

CHAPTER XV EDUCATION AND CULTURE

138. Historical background

(a) Centres of Learning in early times

During ancient, medieval or early modern times no centre of learning is known to have existed in the district. Education never received State patronage till modern times and it was ordinarily the father who was to act as his son's tutor. Often teachers were also being engaged by a group of parents or by a village as a whole. The teacher used to receive fooding and certain occasional remunerations from the family of the taught. Education usually consisted of reading, writing and simple Arithmetic; but teaching of Sanskrit was also prevalent.

The district remained, till the recent times, outside the cultural sphere of Orissa. The little cultural activity that existed was mostly confined to the Durbar of the Chieftains, notably of Dhenkanal State. Lord Sikhareswar of Kapilas used to attract pilgrims from far and wide, and there is reason to believe that literary and cultural activity was prevailing in the Maths * at Kapilas. It is said that Sridhar Swami, the noted commentator of Srimadbhagavata, was a disciple of Shri Ramakrishnananda Swami, the founder of the Brahmachari Mtah of Kapilas. A chronicle, called "Gurukramanwaya", which is a record of the past of the institution, was once known to have been preserved in the Math. "Gurukramanwaya" claims that Sridhar wrote his commentary on Srimadbhagavata while at Kapilas. Sridhar was born in village Mareigam, near Remuna, in Balasore district and had spent parts of his life at Puri and Bhubaneswar.

(b) Old poets

Of the old-time Oriya poets belonging to this district, the most renowned is Brajanath Badajena. A short account about him and a few others is given below :

BALARAM SAMANTASINHARA

During the middle of the 17th Century Balaram Samantasinhara was a ruler of Hadgarh in Bhimanagari Kingdom which later got merged in Dhenkanal ex-State. He was the author of a few Oriya *Chautisa* songs. The famed poet Krushna Das of Jaleswar (Balasore), popularly called Dinakrushna Das, received his patronage for a period and wrote his well-known work Rasabinoda.

* Vide "Kapilas" in Chapter XIX

NRUSINGHA BHRAMARABARA

Nrusingha Bhramarabara ruled over Dhenkanal State between 1683 and 1708 and was in many respects an energetic King. A number of *Chaupadis* and *Chautisas* written by him are found.

KUNJABIHARI BHRAMARABARA 1708—1728

Kunjabihari, son of Nrusingha, was a poet of some eminence. A lengthy *Kavya* in Oriya named "*Premasila*" was his masterpiece.

BRAJANATH BADAJENA

Poet Brajanath Badajena, son of Balunkeswar Pattanaik, lived in the 18th century and used to enjoy patronage of the then Raja of Dhenkanal, Trilochan Mahindra Bahadur (1771—1798). His birth place was Kabera, a village in Gondia P. S. It is said, his fore-fathers had migrated to Dhenkanal from Khurda. Brajanath was a learned man and was also well-versed in languages like Sanskrit, Hindi, Telugu, and Bengali. He wrote many poems in Oriya and Hindi. He is renowned for his war ballad *Samara Taranga*. His other works include *Ambika Bilas*, *Shyama Rasotsaba*, *Kelikalanidhi*, *Chatura Binoda*, and *Gundicha Bije*. His works were appreciated by the learned men and by the rulers of various ex-States of Orissa by whom he was highly rewarded. He wrote *Gundicha Bije* in Hindi depicting the famous car festival of Lord Jagannath (Puri) and presented it to the then Raja, Dibyasingha Dev II of Puri. *Samara Taranga* gives a graphic account in verse of the battle between Marhatta and Dhenkanal forces (1781). *Chatura Binoda* is said to be the first Oriya prose written in an elegant style, and is full of wit and humour. He used to write on paper and palm leaf. He was also a painter and sculptor. Many of his works are untraced, believed to be lost. *Brajanath Granthabali*, a collection of the poet's writings so far come to light, has been published by Orissa Sahitya Akademi.

Brajabandhu Samantsinhara, author of *Ramalilamruta*—a Puranic work, belongs to Angul subdivision. Nrusinha Rayaguru, also of Angul has rendered to poetry the fight between the forces of Angul and Dhenkanal at Burhapanka (Budhapanka). The work called *Budhapanka Pothi* is an imitation of *Samara Taranga*. Nrusinha's patron Somanath Singh Jagaddev was the last ruler of Angul, which the British occupied in 1848.

Of poets belonging to 19th—20th Century, the following may be mentioned whose literary works have had no mean contribution to the cultural heritage of the present district. None of them except poet Radamohan Gadanayak is living.

NILAMBAR PUROHIT

He belonged to Manpur (ମନପୁର) a Sasan village, about 9 miles (15 km.) from Angul. He was the author of *Rasachandrika*, a treatise (in Sanskrit) on medicine.

KRUSHNA BEHERA

His birth place is village Angarbandh, a pilgrimage of Alekh devotees. But the poet was a Vaishnab adherent. He was born in a weaver's (ଢେରୁଢେରୁ) family. He was the author of *Binod Bhagabata* in Oriya written in Chaturdasakshari Chhanda.*

SRINIBAS SINGH

A resident of Gotamara in Panchagarh (Angul). He was for sometime Inspector of Schools for Eastern States and for Sambalpur district. He got four Oriya books published, namely, *Sishukhela Geeta* (ଶିଶୁଖିଳା ଗୀତା), *Barnabodha* (ବର୍ଣ୍ଣବୋଧ) and the remaining two were remarkable for being written according to the folk metre. The books were *Sita* and *Sabitri* written for gods. Both are unique in their manner and delineation.

SOMANATH SINGH

He was the last Raja of Angul and was a poet. He has been mentioned in *Sangeeta Sagar*, compiled by Damodar Patnaik, as the composer (ରଚିତା) of some songs. More than 200 such songs collected are of high literary order.

KAVICHANDRA TANKADHAR HOTA, Alias CHEMA HOTA

Resident of Ekagharia, 5 miles (8 km.) from Angul. He was the author of *Lilavati Biraha Chintamani*, *Manabhanjana Champu*, and *Talcher Vamsanucharita*. He was awarded the title of *Kavichandra* by Raja Ramachandra Birabara Harichandan of Talcher (ruled 1873—1891).

