



## COLONIAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN BANGLADESH AND THEIR IMPACT EVEN TO-DAY

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In the quest of soul searching of colonial system of education in Bangladesh, we are convinced that though instead of imparting education to the enlightenment of soul, colonial education tried to brighten the brain of the so-called 'bloody fools' to material success thereby serving their superior white masters. However purported their objectives of education may be, the educational institutions established by them, and financial assistance provided by the government yielded golden fruits in the long run. we are proud to find so many scholars, statesmen, thinkers, patriots, and the champions in different fields of knowledge, emerged out of these institutions and they raised their country to an honourable height in the assembly of the world.

### **Aim and object**

- To know how western knowledge, information and western culture entered in to the educational institution of Bangladesh.
- To impart so that how to a class of public created those institutions.
- To highlight some Muslim Educationist.
- To develop an awareness of Bangladesh about our heritage and education.

### **Some Educational Institution in British Age**

**Agrani School and College** was established at Azimpur, Dhaka in 1957 as a kindergarten. From the very inception the medium was English although vernacular was also taught in all classes. It was upgraded into a secondary school for girls in 1967. The school ranked high in terms of its performance in providing educational service and academic results. Its students have received scholarship from the Women's Federation of World Peace. It introduced higher secondary courses in 1994 when it got a new status of school cum college. It offers courses in humanities commerce and science. Among the private schools and colleges of Dhaka city, Agrani charges relatively lower fees. In 1990 the institution had 3,300 students and 99 teachers of whom 19 were men. *Armanitola Government High School* was established in 1904 at Armanitola Dhaka. At that time it was as an experimental school of the only teachers Training College of East Bengal. The school started at a vast campus with red brick building constructed in the British style at a location in front of the Tara Masjid (star mosque), the famous monument of Muslim architecture. Within a few years after its establishment it drew attention of the city dwellers for its performance as an institute of excellence in education, sports and culture. The school however could not sustain its name and fame during later years particularly during Pakistan period. Only by turning it into a government school in 1960, it could save itself from chronic financial crisis. Even after independence of Bangladesh it took quite a long time for the school to regain the lost glory. Only since 1992, it started to perform well. The school admits only boys and since 1999 it has been offering courses in humanities science and business studies to a total of 1,357 students. The number of teachers was 54 of whom 12 were female. *Azimpur Girls High School* was established at Azimpur, Dhaka in 1957 at the initiative of the welfare Association of Government Employees residing in Palashi and Azimpur areas. It started with a tin shed schoolroom and a tiny office. Mr Abdul Jabbar, the Chief Engineer of East Pakistan was the patron in its creation but Kazi Amber Ali, the second headmaster, is considered to be its real founder and it is reputed as one of the best private girls' schools in the city. It opened a women's college section in 1995, for a total of about 2,000 students it already had a large three storied building and a vast playground. The school conducts academic programmes' in morning and day sections; its students take active part in Girls Guide. Blue-Bird and Junior-Red Cross movements as well as in parades in commemoration of national days and festivals like the SAAF Games. In 1999 the school had about 2,700 students and 82 teachers of whom 22 males. *Chittagong Collegiate School* established as Chittagong Government School in 1836. The school was the first English medium high school in Chittagong. Initially its classes were held in a brick building constructed during the early years of British rule, the present location of Motion College. F. A .college was established here in 1969. The school was then shifted to a new place at the southern section of the Market Sahib Hills, Finally the school was relocated to its present address at Ice Factory Road in 1886 and was given the name of Chittagong Collegiate High School. Mr Kundu was its first principal. Nabinchandra sen, a renowned poet of India, was a student of this school. Until the first decade of the twentieth century the school was popularly known as the Entrance School. Annadacharan Khastagir was the pioneer in promoting English education in Chittagong, passed the Entrance examination from this school. Muhammad Yunus the founder of germane bank and popular novelist Humayun Ahmed were also students of this school. The school conducts coaching in morning and evening special shifts. Side by side with general education it also offers technical education. At present it has 2,000 students and 55 teachers it has a hostel for 200 students. The school was given the country's Best School Award in 1992. *Chittagong Municipal Model High School* was established first as a junior English school in 1880 by Shyamacharan Sen. He was also the first headmaster of the



