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Educational Development in Hazaribag District with special reference to Dublin University Mission (1853 - 1947)

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Abstract: Swami Vivekananda once truly said “there is only one purpose in the whole of life – education.” India has always held education in high esteem. Right from ancient times, coming down to medieval and modern, it has been a witness to evolution of ever-relevant mission of education, thus serving as a model for all. So, from the very beginning, when Dublin University Mission established college and schools, in Hazaribag in order to cater to the needs of the people, they were only continuing what Swami Vivekananda envisaged. The Dublin University Mission from the beginning established a sound education system at the headquarters and made their presence felt. Thus this study focuses on the contribution of Dublin University Mission towards the Educational development of Hazaribag, in the state of Jharkhand.

Keywords : Education, Development, Dublin University Mission.

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Introduction :

The East India Company was purely a commercial concern at its inception and very naturally it did not consider that promotion of education in India was any of its concern. Like all commercial companies then or since, it was primarily interested in the profits that it derived from its trade and, if people desired education, they must make the best of what they could. But by the grant of Diwani in 1765, (G.S. Chhabra, 2005) the ruling power was conferred upon the Company and it was now obliged to pay heed to education and its encouragement among its subjects. This brought in radical changes in the circumstances, fortuitous, as they were, up till the mid 19th century, during which the Company extended patronage to education in various ways. However, the attitude of the Government of East India Company was one of indifference. If the authorities remained quite indifferent, private individuals, both among the English and the Indians, more so the Christian missionaries were quite keen on establishing schools.

The credit for the establishment of the modern system of education in India goes to Christian missionaries, although India was not bereft of an educational system. According to the Vedic Text, the education system of Ancient India was mainly residential. Which is known as *Gurukul* system of education which was in vogue for a very long time.

However, the Gupta period marks the foundation of big centres of learning, like the modern universities with their different faculties, extensive buildings, libraries with varying subjects, like grammar, philosophy and those of a secular nature. (P.N. Chopra, B.N. Suri, M.N. Das, 1994) With the advent of Islam in India the traditional methods of education increasingly came under Islamic influence. (S.N. Sen, 1988) The coming of the Europeans brought western education to colonial India. A series of measures continuing throughout the 20th century ultimately laid the foundation in the Republic India. Thus it can be said, "For change on a grand scale there is one instrument and one instrument only that can be used: Education." (Sister Rashmi A.C., 2004)

Study area :

This study focuses on the district of Hazaribag, or Hazareebaugh, known as Junglebury or Jungle Terry, is situated between north latitude 23.25' and 24.48' and east longitude 84.29' and 86.38' and forms the north-eastern portion of the Chotanagpur Division in the newly created State (2000) of Jharkand today, erstwhile part of Bihar (W.W. Hunter, 1877)

Education in Hazaribag :

Prior to the study period the education scenario of Hazaribag can be ascertained from the letter of Capt. Bird, dated 12th August, 1837, Officer in Charge of the district, to Capt. Wilkinson, the Governor-General's Agent: a reply to the Sadar Board of Revenue which gives a vivid picture of the educational condition of the Hazaribag district, after its creation in 1833. Regarding the establishment of a school in Capt. Bird's Division and if financial support could be sought from the people; he says, "Several Zamindars, with one or two exceptions are involved in pecuniary difficulties" and the wealthy *Mahajans* are far too interested in keeping the several *elakadars* in that state of ignorance of which they have already taken advantage to enrich themselves". As far as getting pupils is concerned, he says, "It is an isolated situation." Not many Government servants bring their families there and "the respectable part of the Native Community do not look upon this station as their home, having their families at Gaya and Patna and if inclined to send their children to a seminary, avail themselves of the one established at the latter station." (P.C. Roy Choudhury, 1957) Of course, he does mention the school limited to the vernacular language and attended by 18 to 20 boys.

Growth and development of education in Hazaribag:

However the study period witnesses a steady growth in the sphere of education in Hazaribag. This has been corroborated by the *Statistical Account* that does not make mention of any Government school until 1865. However, by 1870, Government's support was extended to one district school, teaching English, 4 vernacular schools, and 3 aided English schools. The number of students was 403. (P.C.Roy Choudhury, 1957,) A number of *Pathshalas* were also in existence, which imparted education to the boys of the upper castes. Through the scheme of Sir George Campbell, aimed at improving the primary schools, three old *Pathshalas* and 43 new ones received aid. In 1872, the number increased to 76, and a training school for *gurus* was also established. However, the people had no interest in education, as it did not bring any benefit in terms of employment.

