

IQBAL ACADEMY PAKISTAN

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INTRODUCTION:

Iqbal Academy Pakistan is a statutory body of the Government of Pakistan, established through the Iqbal Academy Ordinance No. XXVI of 1962, and a centre of excellence for Iqbal Studies. The aims and objectives of the Academy are to promote and disseminate the study and understanding of the works and teachings of Allama Iqbal.

In order to translate its objectives into action and activity Iqbal Academy undertakes the measures those are: Publication programme; IT Projects; Outreach activities; Iqbal Award Programme; Website; Research and Compilation; Audio-video; Multimedia; Archive Projects as well as Exhibitions, Conferences; Seminars; Projection Abroad; Research Guidance; Academic Assistance; Donations and Library Services etc.

Iqbal Academy Library is one of the oldest and the richest libraries in the world that have specialised in Iqbal Studies. Its collection of books on Iqbal studies and allied subjects cover the major International languages as also the regional languages of Pakistan. The back files of important and rare Periodicals augment book holdings. It not only provides academic logistics support to the research projects of the Academy but also extends research and reference facilities to a large number of students, teachers and Iqbal scholars every year.

Iqbal Academy Library has the unique honour of developing the first True Multilingual Library Database in 1989. Last year it developed the largest and most sophisticated Website on Iqbal to facilitate students and readers the world over through Internet.

The aims and objectives of the Academy are to promote and disseminate the study and understanding of the works and teachings of Allama Iqbal.

- (i) Study of Iqbal's work, and
- (ii) Study of all those movements of thought, philosophical, political, literary, social, cultural, etc., that can help in understanding the works of Iqbal---- movements of thought within the Islamic tradition as well as those belonging to traditions of other cultures that happened to influence the mind of Iqbal, positively or negatively.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ACADEMY as given in the Iqbal Academy Ordinance 1962, are as under:-

- a) To promote the study and understanding of the works of Iqbal;
- b) To institute scholarships and lectureships for furthering the study of the works and teachings of Iqbal;
- c) To publish books, pamphlets and periodicals relating to the said study;
- d) To award prizes, rewards and donations to authors who, in the opinion of the Academy, have made contributions to the study of the works and teachings of Iqbal, and to enter into contracts with authors in order to carry out the purposes of the Ordinance;
- e) To organize lectures, talks; discussions, study groups and conferences on Iqbal and to send delegates to conferences held in foreign countries for the study of Iqbal's works and teachings, or for any matter to which that study is relevant or by which it may be advanced or profited;
- f) To confer in the prescribed manner Fellowships on scholars who, in the opinion of the Academy, have made contributions to the study of the works and teachings of Iqbal;
- g) To co-operate with, or grant amalgamation or affiliation to, any other association established for a purpose similar to that of the Academy, whether the purpose of that other association is confined to the works and teachings of Iqbal or not; and
- h) to do such other acts and things as may further the aims and objects of the Academy.

Publications of Books/Journals

The Academy published 22 new books and 15 reprints of Academy's important books in 2005. Four new issues of Iqbal Review/Iqbaliyat were also published.

Iqbal for Children

The teachings of Iqbal are vital to educate the students on the concepts and purposes of our Muslim Homeland. Iqbal Academy has made significant advances in devising ways and means that could contribute towards enlightening children on the ideology guiding its creation.

Mera Iqbal (Books for children)

Mera Iqbal is a set of books for the children up to Intermediate level. 5 books of this series have been published. 5 more books are in process.

Information Technology

It is the age of Information Technology. One of the effective means to convey Allama Iqbal's message to the youth is through the use of Information Technology.

Website (www.allamaiqbal.com)

The website of the Academy contains Text Version (Unicode) of Allama Iqbal's poetical works along with the translation. About 100,000 hits per annum are recorded on this material. The job for processing and uploading the "Works on Iqbal Databank" has started. The layout and design of Academy's website was prepared in 1997, which had stopped attracting visitors because of its slow loading. The new design will enable any person to get access directly in any search engine to the page containing the desired information by writing a phrase or a part of any phrase out of Allama Iqbal's works or the material available online.

