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**Dr. H Munavarjan**  
Head, P.G. & Research  
Department of History,  
C. Abdul Hakeem College,  
Melvisharam, Tamil Nadu,  
India

**R Mohammed Haleem Basha**  
Ph.D. Research Scholar,  
C. Abdul Hakeem College,  
Melvisharam, Tamil Nadu,  
India

## Contributions of Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman – A study

**Dr. H Munavarjan and R Mohammed Haleem Basha**

### Abstract

Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman, lovingly called 'Sena Aana' by the people of Kilakarai. A well known personality in the field of Education, Economy and Industry and a Philanthropist of par excellence, hails from Kilakarai. A descendant of the legendary philanthropist Seethakathi, Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman was born in Kilakarai on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1927 in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu. Besides of his business activities, he concentrates on the development of the economically weaker sections and minorities through Education, Employment, Health facilities and Rural Development. His large heartedness and far sightedness have produced many an institutions of excellence, through which his services continue to benefit the poor, downtrodden and the under privileged sections of the society. This paper traces the contributions of B.S. Abdur Rahman. An attempt has been made to highlight the essential and important social and educational contributions of this personality.

**Keywords:** B.S. Abdur Rahman, Sena Anna, Seethakathi, All India Islamic Foundation, Kilakarai

### 1. Introduction

B.S. Abdur Rahman was born in a middle-class Maraikkayar family. He completed his Secondary School Level at Schwartz School of Ramanathapuram and Hameedia High School of Kilakarai. He started his career only with his unlimited faith and in hard work and untiring self confidence. Due to sheer hard work and sincerity, reached his heights in business in countries like USA, UK, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Belgium and Arab Nations. Whatever he touched took good and shape and he has business associations in every nook and corner of the world, offering employment opportunities for over 10,000 men and women. It is not an exaggeration to say that this business magnate has made his little village become prominent in the map of South India just by his leadership qualities, selfless service and entrepreneurship.



### 2. Contributions of Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman

A firm believer in helping to educate the poor and deprived, B.S. Abdur Rahman has been determinedly establishing a widespread network of education institutions which provide numerous opportunities for the needy. He was the founder of Seethakathi Trust, established in 1967 and All India Islamic Foundation, established in 1979. A total number of 12 Educational Institutions comprising of a leading Engineering University, a Women's College, an Arabic College for Men, 2 boys' schools, 3 girls schools, a women nursing college, a teacher training institute, B.Ed. College for Women and 2 hospitals and orphanages in both urban and rural areas in the State of Tamil Nadu. A few among from the above Trusts is listed below.

**Correspondence**  
**Dr. H Munavarjan**  
Head, P.G. & Research  
Department of History,  
C. Abdul Hakeem College,  
Melvisharam, Tamil Nadu,  
India

### **3. Contributions to Higher Education**

He was the Chancellor of B.S. Abdur Rahman University which is situated in Chennai, providing World-Class Technical Education, offering 12 Under Graduate, 19 Post Graduate and 18 Research Programmes. The student and faculty strengths are 5656 and 338 respectively with 85 Ph.D. holders.

He had a sister and after her accidental death B.S. Abdur Rahman established a Women's college in his sister's name, Thassim Beevi Abdul Khader College for Women in his home town, Kilakarai. The college offers 12 Under Graduate, 5 Post Graduate and about 10 Career Oriented Programmes.

### **4. Contributions to Schools and Training Institutes**

The schools and training institutes founded by Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman include Crescent Residential Matriculation Higher Secondary School for Boys at Vandalur in Chennai, Crescent Matriculation Schools for Girls in Chennai, Nagore and Madurai. He also founded a B.Ed. College, a Teacher Training Institute and a Nursing Centre for Women in Madurai.

