



BNBWU Journal of Multidisciplinary Research

Jan – June 2026, Vol.2, Issue. 1



**Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0
International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)**



Religious, Social, and Educational Services of Syed Abdul Raheem Shah Sajawali

Dr. Nosheen Baloch , Subject specialist, Islamiyat
nosheenbano2016@yahoo.com

Dr. Jamshed Baloch, Assistant professor, political science, university
of Sindh, jamshoro , jamshed.ali.@usindh.edu.pk

To cite this article:

Dr.Nosheen Baloach , Dr. Jamshed Baloach
Jan – June (2026) Islamic Studies
BNBWU Journal of Multidisciplinary Research ,
2(1), 10 -17 Retrieved from

Religious, Social, and Educational Services of Syed Abdul Raheem Shah Sajawali

Abstract

Sindh has historically remained the cradle of ancient civilizations and intellectual traditions. This region has continuously produced scholars, poets, writers, saints, and reformers who dedicated their lives to the welfare of humanity and the preservation of religious and cultural values. Among these distinguished personalities, Syed Abdul Raheem Shah Sajawali holds a prominent place in the religious, social, educational, and political history of Sindh.

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah was not only a religious scholar and spiritual personality but also a patriotic Muslim leader who actively participated in educational reforms, political movements, and public welfare activities during the colonial period. He played a significant role in promoting Islamic education through the establishment of Dar al-Fuyuz Hashimia in Sajawal. He also founded a grand Jamia Mosque and organized a body of scholars under the title of Dar

al-Fatwa to guide the Muslim community in religious affairs.

His close association with Maulana Obaidullah Sindhi greatly influenced his intellectual and political thought. He participated actively in the freedom movement, the Khilafat Movement, and the activities of Jamiat-ul-Ulama. Moreover, he and his wife, Syeda Zeb-un-Nisa, dedicated approximately 1,135 acres of agricultural land and a large amount of wealth for the promotion of the philosophy and teachings of Shah Waliullah, which later became the basis for the establishment of Shah Waliullah Academy.

This article examines the life, religious contributions, educational services, social reforms, political role, and intellectual legacy of Syed Abdul Raheem Shah Sajawali. It highlights his lasting impact on the educational and spiritual development of Sindh.

Keywords: Syed Abdul Raheem Shah Sajawali, Shah Waliullah Academy, Sindh, Islamic Education, Khilafat Movement, Dar al-Fuyuz Hashimia, Social Services

Introduction

Sindh has always been regarded as one of the oldest centers of civilization, culture, and intellectual activity in South Asia. The region has produced

countless scholars, poets, saints, reformers, and social leaders who served humanity through their knowledge, wisdom, and sacrifice. These personalities considered public service and the promotion of religion as their sacred duty and left behind a legacy of moral guidance and spiritual enlightenment for future generations.

[Shah Waliullah Academy, p 2–3](#)

The preservation of the lives and achievements of such personalities in written form is essential because every generation seeks inspiration from the wisdom and experiences of its predecessors. Among the distinguished personalities of Sindh, Syed Abdul Raheem Shah Sajawali occupies a unique and respected position due to his religious scholarship, educational services, political awareness, and philanthropic contributions.

[Shah Waliullah Academy, February 1973,p 2–3](#)

Family Background of Syed Abdul Raheem Shah Sajawali

In the historical town of Sajawal in district Thatta, there lived a respectable, prosperous, and scholarly Syed family. This family belonged to the “Jarar Pota” branch of the Mityari Sadat family. One of the most prominent members of this family was Syed Abdul Raheem Shah, the son of

the well-known landlord and pious personality Syed Muhammad Raheem Shah.

Syed Muhammad Raheem Shah was known for his simplicity, generosity, and spirituality. He had three sons: Syed Hashim Shah, Syed Abdul Raheem Shah, and Syed Nawaz Ali Shah, along with one daughter. After the death of their father, the eldest son, Syed Hashim Shah, assumed responsibility for managing the household and family affairs.

[Akhbar Kawish Dunya, 29 October 2017, p 13](#)

Birth and Early Life

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah was born on 18 March 1878 in Sajawal, district Thatta. From an early age, he displayed intelligence, good character, and a strong inclination toward religious learning and scholarly activities.

Education and Training

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah received his early education from the maktab of Hafiz Muhammad Usman, where he studied the Holy Qur’an, Arabic, and Persian. He acquired elementary education in Sindhi from Abdul Karim Matyari School.

Recognizing his son’s intellectual abilities, his father established a madrasa in Sajawal and appointed

Maulvi Hamidullah Memon as a teacher. Under the Dars-i-Nizami curriculum, Syed Abdul Raheem Shah gained expertise in Arabic grammar, Persian literature, jurisprudence, principles of jurisprudence, rhetoric, and logic.

