

## POST-PARTITION RIOTS AND REHABILITATION PROCESS IN SARGODHA DIVISION 1947-74

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### **Abstract**

*This article explains the post partition scenario in East and West of the Pakistani Punjab. This imperative research includes the details of disturbances in Sargodha (a city of Punjab) through primary and secondary sources along with facts and figures. Pattern of settlement has been explained following by the developmental projects in this region. The major developmental project is of Thal and it has great importance in the overall area. The domain of urban settlement has been highlighted along with settlements on agricultural land which is actually landmark of Sargodha region. This study also tinted the crisis regarding partition and settlements of the said city. The study also highlighted that the partition crisis could not only cut off industries from former markets and raw materials, but could encourage new regional rivals. With respect to agricultural development this was the result of its former owners setting up rival production in Jullundur. This is truly an untold story of partition.*

**Key Words:** Partition, Riots, Rehabilitation, Sargodha

### **Introduction**

The division of the subcontinent did not bring a positive outcome in the social context of the region. Catastrophic incidents, involving innocent migrants, occurred with no restrictions. Women and children were no exceptions in this regard. As in other areas, the settlement of the refugees was a great task to be undertaken in Sargodha district. The challenge was well met as the non-Muslims living there cooperated well with the migrants. Considering the helpless circumstances of the newly gained territory, there were numerous issues to be resolved in the region. The authorities geared up to launch development programs in the district to initiate the process of progress. The state of people, industries as well as development sector was an utter disappointment. Apart from that, the settlement issues, for both agrarian as well as urban areas, were also a concern for the authorities. The post-partition scenario of the region had eaten away the socio-economic fabrics in its real sense.

### **Disturbances in Sargodha Division**

The post partition scenario led to the violence in East and West Punjab (Kausar, 2006). At the tallness of the conflict of elimination (August and September 1947), when by far most of the assaults and kidnappings happened, horde wrath exceeded all rational limitations. In September 1947 there was a significant record of assault in the Mianwali locale, the greater part of the populace (being 6000 men, ladies, and kids) were slaughtered and consumed alive. Youngsters were grabbed away from their mom's arms and tossed into the bubbling oil. Many ladies saved their distinction by hopping into wells and hurling themselves entirely into consuming houses. Young ladies of 8 to 10 years old were assaulted within the sight of their folks and afterward put absurdly brutally (Major, 1995).

Monstrosities were on their pinnacle, individuals were tormented both truly and intellectually, the bosoms of ladies were sliced and they were made to walk all exposed in lines of five in the marketplaces of Harnoli, Mianwali. Around 800 young ladies and ladies were stolen and little youngsters were meandering stripped in the wildernesses and were hijacked by the passers-by (Major, 1995). Trains had additionally been assaulted in Mianwali and there was a report about the plundering of a whole train on the Khushab-Kundian line someplace close to the Mianwali line.<sup>1</sup> A tough spot was made because of Muslim zeal in Soon Valley of Khushab. 200 passings were accounted for when two trains were crossing each other close to Beas and fire was opened structure one train upon the other.

On the other hand Jegender Singh a Police officer, who was the nephew of Piara Singh, the landlord, shot down three Muslims on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 1947 in the village of Mangwal of Khushab and no enquiry was conducted for this purpose. Five pass made riffles with ammunition were recovered from a Hindu and two Muslims near Wan Butcheran Railway Station in Mianwali district. Four live bombs and 303 riffles were recuperated from a Hindu. The fresh insight about monstrosities from East Punjab spread by the evacuees who kept on pouring in horrifying proof of slaughters in rail route trains at Maur, Goniana, and Bhatinda living insight was outfitted by the appearance of dead bodies in trains and harmed people without separation old enough and sex genuinely crumbled the mutual circumstance in West Punjab. Sudden outbreaks in Gujrat and Jhelum: deteriorated the situation seriously in Montgomery, Sialkot, Gujranwala and Sheikhpura districts and Kaur Sub-Division. Mianwali, Campbellpur, Sargodha, Muzaffargarh. Rawalpindi districts were got affected but to a lesser extent (Ahmed, 2012). Large scale evacuation of Hindus and Sikhs continued throughout the week resulting the trail and road traffic being unsafe.<sup>2</sup>

The erstwhile peaceful atmosphere in Mianwali district was disturbed by an attempt to hold up a train near *Smandanwala* railway station which was failed by some policemen and by stray cases of arson and stabbings in the district. In Sargodha district, trouble was reported from Bhera and Padhrar, alongwith the throwing out of about 22 Hindus and Sikhs from running trains between Malakwal and Sargodha on two different occasions. Some Sikhs also tried to hold up a train near Sillanwali khanwali railway station but failed and resentment was augmented in this district by the injuring of three Muslims by Siksh Military in P. S Silanwali.<sup>3</sup>

In Mianwali district, trans-border Pathans proved a menace. the local Pathans with their encounters pillaged non-Muslim villages, especially in Police Stations Piplan and Harnoli, Mianwali. Non-Muslims got panicked, at the latter place took up positions and opened indiscriminate firing, injuring two soldiers, despite a Magistrate's efforts. Firing was eventually exchanged by the Magistrate's party and it continued for 36 hours before the non-Muslims gave up. They suffered heavy casualties. An attack on Bhakkar town by a mixed crowd of trans-border and local men was repulsed by the military, resulting in the death of 17 Muslims. 7 non-

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<sup>1</sup> Jenkins, Sir E. to Lord Wavell, Government House, Lahore, 17 March 1947, File No. R/3/1/176, The British Library, Kingdom, 1947.

<sup>2</sup> Police Abstract of Intelligence for the week ending 30 August 1947, Compiled by National Documentation Wing, Islamabad, 1947, pp. 365.

<sup>3</sup> Police Abstract of Intelligence for the week ending 30 August 1947, Compiled by National Documentation Wing, Islamabad, 1947, pp. 365.

