

THE ROLE OF JODHA BAI IN THE MUGHAL DAINESTY

NIDHI KATTI –

MA History and Archeology,

PG Diploma in Tourism Studies

Rani Channamma University, Belgavi

Introduction:

The Mughals did not allowed females to work and participate in public. The “**PARDA**”system was there to cover the face of females. Women were not allowed to shop in public market. There were separate markets for women. In these markets only women used sell and buy the things. We can see these types of market in entrance of **Tajmahal, in Fatepursikri, MEENA bazaar** etc. The women in Mughal period were under the cover of her father, husband and son. She was restricted to the 4 walls of house.

In Medieval Mughal period the two important women who changed the whole history and scenario of Mughal dynasty are JODHA and NOORAJAHAN. They totally controlled the whole of the Mughal dynasty.

JODHA BAI 1542 - 1623

Jodha Bai is a great name in history. She is one of the great lady known in history. Jodha was beautiful, brave, strong, intelligent, warrior, and she was also a poet, painter, nature lover. She was the symbol of “**BEAUTY WITH BRAINS**”.

The meaning of word “JODHA” is a **warrior** and **sacrifice** Rajasthan language. Jodha Bai was the symbol of her name. She was a great warrior and she made sacrifices for her father and for Rajaputanas safety.

CHILDHOOD OF JODHA

Jodha was born on **1st October 1542 in AMER Bhar Mahal** [Jaipur] her *father was Raja Bharmal* and *mother Rani Champavati*. Jodha was a HINDU princess. She was the bhakta of Lord KRISHNA.

CONSPIRACY ON THE NAME OF JODH

She is historically referred by several names. Such as **Hirakunwari, Harkhabai, MARIAM- UZ- ZAMANI, Jiya rani, Manamati, Harikaa, Shaahibai** etc. But her birth name is unknown. She used to love reading and writing. She learned channelizing the arm forces, “*khadgayudha, billuyudha,*” horse riding, etc. Jodha used to love singing and painting. She was a nature lover. She freed all the prisoned birds. She learned Yudha Kale from her cousin brother **SUJAMAL BHAI SA**.

In **AKBARNAAMAA** there is a mention of Akbar marrying a Rajput princess of Amer; but her name is not JODHA says the **historian and director of KHUDA BAKSH ORIENTAL PUBLIC LIMITED PATANA**. She is referred to as **Mariam Zamani** [Mary of the age]. **MARIAM ZAMANI** is a title referred to the lady who gave birth to prince **SALIM [Jahangir]**.

The name **JODHA 1st** came up in **19th** century in **Colonel Tod**, a Britisher and not a professional historian mentioned **Jodhabai** in his book **ANNALS AND ANTIQUITY OF RAJASTHANA**. This book is based on Rajasthani folk literature. **Tod** mentioned the name **JODHABAI** in it for the **1st** time.

The *royal family of Jodhapur* openly stated that *Jodhabai did exist and she married Emperor Akbar*. The royal queen of *Jaipur Rani Padmini Devi acknowledged the fact that Jodhabai existed* and it was the matrimonial union that brought an alliance between Mughals and Rajaputs.

According to **Lokendra Singh Kalvi** none of Akbar's 34 wives were named **Jodhabai**. Akbar got married to the former maharaja of Amer **Bharamals** elder daughter **HEER KUMAARI** in **Fatepur Sikri** on **Feb 6, 1562**. And he says that *Jodhabai was the daughter of Raja Udaisingh and she got married to Salim [Jahangir]*.

According to **AKBARNAAMAA and National Council of Educational Research and training class Dr. Satish Chandra** says that Jodha was married to Salim Akbar's son. *Jodha was Akbar's daughter-in-law*.

Marriage of Jodha

Jodha's marriage was result of conflict between her father and Akbar. On **Feb 6 1562** *Jodha got married to Akbar in Ajmer*. Akbar got married to Jodha after offering prayers to the tomb of saint **Shaik Salim CHISTI**, in **Sambhar Rajasthan**. According to some historians Akbar got married with Jodha as per the Hindu customs. According to local story's Jodha brought **100 Daasis as dowry**.