### **5. Contributions to Educational and Cultural Centres**

Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman was farsighted man and knew the importance of administration. He was well aware that for uplift of the community it is very necessary that Muslim youth join Indian Administrative Services. So he established the Crescent IAS and career Guidance Academy in 1994 beside an Islamic Studies and Cultural Centre in Chennai.4

### **6. Contributions to Orphanages**

Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman did not lag behind in providing comfort of life to most deprived orphanages. He has founded and financially aided the following orphanages:

- 1) Al-Momin Seethakathi Children Home, Sakkarai-kottai, Ramanathapuram District.
- 2) Al-Momin Umar Pulavar Children Home, Ottapidaram.
- 3) Al-Momin Shahul Hammed Wali Allah Children Home, Tanjore.
- 4) Al-Momin K.T.M.S. Hameed Children Home for Girls, Kilakarai.
- 5) Al-Momin Malik Dinar Children Home for Girls, Thiruvithancode.

### **7. Health Care**

Health of people is only a desirable goal but is also an essential investment in human resources. Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman has always endorsed the view that only healthy citizens would make a healthy nation. His concern about the lack of medical facilities for the backward and minority communities in rural areas urged him to come up with well equipped hospital at Kilakarai.

Nestled in the midst of coconut groves of Kilakarai, Yusuf Zulaikha Hospital is a specialty hospital set up exclusively for the women and children of the little town of Kilakarai. The hospital is sponsored by the Seethakathi Trust, was inaugurated by the then President of India Shri R. Venkataraman in the year 1989. The hospital is equipped with all the modern facilities for speedy, efficient and caring medical aid for the poorest of the society. The hospital, a brainchild of Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman, today has over 60 beds and an investment of Rs.1.25 Crore behind it. The hospital works is manned by expert medical personnel with

wide experience. The hospital is always on expansion plans with more beds and better facilities to accommodate more patients. With the blessings and cooperation of the people from all walks of life, the Seethakathi Trust hopes to fulfill its dream to provide medical aid to all the people, regardless of their religion, caste or social status.

### **8. Youth Welfare Activities**

B.S. Abdur Rahman felt that a sound mind in a sound body is a healthy trend of development of the youth in this country. Hence much importance is being given to NSS, NCC, Scouts and other youth activities in all his institutions. Hence to promote sports activities and to imbibe sports culture in the minds of youngsters, he constructed and donated a stadium with all facilities for indoor games, gymnasium and a gallery to Tamil Nadu Government under the purview of Sports Authority of Tamil Nadu during 1997. The stadium was inaugurated by Thiru. Anbazhagan, the then Minister of Education of Tamil Nadu.

### **9. Social Works**

His social works span a wide area. Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman founded B.S. Abdur Rahman Zakath Fund Foundation in 2007 which provides educational grants for students. Through this foundation, B.S. Abdur Rahman has maintained magnificence of Zakath which may be called a pillar of Islam and which is an instrument for survival of poor Muslims.

He set up Self Help Groups (SHGs) which became beneficial to 17,093 deprived and helpless women. He also founded and managed various other trusts like Yusuf Zulaikha Trust for Education, Health Care and Women Empowerment in Chennai in 1993, United Economic Forum in 1994 and Seethakathi NGO in 2002.

### **10. Business**

He also established new milestones in business field. He was the founder Chairman of Dubai based ETA – Ascon – Star Group and was treated a renowned Indian entrepreneur in UAE. It may be known that the group has a turn over US \$5.5 billion and employs 50,000 people. With his visionary zeal and entrepreneurial spirit, Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman has been the guiding force behind many companies in India, among which the most important is the Buhari Group - the Indian Multinational. The prominent companies and establishments under Buhari Group include East Coast Construction Ltd. (ECCI) 50 years in the field of construction, coal and oil and many other automobile dealership companies.

### **11. Awards**

In recognition of his services, he received many awards. The Aligarh Muslim University Students Union conferred him life membership while Sathyabama University awarded Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his contribution to Women Education.

### **12. Death**

Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman passed away on January 7, 2015 in Chennai at the age of 88.

### **13. Conclusion**

Indian Muslim Community has a legacy of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, the founder of Aligarh Muslim University before it.

Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman has achieved almost that place and has become another inspirational figure.

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