

Dr. M. Salim 1945-2022

# In pursuit of Palaeolithic cultures. The lifelong contributions of Dr. Muhammad Salim

#### Asif Ali / Sirat Gohar

There are few popular names in the long list of Pakistani archaeologists, who received a special position in the studies of Pakistan archaeology. Dr. Muhammad Salim was one of them who had an impressive and long-lasting contribution to the field of prehistory, remembered for their ground-breaking research on the palaeolithic cultures of the country. This short note in his memory therefore contains a bibliography of his publications beside a very brief and introductory note on his education and career, particularly his service rendered to the Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations.

He was born in a village located in the Gujrat district of the Punjab province of Pakistan on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1945. After getting his early education in his village, he went to Lahore and got admission to Walton Police Academy School where he completed his school and college education (secondary and higher secondary level). For higher education, he joined the University of the Punjab, Lahore, and earned his undergraduate (Bachelor of Arts) degree. After this, he completed his Master of Arts (MA) in archaeology at the Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar. After this initial training in archaeology, he went to London for a research degree and did his Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Later, he completed his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Archaeology at the Department of Archaeology, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur in the Sindh province of Pakistan in 1980s.

Dr. Salim joined the Taxila Institute of Asian Civilization (formerly Centre for the Study of the Civilizations of Central Asia), Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, during the tenure of Professor Ahmad Hassan Dani in 1985. He worked there as the Assistant Director under Prof. Dani, who was the then Director of the Centre. In 2006, he retired as the Director of the Centre. Further, in 2017-2018, in the last years of his life, he joined the Institute as visiting faculty to teach prehistory to the students and instructed prehistory-related courses in the undergraduate degree program. After remaining sick for a long period, he passed away to eternity on 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, leaving behind his contributions for the future pre-historians.

Known for his incredible research on the palaeolithic cultures of Pakistan, particularly Pothohar (which is written as Potwar in his publications), Dr. Salim published his work in books and several articles on the early phases of the Stone Age in Pakistan. He has also published an article on the archaeology of Bhera, a modern town located in the Pothohar region, and one of his articles is about the Macedonian Alexander's crossing of the Jehlum River. The following is the selected bibliography of his publications including books, articles, book reviews and obituaries.

### *Obituary*

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