* Jodha had 3 conditions to get married with Akbar. They were

- 1) She will not change her caste, she will stay as Hindu till her death.
- 2) She should be allowed to offer prayers to LORD KRISHNA'S VIGRAHA
- 3) Akbar should not attack any of Rajputana's area.

Akbar and Jodha fell in love. In 1569 after intense prayers to a sufi saint called **Mohinudun Salim Chisti** tomb Jodha gave birth to Salim [Jahangir].

None of the Akbar's wives gave birth to a male child. Only Jodha was the one so she became more powerful and because of this Akbar's love towards Jodha grew more. Some historians say that Jodha had given birth to 2 twin kids in which one died due to some disease. The son of Jodha was born from the prayers done by Akbar and Jodha to the sufi saint called **Sheik Salim Chisti**. So Akbar kept his son's name on the name of that saint as **Salim Mansing** (son of Jodha's brother) trained Salim both in army and in administration. Jodha made Salim to marry **Maanabai**.

The effect of Jodha's marriage on Rajaputana:

The marriage of Jodha and Akbar was a historic act and incident. There are very less examples of Hindu and Muslim marriages in Indian history. The 2 communities who are different from each other were brought together. This marriage became a profit for Rajaputana.

1. The Rajaputana got saved from the attacks of Mughals.
2. The Rajaputs lived a tension free life and it made them to focus on the development of their dynasties.
3. The Rajaputs got Mansbadri of Mughals. This helped them to maintain strong army forces.
4. The Rajaputa kings got the support of Akbar and were protected from the other attacks.
5. The Rajaput kings built beautiful forts and palaces from the inspiration of Mughal architecture.
6. Rajaput kings were respected in the Mughal court.
7. The temples, palaces, forts, were saved from Mughal destroyers.
8. The common man of Rajaputan lived a happy and peaceful life.

The Effect of Jodha's Marriage on Akbar:

Akbar got effected by Jodha a lot. Akbar was impressed by Jodha's kind thoughts. Akbar begin to love Hinduism because of Jodha. In this case the proverb 'Love is blind' is true. The love of Jodha converted Akbar into a different person. Akbar left non-veg and he stoped hunting the animals. Some historians say that the non-veg cooking was not there in the royal Mughal kitchen; but practically it is not true. Because there were many people who still used to eat non-veg. But the veg and non-veg kitchen were separate; till today we can see the two separate kitchen in Fatepursikri and Agra.

Akbar had Hindu people in Mughal court, such as *Maansingh*, *Birbal*, *Jayasingh*, *Tanasen* etc. Akbar learned many things about Bhagvadageeta, Ramayana, Mahabharata, and many other Hindu pouraanikkathaas from Jodha.

Akbar prohibited the tax called '**Jajiya**' the tax put on hindus to visit dharmikyaaatraas. Akbar gave the freedom for Hindues to follow their Dhrama, traditions, rituals. Because of Jodha Akbar started to pray Hindu God Lord Krishna and Sarswati, Lakshmi.

Some of the historians say that Akbar had not changed after the marriage with Jodha, he utilized Jodha to get support of rajaputas. But there is no written documents to prove it.

Jodha Palaces {Jodha Mahals}:-

Jodha was the most favorite wife of Akbar. So he built palece for Jodha. There are 2 most important palaces of Jodha.

- 1) Fatepursikri's Jodhamahal
- 2) Agra's Jodhamahal

1] Fatepursikari's Jodhamahal :-

Jodhabaimahal in Fatepursikri is the biggest mahal among all the other queen mahals. Jodhamahal has been constructed through the beautiful hindurajaput architecture. It has a single entrance. After that there is a open room (horangana) and then there is an open area. In the middle of this open ground there is a tulsikunda to which Jodha used to pray daily after her bath and pooja. In this open area there are 3 buildings and there are small rooms all around the palace for dasis (100 dasis of Jodha gifted by her father as dowry in her marriage.)

The right side mahal was a winter mahal {Shisha Mahal} and the left side mahal is summer mahal {Hawa Mahal}. In summer Jodha used to stay in Hawa Mahal. The hawamahal is constructed according to the science of the wind directions. The Hawa Mahal was built to the science. In Hawa Mahal is well ventilated and it used to be cool in summer.

