

## Selected Award-Winning Urdu Seerah Books Of Pakistani Females: Characteristics, Tendencies And Trends

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**Received:** March, 10, 2022

**Accepted:** April, 05, 2022

**Published:** April, 20 2022

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**Abstract:** One of the features of Urdu Seerah is that competitions for the promotion and understanding of Seerah Tayyaba at the official level have been held in Pakistan since 2000. Competitions were held for Seerah books, Naat books, and essays.

The book "Rasool Akram" by Umm-e-Farooq received the first award to a female biographer in this category in 2000. As previously stated, the author illuminates the characteristics, aspects, and teachings of the Holy Prophet's individual and collective life (ﷺ) and describes the steps taken to educate women during the Prophet's lifetime. It is written from the perspective of "Khatoon-e-Khanakzavianigah," a study of the Prophet's biography.

Some women's biographies have been nominated for the Seerah Award since its inception in 2010. Twenty-two people make up the group. As a result of government-level encouragement, both men and women began to contribute to the field of biography and began to contribute equally. Consequently, this article examines the characteristics, methods, and trends of the selected books by women biographers deemed worthy of the Seerah Award by the Pakistani government.

**.Keywords:** biography literature, award-winning, female biographer, characteristics, manahij, trends

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### Introduction:

People of all ages can find inspiration and guidance from the Holy Prophet (PBUH). We can always find the best way to live in the Sira of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), regardless of a person's place in life. Muslims have always known how important the Seera of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is. This scholarly tradition dates back to the

time of the Prophet and his Companions. However, biography writing was primarily limited to oral traditions at that time. In the later era of the Companions, biography gradually evolved and became a precise science; without exaggeration, tens of millions of books have been written on this subject over more than fourteen centuries, and the trend continues.

Looking back through history, it is clear that not only men but also women have fully participated in the biography field. However, the number of female biographers has been limited to less than that of men due to natural issues. Muslim women have contributed significantly to the biography field despite the social constraints that have prevented any prominent female names from appearing in this art. Consequently, it is essential to be aware of women biographers' significant and priceless contributions to the propagation of Islam and the sacred field of Sira-e-Taiba. Furthermore, it is necessary to note that many female scholars have not only written on the subject but have also added fresh perspectives and modern biography trends, earning them the Sira Award from the Pakistani government. Because of this, it is essential to look at these books' features, methods, and trends.

#### The literary and terminological meanings of Seerah:

The word "Sirah" is the Arabic noun Masdar, which comes from the word يسير , سار. "Al-Sirah السيرة" is the singular form, and "Al-Sirah السير" is the plural. According to Ibn Manzoor, an Arabic lexicographer, "Sirah" means "walking," "manner and behaviour," "character and habit and trait."<sup>1</sup> According to Ibn Manzoor, a character refers to one's Health and situation state. He says:

السيرة: الهيئة. وفي التنزيل العزيز: سنعيدها سيرتها الأولى<sup>2</sup>

Character is referred to in biographies. It is written in Tanzil al-Aziz [the Holy Qur'an] that We will return it to its original state shortly.

Seerah is another name for this ailment concerning a particular individual. Therefore, Imam Ali bin Al-Jarjani states: "Literally, Sirat refers to the absolute way or character, whether that character or way is good or bad."<sup>3</sup>

The meaning of "Sirah" in Urdu is nearly the same as the term's purpose. In other words, a habit, a technique, a trait, a set of circumstances and occurrences, a way of life and biography, etc. The term "Sirah" relates to the life and circumstances of the Prophet of Allah; may God protect him and give him peace. The following are some that are mentioned within the "Urdu's Daira Maarif Islamiya":

"السيرة" هي الترجمة الماثورة لحياة النبي محمد عليه الصلاة والسلام."<sup>4</sup>

The term "Sirah" refers to a collection of literature relating to the life of Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ.