SRINIBAS GADANAYAK

He belonged to village Gada Santri. Author of *Bhagirath Kavya* in Oriya, he closely followed the footprints of poet Radhanath Rai. He composed more than 500 songs in Riti (ରୀତି) style, which are sung in Pala recitals. He also wrote a small book of verse on *Lobhi Thakurani*, the presiding deity of village Santri.

JADUNATH KAR KAVYATIRTHA

He hailed from Khamar—a village 2 miles from Angul. The Sanskrit Tol at Angul has been named after him. A Sanskrit scholar, he wrote *Narayana Sataka* (in Sanskrit) and composed other Sanskrit poems. He was also the author of many songs and *Chhandas*, a few of which have been compiled in an Oriya book called *Prapatti* (ପ୍ରାପତି).

*A metre of a poem having 14 words.

DINABANDHU PAGAL

Born in a weaver's (ବୁଢ଼ାଘର) family, he belonged to village Khamar. He wrote *Srikrishna Lilamruta* (unpublished).

SULAKSHANA DEVI

A poetess of eminence, she belonged to Dhenkanal town. She was the wife of Chyau Patnaik. She was contemporary of poet Radhanath Rai. She was highly admired by poets Radhanath Rai, Madhusudan Rao, Fakirmohan Senapati, and Nandakishore Bal. All of them composed poems on Sulakshana Devi. She was the authoress of *Parijatamala* an anthology of songs and prayers.

BAISHNAB CHARAN MOHAPATRA

Belonged to Kesaria, a village about 1 mile from Dhenkanal town. He was a Sanskrit scholar and author of *Baishnaba Granthabali*.

NAGENDRANATH MOHAPATRA

A resident of Kesaria, he was a scholar and author of *Nagendra Granthabali*.

DAMODAR PATNAIK

He was the son of Poetess Sulakshana Devi of Dhenkanal. He worked as Dewan of some ex-feudatory States. He composed *Kapilaskshetra*, an Oriya poem written in the manner of *Chilika* by Radhanath Rai, and *Bhalapila* for children. Also compiled in 4 volumes *Sangeeta Sagar* a collection of rare songs of different poets of Orissa. He was writing in numbers under the pseudo name of *Yubaraj* during the literary quarrel between the *Indradhanu* and the *Bijuli*.

JANARDAN SINGH MARDARAJ

Ruler of Hindol. He was the author of *Rasalata* (ରସରତୀ), a *Chhanda-Kavya* written in Riti style, and *Madhavananda Kavya* (unpublished) written in similar style. The manuscript has been preserved in the Palm leaf manuscript section of Orissa State Museum.

CHAKRADHAR ACHARYA

He belonged to Hindol. Served as Dewan of Hindol for 22 years. He was the younger brother of late Kaviraj Balunkeswar Acharya. Author of *Sribatsa*—a *Kavya*, and *Akshata*—an anthology of lyrics. He also translated *Hansaduta* from original Sanskrit into Oriya in a lucid manner. His compilation of folk songs and sayings (ଘୋଷ) has not been published.

RAMA KRUSHNA SAHU

A resident of Rasol in Hindol ex-State (now subdivision). He was also the headmaster of Rasol Middle English School and Hindol High School. He wrote a number of books, of which a *Kavya* (in blank verse) entitled *Geetatatwa* (ଗୈତାତତ୍ୱ) was the masterpiece.

BHAGIRATHI MISRA KAVYATIRTHA

A resident of Hindol town, he wrote a number of books in ancient Riti style, which are often sung in Pala recitals. He composed a big *Kavya* called *Damayanti* imitating Shri Harsha's *Naisadacharita*. More than 10 of his books have been published.

MUKUNDA MOHAPATRA

A resident of Nandapur Sasan of Hindol. He was a renowned astrologer. He wrote a commentary on *Siddhanta Darpan* (unpublished). He also worked as a professor in Sanskrit College, Puri.

BHIKARI CHARAN DAS

Belonged to Balikiari, a village near Rasol (in Hindol). A poet having adopted *Riti* style, he was the author of more than 100 books (published). He was given honour by Orissa Sahitya Akademi.

GADADHAR SINGH SAMANT

He was son of Raja Mahendra Deo of Athmallik. He was a poet and composed an Oriya *Kavya* called *Banabina* (ବନାବିନା) in blank verse. He made substantial contribution to Oriya muse.

GHANASHYAM KAVIBHUSAN

He belonged to Talcher. He was the author of *Sahadasundari* (ସାହାଦାସୁନ୍ଦରୀ) and *Kanchanmala* (କାଞ୍ଚନମାଳା). These are works on Orissan folk lore. Also compiled the history and geography of Talcher.

DASHARATHI MISRA

A resident of Talcher, he translated into Oriya poems of the Meghadoota of Kalidasa in its original metre of *Mandakranta* (ମନ୍ଦାକ୍ରାନ୍ତା). Though now archaic, these speak of literary merit of the author.

BRAJABANDHU MISRA

Belonged to Talcher. He was the editor of *Utkal Bandhu*, a literary monthly during the time of *Indradhamu* and *Bijuli*. He was a court poet of the ex-States of Bamra and Talcher.

LAKSHMAN MISRA

He was originally a resident of Khamar (Angul) but later migrated to Talcher. He was a playwright and wrote a play entitled *Maya Simantini*. Also wrote some other plays.

MUKUNDA KAVYATIRTHA

He belonged to Talcher and was a playwright of old style. His *Rambhasuka-charita Natak* (ରାମଭାସୁକା ଚରିତ ଚାରିତ) and other plays had their basis on Sanskrit works.