Muslims were also died in the incident. An ineffectual attack on a non-Muslim refugees train was also made near Pai Khel, Mianwali district.<sup>4</sup>

Very critical situation was averted at Sargodha by the timely arrival of police when Gurkha soldiers entered the local Juma mosque on information that forcible conversions of Hindus were taking place. Muslim mobs looted Hindus houses in Chak Ram Dass, Mehga Jhawarian and Miani in the district. In Miani, they killed 74 non-Muslims including women and children but Police were able to arrest 283 of the attackers and recovered looted property and arms. About 45 non-Muslims moving from Kinderabad to Sargodha were killed en-route.<sup>5</sup>

From Mianwali, a gun with 25 cartridges, a 303 bore revolver with 4 rounds, 18 bottles bomb, two acid bottles and sharp-edged weapons were recovered from Hindus, 8 of whom were arrested.<sup>6</sup> A sudden attack was appeared by a heavily armed Muslim mob on Mianwali town was checked after a night long battle of police and military. Fifty Hindus and 12 Muslims were killed and 35 Hindus were injured. In Mianwali district, the Hindu and Sikh concentration at Kalabagh was attacked by Muslims, as a result of which 8 Hindus and 2 Muslims got died and 12 Hindus got injured. A Hindu station Master of Shah Alam, Mianwali district, and his wife were killed and their property were looted. A mob attacked the evacuee's camp at Nawan Jandanwala in the same district killing two non-Muslims. Two of the raiders were wounded by the troops, who opened fire. Armed Muslim mobs raiding Darya Khan on two occasions succeeded in killing 84 Hindus but left 24 dead by military and police stationed there. An attempt by a Muslim mob to attack the evacuees' camp at Darya Khan was failed by police and military firing. About 600 Muslims intended to attack a military special train at Daud Khel railway station in Mianwali district were dispersed by troops. In Sargodha, a mob of 20 Muslims carrying spears killed three Hindus and three Sikhs on their way from Farooqa to Sillanwali. A dozen armed Muslims killed the Head Postmaster at Sodhi, P.S Nowshera district Khushab along with his wife and two little daughters, they had embraced Islam but wanted evacuation. Some armed local *goondas* exchanged shots with a police patrol in Nowshera village without casualties.<sup>7</sup>

Table

*Arms and Ammunition Recovered by the Police in Sargodha district*<sup>8</sup>

Sr. No	Date	Village, Police Station, district	F.I.R Nos.	Articles recovered	Recovered from
1.	5.5.47	Chak Ganesh, P.S Sahiwal, Sargodha	31	01 Revolver 04 cartridges	Muslim
2.	16.5.47	G.R.P.S Sargodha	49	109 cartridges	Hindu

<sup>4</sup> Police Abstract of Intelligence for the week ending 13 September 1947, Compiled by National Documentation Wing, Islamabad, 1947, pp. 370.

<sup>5</sup> Police Abstract of Intelligence for the week ending 13 September 1947, Compiled by National Documentation Wing, Islamabad, 1947, pp. 370.

<sup>6</sup> Police Abstract of Intelligence for the week ending 13 September 1947, Compiled by National Documentation Wing, Islamabad, 1947, pp. 370.

<sup>7</sup> Police Abstract of Intelligence for the week ending 4 October 1947, pp. 391

<sup>8</sup> Disturbances in the Punjab: 1947, A Compilation of official documents, National Documentation Wings, Islamabad, 1980, pp. 425.

3.	16.5.47	G.R.P.S Sargodha	48	01 riffle	Hindu
4.	19.5.47	G.R.P.S Kundian	75	40 cartridges	Muslim
5.	19.5.47	G.R.P.S Kundian	64	04 riffles, 120 cartridges	Sikh
6.	09.6.47	G.R.P.S Kundian	78	01 riffle, 230 rounds	Not known
7.	18.6.47	G.R.P.S Kundian	84	01 riffle, 04 cartridges	Hindu
8.	11.7.47	Khairabad,	5	01 riffle	Muslim
9.	27.7.47	P.S Piplan, Mianwali	25	200 cartridges	Muslim

Source: National Documentation Wing, Islamabad, 1947.

The above table shows that a total of 7 Revolver, 756 cartridges, 2 Pistols and 8 riffles were recovered from the different towns and villages of Sargodha division, Moreover it shows that the most of the weapons were recovered from the district Mianwali. In Sargodha district the weapons were recovered only from two places. After recovering of these weapons from the different communities in Sargodha division it reflects the fewer riots that occurred during the process of migration.<sup>9</sup>

A special report number 25, Part III was marked on 28 April 1947 in Shahpur that a Hindu was injured while handling a bomb. While preparing a bomb a Sikh died on the spot as a result of explosion in the same Shahpur and a special report number 28, Part III was marked on 9 June 1947. A bomb exploded in building which was in dispute. One party had forcibly taken the possession. It was the possibility that the bomb had been thrown by the other party was also reported in the special report number 29, Part III on 26 June 1947 at Village *Phularwan* in Shahpur district. In *Chak* No. 155, district Shahpur a special report was marked that two Sikhs were caught red handed while experimenting a hand-made bomb and a special report number 35, Part III was marked on 24 August 1947.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Pattern of Settlement in Sargodha Region**

Hindus and Sikhs lived peacefully, even that they sold their utensils (check) and household without any hesitation<sup>11</sup> and when the refugees started to settle here, the Hindus and Sikhs did not started to evacuate<sup>12</sup> which caused uneasiness and discomfort among refugee(Advocate, 1984, p. 77).Moreover, the Deputy Commissioner Alhaaj Hafiz Ghulam Hassan gave permission to Hindus and Sikhs for taking their buses and trucks with them (Advocate, 1984, p. 97).Mr. Richard Symonds who visited Sargodha with the Lady Mountbatten saw in the process of

<sup>9</sup> Disturbances in the Punjab: 1947, A Compilation of official documents, National Documentation Wings, Islamabad, 1980, pp. 425.

<sup>10</sup> Disturbances in the Punjab: 1947, A Compilation of official documents, National Documentation Wings, Islamabad, 1980, pp. 426.

<sup>11</sup> An Unpublished Autobiography of Mufti Tufail Ahmad Govaidi, Mufti Tufail Ahmad Govindi was Gold Medalist of Pakistan Movement, President of District Bar Association of Sargodha, Member of Pakistan Bar council, Chairman of *Anjum Karkunan* Pakistan Movement of Pakistan for Sargodha division, Chairman Ideology Pakistan Trust Sargodha, Central Join Secretary of Muslim League and Member of District and Province peace committee, 2011, pp. 29-30. I am much thankful to advocate Ghulam Ahmad Govindi for providing me a copy of the memoir of his brother and also thankful to advocate Farkhanda Jabeen for cooperating in searching of related material.

