

## SHIA MUSLIM WOMEN AND HEALTH CARE IN INDIA, (MYSORE CITY)

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**Abstract :** Woman constitute about half of India's population. Equality of status for women is enshrined in the preamble, fundamental rights and directive principles of India's constitution. The impact of these Constitutional provisions and the administrative measures taken to improve the status of women in India have to be studied with reference to region, religion, community, language, economy, education etc. Each community has its own socially accepted rights and roles for women. Indian society is not static. Changes have been taking place in all spheres of the society since the beginning of Indian civilization. The processes of social change have not affected the different sections of women in a uniform manner so that it is not easy to generalize on the impact of these changes on the status of women. Patriarchy is very strong in India among majority of Hindu castes Muslims and Christians whereas matriarchy is found among a few Hindu castes, and some tribal communities. In general, male supremacy dominates in Indian society.

**Introduction :** Gender based problems are generally studied by social scientists with reference to (a) production, (b) reproduction, (c) sexuality, (d) socialization of children. (e) education and (f) political activity. Marxists have emphasized the aspect of production. Anthropologists have focused more on sexuality and socialization of children. In India male supremacy may be seen in all the spheres except among a few matrilineal tribes of North-East India.

Anthropological studies on Muslim communities are a neglected area of research in India. During the last two decades anthropologists have given some attention to the study of Muslim communities in India.

Muslims are treated as a religious minority group in India. India was partitioned by the British in 1947 and a large number of Muslims stayed back in India. The population of Muslims in India as per the 2001 census is 123,433,239,36 which is more than the population of Pakistan an Islamic country. In which 20% of the total Muslim population are belonging to Shia Muslim and remaining 80% are belonging to Sunni Muslim.

Although Muslims are an integral part of the socio-economic structure of Indian society,

they have retained many special features derived from Islam. As a minority community they are allowed to practice their personal law in marriage, family and inheritance etc.

Islam was born in 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Islam was first introduced in India by the Arab traders and later by the Muslim invaders from North-west region. They converted a large number of Hindus, Buddhists. Jains and other people by force. Muslims ruled India for about 600 years. Some of the lower caste people, especially in Bengal, embraced Islam voluntarily in order to escape the ill-treatment of Hindu landlords (Satyanarayana, 1993:62).

India has the second largest Muslim population in South Asia. It stands in the fifth place among the countries with Muslim population. Before partition of India in 1947, Muslims constituted about 24% of the total population. Muslims are spread over in all parts of the country. However, about 98% of the Indian Muslims are found in 13 states (Satyanarayanan, 1993:72)

According to 2001 census the population of Muslims in Karnataka is 44,977,201 which constitute 11% of the total population. Karnataka ranks right in Indian states so far as Muslim population is concerned Muslims

are found in all the 28 districts of the state. But their concentration is seen in nine districts viz, Bidar, Gulbarga, Dharwad, Bijapur, Raichur, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Kodagu, Bellary and Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural and Mysore.

**Muslims in Mysore City:** The Muslim population in Mysore district varied from 3.01% in 1891 census to 19% in 2001 census of the total population. Mysore district has a small population of Muslims compared to other districts. However, the Muslim population in Mysore city is 1,51,85,332 as per the 2001 census. This is fairly a large number compared to the state and national averages of Muslim population. Large numbers of Muslim families are found in Lashkar Mohalla, Mandi Mohalla, Krishnaraj Mohalla and Nazarbad area. These localities are situated in the northern part of the city.

There are several sects among Muslims. Among them Shia, Sunni and Ahmadiya are the prominent ones. Shias believe that prophet Muhammad chose Ali, his first cousin and son-in-law, as his successor (Momen, 1985). Shias are in large number in Mysore city. Most of the Shia Muslims of Mysore city live in Mandi Mohalla. Mandi market is a very popular place for marketing agricultural goods and meat, Shia Muslims have separate mosques.

**Relevance of the study:** India is a multi-cultural society. All the major world religions are found in India. People in India, irrespective of their religion, are generally tradition bound in all walks of life. However, recently modernization has become an important source of change in Indian society and culture. Muslim women are generally considered to be very conservative. Although Islam attaches great value to the education of women, it is not followed by majority of Muslims. Political and economic independence are also important factors in the development of women in a society. Traditional Muslim men consider

that women are unsuitable for political activity. They are also not given economic independence. Another important factor is the health status. Islamic institutions of marriage and family are also affecting the status of women. Considering all the above factors, it is pertinent to understand the dynamics of Islamic society with special reference to the status of women. The importance of studying women's role in the present day society is more pertinent than ever before because of the changing attitude of the society towards the female gender. We can see the increased participation of women, in politics, economy and popular movements in the modern world. There are many studies on Hindu and tribal women in India. However, studies on Indian Muslim women are very rare. Therefore, the present study on the Muslim women of Mysore city is aimed to throw more light on the economic, educational, political and health status of the traditionally neglected section of the Muslim society:

Satvanarayana studied about 200 Muslim families in Mysore city in 1993. This is a sociological study in the status of Muslims in Mysore city. However, the author has included only 77 families of Shia Muslims in his sample. Hence, the study did not throw any light on the status of Shia Muslim women in Mysore.