According to the Quinquennial review published by the Department of Education of the Government of Bihar, the following were percentages of children in school in the total population in Patna, Palamu and Hazaribag in the years mentioned against them.

Year	Patna	Palamau	Hazaribag
1926 - 27	4.2	2.3	2.0
1931 - 32	3.8	2.3	1.8
1936 - 37	4.6	2.5	2.02
1941 - 42	4.91	2.52	2.32
1946 - 47	5.5	2.8	2.4
1951 - 52	6.6	3.8	3.07

Source: P.C. Roy Choudhury, Bihar District Gazetteers – Hazaribag, Patna, 1957, p. 114

Compared to other districts, with the exception of Palamau, Hazaribag had the lowest proportion of literates in the State in 1911. A number of factors were responsible for such a slow growth. The *District Gazetteer* of 1957 says the primary reason is that population of Hazaribag district contains a large aboriginal element and their ignorance. However, the underlying factor, says the Gazetteer, is the general state of poverty; so, much so even the small kids in the family had to contribute to the family's income.

The progress of education for 1921 - 22 onwards is shown in the following chart.

Year	Number of Schools		Total	Number of Pupils		Total
	For Boys	For Girls		Boys	Girls	
1921-22	686	55	741	20,007	1,444	21,451
1931-32	714	63	777	24,734	2,170	26,904
1941-42	774	58	832	45,692	3,120	48,812
1946-47	712	56	768	37,122	3,281	40,403
1951-52	930	71	1,001	54,214	6,923	61,137

Source: P.C. Roy Choudhury, *Bihar District Gazetteers—Hazaribag*, Patna, 1957, p. 115

It will be observed that, though in the year 1921-22 and in 1946-47, the number of institutions decreased, there was no consequent reduction in the number of pupils. On the contrary there was an actual increase in the number of scholars. The decrease in the number of schools in 1921-22 is due to the abolition of a number of inefficient primary schools. The decrease in the number of schools in 1946 – 47 was due to the amalgamation of lower primary schools with upper primary schools and upper primary schools with middle schools. However, the chart indicates a steady progress from 1941-42 to 1951-52 - the incidence in the number of scholars is +12,325 as compared to the previous two decades, when it was +21,908 and +5,453 respectively. It is interesting to discover that in the first quinquennium, the incidence was only +1,278 and the rest of the increase, that is, +20,734 occurred after independence. The number of boys at school was greater than that of the girls at school. Yet, one can trace the steady progress of education in Hazaribag during the period under review.

The Police Training College for Bihar and Orissa (Odisha) came into existence in 1912, at Hazaribag, which was once the Loreto Convent, known as Priory. The red letter day in the history of the institute was 25th November, 1952, when Dr. S.K. Sinha, the Chief Minister of Bihar, presented Colours to the Police Training College (P.C. Roy Choudhury, 1957).

Educational Activities of the Dublin University Mission in Hazaribag

Dublin University Mission was members of the Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland who volunteered to work for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel

(S.P.G.). (Rev. Eyre Chatterton, B.D., 1901). The pioneers of the mission – five men and one woman – reached Hazaribag on March 8, 1892, and made Hazaribag the headquarters of their mission. Thus was born, on the soil of Jharkhand the Dublin University Mission (Baleshwar Ram, 2000).

'Of the two major fields of Social service, in which the Dublin University Mission of Chotanagpur achieved most splendid and glorious success, and surpassed all the contemporary foreign Christian Missions operating in Bihar,(undivided) has been education and, more particularly, higher education. The Dublin University Mission has ceased to function at Hazaribag but, even to this day, it is remembered and revered and will be remembered and revered in future too, with profound gratitude by the people, not only of Bihar but also of West Bengal and Orissa, for the degree college, called St.Columba's College, established at a place (Hazaribag) and at a time (1899) where and when nobody could even dream of it, with such limited resources in men and money'

The credit of establishing the first Degree College in Chotanagpur and one of the oldest colleges of Jharkhand goes to Dublin University Mission. The conception of the first college of Jharkhand, St. Columba's College, has an interesting origin. In the words of Eyre Chatterton;