<sup>12</sup> Interview with Sahibzada Abdul Rasool, Officer Colony, Sargodha 12 July 2017 see also Interview with Ghulam Jannat, Bhakkar, 13 June 2016, Interview with Allah Yar, Bhakkar, 13 June 2016 Interview with Muhammad Nawaz, Bhakkar, 13 June 2016 and Interview with Hakeen Hafiz Noor Muhammad Ghahi, Bhakkar, 13 June 2016.

evacuation that the people of Sargodha especially Hindus and Sikhs are appreciating the Deputy Commission of Sargodha “Khan Bahadur Sardar Leghari” who made safe evacuation for them. Mr. Richard Symonds said, “The only district town in West Punjab in which they (Hindu and Sikhs) could move about freely”.<sup>13</sup>

The Muslims population of Sargodha wept during the process of evacuation of Hindus and Sikhs as they lived peacefully and there was no Hindu-Muslim conflict arose in the areas.<sup>14</sup> The violence started to fade in the middle of October 1947 in the Punjab and the situation seemed to improve gradually. When the rail link reopened, the refugees from Delhi started to migrate. There was rare incident of communal violence during December from both sides i.e. East or West Punjab (Hayden, 2000). The main reason of this improvement was that no more non-Muslim left in the West Punjab and no more Muslim left in the East Punjab (Dar, 2003).

Table  
*Settlement of Refugees according to their places of Origin (Figures in thousands)*<sup>15</sup>

District	Shahpur (Sargodha & Khushab)	Mianwali (Mianwali & Bhakkar)
Ferozpur	3.6	0.1
Amritsar	13.1	0.2
Gurdaspur	7.0	0.2
Jullundur	14.4	0.2
Hoshiarpur	16.1	0.2
Kangra	0.5	--
Ludhiana	5.8	0.2
Ambala	40.0	7.8
Simla	0.5	--
Karnal	33.4	35.5
Rohtak	7.9	0.3
Hissar	2.0	1.1
Gurgaon	2.1	1.0
Total E. Punjab districts	146.4	46.8
Total E. Punjab States	43.7	3.8
Alwar	0.2	0.6

<sup>13</sup> Tour of Lyallpur, Sargodha and Khewra by Deputy High Commissioner, Lahore, File No. DO 142/390, TNA, UK, 1950 see also Symonds, R, *In the Margins of Independence: A Relief Worker in India and Pakistan (1942-1949)*. Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 51.

<sup>14</sup> I have also gone through the different First Information Reports (FIRs) at different *thanas* (police station) in Sargodha like in *thana Sadar*, Sargodha FIR book no. 322 year 1938, book no. 61 year 1939, book no. 8154 year 1945, book no. 1007 year 1952, book no 1667 year 1954 and book no. 19 year, 1959 in thana Sillanwali, Sargodha FIR book no. 1883 year 1945, book no. 1000 year 1946, book no. 1360 year 1947, book no. 1377 year 1947, book no. 1642 year 1949 and book no. 1799 year 1949. Most of the FIRs were related to social crimes i-e theft, snatching, animals stolen etc only few reports related to killings were observed the murder FIRs were also of personal conflicts and not based on terrorism or riots like a murder FIR was marked in partition year 1947 from Allah Yar in *thana Sadar*, Sargodha in book No. 1363, FIR no. 14/13, dated 15.2.1947, the reason behind murder was based on self concerned issues and not on Hindu-Muslim clash another FIR was marked in book No. 1363, FIR no. 22/14 dated 2.3.1947 from Sher khan son of Muhammad Khan due to domestic clashes see also interview with Asif Shahzad Maiken, Babu Mohallah, Sargodha, 26 June 2016.

<sup>15</sup> Statistics of Resettlement of Refugees in West Punjab with the Compliment of the Board of Economic Inquiry, File No. 188, Punjab Archives, 1947, Lahore, pp. 12-13.

Bhattpur	0.1	0.7
Delhi Province	1.5	1.0
U.P	0.6	0.7
Other places in India	0.7	0.7
Jammu and Kashmir	--	--
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>193.3</b>	<b>54.3</b>

Source: Punjab Archive, Lahore, 1947.

According to the above figure Sargodha & Khushab received 193,300 refugees from different districts of the East Punjab and Mianwali and Bhakkar received 54,300 as well.<sup>16</sup> The camps were opened up in all Tehsil Headquarter and unassuming communities all around the territory, Mohallah cleared by non-Muslims being uniquely saved for constitution of evacuee camps. The support of food supplies was the issue of extensive tension for the administration of outcasts camps, for this reason, the public authority held as much as 1,10,000 tons of wheat on the fifteenth of August.<sup>17</sup> If we further divide the Muslim refugees according to the urban and rural areas then the figures shows as:-

Table  
*Refugees according to Urban and Rural Areas and Camps, 1947.*<sup>18</sup>

district	Number of Refugees			Total
	Urban	Rural	Camps	
Shahpur	84361	98554	10504	193419
Mianwali	2429	4960	46922	54311

Source: Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1947.

However, the people continued moving towards Sargodha Region and in another survey in 1948 by the government of Pakistan revealed that the figures had been increased according to the table listed below:-

Table  
*Statistics of Refugees in Sargodha till 1948 (Figure in Thousands)*<sup>19</sup>

district	Receiv ed in district	No. settled in Rural Areas		No. in camp	No. in villages waiting to be resettled	Approximate No. still to be resettled		Total
		On Land	Other wise			On land	Other wise in rural areas	
Shahpur	352.6	81.255	35.1	34.51	118.335	120	20	409.2
Mianwali	67.653	3.047	0.65	60	0	48	4	115.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>420.25</b>	<b>84.302</b>	<b>35.75</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>118.335</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>524.9</b>

Source: Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1947.

<sup>16</sup> Interview with Sahibzada Abdul Rasool, Officer Colony, Sargodha 12 July 2017.

<sup>17</sup> A note on Rehabilitation by Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Minister for Refugees and Rehabilitation, West Punjab, File No 804, National Archives, Islamabad, 1950, pp. 17-49.

<sup>18</sup> Statistics of Resettlement of Refugees in West Punjab with the Compliment of the Board of Economic Inquiry, File No. 188, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1947, pp. 10.

<sup>19</sup> Pakistan Punjab Refugee Council, Proceedings of the conference of West Punjab Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners on Rehabilitations held on the 17, 18 & 19 February 1948, File No. 15461, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1948, pp. 57.

According to the above figure Sargodha division received 524,900 refugees from different districts of the East Punjab. On the other hand if we estimate the total people who evacuated the land is as under:-

Table  
*Distribution of Refugees in Rural Area in Sargodha, 1947 (Figures in thousands)*<sup>20</sup>

Districts	Rural Population before Migration	Hindu & Sikh Evacuees from Rural Areas	Urban Population before Migration	Hindu and Sikh Evacuees from Urban Areas
Shahpur	940.8	101.2	158.0	64.0
Mianwali	499.1	53.4	57.7	22.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1439.9</b>	<b>154.6</b>	<b>215.7</b>	<b>86.9</b>

Source: Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1947.

