

Name: Harjet Kaur, Interviewed 5/5/23, Vancouver, Canada

Gardiz Province

Where did you go to school?

The reason why I didn't study was because of my family restrictions and my uncle's disapproval of us going to school, but it was different for the boys and they were allowed to go to public schools. Even without school, I was able to learn how to read and write from the people of the region and my friends who were in Ghazni, and I still had the ability to go to the Gurdwara and study in Hanko.

Which people did you hang out with?

Whoever is a Sikh, we have no problem getting along with each other.

How many gurdwaras were there in the area where you lived?

I was in Shur Bazar, where we people used to go and study in one school, and the other school was in Karte Parwan, one school was in Asamai, and there were a few others in the city of Kabul; they were called Guru Rais Sahib and others were called Khalsa. The people were leaving and while there is no one from among our people to look after it, the government took care of it.

How was your childhood in Afghanistan?

There were many good things in our homeland and we always went from one province to another. And we were immigrants to Pakistan and lived in India for some time until we finally came to Canada.

Where did you work?

I was at home and my husband was selling women's cosmetics in Makroyan Kohne Simsari.

How were you with the people of the region and how was their behaviour towards you?

We were good and every place has its good and bad and this is how we treated them. Our good behaviour caused our Muslim people to be good to us. When I went to each other's house, we would eat everything they prepared for us, we would talk, you would always know about each other's condition and they would be friendly with us in return. And they didn't even respect that we eat beef in food. In every state of happiness and sadness, we were with each other and respected each other's opinions. We did what was right for them and they for us. And we believed in halal and haram.

When did you decide to leave the country and why?

Talib caused us to move away from our homeland and immigrate here. If Talib did not bother us, we would not have any complaints from the Muslim people.

Are you planning to return home again?

Yes, how can I not go? We have all been there, and from then to now, wherever we went, it is not the same as our homeland.