
Evolution of Women Education in Colonial Midnapore

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Abstract: Now-a-days, we find that large number of girls students are going to school. Many girls do not agree child marriage. Hey want to continue the school education. If the family forces to their girls for marriage but many girls protest against it. On this perspective I will discuss about the expansion of women education under colonial Midnapore. I will discuss in my writing on the evolution of women education in sub-urban colonial Midnapore. I will try to analyse how over women education in Midnapore facing various problems in that time. I will also analyse the evolution of women education medium of two school, these are Mission school and Aligung School. Christian missionary and many indigenous people played a lead role on evolution of women education in colonial Midnapore.

Keywords: Aligung, Education, Christian Missionary School, Midnapore, Women etc.

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Introduction

From middle 19th century to see a trend evolution of women education in sub-urban areas in Bengal. In Midnapore, in this time was seen the various kind of initiatives of some indigenous people and Christian missionaries. Result of this phenomenon many schools were set up here for women education. Objectives and character of this kind of institutions was different type.

We know from 1852 A.D report that, in Midnapore School for child, here boys and girls learn together. Families understand the need of women education. In 1876 A.D in Midnapore gets reference of two schools. Reference of 1891 A.D census report was that progress of women

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education was satisfactory. According to 1901 A.D statistics, without Howrah and Hoogly progress of primary education in Midnapore was much better than the other district of Bengal. Out of total population, 7% women was educated.¹ This kind evidence proof that an environment was created for women education in Midnapore.

Decade of 1860 A.D in Midnapore town had been set up two educational institutions, that's main objectives was spread of women education. Rajnarayan Bose, the head teacher of Midnapore district school was the supportor of women education. He spread the importance of women education among the people of Midnapore town. 19July of 1861 A.D was set up "Hindu BalikaVidyalaya" at mirzabazar near hanumanjivhak by the self-initiatives of Rajnarayan Bose.² This was the first girl's school in Midnapore town. After long time this school renamed was "OligungRisiRajnarayanBalikaVidyalaya".

In that time American Baptist missionary came in Midnapore town. In 1862 A.D a church was set up at sepaibazar by the initiatives of R. Bachelor and his wife sara P. Bachelor. They spread the missionary activities and besides they spread the education. In 1868 A.D they make a specific planning for teaching. These two class was based on lower primary school later became first formation of Mission girls school.³ hunter told in his report that, the aim was to take for orphan girls at the time femine of 1866 A.D. in that time other significant evnt was that women who along with midna pore Baptist mission would teach the women with the medium of home to home .⁴ This kind of phenomenon created an environment for women education .

Missionary Ruth Daniel came to midnapore 1914 A.D. as a Bibeltescher. His one of the popular works was given to the teaching for women .In that time a school was started the work for women education with guidance of a Christian women Rachel bose .From this time, Rachel bose took the charge of girls hostel .⁵

AligungSchool first directed by Bangio society. In this time, Rajnarayan Bose was the chaiman of midnapore municipality and secretary of this school. From 1885 A.D. Midnapore municipality directly took the managing duty. In the same year jamindar of Mahishadal give 2500 rupees for setup school.⁶ On the other side mission school was directed by Baptist mission .Among all the districts this school was the first school for girls.⁷ From 1912 A.D. Aligung school became upper primary school than economy crisis stopped the school growth speed. From 1916 A.D. this school became an English school, medium of learning of class six. From 1928-29 A.D. class seven-eight and 1936 A.D. Class nine to ten syllabus were started .In this way this school overcome many barriers and became a high school in 1949 A.D.⁸

In 1912-13 A.D a school inspector known to us about AligungSchool that, student of class one and two use to do math solve, storytelling and reading. Student of class three use to solve math and grammar. Decade of 1920 A.D a school inspector known about the mission girls school that, this school grow fastly and about this subject need an initiatives of both teacher and student. In 1939-40 A.D we know from the account of chief school inspector of presidency and Burdwan division that , from the side of quality , only Brahama girls school was equal to this school.⁹

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In Aligung school besides the normal curriculum gave the importance on stitch learning for becoming self-depending of girls student. School appointed tailor and school teacher to observe it. From 1915A.D this school started cooking. Besides it gave the clay modelling learning and bratachari was economic and creative moment near the student. We know from an account of 1924A.D in that time a library and 400 books wear in mission girls school.¹⁰

