

GENERAL REPORT

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Accompaniment to EDUCATION.

D. No. 432

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN BENGAL

FOR

1888-89.

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CIRCULAR No. 13.

TO ALL INSPECTING OFFICERS IN THE CHOTA NAGPORE DIVISION

Calcutta, the 31st October 1889.

THE Government of Bengal has, in a Resolution on the Administration Report of the Chota Nagpore Division, dated the 26th August 1889, recorded the opinion that the increase in the number of aboriginal pupils in schools is not in proportion to the increased grants lately sanctioned. The scarcity that prevailed last year was, probably, one of the causes of this unsatisfactory result; but now that it has happily passed away, strenuous efforts should be made to attract more aboriginal pupils to schools and to bring them under efficient instruction. The Government has also drawn attention to the scanty success achieved by these pupils at the departmental examinations, and asked the Education Department to pay special attention to the welfare of this class of students.

2. Hereto annexed is a comparative statement giving, district by district, the statistics of aboriginal race education for five years. The figures indicate progress in regard to the numbers at school, but I entirely agree with the Commissioner of the Division in thinking that the results of the upper primary and middle examinations are not encouraging.

3. It must be borne in mind that three of the districts, namely, Hazaribagh, Manbhoom, and Singbhoom, have in recent years been each granted an additional sum of Rs. 2,000 a year for the encouragement of Sonthal education.

4. Some of the most experienced officers are of opinion that for the present and for some years to come, special measures for the encouragement of aboriginal race education are called for. Among those recommended for adoption and already in partial operation in some tract or other, the following deserve special notice:—

(1) To enlist the sympathy of the village headmen and elders in the cause of education, by the formation of local punchayets and by the Sub-Inspector's personal communication with them at the time of his visit.

To appoint gurus and inspecting gurus of the aboriginal races, especially relatives of men of influence in the community, who possess the requisite educational fitness. The best of them to be recommended for suitable employment under other departments, if practicable.

(3) To pay the inspecting gurus a fixed stipend of Rs. 5 and a large bonus varying according to results achieved, but not exceeding Rs. 50 a year. The reward-payments to be made before the assembled gurus and men of influence, the reason of the higher or the lower payments being briefly explained to the assembly:

(4) Gurus to be paid rewards at double rates for passing aboriginal pupils at the lower and upper primary scholarship examinations.

(5) Special rewards in kind to aboriginal boys and girls who pass the lower primary or upper primary examination with credit. Occasional or periodical money rewards to pupils who attend school regularly also deserve trial.

(6) Sub-Inspectors to spend 18 hours in each aboriginal patshala, at every other visit, so as to acquire an intimate knowledge of the ways of the people and to gain their confidence.

5. Every intelligent officer will be able to suggest improvements on the lines indicated above; and in districts, where we have already a staff of circle pandits, these men should be specially utilized in maintaining the upper primary schools in a full standard of efficiency. If each circle pandit teaches the upper boys of a school with real zeal for a few days in the month, the impression on them cannot fail to be of a satisfactory character.

RADHIKA PRASANNA MUKHERJI,

Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle.

NUMBER OF BOYS AT SCHOOL.

Year	Manbhoom.	Hazaribagh.	Lohardugga.	Singhbhoom.	Total.
1884-85	781	607	5,693	6,518	13,599
1885-86	1,048	649	5,252	5,846	12,795
1886-87	1,676	699	4,859	6,424	13,658
1887-88	1,727	720	5,592	6,917	14,956
1888-89	1,643	874	5,421	7,227	15,165

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

(a) Middle examination.

Year.	Manbhoom.	Hazaribagh.	Lohardugga.	Singhbhoom.	Total.
1884-85	12	2	14
1885-86	2	4	6
1886-87	1	4	5
1887-88	9	...	9
1888-89	...	1	14	4	19

(b) Upper primary examination.

Year.	Manbhoom.	Hazaribagh.	Lohardugga.	Singhbhoom.	Total.
1884-85	1	...	2	10	13
1885-86	...	3	...	21	24
1886-87	...	3	4	29	36
1887-88	...	2	6	22	30
1888-89	...	1	...	2	3

(c) Lower primary examination.

Year.	Manbhoom.	Hazaribagh.	Lohardugga.	Singhbhoom.	Total.
1884-85	1	2	48	114	165
1885-86	4	...	57	89	150
1886-87	1	1	9	140	151
1887-88	5	17	45	189	256
1888-89	10	12	41	194	257

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