



History Unit-5

Educational Development in India

Dear Students

Warm Greetings, now we are going to learn about – *Modern System of Education*

The beginning of the modern system of Indian education can be traced to the efforts of the Christian missionaries who arrived in India in the wake of European occupation. As a result of their efforts, many institutions were established across India. These institutions imparted Western as well as Indian education.

Role of Christian Missionaries

- Europeans came to India for trade and established trading companies.
- They acquired lands and constructed fortresses. Later they wanted to spread their culture and religion among Indians.
- The Europeans thought that they could make Indians understand the administration and religious theories better if they could impart education to the local population in their own method.
- So they started educational institutions. The Portuguese were the first Europeans who started modern system of education in India.
- Francis Xavier, a Jesuit, started a university at Cochin. They started many primary schools.
- The first college offering degrees on a completion of a course was started in Goa in 1575 where Christianity, logic, grammar and music were taught.
- John Kiernander was one of the most zealous pioneers and was perhaps the first missionary in India to introduce education for non-Christian children as an evangelistic agency
- In 1812, Dr. C.S. John established 20 free reading schools in Tranquebar.
- Followed by the Portuguese, the French opened their institutions for all the Indians where education was imparted by Indian teachers through local languages.
- They started higher secondary schools where French language was taught. Two German Bishops, named Ziegenbalg and Plustscham, started schools and a training college for teachers in Travancore.
- After the arrival of English East India Company in 1600 AD(CE), institutions were established for imparting instruction in English. Gradually Sanskrit colleges were opened in Madras and Benaras.
- The first Bishop of Calcutta, the Revered Dr. Middleton, started a missionary college at Calcutta, which became famous as the Bishop's College.



- Mountstuart Elphinstone was actually a strong advocate of vernacular education, but on his retirement in 1827, his admirers collected funds and established a college offering English classes, named the Elphinstone College at Bombay.
- Missionaries made a good deal of attempt for the propagation of education in India. Due to their efforts many institutions were established.
- These institutions imparted Western education as well as Indian education.

Education in the British Rule

History of education in British rule can be divided into four periods:

- (i) from the early days of the British rule up to 1813;
- (ii) period from 1813–1853;
- (iii) period from 1854–1920 and
- (iv) period from 1921–1947.

(i) From the early days of the British rule up to 1813;

During its early days, the East India Company followed a policy of indifference and non-interference towards education as this sector did not form a part of its programme. The Company's charter was renewed in 1813, which compelled the Company to assume responsibility for the education of Indians, though on a very limited scale. Besides missionaries, non-missionaries like Raja Ram Mohan Roy of Bengal, Pachyappar of Madras, W. Frazer of Delhi contributed to the cause of education.

(ii) Period from 1813–1853;

The second period was also marked by great educational controversies concerning the issues of educational policy, medium of instruction and method of spreading education. First, there were the orientalist who supported the preservation of Oriental learning and the use of Sanskrit and Persian as the media of instruction. They were opposed by the Anglicists who advocated dissemination of Western knowledge through English. A third section believed in the use of Indian languages as the media of instruction.

These controversies were partially set at rest by Macaulay's Minutes of 1835. Higher education was de-orientalised, encouraging English education for the upper classes. Each province was allowed to follow its own education policy. But even then, the controversies continued till 1854.

(iii) period from 1854–1920

The third phase of British-influenced education may be called the period of an All-India Educational Policy. It commenced with Sir Charles Wood's Despatch in 1854.



(iv) period from 1921–1947.

The fourth phase may be called the period of provincial autonomy. The Act of 1935 ushered a new era of educational advancement through the country. The new programmes were hit hard by the worldwide economic depression in 1929. The introduction of complete provincial autonomy by the Government of India Act of 1935 further strengthened the position of the provincial ministers of education. After the Second World War, a very important plan for educational development, known as the Sergeant Report (1944) was prepared. This blueprint had a powerful influence on contemporary education, both in thought as well as in practice.

Educational Development of Independent India

- The new epochmaking era in the history of education was ushered with the attainment of independence in 1947.
- It brought a new hope, a new vision, a new future for the Indians.
- In 1948, Dr. Radhakrishnan Commission was appointed to present a report on University education. In pursuance of the Commission's recommendations, University Grants Commission was constituted to determine the standard of higher education.
- One of the most important events that have taken place in the field of secondary education was the appointment of Secondary Education Commission in 1952–53.
- It suggested new organisational patterns, improvement in quality of textbooks, curriculum and methods of teachings.
- An education commission under the chairman ship of Dr. D.S. Kothari was appointed by the Government of India in 1964.
- Free and compulsory primary education for all children up to the age of 14 years and uniform educational structure of 10+2+3 pattern were its main recommendations.

National Policy on Education

- The first National Education Policy of 1968 marked a significant step in the history of education in post-independent India.
- It aimed to promote national progress, a sense of common citizenship and culture and to strengthen national integration. In 1986, the Government of India introduced a New Education Policy.
- The aim of New Education Policy was to transfer a static society into a vibrant one with a commitment to development and change.
- It emphasised on equal opportunities for marginalised sections of the country and the removal of disparity through scholarships, adult education and open universities, especially for rural India.



