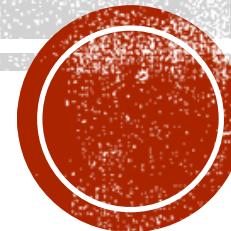




CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN AND STUDENTS IN THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT FOR SEPARATE HOMELAND FOR MUSLIMS OF BRITISH INDIA

Habib Ali



ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

- **a) Breaking Social Barriers**

- Traditionally, women in South Asia were restricted to domestic roles.
- The freedom movement encouraged them to step out and take part in political, social, and organizational activities.

- **(b) Key Contributions**

- **Political Mobilization**

- Women attended public meetings, delivered speeches, and spread political awareness.
- They campaigned during elections for the Muslim League.

- **(c) Prominent Women Leaders**

- **Fatima Jinnah:** “Mother of the Nation,” mobilized women and stood by Quaid-e-Azam.
- **Begum Ra’ana Liaquat Ali Khan:** organized women under *Women’s National Guard* and *All Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA)*.
- **Begum Shaista Ikramullah:** represented women in Muslim League and later became Pakistan’s delegate at the UN.
- **Bi Amman (mother of Ali Brothers):** raised funds and gave speeches, even from behind the purdah.



ROLE OF STUDENTS IN THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

- **(a) Backbone of Political Struggle**
 - Students were young, energetic, and fearless — they played a crucial role in spreading the message of the Muslim League.
- **(b) Key Contributions**
- **Organizational Strength**
 - Student groups like the **All India Muslim Students Federation (AIMSF)** provided manpower for political gatherings.
 - They organized rallies, passed resolutions, and spread awareness among the youth.
- **Propaganda and Awareness**
 - Distributed pamphlets, newspapers, and posters in schools, colleges, and hostels.
 - Convinced fellow youth to support the demand for Pakistan.
- **Participation in Elections & Protests**
 - Actively supported Muslim League candidates in 1945–46 elections, which became a turning point.
 - Took part in demonstrations, strikes, and processions against British policies and Congress dominance.



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- **All India Muslim Students Federation (AIMSF) (founded in 1937 in Aligarh)**
 - Main student wing of the Muslim League.
 - Spread the message of the Pakistan Resolution across colleges and universities.
- **Punjab Muslim Students Federation (PMSF)**
 - Established in Lahore.
 - Became very active during the 1945–46 elections to mobilize youth in Punjab.
- **Sindh Muslim Students Federation (SMSF)**
 - Organized in Sindh to counter Congress influence among students.
- **Bengal Muslim Students League**
 - Worked in Bengal to promote the idea of Pakistan among Muslim youth.



PROMINENT STUDENT LEADERS & EVENTS

- **Liaquat Ali Khan's speeches** were popular among students.
- Student federations organized *Pakistan Day* celebrations on 23rd March annually after 1940.
- Many anonymous student activists were jailed or expelled from colleges for protesting against the British Raj.



CONCLUSION

- The freedom movement was not the achievement of leaders alone, it was a joint struggle where women and students gave their energy, passion, and sacrifices.
- Without their active involvement, the dream of a separate homeland for Muslims may not have been realized.

