
The Report studies the international scene on the eve of the fall of Dhaka and more importantly, goes into the strategic thinking of the Pakistan army. It calls into question the theory that “the defence of East Pakistan lies in West Pakistan” and reveals that the GHQ had done nothing to underpin its own strategic thinking with preparedness. It examines the events in East Pakistan before the outbreak of disturbances there and minutely analyses the surrender of the Pakistan army in Dhaka. The Hamoodur Rehman Commission Report performs the task of a textbook on the history of Pakistan, based on the evidence placed before the Commission by those it summoned. It reveals more facts of history than any other textbook authorized by the Government of Pakistan. Those who think of it as a “judgment” in the normal judicial sense will be surprised by the depth and sweep of the comment it makes on the state of Pakistan. It not only contains new insights that belie the orthodox view, it presents useful analyses of the personalities who ruled Pakistan and those who carried out their orders. No bookshelf on Pakistan is complete without a copy of the Report.


Books on many aspects of Special Education are available in Europe and North America, but very few give a broad and practical base for trainee special teachers. Even fewer have been written in Middle Eastern Asian countries with local cultural and educational conditions in mind. The present Manual was written by demand of trainee special teachers at the Mental Health Centre Peshawar. The resulting Manual has been field tested in weekly seminars and on-the-job instruction with trainees. Contents well still be largely familiar to western special teachers and lecturers. Almost all the material and methods are used world-wide in special education. Some prominent features of modern western tests on mental retardation, such as independent living, legal rights, intimate relationships, Computer-assisted learning techniques, etc. are either absent or are treated very differently in the present manual. The present Manual intends to lay a solid, practical foundation. Presents appropriate material and underlying principles from which teachers and everyone else concerned with special children can go on to imagine and discover for themselves the endless variety of approaches and adaptations to suit the individual requirements of thousand of pupils with special needs.


This booklet is a summary of five booklets on health issues for adolescents and youth, which has been translated into English with the support of UNFPA in the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to portray the successful experiences of a Muslim country in the field of reproductive health, and also be of use to other developing countries. It is hoped that population education in schools leads to the fostering and development of integrity and values in the youth, so as to make them responsible in their individual and social behavior and thus a contribution to social advancement.
4. **Women’s agenda in the UN: to Beijing & beyond.** Lahore: Shirkat Gah, 2004

This information kit has been put together by Shirkat Gah - Women’s Resource Centre as a means of facilitating Pakistani women and NGOs interested in participating in the United Nations Beijing Platform for Action review process that culminates in 2005. This information kit, Women’s Agenda in the UN: To Beijing & Beyond that provides information on the existing processes and how NGOs can intervene/participate in the review—whether they choose to stay at home, participate in the UN processes, or engage exclusively in the NGO events and forums. The kit lists past and future events for the Beijing+10 Review Process, and key websites that provide further information.

5. **Fatima Raja. Beijing 10 years on.** Lahore: Shirkat Gah, 2005

The 10 year review covered 1995-2005- years in which the world changed substantially, especially between the first and second five years: in the latter, security anxieties dominated; the viability of the United Nations as a consensus building body for world governance came under question in the wake of the US and UK led “Coalition of the Willing” war on Iraq; the focus on Muslims increased following September 11, 2001. Separately, the attention of the UN, development bodies and aid-providing governments shifted from the implementation of the ‘Beijing Platform to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), evoking deep concern among women activists who saw the structural and systemic problems identified in the Beijing Platform, disappearing in the specific targets identified by the MDGs, devoid of a social and political context. Some UN agencies, such as the United Nations Research Institute on Social Development, also expressed concern. Essentially both women and the UNRISD believed that the proposed framework for review failed to address over-arching developments and structural and systemic problems that impact the implementation of the Beijing Platform. Beijing-10 years On brings together the main concerns expressed, the alternative frameworks suggested as well as the official assessments of where we stand globally in reducing gender inequalities.


