

Role of Shaikh Ayaz in the Development of Sindhi Society

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Sindhi society and civilization have a history of centuries. The modern times have an impact on the civilization and languages. The partition of India created new social challenges. The smaller communities had a strenuous job to co-exist with new realities and preserve their own identity through language and civilization. Sindhi Society sustained a major loss by losing its educated class due to religious differences.

After Independence the Sindhi Society was in hibernation for a while. The decade of sixties in 20th century, the writers and poets paved new paths for society through their contributions. Shaikh Ayaz is one of the leaders of the movement of progressive literature and he established the concept of literature for life.

Ayaz was prolific writer who created poetry and prose to propagate his views. He started his journey with Marxism and adopted nationalism to stimulate and encourage Sindhi youth to preserve their identity, language and culture.

He ended his journey as a Sufi, and described the national identity as a mystic devotion to the Creator. This thoughtful poetry founded a modern progressive, nationalistic Sufi movement, which inspired the youth of 20th century and continues to be even more relevant. The Sindhi society is influenced most by Ayaz after Shah Bhattai. He had international acknowledgment as he inspired all those who are oppressed and marginalized. Such a remarkable development in the views and ideas of Shaikh Ayaz has been analytically criticized in this paper.