A similar statement is made by the author of Urdu's Daira Maarif Islamiya:

"The first meaning of biography is the biography and biography of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)."<sup>5</sup>

According to Muta'akhirin, the biography of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is intended to illustrate the circumstances of a happy life. The word Sirah is derived from the word "سير" "Sir" and "مغازي" "Maghazi" were nearly interchangeable terms during the Companions and the Tabi'een period, and they both referred to the Prophet's recounting of his victories and battles.<sup>6</sup> Al-Seer السير and Al-Maghazi المغازي were the names given

to books that were written for campaigns and competitions, such as Ibn Shihab Zahri's, Muhammad Ibn Ishaq's, and Mu'ammār Bin Rashid al-Azdi's "Al-Maghazī" and "Al-Dar-Rafi Akhtisar al-Maghaziwa-Al-Seer" by Ibn Abdul Bar. Later, jurists began to use the word "Al-Sir" for international law; for example, Imam Muhammad's works on foreign relations were titled "Al-Sir al-Saghir" and "Al-Sir al-Kabir".<sup>7</sup> In the past, "Seerah" was used to refer to the circumstances of the Prophet's life; today, "Seerah" is also used to refer to the events of the Prophet's life, peace and blessings be upon him.<sup>8</sup> It covers every element of his life, including the social, political, military, and personal spheres.

#### Women's contributions to the field of seerah:

Writing down the Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) life circumstances began during his Companions. To preserve the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ life, his friends used to record his specifics. Zubair Urwa's son<sup>9</sup>. Muhammad Ibn Ishaq wrote the first biography book, according to Haji Khalifa's account in "Kushf al-Zunun."<sup>10</sup> However, it is essential to remember that biographical writing began during the Prophet's House and began with Hazrat Khadijah Al-Kubari, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ wife. When he returned home and told Hazrat Khadijah (RA) about the first divine revelation, she commented on his (Muhammad ﷺ) life:

كَلَّا وَاللَّهِ مَا يُخْزِيكَ اللَّهُ أَبَدًا، إِنَّكَ لَتَصِلُ الرَّحِمَ، وَتَحْمِلُ الْكَلَّ، وَتَكْسِبُ الْمَعْدُومَ، وَتَقْرِي الضَّيْفَ، وَتُعِينُ عَلَى نَوَائِبِ الْحَقِّ<sup>11</sup>

May Allah never dishonor you. You are devoted, you pay the right to feast visitors, and you are always persistent and helpful in areas of truth.

These words marked the start of biographical writing, and women were honoured to do so. The circumstances surrounding the Prophet are then described in the traditions transmitted by Hazrat Aisha Siddiqah; may Allah be pleased with her. Without a doubt, it can be added to the biography. According to Dr. Mahmood Al Hasan Arif:

His work is the most significant in biography because, unlike other Companions, most of the traditions he transmitted were based on firsthand hearing and observation rather than hearsay.<sup>12</sup>

Apart from Sayyida Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her), those Companions who participated in various campaigns and told the events relating to these campaigns, when the period of compilation and editing of Seer and Mughazi arrived, their research and traditions were based on mutual discussion. Work has been completed. This was the biographer's erratic start. Male biographers like Ibn Ishaq and others authored notable books on the biography of the Prophet based on these Arabic literary traditions. Still, women published no authorial works in this field. This was the scenario with the Urdu language till the 18th and 19th centuries. Later, other volumes by female biographers were written, and this process is currently ongoing. A conservative estimate places the number of books authored by women published in Urdu at over 150, some of which are genuinely regarded as significant contributions to their fields.<sup>13</sup>

#### Brief Analysis of Women's Biographical Trends:

Without a doubt, there have been a lot of excellent and insightful books in the biography genre written by both men and women. Enumerating the books published between the end of the twentieth century and the present is tricky. The biography of the Prophet (peace be upon him) has enormous possibilities due to its vast reach; female biographers have made good use of it in their way, and on this basis, it can be argued without exaggeration that biography education for

children should or should not be done. For individuals interested in science and knowledge, we locate the trending work of female biographers in every area of biography in different aspects of the Prophet's life, research style, or literary writing style. In this context, we locate the most essential work on the research and analytical trend related to contemporary topics.