school. Later, Chittagong Municipality shifted the school to its present place and upgraded it to a high English school. In 1882 Zamindar Raybahadur Golakchandra Chowdhury donated two thousand rupees to the school after which it gradually started growing as a model institution. Zamindar Raybahadur Prasannakumar Ray served the school as an honorary headmaster. In 1947 Parthasarathi Gupta, a student of this school stood first in the Matriculation Examinations held under the Calcutta University. In 2001 the school had 2,400 students and 47 teachers. It has a library equipped with modern facilities.

In Khulna District the first high school is *Daulatpur Mohsin High School*. It is located at daulatpur, the oldest river port in southern Bengal. Greater part of the zamindari estates of Haji Muhammad Mohsin was in this district. Babu Khetrageopal Bandyopadhyay planned the establishment of the school sought help of the deputy collector. Babu Brahmanath Som was the officer in charge of the estate. The school was established on 2 February 1867 initially. It was a minor school and was named Daulatpur Saidpur Trust Estate School. Later it is named as Daulatpur Minor School. Afterward, the school was upgraded to a high school. Classes of the school began with only 54 students. Within six months the number of students grew significantly and the school was shifted to the house of Sri Umacharan Mukherjee at Maheswarpasha. It continued to receive a donation of Rs 54 per month from the Estate Trust and its monthly revenues in the form of tuition fees totaled Rs 17. Major part of these revenues was spent to pay the headmaster's salary (Rs 30 per month). In the year 1870, 13 students from this school appeared in the Medium English Final Examinations and 12 passed. Students of the school continued to perform well in examinations and in recognition the school was upgraded to a High English School in February 1875. Collector of Jessore, James Monrow who was an agent of the Saidpur Trust Estate shifted the school to the bungalow of the Trust. The school opened a Madrasah section which attracted the Muslims to the school. In 1914 the Government of Bengal decided to open courses on carpentry in the school. The decision was implemented in 1916. The school purchased 5 bighas of land adjacent to it for constructing a playground and a hostel for students. To encourage Muslims, they were offered an opportunity to study in the school without paying tuitions fee. A prominent name among the alumni of the school is Syed Masar. He was the speaker of the Bengal Legislative Assembly and a minister in the cabinet of Sher-e-Bangla Fazlul Huq. The alumni of the school were Sri Fanibhushan Bandyopadhyay, Abu Sayeed, Kazi, Abdul Khalek, Khagendranath Basu and Shymal Chattopadhyay. Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay was a teacher in this school for some time.

*Dhaka Collegiate School* was established at Dhaka in 1835 by the British government. Mr Redge, an English missionary was the first headmaster. It was the first government high school in undivided Bengal. It was in the premises of this school that the foundation of Dhaka College was laid down in 1841. The school building was rebuilt to accommodate the college in its first floor. Moulana Abdul Latif (Nawab Abdool Luteef Khan Bahadur CIE) worked as a teacher in the school at that time. The school was separated from the college and put under control of the inspector of school in 1908 since then it got the status of a Zilla School although it continued to be called Dhaka College School. At present it is located at sadarghat on the bank of the Buriganga River and surrounded by the historic Ahsan Manzil. Bahadur Shah Park. This boys' school now offers courses in humanities science commerce and agriculture. In 1999 it had 1,850 students and 53 teachers, of whom 20 were female. *Anandamohan College* one of the largest colleges in Bangladesh was established at Mymensingh in 1901. Ananda Mohan Bose established the Mymensingh Institution in 1883 in his own family residence at Rambabu Road of Mymensingh town. The institution was later renamed City Collegiate School on 18 July 1901. It introduced a college branch as an affiliate of the Calcutta City College established by the Brahma Samaj. The college section was closed in 1906 after the death of Anandamohan Basu. Two years later Mr. Blackwood the district magistrate of Mymensingh took an initiative to reopen the college, in the process the college was renamed Anandamohan College. Professor Baikuntha Kishor Chakravarty was appointed its first principal. The college was affiliated with Calcutta University till 1947. After partition of India it was affiliated with the University of Dhaka. The college was nationalized in 1963, in the same year it introduced honors courses in Bangla and History. It was given funding and other support for its expansion after which it got three two-storied buildings, one auditorium one students' common room and a library. The college became known as Government Anandamohan College from 1 October 1964 and was upgraded into a University College. The affiliation was once again changed to the national university in the 1990s. The college now runs honours and masters programmes in 17 subjects. The college campus has a total area of 15.28 acres. Computer training facilities are also available for students. The college has a welfare trust for poor and talented students. Government Anandamohan College has been enriched by contributions of many notable professors. Many of the college alumni have also made their names at home and abroad. Notable former students are Dr. Niharranjan Ray (historian), P C Sarker (magician), principal Ibrahim Khan (writer), Syes Waliullah (novelist) and Nirmalendu Goon (poet).

