

Interviewed 28/2/2023, London, UK

I studied in school number 2. Before that I studied in Punjabi school in Charikar. I was number 1 or 2 in the class. As a child I had a problem. My family withdrew me from school because I used to collapse. There wasn't permission to withdraw students but they managed. My father treated me from a child. The doctor told him to care for me and keep me happy. My father was a hakim. Our main shop was in Pul Khumri, yunnani [Greek medicine]. He was in a partnership with my uncles. My father and they used to go to Pul Khumri. After I came to Charikar, they got me a teacher who taught me in school. I learned some English. His name was Sher Ahmad Khan. I had another teacher whose name I have forgotten. For the fifteen days I was in Charikar they taught me Farsi and English. I was very interested in Farsi. After I grew up, my father died in an accident about 48 years old. I was also injured. I was injured in meeting people. After the death of my father I went to Delhi in 1982 for treatment of my mother. I stayed for four months and then I went to Afghanistan in June. The medicine didn't treat me. I started offering prayers in 1982. I started praying and serving the people, since then, for 42 years I have been serving people. Since I started praying and serving people, my health recovered. I had many friends in Charikar, in the security services and in the army. Whenever there was a programme I went. I came to know many people. I was employed in KHAD 6. I met people in the office in my shop secretly. I had a textile shop which I did at the same time as the work. My family house moved to Karte Parwan in Kabul. I stayed in Charikar but went to Kabul every two weeks to be with my family. I was devoted to religious service and had decided not to marry. In 1983 my brother was martyred by the mujahidin after they had made him get out of a vehicle in Bagram. They sent me a letter saying give this amount of money and we will free your brother. My brother was engaged to her [current wife]. I had gone to Mazar for business and the letter did not reach to me and he was martyred. My brother said you need to marry the woman engaged to your brother. In 1990/91 I left Charikar and moved to Kabul. The situation was very bad. They told me I needed to leave Kabul. I had a close contact in Khad. He told me leave Charikar and move to Kabul. In 1992 I went to Pakistan with five other people to see Gurdwara. We returned the situation was very bad and we moved to India. All the people in the security services were close to me and very good friends. Once the mujahidin attacked me and said I was not a good person. The commander also came. The head of the security services whose name I have forgotten told me to come with all the Sikhs and Hindus. He said what problems do you have. I said the mujahidin came and there is a camera in my shop that needs to be stopped. He said turn it off. He phoned and checked it was off. Then he said now your work is done and I have a work. He called the name of my brother. But I knew he wanted me. I said I will speak to you alone. Our Sikhs were amazed how I had a conversation with security chief. We closed the door. I had another name for the security services and told him that name. People had told him lots of things about mujahidin coming to my shop. I said ask your wife about me. She always came and took loans. They called and he spoke to his wife. Everyone said I was good and told him about my work. The Muslims called me mullah.

We were very happy in those days. Then the mujahidin came and we moved to Kabul when they came to Kabul we left.

There were many families in Charikar, one gurdwara in the old city and one gurdwara in the new city. The new one was built in 1985. In 1991 and 1992 people left Charikar. Only one family was left. I left because of my work for the security services. The mujahidin also knew me. Some of them were also on my side. One of the commanders invited me and spoke about me.

We were happy. If I went to a neighbourhood students would respect me. I used to speak to them. But unfortunately the situation was bad and we left. In 1991 I married the partner of my brother. I was 32.

In the same way we did service in Afghanistan we do it here too. We do it for our people. In Afghanistan, India, and London. I lived in Glasgow for 5 years. After two or three months they gave us a home. The government of UK helped people. The UK has been helpful in Glasgow, from the government, from the people, from the hospitals they have respected us. I served in the temple there. Then my family said come to London after I had an accident, my mother called me. I started the institution in 2009. We gave some charity and help the people with their lives. God has supported us. One person can't do anything. This morning I went to gurdwara and then came here. I have no free time whatsoever; I am always busy doing service.