

Poets and writers are the most sensitive class of any society and they have always taken an active part in liberation movements throughout history in different regions. During the independence movement of the subcontinent, Sir Syed was the first man who made Muslims aware of their distinctive existence. He invoked in Muslims a consciousness for being free and educated them for the purpose.

If the writers' community had not been the first great fighters for independence, perhaps the British would have not left India that early. Allama Iqbal had dreamt of an independent country and he had gone on to demand a separate region in his Allahabad address. Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Muhammad Ali Johar, Hasrat Mohani and Mian Bashir Ahmed were all poets who invoked a spirit of patriotism through their songs.

A better class had participated in the Pakistan Movement and poets and writers had always stood in the first row. They had convinced and prepared common people for the movement through their patriotic songs and prose. Therefore it is true that the intellectuals of the region had played a significant role in the Pakistan Movement. The Pakistan Movement is intact with an effort to remember a separate identity and cultural independence of Muslims.

“Had literary figures not raised awareness among the people of the sub-continent and inspired them to struggle for their rights, perhaps the British would not have left the region so early.” Muhammad Iqbal dreamed of an independent country and inspired Muslims through his poetry to fight for their freedom. Poets and writers convinced people to support the freedom movement through patriotic verses. Intellectuals played a significant role in making an independent country.

Mr Shah said their forefathers rendered great sacrifices to get independence from British rule and that everyone should respect their struggle for creation of Pakistan. He called upon the people to mould their lives on the golden principles of Mohammad Ali Jinnah like unity, faith and discipline to make the country prosperous.

Anwar Baber expressed resentment over lack of interest by government departments to arrange such literary programmes and poetry sessions. He said the concerned state run organisations and local administration should come forward to sponsor holding such social and literary gatherings.

“Such events also provide opportunity to youth to exhibit their hidden skills,” he maintained.