

**RESEARCH PAPER****History of Pakistani Cricket Team: Challenges and Response ,1947-1970****¹Ma Chunying * and ² Dr. Maqbool Ahmad Awan**

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***Corresponding Author:** 44791027@qq.com**ABSTRACT**

Cricket as the most popular game of the world has its own history. This sport faces different challenges and evolves as a tremendous sport. It started with the passion of Elite classes and eventually came to the streets. In India, game of cricket has a colonial background. After partition, Pakistani cricket had to face certain challenges as the lack of resources, the organizational skills and team spirit, cricket team survived through thick and thin. Pakistan always had wonderful players in bowling and batting. This paper is an attempt to trace the history of Pakistani cricket team which represents its country in marvelous way and creates history in all fields. From the idea of western cricket, Pakistani cricket introduced many indigenous styles of bowling and batting. But it is a fact that Pakistan was always in search of western coaches for the training of its team. The argument of this paper deals with the idea that talent is beyond the boundaries and challenges and response of Pakistani Cricket team always had best players who made their mark in the history of cricket. Pakistan cricket face ed a lot of issues but survive. In the historical idea of challenge and response make Pakistani cricket team, a best team of all times. Both primary and secondary sources are used to prove the argument in this paper. Descriptive and historical method is used to analyze the main idea.

Keywords: Attire, ICC, Little Master, PCB**Introduction**

The origin of this game trace back to Norman and Saxon times in Weald (England) where children used to play in the woods in the late sixteenth century. The formal test cricket was started in 1877. It is considered on of the most popular games in the world. On International level (ICC) is the governing body. This body is law defining body of cricket. This game was popular in all English colonies. In the beginning the ICC was reluctant to invites nonmembers of Common Wealth because this organization is pre-dominantly western. In Indian sub-continent game of cricket was also introduced by English People. The game of cricket has a complete colonial background. After the establishment of Pakistan in 1947, first class was also established in newly independent state of Pakistan. There were many associations and local clubs for the cricket. Local and international matches. On 1 May 1949 Pakistan board of Cricket Control was established in Pakistan. In 1952 Imperial cricket conference Pakistan was give the test match status. This conference was held in Lord cricket ground. The cricket matches were not regular before 1953 as the national championship began in this year. There were few matches between Punjab and Sindh on domestic level. First class cricket started from the capital city of Lahore. In November 1949 the cricket team of West Indies arrived, and it was the first international team which came to Pakistan. This match was played between Punjab's governor VS Punjab University on March 1949. In April 1949, Pakistan cricket team visited Colombo to play a cricket match. This team was led by captain Mohammad Saeed, Pakistan won this match by 10 wickets. (Oborene, 2014).

Literature Review

A lot of work has done on the history of cricket like H.S Altham wrote, A History of Cricket in two Volumes. Rowland and Bowen describe cricket and its development in his classical work. Das Gupta has written about the passion of Pakistani cricket. The most famous and cited work is P.Obrene, Wounded Tigers, the history of Cricket in Pakistan. Our blood is green: Cricket, identity and social empowerment among British Pakistan shed light on the evolution of this most popular game in Pakistan.

In December 1950, Commonwealth XI Visited Pakistan to play a cricket match. Local and domestic cricket was also flourishing during the early years of Pakistan. All big cities of Pakistan had cricket teams on their own name like Karachi, Bahawalpur, Lahore, Quetta, and sometime Pakistan International airline also nominated their own team to play international cricket. In 1954 a series of matches started between India and Pakistan and five matches were played. Abdul Qadir was captain from Pakistani side and Vinoo Mankad was captain from Indian side. Mostly matches were drawn in these early years. In 1955 New Zealand cricket team visited Pakistan. This was the first-class series of Cricket. Pakistan was the winner of this series by 2-1 as Pakistani team played under the captain Addul Hafeez Kardar and Harry Cave was the Captain of New Zealand Cricket team. In 1956 Pakistan won the international match against Australia under the captainship of Fazal Mahmood. In the Oval Cricket ground Fazal Mahmood took 12 wickets. Pakistan won this match by 13 wickets. In 1959 Pakistan vs West Indies series was started and Pakistan won it by 2-1. International cricket was started in Pakistan in 1960 in actual sense. The cricket team of England visited Pakistan. Two matches were withdrawn, and one was led by England. Commonwealth XI played six matches in Pakistan in 1963-64 under the captaincy of Peter Richardson. (Samiuddin, 2014).