#### **Aims and Objectives:**

The main objectives of the present study conducted in Mysore city are as follows:

- To study educational status of Shia Muslim women.
- To investigate the economic and occupational status which affect the status of Shia Muslim women.
- To understand the health status of Shia Muslim women

**Methodology:** Various anthropological data collection techniques are used in this study. An interview guide is prepared to collect all relevant data on various aspects of the status of Shia Muslim women in Mysore city.

Other techniques such as observation, interview, case-study, focus group discussion etc are used to collect primary data. The data collected by using stratified random

procedure which will represent families from different occupational, economic and educational groups.

**Table:1**  
**Age wise Illness among Mandimohalla Population**

Age Groups	Illness											
10-20	Fever	Urine Infection										
21-30	Fits	Gastric	Stomach pain									
31-40	Blood Pressure	Gastric	Uterus Ulcer	Piles	Low BP	Arthritis	Fever	Stomach pain	Throat ache	Appendices	Allergy of Nose & Throats	hernia
41-50	Low BP	Migraine	Diabetes	Thyroid problem								
51-60	Blood Pressure	Diabetes	Low BP	Piles	Gastric	Stomach pain	Stone kidney					
61-70	Blood Pressure	Diabetes	Asthma	Dysentery	Arthritis	Fits	Urine Infection					
71-80	Blood Pressure	Chest Pain	Chickengonia	Asthma	Cholesterol	Paralysis						

Table ni.1 on the age wise illness reveals that illness is predominant more among the age group of 31 to 40 and there are patients suffering from 12 different illnesses. They all suffering from the illnesses like blood pressure, gastric, uterus ulcer, piles low B.P, arthritis fever, stomach pain, throat ache, appendices hernia and allergy of nose and throat. Except B.P, all other illnesses occur on account of diet imbalance. It shows that patients of this age group are not abhere to

the strict diet and may be inclined to the fast foods or consuming hot foods. The age group between 51 and 60 and 61 and 70 each group suffering from 7 different illnesses and these illnesses are more or less occur among the aged persons. Persons between the age group 71 and 80 are suffering from six different illnesses in which illnesses such as blood pressure, chest pain, asthma , and paralysis are commonly found among the aged persons.

**Table:2**

**Preferential Selection of different Medical practitioners in Mondi Mohalla**

Medical Practitioners	Cases					
	Included		Excluded		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Homeopath	6	12.0%	44	88.0%	50	100.0%

y Home Remedy	16	32.0%	34	68.0%	50	100.0%
Allopathic Doctor	50	100.0%	0	.0%	50	100.0%
Folk Medicine	0	.0%	50	100.0%	50	100.0%
Man Religious	28	56.0%	22	44.0%	50	100.0%
Ayurvedic Doctor	3	6.0%	47	94.0%	50	100.0%

Table No.2 on the preferential selection of different medical practitioners in Mandimohalla shows that people of Mandimohalla prefer allopathic treatment very much and also they are

depending on that. Though the consultation of doctors in many Hospitals and private consulting rooms, their inclination towards allopathic treatment is cent per cent. Based on the data collected among the 50 samples

Reveals that 22% of patients visited K.R.Hospital,10% preferred Mission and remaining patients consulted private doctors. 32% of the patients of the total, took medicines prepared in their homes, based on their knowledge transformed from their older generation. Only 6% of the patients prefer to have Ayurvedic treatment and 12% in the Homeopathic treatment. Among the total number of patient though opted different medical systems, 28 persons i.e. 56% of patients had faith in religious activities prevalent among them.