RADHAMOHAN GADANAYAK

A renowned Oriya poet, resident of village Kalondapal in Angul subdivision, who has made outstanding contribution to modern Oriya poetry. He is the author of more than 20 books (published) on different aspects of literature namely, *Gadanayak Granthabali* (ଗଦାନ୍ୟକ ଗ୍ରନ୍ଥାବଳୀ), *Kalidasa* (କାଳିଦାସ)—a poetic drama, *Meghadoota* (ମେଘଦୂତ)—an artistic translation of the Sanskrit Kavya of the same name, *Biplabi Radhanath* (ବିପ୍ଳବୀ ରାଧାନାଥ)—a poetic assessment on Poet Radhanath, *Kavyanayika* (କାବ୍ୟ ନାୟିକା)—an anthology of lyrics, *Dhusarabhumika* (ଧୂସରଭୂମିକା)—poems on modern problems, *Pashu Pakhira Kavya* (ପଶୁ ପକ୍ଷୀର କାବ୍ୟ) on birds and beasts, and *Shamukar Swapna* (ଶାମୁକାର ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ)—poems on neglected sections of tribals. He was for sometime President of the Utkal Sahitya Samaj, Cuttack, a premier literary organisation of Orissa. He is taken to be the special prosodist in Oriya literature. He has successfully blended art and science in his poems. On his 60th birth day this year (1971) he has been feted by many organisations for his literary genius.

(c) Beginning of Western Education

Western education had its humble beginning in this district in Dhenkanal and Angul subdivisions. Maharaja Bhagirathi Mahindra Bahadur, who ruled over Dhenkanal between 1830 and 1877, was responsible for many reform measures in his domain. He was a lover of Oriya, Bengali and Sanskrit literatures. He has many noteworthy contributions to the development of education in his State. His period witnessed the establishment of several primary schools, Sanskrit Tols and the Middle English School at Dhenkanal. Established in 1868, the Middle English School of the headquarters town appears to be the first of its kind to impart English education in the entire Eastern States area¹. As this English School received State patronage, difficulties regarding admission of students naturally was not much. The School soon grew in strength to be converted into a High School in 1896. The High School is now known as Brajanath Badajena High School after the famed bard of the ex-State.

Angul subdivision came under British rule in 1848. Administered as a special area under the Superintendent of Tributary Mahals, it took some time to enjoy the benefits of British policy towards education which was far more liberal than that of princely States. But the situation changed after constitution of the Angul district. Mainly

1. The M. E. School had in all seven classes. English education was being imparted together with Sanskrit which was taught in Class VII. During initial period no tuition fee was charged. Text books were also distributed to pupils free of cost. The State used to bear the entire expenditure, which was around Rs. 1,300 per annum in 1871-72. In 1869, one year after its establishment, the Raja of Dhenkanal requested for the services of the Government Deputy Inspector of Schools for proper supervision as the institution was stated to be not properly managed. The Raja's request was soon granted.

because of the exertions of the District Officials, Schools were opened in numbers. But the people were not very enthusiastic. The Angul District Gazetteer (1908) has thus to observe on the topic: "it is reported that the schools would soon disappear, if they (District Officials) withdraw their attention and interest; for the people are not eager for education, prefer to make their children tend cattle or work in their fields and are induced with difficulty to send them to school"¹. The Gazetteer also states elsewhere: "There is in fact, practically no demand or need for higher education, the great majority of the people being small cultivators or aboriginals, to whom nothing but elementary instruction is suitable; there is also a great difficulty in getting them to pursue their studies beyond the primary stage, as the boys are generally withdrawn from school at an early age in order to tend cattle or help their parents in tilling the fields"². Notwithstanding the cold reception to western education in Angul, education thrived there more effectively than in the adjoining ex-States as a natural consequence of the British educational activities.

It took sometime before western education made its start in other subdivisions comprising the ex-States of Talcher, Hindol, Athmallik, and Pal Lahara. Of them, Talcher was an advanced State and Pal Lahara, the most backward in education.

Educational activities prevailing in 1907-08 in each of the 5 ex-States now constituting the district are described hereunder³. It is needless to point out that the number of educational institutions was too meagre to serve adequately the population of those areas.

DHENKANAL STATE*

The State used to spend 5 per cent of its income annually on education. The cost of upkeep of the State-managed High School (attended by 186 students) at the headquarters town was about Rs. 5,000. There were 233 Primary Schools including 27 advanced and elementary private schools in the State which 3,801 students attended. The total cost of education in 1907-08 was Rs. 23,756. Out of the boys of the school-going age only about 17.5 per cent were receiving instruction. A Sanskrit Tol and a Guru Training School, attended by 20 and 10 students respectively, were also maintained by the State.

TALCHER STATE

The State used to maintain a Middle English School at the head quarters, 2 Primary and 62 Lower Primary Schools and a good Sanskrit Tol, besides there were one Government Guru-training School and 4 private schools.

1. L. S. S. O'Malley, Angul District Gazetteer (1908)—p. 127

2. *Ibid*—p. 128.

3. Source: Feudatory States of Orissa by L. E. B. Cobden-Ramsay

*Dhenakanal ex-State comprised the present Dhenkanal and Kamakhyanagar subdivisions.

PAL LAHARA STATE

There was one State-maintained Upper Primary School at the headquarters, besides 32 aided Lower Primary Schools in the State. The total number of pupils reading in schools in 1907-08 was only 577. About the state of education at that time, Mr. Cobden-Ramsay observes¹: "Education is extremely backward and there is little or no demand for it by the people; under great difficulty parents are persuaded to send their boys to school and then constantly take them away to roam the forests."

HINDOL STATE

There were one Middle Vernacular School, 3 Upper Primary and 66 Lower Primary Schools in the State. Pupils on the roll were 1,547 in 1907-08.

ATHMALLIK STATE

There were one Middle English School located at the headquarters town, one Upper Primary School and 36 Lower Primary Schools in the State, besides 7 private schools. A Government Guru-training School was located at Kaintira.

