

# **Education In Assam**

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## PREFACE

The Field Unit, NCERT, Shillong, which is the third Unit in the Country, was set-up on September, 1967 by the National Council of Educational Research & Training. Besides its own programmes and functions as the field agency for all the Departments of the National Institute of Education and the NCERT, the Field Unit is to keep the National Institute of Education & NCERT abreast with the latest educational information available in the State.

The Primary purpose of undertaking this work was to understand the Educational system in Assam State and also to keep the different Departments of the National Institute of Education and other agencies of NCERT well informed about the Educational pattern prevalent in Assam State with appropriate historical background. This publication "Education in Assam" deals with various aspects of Education in Assam State including present developments.

We have tried our best to collect latest data and information relating to different aspects of education. In compiling this publication, we have consulted several books & reports supplied by various agencies, and data collected from the State Department of Education, Assam and other agencies. A list of reference materials is given at appendix IV. We are thankful to the authors of these books and reports.

It is my great pleasure to place this publication "Education in Assam" in the hands of esteemed readers. The Field Unit does not claim that it is exhaustive and complete. This could be regarded as just a brief note on different aspects of education in Assam State. The information and data presented in this book are upto 31st March, 1970.

We would like to express our gratitude to erstwhile Department of Field Services NCERT for advising the erstwhile Field Unit, Shillong to take up this work and to the Council for their approval to undertake the work.

Shri Manimay Nath, M.A., Technical Assistant of the erstwhile Field Unit helped to a great extent in preparing this book within a short time. I am very much thankful to him for his sincere and hardwork.

We are thankful to the State Department of Education, Assam and other agencies for their kind co-operation and assistance by supplying us various information and reports. The National Council of Educational Research & Training is most grateful to the Director of Public Instruction, Assam who has kindly vetted the book before printing.

Dated Shillong the  
31st March, 1971.

**B.K. Nath**  
Field Adviser,  
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## **ASSAM AT A GLANCE.**

### **Population (Projected), 1966.**

|               |     |                  |
|---------------|-----|------------------|
| <b>Male</b>   | ... | 72,65,000        |
| <b>Female</b> | ... | 63,66,000        |
| <b>Total</b>  | ... | 1,36,31,000      |
| <b>Area</b>   | ... | 47,091 SQ Miles. |

### **P.C. of literacy : 1961 sensus.**

|               |     |      |
|---------------|-----|------|
| <b>Male</b>   | ... | 37.3 |
| <b>Female</b> | ... | 16.0 |
| <b>Total</b>  | ... | 27.4 |

**Education budget in 1969 ; OverRs. 21 crores**

# **Education In Assam.**

## **PART I CHAPTER I**

### **Educational Back Ground**

Assam is the extreme North Eastern Frontier State of India. It is bounded by various bordering countries like Bhutan, China, Burma and East Pakistan. According to the 1961 census the area of the State Assam is 47,094 s.q. miles or 1,21,973 s.q. kilometres with a population of 11,872,772. It is a hilly State having various dissimilar types and tribes of people. Broadly the State Assam is divided into two parts, viz. Hills and Plains. The plains area is divided into Brahmaputra Valley and Surma Valley.

Assam remained an independent kingdom till the advent of the British power in 1826 with which she stepped in her modern history and in 1874. Assam as a separate unit of administration came into existence. According to 1871 census the population of Assam was 4,133,019 (excluding the unsettled areas of the Hill tracts).

At present the Assam State consists of twelve Districts, namely, Lakhimpur, Sibsagarh, Nowgong, Darrang, Kamrup, Goalpara, Garo Hills, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Mikir Hills, North Cachar Hills, Cachar and Mizo Hills. Garo Hills, K. & J. Hills, Mikir Hills, North Cachar Hills and Mizo Hills are the five hills districts of Assam. A separate autonomous Hills State named as "Meghalaya" comprising two Hills districts, Garo Hills and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills will be formed within Assam State with effect from April 2, 1970.

Before the advent of the British rule, there was no institutional educational system, like that of our age, in Assam, except some traditional systems like Toles Satras and

Namgharas initiated by Sankar Deva, during his Vaisnava movement. But, so far as the education was concerned, there was no integration at all.

“Indigenous education had already declined and by 1840, Assam, now a British territory, was placed in charge of an Inspector of Schools, W. Rabinson, who reported in 1841 that the State of Education in the Brahmaputra valley was “deplorable in the extreme.” By 1856 English, Anglo-Vernacular as well as vernacular schools were established by the Government or private agencies in the two valleys. By 1875 “the system initiated by Sir John Compbell of encouraging indigenous institutions has begun to take effect” and the number of schools rose to 1293 with 31462 scholars. There was one schools in every 31.7 sq. miles, and there were seven pupils in every thousand of the population. The types of institutions were : Primary, Anglo-vernacular, vernacular and High English school. The High School at Gauhati provided instruction upto Intermediate First Arts standard. There were a few normal schools and technical institutions also, five printing presses, and three news-papers in the province. There were forty girls’ schools, most of them are being managed by the Welsh Mission in K. & J. Hills.

The College classes at Gauhati were closed in 1876, and thirty six State Scholarships varying from Rs. 25 to Rs. 10 a month were given to encourage students to receive high education under Calcutta University. In 1892 Murarichand College, teaching up to Intermediate Standard, was established at Sylhet by a local land lord, Raja Girish Chandra Roy. During the twelve years ending in 1900, 68 pupils of Surma Valley, 29 of Brahmaputra Valley and 2 of the Hills Districts passed B.A. Examination of Calcutta University and 21 students of the Province obtained M.A. degree during the same period” \*(1) Cotton College at Gauhati was established in 1901.

“The Medical School at Dibrugarh (now a college) was set up in 1900 out of funds left by Brigade-Surgeon Berry-White, and the Engineering School opened at Dibrugarh by the endowment of a tea planter, Williamson of Sibsagarh, had to be closed

down. Law Classes were held at Gauhati, Sibsagarh, Sylhet and Silchar.

A Middle English School for European and Anglo-Indian students was formed in Shillong in 1881. The earth-quake of 1897 destroyed the building of this school and classes were discontinued till 1900 when the school was revived.

The number of literate persons increased from 57 per thousand of the population in 1881 to 90 in 1891 and 121 in 1901. The percentage of Boys and Girls under instruction were higher in K. & J. Hills. 15 percent of girls of school going age and 30 percent of the boys attended school.

In 1905, a Department of Education was created for Assam and placed in charge of a Director with an inspecting staff.

As in other States education is provided in Assam by the Government and private agencies. There are Indian and foreign missions as well as non-denominational agencies in the field and many of them received aid from the State.” \*2.

Now the rate of literacy had increased in Assam. According to the 1961 census, out of the total population 11,872,772 in Assam 3,248,055 are literate, of which 2,361,724 are male and 886,331 are female. All total 27.4 percent of Assam are literate.

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\* (1 & 2) Education in Assam “by Prof. S.C. Majumdar.  
Published by Himalays Publishers, Shillong.