

“DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON GROWTH OF EDUCATION”

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Abstract

Arunachal Pradesh is popularly known as “Land of the Rising Sun” or “Land of the Dawn-lit Mountain” is the 29th state of the Union of Republic India, covering an area of 83,743 Sq. Km with a population of 13, 82,611 with a literacy rate of 66.95% as per recorded data of census 2011. This hilly and mountainous state start education system very lately, till the beginning of 20th Century state do not have single school. The first school was established in the year 1918 at Pasighat and Dambuk in 1922 later it spread to Ningro (1934), Boleng (1940), Riga (1940), Balek (1946), Yomcha (1947), Along (1947) Pangin (1947) Ledums (1947), Dirang (1947) etc. but at the time of independence the literacy rate of state was just only 1.0%. With the effort and initiation taken by the state and central government with the support of local bodies various schools are came up in different part of the different district of the state. In 1963-64, there were 211 schools, out of which 179 Lower Primary school, 25 Middle school and 7 secondary schools with a total enrolment of 10, 773 students. The numbers of schools were increased to 1,563 in 1993. Out of 1,563, 1,146 are primary school, 277 Middle schools, and 140 secondary and higher secondary school. Besides that 19 schools are run by NGO's or Voluntary Organisation in the state. In present state have 5,137 schools as 1,189 EGS/Community schools, 2,718 Lower Primary schools, 998 Upper Primary schools, 136 Secondary schools and 96 Higher Secondary schools as per census 2011.

Keywords: Development of Education, Urban & Rural School, Role of NGO's, Literacy Rate of State, District-wise Literacy Rate.

Introduction

Arunachal Pradesh became a full-fledge state on 20th February, 1987. Till 1972, state was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA), a one of the political division of the British India. The NEFA became an integral part of the Union of Republic India and became Union Territory status on 20th January, 1972 and renamed as Arunachal Pradesh and administrative headquarter was in Shillong till 1972. The state was administered by the Ministry of External Affairs with the Governor of Assam acting as an agent to the president of India.

Growth of education in the state is very young as compare to other part of the country. The development of education in the state was start very lately till the beginning of 20th century there was no single primary school in any part of the state. Being late starter in education, state is lagging behind to other region of the country but not too far away as per growth of education sector in this 21st century. Under NEFA, the literacy rate of state was 11.30% but it increased to 66.95% in the census 2011, with a decadal growth rate of 13% (approximately). But before independent state has only 6 primary school. The first primary school in the state was established in 1918 at Pasighat. The local people of Pasighat opened a lower primary school on a self help basis and school was running as a pattern of an Ashram. Sri Putiram Kaman was engaged as teacher. The medium of instruction was Assamese. The Pasighat School is known as oldest school of the state. And

another, school was established in 1922 at Dambuk. Later then the growths of education sector continuously improving in the state year after year and number of educational institution increasing steadily. At the time of independent the state has 12 primary schools vize., Ningro (1934), Boleng (1940), Riga (1940), Balek (1946), Yomcha (1947), Along (now Aalo) (1947), Pasighat (1947), Pangin (1947), Ledums (1947) and Dirang (1947). This clearly indicates that the development of education in the state start very late as compare to other part of the country as the British government introduced western education in 1813 in India.

Infact, prior to independence there were no high school in the state except 6 (six) primary educational institutions and some few centres of monastery training institutes was there. The development of education was also imbalance in the state till-date and most of the districts do not have single school especially in the western part of the state. Because people of the states are so illiterate and do not know the value of education and its importance for future life. But both the Monpas and Sherdukpen were comparatively enlightened due to the influence of Budhist teaching on them. Besides the Tawang Monastery the Budhist educational institutions were established at Dirang, Rupa and Kalaktang. But after the achievement of independence in 1947 changes were came up in the state in various sphere of life through the government policies and programme. A number of schools were opened in all the tribal dominated areas of the state. The department of education was also set up in the state after independence in 1947. Even though, the conditions of illiteracy continue in the state for a long period of time only a few families could send their children to Charduar in Assam for primary education.

At the time of NEFA state having 67 (sixty seven) lower primary schools, and 1 (one) Middle school with 120 teachers and 6 upper primary school teachers and with a total enrolment of 2674 students in lower primary school and 34 students in upper primary schools. In 1955-56, state having 152 lower primary schools, 16 Upper Primary schools and 3 secondary schools. But it increased to 179 lower primary schools, 25 Middle schools and 7 secondary schools in the year 1963-64.

