

# Prof. (Dr) Pratibha Chawla

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## PROFILE

**Passionate Teacher** having **Multi-Faceted Interests** in **Research & Public Relations** complemented by Sharp **Social Perceptiveness**.

Having **Teaching Experience** of more than two decades in SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi.

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## EDUCATION

### **Fellow, Research Award (2016-18)**

University Grant Commission, Delhi, India

Two years fellowship on the topic "*Emergence, Trajectories and the Impact of Feminist Movements in Punjab and Haryana since 1970s*".

### **PhD**

#### **Center for Historical Studies**

School of Social Sciences

Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Delhi, India

Awarded 2009

### **MPhil**

#### **Historical Studies (Sufism)**

Department of History, University of Delhi, Delhi, India

Awarded 1997

### **Masters in Arts**

History Honors

Department of History, University of Delhi, Delhi, India

Awarded 1995

### **Bachelor of Arts**

History (Hons)

Hindu College, University of Delhi, Delhi, India

Graduated 1993

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## ***A Synoptic View***

The topic of my Ph.D. thesis is **“Creation of an Impression: The Position of Women in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries and the Sikh Gurus”**. All well accepted religious traditions have been important players in the transformation of societies and have always been of utmost importance in determining the status of women, since such factors exert powerful influence on the thought, culture and behavior of the people. Clifford Geertz appropriately sums up the complex relationship between the religion and the socio-cultural aspects when he says Religion is experienced as “A system of symbols which acts to establish powerful, pervasive and long-lasting moods and motivations in Men...” Institutionalised religion has been at the forefront of conserving and stabilizing societal values and world views and transplanting them from generation to generation. The religious ideology very often plays a crucial role in legitimizing and sustaining the subordination of women. It is in context of this close connection between the religion and the social norm that I decided to study the impact of the Sikh Gurus on the issues concerning women. In sharp contrast to the general social perception and ethos of the time Sikhism advocated an egalitarian society. For Guru Nanak, men and women were equal not only before God, but also before one-another. Women were considered as an integral part of society who must not be excluded by a ritual or doctrinal consideration. Thus, I was inclined to study as to what were the ideals of the gender for the Sikh Gurus? How were these ideals constructed? How did these ideals affect the evolution of the Sikh *Panth*? Was there a difference in perception of women of Guru Nanak and the subsequent nine Sikh Gurus or at a more abstract level was there a difference even at the level of the focuses and emphasis in their teachings. What kind of impact could they make on the social milieu at large? How were these ideals furthered? What were the gaps between the operative and normative realities, if any?

What were the ideals of the gender for the Sikh Gurus? With this goal, the Sikh scripture, Guru Granth Sahib along with other hagiographic sources have been analyzed from a gender perspective to come to an understanding of the discourse surrounding gender during this initial phase of the formation of the Sikh traditions. Due attention has been paid to more popular literary or folk lore tradition from Hir Ranjah of Waaris Shah to Hir of Peelu and Damodar to Kaafiyas of Shah Hussain. The aim is to come to an understanding of gender themes within the earliest sources, both historical and scriptural.

Topic of my MPhil dissertation is **“Creating An Impression: The Image of Shaikh Nasiruddin Chirag-i-Dehli, Medieval Texts and the Modern Dargah”**. In this work an attempt has been made to make a nuanced study of the images projected by Shaikh Nasiruddin *Chirag-i-Dehli* in the *malfuzat* of the

Shaikh entitled "*Khair-al-Majalis*" and notices of the Shaikh in two important *tazkirats* of the mid fourteenth and late sixteenth century, the *Siyar- al-Auliya* and the *Akhbar-al-Akhyar* respectively, as well as an evaluation of images the Shaikh floated presently in the dargah. The study of these texts attempted to identify the images sought to be portrayed of the Shaikh and his views on different aspects of *sufi* principles and practices. One of the significant points that emerged is that every contemporary text has to be studied in the context in which it emerged, the intentions of the hagiographer in presenting the text. The paradigm of the conduct appropriate for a Chishti Shaikh described in the *malfuzat* differed from the one proposed by the texts in the *tazkirat* genre, a process further elaborated by the *sajjada nashin* in the Dargah.

Every source has an intention, it is a product of the social context in which it has been produced and an appraisal of a text requires that the context and the background of its creation must be taken into account before reaching conclusions based on it. The *malfuzat* genre of the literature had one agenda and the *tazkirat* written at different times had another.

This element of difference was not limited only to the images constructed by these hagiological sources. It, in fact, became still more apparent in the impression of the *barakat* of the Shaikh created by the present *sajjada nashin* in the dargah which emphasized primarily on the element of *karamat*, *karishma*, and the element of "piety" of the shaikh is obliterated, or at least taken a back seat.

The dissertation is able to make a significant point that at a time today when many fundamentalists suggest that we go back to a "pure" unadulterated, "traditional" past, the study succeeds in suggesting that notions of piety are constructions which have temporal significance and these do alter over time.

