

Commencement of British Education system in India and its dissemination in Chandrapur Municipal Corporation

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ABSTRACT

“A single shelf of good European library was worth of the whole native literature of Indian and Arabic” T.B. Macaulay. Every scholar from history and Education can debunk the above statement of Thomas Macaulay. It was a propaganda against India which was propagated on every platform through British Historians and Scholars. Destruction of Education, culture and Economy then defamation of India caused by British Government is Deeply addressed by Great American Historian Will Durant. He says “This evidently, was not a minor civilization produced by an inferior people”¹ Unless British could propagate an inferior Image of India they weren’t able to impose their education system in India. After the Macaulay’s minutes in 1835; British Education system was imposed on this country. The schools at different parts of India initiated by the British Government were just to create clerks and Babus in the country for effortless administration. “This education system perished India and created an inferior Community forever” Gandhian thinker Dharmpal². This paper is going to analyse the commencement of British education and its spread within the Chandrapur Municipal Corporation. Schools were established in this territory during the year 1878, 1891, 1885, 1905, 1907, 1912, and 1916. In due course of time several administrative posts were created by the British government that is Principal, Collector, Inspector, School Attendant and Teachers. This paper is going to deal with the Beginning of British education within the range of Chandrapur Municipal Corporation. All the original proceedings of contemporary school committee were being searched

Keywords: British Education, Primary schools, Chandrapur Municipal Corporation, Vernacular Education

Introduction:

As far as the social and educational development in India is concern with reference to Reign of British men; having many dimensions, debates and different prophecies. A very well-known narrative is India could become literate after the western invasion. Even Prasanna Parthasarathi in his book Why Europe grew rich and Asia did not elaborate the basic reasons behind this theory.³ He has given counter argument of Malthus, William Smith, Carl Marx and Neo-classical Economics which propagates the blocked and stagnant economy of India. While the economic and educational story of India seem to be very different which has less discussed in the Academia.

When we focus on British education; their intentions may be creating a lower administrative class in this country but this can’t be denied that Macaulay education system was largely Implemented and accepted in this country. Till today we are unable to come out of that Imprint. Chandrapur Municipal Corporation didn’t have a different story than other part of the country.

¹ Durant Will, The case for India, Wave Books, Edition 2022, p 6

² Dharmpal: Despoliation and Defaming India, Other India Press Mapusa Goa, 1999 VOL 1 P 28-31

³ Parthasarathi Prasanna: Why Europe Grew rich and Asia did not? Cambridge University Press. First Edition, 2011, p 18

Almost Subjugation of the Maratha Empire taken place in 1818. Chnadrapur also came under the control of British rule in the same year. Major Lucie Smith was the settlement officer from 1866 to 1869.⁴ Under his reign some social, administrative and educational amendments and systematic surveys taken place. One of them was commencement of colonial education in the city. Chandrapur Municipal corporation formed in 1867 and area came under Nagpur Division. Then they realize the involvement of local folk in the administration and the very first school was inaugurated in 1878. This school was started in the area of Vithoba Window, the south-west part of the city.⁵ It was governed by Municipal Corporation and known as lower primary school.

The first British School in Chandrapur city: Table 1.1

Class	Students on Board
1 st	16
2 nd	11
3 rd	28
Total	55

Classes till 3rd standard were initially began with the two teachers. Reading, Writing, Grammar, Mathematics, Geography, Reading of Modi Transcript, were included in the syllabus⁶. Along with the teacher's school inspector Mr Madhav Dinkar was appointed.⁷

Dissemination of Primary School: Table 1.2

School Name	Class	Students on Roll	Regular Present	Teachers
Pathanpura, Vithoba Window	1 st	19	18	2
	2 nd	19	17	
	3 rd	21	20	
Total		59	55	
Bhanapeth ward	1 st	29	25	3
	2 nd	13	10	
	3 rd	16	14	
Total		58	49	
Kotwali School	1 st	26	22	2
	2 nd	19	18	
	3 rd	22	21	
	4 th	25	25	
		92	86	
Babupeth	1 st	19	11	3
		19	15	
		12	10	
		15	13	
		61	49	

The above table 1.2 shows the enrolment of Students in Four different schools run by British Officials. This was the beginning of colonial education in India where Vernacular languages were not taught. The Chandrapur Gazetteer mentions that most of the students were from Upper caste as the other community was not willing to leave their traditional profession in which they felt secure.⁸ Very soon these schools start flourishing.

A local school committee was formed in 1885. Which was led by Asarambapu Kotpalliwar, Ganpatrao Jayram, Narayan Vithal. This committee allowed to start Upper classes in some of the schools. In the beginning basic subjects were taught but later on subject like Physics, History, Drawing, Sanitation, and Agriculture were added.⁹ One central monitoring committee was formed to monitor the schools. Every member of

⁴ Gazetteers of Maharashtra/ Chandrapur

https://gazetteers.maharashtra.gov.in/cultural.maharashtra.gov.in/english/gazetteer/CHANDRAPUR/his_c_handa_british.html

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Katkar T N: Karma veer Kannamwar, 1964 p 56

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Gazetteers of Maharashtra/ Chandrapur

https://gazetteers.maharashtra.gov.in/cultural.maharashtra.gov.in/english/gazetteer/CHANDRAPUR/his_c_handa_british.html