In year 1956, the designation of Education Officer (EO) was changed to new designation as “Director of Education, and because of communication problems, the Headquarter was shifted from Margherita to Shillong in the year 1957. The department of education was established separately to manage the formal education process in the state. In the year 1963-64, there were 179 lower primary school, 25 Middle school, and 7 secondary schools with 359 lower primary teachers, 141 Middle school teachers and 111 secondary and higher secondary school teachers and total strength of students were 7200 in primary school, 2267 in Middle school and 1306 students in secondary and higher secondary schools. But the literacy rate of state was too low as 1.0% (per cent) during NEFA time. The growth of educational institution is showing in the following table:

Table: 01 Growth of Educational Institution in Arunachal Pradesh (1951-52, 1955-56 to 1963-64)

Year	School			Teachers			Students		
	LP	ME	HE	LP	ME	H.E	LP	ME	HE
1951-52	67	1		120	6		2674	34	...
1955-56	152	16	3	359	88	26	7105	310	87
1963-64	179	25	7	359	141	113	7200	2267	1306

Sources: Statistical outline of NEFA (1964)

Abbreviation of terms:

L.P= Lower Primary School, M.E= Middle School, and H.E= Higher Education

Table: 01 shows the progress and development of education of the state from 1951 to 1964. The table reveals that there were 67 lower primary school (LP) and 1 (one) Middle (M.E) school with 120 and 6 teachers and the total students enrolment was 2674 and 34 respectively in 1951-52. The table: 01 showing the number of educational institution, teachers and students. But it was found that educational institution and number of students' population are increased very rapidly within a period of three years gap. In 1955-56, the

number of educational institution was increased to 152 lower primary school, 16 Middle school and 3 secondary/higher secondary schools and numbers of teachers also increased to 359, 88 and 26 and having a total enrolment of 7105, 310 and 87 students respectively.

In 1963-64, the number of educational institutions, teachers and students also increased continuously as 179 Primary schools, 25 Middle schools and 7 Higher education schools with increase in numbers of teachers as 359, 141 and 113 and having a total student's enrolment of 7200, 2267 and 1306 respectively. But here, it was found that number of teachers in lower primary school were stagnant as same as previous year-1955-56.

In the year, 1980-81, the numbers of schools were increased to 965 primary schools, 120 Middle schools 48 secondary schools, 2 colleges and 2 central schools. Besides these, there are 7 primary schools run by Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya (VKV) and 2 schools run by Assam Rifles. The number of student's enrolment also increased to 69,344. The percentage of literacy rate was too low as 25.55% in 1981. After the implementation of various educational schemes in the state the number of educational institution was increased in the state very rapidly as compare to the independence period. The various educational scheme like District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), in (1994), Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative Innovative Elementary Education (EGS & AIE) in (2000), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in (2001), National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) in (2003), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya (KGBV) in (2004), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) in (2009), Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in (2013) etc. all these flagship schemes are implemented by government of India for achieving Universalisation of Elementary Education in the country.

Till the second Census of the state (1971), the number of educational institution was increased to 567 with the total student's enrolment of 33,000. In the year 1981, the third census of the state, the literacy rate of the Arunachal Pradesh reached to 25.55%. As per 1991 Census report, the state population was increased to 8, 58, 392 persons and educational institution also increased to 284 Pre-Primary schools, 1144 Primary schools, 73 Secondary schools and 48 Higher secondary schools. The literacy rate of state was increased to 41.59%. According to Ministry of Human Resources Development report (2016), Arunachal Pradesh has 4,047 schools as, 2363 Primary schools, 1266 Upper Primary schools, 263 Secondary schools and 155 Higher secondary schools.

Table: 02 Growth of Urban and Rural schools in Arunachal Pradesh till 1993

Area	Primary school	Middle School	Secondary school	Higher school	Total
Rural	1109	261	72	47	1489
Urban	37	16	7	14	74
Total	1146	277	79	61	1563

Sources: six All India Educational Survey (1993), state Report, (A.P).

