

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
PROGRESS OF EDUCATION
IN THE
PUNJAB
FOR THE YEAR
1958-59



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PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT

READ.—The Report of the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, for the year ending the 31st March, 1959.

2. Provision of educational facilities for all its citizens is the first priority in a welfare State; and in all projects of national reconstruction education has a key role. It is gratifying to note that during the year under review facilities were extended at all levels, and pace of expansion and improvement in the field of education at all stages was satisfactory. But the system of Education also must keep pace with the national aspirations. It must promote the full efflorescence of the personality of its citizens, and must enable them to make their full contribution in the onward march of their country. Hence there is a need of periodic appraisal and consequent adjustment. The year under review registered some momentous decisions in educational reconstruction.

3. The most important has been the decision to switch over to the Higher Secondary System of Education. The Secondary Stage is a vital link in the whole educational set up and the need of reform had been felt for long. The Secondary Education Commission recommended its reconstruction. The new scheme have two main features the enriched curricular content and scope for diverse aptitudes. The Punjab University decided to introduce the new system and the Government gave its concurrence. 141 traditional type of High Schools adopted the new pattern during the year under review. Experiment is the major manifestation of motivation for progress. Thus this experiment is highly significant.

4. Another important decision has been to make education free in the 6th class in all Government Schools. This in itself is an important landmark, for it records a step forward towards the realisation of the directive principle enunciated in the Constitution of India for free and compulsory education for the age group 6-14. Government was anxious to extend this concession even to students in private institutions, but paucity of funds was in the way. However, a special grant of Rs. 4 lakhs was disbursed to private schools to compensate those who had suffered heavy losses as a result of the free education policy of Government.

5. Yet another significant decision was the revision of the grades of pay of women Officers belonging to P. E. S. (I) and P. E. S. (II). A proposal to remove the disparity between the pay scales of men and women Officers in P. E. S. (I) and P. E. S. (II) had been under the consideration of Government for some time past and during the year under review it was decided that the pay scales of both men and women Officers belonging to these services be brought at par. The decision became effective from the 1st July, 1958.

6. At the end of the year under review, 56.4% of the children in the age group 6-11 and 19.4% in the age group 11-17 were at school as compared with the last year's figures of 56.9% and 19.4% respectively. There was an overall increase in the number of educational institutions of various types in the State. The total number of educational institutions at the end

of the year report was 16,025 as compared with the last year's total of 15,237. The number of scholars recorded an increase of 44,605 from 19,22,318 in 1957-58 to 19,68,923. Both Government and the private organisations took an active interest in the spread of education. The total expenditure on education from various sources increased from Rs. 12,98,70,732 in 1957-58 to Rs. 14,37,62,569 in the year under review.

7. Consequent upon the addition of the following three Schemes, the Plan outlay for the year under review was raised from Rs. 131.92 lakhs to Rs. 256.11 lakhs—

- (i) Revision of Salary scales of Primary and Secondary School teachers.
- (ii) Expansion of Girls Education.
- (iii) Scheme to relieve educated unemployment.

Out of the Education Plan provision of Rs. 256.11 lakhs, expenditure to the tune of Rs. 134.20 lakhs only could be incurred—the main reason for the shortfall being that the scheme for the revision of salary scales of primary and secondary school teachers could not be fully implemented because of some inherent difficulties in drawing up of the seniority lists of the teachers of the Local Bodies Schools which had been provincialized by Government. Leaving out the item of 'Revision of Salary scales of Teachers', the actual performance covered Rs. 100.16 lakhs against the Plan provision of Rs. 131.92 lakhs.

8. The progress in the sphere of elementary education was fairly satisfactory. 41 existing classes of the ordinary type of schools were converted into the Basic pattern, 30 Basic and 240 non-Basic Classes were added and one Rural and Kindergarten School was started at Hadiabad. The total number of students in all the Primary Schools was 9,41,709 as against the corresponding enrolment of 9,35,693 in 1957-58. The average area served by a Primary School was about 3.8 square miles.

9. In the field of secondary education, the most notable achievement, as mentioned earlier, was the conversion of 141 High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools with effect from the 1st April, 1958. A sum of Rs.7.57 lakhs was spent for providing additional accommodation, furniture and equipment for Science to Government Higher Secondary Schools during the year under review. Additional staff, equipment and furniture were also provided to the other existing Government Schools, both for boys and girls.