*Azizul Huq College* one of the largest educational institutions, was established in July 1939 at Fulbari (Brindabanpara) of Bogra town. The college area covers approximately 13 acres. The college was named after Sir Azizul Huq who was the Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University and graciously awarded affiliation to the college within a short period. In 1941 the college introduced BA (pass) and two-year honours courses. The college got permission in 1947 to introduce courses on Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics in science group of the higher secondary level. Honours courses in History, Islamic History and Culture, Bangla and Economics were reintroduced in 1962-63. The first principal of this college was Dr. M M Mukherjee



who served from August to September 1939. Notable principals serving the college during the Pakistan period were Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah (July 1944 October 1948) Dr Syed Muztaba Ali (January 1949 - August 1949) Mohammad Ishaq (November 1962 June 1966) and Syed Hesham Uddin (1967-1968). The college was nationalized on 15 April 1968. After nationalizations the college offered honors courses in Bangla, Economics, History, Islamic History and Culture. The number of students in the college in the 1973-74 sessions was 3,787 of whom 317 were in honors courses and 618 in postgraduate courses. At that time the college had a 90 member teaching staff. At present 18 courses at the honors level and 17 courses at the postgraduate level are offered in the college. In addition there are humanities science and commerce courses at both degree pass and higher secondary levels. The total number of students is about 14,500, the strength of the teaching staff is 129 and the support staffs working in offices and classrooms are 49. The college has two mosques two libraries with about 20,000 books. An auditorium was constructed in 1968 in the college campus with a seating capacity of about 2,500. The auditorium is used for taking examinations and for culture events. The College Theatre and Niltoli are two cultural organizations of the college. The performance of the students of this college in public examinations is excellent. Many students of this college regularly secure top positions in the merit list of the Board of intermediate and Secondary Education. The average percentage of students passing from the college in High Secondary Examinations is about 75%. Every year The College arranges a science fair. Meritorious and poor students of the college receive scholarships from the government as well as from the Raisudein Trust Fund. In 1971 the Pakistan army started the main camp of their Engineering Battalion 13 in the college. After being defeated they destroyed many documents instruments and furniture of the college. They also killed an employee of the college named Mr. Momtazur Rahman. The college premises have a Shaheed Minar (martyr's monument) in memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the language movement and in the war of liberation.

