

## CHAPTER XV

### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

#### 210. Historical Background

It is known from the *Vinaya Pitaka* that during the time of Buddha, Vassa and Bhanna tribes of Ukkla (Utkala) professed a school of philosophy which was called Natthikavada (Nihilism) and Akiriyavada (Non-action). Bhanna people were very probably the ancestors of the Bhanjas of medieval period. It appears that the territory now forming the district of Mayurbhanj was inhabited by these people as early as the 6th century B. C. and this was the land of the philosophical speculation of the doctorines of Natthikavada and Akiriyavada referred to in the early Pali literature. It is further known that these people later on changed their doctrine in favour of Buddhistic thoughts and advocated the theory of causation propounded by Buddha.

From the Copper plate records of Bhanja rulers we know that there was a famous hermitage in this region known as Kotyasrama identified by Shri N. N. Basu with modern Kutling, 36 miles from Baripada. This hermitage was very likely a famous centre of culture in this part of the country in early times. During medieval period Khijjinga Kotta identified with modern Khiching developed as a prosperous township and was a centre of Orissan art and culture. The wealth of antiquities unearthed from this place clearly indicates that it was the township where the people professing Buddhistic, Jaina and Brahminical religions were living side by side and were maintaining institutions of their respective religion and culture.

The worship of Panchadevatas—Ganesa, Rudra, Narayana, Bhaskara and Ambika—which is an integral part of Hinduism is no where so pronounced as in Khiching. This township was destroyed in 1361 A. D. by Firoj Shah Toghluk, and subsequently it had to be deserted. The capital of the Bhanja rulers shifted in 1400 A. D. (1322 Saka year) from Khiching to Hariपुर which very soon became a famous place of Vaishnavism. The terracotta temple of Rasika Raya which was built there sometime in the 16th century A. D. was remarkable in its carving and artistic motifs. Shri Chaitanya visited Hariपुर on his way to Puri and the place became a notable centre of Vaishnavism till it was deserted towards the end of the 19th century.

The Bhanja kings were patrons of arts and culture. Maharaja Raghunath Bhanja (1728–50) was himself a poet and the '*Rasa Lahari*' written by him is a Kavya of great literary merit. The famous lexicon '*Mugdhabodha Abhidhana*' was also compiled by a Ruler of Mayurbhanj whose name, however, remains unknown.

## 211. Beginning of Western Education

English education was first introduced in Mayurbhanj during the rule of Maharaja Krushna Chandra Bhanja (1867—1882), who started one M. E. School at Baripada. In 1889 the M. E. School was up-graded to a High School which became full-fledged in 1893. The institution was known as the Mayurbhanj Raj High English School and was subsequently called the Baripada High English School. Since 1951 it has been renamed the Maharaja Krushna Chandra High School and dedicated to the memory of the late Maharaja, the pioneer of English education in Mayurbhanj. The school has a tradition for scholarship and students passing from the school have distinguished themselves in later life, as shown in Chapter II.

Besides, the High English School at Baripada there were 4 Middle English Schools in Mayurbhanj at the beginning of the present century and the number rose to 5 in 1907.

## 212. Literacy and educational standard

### Literacy

Prior to 1911 Census, there was confusion regarding definition of literate person. According to 1911 Census a person is deemed literate if he is able to "write a letter to a friend and read the answer to it".

In 1911, the total number of literates in Mayurbhanj was 15,775 which represented a little over 2 per cent of the total population. In 1921 their number rose to 21,047 and in 1931 to 27,983. According to 1951 Census the number of literate persons was 98,611. The percentage of literates thus came to 9.6 of the total population of Mayurbhanj. In 1961 Census the number of literate persons was recorded as 170,679. Out of whom 106,388 persons had no educational level, while 58,248 persons were at the level of primary or junior basic education and 5,043 persons were in the standard of Matriculates and above. If we look back to determine the position of English knowing persons half a century ago we find that in 1911, in all 775 persons of whom 746 were males and 29 females were returned as literates in English. In 1921 their number increased to 1,874 of which 55 were females. According to 1931 Census the number of such literates was 1,775.

But the variation in the number of literates was remarkable during the last decade as represented by 1951 and 1961 Census. There were 483 literates per 10,000 population in 1951 and the figure rose to 1,672 in 1961.

