

# AN EDUCATIONAL SURVEY OF A DISTRICT

Being  
A Quantitative study of Vernacular Primary and  
Secondary Education in the District of  
Etawah in the United Provinces  
of Agra and Oudh.

*(With numerous tables, graphs, maps and illustrations)*

S. N. CHATURVEDI, M.A. (London)  
*Provincial Educational Service*

WITH A FOREWORD BY  
H. R. HARROP, M.A., I.E.S.  
*Director of Public Instruction, U. P.*

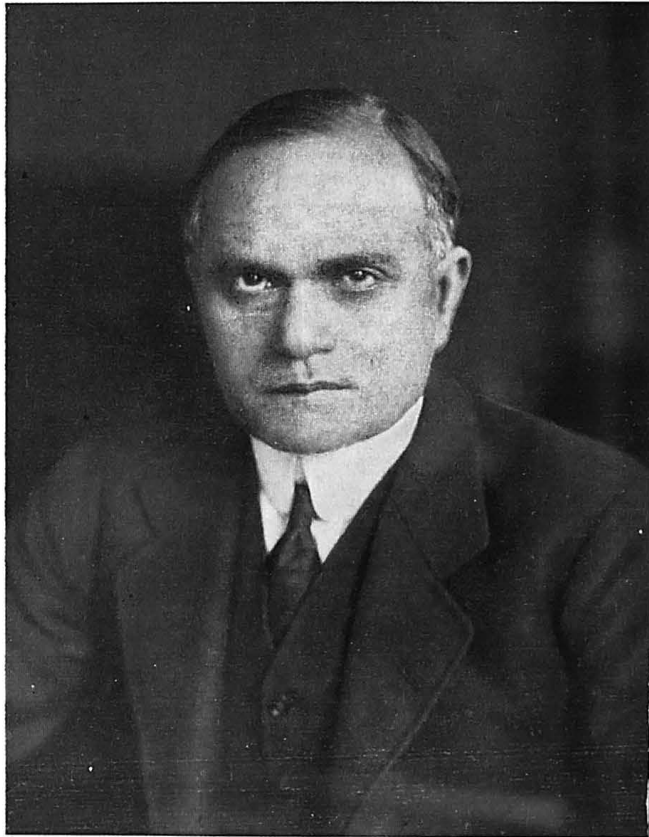


ALLAHABAD  
THE INDIAN PRESS, LTD.

1935

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*Printed and Published by K. Mitra, at The Indian Press, Ltd., Allahabad.*



SIR ATUL CHATTERJI

To  
Sir Atul Chandra Chatterji,  
G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.  
Administrator Statesman Patriot

## FOREWORD

I have been fortunate enough to see this book in manuscript. I cannot of course accept any responsibility for the figures or statements or views expressed in it. I heartily commend the book to the study of all who are interested to forward the material, mental, and spiritual welfare of the Indian peasant who forms the great majority of the Indian population. The book shows clearly how much remains to be done and how many obstacles lie in the way before the leaders and rulers of India can say that the people whom they represent have attained a reasonable measure of health, wealth, and happiness. The task is not one which it is the duty of any single individual to perform. It is a task which requires the self-sacrificing efforts of many men working together for many years. To my mind there is little that is more grievous and distressing than to see the vast waste of ability, energy, and time which is occasioned by struggles for power. We spend our time in arguing and quarrelling as to who is to do the work while the work is left undone. To every real friend of India, I commend a perusal of this book which illuminates the condition of education throughout the United Provinces and indeed throughout India as a whole; and I trust that those who believe in education as a means of helping to raise mankind will join the Education Department in its efforts to improve and expand effective education.

- H. R. HARROP,  
*(Offg.) Director of Public Instruction,*  
*United Provinces.*

*November 1, 1934.*

## PREFACE

In 1927 when I was in London, Sir Atul Chatterji suggested to me that I should make educational surveys of a few districts on my return home to India. I was out of employment for about six months in 1928 and during this period I approached a few gentlemen for help in this work, but could get no response. Soon after my appointment as an Assistant Inspector of Schools in the United Provinces, I expressed my desire to make a detailed educational survey of a district to the then Director of Public Instruction, Mr. A. H. Mackenzie, who not only permitted me to undertake the work but also encouraged me by offering official help in my study.

