

A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns surrounds the central text.

# *Chapter: 06*

**Findings and Conclusion.**

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The British rule in India had created chaos and unrest among the Indian people, which led them to revolt against the British government, culminating in the war of independence of 1857. Though this war of independence was a total failure and Indians could not resist this powerful tyrant rule, the people of different cast, class, creed, religion and deferent section of the society still kept their hopes alive and stood up against this rule and tried their best to get the country freedom from the clutches of this colonial government using all the possible means. Urdu journalism was one of those means which played an outstanding role in infusing the spirit of freedom among the people and making their opinion against the suppressive government. Most of the daily and weekly English newspapers and magazines in that period were either owned by the British or the Anglo Indians as compared to the Urdu newspapers which were owned by native patriotic people, though the number of such newspapers was very less which may be counted on fingertips.

Urdu Press had strong base in Delhi and in the neighbouring provinces. Some of the leading newspapers published from Delhi and adjacent areas were *Delhi-Urdu Akbar, Sadiq-ul-Akhbar, Tilism Lucknow, Sahr-e-Samri, Awadh Punch, Qisar-ul-Akhbar, Kooh-e-Noor, Qasim-ul-Akhbar, Awadh Akhbar etc.* As the British government could not afford to let any kind of patriotic feelings among the people of India, the East India Company tried to suppress all kinds of journalistic writings including the Urdu journalism. As a result Urdu newspapers were either banned, or forced to stop their journalistic activities due to the fear of British atrocities.

In 1853, there were approximately 35 active Urdu newspapers but only 12 survived till 1857 out of which only one newspaper was owned by a Muslim, which hereby once again proves the nature of Urdu being independent from religion, it was thus a language of nation, language of patriots and not just the language of Muslims .

A brief survey of the contents of some important Urdu newspapers of the period and their approaches of covering the news of the War of independence of 1857, clarified many ambiguities related to the role of Urdu journalism, before and after the War. An overview of the newspapers, clearly indicates that the freedom struggle of 1857 did not break out suddenly, but the process has already been started long back, the blood was boiling in the veins, the atrocities were increasing and thus the revolution was growing within the people, and the Urdu Journalism played an important role in instilling the spirit of freedom among the people which was clearly reflected in the news coverage of this war by the Urdu newspapers of that time. Though the number of Urdu newspapers in that period was very few, they played an outstanding role in sowing seeds of revolt in the masses, and finally translating the same into action. The 1857 revolt is often named as First War of Independence and it is described as the joint effort of all the natives of India against foreign colonial rule. Both the communities were influenced by the Urdu journalism especially in the second half of 19th century. It acquired a nationwide popularity in terms of growth and status, but in terms of standard and impact it lagged far behind the English and Bengali press.

The Urdu papers played a vital role in sensitizing public sentiment against the British suppressive policies as it was the language of commoners, it also

contributed in preparing grounds for freedom from the British rule in India but without understanding the mood and nature of the changing time.

The Mughal Empire in India was already wounded by internal conflicts and had no control over the helm of the affairs. Indian States, on the other hand, were loyal to the privileges awarded by the British rather than the people. In such circumstances the mood of Urdu Press was more sentimental than rational and the tragic end of War of 1857 further traumatized this press. The death of *Maulvi Muhammad Baqar* was the result of punitive action by British government against the editor of *Sadiq-ul-Akhhār*, and the persecution of other newspapers which took clear position during the War, well indicates the fear of the rulers from the press. The impact of this War was far less in Bengal than in central India, although Bengal was the region from where all the battles for political rights of the people were initiated including the battle for the freedom of expression. The reformist press of educated Bengali Hindus decided to fight the foreign rule and defeat it politically and thus social reforms was mostly influenced by this region. The Urdu and Persian papers of Delhi and neighbouring areas will always be remembered for their courageous and qualitative reporting, but at the same time they failed to understand the exact situation and other dimensions of the War.