According to the above figure the total rural and urban population of Sargodha and Mianwali district at the time of partition was 1,439,900 and 215,700 respectively. The resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees created many problems. The occupational structure of non-Muslim in Sargodha was completely divergent to that of the Muslim refugees to Sargodha,<sup>21</sup>

People participated in it giving money, commodities and other useful items of household to help refugees. It was established in front of Ambala Muslim High School in Block No.3 (Advocate, 1984). A fund for refugees was also arranged in Sargodha which was known as “*Mohajirin Fund*”.<sup>22</sup> They also arranged blankets for refugees in the winter season. The Sharif hotel in the *Kachehri Bazar* provided the meal to the refugees free of cost.<sup>23</sup> The following figure shows the Ambala Muslim High School where the household items were given to refugees.



Figure 5.2. Ambala Muslim High School in Sargodha, 2017.

<sup>20</sup> Statistics of Resettlement of Refugees in West Punjab with the Compliment of the Board of Economic Inquiry, File No. 188, Punjab Archives, 1947, Lahore, pp. 14.

<sup>21</sup> Interview with Muhammad Ehsan, Assistant Commissioner Office, Sargodha, 8 June 2016.

<sup>22</sup> Interview with Hakeem Mehmood ul Hassan, Katchery Bazar, Sargodha, 5 June 2016.

<sup>23</sup> An Unpublished Autobiography of Mufti Tufail Ahmad Govaidi, pp. 112.

Source:- Researcher's Collections, February 2018.

In the same manner, the shops full of necessary items left by Hindus and Sikhs were given to refugees.<sup>24</sup> On 29 December 1948, the Governor of the West Punjab was appointed as Deputy Commissioner, Shahpur with the additional charge as Deputy Rehabilitation Commissioner.<sup>25</sup> For the smooth rehabilitation, a Sub Divisional officer was also appointed in Khushab.<sup>26</sup>

The Rehabilitation and Settlement work in Sargodha division was assigned to different government officials like that the Sub Divisional Officer (S.D.O) Khushab was assigned with the task of Rehabilitation settlement work of Khushab Tehsil.<sup>27</sup>

The colony assistant was assigned with the task of Colony work both Urban and Rural in respect of the entire area in which Colony Act is applicable, Rehabilitation Settlement work of Tehsil Sillanwali of Sargodha, Incharge of Sargodha Tehsil for checking *girdawari* etc. and all work as Assistant Collector 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, to exercise powers of collector under the Restitution of Mortgaged lands Act of 1930, to exercise powers of Collector under the Land Acquisition Act in respect of the entire district and market Committees in the entire district. The Addl Revenue Assistant was assigned with the task of rehabilitation settlement work of Shapur Tahsil, to be incharge of *girdawari* etc. and other work as Assistant Collector 1<sup>st</sup> grade in respect of Shahpur Tehsil and the relief to food suffers and *Panchayat* work would continue to be done by the S.D.O in respect of Khushab, Bhalwal Sargodha and Shahpur Tehsils respectively.<sup>28</sup>

### **Thal Development Project in Sargodha Region**

Thal<sup>29</sup> covers parts of the regions of Sargodha (Khushab Tehsil), Mianwali and Bhakkar Tehsils) and (Muzaffargarh and Kot Adu Tehsils) was first viewed as 1870 km. Thal Irrigation Project was begun in 1939 however suspended in 1942 because of war-time conditions. It was given need quickly after the making of Pakistan and the Thal Canal with a limit of 6,000 cusecs fit for being expanded to 10,000 cusecs and it's Headworks at Jinnah Barrage, Mianwali. Taken off from the stream Indus was opened in 1947. The Colonization of Thal in 1949, was depended on the Thal Development Authority (T.D.A) the main self-governing corporation of its kind.<sup>30</sup> The following figure shows the irrigation project in shape of canal in Thal area

<sup>24</sup> Interview with Sahibzada Abdul Rasool, Officer Colony, Sargodha 12 July 2017.

<sup>25</sup> Notification No. 2854 –R (L) dated 5 May 1951, File No. 1, Delegation of Power, Office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>26</sup> Notification No. 2857 dated 5 May 1951, File No. 1 Delegation of Power, Office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>27</sup> Order No. 5409/HVC, File No. 1 Delegation of Power, Office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>28</sup> Notification No. 2857 dated 5 May 1951, File No. 1 Delegation of Power, Office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>29</sup> The Thal desert is in Punjab, Pakistan. The huge region is situated between the Jhelum and Sindh waterways close to the Pothohar Plateau, with an all-out length from north to south 190 miles. The Thal Development Act, 1949 was set up to accommodate the fast advancement of the zone brought underwater system by the execution of the Project, and for the re-settlement consequently of evacuees and others. Jean Paul, *The Campaner Thal and other Writings*, University Press, Welch, Bigelow and Company, Cambridge, 2018, pp. 1-2.

<sup>30</sup> Population Census of Pakistan 1961, District Census Report Mianwali, Population Census Organization Statistics Division, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, 1961, pp. 17.



which turned an area of 1,473,000 acre of Thal into green land. The following figure shows the network of canal in Thal.

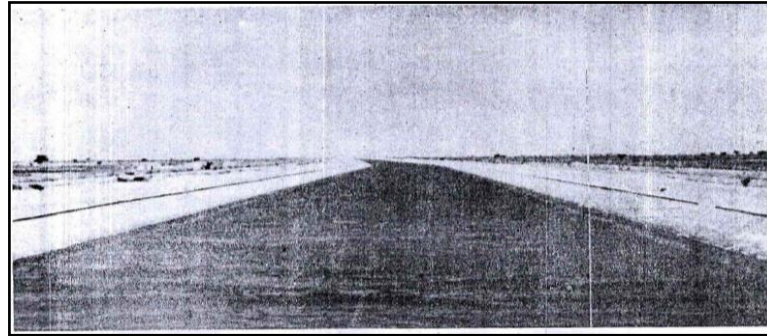


Figure 5.3. Network of Canal in Thal, 1954.