139. Literacy and Educational Standards**(a) Growth of literacy**

Education is more advanced in this district than in any other group of ex-State areas. In fact, literacy figure reveals that all the districts of Orissa excepting Balasore, Cuttack, and Puri are more backward in this regard than Dhenkanal. According to 1951 Census, 158 persons (135 males and 23 females) in every 1,000 population of the State of Orissa were returned as being able to read and write; while every 1,000 people of this district included as many as 187 literate persons (males 166 and females 21). Composed, as it is mainly of ex-State areas where for centuries prevailed complete apathy of Government towards education and learning, Dhenkanal's Census returns showing higher literacy would cause surprise to many. The reasons for higher literacy here than in other ex-State areas are not far to seek. Angul subdivision had the privilege of British rule since 1848. Eversince Angul was constituted a district, education received its due from British authorities so much so that schools cropped up even in remote villages. Dhenkanal was one of the forerunners among the ex-States in the field of education. The fact that Dhenkanal ex-State had many cultural and economic links with Cuttack district, which has been one of the best educated districts, also encouraged people towards education. Mr. Lacey² in his Census Report of

1. Feudatory States of Orissa by L. E. B. Cobden-Ramsay—Page 280

2. Census Report of 1931 by Mr. W. G. Lacey

1931 has observed, "there are certain States notably Dhenkanal, Khandpara, Talcher, Narsingpur, Daspalla and Athgarh where the proportion of literate persons of both sexes is exceptionally high".

Data are not available to show the exact percentage of literacy or its growth at different stages. The period till merger of States saw the growth of literacy in ex-State areas in a slow but steady manner. The growth was conspicuous in Angul subdivision soon after the formation of Angul district (1891) and in the Dhenkanal ex-State, where the Darbar took keen interest in the progress of education. After merger of States in 1948, every year saw opening of numerous new schools. At the time of merger, the district was without a college. There were only 4 High Schools, 16 Middle English Schools and 466 Primary Schools in the whole district. After merger, educational institutions of various grades were opened with the result that during 1951 Census, there were 9 High Schools, 32 Middle English Schools and 580 Primary Schools. There was no College. During 1961 Census, there was further advancement and the district had 3 Colleges, 22 High Schools, 96 Middle English Schools and 1,386 Primary Schools. In addition, 72 Sevasrams, 5 Ashram Schools and 53 Basic Schools were also functioning. A statement showing the number of different categories of schools existing in 1970 has been given as Appendix II. These speak for the growth of general education and also of literacy.

At the 1951 Census, it was noticed that literacy has increased in the age-group up to 9 years among males as well as females. The growth is to be seen in all the districts of Orissa but in Dhenkanal it is more. The obvious conclusion is that elementary education is making noticeable progress. The proportion of increase in the age-group 10—14 years is comparatively less. Dhenkanal district with 130 literate boys belonging to age-group 5—9 years per thousand males is second only to Puri in this regard in the whole of Orissa. This high proportion is because of greater number of boys going to Primary Schools. In the literacy of males between 10 to 14 years, Dhenkanal again is next only to Puri as revealed in 1951 Census.

In 1961 Census, the percentage of literacy came to 23·5 comprising 19·5 per cent males and 4 per cent females, as against the State averages of 17·4 per cent and 4·3 per cent, respectively. The percentage of literacy in the district had, therefore, gone up from 18·7 in 1951 to 23·5 in 1961*. Taking the male population as a whole the percentage of literacy amongst the males was 38·9. Similarly, among the females the percentage was 7·9. The corresponding figures for males and

*According to Census of 1971 (Provisional), the rate of literacy in 1971 has further risen to 27·41 per cent, showing an increase of 16·89 per cent over the literacy figures of 1951. (vide Census of India, 1971—Provisional Population Totals—P 20).

females were 33.4 and 4.2. Of the total literates, 201,185 did not have any educational standard and they simply know how to read and write an ordinary letter, 35,056 had read up to primary or junior basic standard and the rest were either matriculates or had higher qualifications.

In consideration of the fact that persons of the age of 4 years or less have no chance of acquiring literacy, the percentage of literacy of the district becomes slightly higher when the population in the age-group 0—4 years is eliminated from the total population. The following statement compares the percentage worked on this basis for the two Censuses of 1961 and 1951.

Census year	Percentage ¹ of literacy		
	Persons	Males	Females
1961	27.7	23.1	4.6
1951	21.7	19.2	2.5

Then an improvement was noticeable in 1961 to the extent of 6 per cent in the literacy among the population above the age-group of 0—4 years. Since children in the age-group of 0—4 years do not generally attend any school, it may be rational to assume the percentage of literacy for the district to be 27.7 comprising 23.1 males and 4.6 females².

The rate of literacy was the lowest in Pal Lahara subdivision and the highest in Athmallik subdivision. Among the police-stations, the highest standard of literacy was recorded in Kishorenagar (28.4 per cent or 7,247 literates) and the lowest in Khamar (15.7 per cent or 3,555 literates)³.

(b) Number of literates

During the 1951 Census, 156,944 persons (139,006 males and 17,938 females) of the district were returned as literate. During 1961 Census, there were 241,332 literates, consisting of 200,909 males and 40,423 females.

1. Percentage of literacy is to be understood as percentage of total population including males and females.

2. District Census Hand Book, Dhenakanal (1961) PP. 28—29

3. Ibid—P.30

A person is given the status of literate if he is able to read and write simple alphabets of any language. Of them, a great majority has no opportunity of receiving any thing higher than elementary education. The following table shows the division of literates by educational standards according to 1961 Census:

Educational Standard	Male	Female	Total
1. Primary or Junior Basic ..	30,781	4,275	35,056
2. Matriculation or Higher Secondary.	4,490	156	4,646
3. Non-technical diploma not equal to degree.	60	3	63
4. Technical diploma not equal to degree.	15	..	15
5. Degree or Post-Graduate degree (other than technical degree).	268	14	282
6. Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or Post-Graduate degree.	81	4	85
(i) Agriculture ..	6	..	6
(ii) Engineering ..	16	..	16
(iii) Medicine ..	8	2	10
(iv) Teaching ..	51	2	53
<i>Literates with educational standards</i>	<i>35,695</i>	<i>4,452</i>	<i>40,147</i>
<i>Literates without educational standards.</i>	<i>165,214</i>	<i>35,971</i>	<i>201,185</i>
Total literates ..	200,909	40,423	241,332

(c) Spread of Education among women

An unhappy feature marked in general education is its low percentage of literate women. While the district holds the fourth position among the 13 districts of Orissa in literacy in general population, it is sixth in literacy among women. The Census figures indicate that

during 1951, the 21·7 per cent literates of the general population were constituted of 19·2 per cent males and 2·5 per cent females. In other words, among literate population, females constitute a minority of 11 per cent a fact indicating that in the past spread of education among women was not proportionate to that of men. The reasons are not far to seek. The ex-States were solely maintaining an agricultural society without any tendency towards industry and commerce. The scope for educated ladies to find independent livelihood was too remote. Disinclination to send a girl to a co-educational school prevailed.