In winter Jodha used to stay in Sish Mahal. Shish Mahal was built according to sun directions and it used to be warm in winter.

In the middle of open room there is a temple building. It was the poojagraha of Jodha. She used pray Lord Krishana here. According to some historiens she had a big Krishna vigrha which was kept in the poojagraha. But Aurangzeb destroyed all the hindumurtis of Jodha. But this information is not written anywhere it is just predicted.

Behind the Jodhamahal there is a bathroom complex for Jodha and her dasis. The Jodhamahal consist of hindudesings like lotous, trishula, swastiks, kalsha etc.

The upper part of the mahal had some paintings which have been vanished due to wind and rain. But still the Jodhamahal is strong and it screaming the story of Jodha to us. The Jodhamahal is constructed from red stone of Jaipur.

Behind Jodhamahal there is Birbalmahal; but no one was allowed near rani's mahal, then how birbalmahal was built is the most curious question to be noticed. Birbal was Jodhas guide, adviser, and director in all her problems so before taking any decision Jodha used to talk to Birbal. Because of this reason Birbal's house was near Jodhamahal.

Because of Jodha Akbar had built a separate kitchen for veg and non-veg in Agra and Fatepur-sikri. In '*Paanchmahal*' Jodha and Akbar used to enjoy the full moon days.

And Jodha used to celebrate Kadvachowth in this PanchMahal's top most roof. Akbar had a secrate route from Sultan mahal to Jodhamahal.

Jodha was also the deity of Saint Salim Chisti. She used to go to his dragah which is near Fatepursikri's mahal.

Today also we can see the Jodhamahal in Fatepursikri. Now it is protected by the *Tourism Department of Uttar Pradesh* and it well maintained.

2] Agra's Jodha Mahal

The JodhaMahal in Agra is almost like the jodhamahal in Fatepursikri. Both are of same architecture. I Agra mahal also consist of 3 buildings. One is summer palace, one is winter palace and one is poojagraha.

And Agra's Jodhamahal is also made from red stone and same science is applied here also as Fatepursikri. Aurangzeb destroyed all the Hinduvigrahas of Jodha so we cannot see the vigrahas of Hindu Gods here.

Personality of Jodha : -

Jodha was a standing example of beauty with brains. She was a good warrior, writer, poet, singer and dancer. Jodh was a nature lover and she was very kind towards animals. She was well read person. Jodha had all the Hindu mythological books, such as Ramayana, Mahabharata, Sakuntalapurana, Geeta, etc.Jodha loved Akbar thought her life.

Death of Jodha: -

On 27th October 1605 Akbar died due to some disease in Agra.Akabr died on the age of 53. And Akbar's dead body is buried in Agra. After 25 years of Akabars death Jodha died on May 19th 1623 at age of 82 in Agra.Jodhafollowed Hinduism all her life but at her last breath her last wish was that she shouldbe buried near her husband and not burnt. As per Jodha's wish her son Jahangir built her tomb near Akabar's tomb in Agra. But in *India there are 5tombs of Jodha*.

But according to historians the Agra tomb is the real one. Jodha's tomb is made up of red sand stone. And it is made up of Mughal architecture. The area where the Jodha's tomb is built was originally*Sikandar Lodi's pleasurepalace.Jahangir converted it into Jodha's tomb in 1623 AD*.

The Jodha's tomb consist of 3 levels. One is basement in which the Jodha's dead body is buried and the 2nd is the upper tomb which everyone can see and 3rd part is upper roof of tomb.

The Jodha's tomb is bit different from tombs of Mughals. The tomb looks like a palace and not a tomb because it doesn't have the usual characteristic of Mughal rofa tomb.It has many beautiful arches, paintings, flowers, designs etc.

Conclusion:-

The only Hindu lady who controlled Akbar and whole of the Mughal dynasty is Jodha. Jodha was one of the great lady of Indian Medieval History. She was one of the most Important and most loved queen of Akbar.Akbar would have easily converted her as Muslim; but Jodha maintained her power and her self-respect. She never blindly followed the rules of Akber she always followed her heart and her wish. This maid her to maintain her status in Mughal mahal.

Even today's Indian women are also not able to maintain their self-respect in their own community. But Jodha maintained her self-respect till her death.

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