Pakistan is a drought prone country with devastating consequences for the rural poor particularly in Balochistan, Sindh and South Punjab. At the policy level the issue of water scarcity is being addressed through proposed new dams and reservoirs, and construction of canals - a source of major controversy in the country. In the meantime, little or no attention is given to the domestic and small scale user of water. Keeping in mind the above concerns, Shirkat Gah commissioned a desk study to revisit indigenous knowledge on the subject of traditional water harvesting techniques as practiced in different parts of the country. This publication is a result of the study. The study highlights the immense potential of rain water harvesting, whereby water may be provided to meet local livestock, irrigation and domestic needs and at the same time reduce pressure on underground water reservoirs.

7. **Najma Sadeque. The national economy how 'they' run Pakistan or the view from the bottom of the heap.** Lahore: Shirkat Gah, 2002

Pakistani economy...
What are the criteria of progress and healthy economy?

- Is it in the statistics compiled in ivory towers?
- In the growth and prosperity of the elite and upper middle-class?
- In the billions earned from business, industry and export?
- In increased revenues despite a narrow tax base and high tax evasion?
- In the mind-boggling foreign debt without concern about repayment?
- In the invasion of foreign investment and excessive consumerism?
- In constantly restructuring administration and governance without accountability or freedom of public information?

If these are the criteria, the citizens have not mandated them. When the conditions of the poor, who are in the overwhelming majority, it means they don’t count with the powers-that-be because they are poor. They are often viewed as an obstacle to progress, with nothing more than nuisance value. Many wish the poor would just disappear. Now let’s imagine a complete stoppage of all work by the poor all over the country form tomorrow, especially women who do two-thirds of all agricultural and all domestic work. Will the market be big enough without the vast body of consumers-cum-labour? Or is export the sole object?

The state of citizens reflects the state of an economy. Pakistan is no different.


In Pakistan, when a man takes the life of a woman and claims that he did so because she was guilty of immoral sexual conduct it is called an “honour killing”, not murder. The killing of the “adulterous” female- and sometimes, but not always, of the man named as her illicit partner- is intended to erase shame, restore honour, and enforce a social code that defines and controls women’s lives. Thus “honour killing” is also a term that is advanced – and often accepted by the community and the state’s judicial system-as an acceptable motive and a legitimate defence for murder. In recent years, the practice of honour killings has received a great deal of coverage in the press. Most of the reporting, however, does not convey the horror that is wrought in the lives of women, nor does it explain why it explains why it happens, how and with what consequences.

Read together, these dry, clinical, case studies reveal a tapestry into which is woven the painful narrative of women’s lives. Each is like a scrapbook of a life extinguished: we leaf through it; we find the woman.

9. Najma Sadeque. How 'they' kill the world: what every taxpayer, refugee, and second-class citizen should know about the globalization of militarism. Karachi: Shirkat Gah, [ ]

Humans are not born killers (even if some males unnecessarily pick fist fights). They have to be driven to it by extreme circumstances, or conditioned into it by long training. Even then, everyone can’t do it. Its one thing to injure someone badly, quite another to take a life which you know you can never bring back. They say, though, it’s difficult only the first time. After that it’s supposed to get easier, like anything one practice again and again. But worse is when they start deriving pleasure out of killing. The more they kill, the more they enjoy it: and the more they enjoy it, the more they kill. The moment naïve civilian governments waive transparency for any institution in the name of undefined national interests without laying down the limits, they threaten the public interest.

There is little herein that can be rejected on grounds of southern bias; most of the information that follows is based on independent western sources that have held up a mirror to their own institutions... that are aped worldwide.

The questions of clash of civilizations, fundamentalism and ideological confrontations have become the core issues of modern age. Since they concern directly the Muslim world, and allegations are directed against the Muslim extremists, the above book has been produced to discuss the gravity of the situation and urgency to survive the pernicious effects. How to face the challenge and evolve a strategy of principled and rational discourse is the main theme of “ISLAM & THE CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS”. As a result of inadequate understanding, confusion ad despair the dynamics of dialogue on which depends the process of peace has become bereft of the essential elements of reasoning and rationality. There are more attack, more discrimination against Muslims, and there is increasing occupation with subject that earns the neo-cons and fanatics more hostility and combat. In a mood of despair and disillusionment we find people talking about the “Clash of Civilization”. There have been some scratches on their skins which have become increasingly sensitive and as a result, their scratches have produced ulcer in the form of conflicts and clashes.