Besides religious studies, he also excelled in debating, speech competitions, and literary discussions.

In 1888, his father passed away while his brothers were still young. The responsibility of managing the household and business affairs was entrusted to his brother-in-law, Syed Qadir Dad Noshah, who moved from Hyderabad to Sajawal and fulfilled his responsibilities with dedication.

After the death of Syed Qadir Dad Noshah on 8 March 1901, Syed Hashim Shah once again assumed family responsibilities. Later, Syed Abdul Raheem Shah traveled to Allahabad, India, for higher education, where he studied philosophy and traditional medicine under Sheikh Ghulam Hussain Allahabadi.³

[Mazharuddin Soomro, and Qazi Khadim, August 1971, p 51](#)

Teaching Career

After completing his studies in Allahabad, Syed Abdul Raheem Shah moved to Farrukhabad, where he remained engaged in teaching for

several years. In 1918, he returned to his homeland. By that time, his elder brother Syed Hashim Shah had also passed away.

Establishment of Dar al-Fuyuz Hashimia

After the death of his elder brother, Syed Abdul Raheem Shah inherited approximately 247 acres of agricultural land, which he dedicated as waqf for religious education. On this land, he established a madrassa named Dar al-Fuyuz Hashimia.

The institution provided education according to the Dars-i-Nizami curriculum and offered instruction in the Qur'an, Hadith, Persian, Arabic grammar, philosophy, logic, and jurisprudence. Students from various parts of Sindh came to study there.

Prominent scholars such as Maulana Muhammad Sadiq from Karachi were invited to supervise examinations. Syed Abdul Raheem Shah also dedicated his brother's large residence for use as a boarding house and accommodation for teachers and students.

Later, with the consultation of scholars including Maulana Muhammad Suleman Banwi, Maulana Muhammad Sadiq, and Maulana Hakim Fateh Muhammad Sehwanvi, a formal trust was established for the institution. The

foundation of the madrassa was laid on [30 January 1921](#)

Literary Contribution

After returning from Allahabad, Syed Abdul Raheem Shah authored a book titled Farrukhabad.

Married Life

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah married Syeda Bibi Zeb-un-Nisa, daughter of Syed Taj Muhammad Shah Bukhari of Thatta. Syeda Zeb-un-Nisa lost her father during childhood.

The couple had one son and one daughter, but unfortunately both children passed away during their early years.

Character, Generosity, and Religious Devotion

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah was known for his piety, simplicity, and devotion to Islam. He regularly offered prayers, observed fasting, performed Tahajjud prayers, and remained engaged in remembrance of Allah.

He was extremely generous, compassionate, and hospitable. He openly helped the poor, travelers, scholars, and needy individuals. His dining table remained open for guests and visitors at all times.

His deep religious commitment can also be understood from the fact that he

performed Hajj ten times. On each occasion, he took scholars, Huffaz, and religious students with him and personally bore all expenses.

Due to his generosity, patience, humility, and sincerity, he was highly respected throughout the region.

[Ghulam Mustafa Qasmi, 2005, p 10](#)

Establishment of Shah Waliullah Academy

During his lifetime, Syed Abdul Raheem Shah transferred a significant portion of his property to his wife, Syeda Bibi Zeb-un-Nisa, who wished to dedicate it to a noble cause.

In November 1946, it was initially decided that the annual income from the land would be sent to Madrassa Saulatiyah in Makkah. However, because of Syed Abdul Raheem Shah's deep attachment to the philosophy and teachings of Shah Waliullah, Syeda Zeb-un-Nisa dedicated the property for the promotion of Shah Waliullah's intellectual and spiritual legacy.

The waqf included approximately 1,135 acres of agricultural land and 250,000 rupees in cash. This became the foundation for the later establishment of Shah Waliullah Academy in the subcontinent.

[Shah Waliullah, Nov. 1946](#)

Establishment of Jamia Mosque

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah had a strong passion for religious service. As a result, he laid the foundation of a grand Jamia Mosque in Sajawal alongside the madrassa. The construction of the mosque was completed in 1925.

The mosque became an important center for religious, educational, and social activities.

[Al-Raheem Monthly, Vol. 1, Issue No. 1, June 1963.](#)

Role in the Pakistan Movement

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah was not only a religious scholar but also a patriotic Muslim leader. He was among the close associates of Maulana Obaidullah Sindhi during the freedom movement against British colonial rule.

Khilafat Movement and Scholarly Relations

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah remained associated with Jamiat-ul-Ulama and worked as an active member in Sindh. He participated in numerous conferences and movements organized by the organization.