*B L College* (khulna) is a leading educational institution at Daulatpur in Khulna district. Babu Brajalal Chatterjee a patron of education established it first as Hindu Academy in July 1902 replicating the Hindu college that was established in Calcutta in 1816. Like the Hindu College the Hindu Academy of Daulatpur had two branches the Chatuspathi and the college academy. Expenses of the Chatuspathi students including food lodging and tuition were borne by the institution. Only residential students were admitted at the beginning. The academy was managed by a board of trustees of whom Babu Brajalal was the chairman. The Academy started taking classes on 27 July 1902 Classes for the first and second year students began at a time. At the beginning the academy had only 2 acres of land. Later Mohsin fund donated 40 acres of land from the Saidpur estate. The estate regularly disburses a monthly donation of Rs 50 to the academy. The academy was given affiliation by Calcutta University in 1907. A hostel for Muslim students was built in the college campus in 1910-11 At that time. Muslim students had to attend Arabic and the Persian classes in the Muslim Hostel outside the main building of the college. Later, Education Minister Sher-e- Bangla ak fazlul haq issued an order to appoint a Muslim teacher for the college. The first Muslim teacher appointed on a part time basis was Mr. Musaddar Ali. Babu Brajalal died on 8 August 1944. The institution was named Brajalal Hindu Academy after him. Later, the academy was upgraded into a college. The college was nationalized on 1 July 1967 and it was declared a University College in 1993. It offers Honors and Masters Courses in almost all subjects.

*B M College* originated from Brajamohan School which was established in Barisal in 1884. Romesh Chandra Dutta then district magistrate of Barisal, motivated Aswinikumar Datta to establish the school. The school started functioning as a second grade college with the introduction of F A classes in 1889 and upgraded to a first grade degree college. Ganendranath Roychowdhury was appointed the first principal of the upgraded college. Due to Aswini Kumar's involvement in Swedish movement and alleged large-scale involvement of the college students and staff in the anti-British agitation, the BM College lost government patronage for sometime in 1912. The college authorities came to terms with the government and consequently the college began to operate smoothly as before in 1912 the owners of the college surrendered the property title by a deed and delegated the management of the college to a Council of Trustees. But Aswini Kumar remained in the helm of affairs of the college. The college was nationalized on 1 July 1965. It was made a university college in 1993 and subsequently it stopped offering intermediate level courses. After 1972 the government of Bangladesh decided to decentralize higher education and in the 1972-73 session Honors courses in Bangla Political Science Islamic History Physics Chemistry, Accounting and Management were introduced in the college in the light of the new policy. Masters courses in Bangla Economics, History and Chemistry were also introduced in the same year and Masters courses in all other Honours subjects were introduced in 1985, in 2001 the college offered Honours courses in 18 subjects and Masters courses in 16 subjects. It had 147 teachers and 21,215 students. The college campus has 1 Commerce Building 2 Arts Buildings 4 Science Buildings 3 playgrounds and two beautiful ponds. It has 3 hostels for boys (Muslim Hostel, Mahatma Aswini Kumar Hostel, Kabi Jibananda Das Hindu Hostel) and one for girls (Banamali Ganguli Hostel). The central library of the college has a collection of about 40,000 books.

*Carmichael College* Rangpur named after Lord Carmichael, the Government of Bengal was established in 1916. Some leading zamindars of Rangpur played an important role in its establishment. They collected Rs 750,000 for the construction



of the college complex on 300 acres (121 ha) of land Dr Wakens a German citizen was its founder principal. The college building 610 feet in length and 60 feet in breadth is a unique monument of zamindari architecture in Bengal which reflected a histological attachment of the Bengal aristocracy to Mughal architecture. Carmichael College was affiliated with Calcutta University and was permitted to open intermediate of arts and Bachelor of Arts classes in 1917 and intermediate of science and Bachelor of Science classes in 1922 and 1925 up to 1947 thirteen subjects were taught at the college. After the partition of Bengal in 1947 it was affiliated with the University of Dhaka and in 1953 with the newly established university of Rajshahi. The government of East Pakistan nationalized the college on 1 July 1963. It remained under Rajshahi University up to 1992 and later came under the jurisdiction of the national university. At present it is a postgraduate college offering courses in 14 subjects in the faculties of arts social science and commerce.