"At the end of 1898, the question was mooted as to whether a First Arts College, affiliated to Calcutta University might be started by the Mission...As there was no First Arts College in all Chotanagpur and as a considerable number of students from Ranchi, Hazaribag, and even Chaibasa went to Calcutta University for the lectures, it was felt that such a college, if started, might prove a success, and be a very powerful Mission agent. The idea soon took shape, and early in July 1899 the College was started."(Rev. Eyre Chatterton, 1901)

The idea of Dr. Arthur Murray, took definite shape and received confirmation at the meeting of the Mission held on May 26, 1899. The proceedings say, "That First Arts College be started". (St. Columba's College Magazine, 1913) It was then known as Dublin University Mission College. (Baleshwar Ram, 2000) The college obtained affiliation to the University of Calcutta, on July 2, 1899, up to B.A. (First Arts) (*Directory*, St. Columba's College, 1986).

It had its humble beginning in the rent-free bungalow, attached to the Post Office with Rev. J.A. Murray as the Principal. Chatterton further says; "Government again came to our aid with a suitable bungalow, rent free. With the same zeal and ability... Murray threw himself into this higher branch of education, and with... success." Fired with the ambition to create a first rate college, he appealed to the Indian Rajas, Government officials, English Bishops and others for monetary help or donation. (The St. Columba's College Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Magazine 1959).

A donation was offered by Raja Ram Narayan Singh of the Ramgarh Estate. (E. Lister, 1917) It taught up to First Arts Standard. In the first year, the college had 8 (Rev. Eyre Chatterton says 12) students and in the second year, 14 (Rev. Chatterton says 13) students. (A.R.D.U.M., 1904) Several of the second year students had failed three to four times in other colleges. In this connection, the then Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Pedlar, says "the insoluble residue of other colleges" (A.R.D.U.M., 1900).

But when the University results were declared the first batch of unpromising students had performed wonders. For eight out of 14 (Chatterton says 9 out of 13) had passed plausibly the First Arts Examination in March 1900 (Rev. Eyre Chatterton, 1901).

It was very encouraging, as the average in other Indian colleges seldom rose above 25 per cent. The great achievement brought laurels to the college. Its reputation spread, far and wide and stimulated its rapid growth. The teaching staff comprised of Rev. J.A. Murray who taught English and Logic, Mr. C.N. De who taught Mathematics and Science, Rev. P.L. Singh, who taught History and Mr. B.D.S. Choudhury, who taught Indian languages. (Hindi and Persian) In 1900 the College was shifted to Akshay Babu's Bungalow in Khirgaon and a small hostel was opened with Prof. C.N. De as the Superintendent.

In 1902, November, the College was shifted to Dak Bungalow. The Dublin University soon realized that a First Arts College was far from satisfying; therefore they decided to close the College or else to raise it to B.A. standard. At this critical period, Sir Andrew Fraser, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal visited Hazariabag in 1904 and gifted a grant of Rupees 15,000/- on the

proviso that an equal sum would be gathered from the local level (K.K. Dutta, 1976).

1904 added another feather in the cap of the College, when the college was raised to B.A. level. Rev. S.L. Thompson as Principal commenced teaching up to B.A. Standard. In 1904, the number of students in the College was 86, 22 in B.A. Fourth Year, 10 in B.A. Third year, 32 F. A. Second year and 22 F.A. first year. In 1906, the College was renamed St. Columba's College after the famous Irish Saint, St. Columba. The foundation for the permanent building of the college was laid in November 1907 by Sir Andrew Fraser (E. Lister, 1917).

Another milestone was added, in the annals of the College, when the course of Intermediate studies commenced in the college in 1908. In 1910, affiliation to B.Sc. was also granted. The College made great progress in terms of quality and quantity, with the aid of the reputed scholars on the teaching staff, and their zeal, sincerity and affection for the pupils facilitated the college in becoming a luminous centre of academic excellence in the whole of Calcutta University. In 1910, the college was first in Botany, In 1911, first In History and 1912, one of the students headed the list of the whole University (Bareshwar, 2000).

In 1914, a need was felt for the creation of a separate university, for Bihar and Orissa, a new Province. Principal Rev. S.L. Thompson and Professor (Rev) H.G.S. Kennedy were nominated as members of the Patna University Committee, which drafted the scheme for the Patna University. (St. Columbas' College Directory 1986).