Literacy among females was not encouraging in the past. Only 522 females were returned as literates in 1911 Census. The number

rose to 975 in 1921 and became almost double (i. e., 1,714) in 1931. In 1951 Census 10,628 females were recorded as literates and in 1961 Census there was a remarkable increase as the figure of female literates came to be 27,134.

### 213. Educational Standard

There was a good number of educated persons in Mayurbhanj in the beginning of the 20th century as English education was introduced there in the last part of 19th century. There were some Matriculates who passed from the local High English School at Baripada. Some of the well-to-do persons sent their children outside for higher education. Moreover a number of educated persons from different parts of Orissa and Bengal came here for service and some of them settled in different parts of Mayurbhanj. With the gradual increase of educational institutions the number of educated persons also increased considerably.

The following table gives the number of such persons according to 1951 and 1961 Census :

Census Year	Literate (Without educational level)	Primary or Junior Basic	Middle English	Matriculation and above
1951	71,314	..	24,150	3,099
1961	106,388	59,248	..	5,043

According to 1961 Census there were 358 persons having other qualifications as given in the table below:

	Persons		
	Total	Male	Female
(A) Technical diploma not equal to degree—	30	27	3
(B) Non-technical diploma not equal to degree.	81	62	19
(C) University degree or Post-graduate degree other than technical degree—	189	188	1
(D) Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree.			
(1) Engineering	9	9	..
(2) Medicine	..	3	2
(3) Veterinary	..	4	4
(4) Teaching	..	42	30

## 214. Female Education

Literacy among females has been discussed in this Chapter. Sending a grown up girl to school was not being appreciated in the past. There was no separate institution for girls in the district till 1861. One Lower Primary School was started at Baripada in 1862 and continued up to 1919 when it was made an Upper Primary School. It became Middle English School in 1932 and in 1951 it was raised to the status of a High School. The institution is named after Maharani Prem Kumari the queen of Maharaja Krushna Chandra Bhanja. The number of Lower Primary Schools for girls was only 2 in 1901. The number of such schools rose to 7 in 1920.

A Girls' M. E. School at Rairangpur was established in 1949 which was raised to a High School in 1960. Besides, there are 4 other Girls High Schools, 20 Middle English Schools and 4 Primary Schools. Recently 2 Ashram Schools have been established for girls. To impart training to the Lady Primary School teachers an Elementary Training School has also been established.

The progress of female education as represented by the number of girl students in various schools and colleges of Mayurbhanj is encouraging. Although there was a single Girls' School for a very long period co-education continued in almost all the schools.

The following table shows the number of girls reading in various institutions since the beginning of the 20th century :—

Year	1901	1911	1921	1931	1951	1961
Number of girl students.	221	377	858	1,305	7,836	34,196

According to 1961 Census 18,240 females were literate without any educational level, 8,602 were of Primary or Junior Basic standard and 246 were of Matriculation and higher standard.

## 215. Education for Backward Class and Tribes

In 1892 there were 4,130 students of all classes reading in different schools in Mayurbhanj. Out of them the number of Adibasi students was 1,033, i. e., 26 per cent of the total strength. The table given below shows the gradual growth of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe pupils in Mayurbhanj since 1901.

Year	1901	1911	1921	1931	1951	1961
Number of students.	1,313	3,752	3,202	6,111	..	42,351

According to 1961 Census the Scheduled Castes and Tribes represent 69.3 per cent of the total population of the district. Of them 12.4 per cent were literate and the rest 87.6 per cent were illiterate among the Scheduled Castes and 7.1 per cent were literate and 92.9 per cent illiterate among the Scheduled Tribes. Literacy rate among the Scheduled Castes in Mayurbhanj is higher than the State average of 11.6 per cent. But the rate of literacy among Scheduled Tribes is lower than the State average of 7.4 per cent.

The following table according to 1961 Census gives the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people who were literate or had other educational qualifications :

Educational standard	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
Literate (without educational standard) ..	9,342	36,563
Primary or Junior Basic ..	3,471	14,957
Matriculation and above ..	103	314

For improving the educational standards of these backward classes a number of Ashram Schools and Sevashrams have been established in the district by the State Government. The Ashram Schools are residential in type with six years' course of the Middle School standard imparting special training in carpentry, agriculture, weaving, spinning and other crafts. Only tribal students are admitted into these schools. Besides the Ashram Schools, a number of lower educational institutions known as Sevashrams of the standard of primary schools have been established for imparting general education of the primary standard along with some special subjects, such as, spinning and gardening. Children belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are admitted into these institutions.