The social condition obtaining in the pre-merger period is fast changing. Industry and commerce are attracting popular attention. More and more of girls are entering schools and colleges. The Government has also taken many steps in the direction of enhancement of literacy among women. At the time of 1951 Census, there was only one Girls' High School and that was at Dhenkanal. During 1970, there were 9 Girls' High Schools as shown in Appendix II.

(d) Spread of Education among Backward Classes and Tribes

The people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are backward in education. As regards Scheduled Tribes, a tribal boy often faces several handicaps when receiving instruction. His mental development is generally behind that of other boys of his age. In most cases, he has to learn from the primary stage a language (generally Oriya) which was not taught at home. Poverty and ignorance of his parents have also their ill-effects. A Scheduled Caste boy has also similar difficulties. Persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were for generations without any education. According to 1961 Census, the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes covered 18·2 per cent and 13·9 per cent respectively of the total population of the district. The statement below shows the total number of literates found amongst them and the percentage of literacy (1961) :

Caste/Tribe	Total population	Total literates	Percentage of literacy
Scheduled Castes	187,156	22,681	12·1
Scheduled Tribes	143,484	14,548	10·1

Even during the British period it was felt that to promote education among them, ordinary general education schools could not prove equal to the task. Special types of schools, intended only for Scheduled Tribes or Castes, were therefore functioning even during British Administration. After merger of States, advancement of backward classes received special attention of the Government. New types of schools called Sevashrams and Ashrams were opened in areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

Ashram Schools are residential types of schools imparting education up to Middle School standard with training in crafts like agriculture, spinning, weaving, tailoring, carpentry, etc. Students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes read here. The entire expenses for students reading in these schools are borne by Government. In 1970, there were five Ashram schools as shown in the statement below with a few details against each :

Name of Ashram school	Name of C. D. Block	Year of inception	No. of students (during 1969)	No. of teachers (during 1969)
1. Damsal	.. Bhuban	1952*	121	10
2. Malayagiri	.. Pal Lahara	1954	121	10
3. Phulamba	.. Kishorenagar	1956	100	9
4. Dereng	.. Kaniha	1962	88	8
5. Kapilas (Kanyashram)	.. Gondia	1962	89	8
Total		..	519	45

Sevashrams are special types of schools which provide instruction up to Primary School standard. These are opened in backward areas and are meant for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. General education together with training in

* (Started at Kapilas in 1952 and shifted to Damsal in 1962)

some elementary crafts forms the curriculum. In 1969, there were 70 Sevashrams where 3,431 students were reading. The following statement gives some details on these schools :

Name of Subdivision	No. of Sevashram	No. of students (during 1969)	No. of teachers (during 1969)
1	2	3	4
1. Dhenkanal ..	15	969	36
2. Talcher ..	5	293	11
3. Kamakhyanagar ..	14	830	30
4. Pal Lahara ..	9	351	15
5. Hindol ..	2	120	4
6. Athmallik ..	6	203	9
7. Angul ..	19	665	26
Total ..	70	3,431	131

Government offer several scholarships to students belonging to backward classes to help promote education among them. Some details in this regard have also been given in Chapter XVII—Other Social Services.

1.0. General Education

(a) Schools

During the first decade of the present century, there were about 500 Primary Schools¹ in the district as it is now composed. There were also only 4 Middle English and/or Middle Vernacular Schools located at Angul, Athmallik, Hindol, and Talcher. The only High English School was at Dhenkanal.

1. Number of Upper Primary Schools during first decade : Angul (including Khondnals)—146, Dhenkanal—233, Talcher—64, Pal Lahara—33, Hindol—69, Athmallik—37=Total—582. To arrive at the number of 500, roughly 80 is left out for Khondnals.

No information is available for the period up to³ 1948 due to absence of reliable records. The following table may show the progress made in school education from 1948 to 1970:

Type of Institution	Number of schools			
	During merger 1948	1951	1961	1970
1. High School ..	4	9	22	84
2. Middle School ..	16	32	96	276
3. Primary School ..	466	580	1,386	1,481

The inspecting agency for the entire district till the 19th March, 1969 consisted of only one District Inspector of Schools, who had his office at Dhenkanal. From the 20th March, 1969, the district has been divided into 2 educational districts, namely, Angul and Dhenkanal, each placed in charge of a District Inspector of Schools. The jurisdiction of those districts is shown below*:

Name of educational district and headquarters	Names of constituent C. D. Blocks.
1. Angul	.. Angul-I, Angul-II, Athmallik, Chhendipada, Kishorenagar, Pal Lahara, Talcher-I, Talcher-II
2. Dhenkanal	.. Bhuban, Dhenkanal, Gondia, Hindol, K a m a k h y a n a g a r, Kankadahad, Odapada, Parjang.

