

# Development of Education in Princely State of Patiala with Special Reference of Bathinda city

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**Abstract:** The Present education in India also in Punjab has come a long way and the ancient traditional have undergone a new makeover. In this paper an attempt has been made to highlight the educational development of princely state of Patiala with special reference to Bathinda city. The study will throw light on the traditional education system of Patiala State, with a comparative eye on its development at present scenario. Along with this, this study will focus on the growth of education in Bathinda city. Development of educational in Bathinda city under the Patiala State will examine here.

**Keywords:** Traditional Education system, Education growth in Patiala State, Development of education in Bathinda City.

Education is the mirror of society which show the clear picture or the status of a development of Society. If a state or a district is backward in such field, then the peace of its all-around growth and development also affects and slow down somewhere as compare to other educational developed state or district. In Punjab, there was traditional education system in old days. The Phulkian States – Patiala, Jind and Nabha is one of the most eastern states in Punjab. Maharaja Raja Ala Singh, who was the first independent ruler of the state. The city of Patiala got its name from Raja Ala Singh, Amargarh Nizamat, Amargarh Tehsil, Anahadgarh Nizamat, Bahadurgarh, Banur Basi, Barnala, Bhadaur, Bhikhi, Bathinda, Ghuram, Hadiaya, Mohindargarh, Patiala, Rajpura, Samana, Sanaur, Sirhind, Sunam all were most important places of the princely state Patiala.

There had no regular system of education in Patiala State for a long time. There were Gurukul, Pathahalas and Madras. Brahmans, Maulvis and Bhais were the teachers of that time, those teaches to the learners. Free of cost education was imparted in those days. The priestly class received voluntary offerings in cash as well as in grain at each harvest from the learners. The main aim of education is to make the people better citizens. The kings of the princely state acted as agents of the British Empire. Under the influence of British all princely state commenced the era of imparting modernized education system. British governance gave autonomy to these princely state to promote education system within their provinces.

As a result many education departments were established in princely states. The main work of these princely states for developing education from ground level. Within these princely states many government aided schools, colleges and universities were witnessed in coming years. Because the kings of the princely states were paying special attention to guide their state on the path of modern education at primary, elementary and secondary level at that time as such the modern education system was adopted by the kings of princely states of Punjab. In which Pholkian states Patiala and Nabha were got a remarkable improvement in this field. Under the Nabha state the prior to the Regency period, the first attempt was made by Raja Bharpur Singh. He set up a modern school in 1863 A.D.(Sambat 1920), however the notable efforts were made by Raja Bharpur Singh to promote the education system, but left the system of teaching unchanged. After Maharaja Bharpur Singh his successors were made some substantial progress in the development of education. At that time of Maharaja Hira Singh was also given due consideration on female education. Maharaja Partap Singh started the era of conveying modern education in Nabha state many schools were opened in different area of the state such as in Nabha, Bawal, Jaitu, Bhai Rupa, Jalal, Dhanaula etc. To promote education in the state the expenditure on education was Rs. 22,217 in 1921. The total numbers of pupils were 396 in 1891 and 635 in 1903. Nabha was also declared as a main centre for matriculate examinees by the Punjab University.

Same as Nabha state Patiala state hadn't left behind to promote modern education. The education system of Patiala state was directly influenced by the British, all of the area that was under the Patiala state at that time didn't remain aloof from its impact. Many new schools came into being at primary as well as Anglo – Vernacular middle schools. In somewhere certain schools were upgraded. Under the Patiala state a number of primary schools were started at different rural areas of Punjab, where those were considered educational backward in those days. First state school was opened in Patiala in 1860 by Maharaja Narinder Singh, which known as central school. This school was enlarged with the arrangement of education of English and Maths. Until the reign of Maharaja Narinder Singh, there was no trace of any system of state-controlled education in Patiala, however private school were there at that time. In these private schools, where Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian and Gurmukhi were taught. But a sharp raise was shown after 1870, when a organized educational department was established to develop education system.

Thereafter under Patiala state new schools were not set up in all towns Basi, Sunam, Bathinda, Samana, Sanaur, Barnala, Talwandi and Munak. In the year of 1902 there were total 58 schools in Patiala circle and 48 schools were fell under the Barnala circle. There were total 781 Indigenous schools in the Patiala state. In which there were thirty two Maktabs contained 791 boys, thirteen dharmshala contained 56 boys, sixteen Pathshalas in which had 90 boys and seventeen chatshalas where had 368 boys. Female education was disfavor over the state. There were some religious schools in the different part of the Patiala state, where religion based education was taught to girls. The educational growth of Patiala state under Maharaja Rajendre Singh and his Successors can be clearly seen not only Patiala town but also in Bathinda city that remained the part of princely State-Patiala under the Patiala ruler, where various educational institutions were flourished to spread the light of knowledge in Patiala city. Mahindra College in Patiala was

established by Maharaja Mohinder Singh in the year 1870. The foundation stone of this college was laid by Lord Northbrook. Maharaja Bhupinder Singh made many efforts to promote women education in the city. Only under his efforts Punjabi language deserves highest commendation.