Facilities have been provided for free education in these institutions. For education outside their localities, stipends and lump grants are given to the students in High Schools, M. E. Schools and U. P. Schools. Reading and writing materials, such as, books, slates, pencils, etc., are also supplied free of cost at Sevashram stage.

In 1964-65 there were 101 Sevashrams and 9 Ashram Schools in the district. The details have been given in the following table:

Type of Institution	Schools		Students		Teachers	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Male	Female
Sevashram ..	101	..	4,452	1,305	218	1
Ashram ..	7	2	912	177	61	15

## 216. General Education

### (i) Schools

There was only one High School in Mayurbhanj and 3 Middle English Schools up to 1903. Besides the Middle English Schools there was a Middle Vernacular School up to 1903 after which it was abolished. The number of Upper Primary Schools was 15 between 1901 and 1906. The number of Lower Primary Schools varied from year to year. There were 259 Primary Schools in 1904 but their number increased to 401 in 1915. One Guru Training School started at Baripada in 1906. Till 1916 there were 2 Sanskrit Tols, one at Baripada town and the other at Amarda. The one at Amarda was abolished after a few years. In 1919 an effort was made to set up a Tol at Jashipur which resulted in establishment of a Pathasala.

There was steady progress during the last 60 years and the number of various educational institutions rose considerably. During 1964-65 there were 53 High Schools, 225 M. E. Schools, 1,579 Primary Schools, 101 Sevashrams, 9 Ashram Schools besides 2 Music Schools, 6 Elementary Training Schools and an Industrial Training School, an Arts and Crafts School and a Nursing and Midwifery Training School.

A statement regarding the progress of education since 1901 is given in Appendices A and B.

### (ii) Colleges

The first college in the district was established in 1948-49 at Baripada and named after the late Maharaja Purna Chandra Bharja Deo. Its management was taken over by the Education Department from 1st January, 1949. The college is at present located in the palace at Baripada which has been purchased by the State Government.

At the beginning the college had Intermediate in Arts and Science. It was affiliated to the Utkal University with a sanctioned strength

of 112 students in Arts and 80 in Science. During 1957-58 the strength was increased to 128 and 112 respectively. B. A. (Pass) classes started in 1949-50 with 48 seats in each of the Third Year and Fourth Year classes.

In under-graduate classes there were provisions for teaching English, Economics, Mathematics and Oriya to which History was subsequently added in 1950-51. The strength of the classes was raised from 48 to 64 in 1958-59 when Honours in History was introduced. B. Sc. classes with Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Honours in Mathematics started since 1960-61.

With the changing pattern of University courses, Pre-University classes in Humanities and Science have been introduced from 1959-60 and the subjects taught are English, Oriya, Hindi, Sanskrit, Economics, History, Logic and Philosophy in Humanities and Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and General Knowledge in Science.

The First Year classes of the Three-year Degree Course in both Humanities and Science started from the academic session 1960-61. During the same year the strength of the Pre-University (Science) and Pre-University (Humanities) were raised to 128 and 160 respectively. The strength of the teaching staff and students in 1964-65 were 39 and 837 (741 M + 96 W) respectively.

#### (iii) Private Colleges

There are three privately managed colleges in the district located at Rairangpur, Karanjia and Udala. The Rairangpur College started in 1963-64 with Pre-University Classes in both Science and Humanities. In 1964-65, it opened its First Year Science and Humanities classes. That year the strength of the teaching staff and students in the College were 12 and 150 (140 M + 10 W) respectively. The Karanjia College started in 1964-65 with Pre-University Humanities classes only. The strength of its teaching staff and students were 6 and 63 (60 M + 3 W) respectively. The Udala College started during 1965-66 with provisions in both Pre-University Science and Humanities classes. The teaching staff were 9 in number and there were 71 students including 5 women students.

#### (iv) Sanskrit Tol and Maktabas

The Sanskrit Tol at Baripada prepares students for Acharya Examinations of Orissa Sanskrit Association. There were 32 students on the roll in 1956-57 who were all stipendiaries. In 1964-65 there were 9 students on the roll and the strength of the teaching staff was 6.