10. In the field of University education, the pace of expansion was not only maintained but was indeed accelerated during the year under report. In the private sector, three new Colleges came into existence, one each at Chandigarh, Karnal and Ludhiana. The Colleges at the last two places were Women Colleges. The Punjab University and the Kurukshetra University were given a grant of Rs. 5 lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs respectively for construction works. Besides, the Punjab University was also given a general grant of Rs. 2,82,500 and another grant of Rs. 75,000 for its teaching departments. A sum of Rs. 6 lakhs was paid by way of maintenance and special grants to non-Government affiliated Colleges. The year under review witnessed the starting of a new and rather important department, namely,

the Geology Department in the Punjab University. This has particular significance in view of the importance attached to geological survey almost all over the country. In the Kurukshetra University there was a change in the office of the Chancellor as well as the Vice Chancellor, during the year under report. Shri C. P. N. Singh was succeeded as Chancellor by Shri N. V. Gadgil and Dr. A. C. Joshi was succeeded as Vice Chancellor by Shri Hardwari Lal. Institutions engaged in research in Sanskrit studies and in Sikh History as well as in the promotion of Hindi, Punjabi and Sanskrit were given a grant of Rs. 72,000.

11. Consequent upon the provincialization of the Local Bodies Schools in the area of erstwhile Punjab with effect from the 1st October, 1957, representations began to pour in from the public of the area of erstwhile Pepsu for taking over the schools maintained by the Municipal Committees in that area also. Accordingly, Government decided to take over 12 such schools with effect from the 1st June, 1958. The number of employees benefited by this decision was 80.

12. Basic education continued to make steady progress during the year under review. The number of junior and Senior Basic Schools in the State rose from 691 in the preceding year to 767 during the year under review. The total number of students in Junior and Senior Basic Schools also registered an increase i. e. from 79,279 to 90,777. The total direct expenditure on Junior and Senior Basic Schools increased by Rs. 5,05,019 from Rs. 25,23,316 in 1957-58 to 30,06,763 during 1958-59. A Committee was appointed, during the year under review, to frame a uniform syllabus for the Post Basic Schools at Rajpura and Faridabad. This work was accomplished by the Committee after discussions with the representatives of the Punjab University.

13. One of the main difficulties in the way of the expansion of girls' education in the State has been the lack of suitable residential accommodation for women teachers in rural areas. The Education Department has lately been recruiting only women teachers for the new Primary Schools, so that this may give a fillip to the cause of girls' education, which has lagged considerably behind boys' education in the State. Women teachers were, however, as a rule, found most reluctant to go and serve in rural areas in the State; and one of the chief factors for this reluctance was the absence of suitable residential accommodation in villages. To solve this difficulty two schemes were launched with the assistance of the Government of India, during the year under review. Funds were made available to the Local Panchayats for the construction of 203 residential quarters for women teachers. This step should go a long way to ease the accommodation problem for women teachers in the far flung rural areas of the State.

14. During the year under review, the bifurcation of the office of the Director of Public Instruction and of the Secretary to Government Punjab, Education Department, was completed. The ranks of Additional Secretary and Deputy Secretary in the Education Department were withdrawn from the Director of Public Instruction and the Joint Director of Public Instruction respectively and separate full-fledged officers were appointed as Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary in the Administrative Department.

15. A distinctive feature of the year under review was the completion of the educational survey of the State which had been started in 1957-58. The

survey has provided very useful data, which would serve as a basis for educational Planning for the next good many years at least.

16. On the side of Physical Education, a distinctive feature of the programme carried out during the year under review was the introduction of Yogic Exercises and Asans in the State. To start with, four Yoga Centres were opened at Chandigarh to impart training to the general public and students. The interest evinced by the Public has been encouraging as more than 300 persons availed of the training facilities at these centres during the year.

17. Chandigarh—the State Capital—had the privilege of being the venue of the 33rd Annual Session of the All India Educational Conference which was held in December, 1958. Scholars and educationists of repute from all over the country attended this Conference. The Union Education Minister, Doctor K. L. Shrimali, presided over the Conference.

18. The Punjab University, Kurukshetra University and other Departments of the State like Industries, Agriculture, Health and Directorate of Technical Education concerned with educational development continued to make satisfactory progress in providing greater facilities for professional and technical education.

19. The office of the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, was held by Shri I. M. Verma, P. E. S. (I), who at the headquarters, was assisted by 11 P. E. S. (I) and 1 P. E. S. (II) officers.

20. Ordered that the above review be printed and circulated along with the Report and published in the Punjab Government Gazette and forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, for submission to the Government of India, Ministry of Education, New Delhi, together with copies of the Report.

(C. D. KAPUR)
Secretary to Government Punjab,
Education and Language Departments.

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