In the form of this book a modest attempt is made to restore the values that might sanctify the sanctity of religions and civilizations.


In this book the author has tried to present the facts, without any bias or prejudice, in proper perspectives, so that the leaders, lawyers and common people of our country could pool their resources to resolve the crises. With tolerance and excellence, intellect and enlightenment we can undoubtedly face the challenges. President Musharraf himself has been in the forefront in restoring the democratic institutions and giving the press and people freedom of expression. He has also suggested that the concept of enlightenment is the best course which, no doubt, no sane person can contradict. It is in the light of these virtues that the present crises need to be resolved. Any backward moves will not be in the best interests of the state. We have to see that our state does not fail and our people are not deserted.


A study of the present deteriorating conditions reveals that sharp decline is taking place in Muslims' morals and ethic. Character as a facet of Islamic ethic is no more a distinct characteristic of Muslim Personality. The glaring discrepancy between thought and action, between faith and practice led to the disintegration of the Muslim Empires. It is now resorting to the erosion of trust and responsibility; The author has tried to illustrate the principles of social and moral renewal that may be employed to bridge the gulf between thought and action. This is how a revolution can be ignited in the sphere of consciousness and creativity. Muslims today neither this, nor deploy their resources for productive purposes. They learn neither from the Quran, nor from history. Modernism with some of its manifestations may not be acceptable to some sections of Muslim society, but is cannot be rejected altogether as a system of productivity when it adds constructive ideas and vibrant dimensions to the pattern of life. Modernism need not be the exclusive domain of the West.

Modernism is not viewed as an anathema and the challenges of modernity are accepted with creative response and thoughtful analysis. The book makes it clear that the Qur'an is not a book of thoughtless concern, nor Islam a religion of static stereotypes. With consistency of conception and grace of expression the prosaic situations are turned into effective affirmations. Explaining the Qur'an to the modern man is the most different task, more subtle and intellectual than any other issue at any other time in human history. In order to make it easier an attempt has been made to facilitate the course of communication through the medium of modern language and diction. This is the underlying idea with which the author hopes to illumine the horizons where the Mind of God is seen operating the mechanism of human and natural phenomena. With a vast range of analytical and lexical endowments the QUR’AN AND MODERNISM will go a long way to shatter the barriers of illusions and misconceptions which hinder the process of a purer perception and a cleaner conception.


Provision of the quality water sanitation services is the prime responsibility of the Government. The Urban Unit (P&D Department), Government of Punjab with the help of Water& Sanitation Programme-South Asia(WSP-SA), HUD & PHED arranged a roundtable workshop to support WASA’s in Punjab to learn from the best practices on Water Supply & Sanitation Services across the world. The day long session was facilitated by Kathy Eales, Water & Sanitation specialist, along with key specialists from WSP-South Asia and from the Urban Unit. Managing Director WASAs were invited to participate in this discussion. The MDs highlighted the need for benchmarking WASAs performance and its impact on services delivery. Another important feature of this discussion was that how we can incorporate the citizens’ voice in the services for social accountability purpose and its impact of the public services.


In Pakistan the agriculture sector is the only area of work which women can access without any social barriers imposed on them. Malir (which means “fertile green area” in Sindhi) is a part of Karachi. It was once famous for providing fruit of the highest quality, vegetables and fodder to the entire country especially Karachi. The ground water aquifer was traditionally recharged by the Malir River and its tributaries, which ran only after torrential rainfalls. Besides channeling rain water, the river bed was covered with thick sand and gravel, deposited by flowing river. However, sand and gravel are also, important construction materials and hence the construction industry has been continuously excavating this natural resource from the Malir River since the 1940’s. Excavation soared to alarming levels during the 1980s and 1990s. When there has been a sharp decline in agricultural activities, creating poverty and unemployment in the area. Shirkat Gah has played on important role through its advocacy campaigns to create awareness on issues related to water resources and women’s livelihoods.