Iqbal Cyber Library (www.iqbalcyberlibrary.net)

The first of its kind, the Urdu Cyber Library has been made operational by the Academy through extensive research, compilation and hard work. The Academy is able to offer this unique library to general users as well as those interested in Iqbal Studies. Inaugurated by the President of Pakistan, it has the goal of publishing 500 electronic books by 2008. A quarterly CD-ROM of electronic books is also published by the Academy. Its wide popularity is shown by the fact that it is sold out at each exhibition where it is offered.

Projection Abroad

Translation/Other Activities

Projection of Iqbal's message abroad is one of the responsibilities of the Academy. This is accomplished through publication of books in foreign languages, donation of books to international educational institutions, libraries and institutions; and research assistance to international scholars working on Iqbal. The Academy has also commenced a project on the Persian translation of the collected Urdu poetical works of Iqbal.

Presidential Iqbal Awards

The Academy acts as executing agency for processing and distributing National and International Presidential Iqbal Awards, which are processed and distributed once every three years. The next awards are under process for distribution.

Assistance and Donations

A representative selection of books, journals, brochures, audio-video cassettes and compact discs were presented to institutions, libraries, allied departments and foreign missions.

Seminars and Lectures

Courses, Seminars and lectures are one of the very effective ways to promote the message of Allama Iqbal. A special course of "Learning Persian through Iqbal's Poetry" has also been introduced and is continuing with remarkable achievements.

Projects of the Iqbal Academy

Junior Readers' Editions of Iqbal's Works

The Academy is preparing simplified, Junior Readers' Editions of Allama Iqbal's Prose and Poetical Works.

Iqbal Album- An Illustrated Biography

The Academy is preparing Urdu and English versions of an illustrated biography of the Poet-Philosopher. This is a coffee table book that presents an album of the portraits, group photos of Iqbal, his related relics etc. The English Version is ready and available for printing

Az Khwab i Garan Khez

A Musical Video CD based on Iqbal's famous verses Az Khwab i Garan Khez was prepared. The verses, which are full of revolutionary zeal and his message of awakening and uplift were rendered in song by the famous Tajik singer and instrumentalist Ustad Saif-ud-Din Akramzada.

The First International Television Documentary Series on the Life, Works and Inspiration of Allama Iqbal

One of the Academy's largest projects is moving towards completion under the supervision of the Ministry. Research and documentation of source material is already completed. All important and authentic sources of Iqbal's life were scanned, relevant material selected and arranged according to the periods of Iqbal's life. All the material has been examined carefully and re-arranged. The final comprehensive document consists of 450 pages, systematically selected and prepared from reliable primary sources of Iqbal's biography. Storyboard and script is designed and outlines are prepared. This will be the first International Film on Iqbal.

Kulliyat i Iqbal Persian (Audio)

Under this project, the collected Persian poetical works of Iqbal in five audio CDs in the compressed MP3 format have been recorded in song by famous vocalists and instrumentalists of Central Asia. The editing of these recordings for distribution is in progress.

Pictorial Multimedia CDs

A pictorial CD of Dr. Iqbal's portraits, group photos, relics and allied material have been prepared. This CD contains more than 500 pictures, many rare photographs - some of them appearing for the first time - as well as most authentic quotes and captions on and by Iqbal.

Kalam i Mashriq (Persian)

During Iqbal Year, the Academy prepared Multimedia CDs of Allama Iqbal's Urdu Works with the title "Kalam i Mashriq" and it became the Academy's best selling product. Persian Multimedia CDs are planned to be developed in next year. Machine readable (Optical Character Recognition) versions of text have been prepared. Audio editing is completed. The project is currently undergoing quality assurance (QA).

Mera Iqbal CD

Interactive Multimedia CDs for School Students based on the Books “Mera Iqbal” for children, animated movies with sound, animated poems including characters, help and glossary, interactive biography of the Poet-Philosopher Allama Iqbal is being prepared.

Iqbal Studies Online

The Academy has finalized the start of various courses on Iqbal Studies in a virtual environment online. This will facilitate those interested in Iqbal Studies.

Exhibitions of Products

The Academy promotes the message of Allama Iqbal through Exhibitions of its products at national and international exhibitions. The Academy participates in almost all prestigious exhibitions and book fairs throughout the country and abroad. This year, the Academy participated in the following exhibitions:

- SOFTEC 2004 exhibition arranged by FAST.
- Book Fair & Computer Exhibition 2004 arranged by the University of the Punjab
- Roving Exhibition in Karachi during November 2004.
- International Urdu Conference held in New Jersey, USA.

