

The Role of Christian Missionaries in Spreading the Education of Dooars

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Jalpaiguri is the land of water Jungle swamps. After the formation of the district the Expansion of education in this district took quite some time. The pace of education in the Pre-Independence Period was considerably slower. After the Independence there was some speed in the Spread of education. However, in the western part of Dooars, the touch of education had come to a great extent. Tea Industrialists first came forward to Spread education in Dooars Surrounded Led by the tea Plantations. Several schools were established under the initiative of tea Industrialist. Later this trend was carried forward by Christian missionaries.

Before discussing the contribution of Christian Missionaries a few things need to be said. The Asiatic Society and Fort William college were established to develop orientalist ideas. Later in 1800. A.D, the Baptist Mission was established in Sreerampore . Missionary activities in India changed over time. missionaries aimed to convert more Indians to Christianity. Missionaries realized that condition for achieving this goal was spread of education in India. They build Madras Christian college. Wilson college of Bombay, Nagpur Hislop College to based on the Spread of education in India. Later this trend came in dooars .

Not only tea entrepreneurs and tea industrialists were the ones who led the efforts to spread education, but the contribution of Christian women was also noteworthy. Christian missionaries came forward in every possible way to spread the education of Dooars. As a result of their self-initiative, many missionary schools were established, which I think needs further discussion.

We need to go back a bit to discuss the Christian missionaries. Women arrived in India long before the establishment of British rule. Christian missionaries came to this country to preach the gospel. However, apart from preaching religion, they also associated themselves with many social activities. Later, after the arrival of the British in this country, the Christian missionaries Arrivals also increased. After the arrival of Christian missionaries, they mainly chose tribal areas and remote areas for spreading religion and education. A few examples will give an idea about the matter. The reform movement in Bangladesh started mainly during the nineteenth century. In this context, several organizations were formed such as Bramha Samaj Ramakrishna Mission, Swami Vivekananda's ideology of unionistic sevadharma influenced the society. A branch organization of this Brahmo Samaj was again formed in the city of Jalpaiguri by 1901, but it is true that in this case the activities of each organization were city-centred, without much influence in the tribal areas. Besides, the influence of these organizations especially affected the middle class in the city. As a result, all these reform movements had a limitation. Hence it can be said that the activities of Christian missionaries helped in the expansion of the tribal areas.

As this tribal society was not much affected by the reform movement in Bangladesh, they welcomed the Christian missionaries and they also adopted their religion. Although evangelization was the main objective of these missionaries, they were instrumental in spreading education among the tribals. It must be mentioned. Jalpaiguri district was no exception to this activity of the missionaries. After the arrival of the missionaries in Jalpaiguri, they vowed to spread education. The secondary and higher secondary schools which were established by the initiative of the Christian missionaries greatly helped in the education of the female students here. Briefly giving a list of schools established by missionaries

1. Nagrakata St. Mary's Boarding High School (1935)
2. Nagrakata St. Capitano High School for Girls (1948)
3. Mal St. Bartholomew's High School (1947)
4. Pushika Higher Girls' School (St. Anne's Convent) (Year: 1972)

5. Nirmala Higher Girls' School (1957)
6. St. James High School (1973)
7. St. Diani High School (1972)
8. Mahakalguri Mission School (1946)
9. Santalpur Mission School (1964)

All these schools are mainly located in rural areas. However, let us briefly discuss about two schools. Among which the name of Nagrakata St. capitano School has to be mentioned first. It is one of the oldest schools in the region established by missionaries. It was established in 1948 by the efforts of Roman Catholics and missionaries. Later, by 1963, it was converted into a high school. Both Hindi and English are taught here. Mostly tribal girls' study in this school. is promoted. The medium of instruction here is Hindi. Also, the Santalpur Missionary School was established in 1964 and was approved as a Junior High School the following year. 1) Due to lack of information, it is not possible to give complete information about the activities of missionaries here. The activities of the missionaries were mainly noticed in places like Nagarakata, Mahakalguri, Alipurduar etc. of the Dooars and the beneficial role they played is evident from the establishment of schools. Here we present some information about their contribution in brief. Another residential school has been set up at Damanpur under the same Alipurduar Police Station with the efforts of the Catholic Diocese Society. Its name is Nirmala Convent. It was established in 1968. In 1960 it became Junior High and in 1965 High School.

Lastly said that, the Government of West Bengal has granted Government aid to some Missionary High Schools. In the same way, some primary school of missionaries was granted aid by the state government in Jalpaiguri district.

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