

REPORT

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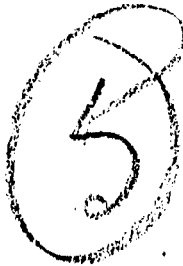
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

IN THE

HYDERABAD ASSIGNED DISTRICTS

FOR THE YEAR

1896-97.



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FROM

F. S. BULLOCK, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,

Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts,

TO

THE SECRETARY FOR BERAR TO THE RESIDENT,

Hyderabad.

Dated Amraoti, the 20th August 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit, with the following brief remarks, the Annual Report of the Director of Public Instruction, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, for the year 1896-97.

2. This is the first quinquennial report prepared under the orders of the Government of India conveyed in Government Resolution No. ^{9-Education}₂₅₀ of 18th July 1895, and this may be some reason for its length, but I can only regret that it so abounds in details as to make it wearisome to read.

3. The figures given in the statement in paragraph 3 include indigenous schools, and are somewhat curious. Since 1892-93 there is a decrease of 13 boys' schools and 2 girls' schools and a decrease of 676 boy pupils and an increase of 1,597 girl pupils, giving a net increase of 921 pupils. But since last year, 1895-96, there is an increase of 181 schools and 5,100 pupils. When we come to examine the details given in paragraph 5, we find that there is a mushroom growth of schools and scholars since last year, which is due to indigenous and private schools having suddenly sprung into existence, and the reason given is that the scarcity which prevailed during the year contributed to cause the increase, because teachers were willing to take Rs. 2 or 3 a month as salary.

4. The number of Government schools has actually increased if we include district and municipal schools, which it is necessary to do owing to transfers to suit financial arrangements; and the number of scholars has also increased, the figures being 653 schools with 38,633 scholars in 1892-93 and 714 schools with 42,284 scholars in 1896-97.

5. It is misleading to show the indigenous schools in a statement designed to exhibit the comparative state of education if these schools are of so fluctuating a character as is shown in the statistics given in paragraph 6; but it is certainly remarkable that following on my remarks last year on the subject of encouraging indigenous schools, there should be such a sudden increase. I believe much more might be achieved by encouraging indigenous schools than is generally supposed; but, of course, so long as Government is prepared to open a new school where it is wanted, it is the policy of the people to hang back.

In Berar we have quite enough Government schools considering that there is one to every 26 square miles of area; and if aided schools be included, there is a school to every 13 square miles, while in populated district, such as Ellichpur and Amraoti, there is a school to every 6 and 7 square miles. Wun and Basim are still the most backward districts, and this is as it should be, as the population is not such as would at present take to education, being chiefly Banjaras, Gonds, &c.

6. Paragraphs 8 and 12 deal with the income of the department: while the district funds from the educational cess and assignments of land revenue show

an increase, which must continue during the progress of revision settlement, it is noticeable that the fee income shows but little improvement, and is little more at the end of the quinquennial period than it was at the beginning.

Municipal contributions are larger, and after this year every municipality will contribute to education liberally. Popular contributions show no tendency to increase, though during the past year there is a slight improvement.

On the expenditure side there is a rise in the past year owing to pension contributions paid by District Boards, but the total expenditure on education has steadily decreased for the last five years owing to a more careful system of administration as shown in paragraph 17.

7. Under the head of Controlling Agencies, the Director has gone in great detail into the inspection of schools by himself and his staff and the district officers, and it is plain that a great deal of attention is paid to the schools, and a good many individuals and committees take an interest in the subject.

8. There is a cause for satisfaction in the improved results shown in the University Examinations and the progress shown in paragraph 27.

Secondary Education.

9. The two high schools have continued to flourish, but the number attending the Amraoti High School has decreased owing to the opening of a private high school which now has an attendance of 137 boys and a fee income of Rs. 2,379, which shows that it is a successful institution. This is a good sign, and a private middle school has recently been started in Amraoti, and has an attendance of 60 boys.

The expenditure on Government schools has decreased during the past year, and there is a gradual falling off in the cost of these schools; but in the quinquennial period the number of boys on the rolls has fallen from 4,672 to 3,705 and the daily attendance from 3,558 to 3,022, and in consequence the cost per pupil has increased.

The results of examinations are satisfactory, and especially that of the Amraoti High School in the past year; but generally the Berar high schools did very well in the Matriculation Examination, Amraoti passing 64 per cent. and Akola 53 of its candidates. All the Berar University scholarships were gained by boys from the Amraoti High School.

A scholarship of Rs. 7 or 8 per mensem has been given by Mr. Vyankatesh Koner Bhedi primarily for a boy of the Wun district.