Punjabi language has got the position of the court language. The primary – education was made free all over the state and the state government passed Patiala primary education act in April 1927. As a result, free and compulsory education system was made in Patiala. Govt. College for Girls is one of the oldest educational centre, which was founded in June 20, 1942. “Govt. medical college was started in 1953, the foundation stone of this building was laid down on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1953 by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who was the president of India at that time. Khalsa College was started in the year by 1960 near Rajindra Hospital in the city. Apart from these all higher education institutions there are a large number of colleges such as “Thapar institute of engineering and Technology (1956), Bikram college of commerce, Govt. Ayurvedic college (1952) etc. Punjabi university has one of the most important miles-stone in the education field was established on 30 April, 1962. This was inaugurated by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan on 24 June 1962. There are many schools in which Yadavindra public school is one the oldest school in the city. This school was established in 1948 by Maharaja Yadvinder Singh. Govt. Victoria girls senior secondary school is one of the most popular school in the city. This old educational society was opened in the year 1906.

On the other hand, Bathinda city will also be forever indebted to Patiala state whose efforts led to the spread of education in this city. Some as the other towns of the princely state Patiala, Bathinda had a traditional education system. Modern education had started in Bathinda in 1903 when first modern school established here, where English and Math’s were also taught instead of traditional subjects. This school was upgraded as an intermediate college known by the name “Rajindra College”. This college is the top educational institute till date. “Govt. primary school mall road one of the oldest schools of the city. This school was established in 1938. Later, which upgraded as a Senior Secondary School. “Mahatma Hans Raj (MHR) Senior Secondary School,” which inaugurated here in 1936 under the influence of Arya Samaj Sabha. Another one well knowing school has “Khalsa Senior Secondary School. This school has been spreading knowing in Bathinda before independence. This school was established in the year 1928.

To promote women education in this area first girls school was started here in the year 1932. This school has familiar in the city by the name “Arya Girls High School Bathinda”. As like many social and religious reform movements were upheavals in Punjab like Arya Samaj movement, Sri Sanatan Dharm Sabha, Singh Sabha movement etc. All these has a main effect can be seen on the education field. In Bathinda city there has also many schools and colleges that has started under the influence of all these religious and social reform movements. Such as Arya Samaj Sabha the Bathinda city get “MHR” and Arya Girls High School. Same as Sanatan Dharm Sabha has set up many top institutes in the city of Bathinda. In which “SSD Sr. Sec. School, SSD Moti Ram KVM School, SSD Public High School and one of the most popular SSD Girls College” Bathinda can be describe.

While all these educational institutions are spreading the beacon of knowledge in Bathinda, they are proving to be a boon for the city. Bathinda that was known as educational backward at once. The SSD Sabha of Bathinda set up first school here in the year 1935, this school has been providing education to boys. But the sabha had felt the requirement of establishing new institutes for girls education as a result in the city “SSD Moti Ram KMV School was started in the year in 1955 and “SSD Girls College” in 1966. There are many convent Schools in the city in which “St. Joseph convent Senior Secondary School” and “St. Xavier’s Senior Secondary School those were established in the year 1961 and 1983 respectively. In addition, countless schools have been established in the city. Under the higher educational institutes instead of “Govt. Rajindra College”, there are many colleges established in the city. D.A.V college has one of these colleges which founded in 1969. “Punjabi University Regional Centre(1984), “Giani Zail Singh Campus college of Engineering and Technology” (1989), Punjab Agricultural university, “Govt. Polytechnic College” (1983), “Adesh University”, and central university of Punjab (2009), all these higher institutes are imparting education not only to Bathinda schools but also to all over Malwa region. In these day, students from out of Punjab also come to Bathinda city to full-fill their education needs.

Till the 19<sup>th</sup> century the system of education in Punjab remained in traditional lines, and the state was very backward in such field. Bathinda city which was known as a mini-desert was also remained backward. Where there was no greenery for away, there was no educational institution for the people to acquire knowledge at that time. But under the efforts of Patiala dynasty, the remarkable progress in the domain of education was made under the council of Regency which worked under guidance of British Resident. The education continued to make rapid progress under Maharajas of Patiala state not only in Patiala, but also in Bathinda city. As a result of all these efforts, Patiala became the second leading princely state of the Punjab region so far as literacy of the people was concerned. The state attained the literacy rate of 4.1%. Today in Bathinda city there has various educational centers those fulfill the desire of people of different states. The city has many libraries which served as a storey house of knowledge. Where the city has a rich historical background also has rich centre of spreading knowledge for the coming generations.

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