

## Role of Sufis for Peace and Harmony in the Society: A Study of the Views of Benazir Bhutto Women University Students Regarding the Shrine of *Kākā Ṣāhib*

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### Abstract

*Syed Kastīr Gul*, commonly known as *Kākā Ṣāhib* and *Sheikh Raḥamkār*, is a great mystic of 10<sup>th</sup> century. He is famous for his outstanding services for peace, love and harmony. Thousands of visitors and pilgrims come to his shrine every day for their spiritual satisfaction. This paper studies the opinions of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University students about the role of *Kākā Ṣāhib* and his shrine regarding the services of this great mystic for maintaining peace, harmony and love in the society. Results of the research are obtained by using qualitative and quantitative methods. The views of the students are displayed through tables and different shapes. Majority of the students have admitted that a mystic, through Islamic teachings, can play a significant role in creating peace and harmony in the society. Their thoughts demonstrate that *Kākā Ṣāhib* spent his whole life for the service of humanity. Society can get huge inspiration from this pious personality and his shrine to avoid violence and to create a peaceful environment in the society.

**Keywords:** *Kākā Ṣāhib*, shrine, harmony, university, students

### Introduction

*Syed Kastīr Gul* (981AH-1063AH), commonly known as *Kākā Ṣāhib* and *Sheikh Raḥamkār*,<sup>2</sup> is amongst the most popular Sufi saints of KPK. His

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<sup>2</sup> For detail information about the life and teachings of Kaka Sahib please see: Syed Sayah al-Din Kaka Khail, *Shaikh Raḥamkār* (Faisalabad: Idāra Ishā‘t-e- Islam,

shrine, located in rugged mountainous area around 12<sup>th</sup>Km south of Nowshera District, is considered one of the most frequently visited religious heritage sites. This paper studies the opinions of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University students about the role of *Kākā Ṣāhib* and his shrine regarding their services for maintaining religious and societal harmony the society.

### **Research Methodology**

The research is based on descriptive, qualitative and quantitative methods. Data has been collected from the students of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar to get their views regarding *Kākā Ṣāhib* and his shrine's role in developing harmony. M.Phil, Masters and BS students were taken to fill the questionnaires. One hundred and forty-five questionnaires were distributed among the students.

### **Result and Discussion**

One hundred and forty-five questionnaires were prepared and filled by the female students of different age groups as, (19-23), (24-28), (29-33), (34-38) and (above 38) of SBBWUP<sup>3</sup> to know their views concerning the theme of this article and different symbols are used in questionnaires to show the opinions of students such as, (Strongly agree: SA),(Agree: A),(Undecided: UND),(Disagree: DA) and (Strongly Disagree: SDA). The below statistics tables 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 display different things, such as the valid number of students, which was 145. The selected university, departments, age and gender are as follows.

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1964); Ejaz Ul Haq Qudusi, *Tazkara-e-Sufiyā-e-Sarhad* (Lahore: Markazī Urdu Board, 1966); Haleem Gul Baba, *Maqālāt Qutbia-o-Maqālāt-e- Qudsiya* ( Noshera: Dārul ‘Ulūm Faiz al-Quran, 1995).

		University	Department	Age	Gender
N	Valid	145	145	145	145
	Missing	0	0	0	0

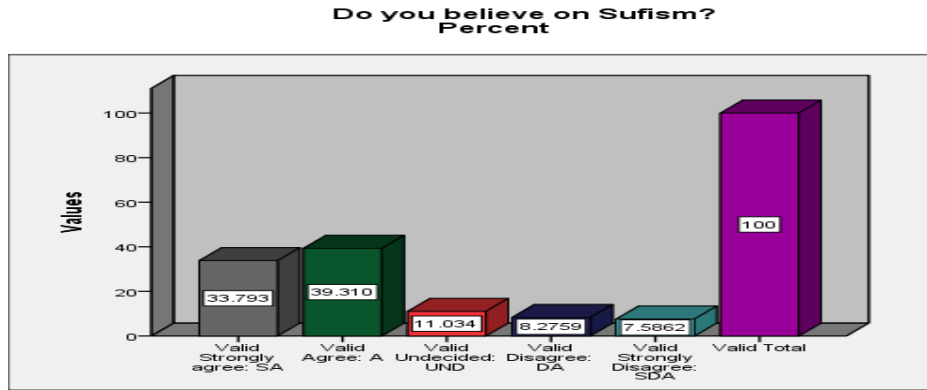
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SBBWUP	145	100.0	100.0	100.0