Source:- One of the network canal which turned an area of 1,473,000 acre of Thal into green land, Pakistan 1953-54, government of Pakistan, 1954, Karachi, pp. 99. A colonization officer had also been appointed for the Thal Development Colony, Jauharabad, Khushab district under the jurisdiction and control of the Chief Settlement & Rehabilitation Commissioner.<sup>31</sup> These on military colonists may also be given the choice to surrender either the land allotted to them in Thal or the land allotted to them against their claims elsewhere or obtained on account of inheritance or purchase. If any of them wished to retain both the land in Thal and elsewhere, then he should pay for the land allotted to him in Thal at the rate of Rs. 400/- per acre.<sup>32</sup> Till 1948 there were 27,000 refugees in camps. The refugees commissioner was sending 15,000 more out of which 4, 0000 had already arrived. Temporary huts were going to be built in Shahpur for the accommodation of this extra population. There was Crown land available in *Thal*.<sup>33</sup>

Table

*Thal Development Officer gave the following figure about the non-Muslims land and the Crown Area.*<sup>34</sup>

Area	Area in Acres
Area abandoned by non-Muslims	135,000
Refugees settled on	34,000
Area of the irrigation boundary being purely <i>Barani</i> <sup>35</sup>	84,000

<sup>31</sup> Notification No. 4757-Admn-Reh/62 dated 8 August 1962, File No.1, Office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>32</sup> Letter No. L&F-6(E)/69-59, Lahore, dated the 27 July 1960 from The Secretary to Government West Pakistan, Revenue and Rehabilitation Departmental to the Secretary (Colonies), Board of Revenue, West Pakistan, Lahore with the subject “ Grant of proprietary rights to Military Getters in Thal, File No. 2 Instruction, Office of the Settlement & Rehabilitation Branch, Sargodha, 1974.

<sup>33</sup> Pakistan Punjab Refugee Council, Proceedings of the conference of West Punjab Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners on Rehabilitations held on the 22 & 23 June 1948, File No. 15462, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1948, pp. 11.

<sup>34</sup> Pakistan Punjab Refugee Council, Proceedings of the conference of West Punjab Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners on Rehabilitations held on the 22 & 23 June 1948, File No. 15462, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1948, pp. 11.

<sup>35</sup> Barani mean rainfed zone (The term rainfed horticulture is utilized to depict cultivating rehearses that depend on precipitation for water. It gives a significant part of the sustenance devoured by poor networks in creating nations.). Office for Barani Areas Development (ABAD) was made in May 1978, on the proposals of Punjab Barani Commission Report, by perceiving the need to make a satisfactory

Source: Punjab Archive, Lahore, 1948.

The fundamental capacity of the specialist was to resettle the Thal range incorporated into the Bhakkar Tehsil of Mianwali area and Khushab Tehsil of Sargodha locale. Around 22,000 families were settled in 900 chaks covering a territory of 3,11,000 Acres. Another territory of 3,13,000 sections of land was utilized for impermanent gifts, leases and altogether deal and for basic purposes, i.e., Forests, Gardens, Live-stock Farms and Abadis, and so on. Different High Schools and other open; organizations were begun by the Authority for the advantage, which helped an extraordinary arrangement during the time spent advancement and colonization. Liaquatabad, Iskkandarabad (Daud Khel) and different towns were set up.<sup>36</sup> The following figure shows the high school that was opened in Thal area.



Figure School at Thal, 1955.

Source:- Thal Project, School at Thal, File No. INF 10/261, TNA, UK, 1955-1964.

The development of Mianwali-Muzaffargarh street gave a monetary improvement of the region, The Sugar Mill at Layyah greatly affected the economy of this region. The Thal segment of the Mianwali locale halfway lying in the main Thal Circle and incompletely in second Thal Circle, being secured with high sand ridges and the dirt at places being hard, in 1954 the Development Authority began the work of separating and leveling of land through its Agricultural Machinery Organization. This helped the pilgrims, two refugees and local people moved to this zone from different areas in the previous Punjab Province and furthermore the Thal proprietors in this tract to bring their properties under water system and development.<sup>37</sup>

They had a great opportunity to fulfill this employment, as they had been left to their own assets. The pioneers were given credits by the Authority to manufacture houses

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and viable association to embrace the testing errand of advancing projects and activities on felt need a premise, Baig, Mirza B., Shabbir A. Shahid, and Gary S. Straquadine, "Making Rainfed Agriculture Sustainable through Environmental Friendly Technologies in Pakistan: A review," *International Soil and Water Conservation Research*, 2013, pp. 37.

<sup>36</sup> Population Census of Pakistan 1961 Population Census of Pakistan 1961, District Census Report Mianwali, Population Census Organization Statistics Division, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, 1961, pp. 19.

<sup>37</sup> Population Census of Pakistan 1961, District Census Report Mianwali, Population Census Organization Statistics Division Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, 1961, pp. 17.

and buy bullocks so as to empower them to have a decent begin in the laborious leave states of the Thal. Authority with the help rice of the Commonwealth nations, in particular Australia, New Zealand and Canada as hardware, set up a Live-Stock Form in Rakh Ghulaman. The ranch was spread over a range Of 15,000 sections of land. The land essentially creates grub and nourishment concentrates for creatures and chickens and furthermore sustenance grains for the men working there. It had also dairy processing plant. The following figure shows the the cattle form in Thal Area of Khushab of Sargodha division.<sup>38</sup>

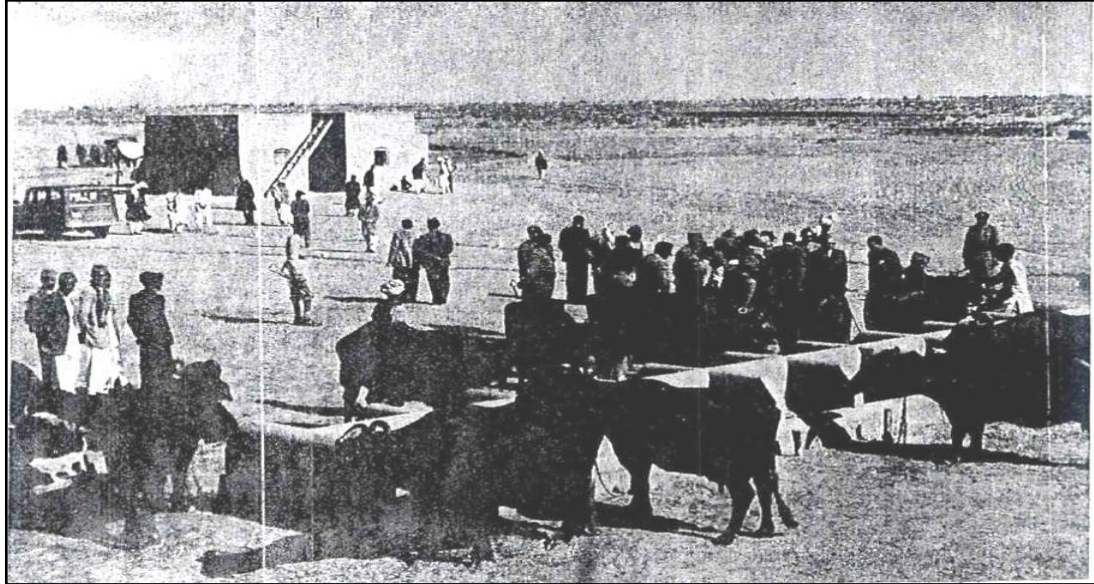


Figure A Cattle Form in Thal Area of district Khushab, 1954.

