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Renaissance of Hindko in Hazara



Hindko is the second largest language spoken in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and it is the sixth most spoken Indo-Aryan language in Pakistan. As for the antiquity or history of this language, according to linguists and researchers, it is approximately five thousand years old. Despite this, the language, which has



a rich past and illustrious history, is now struggling with tales of neglect and obscurity. Historical inscriptions found in the ruins of Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, and Taxila, written in Kharosthi script, testify to its significant past, but today it is overshadowed by the challenges of preserving its heritage. Historically, this language, once the language of Rajas and Maharajas, lost its importance over centuries, and even after the creation of Pakistan, it did not receive official support or protection for seventy

years. No institution, academy, or department was established for its promotion. Had it not been for the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, the language might have continued to be overlooked, just as it was in the past. By the grace of Allah, the continuous efforts and dedication of the Gandhara Hindko Board led the provincial government to recognize their performance. In 2015, under a public-private partnership, the Gandhara Hindko Academy was established. The provincial



government and the Board of Governors of the Academy, recognizing the noteworthy contributions and control of Muhammad Zia ud Din, General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board over the past thirty years, appointed him as the Chief Executive Committee of the Academy.



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For seven years, the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar operated with government support, and during this period, under the leadership of Muhammad Zia ud Din, the Academy made significant steps for the promotion and development of the Hindko language. The quality of work accomplished by the Academy has been acknowledged by distinguished scholars, institutions, and universities both within and outside the country. Although it was necessary to establish an institution for Hindko language, similar to Pashto Academy, that was founded in 1954, to ensure the Hindko language development and would have promoted in areas with significant Hindko-speaking populations, such as Dera Ismail Khan, Kohat, Haripur, Abbottabad, and

commendable and praiseworthy.

In the 1990s, the Gandhara Hindko Board made significant progress in promoting the Hindko language in the Hazara region. This effort has been acknowledged by notable figures such as Haider Zaman Haider, Professor Yahya Khalid, Niaz Swati, Professor Sufi Abdul Rashid, Sultan Sukoon, Asif Saqib, and Professor Bashir Ahmed Soz. These scholars and experts have praised the efforts of the Board in their writings and speeches over time. From 1993 to 2014, the Gandhara Hindko Board worked diligently to promote the Hindko language in Hazara without any government support or financial assistance. Despite these challenges, the Board continued its efforts with unwavering dedication. For example, before the establishment of the



Gandhara Hindko Academy in 2014, the Gandhara Hindko Board organized the first-ever historical conference on the Hindko language at the Jalal Baba Auditorium in Hazara.

This conference, held under the Board's auspices, was attended by notable figures including the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan Abbasi, the Chairman of the Gandhara Hindko Board and former Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, as well as Dr. Anwar Dil, Haider Zaman Haider, Asif Saqib, Prof. Yahya Khalid, Prof. Bashir Ahmed Soz, and many other renowned researchers, speakers, and poets.



Mansehra, no such platform has yet been created. Feeling the importance of promoting the Hindko language, the Gandhara Hindko Board was established in 1993. This organization undertook the task of promoting Hindko by reaching out to every city where the language is spoken. Through its diligent efforts and dedication, the Board eventually gained recognition from the government. Instead of detailing the contributions of every city or region, it is worth noting that the work done in the Hazara region prior to the establishment of the Gandhara Hindko Board was both





Their participation and praise for this historic initiative are recorded and remain a testament to the Board's significant contributions. Dr. Amir Sohail, a distinguished writer and researcher, also serves as a witness to these efforts. In 2014, the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar organized a conference in Haveliaan without any government support. This event saw participation from prominent poets and scholars from Haveliaan, as well as respected figures from Peshawar such as Sajjad Babar, Saeed Gillani, and Sheen



Shaukat, who presented their papers. The Board's activities include organizing Hindko naat competitions, debates, book launches, poetry readings, meetings, and publishing the works of poets and scholars from Hazara.

Two notable achievements include: First, Haji Abdul Ghafoor Malik's Hindko poetic translation of Holy Quran in 2008, under the Board's auspices was published. At that time, the Board, with the support of the people of Peshawar, invested seven lakh rupees to make this sacred translation

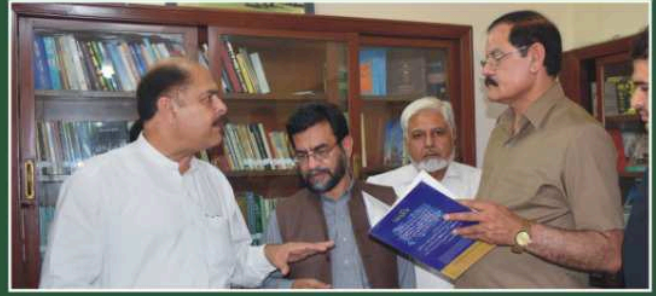
available. Second, publishing of First Hindko Dictionary In 2003. The Gandhara Hindko Board published Sultan Sukoon's pioneering research work of compiling the first-ever Hindko dictionary.

Haider Zaman Haider, Professor Yahya Khalid, Professor Bashir Ahmed Soz, Dr. Anwar Dil, Raja Muneer Haider, and other poets and scholars have continuously contributed their works, all of which were achieved before the establishment of the Gandhara Hindko Academy, without any government backing. The Gandhara Hindko Board has played an unsung role in the renaissance of the Hindko language, not only in



Hazara, Abbottabad, Mansehra, and Havelian but also in Dera Ismail Khan, Kohat, Rawalpindi, Gujar Khan, and other regions where Hindko is spoken. The Board's efforts have been instrumental, and this journey will continue, Inshallah.





In 2015, with government support, the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar was established under the administration of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar. Since then, significant efforts have been made to promote the Hindko language not only throughout Pakistan but also abroad. By the grace of Allah, these efforts continue to yield positive results. A

comprehensive and detailed research report will soon be released by the Gandhara Hindko Board. This report will focus solely on the Hazara region, providing thorough documentation and records. It will explain in detail the role played by the Gandhara Hindko Board for a new beginning of the Hindko language in Hazara over the past thirty years.