The boarding houses have been full, and the number of boys has increased at Akola and fallen at Amraoti. I regret to see that the cost per boarder has increased to Rs. 6-5-3, which seems excessive.

There is one more middle class school teaching the IVth standard Anglo-Vernacular class. These schools, while showing an increase of numbers examined, do not compare favourably with 1892-93 in the number passed in spite of the constant supervision of the Director and his Inspectors.

Primary Education.

10. The number of primary schools has increased by 12 during the past year, gradually following out the programme which the Director has proposed of providing schools in the large villages of 1,000 and upwards of population.

The total number of pupils increased during the year by 1,481 in district boards' schools, and in municipal schools by 604.

In the past five years primary schools have increased from 580 to 640, and the scholars from 31,751 to 36,501. The cost of these schools has increased the charge against provincial revenues as explained by the Director, but it is satisfactory to notice that there is a slight decrease in the past year of the cost per pupil due, of course, to the increase of pupils.

The percentage of passes is lower than it was in 1892-93, but this depends much on the standard of excellence, and I am inclined to think that the present Director pitches it rather high.

Comparing the bonuses to deserving teachers shown in paragraph 54 with the punishments, it would appear that masters had on the whole done very well.

(3)

The great and general increase of indigenous schools in all districts is somewhat surprising, and no doubt the statistics are not quite trustworthy, but if they are encouraged, I feel confident that they will be appreciated. Their stability cannot depend so much on accidental circumstances as the Director seems to think, and now that the rules for aided schools in Bombay have been adopted, I hope that they will be sympathetically treated by our educational officers and encouraged in every way.

11. The amount spent on buildings for primary schools was Rs. 21,780, and 10 buildings were completed and 2 still under construction. Rs. 18,754 were spent on repairs.

There are still 88 primary schools said to require new buildings, and 25 require additional accommodation.

The Training College.

12. The scheme for improving the Training College has been revised, and new courses of study laid down during the past year.

The results of the annual examination are more satisfactory, and the number of passes in the first year's course increased from 18 to 32, and both on the Marathi and Hindustani side there was an improvement. Thirty-one students were sent out as masters during the year.

The selection of candidates by examination at Akola was carried out at Akola by the Director, and he found it promising. I look upon this re-organization of the Training College as a great step towards education of a better sort, and if we can make the college a really good institution, we shall have achieved a success that has been long wanting to the department.

13. The Industrial Training School has now 17 pupils, and has been open only 15 months. The Director says it has made a marked advance, but I am afraid I cannot endorse his opinion. I have visited it two or three times, and I think we much need a competent Principal of the school, a practical man of a mechanical turn of mind. Such a man is difficult to find. Still a beginning has been made in Amraoti as well as at Akola, and I hope that this most important branch of education may find favour.

Female Education.

14. The number of female schools has decreased by one since last year, and in the quinquennial period there is an increase of two only, and the pupils have increased from 1,653 to 1,909.

But under Mr. Patwardhan's encouragement, it has become the practice to allow little girls to attend boys' schools, and apparently this practice has found favour for 1,709 girls who attended boys' schools, so that during the five years the number of girls who are being educated has increased from 2,124 to 3,707, which is a considerable improvement.

The Education of Special Classes.

15. Under this head I think it is proper to call attention to the fact that there are 88 Urdu schools for Muhammadan boys and girls with 4,645 pupils on the rolls. Considering that Urdu is not the language of Berar, that it is not used in the courts and not spoken by the people, and the percentage of Muhammadans to the population of Berar is only 7 per cent., it seems to me that the expenditure on these schools is excessive, and that the class of Muhammadans in Berar who attend them is very low. They save the Muhammadan community from providing the religious Koran schools that exist in Upper India, but the Urdu they learn is of little practical use to them, as it is not the language of this part of India.

16. There is a considerable increase of education among the low castes, and the example set by Janu Mahar in erecting a boarding house at Akola is an excellent one.

17. On the whole, during the last five years there has been a fair amount of progress in Government and District Boards' schools, and the administration of the department has been more effective and economical.

The point to which I think attention is required is the development of indigenous primary education.

(4)

18. Rao Sahib S. V. Patwardhan has done a great deal for his department; he has his heart in the work, and his object is to give a practical and sound education; and if he can improve the indigenous schools, the industrial schools, and put primary education on a good basis, he will deserve much gratitude from the people of Berar.

The Inspector of Schools, Mr. V. M. Mahajani, M.A., is a very capable officer, and should be able to assist him in his efforts.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

F. S. BULLOCK,

Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts.

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