I, however, preferred to make the survey in my private capacity, in my spare time and at my own expense. I selected the district of Etawah for the survey. Of the two districts which I know intimately, Allahabad is too big and unwieldy. Hence I had no other choice. Etawah is a comparatively small and compact district, with three clear-cut natural divisions and is predominantly agricultural. At that time it had an inspecting staff on whose cordial co-operation and help I could rely.

Originally it was intended to make a quantitative as well as a qualitative survey of the education of the district. For the former study, four sets of questionnaires (on teachers, pupils, schools and villages without a school) were prepared. An information and acquirement test and an intelligence test were also prepared. Arrangements were made for the collection of samples of the handwriting and essays of all the boys of the upper primary classes.

After the necessary arrangements, the survey was made in January 1929. A huge mass of data was collected. As a full school history and information regarding the home of each child in school in January 1929 in the district was obtained, the number of these sheets alone was over 24,000. Answers to the questionnaires regarding schools and teachers brought the total to about 26,000. The papers on the acquirement and intelligence tests were in addition to these papers. Samples of handwriting, composition, intelligence tests, etc., considerably swelled the number of the material for study.

While these papers were being collected, I was transferred from Allahabad to Jhansi and the papers followed me there. Before I had settled down and begun to work on them, I was placed first on Special Duty and later was taken in the office at the Headquarters. The work there did not leave any time or energy for sifting the material or for the study of the data collected by me. In 1932, I was reverted to my substantive appointment as an Assistant Inspector and again I found time to devote to my hobby. By the time, however, I had finished the study and had written out half of it, I was moved to Fyzabad where I completed it.

First of all, the schools were numbered and information under each head was tabulated. Cards of different colours were used for different types of information,

This was the most exacting type of drudgery and would have been beyond me but for the devoted help I received from some of my old pupils and young friends.

After the figures had been collected, added and tabulated, necessary graphs, charts and diagrams had to be prepared. The data thus collected was then studied and the study was written out.

In the initial stages of my study I was struck with the fact that much of the unsatisfactory condition of education was due to the poverty of the masses. This led me to make further investigations into the economic condition of the people in the district. It is impossible to appreciate the true import of the educational conditions without a knowledge of the economic condition of the villagers. But there was a danger of over-doing it and I restrained myself from allowing my educational survey to become an economic survey. An attempt has been made, however, to give a proper economic background in the first section of this book.

In order to get into closer touch with the villagers, zamindars, etc., I met them at several centres in different parts of the district. In each place from about fifty to over a hundred people from all strata of society met me and there was free and frank exchange of views. These visits were made possible through the special permission of the Director of Public Instruction.

In this book I have been able to make a study of the schools, pupils and teachers. In a subsequent volume I propose to deal with educational finances, educational administration and other related topics.

I do not claim that I have made any revolutionary discoveries about the educational conditions in the Province in this survey. Perhaps most of the conclusions are familiar to those who are engaged in the field of education in these provinces. The importance of this survey lies in the fact that a whole district has been studied and the conclusions are not merely "impressions" or opinions based on them, but they are founded on hard facts and figures which have been obtained first hand and which have been studied scientifically.

No one is more conscious than myself of the shortcomings and limitations of this survey. But my only excuse is that the task was new and I had no experience or guidance. I had to chalk out my own lines of investigation. As I studied the figures, often it occurred to me that some more information, or information obtained in a different manner could have proved of better use. If I ever undertake a similar work again, I am sure, the results will be much better. However, I present these results to an indulgent but critical public and am sure their criticisms will enable me to improve my next survey. The views expressed in this book are entirely my own and the Department of Public Instruction is not in any way responsible for them.

The book was printed at Allahabad when I was posted at Fyzabad. On account of my touring duties, the proofs of the book followed me from place to place. For

these reasons I could not give sufficient personal attention to the printing of the book and as a result many mistakes might have crept into it.