**Table No.3**  
**Illness Frequency in Mandimohalla population**

SI.No.	Illness	Number of persons affected
1	Allergy of nose & throats	1
2	Appendices	1
3	Asthma	4
4	Blood Pressure	28
5	Chest Pain	1
6	Chicken guinea	1
7	Cholera	1
8	Diabetes	8
9	Dysentery	1
10	Fever	3
11	Fits	2
12	Gastric	3
13	Hernia	1
14	Low Blood Pressure	4
15	Migraine	2
16	Arthritis	3
17	Paralyses	1
18	Piles	2

19	Stomach pain	3
20	Stone in Kidney	1
21	Throat ache	1
22	Thyroid problem	1
23	Uterus ulcer	1
24	Urine infection	2

Table No.3 on the frequency of illness reveals that maximum numbers of the patients are suffering from blood pressure. All together 32 persons are suffering from blood pressure ie,28 persons have high BPwhereas 4 persons have low BP. This indicates that people are taking lots of tensions in their life and it may be due to their urban life style. Of the remaining 8 persons are suffering from diabetes is the second prominent illness traced in the village. Besides 4 persons are suffering from asthma and other common illnesses prevalent among them are fever, gastric, migraine;urine infection are prominent illnesses found among 2 to 3 patients each. In the free listing of illnesses technique among the 51 patients, altogether 53 illnesses were listed, in which after deletion of repeated illnesses, it was numbered to 24 illnesses.

**Table No.4**  
**List of Symptoms recorded**

SI.No.	Symptoms
01	Feeling giddiness
02	Body gets swallow up
03	Body pain & stomach pain
04	Giddiness
05	Throat pain
06	Body pain
07	Vhest pain
08	Stomach pain
09	Legs pain
10	Dry of throat
11	Feels rest less
12	Heat beat stars
13	Loose motion
14	Head ach
15	Back pain
16	Joint pain
17	Neck pain
18	Eyes pain
19	Can't life head up
20	Shake in body
21	Unconscious



Table No. 4 on list of symptoms gives the information on symptoms observed by the patients based on their actual involvement and suffering from the particular illness.

There is a lot of difference between the symptoms observed by the doctor as per recorded in the books and the symptoms what the patient felt.

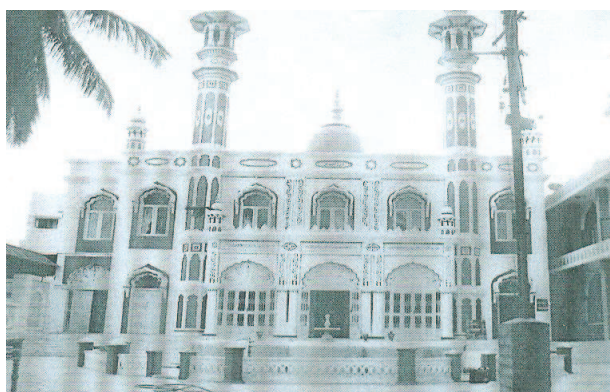
**Table:5**

**Alternative medicine prepared/used for various illnesses as Home remedy**

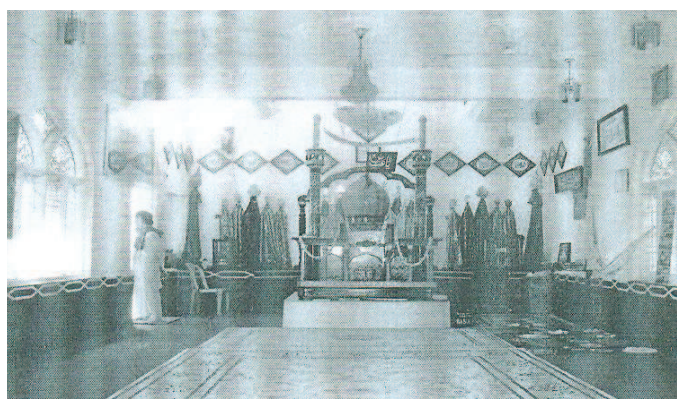
Sl.No.	Illness	Medicine
1	Blood Pressure	Consume 2 gloves of Garlic every day
2	Low B.P.	A glass of water with little sugar and salt every day morning Eat fried egg and fish with more salt and oil.
3	Piles	Milk with sugar
4	Body pain	Take bath with hot water by pouring few drops of Nilgiri oil
5	Head ache	Drink black tea i.e. without milk
6	Throat pain	Boil milk with turmeric powder and drink
7	Leg pain	Hot water treatment
8	Gastric	Drink Lemon juice with salt and sugar
9	Stomach pain	Drink lemon juice Lemon juice and tender coconut

Table No. 5 on alternative medicine prepared/ used for various illness as home remedy gives information on the knowledge transformed from older generation for some of the illnesses. As per the informants their forefathers knew many medicines for

different illnesses and due to urbanization and easily availability of allopathic medicine they lost interest and forgot many medicines. The above are a few medicines informants recollect from their memory and still prevalent among them.