In the 20th century, Urdu biography underwent a significant movement that gave it a prominent place in biographical literature: the emphasis on the practical application of Sirat Tayyaba. This trend naturally evolved to show the extent of Islam's religion and the significance and purpose of the Prophet's life in the modern era<sup>14</sup>. Instead, new facets of biography are developing throughout history. According to Dr Mahmood Ahmad Ghazi (2010-1950):

With the revelation of new aspects of Sirat Mubarak, it feels as if the work on Sirat Sarwar Anbiya has just begun. Now, a new world of research, a new set of research, and a new research universe have been discovered.<sup>15</sup>

Without a doubt, it is a distinction of the Prophet's life because, even after more than fourteen centuries, his life and teachings help solve all of society's issues in all spheres of life. Female biographers have also demonstrated their research skills in this dimension, and women experts in various areas have brought out many bright parts of the Prophet's biography by uncovering hints in their fields of expertise. It is no accident that female biographers also know how critical it is to examine fresh perspectives on biography. About the establishment of peace, biographer Zeenat Haroon writes as follows:

At this time, there is a need to consider every aspect of the life of the Holy Prophet ﷺ that will guide us practically in the establishment of peace, so I have discussed it concerning the teachings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Along with other reforms for humanity in Madani's life, he gave the establishment of peace his complete focus.<sup>16</sup>

Even in recent years, the number of female biographers has expanded yearly, and many significant papers and books have been published. It would be more accurate to call this era the "golden age" of female biographical writing. Several notable study books have emerged, particularly since the beginning of the twenty-first century. However, we will further explore some of the books the Government of Pakistan granted in the biography field.

طنبوی رحمہ اللہ قرآنکیر و شمیمینایک تحقیقیو علمیمطالعہ:

### Prophetic medicine: A Research and Academic Study in the Light of the Qur'an

#### Author Introduction:

Mr. Dr. Ghazala Aleem, with excellent research and effort, has recorded the ancient and modern eras of medicine with the eye of insight in such a way that the definition of medicine, the occurrence of disease, the beginning of art, the art of medicine, revival, and evolution, ancient and modern methods of treatment are all recorded and written, illustrated, and written in the style of a thesis.

#### Methodology:

1. This work presents the results of a comparison investigation. The author has offered a thorough examination of its properties and effects in the light of modern science in this book, contrasting the Prophet's medicine with modern ways of therapy.

2. The author used authentic sources in Arabic.
3. The chapters are further subdivided into branches.

**Book characteristics:**

1. The history of medicine is mentioned in this text, as well as physical diseases and the drugs used in treatment and treatment, plants, health and cleanliness, disease prevention, patient care and abstinence guidelines, and spiritual ailments. It was excellently done to present the Prophet's teachings.<sup>17</sup>
2. Several technical issues, including environmental, water, diet, infection, and individual immunity, are also discussed in treating diseases.
3. Some remarks have been written down after gathering extensive experiences from philosophers, visionaries, and practitioners of intelligence and knowledge.
4. Along with research on managing spiritual illnesses, Peshir's book emphasizes the significance of meeting readers' mental and psychological requirements.
5. There have been numerous references to Rasoolullah Sallallahualayhiwa Sallam's favourite dishes. These foods' names, identities, places of birth, moods, advantages, and nutritional content are described in several languages.

حيوانات – تعليمات نبوی کی روشنی میں:

**Status:** The book is accessible

**Author:** DrSajida Muhammad Hussain Butt.

**Book details:**

The first edition of this book by Dr Sajda Muhammad Hussain Butt was released on November 7, 2011 / 1432 AH, and the second edition was produced by Dar-e-Nisa Research and Writing Institute, Faisalabad, Pakistan on January 3, 2013 / 21 Rabi Al-Awwal 1434 AH. This book is 239 pages long, with eight chapters, footnotes, concluding remarks, and sources. Each chapter concludes with a separate list of references. The author tried to meet the time constraints in these articles by including the first and second sources, earlier research, geographical, scientific, medical, technical, analytical, and experimental materials, in addition to the most recent research and practical seminars and reports.<sup>18</sup>

