Maharani Jind Kaur, the most remarkable woman in Sikh history was the youngest wife of Shere-E-Punjab Maharaja Ranjit Singh. She was the Queen Mother of the last Sikh Sovereign Maharaja Dalip Singh and was also called the Queen Mother by various European writers as well as contemporary writers. She was popularly known as Rani Jindan. Among all the wives of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Jind Kaur was the only prominent lady who played an important role in the Sikh History. The role played by her in the History gave her the name as the Iron Lady.

The topic of this dissertation was suggested by my respected teacher and I too was interested in putting forward the role played by her for the freedom of Punjab from the British. We didn’t found any proper detailed information about her early life. However this dissertation is based upon the contemporary sources but important secondary sources have also been consulted. The particular subject is used to enlightened by it’s definition which makes its boundaries and differentiated it from the other discipline. As per the definition of History’s pioneer, Greeks who defined it as the knowledge obtained as a result of research or inquiry. In actual history is very much concerned with the activities of human beings and reveals the studies about the events in the struggle efforts made by the man. History is the discipline which investigates and also unfolds the values which inspires the citizens of country with the change in the age era leading to the development of their collective will and to express it through the manifold activities of the individual life. Sikh history reveals the evidences of the role played by the various eminent Sikh dignitaries either socially or politically. Among these eminent personalities Sikh women too played an important role. Among these Maharani Jind Kaur, wife of Shere-E-Punjab Maharaja
Ranjit Singh with fabulous physical appearance was a great women leader who maintained Sikh Raj in Punjab after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. This all depicted her political essence.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

1. KHUSWANT SINGH-RANJIT SINGH (Ancestors, Birth and the years of Tutelage) New Book Society of India, New Delhi, 2000. This book reveals the information about the ancestors, early life of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, while including his political carrier.

2. AMARINDER SINGH- THE LAST SUNSET THE RISE AND FALL OF LAHORE DARBAR, Lahore books, Ludhiana, 2010. Through this book we got the knowledge about the downfall of Lahore Darbar and also the existence of various misls in Punjab.


4. KEHAR SINGH, SAROOP LAL KAILLE CANADA- MAHARANI JINDA (IRON LADY), Bhai Chatar Singh Jiwan Singh, Amritsar, 2015. From this book we got the information about the leadership qualities of Maharani Jind Kaur, as a symbol of the sovereignty of the Khalsa ruling the Punjab in the name of her son.

5. KHUSWANT SINGH- SIKH RAJ DA ANT, Unistar books, Pvt Ltd. Chandigarh, 2015. This book deals with the knowledge regarding the end of Sikh empire.

6. KARNAIL SINGH-ANGLO-SIKH WARS AND ITS INSIDE TALE, Dharam Parchar Committee, Amritsar, 1998. The book mentioned about the Anglo Sikh wars which were fought between British army and Sikhs.

8. HIMADRI BANERJEE-THE KHALSA AND THE PUNJAB, Anandpur Sahib foundation and Department of culture, Government of India, Delhi, 2002. This book mentioned the popular letters which were written by Maharani Jind Kaur to British resident.

SCOPE

In India the women of the Sikh faith fought, ruled, taught and served for centuries. They have managed organizations, guided communities and led revolts. These accomplishments are admirable in their own right, and they are even more impressive when viewed in the context of the intense patriarchy and cultural misogyny against which these women were working. Maharani Jind Kaur was a resolute, fearless and dynamic women imbued with a spirit of patriotism. It was the patriotic fervor and zeal of Maharani Jind Kaur that made her determined to fought the British rule under circumstances heavily against her. She was remarkable in how she discarded sati and purdah or pardah, dominant at the time and led the courts, had meetings with chief ministers and the armies. Armed with the Sikh belief in social justice and gender equality, she paved the way for a more just and compassionate world. Her legacies were inspiring figure for young Asian women today. With the hold of good political essence she put her control over Sikh raj and maintained.
NEED OF THE STUDY

Often times women’s contributions were overlooked because, for the most part, it was men’s who write history. A lady in the early nineteenth century emerged with a vision of changing the history also known as “the rebel queen” in making a strong base as a motivation for empowering women. Maharani Jind Kaur was instrumental in organizing the Sikh resistance against the British after the Maharaja passed away. At the time of Maharaja’s death she backed from performing the sati as done by other elder Rani’s as a thought for bringing up her only son and to maintain the glory of Sikh empire. Need of this research study was to reveal the social and political life led by Maharani Jind Kaur. Studying the history of such a inspiring personality sets an example of leading life with dignity and honor and her contribution should be remembered for the generations to come.

OBJECTIVES

- Introducing the past history of Punjab.
- To reveal the political and social life of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
- To provide the relevant information about Sikh Raj, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Maharani Jind Kaur and downfall of Sikh Raj.
- Depicting the various Misls in Punjab.
- To critically examine the Maharani Jind Kaur’s role in political and social event which have been actually over looked.
- The utmost desire of this research was to reveal her contribution to secure the Sikh Empire from annexation.
PLAN OF WORK AND METHODOLOGY

Proposed study is based on the primary and secondary sources those I collected from many libraries of different Universities like as Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab University, Chandigarh, Punjabi University, Patiala, Sikh Reference Library, Amritsar. I collected the relevant data from the different sources analyzing these facts for the completion of my research work.

CHAPTERIZATION

INTRODUCTION- Through the chapter 1, I explained the relevant information about the past history of Punjab during the time period of Mughals. The role of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the establishment of Sikh Raj. The political and social life of Maharaja Ranjit Singh has also been discussed in this chapter. Along with this the existence of various misls in Punjab has also been discussed. The life of Maharani Jind Kaur was examined in short through this chapter.

FORMATIVE YEARS (1817-1863 A.D.)

Second chapter covered the life phase of Maharani Jind Kaur from the birth till the death along with the relevant information regarding the other Maharani’s of Shere-E-Punjab Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

ROLE OF MAHARANI JIND KAUR IN LAHORE DARBAR

In this chapter, I had discussed the Social and Political life of Maharani Jind Kaur who with her fabulous beauty, desired to make a hold on the Punjab without annexation. The downfall of Sikh Raj after her death has also been introduced in this chapter.
CONCLUSION

After the above mentioned chapterization, I summed up that Maharani Jind Kaur was an eminent Sikh Women who laid down the foundation of a respectful path for the other women’s by denying the various bad rituals being followed in Punjab.

BIBLIOGRAPHY