Roving Educational/Pictorial Exhibition-cum-Introductory Lectures on Iqbal – School /College levels

This is a special exhibition developed with a view to create awareness at the school and college level students about Iqbal’s life and thought. The components include photographs, Iqbal in years, exhibition of books, journals, audio & video Cassettes, CDs, paintings, relics and a series of introductory lectures and workshops on Iqbal’s thought. The roving exhibition, a major step for outreach, has been designed by the Academy. Last year this exhibition was displayed in USA and Canada.

Library Development

The Academy has one of the oldest and perhaps the richest libraries in Pakistan on Iqbaliyat. It has the pride to be Pakistan’s first library with True Multilingual Library Management Software, though acquisitions of new books, journals, and rare material is further required. The Academy has completed the process of computerized cataloguing, indexing and data entry in new software during 2004-05.

MANAGEMENT OF AIWAN-E-IQBAL COMPLEX

Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex is a monumental building constructed to portray a semblance of [Iqbal's](#) philosophical thought and message for Muslim Ummah by providing sustained financial resources for the Activating and the Projects of the Iqbal Academy Pakistan. Having contributed toward the dissemination of the message of the great poet by conducting various programmes in the Aiwan and through presentations made to local and foreign visitors and display of paintings depicting Iqbal's philosophy exhibited in its art galleries, it has by now, become a commercially feasible entity catering to its own financial needs.

The Complex was completed in 1997 over a period of about 13 years at a cost of Rs. 416.3 million met through grants from various sources, including grants from Federal/Provincial Government and Foreign Governments. It comprises of: - on approximately 25% of the area:

- Three high-rise towers containing 27 floors, connected to each other through two service towers having stairs and four elevators;
 - One Conference Centre having a capacity of 1050 persons, fitted with latest audio facilities;
 - Two Exhibition Halls;
 - One Banquet Hall;
 - Four Committee Rooms, one fitted with latest audio facilities;
 - Four Delegate Rooms;
 - VIP Lounges;
 - Art Galleries in wide foyers at different levels around the Conference Centre;
 - One Service Lift;
- (All the above facilities are centrally air-conditioned)
- Separate Service Block, part of which is on rent and remaining is accommodating the security personnel deployed for round-the clock security of the Complex. It also contains sewerage-pumping station;
 - Underground double storey car parking for 145 cars and 250 cycles/motorcycles.

Remaining 75% area has been landscaped on traditional pattern with 17 waterfalls, 15 fountains, flowers troughs and grassy lawns. A striking feature of the landscaping pattern is a square-shaped sunken garden with a large fountain and four water falls.

VISION STATEMENT

A statement about the future vision of the Academy and the understanding that informs this vision.

“WE OWE IT TO IQBAL”

A Project on the Collected Works of Iqbal

During the six decades that passed since the death of the poet-philosopher Iqbal, an enormous amount of secondary literature has spawned in the field of Iqbal Studies. The proliferation of this secondary literature, though beneficial in some respects, nevertheless, had its negative side too. Ultimately it became partly responsible for an excessive reliance on secondary sources that is observable in the field of Iqbal Studies and a marked decline in Iqbal scholarship that is rooted directly in the texts of Iqbal. Moreover it has become increasingly difficult to obtain reliable information on the life, works and thought of the poet-philosopher from the labyrinth of this growing body of literature.

Preparation of definitive texts of Iqbal’s prose and poetical works also met with a serious neglect during all this time. Works of Iqbal were left to the mercy and exploits of the commercial publishers till late eighties and no academic institution earnestly undertook the project of research, collation, editing and publication of the definitive texts of Iqbal’s prose and poetical works.

The extant editions of Iqbal’s works very well reflected this situation. Almost all the extant editions bristled with errors. Not to speak of the text of the *Letters and Statements*, even the poetical texts were never thoroughly compared and collated with the manuscripts that Iqbal prepared for the press. The *Collected Letters* published in several volumes from Delhi were riddled with all sorts of errors because these were simply a collection made on the basis of the extant published works without referring to the originals and without further research and investigation of the contents.