This is the Shiya Mosque in Lashkar Mohalla.



Where the Shiya people will do Namaz three times a day.

Inside the Mosque this is the model of Hazrath Abbas house. Alum is kept back of it. The Shiya Muslim does DUWA and celebrates Majlis. Only on Thursdays a green cloth spread before this and fruits are kept in big plates and do Duwa by doing this after that the people present at Duwa after Duwa they eat that cut fruits. By doing this we will get peace of mind. And we will get confidence in god that he will give us what ever we ask here. The right thing the Shiya

women when ever they felt any problem difficulty in their home or business they come to this house and do Duwa and keep money before this house.

Shiya Muslim women when they feel difficult to do something they don't have money they go to Mosque and say if this work is done after getting money they promise to make a Alam in gold or silver according to their profit or status what ever they get they want to give or spent more for



these things. A hand hand contains five fingers. The five members of the family of prophet Mohammed. Hazrath Mohammed  
2) BIBI FATHIMA ZAHARA 3) Hazrath Ali

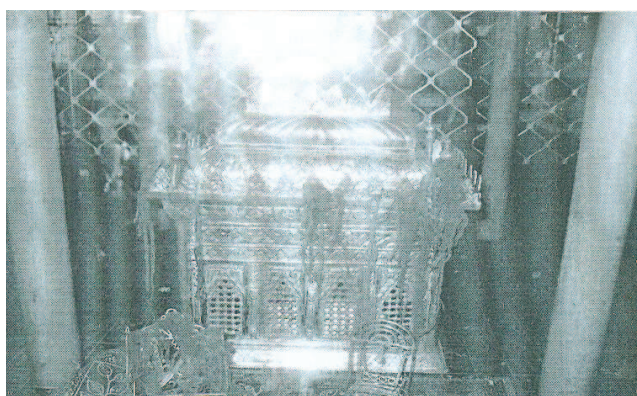
Murtuza 4) Hazrath Imam Hassan & 5) Hazrath Imam Hussain. They are called as panjathan-e-pak. Who had not done even a single mistake in their life.



### **The green colour of the Alam:**

This is a colour of paradise. This is explained in "QURAN PAK". Where gardens are green full of riped fruits. Even this world if we see physically our eyes becomes cold and our minds and heart find peace by seeing this we will feel our soul and body is getting strong. So we will have deep relation with the Alam and the green clothes used for Alam in the Mosque.

After Majlis all the women will take tabarrukan the red thread is given to all the women, tying the nod of the red thread in the right hand. Tying of red thread distributed in the Mejlis. By Immam to all present in the Masjid.



### **House of Abulfazl Abbas:**

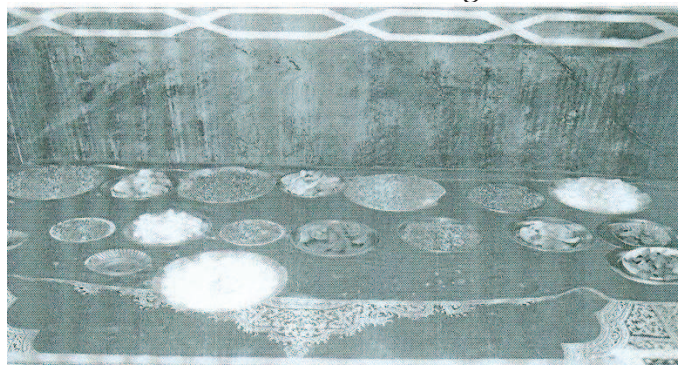
When the shiyamuslim feel no peace in their life they will come before this house,

because they will think that Hazrath Abulfazl Abbas is present inside the house and he is hearing whatever they say about the



difficulties that they are facing in their day life and they will have strong confidence that their problems will be solved immediately and they take red thread given by the Imam of the mosque and Tie on their right hand and go home with full of confidence and peace in their mind and heart.

The red colour is a sign gives from a holy place, so people give respect and tie on their right hand. Thinking they will get out of their difficulties and their problems will be solved soon.



This is the green cloth called as (Dasterqwan) one every Thursday shiya women will keep fruits after cleaning and cutting in the big plates like Apple, grapes, pomagrnnet-f sapota these fruits are in paradise, so we will keep it the name of

In every Mosque and tombs there will be a box the devotees with love and effection they will put money inside that box, which is used to celebrate money in the box functions and for the maintenance of the place. It is given money in the name of Allah. What they earn in that they will give 2.50% towards Mosque and the poor.