Cricket Codes Principles in Pakistan

In the early years of Pakistani cricket its principles were shaped around its independence which took place in 1947. The main emphasis was to reflect the nation's undying spirit, to play with resilience and passion. In the 1960-1970s the fastly bowling tradition of Pakistan made a mark on the sport and produced exceptionally fast bowlers. The principles also included a sharp focus on pace and swing which went hand in hand with disciplined batting. The various playing styles of Pakistan reflected the perfect balance between traditional talents in pace and spin bowling along with perseverance and adapting to the demands of the opposing team. Pakistani cricket was well known all over the world for its unique and flamboyant way of displaying its very own skill set in such a way that it pleases the crowd. Cricket sportsman was filled with respect for the game and representing their home country with pride. (Mujamdar, 2005).

Spin dominance a word used heavily by the cricket critiques to compliment the extravagant bowling style of Pakistan. It heavily relied on this rare style to turn wickets in the subcontinent. The cricket team of Pakistan was also known for their unpredictability whilst playing matches. They could make excellent teams of other countries shake in their boots and on the other hand struggle like an amateur. Despite differences at times the team was well known for its camaraderie and unity on the pitch. The players always had each other's backs and supported each other while playing as a whole.

It is important to note that these principles were not stagnant and changed over a period of time which included the cricket teams leadership, performance and the evolution of the landscape of international cricket. (Naqvi, 2015).

The Challenges of Cricket Team: Initial Years

The structure of cricket team was also evolved in Pakistan since independence. In 1947, cricket was only played in the urban areas of Pakistan like Karachi, Lahore and middle classes were only involved in this game. In rural areas of Pakistan this game was totally unknown. First class was operated through the main station Bombay. Pakistan was considered a station which provided good players to the neighbouring countries. The individual identity of Pakistan Cricket team was still required. BCCI was not considering Pakistani as a team. In the imperial cricket conference the recognition of Pakistani cricket as first class team was not done. Only two matches of Pakistan were included. 72 Garden Road, Karachi was the first home of cricket of Pakistan. The financial position was not good. Sir Francis Mudie, governor of Punjab was supporter of cricket across the country. In the absence of serious domestic cricket, it was difficult to find out players for national cricket. BCCP vice president Cornelius was making his utmost efforts to make a good team. AH Kardar return Pakistan, Main Saeed and Kardar established the proper cricket and concept of a team in Pakistan. A long correspondence between Kardar and Corneillus which was later published in form of Memories of all Rounder about the established of a good cricket team is indicates that it was hard for them to develop international cricket in Pakistan. Hanif Muhammad was also supporting them in this mission to manage first class cricket in Pakistan. (Bhattacharya, 2005).

The genesis of Pakistani cricket: 1947-1952

The birth of Pakistan took place in 1947 which marked not only the creation of a new independent space but also the foundation of a cricketing legacy they would captivate the hearts of millions. Cricket known as a healthy obsession of the nation has a deep and rich history that traces back to the pre independence era. The time period of 1947-1952 proved to be essential for the growth of Pakistani cricket. It explored many challenges and won many great triumphs.