Rev. S.L. Thompson was succeeded by Rev. F.H.W. Kerr as the Principal of St. Columba's College in 1915 and, in 1917, the College was transferred to Patna University. A new wing, the Science Block, was opened by Sir Edward, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa, in November of 1917 (K.K. Dutta, 1976) Rev. H.G.S. Kennedy became the Principal of the College in place of Rev. F.H.W. Kerr. In 1918, the students of St. Columba's College, appeared for the first time, at the examinations conducted by the Patna University. The results were excellent.

The significant event of 1925 was the visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the college and his address to the staff and students of the college in Whitley Hall on Social Service (K.K. Dutta, 1976).

The Patna University carried out an inspection of the college, through the Principals of Science College and T.N.J. College at Bhagalpur. They wrote: “we consider the general administration of the College very satisfactory.”

The first lady student of the college joined the college in July 1938, when she was admitted to I. Sc. She passed the examination in 1940. She was Miss Florence Salkar daughter of Mr. Abraham Salkar (A.R.D.U.M., 1938).

The Quit India Movement affected the college activities as well. Six students were arrested and imprisoned in the Central Jail, Hazaribag, and were later sentenced to six months for participating in a procession near the college. In 1952, a new Biology block was completed in the College. A Students' Common Room was also constructed. The motto of St. Columba's College is “Domini Quis Habitabit”, which means, “Lord who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy mountain?... They are taken from the opening words of Psalm 15, in the Holy Bible.

The following chart shows the number of students in the college at different time. Starting from 1899 to 2013.

Year	Number of Students
1899	25
1904	87
1916	204
1924	175
1926	231
1936	205
1937	240 (Baleshwar says 242)
1945	335
1950	500
1955	900
2013	

Source: K.K. Dutta, (ed.) Comprehensive History of Bihar, Vol. III, Part. II, Patna, 1976, p.242-247

Thus it can be said, that from the very beginning, the Dublin University Mission emphasized, not only sound teaching and excellent University Examination results, but sufficient attention was paid to all-round development of the high moral character of the pupils entrusted to their care. The Missionaries, who had served ever since 1899, lived in accordance with the motto. Moreover, by their well disciplined and dedicated lives, they inspired and influenced the students. Columba's College was a popular centre of learning in Eastern India, in its early years. Many of the students have brought laurels to the college. Several of them have scaled new heights of public life: to cite a few examples: Mr. Rajendra Nath Singh Deo, one-time student of the College, became the Chief Minister of Orissa; Mr. Krishan Ballav Sahay, who graduated from the College, went on to become the Chief Minister of Bihar, Mr. K.K. Banerjee, a graduate of 1917, became a judge of the Patna High Court. Mr. S.G. Jilani, another graduate of 1918, became an IAS Officer, Mr. Amulya Chandra Chakrabarty, achieved international fame as a scholar and eventually, became Professor of Comparative Oriental Religion and Literature, Boston University, U.S.A. The Dublin University Mission to Hazaribag comprising of university graduates from Ireland from its very inception gave emphasis on education.

A Brief History of the Dublin University Mission Schools

Besides their services in the field of higher education the Dublin University Mission decided to establish Boarding Schools, and schools for the children of Hazaribag. Some of the more popular educational institutions of the Dublin University Mission are as follows:

St. Columba's Collegiate High School

Another most important institution at the D.U.M. Headquarters, Hazaribag, was the High School for boys, which came to be born on April 15, 1895 It was known as Dublin University Mission High School (Rev. Eyre Chatterton 1901). Rev. C.W. Darling was its Principal and Rev. Pritam Luther Singh was the Head Master.

“Never was a school less welcomed in a town; never did a school start under more unfavourable conditions”. The reasons for this are not hard to explain.

In Hazaribag, a Government High School already existed. The parents and teachers of the school not only considered the opening of a new school dangerous, but were also instructed to boycott from the beginning. It looked so on the day of opening by the acting Deputy-Commissioner, with the school-house, fresh from the hands of Darling, admirably adapted for its work, an excellent staff of masters, a most energetic and capable Principal, Murray. In sharp contrast to this excellence, there were only seven scholars, two of whom were Christians! It seemed indeed an almost hopeless task. But, in the long run, the prophets of evil were wrong; and faith was rewarded (Rev. Eyre Chatterton 1901).