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	M.Phil	17	11.7	11.7	11.7
	Master	92	63.4	63.4	75.2
	BS	36	24.8	24.8	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	(19-23)	22	15.2	15.2	15.2
	(24-28)	67	46.2	46.2	61.4
	(29-33)	45	31.0	31.0	92.4
	(34-38)	7	4.8	4.8	97.2
	(above 38)	4	2.8	2.8	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree: SA	49	33.8	33.8	33.8
	Agree: A	57	39.3	39.3	73.1
	Undecided: UND	16	11.0	11.0	84.1
	Disagree: DA	12	8.3	8.3	92.4
	Strongly Disagree: SDA	11	7.6	7.6	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	

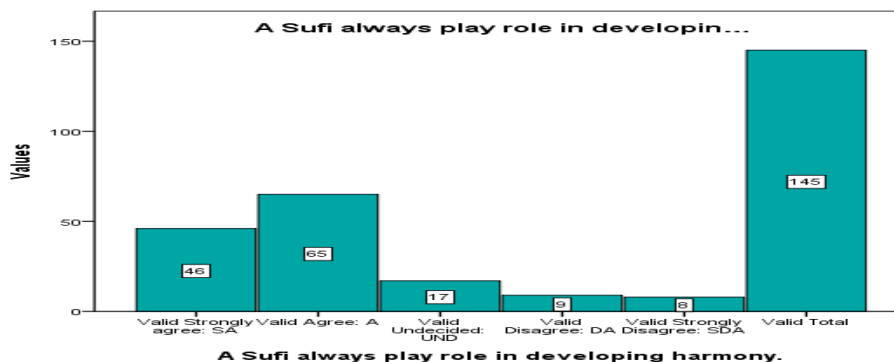
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	145	100.0	100.0	100.0



The above table and graph showed the views of 49 and 57 students, which was 33.8% and 39.3% in percentage. They gave their opinion concerning Sufism that they believe in it and they also agree that Sufis are pious men and they create peace and harmony among human beings. Whereas 16, 12 and 11 students, which were in 11%, 8.3% and 7.6% respectively. They showed their views that they do not believe in Sufism.

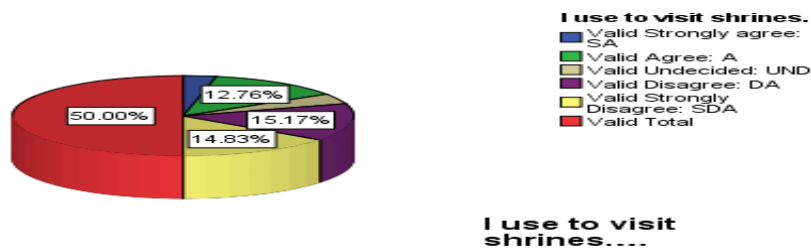
**2. A Sufi always play role in developing harmony.**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree: SA	46	31.7	31.7
	Agree: A	65	44.8	76.6
	Undecided: UND	17	11.7	88.3
	Disagree: DA	9	6.2	94.5
	Strongly Disagree: SDA	8	5.5	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0



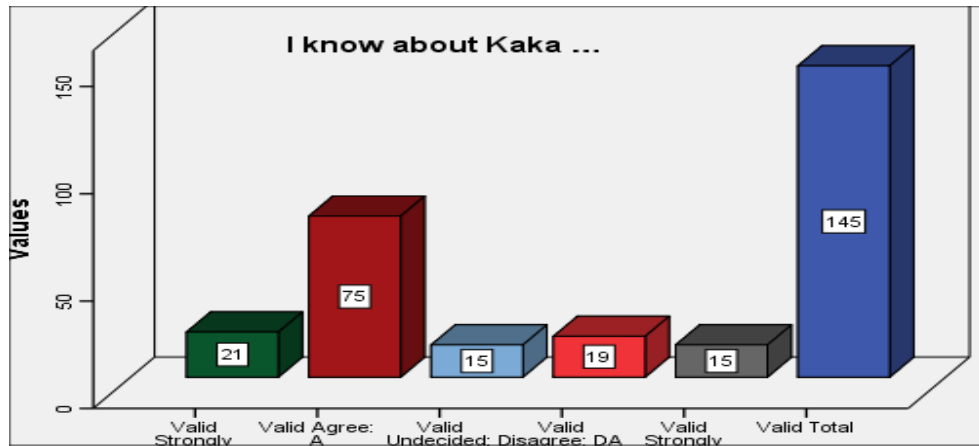
The 46 and 65 students, that were 31.7% and 44.8% in percentage, agreed that a Sufi always plays a role in developing harmony. Whereas the remaining 17, 9 and 8 students did not agree that Sufi always plays a role in developing harmony. It is proved by all the explanation that the majority of students accept that the Sufis are the precious asset of our and they are playing a vital role in developing harmony and peace in society.