1947 was a crucial watershed moment for the Indian subcontinent. The British India had been split into two separate free states namely India and Pakistan. This liberation had a great effect on the lives of people as well as sports. Cricket a sport etched on the DNA of the subcontinent faced new challenges in the geopolitical landscape. As the new boundaries were set into landscape many talented players found themselves on either side of the border. Players such as Abdul Hafeez, Mohammed Hanif and Fazal Mahmood emerged to be the superstars of Pakistani cricket, along with many more laid the inception of this great nations cricketing future. Jahnagir Khan had immense influence on the Pakistani Cricket team Both of his grandsons Majid Jahangir and Bhazid Khan played from Pakistani team. The starting years of Pakistani cricket were far off from a smooth sail in the sea. The lack of proper funds resulted in poor resources and equipment, and it failed to develop the players skill set to the match the standard of the rest of the teams playing at that time. The newly made PCB (Pakistani cricket board) had to build their infrastructure from scratch and sometimes the grounds available were not up to par to provide suitable training for the Pakistani cricketers. This situation caused a severe experience gap when in comparison to established and esteemed nations such as England or Australia. This caused great defeats int the starting of its national performances which was far from perfect. (Dasgupta, 2017).

Despite these strenuous challenges Pakistani cricket went through a historic moment in 1952. The Pakistani teams performance in India carried immense political and emotional significance as it was the golden opportunity for Pakistan to assert its dominance as a cricket nation on the international stage. The cricket team was captained by a cricketing icon the great Abdul Hafeez Kardar. The team faced arduous competition from India which comprised of cricketing legend Vinoo Mankand and Polly Umrigar. The series was played against the background of political tension and it quickly became a show of cricket

diplomacy between the two newly independent states. In an astounding turn of events the Pakistani cricket team established its first ever test victory in only its second test match ever on Indian ground. The man of the match Fazal Mahmood had a pivotal role in this astonishing win with his remarkable bowling capability. This triumph was not just a cricketing attainment but also a moment of pride for the nation. (Paracha, 2017)

Cricket was more than just a sport. It became a social and traditional phenomenon in both the countries it brought the people together. The achievements of the Pakistani cricket team in India in 1952 marked a turning point for the Pakistani cricket team. It inculcated a sense of trust and belief in the remarkable cricketing capabilities of Pakistanis. The grand victory in India provided as the main catalyst for the development of cricket infrastructure and services in Pakistan as the government and the private institutions began investing in the development and the betterment of the sport. As the years went to by Pakistan went on to produce many cricketing icons and legends as they not only made their mark and impressed Pakistan but also the whole cricketing world. These players were the very best in the game as the source of their inspiration were the trailblazers of Pakistani cricket who laid the foundation of cricket in the early years.

The genesis of Pakistani cricket from 1947-1952 was a period marked by difficult challenges, flexibility and the pursuit of excellence while determined to chase perfection in all aspects of life. The sport of cricket which in the start struggled to find its foothold, witness a remarkable rise in popularity due to the Pakistani cricket teams' performance in India. This exemplary victory served as a source of inspiration to the upcoming generations of cricketers to come and played a crucial role in shaping the Pakistani cricketing identity. (Werbner, 1996).

The Dawn of Pakistan's Cricketing Journey: 1953-1960

The time of 1953-1960 is known as the early stages of the emergence of Pakistani cricket. It was a time of difficult and sweat breaking challenges and great victories. It was the period in which Pakistan paved its own path in international cricket by going face to face with fierce competitors. In these year Pakistan delve in the important events that a pivotal role in shaping the cricketing history of Pakistan in these crucial years. The year of 1953 the Pakistani cricket board originally known as the board of control for cricket or short form BCCP was founded. The government founded this for organized cricket administration in the nation. The BCP later became a central point for anyone going professional in the sport as they had the duty to overlook all the cricket activities in the country and also to hire talented cricketers which would insure the future victory of Pakistan. They also had the responsibility to provide the players with adequate training and equipment which would further excel the cricket team. (Chatterjee, 2005).

