

Lt. Gen (Retd) Jahan Dad Khan (A Social Worker par excellence)



It is with great sadness that we learnt about the sad demise of Lt. Gen (Retd) Jahan Dad Khan on 13th February 2011. He was born in 1929 in Village called Malloo in Attock district. He got commission in Pakistan Army in 1951 in artillery regiment. During his military career he served on various important assignments like commander of an infantry division, and Corps Commander X Corps. He retired from active service in 1984. He then served as Governor Sindh from 1984 to 1987. For his outstanding services he was awarded Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military) and Sitara-e-Basalat.

It is after his retirement that his extraordinary capabilities as social worker started to make a mark in the society.

In 1985 he established Al Shifa Trust for prevention and cure of blindness. He used very skillfully all his contacts to raise funds for the trust. He was able to establish a state of the art eye care hospital in Rawalpindi in 1991.

From those days onwards he devoted every minute of his life to the cause of service to the ailing humanity. In the coming years we saw him completing two more eye hospitals, one at Sukkur and other in Kohat. Fourth hospital has been completed but he could not live to see it functioning.

Through his efforts millions of patients suffering from eye diseases have been cured and hundreds of ophthalmologists and paramedics have been trained at these hospitals.

His other social work projects include Attock Education Trust and Margallah Study Group. He wrote several books as well. He was also awarded Hilal-e-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan.

Gen Jahan Dad Khan was among those rare people who believed in hard work, selfless dedication, unmatched commitment, honesty and human values. He was visionary, a planner and an implementer at the same time. He had great leadership qualities and always believed in leading by personal example. He was admired and loved and general public for his philanthropic work spanning over two decades.

His role in prevention and care of blindness is unparalleled in Pakistan. Public in general and ophthalmic community in particular are very saddened by his death. May Allah bless his soul and given solace to the bereaved family and friends.

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