As per six All India Education Survey report (1993), it was found that the most of educational institution in the state was established/opened at rural areas. The data accounted that more than 95% of school was located in rural areas in Arunachal Pradesh. As about 1,109 primary school, 261 Middle schools, 72 Secondary schools and 47 Higher secondary schools are located at rural areas. Whereas, in Urban area 37 primary school, 16 Middle schools, 7 Secondary schools and 14 Higher secondary schools was established.

Schools Run by NGO's and other Voluntary Organisation in the State

Considering the poor scenario of progress and development of the educational institution in the state, during independence, the state government has been taken various steps to expand the educational institutions in the state collaboration with the central government. The various educational schemes and policy and programmes were implemented in the state.

With support to the State and the Central government for expansion of education in the state the various NGO's and Voluntary Organisation contributed a lot for opening/ establishment of educational institutions in the state. Some of the schools run by NGO's and Voluntary organizations are as follows:

- 1) Donyi-polo Vidya Bhavan (Mission)
- 2) Ramakrishna Mission.
- 3) Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya.
- 4) Boam Kakir Mission.

Table: 03 School run by NGOs and Voluntary Organisation in Arunachal Pradesh till-(1989-90)

Name of Organisation	Primary school	Middle school	Secondary school	Higher secondary school	Enrolment		Total
					Boys	Girls	
Vivekananda Kendra Shiksha Prasara Vibhag school	10	2	2	-----	1475	227	1702
R.K. Mission school	-----	-----	-----	2	1461	378	1835
Boam Kakir Mission school	-----	1	1	-----	303	174	477
Donyi Polo Mission school	1	-----	-----	1	304	163	467
R.K Sarda Mission school	-----	-----	-----	1	----	288	288

Sources: Directorate of Public Instruction, Arunachal Pradesh.

Table: 03 Showing the various schools run by NGO's and Voluntary Organisation in the state. As per recorded data till 1989-90 there were only 21 schools run by NGO's/other voluntary organization which constituted the 1.2% of the state schools. Out of 21 schools 11 are primary school, 3 Middle schools, 3 secondary schools and 4 higher secondary schools. With a total students enrolment of 4,773 of which 3,543 are boys and 1,230 are girls. Out of 21 schools 2 schools are for girls only. With a total enrolment of 288 girls students in the schools.

Table: 04 The Number of Educational Institution in Arunachal Pradesh-2013-2016

Primary school	Upper primary school	Secondary school	Higher secondary school
2363	1,266	263	155

The table: 04 showing the number of educational institutions in the state till 2013-16. The number of educational institutions increased to 4,047 in the year 2013-2016, as at the time of independence state was having only 12 pre-primary schools, there were no upper primary schools in the state. The state was late starter in education but after independence the development of educational was accelerated in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Out of 4,047 schools 2363 are Primary schools, 1266 Middle schools, 263 Secondary schools and 155 Higher secondary schools.

Table: 05 District-wise Number of Educational Institution in Arunachal Pradesh (2011)

Sl. No	Name of the district	EGS/Community Schools	Primary Schools	Upper Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Hr. Secondary Schools
01	Tawang	44	79	43	8	4
02	West Kameng	130	136	66	6	6
03	East Kameng	17	174	46	7	5
04	Papumpare	154	280	104	24	18
05	Lower Subansiri	116	222	91	7	6
06	Kurung Kumey	149	157	102	7	4
07	Upper Subansiri	207	122	55	6	4
08	West Siang	178	193	97	15	13
09	Upper Siang	48	64	23	2	4
10	Lohit	7	151	86	9	9
11	Anjaw	10	44	32	2	2
12	Changlang	65	186	79	14	9
13	Tirap	2	144	53	7	6
14	Dibang Valley	1	23	9	1	1
15	Lower Dibang Valley	43	65	29	10	5
16	East Siang	18	136	67	15	13
	Total	1189	2718	998	136	96

Table: 05 showing the district-wise number of schools existed in the state. As per recorded data of census 2011, there were 5,137 schools including EGS'S/ Community schools. There existing imbalance in the development of education in the state as some district having large number of schools but others district have few schools. It was found that Papumpare district showing the highest number of educational institution with 580 school followed by Lower Subansiri district having 440 schools. The district having lowest number of school is Dibang Valley with 35 schools followed by Anjaw district with having 90 schools.

Table: 06 Literacy Rate of Arunachal Pradesh since 1961-2011.