Fazal Mahmood , the epitome of a fast bowler rose to immense popularity in this time period. His impressive performance at the Oval which took place in 1954 surely captivated the hearts of many viewers. He took a record breaking 12 wickets against the high and mighty England a remains a legendary moment in the Pakistani cricketing history. Fazal's display of flamboyant bowling laid the foundation of him as a hero and served as a source of inspiration for the generations of upcoming fast bowlers. Another prominent player in this era was Hanif Mohammed who also went by the name 'Little Master'. Hanif's extraordinary batting capabilities the trump card up the Pakistani cricket team along with his determination helped us climb up on the cricketing ladder. His marathon innings of 337 against the west Indies in the year 1958 stood as the most amount of innings in test cricket ever recorded over three decades. (Maguire, 1999).

The 1950s overall is remembered today as a period of vast international challenges for Pakistan. As Pakistan went up the ladder of international cricket it faced stiff opposition

from cricketing giants such as Australia and England. However the display of strength and determination from Pakistan earned them respect and surely made its mark on the cricketing world. The triumphant journey of Pakistan was not without its fair share of challenges. A notable moment during this period was Pakistan's test series win against England in 1961. The captain of that time was Javed Burki who has critiques say as an excellent player, under his leadership Pakistan won the series an amazing 1-0. This victory marked a decisive moment for Pakistan's cricketing future as it was the first ever test series win against England, a pioneer of cricket. All of this was perfect for a nation which found its cricketing identity. Pakistan rose to respectable prominence all due to their hardworking and strong will. (Khan, 2005).

The late 1950s and the early 1960s were witness to the emergence of many talented cricketers who would play notable roles in helping to build Pakistan's cricketing future. Many names gained popularity among the cricketing fans and the world such as Saeed Ahmad, who was known for his powerful drives, Mushtaq Mohammed, known for his all-rounder capability and having the full grasp of the sport and Asif Iqbal a worthy captain of his time. Pakistan faced many strenuous challenges at this time but their strong will to not give up and fight with its competition to win its many challenges was what made Pakistan a formidable opponent of that time. Adapting to the nuances of international cricketing level and facing world class teams required training, hardworking and skill. Yet the early years brought moments of pride and glory.

The year 1953-1960 were known by the birth of a cricketing nation's identity as these were the formative years of Pakistani cricket. Pakistan successfully established its undeniable presence at the international stage without failure and rose to peak popularity within Pakistan. The legacies of top tier players like fazal mahomood and Hanif Mahmood set in motion which was undeniably Pakistan's bright cricketing future. This period was marked by many emerging talents, resilience, determination and deep love and passion for the sport. While the road ahead was full of turbulence the early years of the Pakistani cricket remain a testament for the nations love for the sport and its utmost commitment to excellence and near perfection on the field. (Umer, 1997).

The Golden Era: Pakistani Cricket (1961-1970)

The 1960s was metamorphic period for the sport of cricket in Pakistan. This decade was a witness to the emergence of Pakistan as a fierce and formidable cricketing nation at an international level. From its performance in the test matches held in 1952 Pakistan had to undergo which seemed like a steep learning curve but this decade was marked as the turning point of Pakistan as a cricketing nation. This period is filled with milestones and achievements that defined Pakistani cricket from the time period of 1961-1970.

The start of the 1960s was distinguished by Pakistans struggle to establish itself as a competitive test team. After their starting test series against India in 1951, Pakistan played many matches against giants such as west indies, England and Australia. Luckily it was also the time that Pakistan made a breakthrough managed to achieve its first test series victory in 1962 on England playground under the wise leadership of Javed Burki. This was the turning point of Pakistani cricket as it ensured its future. One of the most unforgettable and impressive moments of this decade came in 1963 when Pakistans batting king Hanif Mohammed played an epic innings of 337 against the high and mighty west indies in Bridge town, which still to this day maintains a staggering record of the longest innings ever scored in history. This remarkable display of perseverance showcased Pakistan's true undying potential and also set the stage for future successes. (Samiuddin, 2004).