**Book characteristics:**

- It is essential to approach them with sympathy. Otherwise, even if it's an ant, there will be a cost to pay.
- The following organizations were assisted in getting its content. They include Chaudhry Mazhar, Mr Naveer Ahmed Sahib, Dr. Ismatullah Sahib (International Islamic University, Islamabad), and Professor Manzoor, who passed away.
- You mention that the beloved country has an institute for animal welfare in the ninth chapter.
- The Corporation, Municipality, and Subsidiary Institutions are fulfilling their part by drafting laws and regulations to grant the wordless creatures their legal rights.
- On page 192, you state that zoology-related knowledge is urgently needed for individual safety and justice in society and the nation so that individual pigs might be protected from mass crimes.

رسول اکرم ﷺ

## Selected Award-Winning Urdu Seerah Books Of Pakistani Females: Characteristics, Tendencies And Trends

**Status:** The book is accessible

**Author:** Umm-e-Farooq

### **Book characteristics:**

As mentioned above, the book's author sheds light on the features, aspects, and teachings of the Holy Prophet's individual and collective lives because only by merging these two parts can an entire life be observed.

- The methods implemented for women's education during the time of the Holy Prophet have been described.
- The author has also investigated the life of the Prophet from the perspective of women, which is the book's second distinguishing aspect.
- However, the author has written about his family life, connections with his wives, taste in food, dealings with his family, social instructions, good disposition, and cheerfulness, and all the material accessible about women and homemaking from Sirah Tayyaba.
- In this book, Aya has made an effort to present it.
- A list of references is provided at the book's conclusion.
- This book offers detailed advice and direction for women while presenting the study of the Prophet's life from their perspective.<sup>19</sup>

نبی اکرم ﷺ بطور ماہر نفسیات

**Status:** The book is accessible

**Author:** Dr. Syeda Sadia Ghaznavi

### **Book characteristics:**

- Every facet of human existence has been reserved in the Prophet's teachings. In this sense, your blessed seerah is an excellent example of making all human life happy and cheerful.
- People's personalities and behaviors are examined in psychology. Despite its modernity, psychology has not progressed to the level observed during the Prophet's Day, as stated in this book. Compared to modern psychology, the problem solution has been offered in light of the Quran and Hadith. The author has described the Prophet's distinctive characteristics as a psychologist.
- The book focuses on the notion that the Prophet gave psychology and psychology a usable form and recommended ways to address psychological issues. Has declared the fact that psychologists have been drawn to the biography and teachings of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, in which there is a cure for every difficulty and disease, the need is only for the truth, is further evidence of the book's universality concerning its subject.<sup>20</sup>
- It is to search and seek it from the heart, and if they attempt, they will be directed by the Prophet's teachings in their field of action. The Prophet articulated particular and explicit insights about human nature, character, and thinking. The Prophet of Allah is an excellent psychologist, yet little attention has been paid to this facet of the Prophet's personality.
- References are provided in the book, but they are occasionally insufficient, and sometimes merely the book's title suffices. Finally, the bibliography list is missing, making the book's research quality less apparent. Printing and publishing are honorable professions.

This book is an essential addition to the collection of biographies because of its subject matter.

سیرت النبی ﷺ اور ہماری زندگی

**Status:** The book is rare

**Author:** Begum Gohar Mumtaz Qazi

**Book characteristics:**

This book is divided into five chapters that analyze how our individual and community lives align with the good actions of the Prophet and what practical steps are required. In today's age of temptations, how can we follow the practical side of the Prophet's life, and how should we use the Prophet's life to ensure a better future for our children and grandchildren? The book was created from authentic biographies and historical literature. There is an opportunity for improvement in reference giving.<sup>21</sup>

حیات طیبہ میں پیر کے دن کی اہمیت

**Status:** The book is rare

**Author:** Shahnaz Kausar

**Book characteristics:**

In this book, 35 such occurrences from the life of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) are tied to Monday in some way. Some of these are the author's points about Monday. The following are the essential points:

- Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ was born on Monday.
- Earlier this week, he (Muhammad ﷺ) Married Hazrat Khadijah.
- He announced his prophethood on Monday.
- The Qiblah modification was ordered on Monday itself.
- On Monday, Muslims migrated.
- Participated in several raids on Monday.
- Salh Hdaybiya Took part on Monday.
- Makkah was conquered on Monday.