In short, a deep study of these newspapers and journals of the second half of the nineteenth century makes it very clear that the racial arrogance of the new masters and their exploitation of the country have antagonized the people most. The feelings, aspirations, frustration and anger of the people found full expression in the Urdu Journalism of that period. Urdu Papers and journals wrote extensively on the issues of high headedness of the British officials,

violation of rule of law, restrictions on the freedom of the press, discrimination in civil and military services, growing unemployment resentment against imposition of income tax etc. and helped promoting communal harmony which was pre requisite for freedom struggle.

In the beginning, the tone was mild and moderate, but later it became bitter and critical especially the partition of Bengal gave it a new and violent turn. All these courageous journalistic initiatives paved the way for organized national movement, which ultimately brought freedom for the country in 1947. But unfortunately the contribution of Urdu Journalism, the immense sacrifices made by its editors and establishments has not received a deserving tribute. Copies of the most of the newspapers are not available in the library records because of our acute negligence, even if some records are available they are like forgotten files crumbling, scattered here and there and are in the state of constant decay. Very soon this rich national heritage may be lost, a heritage which would have inspired the younger generation irrespective of their caste, class, creed and religious differences.

This detailed account of the contents of major importance of Urdu newspapers and of their coverage of the War of Independence, at least clarifies some confusion related to the role of Urdu newspapers during, before and after the War. The overview of the newspapers, clearly indicates that sudden break out of the War was not so sudden, rather things had started turning towards this earlier and Urdu press was very well aware of this uprising which was clearly reflected in the tone of Urdu as well as Persian newspapers coming out of the areas where this War was actually fought. Urdu journalism had a great role and has earned the credit of sowing and reaping the seeds of revolt in the

masses. Though it contributed immensely in the freedom struggle but it could have contributed even more efficiently if it could have played strategically rather than emotionally.

The Urdu journalism inculcated the spirit of freedom struggle in the blood stream of every Indian, thus giving the public its vision and objectives. After deep study of the topic and related content analysis, the research may be summarized as under:

1. This fact cannot be denied that Urdu language press in the subcontinent was born in the hands of the colonial rules but at the same time it had rebellious sentiments in its roots right from the beginning.
2. The very fact that the founders of Jam-e-Jahan Numa were noble Hindu souls; Hari Har Datt and Munshi Sada Sukh Lal, while the first martyr of Journalism in India was a Urdu Journalist Molvi Mohd Baqir. It is an indication that from the very beginning Urdu language had a national character and was not confined to a specific religion.
3. Urdu Journalism opened its eye under the patronage of East India Company. In fact they had not profound love for Urdu, their main interest in developing this language lay in using it for their own expansionist design.
4. Urdu Journalism played an outstanding role in infusion the spirit of freedom among the people and sowing the seed of revolt in the masses.
5. Urdu newspapers which were owned by native patriotic people belonged from both communities; Hindus and Muslims.
6. From the very beginning Urdu Journalism was independent from religion.

7. Contributions of Non-Muslims in Urdu Journalism are unparalleled and matchless.
8. Urdu Journalist courageous and bold reporting against the British make them restless.
9. Urdu Journalism always emphasized on Hindu Muslim unity for India's Freedom, without this it looks highly impossible.
10. The tone and style of reporting was very provoking and patriotic. After reading the news the blood was started boiling in vein.
11. Urdu Journalism had its nationalistic viewpoint and always appeal to both community; Hindus and Muslim.
12. Urdu Journalism acquired nationwide popularity in terms of growth and status.
13. In the beginning the tone was mild and moderate but latter it became bitter and critical.
14. Unfortunately the contribution of Urdu Journalism the immense sacrifices made by its editor and establishment has not received a deserving tribute.
15. This rich national heritage may be lost due to our acute negligence.
16. This heritage would have inspired the younger generation irrespective their cast, creed, and religious differences.
17. The detail account of the contents of newspaper will clarify much confusion related to the role of Urdu newspaper during the war of independence.

I have tried to decorate the facts with the ornaments of beautiful words and phrases.

Here I conclude by saying, words seem inadequate, expression fail to explain the beauty and charisma of THE URDU LANGUAGE., this is the

language which added charm to poetry, meaning to prose and indeed LIFE to the great freedom struggle of India. It might have passed the zenith of its splendour but even today we doubtlessly remain indebted to this language in different way.