

PESHAWAR
TO
U.S.A
Impressions of an Educationist

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Book Title:	Peshawar to U.S.A
Author:	Khwaja Mohammad Ashraf <i>M.A., P.E.S. (I)</i>
Printing Supervision:	Muhammad Zia ud Din
Title:	Saqib Hussain
Pages:	150
Printing Year:	2018
Price:	Rs.300
ISBN:	978-969-687-249-8
Printed:	GHA Laser Printing, Peshawar

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2-Chinar Road, Abdarra, University Town, Peshawar
www.gandharahindko.com

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DEDICATED

With great affection and love

To the men and women of the
United States of America who have
done and are still doing their utmost
to bring about mutual understanding
and good-will amongst the various
countries of the world.

Khwaja Mohammad Ashraf

PREFACE

Khawaja Mohammed Ashraf deserves to be congratulated on having condensed in the form of this report, an account of his visits to various civic, educational and religious organisations and universities in the United States of America as a Fullbright Scholar. As an experienced educationalist from Pakistan he was able to convey an accurate picture of Pakistan to the intelligentsia whom he came across in the course of his peregrinations. He has been a keen observer of the American way of life and one is struck at times by his having taken note of small details which would normally escape the attention of a casual visitor. He has obviously been greatly impressed by certain features of the educational system of the U. S. A., particularly the great strides that have been taken in the field of audio-visual education. It is not difficult to anticipate that his rich experience of this specialised branch of education will soon be practically applied to teaching in our own country. There can also be little doubt that Khawaja Mohammed Ashraf will bring about in our own educational institutions the same spirit of co-operation and team work which he found such an inspiring feature of academic life in the U. S. A.

The author was able to visit many places of historical interest and in spite of the fact that he

makes no claim that his present work is a travel book, his observations made in respect of places and universities visited by him, provide entertaining reading.

The cordial relations which Khawaja Mohammed Ashraf appears to have established with all whom he met in the U. S. A. certainly leaves the reader with the impression that he has proved a most successful cultural ambassador of Pakistan.

26-8-52.

DR. A. WAHEED

FOREWORD

Thirteen months ago I was out on tour in a remote part of the Peshawar District of the N. W. F. P. Gazing out over the fields towards the Khyber Hills I was suddenly startled by the noise of an approaching car. To my surprise the vehicle drew up beside me and out stepped two men. One of them was the Head of the Educational Department and the other his assistant.

They had motored all the way out from Peshawar to the foothills of the Frontier in order to tell me that the Assistant had just received the award of a Fullbright Scholarship which would enable him to visit the New World and to do research and study on American methods of Education.

The traveller whose departure was so imminent was Khwaja Mohammad Ashraf, Assistant Director of Public Instruction in our Province, and now open me before lie the proofs of his journeying. I was vastly interested to note his impressions of American culture, education, history, civilization etc. He has thoroughly investigated and remarked on the very useful experiments now being made in the U. S. A, in the field of education.

We belong to a country which is industrially not so highly developed as that of the U. S. A. but I feel

confident that the Provincial Governments will do their utmost to implement some of these schemes which aim to raise as far as possible the standard of education.

Khwaja Mohammad Ashraf is an experienced officer of talent, keen observation and mature thought. I am sure that he has been greatly benefitted by his stay in the U. S. A. He will I hope prove to be an excellent guide and an efficient consultant in the field of education to many a Pakistani teacher in the Province.

I heartily congratulate him on writing this book, which will, I think, prove an inspiration for those who intend to visit the U. S. A. for further studies on educational matters.

Good luck and more power to your elbow
Khwaja Ashraf.

(Mian) JAFFAR SHAH,
Minister for Education,
15th August 1952. North West Frontier Province.

INTRODUCTION.

I deem it a great privilege to write a note of introduction for this volume from the pen of my friend K. M. Ashraf. Although Mr. Ashraf spent only six months in the United States, his extreme energy and acute powers of observation enabled him to observe and understand more of what the United States is really like than many visitors who spend a much longer time here. He visited many schools, communities, and private homes and thus was able to observe American life. A multitude of civic, educational, and religious organizations have experienced the pleasure of hearing from him about Pakistan. Thus, we too, have profited greatly from his visit. In addition, Mr. Ashraf, as the spokesman for a group of educators from other nations who were working and travelling together in the United States, was truly able to promote mutual understanding on an international level. He has been an exemplary representative of Pakistan and through his indefatigable labour and great wealth of understanding has contributed to the cause we all cherish so much : world peace. It was a pleasure to be associated with him. This volume is ample testimony of the success of his visit to the United States.