Year	Male	Female	Total	All India Level
1961	12.5	1.42	7.13	28.30
1971	17.82	3.71	11.30	29.5
1981	35.12	14.02	25.55	43.53
1991	51.45	29.69	41.59	52.23
2001	63.83	43.53	54.34	65.38
2011	73.69	59.57	66.95	74.04

Sources: Census Report of Arunachal Pradesh, 1961-2011

Table: 06 focuses on the growth of literacy rate of Arunachal Pradesh from census 1961-2011. In the year 1961 the total literacy rate of state was only 7.13%, in the same year literacy rate of country was 28.30% at a gap of 21.17%. In the year 1971, state literacy rate was 11.30% with a decadal growth rate of 4.17%, but country literacy was 29.5%, its decadal growth rate was 1.2%. It indicates that decadal literacy growth rate of state as well as country growing steadily. In the year 1981 and 1991, the state literacy rate was below 50% but country literacy rate was just cross the halfway as 52.23%. In the year 2001 and 2011 census showing that state also cross the 50% literacy rate. The decadal literacy growth rate of Arunachal Pradesh in the census between 2001 and 2011 is 12.61%, but decadal growth rate at National level is 8.66%. The present gap of literacy rate of state and national is 7.09%. It is too low as compare to literacy rate of 1961 between state and national level it was gap of 21.17%. Besides, growth of literacy rate of state and national level, the male and female literacy rate also growing steadily.

Table: 07 District-wise Literacy Rate of Arunachal Pradesh as per Census (2012-2018)

S/No.	Districts	Literacy Rate		
		Person	Male	Female
	Arunachal Pradesh	66.95	73.69	59.57
01	East Kameng	62.48	70.95	54.18
02	West Kameng	69.40	75.66	60.80
03	Tawang	60.61	68.54	48.75
04	Kurung Kumey	50.67	57.28	44.31
05	Papumpare	82.14	87.33	76.65
06	Upper Subansiri	63.96	67.36	60.51
07	East Siang	73.54	78.94	67.90
08	West Siang	67.62	73.89	60.76
09	Lower Subansiri	76.33	82.40	70.10
10	Changlang	61.90	70.80	52.08
11	Tirap	52.23	61.87	41.83
12	Lohit	69.88	77.25	61.62
13	Anjaw	59.40	69.54	46.39
14	Upper Siang	59.94	64.09	55.22
15	Dibang Valley	64.80	69.39	59.10
16	Lower Dibang Valley	70.38	76.62	63.56
17	Pakke-kesang (2018)	52.6	49.33	35.92
18	Londing (2012)	68.50	77.16	58.76
19	Lower Siang (2017)	56	-	-
20	Namsai (2014)	52	59	54
21	Leparada (2018)	72	61	39
22	Shi-yomi (2018)	-	-	-
23	Kamle (2017)	69	76.83	54.14
24	Kra-dadi (2015)	44	-	-
25	Siang (2015)	56	-	-

The table: 07 showing the district-wise literacy rate of the state. As per data available in the above given table: 07, that highest literacy rate district of the state is Papum-pare with 82.14% followed by Lower Subansiri district 82.40% and lowest literacy rate district is Kurung Kumey having 50.67%. With regard to Male and Female literacy rate, again, Papum-pare district occupied the top-position with a Male literacy rate of 88.33% and Female literacy rate of 76.65%. The lowest Male and Female literacy rate district is Pakke-kesang with 49.33% Male literacy rate and 35.92% Female literacy rate. But the data of some district are not available.

Conclusion

So, it is concluded that before independence the educational scenario of Arunachal Pradesh was pitiable condition and as the British Government also did not pay any attention towards the educational development of this hilly state. It is observed that at the time of independent there were 12 pre-primary and primary schools in the state. But after independence it got some acceleration, so in the year 1955-56, there were 152 lower primary schools, 16 Middle schools and 3 Secondary Schools in the state and the literacy rate was recorded below 1.0% (per cent). In the year 1963-64, there were 179 Lower Primary Schools, (LP), 25 Middle Schools (ME), and 7 Secondary and Senior secondary schools with 359, 141 and 113 teachers by having 7200, 2267 and 1306 enrolment of students respectively. During this 21st century progress and development of education in the state is growing very fast after the implementation of various educational schemes in the state mainly after the launched of DPEP, EGS & AIE, SSA, KGBV, NPEGEL, RMSA and RUSA etc. all these central schemes are effectively implemented in the state.

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