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## EXPERIENCE **S.G.T. B. Khalsa College, University of Delhi**

Professor, History Department (July 2018 till date)

Associate Professor, History Department (Sept 2008 till July 2018)

Assistant Professor, History Department (Sept 2003 till Sept 2008)

Lecturer, History Department (September 1999-September 2003)

Teaching Undergraduate students and striving to develop and encourage the strong foundation in terms of emphasizing the historian's craft. Have also been actively involved in setting the examination papers for students appearing for undergraduate studies. Have been actively engaged in evaluation of answer scripts. Have engaged students in tutorial classes regularly that can contribute in building their strong conceptual foundation, improve their writing skills, have played a significant role in enhancing their thought process, presenting their viewpoints in an effective manner through the debates, discussions & presentations organized in smaller groups. During this tenure, I have organized numerous seminars, talks & heritage walks to facilitate the holistic development of the students.

## **S.G.N.D Khalsa College, University of Delhi**

Lecturer, History Department (September 1998-September 1999)

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## Publications & Academic Contributions

- ❖ A book titled "Silent Voices in the Creation of a New Universe Sikh Gurus on Women and Society" is published by Manohar Publishers & Distributors in December 2023.
- ❖ Contributed in the capacity of Joint Editor in the revised edition of Hindi textbook volume published for B.A. Prog Semester Vth & Semester VIth paper "Issues in World History in Twentieth Century" published by Aakar Books, Delhi (2021).
- ❖ Contributed a research paper in the International Journal of Management, Administration, Leadership & Education: - "Bhakti Sants on Women: An understanding mirroring the social realities". Vol 5 (No 1), January to June 2019
- ❖ Presented a paper in symposium on "The Challenges to Women's Freedom Today & Poet's Meet" organized by Sahitya Akademi in March 2018.
- ❖ Contributed in the capacity of Associate Editor in the Hindi textbook volume published for B.A. Prog Semester Vth & Semester VIth paper "Issues in World History in Twentieth Century" published by Directorate of Hindi Medium Education, University of Delhi.

- ❖ Contributed Four chapters on “Global Depression (1929)”, “Stalin and Soviet Economy: 1929-1941”, “The Feminism and The Feminist Movements” and “The ‘Ecological Movements” in volume I
- ❖ This book has been revised in light of the FYUP syllabus changes- DC II semester VIII course Vth “Issues in Twentieth Century World History”. In this volume, I have contributed a chapter on “United Nations and its Allied Organizations”. Have also assisted in the capacity of associate editor of the book.
- ❖ Women in “Sri Guru Granth Sahib: A Comment”; published in South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy’s journal, “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- Special Issue”, Volume: 3, Issue: 1; 2006, New Delhi, India. Published by South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy.
- ❖ Presented a paper in World Social Forum (India Chapter) in the workshop on “Identity, Religiosity and Politics”.

### **Published Articles**

- ❖ The Morphology behind missing girls: Colossal Impact of the Skewed Sex Ratio in Punjab and Haryana, International Journal of Management, Administration, Leadership & Education: A Referred, Multidisciplinary, International Journal, 2015, Vol. 1, No.2
- ❖ Bhakti *Sants* on Women: An Understanding Mirroring The Social Realities, International Journal of Management, Administration, Leadership & Education: A Referred, Multidisciplinary, International Journal, 2015, Vol. 1, No.1
- ❖ The New Face of the Feminist Protest in Punjab and Haryana, Vaak Sudha, 2016, May-July, Vol. 1
- ❖ Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji: The Protagonist of an Egalitarian Social Order in the Discourse of Bhakti Movement, International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews (An International Open Access Journal), April 1, 2016. Vol.3, Issue 2.
- ❖ The Intricacies Behind Women supporting Women and Successful Feminist Movements, International Journal of Management, Administration, Leadership & Education: A Referred, Multidisciplinary, International Journal, July- December 2016, Vol. 2, No.224
- ❖ *Ramabai se Pandita Ramabai ki Jeewanyaatra: Ek Adhbutt, Vilakshan Vyaktitva ka Nirman*, Global Thought: An International Refereed Quarterly Research Journal

- ❖ Women's Movement: Telling its Tale Since the 1970s, *Vaak Sudha*, October- December 2016, Vol.2.
- ❖ Campaigns That Changed the World of Indian Feminism, *International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews (An International Open Access Journal)*, February 2017. Vol.4, Issue 2.
- ❖ Why Should We All Be Feminists? *Global Thought: An International Refereed Quarterly Research Journal* , November 2017, Vol.6 (2)
- ❖ Indian Women's Movements: Some Reflections on its Trajectory, *International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews (An International Open Access Journal)*, December 2017. Vol.4, Issue 4.
- ❖ Punjab and Haryana as the Origin of the Domino Effect on the Indian Feminist Movement, *Global Thought: An International Refereed Quarterly Research Journal*, August 2017, Vol.5 (2)
- ❖ Political Milieu at the Time of Guru Nanak and his Perceptions, *International Journal of Management, Administration, Leadership & Education: A Referred, Multidisciplinary, International Journal*, January- June 2018, Vol. 4, No.1
- ❖ Honour Killings: A Study in the Culture of Inhumanity, *Global Thought: An International Refereed Quarterly Research Journal*, March 2018, Vol.7.
- ❖ *Pandita Ramabai: Naari ki Nijta Aur Naari Shiksha ka Mahatv*, *Vaak Sudha*, July- September 2017, Vol.5(2).
- ❖ *Khap Panchayat - An Inescapable Challenge to an Egalitarian Social Fabric*, *Global Thought: An International Refereed Quarterly Research Journal*, June 2018, Vol.8.
- ❖ Presently working on the manuscript of my second book focusing on Gender Issues in Punjab and Haryana