



SYLHETI WOMEN AND THEIR EDUCATION

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Education is the backbone of developing society. In the 19th century we saw a drastic change in Sylhet. The educational development has started increasing at that time. Women education was the most prestigious matter of Sylhet. In the year 1940 Sylhet government girls' schools has renowned with a scholar student named Kanak Purkayastha who got first rank in the entrance exam of Kolkata University. Accept the language Sanskrit, Parsi was also an important language was in practice there. For the first time, Srihatta sammilani started giving focus on the educational field of Sylhet. In 1877 Dr. Sundari Mohan Das aiming at women education in Sylhet created Srihatta Sammilani in Kolkata, with the help of Bipinchandra Paul, Tarakishore Choudhury, Satinath Tatabhushan those who were the student of Srihatta pursuing their education in Kolkata. To aim at women education written questions papers were introduced which sent to different districts and look exams of the women. After taking exams women were given certificate. In this work Brahmamo Somaj also helped a lot. In 1903, after a lot of try Miss Hemanta Kumari Choudhury started a primary women school in Sylhet. Here a renowned name from Barak Valley, Silchar Sri Shyamacharan Dav has done remarkable work in this school. In that place Presbyterian Mission started a school name Mission School which was women oriented was started then. After that in Mirabazar with the help of Kishori Mohan Sen this school became high.

At that time, educational progress in Sylhet was too slow. In 1847 in 28 districts of Bangladesh, there were 1127 students only. Ratio of that time students taking education are,

	High School	Students	Primary School	Students
1874	27	1609	195	5218
1881	39	2354	285	8829
1891	44	4427	695	22432
1901	68	5701	1017	330809

Like this, education improved there gradually. In 1903-04, only 14 students among 39 passed FA examination. In that year, on 83 schools 1837 girls were studying. In 1900 on 6 high schools, 1519 girl students were studying.

College of Sylhet-In 1932, Brindaban college was started in habiganj. In the 1939 Womens college and in 1956 Maulavi bazaar college started in Sylhet successfully.

Education Rate- According to 1961 census, in Sylhet district there was 4,40,756 number of boys in the school and 1, 38,015 numbers of girls were there. Number of post graduates were 352 among them 25 were women and 1381 number of graduates among them 102 were women. 2632 were under graduate that time and 172 were women. In that year 11788 number of student were matriculate among them, 798 were women. 47,337 were primary passed, in which 10,976 were women.

Special degree holders numbers :-

BA BT 422

MBBS 3215

Engineer 203

Law 228

Agriculture 60

Commerce 50

Sylhet and East Pakistan had the first graduate Mohammad Daim who later pursued his higher education Presidency College. Khan Bahadur Asadar Ali in 1878 first passed LMS . In Hindu community Joygobinda Shome first passed BA in Sylhet. He was the first MA in Philosophy from Sylhet in Kolkata University. First engineer of Sylhet was Roy Bahadur Girishchandra Das who took first position in Shibpur College and later

he was the Chief engineer of Kolkata Martin Company. First MB Doctor of Sylhet, Sundari Mohan Das in 1882 passed Doctorate from Kolkata Medical college, in that century Radhamadhab Roy passed civil engineering from Bilat Kapur Sahil College.

In the British period, in time of Pakistan and Bangladesh, primary and high level education rate became high. Education grade fallen and educated persons were downed. Traditional Sylheti people had an intention to fly outside Bangladesh. In the year 1956, 1957 unanimously a group of people started flying to Britain and London. There was no involvement of Pakistan Government in this matter. Then Sylheties started flying to Africa and America, Firstly their motive to go there was taking high education and when they become settled there they started taking their family with them. Like this in London many people make their residence in All Gai, Baminghomes. They started alane name Sylheti Para, 112 London. In this way with a brain drain policy crores of rupees were started coming to the nation Bangladesh. Suddenly this huge amount of currency has changed the mind of Sylheti people. In this attraction, towardsearning the foreign currency many intelligent and intellectual students were flying without thinking about the development of own nation. They didn't know the foreign language so faced troubled when earning the money.

In 1982, by the initiative of Ramkrishna Mission an English Women school found in Chalibandar. Like this educational progress were done by the conscious citizen of Sylhet. They were famous for their conservative nature in front of the world. Behind the curtain system was very much strict in Sylhet.

Hindu women were exempted from wearing burkha but it does not mean that they can come in front of the society. In case of Muslim girls, this rule was strictly followed. In early childhood they got the scope of studying in school but after some years they cant continue their study. So the highly educated persons of Sylhet started a new education policy for the sake of Muslim women and keeping their situation in mind. In this case British government, helped and started Jenena Class. This duty was given to some educated women of Sylhet. They went door to door and give education to the conservative students of those family.

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