My grateful thanks are due to Dr. A. H. Mackenzie, M.A., D.Litt., C.S.I., C.I.E., for the keen and benevolent interest he took in the survey and the encouragement he gave me in this work. In 1931 during my leave in England, I had the privilege of showing the outline of the study to Sir Michael Sadler who made very valuable suggestions for my guidance. I am greatly indebted to him and to Mr. P. M. Kharegat, I.C.S., for his interest in the early stages of this study. I place on record my appreciation of the hearty co-operation I received from Pandit Shyam Sunder Lal Shukla, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Etawah, and his assistants—especially Pandit Shyam Lal Shukla and Thakur Shukdeo Singh. Pandit Darshan Singh Sharma, a teacher of the District Board, Etawah, proved of considerable help on account of his unrivalled local knowledge and consistent hard work. My thanks are also due to my pupils and young friends, Messrs. Krishna Pyare Lal, M.A., L.T., Devi Din Trivedi, M.A., L.T., and Dina Nath Chaturvedi, M.A., L.T., and to my nephew Upendra Nath Chaturvedi, C.T., for their cheerful and ungrudging help at various stages—especially in calculating percentages, preparing graphs, typing manuscript, etc. My friend Mr. B. N. Jha, B.Ed. (Edin.), P.E.S., kindly went through the manuscript before it was sent to the press, and made many valuable suggestions. Lastly, I have to thank Mr. H. K. Ghosh, the talented proprietor of The Indian Press, Ltd., and his brother, Mr. H. P. Ghosh, for the excellent get-up of the book.

Mr. H. R. Harrop, M.A., I.E.S., Director of Public Instruction, has very kindly allowed me to publish this study. His interest in vernacular education is very well-known and it is in the fitness of things that the most vernacular-education-minded Director of Public Instruction should bless this first systematic survey of vernacular education in the province by writing a foreword to it. He has thus laid me under a deep debt of gratitude which I thankfully acknowledge.

S. N. CHATURVEDI.



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## APPENDIX I-A

*Details of the basis on which the Income and Expenditure have been worked out.*

### A.—EXPENDITURE

1. *Rent*—Rent varies in different parts of the district from Re. 1 to Rs. 10 per bigha according to the nature and location of the soil. The consensus of opinion of the zamindars was that Rs. 3 was the average for the district while the peasants put it at Rs. 4 per bigha. In order to avoid over-estimation of cost, I have accepted the lower figure.

2. This cultivator will have two bullocks. It is presumed that he has one and has to buy the other. The price of an average bullock in the district varies from Rs. 40 to Rs. 80. The Mahajan charges interest at the rate of 6 pies to 1 anna per rupee per month in villages. Assuming that the bullock is priced Rs. 40 and the interest is 6 pies, the annual interest comes to Rs. 15 for the price of a bullock. But the cultivator would be making part payment during the course of the year, and so the average has been taken to be Rs. 12 per year. Here again the lower figures have been taken to avoid over-estimation of cost.

3. *Feed for Bullocks*.—The daily diet of a bullock is 7½ to 15 seers but dearth of fodder compels the peasant to put before them neem, peepul, date-palm and fig leaves. Sometimes green leaves and stalks are chopped and mixed with hay and fodder. In the rainy season, bullocks are left to graze in usars and grass-lands and near gardens and nullahs. After the rabi crop has been got in, the bullocks are again let loose for a month to graze and given a little fodder in the evenings.

Corn and oil-cakes are not given daily to bullocks. About 20 per cent get corn and oil-cakes in the hard ploughing season of October and November. When a bullock is to be disposed off it gets these luxuries to come into form.

The details of the feeding-cost of a pair of bullocks for a year is as follows:—

1. Grass—2 months	..	..	.. Nil
2. Maize-stalks—6 months (300 bundles)	..	..	Rs. 20
3. Hay—4 months (25 maunds)	..	..	Rs. 15
4. Corn, oil-cakes, salt, etc., 1 maund	..	..	Rs. 5
TOTAL			.. Rs. 40

In the rainy season a few peasants give mixed hay to their bullocks.

4. *Cost of Seed*.—The corn for seeds is dearer than the average corn. Less seed is required for kharif and hence is obtained for less money. But more seed is required for the rabi crop. In the kharif, black beans and pulses (urud, mung, rausa, moth) are sown along with millet, maize and juar. The holding is divided

almost equally between the kharif and the rabi. In November, sometimes after gathering in a crop of maize and green fodder, the rabi crop is sown in the same field.