He maintained close relationships with prominent scholars of his time, including:

Maulana Hussain Ahmad Madani

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Maulana Obaidullah Sindhi

Maulana Kifayatullah Dehlavi

In 1930, he also played an important role in securing the election of Sheikh Abdul Majeed Sindhi as a member of the Bombay Council.

He not only participated actively in political and religious movements but also provided financial support for these causes.

Unlike many landlords of his era, he never accepted titles or honors from the British government and never engaged in flattering colonial officials. Instead, he remained independent, self-respecting, and committed to Islamic principles. [Abdul Majeed. 1930](#)

Connection with the Silk Letter Movement

When Maulana Obaidullah Sindhi returned to the subcontinent after twenty-four years of exile, he intensified revolutionary activities against British rule. During the famous Silk Letter Movement (Reshmi Rimal Tehreek), the responsibility of delivering confidential correspondence was entrusted to Syed Abdul Raheem Shah and Sheikh Abdul Raheem Hyderabadhi.

His close relationship with Maulana Obaidullah Sindhi and the influence of his teachings later contributed to the

establishment of Shah Waliullah Academy.

[Shah waliullah Academy, September 1963, p 2-3](#)

Education in Hadith

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah studied the science of Hadith under Muhammad Akram, a student of Maulana Obaidullah Sindhi.

Membership in the Local Board

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah was elected as a member of the Karachi District Local Board. As an independent member, he represented his region with sincerity and dedication.

Whenever disputes arose in the area, he attempted to resolve them peacefully before they reached the courts. Both Muslims and non-Muslims approached him for the settlement of their issues and disputes.

[Muhammad Baqir Ali Shah, June 1963](#)

Mosque in Madinah

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah also laid the foundation of a mosque in Madinah Munawwarah, reflecting his deep spiritual devotion and commitment to religious service.

Establishment of Dar al-Fatwa

Being a deeply religious and scholarly personality, Syed Abdul Raheem Shah

established a group of scholars known as Dar al-Fatwa.

The religious verdicts issued by this body were widely respected among the public due to the credibility and scholarship of its members.

Waqf Properties

During his lifetime, Syed Abdul Raheem Shah established several waqf properties dedicated to religious, educational, and welfare activities. Altogether, he left behind five major endowments for public benefit.

[Shah Waliullah Academy , p 2](#)

Death

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah passed away on 22 June 1947 (2 Sha‘ban 1366 AH) in Sajawal, district Thatta.

His wife, Syeda Bibi Zeb-un-Nisa, passed away in 1957.

[Allama Ghulam Mustafa Qasmi, p 46–48](#)

Conclusion

Syed Abdul Raheem Shah Sajawali was one of the most remarkable religious and social personalities of Sindh. He devoted his life to the promotion of Islamic education, religious reform, social welfare, and public service.

Through the establishment of Dar al-Fuyuz Hashimia, Jamia Mosque, Dar al-Fatwa, and Shah Waliullah Academy, he made lasting contributions to the intellectual and spiritual development of Muslim society in Sindh.

His association with Maulana Obaidullah Sindhi and his active participation in the Khilafat Movement reflect his commitment to political awareness and the struggle against colonial rule.

The life and services of Syed Abdul Raheem Shah Sajawali remain a source of inspiration for future generations and deserve further scholarly research and recognition.

References

Shah Waliullah Academy, Al-Wali Monthly, Hyderabad, Sindh, Vol. 1, February 1973, Issue No. 11, p 2–3

Akhbar Kawish Dunya, Sunday, 29 October 2017, p 13

Allama Ghulam Mustafa Qasmi, Mazharuddin Soomro, and Qazi Khadim Al-Raheem Monthly, August 1971, Shan-i-Shaoor Edition, compiled, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, p 51

Ghulam Mustafa Qasmi, Shan-i-Shaoor, Vol. 1, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, 2005, p. 10.

Al-Raheem Monthly, Vol. 1, Issue No. 1, June 1963.

Al-Raheem Monthly, Vol. 1, Issue No. 4, September 1963, p 2–3

Syed Muhammad Baqir Ali Shah “Waqf Syed Muhammad Raheem Shah,” Advocate, Al-Raheem Monthly, Vol. 1, Issue No. 1, June 1963

Shah Waliullah Academy, Department of Publications, Shah Waliullah Academy, Hyderabad, Sindh, p 2

Allama Ghulam Mustafa Qasmi, Al-Raheem Monthly (Sindhi), September–October 1987, edited Vol. 11, Issues 7–8, p 46–48



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International \(CC BY-NC-SA 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)