

ROLE OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT IN THE PROGRESS OF LEARNING IN BASSEIN

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Introduction:

Basseintaluka from Palghar district.(earlier Thane dist.) is about 30 miles north of Bombay. Commenting on Bassein, James Douglas remarked, "Here there are great memories , the land is brimful of history and contains in its story a microcosm of the three great religions which have held mankind in fief for three thousand years. It is a terra sancta of them all. Everyone of them has passed like a great wave over its soil and left small trace of its existence'.

Bassein has it's importance since from the Maurayan period. Portuguese and British period was hope of development in education in Bassein. Franciscan missionary opened a school in Bassein in 1586. In 1548 St. Francis Xavier paid an unexpected visit to Bassein and encouraged Jesuit missionary for the development of education. By the end of the sixteenth century the schools were not doing well ,it was reported that there was no need of more schools in Bassein.

Archbishop Thomas Roberts arrived in Bombay and took charge of the Diocese,(1928) he noticed to his utter disappointment that the Bassein people were worse off in education, while female literacy percentage was very low even male were also not showing interest in education. Incidentally , conflict of Padroado (Portuguese authority) and Propaganda (British authority) began to infect Bassein educational institution run by missionaries. The "Double jurisdiction" which began in 1794 with the British dividing Bombay churches between the Carmelities and the Goa diocese was accepted by the Concordat of 1886. By the terms of the Concordat while the whole of Salsette and **Bassein** came under the diocese of Daman from 1886-1928.(earlier it was under Goa Diocese, 1534-1886).

During the regime of Arch-bishop T.Roberts,it came within the new scheme of the parish schools, sponsored by him and developed as others.(16 Schools),as well as the role of Local self-government became helpful to sustain progress of education in all religion and caste. with the generous help, polices and guidance of Local self-government institutions of Bassein i.e. District board, Local board, Municipal council and Grampanchayat ,played an

important role in the progress of Learning in rural area of Bassein Taluka. My paper particularly focused on role of Bassein Municipal Council in field of progress of Education in Bassein.

History:

The earliest efforts in municipal administration in India were made in the Presidency towns of Madras, Calcutta and Bombay (Bassein was part of Bombay)

From 1810 Local Board schools were started in Bassein, this school is known as school No.1, it is still going on well. In 1825 Bassein Bazar School in 1863 Pardi school was established. Primary education was under the control of Thane district Board. There were schools for the farmers training known as indigenous school.

The real progress was made in the direction of Local self-government after 1870. The Resolution of 1870, dealing with decentralisation of finance referred to the necessity of taking further steps to bring local interest and supervision to bear on the management of funds devoted to **education**, sanitation and public works. There were total six schools in Bassein during the year of 1880.

In 1882 Lord Ripon took special interest." It is not primarily with a view to improvement in administration that this measure is put forward and supported. It is chiefly desirable as an instrument of political and popular education."

According to resolution of 1882 government established New Anglo Vernacular schools in rural area at Bassein, i.e. At Giriz village..1893, at Sandoresaloe village 1896, at Buigoan in 1900.

In the year of 1886 responsibility of schools were given to Bassein municipality by the district board (it was established in 1884). Till 1938, there were 10 schools and about 1200 students were encouraged to take primary education. **In 1938 Members of Bassein Municipal Council passed resolution, with that Primary education was made compulsory to remove illiteracy of Bassein Taluka.** Accordingly they encouraged private schools, run by local social Ladders. Municipal Council was granting monthly Rs.12 for this school.

Social associations were also encouraged to open schools from 1870, The Municipal council sanctioned a monthly grant of Rs. 12 for these schools.

Training in the use of Spinning wheel given under the Basic education scheme was discontinued from 1968. In place of spinning more useful agricultural training was introduced in schools from 1950.

Municipal council provided a play ground for sports in 1950 and thus sports were encouraged. Most remarkable activity was sending resolution of demanding free education for secondary school to the government, in 1954.

Bassein Municipal council was first Institution of local Self Government of Bassein ,previously British government nominated repetitive and later by election process local representation gave their efforts for the development of Town. It gave exposure to all types of people. By providing civil facilities, by supporting Schools, by developing Public health centre and many other facilities compare to other area of Bassein , town area is developed. New English school in Vasai was the first to get government grant, and centre of Matriculation examination. Later first aided college of this taluka ,AnnasahebVartak college was established in Bassein in 1969. The BasseinMunicipalcouncil,thus,played a vital role in the development of education.

Conclusion:

Education has created an awakening and scope of socio—eco .development in Bassein due to vital role of the Local Self Government. All efforts were made to encourage education to make Bassein an ideal town. with the sanction of fund for the appeal of School management, school principal municipal council supported them to run their educational institutions. With the collaboration local School they had different activities. whenever there were letter of permission of establish new education institution , Municipal council had positive discussion and gave cooperation generously.

Such as progress of education brought unification in Bassein and sense of national consciousness .A democratic form of government motivated local people to take over the responsibility of running local administration.

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