This is plate kept above the house of Abulfazl Abbas. The name between the flowers. All the siyamuslim women have full confidence on AbulFazl Abbas who will satisfy their needs of they get cared by his blessings.

Imam Husain Alaihissalam and his family who sacrificed their lives in Karbala for the right things and these fruit are good for health and illness will be used by eating this fruits.

**This is a plate : YaAbulFazl – Abbas Is Written in between the flowers**

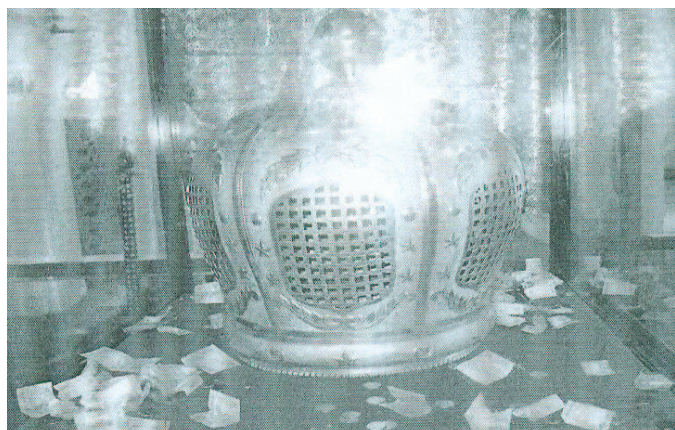
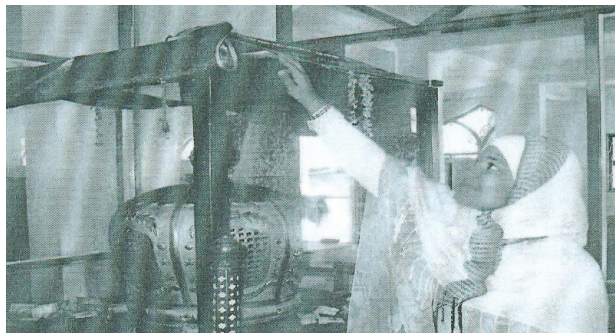


### **The House of Hazrath Fathima Zahara**

The Daughter of prophet Mohammed is Modle of this house is kept in all Shiya mosque.shiya Muslim women have confidence this family is alive, they will hear their



difficulties and what even do appreciate or praise they will reward us by their blessings to get happiness and peace in our life.

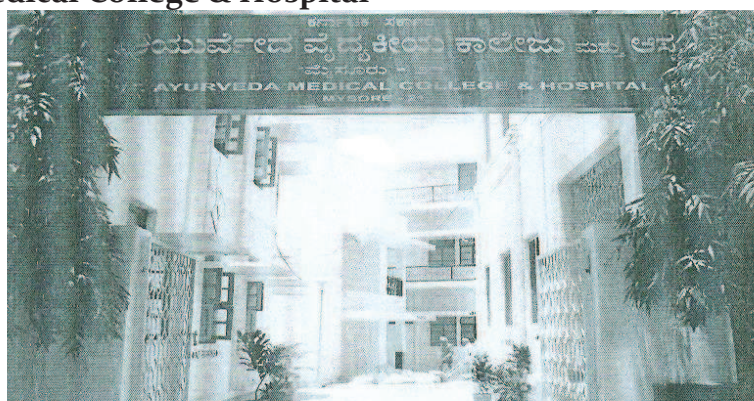


Touching the modle of the house of Abul Abbas with respect. And also put the money near the tomb.

**This is Tomb of HazrathFathimazahara:**

The Daughter of prophet Mohammed. Shiya Muslim women will sit and do meditation for hours together. They get peace of mind and heart. Here they forget about their life family problems everything. They try to gain eternal peace.

**The Ayurveda Medical College & Hospital**



The Board of Ayurvedic Medical college and Hospital Mysore-21. Most of the Shiya Muslim women/s will come to this hospital for treatment.

The doctor is counting the beating of the blood vessel.







Ayurvedic Doctor is testing Shahnaz Heart's beats. Showing Good impressions by laughing.



Doctor is checking the patient Shahnaz.

Doctor is checking the patient in the Ayurvedic Hospital.

Name of the Patient is: Shahanaz

Age -20 years, C/o- While discharge panvopika since one month.

O/E - Anaemia +



The Doctor is writing which medicine the compounder had to give to shahnaz.  
Medicine is kept in the Hospital where the compounder will give it to the Patients.  
Shahnaz is taking medicine from the Hospital

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