

ABSTRACT

This study argues that Anjuman Himayat-e-Islam (AHI) is a significant chapter in the history of Muslim reform movements in India, exemplifying the efforts of Muslim intellectuals and leaders to reconcile Islamic teachings with modern education, science, and governance. Under British colonial rule, Muslims faced challenges to their religious, cultural, and socio-political identities, prompting a quest for reform and adaptation. The organization advocated for the education of Muslims in English and modern sciences while promoting Islamic values and ethics. Initially, this organization was established to protect Islamic values in colonial Punjab against the growing activities of Christian and Arya Samaj missionaries. Later, it focused more on the general welfare of the Muslim community through social reforms and political support to the Muslims. It used modern and Islamic education in Punjab for its manifestation and as a tool of socio-political consciousness. This strategy is reflected through the establishment of several institutes of higher learning for both males and females in the domains of humanities and sciences. This dissertation has been divided into five chapters. With a focus on colonial Punjab, the first chapter looks at the history of colonization of India and the relationship of Muslims with the British colonial government. The second chapter discusses the foundation and organizational structure of Anjuman Himayat-e-Islam. The third chapter highlights the various socio-political welfare services of AHI for Muslims in Punjab during the colonial period. The fourth chapter presents a detailed picture of AHI's efforts to uplift Muslim women in colonial Punjab. The fifth chapter explains how the institutions of AHI played a critical role in the Muslim politics of colonial Punjab. This qualitative research mainly relies on historical records to analyze the policies of AHI. The research has extensively relied on the annual session reports of AHI, Mahwari Risalahs, the sub-committee's annual performance reports, General Council of Anjuman Himayat-e-Islam's meeting minutes, and other internal records kept at the organization's head office Lahore. These reports were chosen from the period spanning from 1884 to 1947. This dissertation explored how Anjuman Himayat-e-Islam played a critical role in advancing Muslims in Punjab during the colonial period by resolving their socio-economic and political problems.