The seed required per bigha for rabi varies from 20 to 30 seers and on an average is about  $22\frac{1}{2}$  seers. The annual cost of seed is detailed below:—

Crop.	Bighas.	Weight.	Price.
Kharif .. ..	6	30 seers	Rs. 3
Rabi { Grain ..	6	3 mds. 15 seers	Rs. 17
{ Oil-seeds, etc. ..	..	..	Rs. 2
TOTAL ..			Rs. 22

5. *Interest on cost of seed.*—The *mahajan* lends seed in kind at the market rate less one seer per rupee approximately and keeps the account in cash. At the harvest-time the grain, at one seer per rupee more than the market-rate equivalent in cash to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times the cash-value of the grain lent in November, is taken from the peasant.

If the money-values are taken into account, the peasant pays about 25 per cent interest, but if the amounts of grain are taken account of, the interest payable by the peasant amounts to 50 per cent or more.

6. *Irrigation Dues.*—Irrigation charges, incidentals and other inconveniences make it generally impossible for the peasant to irrigate more than a half of his holding. The fields near a main or branch canal are irrigated in two ways—by flow and by lift. In the first kind only one man is required and usually the peasant does all the work himself. He has to pay only the government dues amounting to Rs. 3-2-0 per bigha.

In the lift system, buckets are swung by labourers and the irrigation charges are Rs. 1-9-0 per bigha. The average charge for all grains per bigha is Rs. 2-2-0 and hence the average cost of irrigating  $10/2$  or 5 bighas is Rs. 12. In irrigation by wells, three men are required per bucket, of which, generally, only one is hired, the family of the peasant doing the work of the other two. This man is paid in cash at the rate of Rs. 6 per month and hence, the irrigation season lasting for 2 months, his wages amount to Rs. 12.

7. *Irrigation Labour-charges.*—The daily wage in villages is As. 3 per diem. Peasants, as far as possible, try to do all their work themselves but they have to employ labour when there is a need for it. In irrigation by flow no labour is needed. But about half the holding being irrigated by the lift-system, 25 working days are required to irrigate it twice. Nine of these are put forth by the peasant's family and the cost of the remaining 16 comes to Rs. 3.

*Well-expenses.*—There are more than half kachha irrigation-wells in a village. Rarely two-thirds of these are masonry wells. The walls of the kachha wells fall in

and to remove the earth and to plant jhau, etc., for strengthening the walls, something has to be done every year. A well-diver takes As. 10 per day and the cost of re-conditioning a well is as follows:—

Wages of the well-diver 2 days .. .. .	Rs. 1-4
Bira bandhai .. .. .	Re. 0-12
Parchha, Pahariya Repairs .. .. .	Re. 1-0
TOTAL .. .. .	Rs. 3-0

8. *Harvesting in rabi*.—Five men can reap a pucca bigha of rabi. Therefore, for 6 bighas 30 men will be required. They are not paid in cash but in small sheaves each containing  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 seers of grain. In the reaping-season there is a great demand for labour. The children look after the cattle and the peasant himself saves the wages of 6 men in all. The payments to the remaining 24 men amount to

Per head	Grain	Re. 0-4	Hay	Re. 0-1	Total	Re. 0-5
24 men	„	Rs. 6-0	„	Rs. 1-8	Total	Rs. 7-8

9. *Harvesting in kharif*.—Generally, the corn-heads in kharif are chopped off and the stalks are left standing in the field. If there is a hurry, labourers are employed sometimes. The average cost of labour per bigha is As. 3 and the total for 5 bighas amounts to Re. 1.

10. *Threshing of Corn*.—There are two parts in threshing—crushing the grain and blowing off the chaff. No labour is required for crushing. The peasant and his family do all the work. Labour is needed for blowing off the chaff.

24 men can blow off the chaff of the produce of 6 bighas. The work of 12 men is done by the peasant and his friends and the chamar (for whom some grain is left in each heap). The cost of labour for 12 men at As. 3 per head is Rs. 2-4-0 plus As. 4 for gur at intervals. The total thus comes to Rs. 2-8.

11. *Repairs to and replacement of implements*.—Dove-tailing, making of rake for hay, etc., is done by the family carpenter who is paid annually 15 to 20 seers of grain. Planks, cross-pieces, haris, etc., will have to be paid for separately or purchased cash down. Iron-work such as repairs to chopper, scythe, axe, khurpi and spade or sharpening is done by the blacksmith who gets 10 seers of grain annually.