The system of awarding stipends to all the students has been discontinued and merit-cum-poverty scholarships are given after the Prathama examination. This has affected the strength of students.

At present there are no Maktabs in Mayurbhanj. But there are two Urdu sections attached to the L. P. Schools located at Baripada and Dhundu in Bamanghaty subdivision.

### **217. Professional and Technical education**

#### **(i) Purnachandra Industrial Institute**

This institute was established at Baripada on 16th July 1931 with a donation of one lakh of rupees from Junior Dowager Maharani Saheba and was dedicated to the memory of the Late Maharaja Purna Chandra Bhanja Deo.

The purpose of this institution is to impart training in weaving, carpentry and other handicrafts.

The courses of studies are as follows:

- (a) Supervisor course in weaving on cotton, woollen, silken and tassar yarns on plain, dobbic and jacquard weave.
- (b) Artisan course in weaving durry, galicha and newar, etc., on cotton and jute.
- (c) Supervisor course in dyeing, calico printing and bleaching of tassar fabrics, etc.
- (d) Supervisor course in carpentry, furniture making, weaving accessories and other wooden implements.

This institute was under the administrative control of the Industries Department from 1949 to 1956, after which its management was transferred to the Tribal & Rural Welfare Department. The students are offered a stipend of Rs. 30 per month each and preference is given to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates for admission into the institute.

Besides this, there is an Industrial Training Institute functioning under the auspices of the Tribal & Rural Welfare Department at Baripada.

#### **(ii) Technical Training Institute**

This institute started functioning at Takatpur near Baripada from 15th October 1957. The staff consist of one Supervisor and ten Instructors for imparting training in welding, fitting, electricity, allied trades, machine shop, lineman and wireman training shop, drawing and mathematics. The courses of studies are meant for electricians, linemen, wiremen, turners, fitters, machanics and welders. In 1962 there were 96 students on the roll.

#### **(iii) Elementary Training**

At present there are 6 Elementary Training Schools in Mayurbhanj to train Primary School teachers. In 1964-65 there were 580 trainees and 30 teachers in these institutions. One of these schools is meant exclusively for ladies.



**(iv) Nursing and Midwifery**

This institute is attached to the Headquarters Hospital, Baripada. There were 61 students on the roll in 1964-65.

**218. Schools for the cultivation of fine arts**

There are at present two music schools in Mayurbhanj. Vocal and instrumental music and dance courses are taught in these schools. There were 78 students on the roll in 1964-65 and the number of teachers was 6. Besides, there are a number of private music and dance teachers who teach boys and girls privately. The Ustads (teachers) and students of the Chhau Dance are held in high esteem in Mayurbhanj.

**219. Physical Education**

Scout movement was organised in Mayurbhanj during Durbar rule. Physical training as a part of the education curriculum was introduced in March 1926 and in 1927 the Boy Scout organisation worked with credit in rendering relief to flood affected areas. In 1938 the Boy Scouts of Mayurbhanj attended the Governor's Rally at Cuttack and the Kanika Shield for Scouting was awarded to them for being adjudged the best scouts in Orissa. In 1941 an Association was formed and affiliated to the Eastern States Agency Association and subsequently to the Central Association at Delhi in 1945. Shri Sarat Chandra Bindhani—a boy-scout of the Baripada High English School was selected to participate in the World Jamboree of Boy Scouts held in France in 1947.

At present scout organisation has been discontinued and provisions have been made for recruiting students of High Schools and Colleges for National Cadet Corps and Auxilliary Cadet Corps. In 1965-66 there were 1,200 cadets in the Senior Division and 1,400 cadets in the Junior Division including 100 girls in the latter. There is also arrangement for games, gardening, etc. in every Primary, Middle and High School of Mayurbhanj.

**220. Adult Literacy and Social Education**

At present the Community Development Department operates a scheme according to which one Adult Literacy Centre for men and one for women have been set-up in each Grama Panchayat. These centres run for six months in a year. In Adibasi populated villages the centres run for 9 months to one year where difficulty arises in teaching them within a brief period.

Reading and writing materials and lanterns are supplied free of cost and the progress of their education is checked by the Social Education Organisers of the respective Community Development Blocks. A total number of 25,168 adults were made literate till 31st March 1965 of which 21,862 were males and 3,306 females.