(b) Colleges

There was no college in the district till 1955, when the Basic Training College was first established at Angul. Excluding this college, the district has only three general education colleges established during the period 1958—1970. The college at Angul (not the Basic Training College) is a Government institution, while the one at Talcher is managed by a private body, and the Dhenkanal College which was previously managed by a private Governing Body has been taken

* Government of Orissa (Education Department) Resolution No. 5911—XE/R-6/69, dated the 12th March, 1969.

over by Government in 1967. Details of each college are given below (also see Appendix III):

(i) **ANGUL COLLEGE**

Opened in June 1958 at Angul, the college provides instruction in both Science and Arts subjects up to degree standard. These are : English, Oriya (Hons.), Philosophy, History, Economics (Hons.), Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (Hons.). In 1961, the college had 15 teachers and 234 students (including 18 girls). In 1970, there were 788 students (including 75 girls) and 41 teachers. Two hostels having 168 boarders are attached to the college. The college library has a collection of about 15,000 books and periodicals.

(ii) **DHENKANAL COLLEGE**

Started in June 1959 at Dhenkanal, the college now provides instruction up to degree standard in the faculties of Arts, Science, and Commerce. It started as a private college, but the State Government took it over with effect from the 1st February, 1967. In 1970, there were 816 students (including 96 girls) and 38 teachers. The following subjects are taught—English, Oriya, Economics, Political Science, History, Sanskrit, Logic, Philosophy, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Botany. The college has a library containing 8,133 books. There is a hostel for accommodation of 60 boarders.

(iii) **TALCHER COLLEGE**

The college started at Talcher in July 1970 with the initial donation of Rs. 20,510 made by a retired Primary School teacher Shri Brundaban Mohapatra, who made a gift of his entire savings to this cause. The college is managed by a private body. In 1970, there were 67 students (including 9 girls) and 4 teachers. The college imparts education in subjects of Arts, namely, English, Oriya, Logic, Political Science, Economics, History and General Studies.

141. Professional and Technical Schools and Colleges

(a) **Elementary Training Schools**

In 1969, there were four Elementary Training Schools located at Kishorenagar, Chhendipada, Dhenkanal, and Kapilas. These schools are meant for training of Primary School teachers.

The Elementary Training School at Kishorenagar was started in 1953. There were 45 students and 4 teachers. The Elementary Training School at Chhendipada was opened in 1959 and there were 49 students and 3 teachers. The other two were meant for women. Opened in 1962, the Women's Elementary Training School at Dhenkanal had 37 students and 6 teachers. The Sevika Talim Kendra at Kapilas was established in 1965 (under Tribal & Rural Welfare Department) and had 26 students and 4 teachers.

Each student in all these schools was paid a monthly stipend of Rs. 45.

(b) Secondary Training Schools

There are two Secondary Training Schools in the district, located at Kishorenagar and Chhendipada. Both started from 1969. The schools impart a two-year training course leading to the award of the Certificate of Teachership. A monthly stipend amounting to Rs. 50 is paid to 80 trainee students in each school. The Training School at Kishorenagar has 100 students and 7 teachers and that at Chhendipada has 90 students and 6 teachers. Facilities of hostel are available in both the schools.

(c) Arts and Crafts School

An Arts and Crafts School was started at Gadasila in 1961. There were (in 1969) 20 students and two teachers in that school. Each student received a monthly stipend of Rs. 15.

(d) Industrial Training Institute, Talcher

The institute was started by the State Government in 1966 to impart training in technical trades like electrician, wireman, turner, machinist, fitter, welder and motor mechanic. Stipends varying from Rs. 15 to Rs. 50 per month are given to students. The monthly rate of merit scholarship is Rs. 15, of merit-cum-poverty Rs. 35 and of scholarship to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is Rs. 50. The students do not pay for the training accomodation and medical treatment. Besides, they get free workshop clothing. There is hostel for 50 boarders. After successful completion of training, they are awarded certificates by the State Council for Training in Vocational Trades, Orissa. Now (1970) there are 216 students and 24 instructors.

(e) Basic Training College, Angul

The College was started on the 1st July, 1955. Its establishment marks the materialisation of a project contemplated by the Board of Basic Education and its Planning Committee. The college is affiliated to the Utkal University and is the first Basic Training College in India. It is the second teachers training college in the State. Duration of the course is one year. The college, a Government institution, has a duly constituted Governing Body.

In 1970, there were 128 students (including 22 females). Initially, the admission capacity was 48, which was raised to 64 in 1959 and 80 in 1960. All the students are degree holders of recognised Universities and each of them gets a monthly stipend of Rs. 80.

This is a residential college and there are three separate hostels and the number of boarders is 120. There are eleven members on the teaching staff. There is provision for three crafts in the college, that is, agriculture, spinning and weaving, and wood and cardboard work. The college has a spacious weaving shed, a workshop equipped with up-to-date tools and equipments and an agricultural farm. Activities in each section are undertaken from points of both production and education. The local artisans are, at times, offered facility to learn improved methods and tools of work.

The college library has a collection of nearly 9,000 books most of which are on education and allied subjects. The college has a small laboratory to facilitate research and experiment in the teaching of science. The section on Audio-Visual Aids attached to the college laboratory is very useful to the trainees.

(f) **Police Training College, Angul**

After formation of Orissa as a separate Province (now called State) in 1936, it was felt that a Constables Training School should be opened in Orissa to train recruits of the province instead of deputing them to Nathnagar in Bihar. Angul was selected for the purpose and the school started from 1st September, 1937 in the vacant buildings belonging to the Police Department of ex-Angul district. In 1941, facilities for training of cadet Sub-Inspectors were provided and the institution was up-graded to Police Training School. The school also started training the Sub-Inspectors of Excise and the Police Officers of Eastern States Agency. Then on the 1st January, 1948 the school was further up-graded to the status of a college and was called Police Training College. Since then, Assistant Superintendents of Police and Deputy Superintendents of Police are trained here, besides other subordinate police officers.

The staff of the college (in 1970) consisted of one Principal, one Vice-Principal, one Deputy Superintendent of Police and 263 officers on the non-gazetted staff. There is also a dispensary attached to the college with one Medical Officer, one Pharmacist and one male nurse.

At present (1970), 5 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 9 Sub-Inspectors of Excise, 105 Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police, 50 Writer-Constables, 58 Drill Instructors and 33 Constables are under training.

