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# “Role and development of Higher education system in Jammu and Kashmir”

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Arshad Ahmad Bandh

\*Research Scholar, Barkatullah University, Bhopal- M.P.

Email: [arshadhistory123@gmail.com](mailto:arshadhistory123@gmail.com)

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## Abstract

*Jammu and Kashmir is the only state in India that has made education free to all its citizens. Education is the main factor resulting in significant social change in a society. Ever since the beginning of Higher education in India showed that its spread has played a key role in the process of changing the status and social mobility of an individual. It not only adapts an individual to existing or emerging social situation but also has a creative role in the sense that it has the potential of liberating minds from the shackles of the established culture. Various sociological studies have also shown that education is a powerful factor in bringing about change in society. The educational system of a nation is the key to its prosperity and welfare and that no investment is likely to yield greater returns than investment in human resources of which the most important is education. Education in College and Post-Graduate level beyond Primary and Secondary level is important because it needs to meet the*

*challenges of changing demands for advanced knowledge and technologies. However, Expanding higher education is very expensive, but State Government has made many attempts to take it to every nook and corner of the State. This paper analyzes the growth and development of higher education in J & K It aims to suggest some more steps for improvement Quality of higher education in J & K.*

**Key Words:** Higher Education, Development, Role, Jammu & Kashmir.

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## Introduction

Education is regarded as one that contributes to social, political, cultural and economic transformation of a country. The prosperity of any nation is intrinsically linked to its human resources. Human capital is one of the most important assets of a country and a key determinant of a nation's economic performance. The strength of a nation is dependent on its intellectual and skillful

citizens. A quality human capital comes from a quality education process. A carefully designed and well planned education system is critical to developing such human capital. Today India is considered as a talent pool of the world, having qualified and educated human resources in abundance..

Jammu And Kashmir State was founded by Maharaja Gulab Singh\ under Amritsar treaty signed by him with the British government in March, 1846. Maharaja Gulab Singh the first ruler of J & K state did little in the field of education or for the development of art and literature. After the rule of Maharaja Gulab Singh (1846-1857 A.D.) the crown was passed on to his son, Maharaja Ranbir Singh. He ruled from 1857 to 1885 A.D .He was a wonderful person with deep interest in religion & devotion to learning and art. He established the first Press, the Vidya Vikas Press in the state to translate books into Sanskrit for Hindu male scholars. He also established Raghunath Sanskrit Mahapustakalaya- a great monument. He contributed much towards school education but Maharaja Pratap Singh, who ruled from 1885 to 1925 A.D., gave importance to higher education. Under his rule Prince of Wales College in Jammu and Annie Besant

College in Srinagar came into existence in 1905. Maharaja Pratap Singh appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. M Sharp, Education Commissioner, Govt of India, in 1916. This committee made important recommendations regarding college education. In 1938, an education re-organization committee was founded under the chairmanship of Mr. K G Saiyidain and recommended for training of teachers. Based on the guidelines of the committee, a teacher's training school was opened in Srinagar. The B.T. classes were established for the training of graduate teachers in state in 1940. After Independence a need for educational reorganization in the state was felt. An education re-organization committee came into existence in 1950. Mr. A.A. Kazmini, Director of Education was its Chairman. The Committee recommended completely free education at all levels i.e.; from pre-primary to the higher education stage. Two colleges for women were started, one at Jammu and the other at Srinagar on the basis of the committee's suggestions.

## Objectives

- 1 To analyze growth of education system in J & K

- 2 To make suggestions for improving higher education in J & K
3. To examine the role of modern education in Jammu and Kashmir state.

### **Methodology**

The data is collected from various secondary sources like the official website of higher education- Jammu & Kashmir, journals, newspapers, books, magazines and other active related agencies and departments related to the higher education system.

### **Higher education in Jammu and Kashmir**

Like other parts of country traditionally education in the state of Jammu and Kashmir was imparted through indigenous institutions. In case of Muslims these indigenous institutions were connected with the mosques, where the boys were taught to read Arabic so that they may be able to read Quran. Likewise Brahmans had their indigenous institutions, where Sanskrit was taught so that boys may be able to read the sacred Hindu religious books. To these two languages Arabic and Sanskrit, Persian was

added and then certain amount of arithmetic was taught. There were no regular schools and pathshalas.