3. I use to visit shrines.					
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	
Valid	Strongly agree: SA	9	6.2	6.2	6.2
	Agree: A	37	25.5	25.5	31.7
	Undecided: UND	12	8.3	8.3	40.0
	Disagree: DA	44	30.3	30.3	70.3
	Strongly Disagree: SDA	43	29.7	29.7	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	



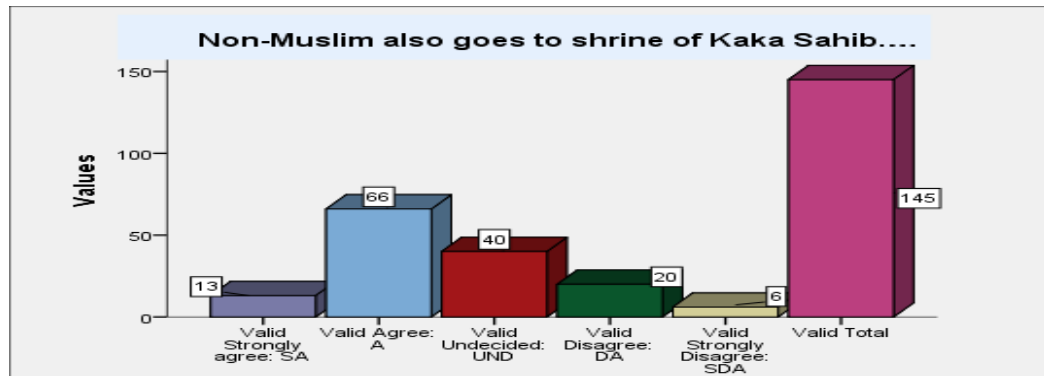
For the third question, 9 and 37 students responded that they go to the shrine and pray for the rest of the soul of Kaka Sahib. Whereas 12, 44 and 43 students expressed their feelings in the negativity that they do not go to any shrine because they do not believe in Sufism.

4. I know about Kaka Sahib.					
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	
Valid	Strongly agree: SA	21	14.5	14.5	14.5
	Agree: A	75	51.7	51.7	66.2
	Undecided: UND	15	10.3	10.3	76.6
	Disagree: DA	19	13.1	13.1	89.7
	Strongly Disagree: SDA	15	10.3	10.3	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	



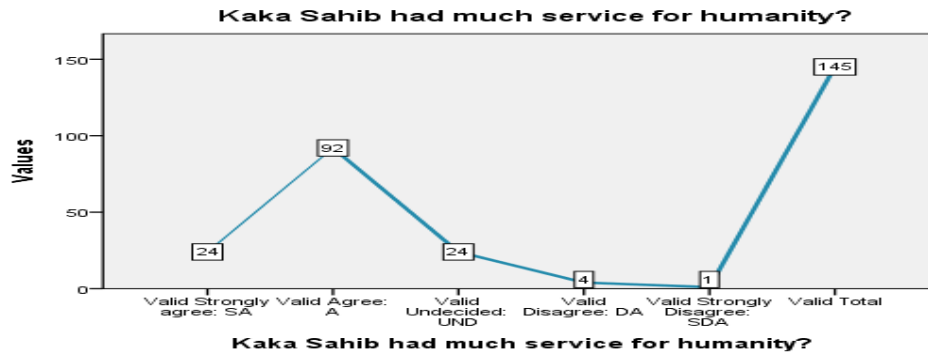
It is displayed by the above table and graph that the thoughts of 21 and 75 students, which was in 14.5% 51.7% respectively, agreed that they know about *Kākā Ṣāhib* and they heard this name by their parents and relatives. Although the student of 15, 19 and 15 students and the percentages were in 10.3%, 13.1% and 10.3% respectively, they expressed that they did not know about Kaka sahib and they never heard his name by their family. The conclusion of this elucidation was that the high number of students agreed that *Kākā Ṣāhib* was a famous Sufi of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and he played a vital role to spread the message of peace in human beings.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree: SA	13	9.0	9.0	9.0
Agree: A	66	45.5	45.5	54.5
Undecided: UND	40	27.6	27.6	82.1
Disagree: DA	20	13.8	13.8	95.9
Strongly Disagree: SDA	6	4.1	4.1	100.0
Total	145	100.0	100.0	