- The New Education Policy called for a child-centred approach in primary education and launched Operation Blackboard to improve primary schools nationwide.

The New Education Policy was revised again in 1992. It envisaged the formulation of a National Curriculum Framework, emphasis on in-service education, improvement of facilities and streamlining of the evaluation system at the secondary stage.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

- The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the Government of India's flagship programme that was launched in 2000-01 to achieve Universal Elementary Education (UEE).
- SSA is now the primary vehicle for implementing the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2009) (RTE).
- Right To Education (RTE) provides for free and compulsory education to all the children from the age of 6 to 14 years.
- The SSA initiates a variety of innovation and activities related to schools.
- Some important activities include providing the Mid-Day Meals and stipends for students, the setting up of School Management Committees (SMCs) and provision of teaching learning materials for classrooms.

Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is a centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access and improvement of quality education at the secondary stage, which was implemented during Eleventh Five-Year Plan period. The goal of RMSA is to make secondary education qualitative, available, accessible and affordable to all young students in the age group 15–16 years. Science lab, libraries, in-service training for teachers, computer-aided education, cocurricular activities and teaching-learning aids are provided by the Government of India through RMSA scheme at the school level.

The Union Budget 2018–19 proposed to give school education holistically without segmentation from Pre-School to Class XII. Samagra Shiksha, and to be prepared with the broaden goal of improving school effectiveness, measured in terms of equal opportunities and equable learning outcomes. It subsumes the schemes: SSA, and RMSA. In 2017, a committee was constituted by the Ministry of Human Resources Development to draft the National Education Policy. This committee submitted its report in 2019.

Educational Development in Tamil Nadu

- The pattern of education in Tamil Nadu was not merely reading and understanding of books but listening to learned persons.
- The Thirukkural stresses the need for education and warns the dangers of illiteracy.



- In ancient times, the school was called ‘Palli’ and the teacher was a ‘Kanakkar’.
- A significant development took place in the field of education during the Pallava period. Ghatika was an educational institution.
- The Pallava kings supported those educational institutions through endowments.
- The Vaishnava and Saiva mutts provided boarding and lodging facilities to all students and teachers.

Hiuen Tsang gives a graphic picture about Kanchi Buddhist centre and Kanchi, was considered as the main centre of learning.

The Chola period was the most brilliant and creative period in the Tamil literature. Tamil education enjoyed a greater connection with religion and temple. Free education was given to people. The curriculum and syllabi had a theoretical background. From the inscription of that period, we can now gain knowledge about the qualification of teacher, method of teaching, salary of teachers, food provided to the students and the land given to the schools etc. Rajaraja Chaturvedimangalam was the famous seat of a Vedic college (Ennayiram in Former South Arcot district). At Tirubuvana (in Pondicherry) Vedic college flourished. The Tiruvadaikkalai inscription mentions a library. Tiruvaduthurai inscription of Viravajendra refers to a medical school.

The Pandya kings patronised Sanskrit in an exemplary way. It is revealed in the copper plates. The educational institutions of that period were called as Ghatigai, Salai and Vidhyasathana.

Lands were given to teachers. They were known as Salabhogam (e.g. Vallabha Perunchalai at Kanyakumari). The famous college during the Pandya regime was Kandhalur Salai. Mutts occupied a significant place in the promotion of education. Learning flourished under the Vijayanagar rule. Many educational institutions were established under their patronage. Thinnappalli Koodam was established during the Nayak rule.

Education in Modern period

- Fernandez, who came to Madurai during the time of Veerappa Nayak, established a primary school.
- The Maratha ruler Sarfoji II collected the old records and kept them in the Saraswathi Mahal library.
- He also had a printing press with Devanagari type, which was located at Tanjore.
- Pradran is an important center of higher education in the country.



Sir Thomas Munroe the Governor of Madras Presidency (1820-27) was highly responsible for the introduction of Western education in Madras Presidency. He appointed a committee to conduct a statistical survey of the condition of education. The Education Commission of Munroe recommended the creation of two principal schools (Collectorate and Tahsildare schools) in each district. In 1835 Lord William passed a resolution favouring the introduction of western system of education in India. Wood's Despatch of 1854 introduced the Department of Public instruction in Madras Presidency. Grant-in-aid was given to all schools. The Madras University was founded in 1857. It was the first University in Tamil Nadu under the British rule. In 1882 the Local Boards Act was passed. The Board was empowered to open new schools and to get grants from the government. By 1938, all subjects except English were taught in Tamil in schools.

The Annamalai University was founded at Chidambaram in 1929. This was the next step in the development of higher education

Education since independence

Free education at the secondary school level was introduced in 1964 – 65. The Gandhigram Rural College was established in 1975. Distance education has also been introduced to educate those who could not go to colleges.

In 1956, Midday Meal Programme was introduced in schools. Later, it was extended as Nutrition Meal Scheme in 1982 to avoid drop-outs in schools.

The National Policy on Education was framed in 1986 and was modified in 1992. Since then several changes have taken place to meet the changing dynamics of the society.