These institutions take many kinds of initiatives for better reading among students. Ruth Daniels and the missionary pray to guardian that they went girls to school for reading. Many Guardians know that they were unable to send their girls to school in this case Daniels went their house in leisure time and tried to teach the girls.¹¹ Arrangement of free education and hostel facility for backward girls. Decade of 1920 A.D head mistress Bhakti ushaGhosh of AligungSchoolbefore Examination and vacation time came to the willing students of their own house for learning. Decade of 1940 this school opened in Sunday by the initiatives of school teachers for special training of girls.¹²

In that time a major problem haunted the girls students and in order to solve this problem, Aligung school arranged bullock-cart and horse carriages. School inspector told that haunt problem was the main cause of increasing absent students of AligungSchool. After some days of this event Aligung school and mission girls school bus. This initiative increased the total number of student.¹³

In Midnapore this school facing some problem in different times. Main problem was finance. In 1878A.D mission school authority applied to govt. for financial help, they told that laks crowded people added Midnapore district only this upper school gave the girls learning.¹⁴ Yet Baptist missin of America did the continue help for this school.

This financial problem along with other problems .One of them was scarcity of place . This was the continuous problem of AligungSchool. Approx 1886A.D. June only 332 rupees expend for buying and built a big hall room for learning .But the number of students increased day by day.Areport of 1946 A.D.denotes that crisis of place number of student was much other than class room space due to increase of student number .This phenomenon created a deficalt situation for both student and teacher .Situation standing on that, in 1948A.D.class reading was stopped for few times with the case of scarcity of class room and finals.¹⁵But mission school formed large area .In this school natural beauty was most attractive. Yet,class room was shifted to missionary area due to the increase of student number.

Financial help was coming from the nearest rich man and guardians. In Mission school Ruth Daniel took and initiative step about this. Mission school encouraged the students for collecting the money for school. Students collected some money and submitted to the school authority. Students also informed the teacher openly they would have to collect the money. Reference of one student memories that, she collected the money to copy her advocate grandfather documents and submitted the money with joy and bravery.¹⁶In that time Aligung school took financial help from a lot of people.

The weak point of Aligung school was a misunderstanding between teaching stuff and authority. In this reason many teachers leave from the school suddenly. This kind of phenomenon left a bad effect on school learning system.¹⁷The comment of school inspectors

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was very important for this kind of institution in Midnapore. They requested to Aligung school teacher to arrange a kind of learning method that fundamental question arouse in students mind. They also gave some advice like that, clean the school campus; students read the library books, regular cleaning of toilet and school authority and school teachers observed it. In 1940A.D. school visitor gave Rs.400 as a denote for establishment of school library.¹⁸ District school inspector was always sympathetic towards mission school.

In that time, these two schools created many kinds of mind set among the guardians and girls students. Acceptance of mission girls' school increased among the people of Midnapore Town medium of teaching and activeness of missionary. A report mentioned about the jenana commission that, at the end of 1876A.D. A local woman in Midnapore Town joined church or England. This incident was close the door of many families in Midnapore for Christian teachers.¹⁹ Among the Midnapore Town, people a esteem was about on Aligung school that established by Rajnarayan Bose. From the memories of an ex-student of this two schools that her grandfather admitted him from Mission girls school to Aligung school because Rajnarayan Bose set up this school and in that time this kind student was needed to set up as an upper school.²⁰

In Aligung school hindu and muslim students took leasons, yet the numbers of hindu students are more than the others. In Mission school hindu, muslim and Christian students take leasons. Participation in two schools that, various aged students learn in the same class, widow girls also would study here. This kind of woman BijalipravaDas was the first successful girl in Mission girls' school. She qualifies matriculation examination in 1931A.D.²¹ Maximum students of Aligung school would come from poor family. Many students did not give the money at the time. Many families did not take care of students in their house.²²

Conclusion

The growth of Midnapore women education was going on with the medium of known to unknown ups and downs. The growth of missionary school was very rapid. But municipality inspected the schools problem directly. Women participation in education increase in colonial Midnapore Big achievement of this two school achieved success and that continuity is now going on.

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