142. Oriental Schools

There are at present (1970) only two Sanskrit Tols, namely, (i) Jadunath Sanskrit Vidyalaya at Angul and (ii) Talcher Sanskrit Tol at Talcher.

The Jadunath Sanskrit Vidyalaya established in 1891, has now (1970) 79 students and 6 teachers. It provides education for Prathama, Madhyama, and Acharya certificates. This is a Government-aided Tol managed by a Managing Committee and the students receive stipends¹.

1. Rates of monthly stipends for different classes—Prathama Rs. 10, Madhyama Rs. 20, Sastri Rs. 50 and Acharya Rs. 75.

The Talcher Sanskrit Tol, started in 1870, is now a 'B' type Government-managed Tol and provides education up to Prathama and Madhyama standards. There are 15 students and 2 teachers and the students receive stipends¹.

The two other Sanskrit Tols which no longer exist were Bhagirathi Sanskrit Tol, Dhenkanal and Binapani Sanskrit Tol, Phulpada. The former Tol was established long ago (actual date is not available) during the ex-Ruler's time and was recognised by the Bihar and Orissa Sanskrit Association. After 1948, it continued for a few years. But the Sanskrit Council of Orissa withdrew recognition and affiliation for mismanagement and dearth of students. The Binapani Tol was recognised in 1944. But it ceased functioning from 1961 and the recognition was withdrawn in 1969.

143. Cultural and Literary Societies

(i) Brajanath Sahitya Parishad

It was established in 1964 at Dhenkanal and named after Poet Brajanath Badajena². The members consist of some teachers of Brajanath Badajena High School and lecturers of Dhenkanal College, some gentlemen of Dhenkanal town and of villages Kabera and Madhapur in Gondia police-station. The organisation aims at collecting manuscripts of the poet's writings, erecting a pillar at Kabera which is the birth place of Badajena, to organise *Jayanti* (birth anniversary) at his birth place for paying homage to the late poet.

(ii) Tapaj Sahitya Sansad, Talcher Thermal

This is a literary organisation devoted to the advancement of Oriya literature and culture. It started functioning from April, 1969. It organises cultural functions on different occasions. It has 165 members. The library, it owns, consists of 950 books. The affairs of the institution are managed by an executive committee elected by the members.

(iii) Libraries and Reading Rooms

There are libraries in important villages, which also serve as reading rooms for the village folk. Books and newspapers are usually purchased by these libraries. A list of 27 important libraries and 9 reading rooms is given as Appendix IV to this chapter.

¹ Rates of monthly stipends for different classes :—Prathama Rs. 10, Madhyama Rs. 20, Sastri Rs. 50 and Acharya Rs. 75.

² Details of the life of Brajanath Badajena have been discussed earlier in this Chapter.

144. Cultural and Literary Periodicals

The *Chalantika*, an Oriya literary monthly started publication on the 1st November, 1967 from Angul. It had a circulation of about 1,000 copies. After a few months it ceased publication.

The *Anjali*, a school magazine with articles in Oriya, English, Hindi, and Sanskrit languages is on circulation from 1951. This is a literary half-yearly magazine published by Brajanath Badajena High School, Dhenkanal*.

Besides two fortnightly newspapers entitled *Banhi* (ବନ୍ଧି) and *Khabar* (ଖବର) are being published from the district. Details about them have been given in Chapter XVIII.

* Source—Registrar of Newspapers for India, New Delhi

APPENDIX I

List of High Schools (1970)

BOYS' SCHOOLS

DHENKANAL SUBDIVISION

1. Brajanath Badajena High School, Dhenkanal
2. Laxmidhar Municipal High School, Dhenkanal
3. Bholeswar Dhal High School, Chhadesh
4. Radhadeipur High School, Radhadeipur
5. Banasingh High School, Banasingh
6. Beltikiri High School, Beltikiri
7. Kamakhyaprasad High School, Govindpur
8. Sardar Patel High School, Sadasivpur
9. Kharagprasad High School, Kharagprasad
10. Dhalpur High School, Dhalpur
11. Balarampur High School, Balarampur
12. Dandimal High School, Dandimal
13. Gunudei High School, Gunudei
14. Odapada High School, Odapada (Unrecognised)
15. Indipur High School, Indipur (Unrecognised)
16. Joranda High School, Joranda
17. Pingua High School, Pingua
18. Nihalprasad High School, Nihalprasad
19. Raisingprasad High School, Raisingprasad
20. Sarangi High School, Sarangi
21. Gondia High School, Gondia
22. Bainsia High School, Bainsia

KAMAKHYANAGAR SUBDIVISION

23. Kamakhyanagar High School, Kamakhyanagar
24. Rainrusinghpur High School, Rainrusinghpur
25. Bhagirathipur High School, Bhagirathipur
26. Guneibil High School, Guneibil
27. Kantio-Putasahi High School, Kantio-Putasahi
28. Bhuban High School, Bhuban
29. Marthapur High School, Marthapur
30. Jiral High School, Jiral
31. Mathakaragola High School, Mathakaragola
32. Jatiya Bidya Niketan High School, Mahulpal
33. Panchayatraj High School, Palashpithia
34. Janata High School, Biribolei
35. Janaprava High School, Mahabirod
36. Birasal High School, Birasal
37. Parjang High School, Parjang
38. Sanda High School, Sanda

TALCHER SUBDIVISION

39. Jubaraj High School, Talcher
40. Handidhua High School, Handidhua
41. Talcher Thermal High School, Talcher Thermal
42. Gurujang High School, Gurujang
43. Hingula High School, Hingula
44. Colliery High School, Talcher
45. Pabitra Mohan High School, Kaniha
46. Godibandha High School, Godibandha
47. Pabitrانagar High School, Pabitrانagar
48. Janata High School, Bajrakot

PAL LAHARA SUBDIVISION

49. Mahtab High School, Pal Lahara
50. Khamar High School, Khamar
51. Chasagurujang High School, Chasagurujang
52. Gurusulei High School, Gurusulei