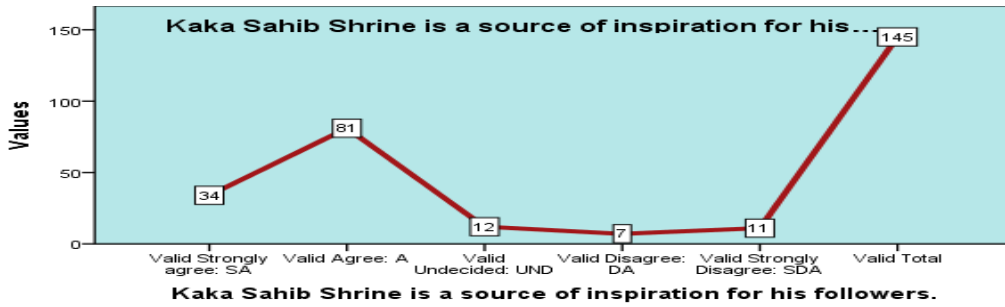
The above table and graph displayed the opinions of 13 and 66 students, that was in 9% and 45.5% respectively, they showed their expression that non-Muslim also go to the shrine of *Kākā Ṣāḥib* and they give respect him because of the great services because he produced the environment of harmony among humanity. Likewise, the decision of 40, 20 and 6 students, which was 27.6%, 13.8% and 4.1% in percentage respectively, they said, that they did not know, that non-Muslim goes to the shrine of Kaka Sahib or not. In this discussion, 45.5% of students expressed their feelings that non-Muslim go to the shrine of *Kākā Ṣāḥib* and prays for rest of his soul and give respect to him.

6. Kaka Sahib had much service for humanity?					
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	
Valid	Strongly agree: SA	24	16.6	16.6	16.6
	Agree: A	92	63.4	63.4	80.0
	Undecided: UND	24	16.6	16.6	96.6
	Disagree: DA	4	2.8	2.8	99.3
	Strongly Disagree: SDA	1	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	



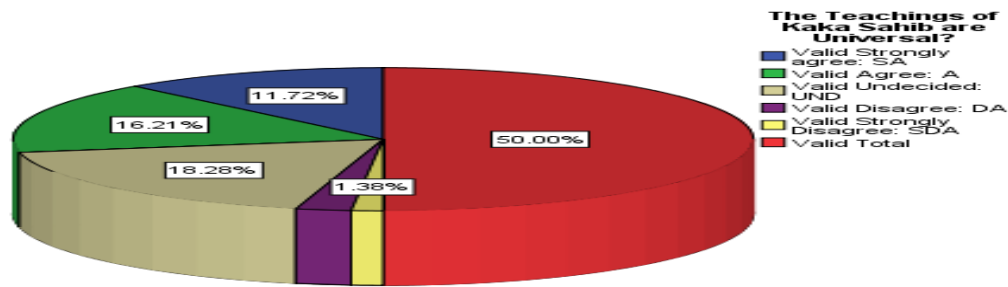
For the sixth question, the opinions of 24 and 92 students, which was in percentage 16.6% and 63.4%, correspondingly. They responded that *Kākā Ṣāhib* served his entire life for humanity and he was a pious man. Whereas the feelings of 24, 4 and 1 students, that was 16.4%, 2.8% and 7% in percentage respectively, they showed unawareness concerning the services of Kaka Sahib. So all the discussion of the above table and graph show that 63.4% of students agreed that *Kākā Ṣāhib* was a religious person and he donated his entire life for the service of humanity.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree: SA	34	23.4	23.4	23.4
Agree: A	81	55.9	55.9	79.3
Undecided: UND	12	8.3	8.3	87.6
Disagree: DA	7	4.8	4.8	92.4
Strongly Disagree: SDA	11	7.6	7.6	100.0
Total	145	100.0	100.0	



In the above table and graph, the views of 34 and 81 students, which were in 23.4% and 55.9% respectively, they confessed that the shrine of *Kākā Ṣāhib* is a source of inspiration for his followers. Likewise, the decision of 12, 7 and 11 students, that was in 8.3%, 4.8% and 7.6% correspondingly, they showed the lack of knowledge concerning the shrine of *Kākā Ṣāhib* as the source of inspiration for his followers or not.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree: SA	34	23.4	23.4	23.4
Agree: A	47	32.4	32.4	55.9
Undecided: UND	53	36.6	36.6	92.4
Disagree: DA	7	4.8	4.8	97.2
Strongly Disagree: SDA	4	2.8	2.8	100.0
Total	145	100.0	100.0	



The Teachings of Kaka Sahib are ...