The people of the Jammu and Kashmir state have been living under oppressive feudal regimes for centuries. They had been badly exploited under Afghans and Sikhs. The population was largely illiterate. The miserable conditions of the people, the educational backwardness of the state and its people, and the absence of prominent centers of learning were attributed at this time much more directly to Dogra rulers rather than to religious beliefs and community practices. The demand for education in the state was inextricably tied up with the struggle against oppressive feudal policies by which the state was governed. The beginning of social reform in the state emerged from within the communities at the turn of the nineteenth century. Both Hindu and Muslim subjects of the Dogra Maharajas started to organize themselves and voice their grievances. These developments compelled Dogras to take some measures to improve the educational conditions of the people in the state. Maharaja Gulab Singh (1846-1857), the first Dogra ruler of the state made no efforts to educate the masses. It was during

the reign of his successor, Maharaja Ranbir Singh (1857-1885) that a few steps were taken to regenerate the social life of the people. He was the first Dogra ruler to take an interest in the education of the state. He established a few regular schools and pathshalas. When the Punjab University was established in 1867 he made a generous contribution to it. The first state school was opened in Jammu in the early 1860s and another such school was opened in Srinagar in 1874. The curriculum however followed the traditional pattern and education was imparted in Persian and Sanskrit.

In 1854, Reverend Robert Clark who was on tour to Kashmir, on return forcefully represented the needs of the Kashmiri people to the Christian Missionary Society in London. He received much support for his views and a requisition was sent to the Christian Missionary Society to start work in Kashmir. It was decided that the first concern of these missionaries should be to work for the improvement in the deteriorated health of the people of the state. The popularity of the medical work of these missionaries encouraged them to pay attention to the astounding problem of mass illiteracy. It took many years to allay ignorance, fight chauvinism and dispel

distrust through perseverance and patience of these Christian Missionaries.

A change in the medieval educational system was brought in 1880 when the first school on modern lines was established by the Christian Missionary Society of London on the outskirts of Srinagar. The founder of the school was J.Hinton Knowles. However, the response was not satisfactory. The school was latter shifted to the city in 1890 and was named after reverend Biscoe, who took over in 1892. The school to this day is one of the foremost educational institutions in Srinagar and has played an important and positive role in bringing in and spreading modern education in Kashmir. Modern education turned out men gifted with an entirely new outlook on life. It opened up opportunities and broadened the access to the coveted government service.

In 1907, Maharaja Pratap Singh (1885-1925) appointed a conference to formulate a scheme for imparting education to his subjects. In 1909, he again stressed upon the need to draw up a scheme for making primary education free and compulsory throughout the state. A. Mitra, the then Education Minister, who was an ardent supporter of the scheme, however, stood against the introduction of any law of

compulsion for many social and other reasons. Many private institutions had now started receiving grant-in-aid from the government. It was Maharaja Hari Singh (1925-1950) who adopted 'Compulsory Primary Education Regulation' in 1930 and made it applicable in Srinagar, Jammu and many other towns with immediate effects later on

According to the census report of 1901, there was one high school in Srinagar, 16 primary schools and 19 indigenous branch schools in the valley. The first high school in Jammu and Srinagar came into existence in 1890 and 1892 respectively. College education was available only outside the state and very few families could afford the expense while others could not avail of the opportunity. As the residents of Kashmir were loath to leave their homes to go to the Punjab or elsewhere for receiving training in institutions there, alternative arrangements were made in the State. Colleges were established in Srinagar and Jammu in 1905 and 1907 respectively. Sri Pratap College was the first college in Srinagar established in the year 1905. The College was affiliated to the Banaras Hindu University and was open to both men and women but it remained predominantly a male institution.

Sri Pratap College was the only institute of higher education in Kashmir till the 1940s. Another college, Amar Singh College was established as a technical school in the 1930s, in the memory of the late Raja Amar Singh and given the status of a degree college as late as 1942.