During the rule of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo educational institutions known as "Night Schools" existed in Mayurbhanj up to 1904. The number of such institutions varied from 16 to 22 annually. After 1904 modest efforts were made to re-establish this class of institutions in Panchpir and Bamanghaty subdivisions through the respective Subdivisional Officers. Night Schools for the poor children who were engaged for other works during the day were in existence in Mayurbhanj till 1949.

In order to make people socially more conscious and to spread adult literacy an officer designated as District Social Education Organiser has been posted at Baripada since 1959. He supervises the works of the 22 Social education organisers and Mukhya Sevikas posted to the Community Development Blocks.

## 221. Cultural Societies

### (i) Baripada Sahitya Samaj

The Baripada Sahitya Samaj was organised in 1934 by a group of the then ex-State employees who had interest in the educational and cultural fields. The society functioned well till 1944 and became dormant since then. In recent years, it was again revived and at present it is recognised by the Utkal University as a learned body with the right to send a member to the University Senate.

### (ii) Cultural Magazines and Periodicals

An account of the press and publication of the district is given in Chapter XVII, Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organisation.

## 222. Libraries and Museums

### I. Libraries

The only public library in the district is the Sriram Chandra Pathagar located at Baripada. It has a fine building of its own. Originally the Library was called the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Public Library built in 1899. It runs by public subscription and also gets Government aid. It is one of the biggest public libraries in Orissa.

Besides, the Colleges, High Schools and Middle English Schools are all provided with libraries. There are 229 Reading rooms and village libraries located in villages and towns of Mayurbhanj for public use.

### II. Museum

#### (a) BARIPADA MUSEUM

The Baripada museum was established in 1923 by the late Maharaja Purna Chandra Bhanja Deo and is at present housed in the

building of Sriram Chandra Pathagar. The specimens of the museum comprise—(1) Palaeolithic and neolithic implements and copper axe heads, (2) sculptures, (3) historical documents including copper plates of the Bhanja dynasty of Mayurbhanj and other dynasties of Orissa, (4) gold, silver and copper coins of different periods of history, (5) sherds of terracottas, (6) stone inscriptions, (7) paper sanads, (8) painted palmleaf manuscripts and (9) seals.

**(b) KHICHING MUSEUM**

The Museum was organised in 1922 by Rama Prasad Chanda, Superintendent of the Archaeological Section of the Indian Museum. It is the largest local museum in Orissa with a good collection of antiquities. It contains (1) stone sculptures, (2) lithic implements, (3) beads, (4) pottery, (5) copper plates and (6) sanads.

Till 1948, the Department of Archaeology and the Museums at Baripada and Khiching were being maintained by the Government of Mayurbhanj. They are now managed by the Government of Orissa.

## APPENDIX A

Year	Number of Educational Institutions										Number of Students			
	High School	Middle English School	Primary School	Sevashram (Primary)	Ashram (M. E.)	Middle Vernacular	Sanskrit Tol	Muktab	School for Professional & Vocational training	Night School & other Institution	Total	Total	Boys	Girls
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1901	1	3	287	..	..	1	2	2	..	18	314	4,889	221	5,110
1911	1	5	421	..	..	..	2	1	..	7	438	9,217	377	9,594
1921	1	5	326	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	336	8,905	858	9,763
1930	1	7	394	..	..	..	1	3	1	..	407	12,319	1,305	13,624
1965..	55	225	1,579	101	9	..	1	..	11	..	1,981	98,109	32,717	10,765

## APPENDIX B

**Position of different educational institutions in 1964-65  
(Excluding Colleges)**

Type of Institutions	Number of Schools		Number of Students		Number of Teachers	
	For Boys	For Girls	Boys	Girls	Male	Female
High School ..	49	6	7,297	1,111	382	40
M. E. School ..	205	20	10,679	2,248	665	50
Primary School ..	1,573 } 2 }	4	73,765	27,754	29,318	132
Junior Basic School ..						
Sevashram ..	101	..	4,452	1,305	218	1
Ashram ..	7	2	912	177	61	15
Music ..	2	..	78	..	6	..
Nursing ..	..	1	..	61	..	3
Elementary Training ..	5	1	580	50	27	3
Industrial Training ..	1	..	233	..	20	..
Arts and Crafts ..	1	..	113	..	12	..