The decision of 34 and 47 students favored the notion that the teachings of *Kākā Ṣāhib* are universal. In the same way, the 53, 7 and 4 students showed

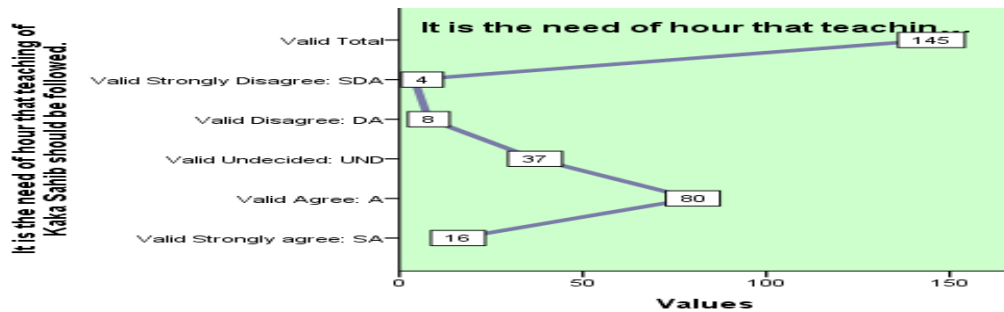
unawareness regarding the said question. This demonstrates that the majority of students had a lack of knowledge concerning his teachings’ universality.

9. Kaka Sahib has played a significant role in creating peace and harmony in the society.					
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	
Valid	Strongly agree: SA	25	17.2	17.2	17.2
	Agree: A	80	55.2	55.2	72.4
	Undecided: UND	33	22.8	22.8	95.2
	Disagree: DA	4	2.8	2.8	97.9
	Strongly Disagree: SDA	3	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	



The 25 and 80 students agreed about it that *Kākā Ṣāhib* has played a vital role in creating peace and harmony in society. The rest of 33, 4 and 3 students displayed their views through the questionnaire that they did not believe that he played a significant role to create peace in society. It is proved by all discussion regarding the said question that 55.2% of students confessed that he played an essential role to maintain peace in the environment.

10. It is the need of hour that teaching of Kaka Sahib should be followed.					
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	
Valid	Strongly agree: SA	16	11.0	11.0	11.0
	Agree: A	80	55.2	55.2	66.2
	Undecided: UND	37	25.5	25.5	91.7
	Disagree: DA	8	5.5	5.5	97.2
	Strongly Disagree: SDA	4	2.8	2.8	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	



For question number ten, the decision of 16 and 80 students were that the teachings of *Kākā Ṣāhib* should be followed as he was a great sufi and he produced peace and harmony in the environment among human beings. The remaining 37, 8 and 4 students showed negativity and they said no need for following the teachings of *Kākā Ṣāhib* Sahib and in their thoughts, he could not do something for human beings. Whereas all the explanation regarding the above-mentioned question displayed that more than half of students agree regarding it that his teachings are related to peace and harmony, that is why his teachings should be followed.

### Findings

This field work proved that many people believe in Sufism and they confess that a Sufi can play a vital role in creating peace and harmony in a society. *Kākā Ṣāhib* spent his whole life for humanity and the welfare of human beings. He and his shrine can play a vital role in creating harmony in the society.

## Conclusion

It has been proved through the views of students of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar in this fieldwork that Sufi saint *Kākā Ṣāhib* and his shrine is playing a vital role in developing harmony, peace and love among the people. *Kākā Ṣāhib* was the saint who always tried to create a peaceful and nonviolent environment. He showed kindness and mercy for the people of every cast, race and religion. He gave spiritual education to his followers and developed the feelings of sympathy, love and harmony in their hearts. It is his charismatic personality that attracts thousands of visitors and pilgrims to his shrine for their spiritual satisfaction. Society can get huge inspiration from this pious personality and his shrine to avoid violence and to create a peaceful environment in the society.