

A short history of the
working of the Society for the
promotion of education among
the masses, for the past 20
years



A SHORT HISTORY

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Promotion of Education among
the Masses, for the past twenty years.



Distributed on the occasion of the Annual Distribution of Prizes to the pupils of the Society's Schools, on Monday the 22nd November, 1909, His Excellency Sir George Sydenham Clarke, the Governor of Bombay, presiding.

**The Society for the
Promotion of Education among the Masses.**

INSTITUTIONS MANAGED BY THE SOCIETY.

- (1) THE DADABHAI NOWROJI
POOR BOYS' SEMINARY.
- (2) THE DADABHAI NOWROJI
FREE LIBRARY & READING ROOM.
- (3) THE CHINCHPOGLI FREE DAY
AND NIGHT SCHOOLS.
- (4) THE CHINCHPOGLI FREE
LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.
- (5) THE COLABA FREE NIGHT SCHOOL.

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Donations and gifts to the Society will be gratefully received and acknowledged by Mr. K. N. Mahale, Hony. Secretary. Address: Mahale and Co., Marwari Bazaar, Bombay, or, Bazaar Road, Mahim.

A SHORT HISTORY.

THE conviction, that Mass Education is the root of all national progress and prosperity, having gained ground firmly in the minds of persons such as Mr. N. G. Welinkar, M.A., LL.B., Mr. K. B. Wagle, M.A., Mr. S. R. Bhandarkar, M.A., Mr. G. B. Laghate, B.A. LL.B., Mr. H. Ramanna, Mr. K. J. Sanjana, M.A. and Mr. Shaik Adam Amir and others, in the middle of March 1889, efforts were made by them to seek out a locality, inhabited by the poorest classes of the community, and to establish there a School which should supply free rudimentary education through the medium of the Vernaculars to the children of these classes. Tardeo suited them for the purpose on account of its many mills. Accordingly a meeting of friends was called on the 1st of April 1889 when Mr. Ramchandra Vishnu Madgaokar, B.A., the President of the meeting, declared "The Poor Boys' Seminary" open for the benefit of "destitute children." Provision was made to supply instruction up to the fourth Marathi Standard, the School being intended to provide primary instruction through the medium of Marathi. The average number of pupils on the roll was 64 and average daily attendance 41 for that year.

In order to carry out the work the promoters had to seek the support of the public. Amongst the early

supporters were men like Mr. Tukaram Tatya, Dr. Atmaram Pandurang, Mr. R. V. Madgaokar, Mr. Justice Telang, Mr. J. N. Permanand, Mr. Baba Laxman, Mr. R. B. Paymaster, Mr. B. A. Bhagvat, Mr. K. B. Wagle, Mr. S. R. Bhandarkar and the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Dikshit. The last three have continued to be supporters up to the present time.

By and by the School made good progress. In the year 1891 two prizes were offered to the pupils of the School on the occasion of the prize distribution; one by Col. Wilson, the then Commissioner of Police, to the most regular boy, and another by Dr. Pechey Phipson to the most regular girl. In October 1891 the School was registered as an indigenous School and received a grant of Rs. 50. During the year 1892—3 His Highness the Maharaja of Baroda was pleased to make a liberal donation of Rs. 1,000 through his late minister Diwan Bahadur Luxmon Jagganath, and the venerable Parsee Baronet, Sir Dinshaw M. Petit, made a donation of Rs. 100 through the efforts of Mr. H. A. Acworth, I.C.S., then Municipal Commissioner of Bombay.

In the year 1903 the School attracted the notice of H. H. the Maharaja of Bhownagar who made a donation of Rs. 100.

This year attempts were made to secure the support of the Mill Owners Association relying upon the support and sympathy of such distinguished gentlemen as Sir D. M. Petit, Mr. George Cotton, Mr. H. A. Acworth and the Hon'ble Mr. N. N.

Wadia. In the year 1894 through the disinterested efforts of Mr. D. E. Wacha the institution received support from the following Mill Owners :—

Messrs. E. D. Sassoon	...	...	Rs. 300
Sir D. M. Petit	...	...	„ 100
Messrs. Tata and Sons	...	...	„ 100
Messrs. Greaves, Cotton	...	...	„ 30
Mr. F. D. Petit	...	...	„ 50

The Institution thus having gained a good footing the Committee thought it advisable to have a building of their own for their School. Accordingly in the year 1896 they selected and purchased a site where our present D. N. Poor Boys' Seminary stands. This work they were able to accomplish because of the handsome donations made by that philanthropic gentleman, Mr. Damodhar Goverdhandas Sukhadwalla. Until this time there were no regular rules for the working of the Institution. These having been framed and finally settled were adopted at a meeting of subscribers and donors held on the 22nd December, 1897, under the Presidency of Dr. Edith Pechey Phipson. At the time the rules were being framed it was felt that an isolated school, like the Poor Boys' Seminary, would not afford much scope for the carrying out of the objects which the friends of the Seminary have at heart. So the supporters of the Institution agreed to form themselves into a Society for the Promotion of Education among the Masses, and the rules were so framed as to include and apply to any operations which such a

Society can legitimately take in hand.

The D. N. Poor Boys' Seminary building was completed, and the ceremony of opening the 'new Building' was performed by Dr. R. G. Bhandarkar, C.I.E., on the 1st December, 1899. The next year on the 3rd of October, the morning of the Dasara Day, the D. N. Free Reading Room was declared open before a fairly large gathering, Mr. Janardhan Gopal, Solicitor, being in the Chair.

In the year 1904 The Hon'ble Mr. E. Giles, C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, presided on the occasion of the distribution of prizes. Being favourably impressed with the work the Society had been doing he recommended it for a building grant to Government and the Government kindly gave a grant of Rs. 3,331.

In the year 1905 the Day and Night Schools of the Dnyanottejack Mandali of Chinchpoogly were affiliated at the request of their Managers to this Society by a resolution that was unanimously passed at a Special General Meeting of the Society held on the 24th of August, 1905, under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. M. Cursetjee. In the year 1906 the managers of the Colaba Night School having applied to our Committee to take it over, and Mr. Damodhar Goverdhandas Sukhadwalla having again come forward with the handsome donation of Rs. 5,000, it was taken up by our Committee by a resolution passed at a General Meeting of the Society held on the 12th of July.

Thus for the present the Society has under its management two Day Schools, two Night Schools and two Reading Rooms. At the commencement we educated about 60 pupils while we now educate about 500. When we began work our expenses were Rs. 292 for the year, while they have now come to about Rs. 5,000 for a year. All this is the fruit of the patient work of Mr. N. G. Welinkar, M.A., L.L.B., the founder of the Institution and the other gentlemen, who formed the Managing Committee from time to time, assisted by friends. The Society is strongly desirous of extending its scope of usefulness by opening Schools and Reading Rooms in different parts of Bombay, but its developement depends upon the measure of support it secures from the public.



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