In the book's introduction, the author mentions Monday as follows:

Because Allah Ta'ala gave Monday significant weight in several contexts and because it played an essential role in the life of the Holy Prophet, we must value this day highly.

By reading this book, one can learn about Arbab devotion and the significance of Monday (two Saturdays). The book's approach is straightforward, and the language is smooth. As the points have been explained, the vocabulary and expression have also grown in some locations, which is the manners of biography. In opposition, the book is cited, and a bibliography is provided at the conclusion, but once more, there is an excessive dependence on secondary sources.<sup>22</sup>

اسلام کا عسکری نظام سیرت النبی ﷺ کی روشنی میں

**Status:** The book is rare

**Author:** Tasnim Kausar

**Book characteristics:**

- Muhammad was not only a prophet but also a ruler, an army commander, a judge, a commander, a master of battle, a victorious general, and the greatest conquistador. She has given this topic much consideration and has written books named Maghazi.

- However, a simple description of these military operations can and often does lead to falsehoods, disregarding the Islamic doctrine of jihad.
- Particularly the Orientalists have Regarding Muhammad, he misled the populace by portraying him as a soothsayer and demonstrated his prejudice and lousy luck by levelling odd accusations against His Holiness. On the other hand, combat wasn't the primary objective.
- But in Muhammad's ﷺ military expeditions, combat was not the primary objective; instead, it was a necessary means to an end that was just, honourable, and humanitarian.
- The author attempted to put the Holy Prophet's Jihadi endeavours in their appropriate context.
- Although well-organized, citations do not follow a thorough and well-researched format. The fact that a comprehensive bibliography is provided at the end of the book raises the book's standing as a research resource. In any case, Askariyat-e-Sirat in Urdu has a valuable and outstanding supplement in this book.<sup>23</sup>

نسب نامہ نبوی ﷺ (کتب انساب کی روشنی میں )

**Status:** The book is accessible

**Author:** Prof. Mrs Mudassar Hameed

#### **Book characteristics:**

The art of genealogy, also known as knowledge of genealogy, relates to understanding people's ancestors. To acquire this knowledge and become aware of it, Arabs used to create numerous arrangements. They used to display their pride through genealogy in a culture marked by conflict, war, and ignorance. Given that the gradient of kinship and the dignity and honour of kinship both lead to mutual support and love, it stands to reason that the Arabs' knowledge of ancestry would likewise lead to this kind of solidarity.

This knowledge continued to advance even after the introduction of Islam; rather than outlaw it, Islam explained the significance of genealogy in terms of its legal and social bounds and removed the element of pride from it. Introduction and acknowledgement are the only goals. Islamic scholars published genealogy books and promoted it as a science and an art. A renowned expert in Quraish genealogy was Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (RA).<sup>24</sup>

Apart from these works, the work done on biographies, their tendencies are mixed, and the genres are literary and compilation. Furthermore, it is apparent from the summary above that, in addition to other subjects, biographies saw significant contributions from women. and set the way for future female biographers. It is necessary to highlight the research activities of female biographers to generate new trends among women.

#### **Conclusion:**

- In addition to other fields, it is evident from the previous description that women have actively contributed to biography and helped pave the way for later females in the subject.
- Women biographers have also contributed new and significant developments in biographical research.
- However, there is still a need for increased awareness of style research, and numerous government programs to support women biographers should be implemented.
- There is a need to spotlight the research works of female biographers so that new trends might emerge among women.



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