As time went by the late 1960s saw the emergence of Pakistan's spin bowling legends the true talent of Pakistan, as it became one of the most prominent characteristics of

Pakistani cricket. In 1967 the world witness the debut of Abdul Qadir a man blessed by the gods in spin bowling. He was called as the leg spin wizard as his unorthodox spin and deceptive googlies left the batsmen in awe and established him as one of the greatest spin bowlers of this decade, a true magician in his natural habitat. During this period there were also many more emerging talents such as, Intikhab Alam, a leg spinning all-rounder also showed a great entertainment to the crowd. Intikhab's contributions as an all-rounder were of great weight in Pakistan's victories, particularly in the 1967-68 tour of England. These spinners alongside the experienced Fazal Mahmood, formed a legendary bowling lineup that would wreak havoc on all the opposing batsmen worldwide.

This period is also categorized by Pakistan's historic win in 1967 as it remains one of the most cherished wins in the Pakistani cricket history. Under the captaincy of Hanif Mahmood, Pakistan secured an outstanding win in the series 2-0, becoming the first Asian team to achieve this feat on English soil. This series victory was a testament to Pakistan's growing prowess and professionalism in the sport of cricket and with that showcased the master class talent emerging from within the country. The main key players who's contribute on had great effect on Pakistan's landmark achievements were Hanif Mohammed, Asif Iqbal and Saeed Ahmad with the bat and with Intikhab Alam and Asif Mahmood with the ball. The match with England marked Pakistan's arrival on the global cricketing stage. (Verma, 2004).

The ODIs or the one day internationals were also created in the 1960s, a new format which would change the horizon of international cricket. Pakistan also played its first ODI in 1971 just outside the timeframe of this section of the article. Also the concept of limited overs gained traction in the late 1960s. The first official ODI took place in 1971 but Pakistan has already played on this rather new format in unofficial games. In the 1966 Gillette Cup England saw Pakistan compete in a challenging first ever 65 over one day matches. Though not ODIs by definition these helped Pakistan by providing it with more than enough exposure to the shorter style of format which would then later on proceed to be a significant part of international cricket.

The 1960s were a transformative time period of Pakistani cricket. From struggling to find its appropriate foothold in the beginning to then making significant strides and impressing all the critiques Pakistan had evolved in a progressive way. The significant key players the cricketing legends such as Hanif Mahmood, Abdul Qadir, Intikhab Alam helped the team to prosper and boost confidence which laid the ultimate foundation of finding success. This period will always be remembered as the golden era of Pakistani cricketing history when Pakistan announced itself as a cricketing force to be reckoned with on the world stage. (Punjab, Pakistan Patent No. 1/5/7, 1969).

County Cricket

International county cricketers visited Pakistan in 1968 and won these matches. Most of the cricketers were from England. During the 1970s the perspective of Cricket was changed especially in international management. The placement of a neutral empire and Pakistan becoming a part of 21st century cricket. This credit goes to Pakistani cricketers.

Cricket Uniform and Kits had also changed with the passage of time. In cricket, attire was normally white. Small bows were used in the beginning. White color is the color of responsibility and sense which is why it had been in use till 1970. It was easy to handle and looks sober. It also absorbed the sweating and reduced the heat of body. In 1970, color and eye-catching designs were introduced in cricket uniform and cricket kits. White collared shirts with trousers in summer and jumpers were used in winter test matches. There are five protector equipment (hat, abdominal guards, leg pads, thigh guards and gloves) are used in national and international cricket for every player in the cricket ground. These designs

and colors indicate different sponsorship also which make these cricket uniform more worth able. The idea of bat and balls was also changed in 1960-and 1970.With the beginning of thin small bat to big cricket bat make with the refine material is popular in international cricket.

Conclusion

The game of the cricket is changing with time. Pakistani cricket is also becoming modern, but the history of this game shows Pakistan always faced challenges due to the economic crisis, team management and sometimes with the indication of those players who are not professional cricketers. It is the need of time to make the cricket institutions stronger. Pakistan has the talent, only thing required is the management and cultivation of the cricket talent in Pakistan. There are some recommendations:

- A proper system of team management is required.
- Academies should be more in numbers to trained players.
- Selection may be defined according to merits.
- Pakistani Cricket team should have more scientific equipment.

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