HINDOL SUBDIVISION

53. Hindol High School, Hindol
54. Khajuriakata High School, Khajuriakata
55. Rasol High School, Rasol
56. Janata High School, Dudurkot
57. Pallivikas High School, Kurumitha
58. Nabapalli High School, Jarada

ATHMALLIK SUBDIVISION

59. Mahendra High School, Athmallik
60. Madhapur High School, Madhapur
61. Kishorenagar High School, Kishorenagar
62. Mahanadi High School, Handapa
63. Ram Deo High School, Kishorganj
64. Panchayatraj High School, Angapada

ANGUL SUBDIVISION

65. Angul High School, Angul
66. Bantala High School, Bantala
67. Khalari High School, Khalari
68. Kumunda-Jarasinga High School, Kumunda-Jarasinga
69. Janata High School, Banamira
70. Chhendipada High School, Chhendipada
71. Bagedia High School, Bagedia

72. Patitapawan High School, Jarpara
73. Kosala High School, Kosala
74. Gadamandal High School, Gadamandal
75. Panchagarh Bijaya Kumar High School, Banarpal
76. Talmul High School, Talmul
77. Balaramprasad High School, Balaramprasad
78. Nehru High School, Gadasantri

GIRLS' SCHOOLS

1. Girls' High School, Dhenkanal (Dhenkanal Subdivision)
2. Girls' High School, Sadasivapur (Dhenkanal Subdivision)
3. Madhyamika Girls' High School Kapilas (Dhenkanal Subdivision)
4. Girls' High School, Hindol
5. Girls' High School, Angul
6. Girls' High School, Talcher
7. Girls' High School, Bhuban (Kamakhyanagar Subdivision)
8. Girls' High School, Kantapal (Kamakhyanagar Subdivision)
9. Girls' High School, Athmallik

APPENDIX II
Schools in Dhenkanal District (1970)

Sl. No.	Type of school	No. of schools			No. of students			No. of teachers
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	High School	76*	8	84	13,794	2,433	16,227	849
2	Middle School	276	..	276	8,334	1,967	10,301	779
3	Primary School	1,472	9	1,481	61,031	30,785	91,816	3,236
4	Junior Basic School	54	..	54	4,042	1,690	5,732	175
5	Senior Basic School	6	..	6	1,098	450	1,548	56
6	Post Basic School	1	..	1	67	1	68	10
7	Art & Craft School	1	1	19	20	2
8	Ashram School	4	1**	4	412	98	510	45
9	Sevashram	69	..	69	2,292	1,084	3,376	133
10	Elementary Training School	2	2	4	94	63	157	17
11	Secondary Training School	2	..	2	190	..	190	13

* Two Boys' High Schools located at Indipur and Odapada are not included as they are unrecognised schools.

** The Kanyashram at Kapilas has been upgraded to High School. Including this school, therefore, there are 9 Girls' High Schools in the district.

APPENDIX III

Colleges in Dhenkanal District (1970)

Name of College	Year of inception	Number of Students			No. of Teachers
		Men	Women	Total	
1. Basic Training College, Angul	1955	106	22	128	11
2. Angul College, Angul ..	1958	713	75	788	41
3. Dhenkanal College, Dhenkanal	1959	720	96	816	38
4. Talcher College, Talcher ..	1970	58	9	67	4
Total	1,597	202	1,799	94

APPENDIX IV

List of libraries and reading rooms

Libraries	Year of inception	No. of books
1. Sarbodaya Pustakalaya, Marthapur ..	1944	981
2. Jaihind Library and Brahmani Club, Hariharpatna (Bhuban).	1948	700
3. Krushak Library, Galukantiri (Samatangi) ..	1948	509
4. Pallimangal Pathagara, Purusottampur (Bhuban)	1948	508
5. Pravat Club, Gobindpur (Marthapur) ..	1948	516
6. Taruna Club, Bantala (Talcher R. S.) ..	1948	665
7. Sidheswari Pathagara, Rainarsinghpur ..	1950	1,250
8. Gouri Pathagara, Mundeilo (Parjang) ..	1951	567
9. Palli Sathi Pathagara, Paiksahi ..	1951	680
10. Binapani Library, Anandapur (Marthapur) ..	1952	561
11. Taruna Library, Parjang ..	1953	522
12. Radhakanta Pathagara, Dhanerjoypur (Ekaro-bandh).	1954	535
13. Gramamangal Pathagara, Mahulpal ..	1955	610
14. Mahalakshmi Pathagara, Kasipur ..	1955	620
15. Sarbodaya Pustakalaya, Kirtanpur (Bhusal)..	1955	745
16. Aruna Pathagara, Jagannathpur (Deulbera .. Colliery).	1956	507
17. Kishore Library, Simulia (Tumusing) ..	1956	500
18. Jyoti Pathagar, Ballavah (Bainsia) ..	1957	573
19. Sarbodaya Pathagara, Chandia (Letha) ..	1957	600
20. Gramachandi Library, Nadhara (Dhalpur) ..	1958	523
21. Jaya Durga Club, Birasal ..	1958	500
22. Saraswati Pathagara, Nuapada (Banasingh)..	1958	591
23. Taruna Pathagara, Jagannathpur (Badasuanga)	1958	500

Libraries	Year of inception	No. of books
24. Bapujee Pathagara, Bainsia ..	1960	550
25. Chhatra Sangha Pathagara, Kantapal ..	1960	550
26. Niteigour Pathagara, Rainarsingpur ..	1960	591
27. Pallimangala Library, Anlajhari (Mahulpal) ..	1960	1,498
28. Joranda Math Library, Joranda ..		

READING ROOMS

1. Surapratap Club, Dhenkanal
2. Jayanti Club, Parjang
3. Reading Room, Kamakhyanagar
4. Talcher Town Club, Talcher
5. Kaniha Public Library, Kaniha
6. Public Reading Room, Hindol
7. Town Club, Pal Lahara
8. Kishore Club, Athmallik
9. Kishore Club, Kishorenagar

SOURCE (EXCEPT SERIAL 28) District Census Handbook, Dhenkanal, 1961
p. 334.