PAUL E. SMITH

April 8, 1952. *Associate Director, International
Educational Programmes Branch*

Impressions of another Peshawarits after 6 decades

Khwaja Muhammad Ashraf, an educationist visited USA in 1952; he studied the educational system of USA during his official visit which was arranged through a scholarship. He noted his meetings with people, his expressions, visits of different places, minutes and record notes of seminars, conferences and dialogues. During his stay in USA, he wrote his impressions and compiled a book in the name of “Peshawar to USA”. A copy of typed manuscript of the book was given to me by his son Khwaja Mansoor few years back during my stay at Peshawar. I kept this book in my bookshelve and kept it in my study at different occasions.

Almost after six (06) decades, I had an opportunity to visit USA in October, 2017. I stayed in USA for 21 days and I visited New York, Texas and Oklohama States of the USA. My visit was materialized due to my participation in the Fifth International Hindko Conference which was held in New York in October, 2017. This successful conference was arranged by the Gandhara Hindko Board North America Chapter which was organized by Dr.Amjad Hussain and Mr.Attiq Siddique and their colleagues. I was accompanied with my wife Ms.Fasiha Zia. We had an opportunity to stay in USA for further weeks as my

sister-in-law lives in Wichitafalls, Texas, USA. During my stay, I got an opportunity to meet with people at different places. I was obliged to my God that He had given me an opportunity to visit USA which is a superpower of today's world. God give me an opportunity to learn that why USA was chosen by God as superpower. During my visit, I learnt the reasons behind the making of USA as a superpower. The USA is not a superpower due to the reason that it has develop materially, technologically or politically but she is superpower because due to the human development. Why and How USA attained the human development remarkably?. Generally, the citizens of USA are law abiding, disciplined, love for humanity, rule of law and believe in supremacy of merit. The achievement of these traits by the millions of people was the thing which impressed me a lot. I tried to get the reason behind this human development. I thought that it may be some political thinker or thinkers who penetrated their philosophy in the minds of the people but this answer did not suffice me and I tried again and again to get the answer. It took many days and nights to get the right answer and the right answer was that these people are abiding the laws of the God. They believe in the book of God. They read the book of God in their own language. They learn what God says to them. They had written a sentence on every dollar that "In God We Trust". Their leaders and public representatives and other office bearers of the States took oath on the book of God everytime and at every place.

My impressions of the journey compelled me to reproduce the impressions of another Peshawarites who

visited USA six decades ago. The impressions of Khwaja Muhammad Ashraf from his book, which you may read in detail, I am producing some of his excerpts of the book;

“Americans are inquisitive by nature. They would like to know every detail of the things or individuals they contact. This inquisitiveness has developed into a research. The world has seen how this research has helped the people of this country to make many useful discoveries and scientific inventions. I read a notice about a lecture on “Voodooism” and could not understand what it could be. I was familiar with so many “isms” like Communism, Fascism, Nazism, favouritism; but this new “ism” was a mystery to me. I heard the handsome Dr. James E. Gulbertson speaking on this subject like an orator and with some authority. Voodooism is an old religion of a class of Negroes living in the Haiti Islands, they actually demonstrated their various movements and actions, which they do in their houses of worship before their spiritual leaders, and produced peculiar kinds of sounds as the followers of voodooism do. This was all interesting and full of information. Dr. Gulbertson said that voodoo spirits do strange things.”

“The evolution of communications, radio, television and how these work, the art of the theatre, an old street and a new street, an old house and a modern house was shown so nicely that we had nothing but praise for the organizers. The field of industry was as beautifully depicted. The motoroma coal mines and how the miners work there, the aeroplane and its most confusing

machinery, the torpedo and how it functions and the navy at work were very well enjoyed by me. I saw too a huge model of a car with its complicated machinery. The departments of chemistry, physics, minerals, and automobiles from its beginning to the present day looked like miracles. Really all the aspects of industries and sciences were wonderfully shown. I have never seen such big collections before this in my life. The display of modern war weapons, live radar and anti aircraft guns were very interesting. What a colossal amount of money must have been spent in making such a magnificent museum!”.

“The high ideals for which Fordham stands and its aims and objectives can well be described in these words: “its purpose is to-day what it was when it began – it has the courage of its convictions; the history of education these past ten decades has only strengthened those convictions. It believes to-day that a university is a place for a painstaking work, accurate thinking, facility and beauty of expression, deep-seated philosophical foundations, - a training ground for life; battles a preparation not only for life here on earth, but life to come “eternal in the heavens.”