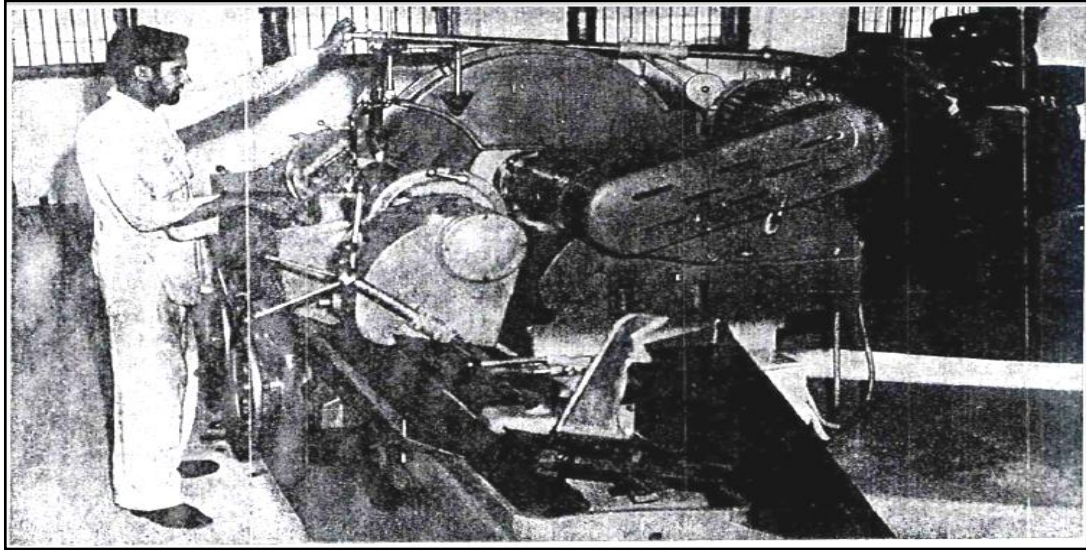
Source:- Pakistan 1953-54, government of the Pakistan, Pakistan Publication, Karachi, 1954, pp. 215.a

An expansive number of new chaks and residences were set up. Settlement towns and mandis worked at Bhakkar, Liaquatabad, Jauharabad and Quaidabad. The Thal Development Authority set-up Agricultural homesteads and gardens at different spots; preparing cum generation focuses had been opened for bungalow ventures; new streets, town connect streets and schools. Vast pieces were separated for a forestation and 50 sections of land in each *chak* held for woodland ranches and protect belts had been planted along channels and waterways in this manner making an incredible commitment towards the backwoods abundance of the nation. The region had turned out to be an independent in nourishment grains and is additionally addressing the requirements of the deficiency regions in the Province.<sup>39</sup> Till 1961 the Thal of the Bhakkar Tehsil was isolated into two normal divisions, specifically the Thal Kalan and the Daggar.<sup>40</sup> The following figure shows a Tractor Workshop in Thal Development Area.

<sup>38</sup> Population Census of Pakistan 1961, District Census Report Mianwali, Population Census Organization Statistics Division Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, 1961, pp. 17.

<sup>39</sup> Population Census of Pakistan 1961, District Census Report Mianwali, Population Census Organization Statistics Division Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, 1961, pp. 17.

<sup>40</sup> Population Census of Pakistan 1961, District Census Report Mianwali, Population Census Organization Statistics Division Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, 1961, pp. 1.



*Figure A Tractor Workshop in Thal Development Area, 1954.*

Source:- Pakistan 1953-54, government of the Pakistan, Pakistan Publication, Karachi, 1964, pp. 215.

### **Thal Project**

Thal is sandy desert covering a wide area of about five million acres. The idea of irrigating Thal with waters from the neighbouring river Indus was suggested by canal engineers in the Punjab many years ago. It was however, postponed from time to time in favour of other irrigation schemes until 1939 when the construction of the Thal Project was started. For the irrigation of the whole area of Thal some 16,000 cusecs of water was needed but Sindh had objected to the withdrawal of so much water from the Indus. On the basis of this modified scheme a barrage, now known as the Jinnah Barrage, party of the main canal was completed before partition.<sup>41</sup>

Among schemes of economic development in progress in the Punjab the biggest and most important was the Thal Project. It was indeed one of the biggest projects of its kind being executed anywhere in the world today and scores of foreign, experts had admired the vastness of its scope and the brilliancy of its execution. On completion it promised to increase the annual production of agricultural wealth in this province by no less than Rs. 8 *crores*. This figure had been worked out by experts of the International Bank on an admittedly conservative basis of calculation. The period allowed originally for the colonization of the area concerned, had been reduced in the latest plans by about ten years, so that the whole of this area was expected to be under cultivation and the target outputs of at least some of the main crops to be reached within the next three or four years.<sup>42</sup> The following figure shows that Mr. Eugene Blacker President of the World Bank visits Thal for the development of irrigation system in Pakistan.

<sup>41</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Three Years (August 1947 to August 1950), File No. EI -8, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1950, pp. 16.

<sup>42</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Three Years (August 1947 to August 1950), File No. EI -8, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1950, pp. 16.



*Figure* International co-operation helped Thal, 1959.

Source:- International Co-operation helped Thal, Mr. Eugene Blacker President of the World Bank visits Thal, File No. INF 10/260, TNA, UK, 1959-1960.

The Thal Project was a combination of two gigantic schemes-one of the spreading of a network of canals over an area of some two million acres in the desert of Thal and the other of populating this area and giving it a social life based on a balanced and harmonious economy of agriculture, trade and industry. A vast burning desert of sand dunes and dust storms, hitherto waterless and lifeless, is thus being converted into a big colony of rich crops happy and prosperous villages and busy market towns. The effort has already shown remarkable results. About three hundred villages came into being where there was not a blade of grass had ever grown are now under cultivation and yielding bumper crops. New town designed models of modern amenities were also being built at surprising speed.<sup>43</sup>

Before showing these results the Thal Projects had no pass through a long history of delays, difficulties and failures. The first obstacle was a dispute with Sindh over the use of Indus water which eventually resulted in a compromise which allowed the Punjab to withdraw 6,000 causes of water from the river. This would suffice to irrigate only about 15 *lakh* out of the Thal's total area of about five million acres. The present project will, therefore, cover only a little more than two million acres. Of this about 1½ million acres will be put under crops and the rest utilized for village sites, townships, beds of roads and such other purposes.<sup>44</sup>

Following the decision about the amount of water to be withdrawn the construction of a barrage and canal head works was started in 1939. After its completion further work had to be suspended owing to difficulties created by the war. It was resumed some time later but did not make much headway when partition came and for a variety of reasons gave new urgency to the problems of expanding the agricultural resources of the province. Work was therefore, starting once against on the proposed canals and carried out at high pressure. The irrigation projects contemplated the constructions of 230 miles of main and branch canals and 1.630 miles of distributaries and minors. The total length of the former and over 1,200 miles of the latter have been completed. The bed and sides of 180 miles of the main and branch

<sup>43</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Three Years (August 1947 to August 1950), File No. EI -8, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1950, pp. 16.