Blades have to be bought every year and some other wooden or iron implements have to be bought or replaced also in rotation. The average expenses are detailed below:—

Wood-work .. .. .	Rs. 2-0
Iron-work .. .. .	Re. 1-0
Price of blade .. .. .	Re. 0-8
Other implements (repairs or purchases) .. .. .	Rs. 1-8
TOTAL .. .. .	Rs. 5-0

12. *Manure*.—As a matter of fact the cultivator has to pay nothing for the manure. He prepares it from the cow-dung, farm and kitchen refuse, etc. But as on the credit side, the price of the cow-dung of the bullocks has been estimated at Rs. 5 per year, the amount has been shown here as expenditure to balance the account.

13. *Cost of grain as gift.*

Nai .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5	seers.	
Dhobi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5	”	
Sweeper .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2½	”	
Kahar .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5	”	
Seonrhi (given to Brahmin, son-in-law or brother-in-law or his son).	..	..	..	..	2½	”	
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5	”	
TOTAL						..	25 seers.

Cost Rs. 3 @ 8 seers to a rupee.

## B.—INCOME

(1) Rabi Produce (6 pucca bighas)—							
Grain at 3½ mds. per bigha—21 mds.	..	..	..	..	Rs.	100	
Hay at 4½ mds.—27 mds.	..	..	..	..	Rs.	20	
Oil-seeds 2 mds.	..	..	..	..	Rs.	10	
(2) Kharif Produce (6 pucca bighas)—							
Corn—at 1¾ mds.—10½ mds.	..	..	..	..	Rs.	40	
Stalks 250 bundles	..	..	..	..	Rs.	10	
(3) Cow-dng cakes and manure	..	..	..	..	Rs.	5	
TOTAL						..	Rs. 185

Prices of grain in January 1929 in Etawah according to the record of the Etawah Branch of the Allahabad Bank were as follows:—

Grain	Price per maund.	
	Rs.	As.
Wheat .. .. .	..	4 12
Barley .. .. .	..	3 12
Gram .. .. .	..	4 12
Pea .. .. .	..	3 12
Bejhar .. .. .	..	3 12
Arhar .. .. .	..	4 8
Lahi .. .. .	..	7 8
Sehuan .. .. .	..	7 12
Andi .. .. .	..	6 10
Sarson .. .. .	..	7 12
Bajra .. .. .	..	4 4
Rice .. .. .	..	5 0
Urd .. .. .	..	6 0
Darai .. .. .	..	2 8
Dhan .. .. .	..	2 8
Cotton seed .. .. .	..	3 0
Maize .. .. .	..	3 4
Juar .. .. .	..	3 12
Moong .. .. .	..	4 8

## APPENDIX II

### REFERENCES

*Page 2 lines 15 and 16.*

The scheme is fully discussed in 'Afforestation in the United Provinces, India,' by E. Benskin, M.A., I.F.S., Allahabad, 1921.

Also see pages 15 and 16 of *The Fisher Forest in Etawah: A Gazetteer*, edited by D. L. Drake-Brockmann, I.C.S., Allahabad, 1911.

*Page 3 line 3.*

Statistical, Descriptive and Historical account of the North-Western Provinces of India, Volume IV, Part I, page 241, Allahabad, 1876, by E. T. Atkinson, B.A., B.C.S.

*Page 10 lines 5, 6 and 7.*

Report on the settlement of the Etawah District for the years 1868—1874, by Crosthwaite and Neale, page 51.

*Page 10 lines 12—15.*

Etawah: A Gazetteer, Drake-Brockmann, page 91.

*Page 13 line 14.*

Census Report of the United Provinces (Turner), 1931.

*Page 13 line 31.*

Page 103 of the Report on the Settlement of the Etawah District for the years 1868—1874, Allahabad, 1875.

*Page 15 line 10.*

Ibid.

Column 6 in table III on page 6 has been taken from Appendix XI (page 36) and column 7 from page 8 of Final Settlement Report of Etawah District in U. P., 1911—1914 by E. S. Liddard, I.C.S., Allahabad, 1915. Columns 2, 3 and 4 of this table have been taken from the last Census Report (1931).

Tables on page 11 have been prepared from Appendix XI, page 36 of the above Report.

Figures for Tables I and II on page 4 have been taken from the Census Report of 1931.

APPENDIX III  
Please see p. 109