*Chittagong Pali College* Buddhist educational Institution was established in 1939. Its founder principal was Aggamahapandit Dharmabangsha Mahathero. Following his death pandit Dipankar Srijnan Mahathero became principal a positions he held until his death. In recognition of his contributions to Buddhist students the college was renamed Dipankar Pali College. Located in the Enayet Bazar area on the Bauddha Mandir Road in chittagong the college is run privately by a council of government, to which rules required to be changed every five year. The administrative and academic affairs of the college are managed by the Sanskrit and Pali Education Board. The college does not charge any tuition fee and is financed by a government grant and private donations. Admission is open to those who have passed at least the SSC or an equivalent examination. The subject of study is the tripitaka in pali. Three-year courses are offered in its three departments. Sutta, Vinaya and Abhidhamma Successful completion of a three-year courses leads to the degree of visharad equivalent to a three year honours degree Graduates of the college can take up postgraduate studies at any general university. The college now has four professors and about 250 students. The principal also serves as secretary to the government council. The college possesses a good library, as well as a museum. It has greatly promoted the study of Buddhism and Pali language and literature.

*Chittagong College* is the first college in the greater Chittagong area. It was established as Chittagong Zila School in 1836. Thirty-three years later, it was upgraded to an intermediate college in 1869 Mr. JC Bose was appointed the first principal. Within a year the college had to close because of financial constraints. It was reopened in 1871 with the help of a grant of Rs 10,000 donated by Roy Bahadur Golakchandra Roy. Initially, the college offered courses of up to FA (Firts Arts) level. It also provided education in Law for students to enable them to qualify for pleadership examinations. Law education in the college was suspended in 1909. In 1910 University of Calcutta registered it as a first grade degree college and allowed it to offer honours level courses in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. The college suspended its honours programme in 1955 but reintroduced honours courses on English, Bangla. Economics, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics in 1960. B Sc. courses on Zoology and Botany and BA / BSc course on statistics were introduced in 1962. Large scale development programmes were implemented in the college during the period of the Second Five year plan of Pakistan. The college library has a collection of more than 60,000 books Many learned scholars were taught in the college, Noted among them were Surendranath Dasgupta, Janardan Chakravarty Bhabatosh Dutta, Subodh Sengupta, Jogeshchandra, Singha Mansur Uddin and Motahar Hossain Chowdhury. Among the distinguished alumni of the college are Priyadarajan Roy, Habibullah Bahar, Ashab Uddin Ahmed and Ahmed Sharif. Many students and teachers of the college took active part in the war of liberation of Bangladesh. The students of the college also have significant contributions to the various national movements. At present the college had 10,500 students and 92 teachers it offers Honours and Master programmes on 16 subject viz. Bangla, English, Economics, Political Science, History, Islamic History and Culture Philosophy, Sociology, Physics, Chemistry Botany Zoology Mathematics, Statistics Geography and Psychology.

*Comilla Victoria College* founded by Roy Bahadur Ananda Chandra Roy in 1888 and named after Queen Victoria had Mr. Satyandra Nath Basu as its first principal. Until 1947 the college was affiliated to Calcutta University. Between 1925 and 1947; it offered three-year honours programmes in English, mathematics, Sanskrit, Politics, Economics and Arabic. The college introduced Bachelor of Science courses in 1942 and bachelor of Commerce courses in 1956. Honours courses in political Science, Physics, Chemistry. Accounting and Management were introduced in 1971-72. Masters programmed in Bangla and Economics started in 1973. In 1962-63 the degree section of the college was shifted to its new campus at Dharmapur which is three kilometers away from the old campus at Ranir Dight. The old campus now houses the officers of the principal and vice-principal teacher's room, principal's residence gymnasium, auditorium library and science laboratories. The new campus has four new buildings and these are used for academic activities. The college was nationalized in 1968 in 1984-85 it became a postgraduate college in 1996 the college had honours courses in 16 subjects. At present the college has 11,000 students and 125 teachers of whom 20 are women; it has five dormitories four for boys and one for girls. About one thousand students reside in these dormitories. Debengra College was established in 1942 as Manikganj College with the inspiration and cooperation of a local zamindar, Sri Siddheswari Prasad Roychowdhury. In 1944 the college was renamed



Dabendra College after the name of the father of Ranadaprasad saha of Mirzapur tangail district. Degree courses were introduced in the college in 1947 it opened a science section in the higher secondary level in 1963 and commerce at the degree level in 1964. B Sc courses were introduced in the college in 1970 and honors courses in Bangla Language and Literature in 1971. The college started courses in agricultural science at the intermediate level in 1976. It was nationalized on 1 March 1980 since when it is known as the Sarkari (Government) Debendra College Since 1989 the college has been offering honor in political Science, Accounting and Masters programmed in Economics, Philosophy, History, Management and Mathematics. At present the college has 3,000 students and 69 teachers including one physical instruction. The college was selected as the best college of the country in 1999.