Al-haj Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf’s son Khwaja Mansoor who is my friend and very much impressed from his father as most of the sons impressed from their fathers. I learned about his father’s personality and work which he delivered as educationist is given in the following line;

Al-haj Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf, A famous dedicated and highly Professional teacher graduated from Edwardes College Peshawar, where late Chacha Younas, Daulat Deen, Rustom Kayani and Sardar Abdur Rub Nishtar spent their days as students.

He did his Bachelor's in Teaching (B.T) and Master's in History from Aligarh Muslim University in 1925 where he had friendship with Sardar Abdur Rub Nishtar and Muhammad Ayub Khan (Field Marshal & President of Pakistan) and then went to Indiana University USA on full bright scholarship and he completed his specialization in Secondary Education; after completion he was offered Associate Professor job on highly paid salary in Indiana University USA but he refused and preferred to serve his country. He came back and started his carrier in education department and took charge as head of the institution in Thanna (Malakand Agency) and there under his supervision and guidance some of his students grew up and built their carrier in Civil and Pakistan Army. One of his brilliant student Brigadier Tor Gul (Who also became director general in East Pakistan Rifles).

Mr.Ashraf was given the responsibilities to head the school at Hairpur District Manshera where one of his students sprang up as a poet by the name of Qateel Shifae (Aurangzeb Khan). He became Assistant Director and then Deputy Director of Education of NWFP and Tribal areas including (Mianwali).

H retired as Deputy Director Education in early 1960's also known to be Sir Syed Ahmad Khan of NWFP presently known as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf was author of several books which are as following

- 1) Taleem aur Tarbiyat
- 2) Naya Taleem-e-Zaviya
- 3) Tarikh-e-Pakistan Wah Hind
- 4) Peshawar to U.S.A

After a month or so of his retirement in 1960 the "Wali of Swat" Miangul Jahanzeb Khan Ruler of Princely state of Swat sent a message to Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf to take charge as Principal Jahanzeb College Swat on highly paid salary 800 Rupees as Chief Secretary of Swat state was paid 600 Rupees and he agreed to give him full control for College and no one will intervene in his work on which Mr. Mian Gul Jahanzeb Wali of State of Swat happily accepted because he trusted Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf that he is the right man who will uplift the College which is also his dream and he was keenly interested that education should spread throughout Swat and therefore no fee for the local and deserving students was taken. Scholarship was also given on merit and discipline was highly maintained in those days of 1960's. The Professors used to wear gown and when people came to visit the College they proudly say "they are entering to an Aligarh University".

The laboratories were state of the Art highly equipped instruments which were never used in Pakistan and were brought from England beside students daily education extra curriculum activities were also included to involve student's to polish their skills and they played vital role for students interest in education also to make them more active and the famous Dr.Shimal, an expert in Iqbaliat was also engaged to deliver lectures. It was in Swat State that Principal Jahanzeb College Swat Mr.Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf met, The Duke, Queen Elizabeth II of England and field Marshal Ayub Khan President of Pakistan who was also an Aligarhian and Roommates and close friend of Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf in Aligarh University also observed and acknowledged the keen dedication and highly professional skills of Principal Jahanzeb College Swat. The Ruler of State of Swat also had given extra responsibility to Mr.Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf as head of Red Crescent Swat State which was purely job of Medical Doctor but the trust and Professional working skills of Mr.Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf astonished Wali Swat to engage him and he proven himself as hardworking and dedicated.

He remained Principal Jahanzeb College Swat from 1960-1970 and during his tenure it was the finest education institution of that time. When Swat state was merged with Pakistan, the Deputy Commissioner requested Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf to not resign as Principal of the College and continue to serve as Principal. Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf replied I came to serve Swat state purely on the wishes of Wali Sahab

and since Mian Gul Jahanzeb is no more ruler then I had left. I am going back to my home town Peshawar". These were principles of great man like Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf, only legend can say such words.

When he came back to Peshawar he was approached by one of his student Dr. Anwar Khan who was the head of History Department in University of Peshawar and requested Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf to mark and set the papers of high classes. This again occupied him in education. He also became advisor of the President Convent School of the country on 21st April 1975, he died in LRH Hospital due to cardiac failure and till his last breath he used to work till 20th April 1975. He maintained his private dairy and was punctual in Prayers. The senior retired bureaucrat called him the legend and people give a name him title of Sir Syed of The Frontier.

The Legend attracted numerous students from Tribal areas giving Fulbright Scholarships to needy students which were a policy of the Government. Several Schools were built and up graded during his service.

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