After independence Higher education promotes social and economic development by enhancing human and technical capabilities in India includes Jammu and Kashmir. Regarding the growth of Higher Education in J & K, the University of Jammu was established in 1969 with just 11 departments and 10 affiliated colleges. It has presently 35 leading departments and 172 affiliated colleges. It has its own campus in Jammu, besides it has established offsite Campuses at Baderwah, Kathua, Udhampur, Ramban, Reasi, Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar. Out of 172 colleges affiliated to the university there are 75 colleges of education, one college is the government college of education while other 74 are the non-government colleges of education. There are 7 state universities and 2 central universities in the state. There is one autonomous college i.e; National Institute of Technology, Srinagar. There are 14 law colleges, 15 Private Degree Colleges and 3

Oriental Colleges in Jammu. There are 9 Government Degree Colleges offering P.G. Programmes and 1 Private Degree College (Bhargava Degree College, Samba) offering the same course. 5 Management studies colleges in J & K are there. There is only University of Jammu offering Distance Education .For attaining excellence in Higher Education, the Colleges in J & K are grouped in clusters with one College as lead College. There are 9 such clusters, 4 in Jammu Province, 4 in Kashmir Province and one in Ladakh Region. Table no. 1 showing number of universities in j & k along with the year of establishment:- Name of the

University Year of establishment University of Kashmir 1949 University of Jammu 1969 SKUAST Kashmir 1982 SKUAST Jammu 1999 SMVD University Jammu 2004 Baba Gulam Shah Bud shah University 2005 Islamic University of Science & Technology 2005 Central University of Kashmir 2009 Central University of Jammu Still to be established There are 17 colleges of education in Kathua, 9 in Samba, 35 private and 1 Govt. college of Education in Jammu, 8 in Udhampur and Reasi, 4 in Rajouri and Poonch and 1 college of education in Kishtwar. Statistical representation of colleges of education in Jammu provence.

**Table 1: Number of universities in J& K along with the year of establishment:-**

Name of the University	Year of establishment
University of Kashmir	1949
University of Jammu	1969
SKUAST Kashmir	1982
SKUAST Jammu	1999
SMVD University Jammu	2004
Baba Gulam Shah Bud shah University	2005
Islamic University of Science & Technology	2005
Central University of Kashmir	2009
Central University of Jammu	2011

## Conclusion

Jammu and Kashmir has remained educationally backward compelling the state government to promote education in the state. The state government keeps taking various initiatives from time to time to improve the education system. The government runs many centre and state supported schemes, especially for the backward/underprivileged sections of the society, so that they are not deprived of education. It includes providing free education up to the college level, mobile institutions for the nomadic population, scholarships, free books and uniform to deserving students. The Annual Report of the Education Department states that around 2000 privately run schools are operating in the state. A significant number of privately run technical and other institutes, is limited only to cities and towns. Education sector in the State needs various reforms such as: a. There is a need to rationalize the scheme of providing free education at all the levels in the state and to reconsider the decision of providing free education at the university level. As higher education is directly related to the employment sector, the stress should be on vocational education leading to better placement in the job market. The need of the hour is to learn the latest technologies

available and government institutes need to be equipped with the latest infrastructure so that students are better informed. The Government has also decided to open Model College in every district of the state during 12th five year plan, which started on April 2012. The model college will have modern facilities and infrastructure that can be shared by other institutions nearby for collective growth. Higher Education is reaching at every door-step. It is good to see the rural areas being covered. Hope the new Colleges would be equipped with requisite physical infrastructure and staff (both teaching and non-teaching).

### **Suggestions**

- [1] Appropriate pupil teacher ratio should be maintained for the smooth functioning of teaching learning process.
- [2] To strengthen and expand schools.
- [3] To increase incentives for girls.
- [4] District College for men and women students to be founded in those areas where it is impracticable for students to travel to the state University; such colleges to be both liberal and technical.
- [5] The establishment of technical colleges and research institutions to prepare men and women



for the higher techniques involved in the national plan.

[6] Increase in the number of scholarships reserved for boys and girls on account of their poverty and backwardness.

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