

Abstract

Makhdooms are influential religious and political leaders of Pakistan. The Makhdooms of Multan are custodians of the holy shrines of notable sufi saints of Punjab. The Makhdooms have huge following of their disciples and peasants. The Makhdooms took advantage of their position as the custodian of holy shrines and do politics. Their disciples and peasants always vote for them in the elections. The shrines provides the financial resources to carry out the election campaign to the Makhdooms who are involved in politics. They have the edge of huge vote bank and financial resources, upon their opposition. They always won election because of their Murid voters. The phenomenon of piri-muridi is based on hereditary system because the murids are from the families of previous disciples. the Makhdooms influence the lives of their disciples politically, socially, economically and religiously. The reasons of this influence are ignorance, poverty and illiteracy of the disciples.

An empirical study is undertaken to carry out this research and the researcher personally visit the area under study for several times. The researcher took interview of Makhdoom voter (disciples), administrative officials and a Makhdoom in politics.

The thesis is divided into six chapters. First chapter is of introduction of the research. The second chapter contains literature review of the existing material of the topic under study. Conceptual framework and derivation of hypothesis are also part of the second chapter. The third chapter is the detail of historical background of political lives of the famous Makhdooms of Multan. The next two chapters are the discussion and the results of the research. And the last chapter is conclusion and some recommendation of the problem under research.