The *Works* also needed detailed notes and annotations to facilitate the reader for obvious reasons. The general decadence in our educational standards and the specific phenomenon of the demise of Persian made his *Works* inaccessible to the layman and the common reader. His *Works* were also lost to younger generation owing to the twin reasons described above. His Persian *Works* were lost to all, even to the literate reader. The need to re-introduce him in our society, especially to the young was strongly felt.

The situation of the English and Urdu translations that could have served as an intermediary and a stepping-stone toward the understanding was not

satisfactory either. Done by various hands and with varying degrees of success, these did reflect the individual tastes of their translators but lacked the expertise and consistent academic standards of excellence required for the job. Most of these were now out of print and very hard to come by. No systematic effort was made to collect all these translations within a single volume with revision and annotation.

Alerted to these facts and due to a changed awareness in the management that resulted in a shift in its focus of attention, Iqbal Academy Pakistan embarked on a course of action that was different from the past and responded to the needs of the day. Instead of emphasizing upon the publication of works relating to the critical appreciation of Iqbal's thought that are, for the most part, repetitive and of a secondary nature, the Academy undertook to bring out definitive, corrected and annotated editions of the *Collected Works of Iqbal* in Urdu, Persian and English.

Towards this end and with the blessings of the Iqbal scholars and under the able guidance and invaluable help of Dr. Javid Iqbal, a monumental and ambitious project was chalked out. The project adopted a two-pronged approach; preparation of definitive texts of Iqbal's *Works*; compendiums of translations and compilation of an *Iqbal Encyclopedia*.

The project consisted of several parts according to following scheme:

- *Collected Poetical Works of Iqbal* (Composed in Urdu)
- *Collected Poetical Works of Iqbal* (Composed in Persian)
- **Notes, References and Annotations to the collected Urdu/Persian works.**
- *Uncollected Works of Iqbal (Kulliyat-i-Baqiyat-i-Iqbal, Urdu)* Part One-Texts/ Part Two -Research, Annotations.
- *Uncollected Works of Iqbal (Kulliyat-i-Baqiyat-i-Iqbal, Persian)* Part One-Texts/ Part Two -Research, Annotations.
- *Compendium of Poetical Works of Iqbal in English* (i.e. works composed in Urdu and Persian, collected in English translation).
- *Compendium of Poetical Works of Iqbal in Persian.* (i.e. works composed in Urdu, collected in Persian translation).
- *Compendium of Poetical Works of Iqbal in Urdu.* (i.e. works composed in Persian, collected in Urdu translation).
- ***Collected Prose Works of Iqbal in English***
 - i) *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam.*
 - ii) *The Development of Metaphysics in Persia*
 - iii) *Stray Reflections*
 - iv) *Articles of Iqbal*
 - v) *Speeches, Writings & Statements of Iqbal.*
 - vi) *Letters of Iqbal.*
- ***Collected Prose Works of Iqbal in Urdu***

- i) *'Ilm al-Iqtisad*
- ii) *Articles*
- iii) *Speeches & Statements*
- iv) *Letters*
- *Iqbal Encyclopedia*
- *Concordance*

The Academy devoted all its human and financial resources to this important undertaking. *Collected Poetical Works of Iqbal* (Composed in Urdu) and *Collected Poetical Works of Iqbal* (Composed in Persian) have already gone into print. **Notes, References and Annotations to the collected Urdu/Persian works**, which absorbed the best research scholars of the Academy, has been completed up to the last part (*Armaghan i Hijaz*) of the Urdu works. Considerable work has been done on **Uncollected Works of Iqbal (Kulliyat-i-Baqiyat-i-Iqbal, Urdu)** and **Uncollected Works of Iqbal (Kulliyat-i-Baqiyat-i-Iqbal, Persian)**. The former has even reached its final stage of typesetting. *Compendiums of Poetical Works of Iqbal* in English, Urdu and Persian are under preparation. From among the *Collected Prose Works of Iqbal in English* the works shown at serial nos. 1 and 3 i.e. *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam* and *Stray Reflections* have been brought out in definitive texts. Work on the other volumes continues. *Collected Prose Works of Iqbal in Urdu* are on the anvil. *Iqbal Encyclopedia* project has reached the stage of subject entries.

The Academy has made its maximum contribution in establishing the definitive texts through research, editing, annotation and other academic work but the Academy, however, has very limited resources for printing and production. These are not commensurate with the magnitude of the project. It is impossible for the Academy to carry out its plan with the help of its own resources.