*Dhaka College* started as an English school at Dhaka in 1835 Dr. James Taylor (Civil Surgeon at Dhaka and a well-known historian) sponsored the school and organized a local committee of public Instruction with the help of district magistrate Mr. Grant. The school building was erected partly out of public donations on the grounds of an English factory. The Bishop of Calcutta laid the foundation stone in 1841 when the school was raised to the status of a college and the buildings were completed in 1946. Among the first batch of students were Muslims, Hindus, Armenians and Portuguese in order to accommodate physics and chemistry laboratories the college was removed in 1873 to a commodious building to the east of Victoria Park. From there it was shifted in 1908 to the Curzon hall while the science departments were housed in the chemistry building of the University of Dhaka. On the establishment of Dhaka University the college was shifted to the present High Court Building during the Second World War it was shifted to Siddique Bazar. It has a glorious history.

Eden Girl's College originated from a school for Brahma girls established by Dhubha Dadhini Sabha (a philanthropic society) in Dhaka in 1873. Initially the classes of the school were conducted in a private house at Farashganj. In 1878 the school was merged with another private girl's school to form Dhaka Female School. The same year the school administration took the initiative to bring it under government management and proposed it be called Eden Girl's School after the Lieutenant Governor Sir Ashley Eden Given its new status it started functioning at a new location at Laxmibazar. Eden was the first government girl's school in Bengal. In 1896-97 it had 130 students. It was recognized by the government as an excellent high school of the provinces of Eastern Bengal and Assam. When the school building was damaged in the earthquake of 1897 it temporarily shifted to a private house. Sometime later it was again shifted to one of the big business houses of Portuguese merchants at Sadarghat. Intermediate classes (grades 11 and 12) were introduced in the school in 1926 Since then it got the name of Eden Girl's High School and intermediate College ak Fazlul Huq (sher-e-Bangla) in the capacity as the education minister shifted the school to a new building on Abdul Ghani Road later known as Eden Building. in 1947 the government decided to establish its Provincial Secretariat in this building and the college got a new temporary address in a part of Curzon hall. Frequent shifting out the college into an uncertain situation and with an intention to merge with Quamrunnesa School and College it shifted to the premises of the later in 1958 the college sections of these two institutions merged and formed Eden Girl's College. The new college was located at Bakshibazar.

The current campus of the Eden College was developed in 1962 on 18 acres of land at Azimpur Meanwhile the college opened its degree programme in the new premises but its intermediate section continued to stay at Bakshibazar. Subsequently the Azimpur campus of Eden introduced its own intermediate classes. The Bakshibazar section introduced independent degree classes taking afterwards the name of Government Girl's College and later Badrunnesa College. The Azimpur campus got its independent identity as Eden Girl's College in 1963 in 1972 the college had a large academic building with four wings and about one hundred rooms. Two four storied buildings were added in the 1980s. Apart from these structures the college has four hostel buildings, a two storied library building and the residence of the Principal within its boundaries. In 1999 Eden's library had 33,000 books and subscribed to about 1,200 journals and newsletters. Students of the college take part in Rover Scouting and national level sports competitions in the field of hockey, badminton, handball and athletics.

### Conclusion

To conclude, it would not be impertinent to say that the history of these educational institutions trailing back from the colonial rule and systems of education down to the modern systems of education framed and governed by the independent government of Bangladesh, has a tremendous effect on the development of historical, cultural, social and above all the human resources and without which it would not have been possible for Bangladesh to achieve such 2008.character of the education system of the country having the undercurrent of variegated streams like Zamindari, Empirical, Islamic, and Buddhist cultures mingling into one ocean of learning.

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