

PRIMARY EDUCATION IN CHITTOOR TOWN IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY

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ABSTRACT

Since the earliest times, the rulers and the people of India have given much importance to education. The instruction in those days was imparted in the village schools. There were specialized institutions like 'Ghnalika', 'Sthanas' and 'Vidyamandapams' and the 'Ashramas' of 'Acharyas' or 'Gurudevas'. Schools and other educational institutions were generally located in temples, monasteries, Mosques and Darghas.

The British Educational policy in India was based on the famous Woods Despatch of 1854 which is considered as the Magnacarta of English education in India. It recommended the establishment of educational institutions such as primary schools, high schools, colleges and universities. A Department of Education was formed in each province to manage these institutions. The landmark of this Dispatch was setting – up of vernacular primary schools in the villages and encouragement given to women's education. Grant-in-aid system was introduced in 1857 to aid the private schools. During the Viceroyalty of Ripon, a commission, under the chairmanship of Sir William Hunter, was constituted in 1884 to enquire how far the recommendations of Woods Dispatch were implemented. Hunter Commission recommended that the primary schools should be entrusted to the local bodies like Municipalities. In accordance with the recommendation of the commission, many schools in various provinces were entrusted to the local bodies. This article focuses the British Government's efforts to improve the standards of education in Chittoor municipality in Andhra Pradesh, which was known as Madras Presidency in British India. It is clear that primary schools and secondary schools maintained by the Municipality worked satisfactorily. The Educational facilities offered for girls of both the Hindus and Muslim communities, made commendable progress. The standard of education in all schools improved after the inception of the Municipality. Thus, the municipality is rendering useful service for the cause of education and public learning in the town

KEYWORDS: Gurudevas, Schools, Magnacarta, Progress, Public Learning