

The Works on Madar-i-Millat Fatima Jinnah: An Evaluation

Dr. Riaz Ahmad*

Madar-i-Millat Fatima Jinnah (1893-1967), the younger sister of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, is a prominent figure of both the Pakistan Movement as well as the politics of Pakistan. Like her brother, she possessed views for the development of Pakistani society particularly the women of Pakistan. She herself became a model woman not only in the Pakistan Movement, but in Pakistani politics especially after the death of Quaid-i-Azam in 1948. She was looked upon not only as the mother of Pakistani nation but a beacon of light in Pakistani politics. It was because of this reason that she contested the presidential elections of 1965 against Field Marshal M. Ayub Khan as candidate of the Combined Opposition Parties. Though she lost, the way she fought the election in different areas of Pakistan and the speeches she delivered are a beacon of light for the future generations.

The year 2003 was celebrated by the Government of Pakistan as the Madar-i-Millat year under the leadership of Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali. Before 2003 there were not more than ten books on the life and times of Fatima Jinnah, but during the year 2003 more than 30 works appeared on the Madar-i-Millat. The National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research emerged as the only institution which produced ten books on different aspects of her life.¹ In this paper all the

* Editor-in-Chief, *PJHC* and Director, National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Centre of Excellence, Quaid-i-Azam University.

1 See Riaz Ahmad, *Madar-i-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah: A Chronology (1893-1967)*, Islamabad: National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Centre of Excellence, Quaid-i-Azam University, 2003; Riaz Ahmad, *Madar-i-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah; Unpublished Speeches, Messages, Statements and Interviews (1948-1967)*, Islamabad: NIHCR, 2003; Riaz Ahmad, *Fatima Jinnah on Technical Education*, Islamabad: NIHCR, 2003; Riaz Ahmad, *Pakistani Scholars on Madar-i-Millat Fatima Jinnah*, Islamabad: NIHCR, 2004; Riaz Ahmad,

works and publications on Madar-i-Millat are evaluated. These publications are categorized into the following:

1. Biographical Works
2. Autobiographical Works
3. Compiled Works
4. General Works

First biography of Fatima Jinnah was prepared and published by the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research in 1979 by late Dr. Agha Hussain Hamadani. Keeping in view the importance of this work, the National Book Foundation got this book translated into English and published it during 2003. Though a number of books were published in Madar-i-Millat year but a real biography remains that of late Agha Hussain Hamadani. Despite being a standard biography, it lacks certain aspects like different versions of the death of Madar-i-Millat and biographer just mentions them without coming to a definite conclusion, but still remains a good work.

Madar-i-Millat herself wrote her autobiographical work titled *My Brother*. It is mainly the life history of her brother Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah, but at places, she speaks of herself. This work was edited by Prof. Sharif al Mujahid and published by the Quaid i-Azam Academy, Karachi, in 1987.

The compiled works are very few. First compilation of Fatima Jinnah's speeches, statements and interviews was published in 1976 by the Research Society of Pakistan.² Other compiled work covering the unpublished speeches, statements and messages was published by the NIHCR in 2003 in which a number of new material was brought to light.³ The work by Salahuddin does not give references to the sources from where the material was taken, but the work by Dr. Riaz Ahmad (the author) has given the references of the sources wherefrom the material has been retrieved which

Madar-i-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah – Zindagi kay Aham Waqiat (Urdu), tr. by Kh. Razi Haider, Islamabad: NIHCR, 2004; Riaz Ahmad, *Madar-i-Millat Fatima Jinnah Aur Pakistan* (Urdu), Islamabad: NIHCR, 2004; Riaz Ahmad, *Madar-i-Millat: Qaumi Akhbarat ki Nazr Main*, (Urdu), Islamabad: NIHCR, 2003; Dr. Agha Hussain Hamadani, *Fatima Jinnah: Hayat-o-Khidmaat* (Urdu), 2nd edition, Islamabad, NIHCR, 2003, *Pakistan Journal of History and Culture* (Fatima Jinnah Number), Vol.XXIV, No.1, Jan.-June, 2003, Islamabad: NIHCR; and *Majallah Tarikh-o-Saqafat-i-Pakistan* (Fatima Jinnah Number), Vol.14, No.1 April-September, 2003, Islamabad: NIHCR, 2003

2 Salahuddin Khan (ed.), *Speeches, Messages and Statements of Madar-i-Millat Fatima Jinnah (1948-1967)*, Lahore: Research Society of Pakistan, 1976.

3 Riaz Ahmad (ed.), *Madar Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah: Unpublished Speeches, Messages, Statements and Interviews, (1948-1967)*, Islamabad: NIHCR, 2003.

enhances the importance of the work. The translations of these speeches in Urdu have emerged in a peaceful manner in a number of publications.⁴

The general books on Madar-i-Millat Fatima Jinnah can be further divided into various categories. First are the chronologies in which date-wise activities have been published by the NIIHCR in English.⁵ It was translated into Urdu by Kh. Razi Haider with certain additions.⁶ A small effort in this connection has also been made by Urdu Science Board, Lahore.⁷

The other category of the general works on Madar-i-Millat relate to specific topics such as Madar-i-Millat's efforts for democracy in Pakistan,⁸ Madar-i-Millat and Balochistan,⁹ Madar-i-Millat's efforts for free press,¹⁰ and Madar-i-Millat's assassination.¹¹

There are other works which are claimed to be biographies, but they are not so. They do not meet the standard of a biography as we have already given references of some biographical works. These books are a mixture of Madar-i-Millat's life history and her speeches and statements.¹² In some

