

## **Salman Ali Shahid**

Interviewer: Mr. Salman let me know about the city of your grandfather in British India?

Mr. Salman : My family belong to Indian state Haryana's city Mewat and there was a village named Peepam Ky. At that time the age of my father was 6 to 7 years old. Whereas my grandmother belong to the area that was famous with the name of Gur Gao near old Delhi. All of them came from India.

Interviewer: According to your information what kind of relationship and common dealings your family maintained with other communities in British India?

Mr. Salman: Whatever I heard about from my family there were no such kind of serious problems in different communities before partition. People used to enjoy a peaceful life style over there and It was history of co-operation and co-ordination since last centuries .They considered themselves Indians and there was no another entity.

Interviewer: You mean to say there was no any serious problem in religious matters?

Mr. Salman: Not at all

In fact they used to sit together to make plans to get freedom from British Empire, they used to sit and discuss all things related to destabilize British Empire. They used to respect the religion of each other and study in school together; it was the concept of give respect and take respect. There was no any report of problems between both communities before partition.

Interviewer: What was the source of Income of your family in India?

Mr. Salman: Agriculture was the main source of income of my family in British India. They used to plough the agricultural land over there.

Interviewer: What was the quantity of land of your family?

Mr. Salman: our family was the rich family of that area and we had reasonable agricultural land in our property.

Interviewer: What was the maximum education level of your family in British India?

Mr. Salman: Although our area was fertile in agriculture and people used to cultivate different crops over there and it was also the source of proud for people of that area, But my grandfather was educated that's why he got opportunity to serve in Army. He passed

Graduation in British era. After partition he recruited himself in Pakistan Army. It means your grandfather was graduate of British Empire.

Interviewer: Ok let's move towards the partition days? What were the feelings of people about partition and how behavior turned different with Muslims in India?

Mr. Salman: It was the collective decision for the greater Interest of Muslims of India and Muslims considered it very well. Yes it was difficult to leave all belongings including culture and traditions But there was only one solution at that time and that was migration to Pakistan .People were mentally not prepared and even the brother of grandfather didn't migrate from India due to economic reasons .My grandfather came in Pakistan and his brother carried their property in India and still today they are maintaining their properties in India. Today they are landlords and well settled in India due to such property.

Interviewer: Have you links with them?

Mr. Salman: Yes but only my grandfather remained in connection with them due to exchange of letters but my father didn't follow the legacy of his father because he was in armed forces of Pakistan and he never gave a look towards such things .My grandfather was in continuous connection with them and they visited Pakistan twice.

Interviewer: Still Muslim community live in that area in India?

Mr. Salman: Yes that area is still Muslim majority area in India.

Interviewer: Means your family is well settled over there?

Mr. Salman: I know only about my family yes they are well settled economically.

Interviewer: How the procedure of migration started at that time? What was the source of transportation?

Mr. Salman: Actually people opinion was divided at that time, some of them were thinking about migration it is temporary adjustment of British empire for India and that people never took precious things with them, they were thinking about their return to India on their homeland after the reversion of British empire from sub-continent. So most of the people never took precious things with them because they were thinking about to go back.

Haryana was not far away from Pakistan border and our family covered that distance pedestrian and we reached here successfully.

Interviewer: You reached in Kasur after migration?

Mr. Salman: Yes we settled down in kasur area Kot Radha Kishan.

Interviewer: Did you file any claim for home in Pakistan after partition?

Mr. Salman: Yes we filed claim application and we got some compensation from the govt. of Pakistan but that was not good enough according to our property that we left in India. We are still bearing the loss of that migration .we just got employments here we didn't get any agricultural land over here.

Interviewer: How many people with your grandfather migrated with your family?

Mr. Salman: Actually there are multiple families living in our kot Radha Kishan migrated along with us. Mewaati community all over the Pakistan migrated from India to Pakistan. Before partition there were no mewaati in Pakistan.

Interviewer: Your family faced any kind of problem thread or any violence during migration?

Mr. Salman: My Grandmother told me that her sister and one brother expired in way due to lack of medicine and food. People were told that they will be received very well but in real it was very difficult and tough experience for the Muslims of India to migrate. It was very confuse situation .Some Sikhs were facilitating us and some of them killing our people.

Interviewer: Did your family face any problem of cholera or any epidemic?

Mr. Salman: No our family was completely safe from that epidemic due to good relations and facilitations that was provided to our family by my grandfather. He was well off and educated. But unfortunately family of my Grandmother was not well off and educated at that time and they faced such kind of things during migration.

Interviewer: Your family came in direct connection of Refugee camps of Pakistan?

Mr. Salman: Not at all, our family managed all these things itself and the facilitations in Camps were not enough to accommodate all people there. Most of the mewaati migrated to kasur Pakistan because it was near to mewaati as compare to other cities of Punjab.

Interviewer: When your Grandfather recruited in Pakistan Army?

Mr. Salman: My Grandfather recruited in Pak Army in 1965 war and before that he managed somehow to meet the living requirements of his family and worked hard.

Interviewer: Thanks a lot Mr. Salman

Mr. Salman: Well come



