakistan after clearing its examination with great distinction in 1985. Having stood out as a public servant, right when his career was about to move towards higher echelons, he resigned in 2003 with the intent to dedicate himself to becoming a social entrepreneur and make a difference in societal change through Akhuwat – which had already been founded and launched by him in 2001 and had meanwhile started taking strides towards the force it was to become.

The salient feature of his public service career – one that perhaps changed the course of his life – was his last assignment, a five-year stint as general manager of the Punjab Rural Support Programme (PRSP) from 1998 to 2003.

It is here that he had the opportunity to closely examine the various initiatives of poverty alleviation, participatory development and conventional microfinance. And this made him realize that “something different had to be done”. This desire to do ‘something different’, something more effective as a panacea for the poor spurred him on to conceive and introduce an interest-free microfinance model based on the idea of Mawakhat or brotherhood.

This makes Akhuwat a unique microfinance organization – indeed the first of a kind. The model has by now been replicated in two countries but at close to $100 million in base capital Akuwat remains the largest such institution in the world.

Meanwhile, Dr. Amjad Saqib took his Master’s degree in Public Administration through Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship from the American University, Washington D.C., USA. He also studied at LUMS, where he completed the one-year LUMS - McGill University Program in Social Enterprise & Management.

Dr. Saqib is founder of Akhuwat and Akhuwat is his real passion but he also renders honorary other services for many other NGOs. He is Vice Chairman Punjab Educational Endowment Fund, Chairman Management Committee Fountain House, Honorary Managing Director Punjab Welfare Trust for the Disabled, Member Board of Director Punjab Education Foundation, Member Syndicate Punjab University, Commissioner Punjab Health Care Commission, Member Punjab Red Crescent Society. Recently, Mian Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan appointed him Chairman Steering Committee for Prime Minister’s Qarz-e-Hassan Programme.

**Work:**

Besides his pro bono work for Akhuwat, for a living Dr. Amjad Saqib is a highly sought after consultant, and has provided consultancy to various highbrow international development agencies, such as the Asian Development Bank, International Labour Organization, the UNICEF, the World Bank, Canadian International Development Agency, USAID and DFID.

This consultancy work has also been in his core area of interest: poverty alleviation, microfinance, social mobilization and education management.

Dr. Amjad Saqib is also a regular guest speaker at the Civil Services Academy (CSA), the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and many other professional forums. He has also been among the visiting faculty at the Kinnaird College, Lahore, the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) and the University of Punjab. He has spoken at Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford, LSE, Warrick and Kings College London.

In recognition of his services across many spheres, on March 23, 2010 the President of Pakistan honoured him with *Sitara-a-Imtiaz*, a most coveted civil award.

**Publications:**

Dr Amjad Saqib has also authored six books. These are: *Shehr-e Lab-e-Darya* (Khushal Khan Khattak Literary Award Winner), *AikYadgarMushaira, Gautam Kay Des Mein* (A travelogue to Nepal), published by Sang-e-Meel Publications), and *Ghurbat aur Microcredit*. Subsequently, he wrote another travelogue *Akhuwat Ka Safar*, and a compilation based on real life stories of victims of loan sharks, *Dasht-e Zulmat*. Another book, under the title *Shahab-e Saqib*is under publication.

Dr. Amjad Saqib indeed is a prolific writer, and his exceptionally well-written columns appear quite frequently for leading Urdu dailies *Nawa-i-Waqt, Jang, Pakistan, Nai Baat* and *Jinnah.* These are mostly on current affairs, events, ideas and personalities, and, according to critics, have the pleasing touch of a litterateur.