With a zealous Principal around, the school attendance from seven became 63. Baleshwar says, in less than six months the number of students rose to 65, The Commissioner of Chotanagpur on a visit to the school praised the superior discipline among the boys, in comparison with the Government High school. The number of students kept on increasing. In 1897, there were 104 students. Of these, 38 were Christians (28 aboriginals) 57 Hindus and a Muslim (A.R.D.U.M., 1897)

This school came to be known in official language as The Dublin University Mission Collegiate School from 1900. From 1907, the Dublin University Mission High School assumed a new name – St. Columba's High School. (A.R.D.U.M., 1907) This institution still exists today. Rev. P.L. Singh, the Principal of the High School, was awarded in 1920, with Kaiser-i-Hind Medal for his outstanding services rendered to the society. And in 1921, he was nominated as a member of the Legislative Council of Bihar and Orissa. (A.R.D.U.M., 1924)

The High School was well known for its discipline, excellent results and sports activities. The unwanted and unaccepted school was in great demand and became the most wanted school, not only for Christians, but for Hindus and Muslims as well. In spite of the regular and faithful teaching on Christianity daily for all the students — a special feature of the school - the non-Christian parents were not apprehensive to send their wards to the mission school in preference to the Government School, where they were taught no religion. "I believe", says Eyre Chatterton, "the real answer is that they feel English is better taught at the Mission school than at the other... their passport to

Government employment and they are willing to undergo any trouble to acquire it. The following chart shows the number of students studying in the St. Columba's High School.

Year	No. of students
1897	104
1898	121
1899	135
1901	150
1905	222
1910	323
1916	290
1924	208
1926	230
1930	324
1942	410

Source: Baleshwar, Baleshwar Ram, the Dublin University Mission to Chota Nagpore (1892 – 1942): pp.101-106

Hamilton Free School

Rev. G.F. Hamilton established a Primary School, later known as Hamilton Free School (called by the natives the "Heymiltan Free School) at Hazaribag in 1897. It was mainly for the Hindus and Muslim boys. It had in attendance more than hundred and fifty students and often topped the lists at Government examinations. The school was raised to Upper Primary Standard in 1902. In 1906, the present school building of Hamilton Free School was built. In 1910, there were 25 Primary Schools and 602 school children. But the Hamilton Upper Primary School with 170 boys was the largest Primary School in the District of Hazaribag: (A.R.D.U.M., 1910)

St. Kiran's Girls' School

On January 6, 1920, saw the birth of another new school known as St. Kiran's Girls' School in Hazaribag (P.C. Horo, Patna) it was established mainly for the Christian girls studying in the Hindi Girls' School in Hazaribag town. In 1921, it was raised to Upper Primary

Standard. In 1947, a decision was taken to raise St. Kiran's Middle English School to a High School for girls (K.K. Dutta, 1976).

St. Brigid's School

A school for Bengali girls was established at Hazaribag in 1895 under Miss Beale. The school shifted to a new building in 1933. It was now renamed St. Brigid's School. It was raised to the Middle English Standard due to the efforts of Miss D.C.Jenkins, (A.D.U.M., 1933) However, in 1947, St. Brigid's Middle English School for Bengali girls was closed down.

Conclusion :

It is quite evident from the study that the Dublin University Mission established in the district of Hazaribag, during the period under review, have not confined themselves to preaching alone. **From the very beginning, they established college and schools, in order to cater to the needs of the people. The Dublin University Mission from the beginning established a sound education system at the headquarters and made their presence felt. Though several village schools were opened in villages, when they received more grants, new schools were opened or the existing ones improved.** The Loreto Sisters, who arrived in 1874, at once set up a school and boarding house (Mary Colmcille, IBVM, 1968). The Scotland Mission at Pachamba did not limit themselves to medical activities alone, but schools were established, which catered to both boys and girls belonging to various religions. Today, Hazaribag is reaping the fruits of their hard labour. St. Robert's Primary School, which had its many ups and downs, has grown and become a full-fledged school. Besides, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hazaribag has more than seventy five schools (Hazaribag Catholic Diocese, *Directory*, 2010). Today, St. Columba's College, the first college of Hazaribag, receives students from all over Jharkhand and even from Bihar, providing education in Arts, Science, Commerce and vocational courses. A significant feature of the education system is that the schools and college welcomed all the students without any discrimination on the grounds of religion or caste. At the end of the day, the contribution of the Christian missions to education in Hazaribag cannot be underestimated.

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