<sup>44</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Three Years (August 1947 to August 1950), File No. EI -8, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1950, pp. 16.

canals lined with brick to prevent the evil of excessive seepage of water. Nearly 1,000 miles of the distributaries channels opened for irrigation and the rest are ready percentage of area put under crops is 25 per cent, which is in accordance with the forecast of development for this project. The main canal is designed to take a maximum discharge of 6,000 cusecs. It was possible to run as much as 5,000 cusecs during this summer, and this was expected to greatly increase the irrigation figures of Thal. While the irrigation side of the project was to be completed till 1954 and the overall progress was already ahead of schedule.<sup>45</sup>

The other side of the project-colonization was really the delaying factor for quite over two years after partition. The method of offering land and irrigation facilities to refugee peasants and leaving them to develop their lands was tried but did not prove very successful. These refugees did not possess then necessary resources to build any kind of shelter for themselves or to buy seed or bullocks and wait for the results of their labours. The conditions of life too in an utterly desolate desert were wholly unattractive. Some encouraging pioneer-work was done by the Pakistan Army. A certain portion of the area had been reserved for providing new homes for Pakistan soldiers whose families had been uprooted from India. Backed by the resources of their regimental organizations, these soldiers moved their refugee families into the reserved 'chaks' and braved the initial difficulties. On the civilian side, however, the scheme of colonization languished and the prospects of its early success were none too bright. Then the Punjab government enacted a law in July 1949 for the constitution of a public corporation to start on its own the development of Thal and carry the process to a point at which settlers would feel attracted to take it up.<sup>46</sup>

The public corporation, named the Thal Development Authority was constituted on 29 August 1949 and given powers not only of operating on government land but also of acquiring privately owned lands in Thal so as to develop the area as a whole. It took some time to prepare elaborate and detailed maps of proposed villages, towns, forests, seeds farms, cattle farms, roads, etc, in Thal and actual operations started on the spot early in 1950. Land was taken up block by block, demarcated into *chaks* and broken up with the help of tractors and other modern machines. As soon as a block of land was ready for sowing operations a batch of previously selected settlers was brought and each individual settler put in possession of an area of 15 acres, which he started sowing almost at once.<sup>47</sup>

### **Urban Settlement**

In the urban areas a satisfactory solution of the problem of resettlement of refugees was hampered by two special difficulties. One was that in the absence of any agreement with the Indian authorities on this point no plan of a semi-permanent disposal of evacuee property could be devised in the Punjab and allotments to refugees still continue to be on a temporary basis. Because of this it was not possible to create a sense of security among the refugees or sufficient interest among them in

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<sup>45</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Three Years (August 1947 to August 1950), File No. EI -8, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1950, pp. 16.

<sup>46</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Three Years (August 1947 to August 1950), File No. EI -8, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1950, pp. 16.

<sup>47</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Six Years (August 1947 to August 1953), File No. EI -10, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1953, pp. 7-9.

the repairs and maintenance of their allotments. On the issue of disposal of evacuee property, negotiation to Indian authority was also initiated.<sup>48</sup>

The other difficulty was the terrible congestion in housing accommodation. Figures collected during the census of 1951 in respect of certain towns showed an increase of 34 per cent in the urban population of the province since 1941. This sudden increase in population accompanied by on large scale building activity during the previous decade. The small number of new buildings constructed during the disturbances of 1947 and more during the floods of 1950. The great disparity between the demand for and the available supply of housing accommodation for allotments occasioned a great deal of inconvenience to refugees.<sup>49</sup> As an answer to the terrible congestion in the larger towns of the Province the Urban Development Department, set up, took up the implementation of three satellite town schemes at Lyallpur, Multan and Lahore and one each at Sargodha, Gujranwala, Jhang, Montgomery, Rawalpindi and Sialkot.

The Refugee Tax Committee, which is financing the plan for the benefit of the Central government, concluded that 60% of the absolute region of a plan ought to be under building and the streets and parks ought to be given in the leftover 40% region. A metropolitan advancement presentation was held from the 17 to the 23 May 1953 at Lahore to give a chance to the Public to see and look at what was being done in this territory. The presentation was additionally jointed by the British Council and along these lines empowered the neighborhood public to see the British Projects with gave a thought of the idea, work and energy utilized in nation and town arranging in England. The display pulled in enormous hordes of intrigued onlookers and was an extraordinary accomplishment in its object of making interests in present day lodging developments and town arranging.<sup>50</sup> Central government also allocated Rs. 1,44,515 for the government of the Punjab for the satellite town scheme.<sup>51</sup> The following figure shows a standard house in district Khushab.



<sup>48</sup> Negotiations between India and Pakistan on disposal of refugee property, File No. FO 371/106942, TNA, UK, 1953.

<sup>49</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Three Years (August 1947 to August 1950), File No. EI-8, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1950, pp. 12.

<sup>50</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Six Years (August 1947 to August 1953), File No. EI (10), Punjab Archives, Lahore, pp. 58.

<sup>51</sup> Fortnightly summaries of the Ministry of the Refugees & Rehabilitation, Cabinet Division, File No. 33/CF/53 Volume V, National Documentation Wing, Islamabad, 1950, pp. 37.

*Figure Standarded House in Khushab, 1953.*

Source:- The Punjab, A Review of the First Six Years (August 1947 to August 1953), File No. EI-10, Punjab Archives, Lahore, pp. 8.

As a resolution of the second difficulty, plans of building 13 satellite towns in Punjab were proposed and pushed through the stages of approval. The construction of these towns at a total cost of over Rs. 10 *crores* started. The Provincial government obtained a grant of Rs. 3 *crores* and a loan of Rs. 1 ½ *Crore* from the Centre for this purpose. Ministry of Refugees was also granted Rs. 1, 50,000 and Rs. 3,25,000 by the Governor-General during the year ending on the 31 May 1948 and 31 May 1949 to meet expenditures.<sup>52</sup> These plans contemplated the allotment of about 10,000 sites in the proposed satellite towns to comparatively poor refugees at low rates and the grant of loans to them for construction of houses. Work on four new townships in the *Thal* area had already made considerable progress. Each of these new towns provided accommodation for 30,000 to 50,000 persons.