-
- 4 For instance Ahmad Salim, *Farmoodat-i-Fatima Jinnah* (Urdu), Lahore: Sang-e Meel Publications, 2003; Jameel Ahmad, *Madar-i-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah: Taqarir, Peghamat aur Biyanat (1947-1967)*, (Urdu), Lahore: Urdu Science Board, 2003; *Gulbang-i-Hayat* (Urdu), Lahore: Ferozsons, 1952; Dr. Qamar Ihsan Kamalpuri, *Madar-i-Millat ney Farmaya: Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah key Halat, Afkar wa Aqwal*, (Urdu), Lahore: Khazeena-i-Ilm-o-Adab, 2003.
 - 5 Riaz Ahmad, *Madar-i-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah: A Chronology (1893-1967)*.
 - 6 Riaz Ahmad, *Madar-i-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah – Zindagi kay Aham Waqi'at*.
 - 7 Sajjad Ahmad, *Madar-i-Millat: Mah-o-Sal kay Ai'ney Mein* (Urdu), Lahore: Urdu Science Board, 2003.
 - 8 Azhar Muneer, *Madar-i-Millat ka Jamhoori Safar* (Urdu), Lahore: Frontier Post Publications, 1993; Tehmina Sher Durrani, *Shaheed-i-Jamhooriyat: Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah*, (Urdu) Lahore: Bright Books, 2003; Wahid Anjum, *Shama-i-Jamhooriyat* (Urdu), Lahore: Jang Publication, 1993; and Syed Kawish Rizvi, *Fatima Jinnah: Samraj aur Inqilab*, (Urdu), Karachi: Pakistan Peoples Forum, 1970.
 - 9 Inamul Haq Kausar, *Madar-i-Millat aur Baluchistan*, (Urdu), Quetta: United, 2003.
 - 10 Khalid Kashmiri, *Madar-i-Millat tey Azadi-i-Sahafat* (Urdu), Lahore: Aks Jahan Publications, 2003.
 - 11 Ta'oos Khan, *Madar-i-Millat ka Qatal* (Urdu), Lahore: Islam Dost Publications, 2003.
 - 12 For instance, see Shahid Rasheed, *Madar-i-Millat Mohsin-i-Millat* (Urdu), Lahore: The Mudar-i-Millat Education Society, 2003; Musa Khan Jalalzai, *Madar-i-Millat: Halat-o-Khidmat* (Urdu), Lahore: Haq Publications, 2003; Khalid Pervez, *Chiragh-i-Mehr-o-Wafa Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah* (Urdu), Multan: Becon Books, 2003; Riaz Ahmad, *Madar-i-Millat: Qaumi Akhbarat ki Nazr Main*, (Urdu); Ahsan Ali Bajwa, *Madar-i-Millat Fakhr-i-Millat Mohtarma. Fatima Jinnah*, Faisalabad,

biographical phase in more than her speeches, statements and interviews or other expressions. This also includes those books which are compilation of various articles.

There are some books which are impressions of Madar-i-Millat's contemporaries or those personalities who lived with her or met with her. Articles are available in some publications,¹³ but the most important work is by Suriyya Khurshid.¹⁴

There is a quiz book with reference to various questions along with their answers which is useful to the students for quiz competitions.¹⁵ There is only one book which introduces various books on Madar-i-Millat.¹⁶

There are some works in which various personalities' biographical sketches have been given along with that of Madar-i-Millat. These books are for information of the general readers.¹⁷

As Madar-i-Millat — like her brother Quaid-i-Azam — always expressed her views in English, most of the original works are in English, but the first biography was written in Urdu. Despite the fact that there are a number of works on Madar-i-Millat but there is great need of standard biography on her life.

The problem with most of the writers is that they conceal the sources wherefrom the material or the speeches have been taken which is against the principle of historiography. These all, however, some works which mention the sources wherefrom the material has been taken which enhances the authenticity of these works.

Iqra Publications, 2003; Safdar Ali Najmi, *Madar-i-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah – Shakhshiat aur Afkar* (Urdu), Karachi: Universal Publications, 2003; Mrs. Misbah Tahir, *Jugnoo-i-Mashriq Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah*, Lahore: Kitab Sarai Publications, 2003; Leonard D'Souza and Nosheen D'souza, *Fatima Jinnah: Through the Pages*, Lahore: Sang-e-Meel Publications, 2004; and Agha Ashraf, *Madar-i-Millat Fatima Jinnah* (Urdu), Lahore: Khazeena-i-Ilm-o-Adab, 2000.

13 See for instance, *Majallah Tarikh-o-Saqafat-i-Pakistan*, (Fatima Jinnah Number), Vol.14, No.1 April-September, 2003, Islamabad, NIHCR; and Riaz Ahmad, *Madar-i-Millat: Qaumi Akhbarat ki Nazr Main*, (Urdu).

14 Suriyya Khurshid, *Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah kay Shab-o-Roze* (Urdu), Lahore: Sh. Ghulam Ali and sons, reprinted in 2003.

15 Shahid Rasheed, *Madar-i-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah: Hayat-o-Khidmat Sawal-o-Jawabat kay Havalay sey* (Urdu), Lahore: The Madar-i-Millat Education Society, 2003.

16 Dr. Inamul Haq Kausar, *Madar-i-Millat Sada Roshan Tauzihi Kitabaat, Tasawwurat* (Urdu), Quetta: United Printers, 2003.

17 Shahid Mukhtar, *Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah say Nawaz Sharif Tak*, Lahore: Shahid Publishers, n.d.; Saira Hashmi, *Aik T'assur do Shakhshiatein* (Urdu), Lahore: Al-Faisal Publishers, 1995.