⁹ School committee Proceedings book 1885, Municipal Corporation of Chandrapur

Government Anglo Middle school:

This school was a middle school and Mr Keshwrao was appointed as a School Headmaster. He was being assigned with the inspection of all the school. It was mandatory for him to inspect every school once in a month. As there was no provision of training for the newly appointed teacher Mr Keshav Rao had to take care of it.¹⁰

Annual Examination Department and Inspection:

After the commencement of several schools in Chandrapur city it was a duty of Shri Keshav Rao, Head master of Middle school to Conduct smooth Examination for the evaluation of the students. From School inspector to Deputy collector Mr W.N Maw were inspecting school education on routine basis. Once Mr Maw Visited the school in Babupeth where he marked, 'Students from Scheduled caste and tribe are completely unaware of Education and they must get it' The claim of keeping Dalits away from the mainstream British education here proved to be true.¹¹

1905 is the year which marked the rapid progress of school-going children¹²

Table 1.3

1	Kotwali School	94 students
2	Pathanpura School	104
2	Babupeth school	55
4	Bhanapeth school	110
5	Infant class	38

The proceedings of school committee year 1905 explains the detail account of the teacher's salary and their duty. In 1907 Gond Dynasty king (Aheri) Raje Dharm Rao donated some amount for the cause of education and Raje Dharmrao primary school was started near Jatpura Gate. (Entrance of the City) Jubilee High school was established in 1906. This was the first high school in the district¹³ Mr. Vinayak Babaji Ayachit was the first Head Master of the school. He was given all the rights to inspect the other primary school. During his visit to Dharmrao School he mentions the salary of the Head master was 12 Rs. which was raised to 15 Rs. Other assistant teachers were getting salary of 6 Rs, was established in 1907.¹⁴ Students get enrolled in this school¹⁴ This is to be noted that A special school was started for 'Mahar' community(so-called untouchables)students. It was very unfortunate to see the Scheduled caste students were still facing a discriminatory behaviour from administration.¹⁵

School Ground and Health Inspector:

British officials felt the need of School ground for the healthy physical growth. Till 1906 there was no school ground was provided to any school. But later purposefully it was being operated. School ground made mandatory for all the schools. After 1912 all the rights of the Principal of Jubilee high school of supervision were withdrawn and a new officer was appointed for this work. Similarly, a health inspector was appointed from 1919. Mr Neelkanth Krushna Sadafal was appointed as School committee secretary¹⁶ First Independent Girls school commenced in 1942 named as a Kamala Nehru School.¹⁷

Schools in 1920: Table 1.4

Estb Year	School	Students no	Trained Teachers	Untrained Teachers
1878	Pathanpura	141	2	3
1885	Bhanapeth	164	3	3
1891	Babupeth	95	2	2
1905	Kotwali	146	2	3
1907	Dharmrao	150	5	0
1907	Urdu Primary	48	2	0
1912	Jatpura	101	4	0
1916	Anglo Vernacular Middle School	120	6	0

¹⁰ Special School committee Proceedings Book 1891 Municipal Corporation of Chandrapur

¹¹ Ibid

¹² School committee Proceedings book 1905, Municipal Corporation of Chandrapur

¹³ School committee Proceedings book 1905, Municipal Corporation of Chandrapur

¹⁴ Urdu School committee proceedings book 1907, Municipal corporation of Chandrapur

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ School Committee proceedings book 1912, Municipal corporation Chandrapur

¹⁷ School committee proceedings book 1916

Some of the schools were having Head master. For example Ganpat Narayan, YashvantVithal, Madhav Pandurang Purankar, Kondba Balaji, Raghunath Malaji and Mr Gujjewar respectively.¹⁸ Above all schools later flooded with the children and standard 5th was attached to above schools.

Annihilation of Caste Discrimination in school Education:

In 1929 Mr. Khushalchand Khajanchi was elected as a mayor of the municipal corporation. He initiated rigorous changes in education. His most appreciated move was to close caste-based school and starting education for all. He also made education compulsory. The special school n for Mahar Community was closed and all the students from this school were merged to other common school. In those days this was an act of bravery. He was criticized and appreciated for this. This was a revolutionary move by Shri Khushalchand ji.¹⁹ Gradually teachers and students' number gradually get increased and very common man could enrol their children in the school to get the proper education. This fact can't be denied that downtrodden section of the society started getting education after the initiation of British education system.

Conclusion:

Establishment of Chandrapur Municipal Corporation brought a drastic change in the field of education. This Local body established by British administration brought all section of society under one umbrella. Though there was a vernacular education system was existed but main stream education open doors for all. This initiative become very popular and several different schools and colleges came forward to attract the maximum number of students. It results into a wave in this field. The most Incredible change brought by British Education was annihilation of caste discrimination in the divine field of Education. People started thinking of resurgence in society. A liberal thought ooze out of education which led to Democracy, quality, Fraternity and Nationalism. Dissemination of Education in Chandrapur Municipal Corporation brought remarkable changes which obliged all coming generations of this city.

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¹⁸ School Committee proceedings book 1920, Municipal corporation Chandrapur

¹⁹ Ibid