A Circle with four Public Work Department (P.W.D) Divisions and a number of Sub-Divisions was organized under the supervision of Superintending Engineer with headquarters at Lahore for operation in Lahore and ten other big towns of the Province. A sum of Rs. 4 *laks* was placed at the disposal of the Circle during 1950-1951 which further rose to Rs. 22 *lakh*. A sum of Rs. 5½ *laks* was also placed at the disposal of the Military authorities for repairs to evacuee property in Cantonment areas.<sup>53</sup>

#### **Settlement on Agricultural land**

The size of the assignment of evacuation and rehabilitation combined with the startling quality of it and the subsequent absence of readiness with respect to the state, made matters much more troublesome. The new territory of Punjab was so far scarcely seven days old, when it confronted the principle slide in of the torrential slide. It had hardly dealt with the reality of segment, seen by numerous Punjabis as a removal, when it was overwhelmed by the surge of outcasts. The earth of threatening vibe, doubt, instability and viciousness in which the majority of this occurred opened up a chasm (Aiyar, 1995).

Long-lasting farming resettlement took significantly longer, as it was reliant at first on the trading of income records between the Indian and West Punjab locale and afterward involved the undertaking of the assessment of outcast's cases. These elaborate cycles of confirmation, yet the need to decide the near upsides of the cleared properties. It was not until January 1949 that a gathering of the agents of India and Pakistan held in Karachi drew up plans for the trading of land and other ardent properties records. The exclusive right of evacuees to move their properties by deal or some other way was perceived. Following the understanding, 'Exceptional Jamabandi' (income records of rural land) was traded between the two parts of Punjab.<sup>54</sup> The following figure shows the process of land allotment to the Refugees.

<sup>52</sup> The Constituent Assembly (legislature) of Pakistan, debates 23 February to 26 May, 1948, National Assembly of Pakistan, Islamabad, 1948, pp. 351.

<sup>53</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Five Years (August 1947 to August 1952), File No. EI-09, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1952, pp. 47-50.

<sup>54</sup> By the end of January 1949, revenue records of 15,184 West Punjab villages had been handed over to the East Punjab government, and, in return, revenue records had been obtained from India of 14,449 villages of East Punjab and the East Punjab Princely States, and of 13 villages of Delhi areas. PSA, Resettlement of Refugees on Land in West Punjab, File No. E-33, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1954, pp. 55.





Figure Process of Land Allotment to the Refugees, 1950.

Source:- The Punjab, A Review of the First Three Years (August 1947 to August 1950), File No. EI -8, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1950, pp. 116.

After about three years from the date of partition it could be confidently claimed that 80 to 90 per cent of the refugees, who after being uprooted from their ancestral homes had run to Punjab in panic and distress, were absorbed in the economic life of the province. Their standard of life in their new surroundings was not lower (in most cases it was higher) than what it was before, the number of *Muahjireen* who came to the Punjab, was about two million more than the number of Hindus and Sikhs who left. There had thus millions, it was more than the number of Hindus and Sikhs who left. There was thus a sudden jump in the population figure and pressure on land and housing accommodation increased. The province had so far stood this strain; but the provincial authorities were now emphatically of the opinion that the saturation point in the settlement of refugees had already been reached in this province and that a further burden on its resources would gravely jeopardize its economy.<sup>55</sup>

The Rehabilitation Settlement Scheme had not progressed much beyond the stage of planning on paper when the Ministry assumed office in April 1951. It took at once and announced to the public a bold decision to complete actual resettlement under schemes or at any rate substantial part of it in about a year. Various administrative measures were adopted for accelerating the pace of progress. The produce indices of the East Punjab and the West Punjab States were also re-examined and revised where considered necessary so as to give a fairer deal to refugees than they were expected to get under the old tables. Re-organization of the machinery for resettlement work was completed in the summer of 1951 and the actual work got into stride soon after.

### Conclusion

The post partition scenario of the thesis contextualizes the local resettlement of refugees that had complex dimensions needed to re-evaluate at regional level. Hence during this curtail formative phase an “informal” system of allocation of resources, confused state mechanism of responsibilities, sheer in adequate linkages of institutional influx. After a massive push of displaced and torn refugees the state of Punjab had to shoulder the tremendous burden of providing shelter and relief for Muslim refugees who were pouring into this province at an average rate of about 50,000 per day. The newly set up governments of Pakistan and India made certain joint and reciprocal arrangements for the evacuation of eleven to twelve millions of people from both sides of the border.

<sup>55</sup> The Punjab, A Review of the First Three Years (August 1947 to August 1950), File No. EI-8, Punjab Archives, Lahore, 1950, pp. 12.

Due to migration, people of both the communities (Muslims and non-Muslims) suffered enormous difficulties and faced cultural threats. The friendly environment of the both communities shifted into hatred. Those who were used to share worries and happiness with each other became the worst rivals and started butchering each other. The burden of migration that Punjab faced is matchless in the history of the refugees. It affected all the segments of life including political, economic, administrative, social, cultural and moral values. Prior to partition, they were generally neglected in making the social, economic and political development. This period was of trial and tribulation. As millions of men and women crossed the border from both sides so, the problem of settlement was of big magnitude. The communal riots marked permanent imprints on the social and economic setup of Punjab which finally culminated in acute communal tension. Everywhere, there were the feelings of insecurity in society. The retaliatory policy for incoming refugees further widened the communal gap which arose many tensions.

The migrated people remained deprived of the basic facilities in the Western Punjab as many of them had exhausted all their saving in the migration process from the East Punjab to West Punjab. The refugees of both communities had very limited prospects of employment in the near future. Due to inflation, many of them were compelled to live a life that of a criminal. This immediately resulted in the emergence of a new class of criminals. The refugees became alien in their new surroundings. They were unfamiliar to the places, the physical and geographical environment, the locals and the new relationships. The channels of normal trade dried up; there were no agencies to finance the movement of agricultural products from the farms to the markets or the factories; the wheels of industry ceased to revolve; wide gaps occurred in the administrative machinery; hospitals lost their doctors and dispensers; and above all, the task of running the canals which supplied the life-blood of agriculture in the province seemed to be hopeless problem.

This case study of Sargodha division reveals that the previously-acquired technical and industrial skills and capital acquired in East Punjab was an important factor not only in individual refugee rehabilitation, but in the city's rapid post-independence economic growth.

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