



Contribution Of Abala Basu In The Field Of Primary Education During 19th Century

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ABSTRACT:-

Lady Abala Bose life and her contribution in girl's women education, she was the first person who through of institutional Pre-Primary she established Vidyasagar Bani Bhavan in 1925. Women education has always been a matter of grave concern for educationists all over the world and India is no exception. Coming in close contact with widow and divorcee women she realized how to deal with Indian women. Lady Abala Bose entered teacher training programme for spreads of women education. Her ideals on education were much influenced by Montessori and other western thinkers, which Lady Bose adopted and applied. Dynamic, innovative and creative teaching and various training method. This study on Abala Bose was responsible, single-handedly or jointly, for the establishment of educational institutions for women. During her lifetime, through the Nari Siksha Samiti, Lady Bose set up about 88 primary schools 200 schools in rural areas and 14 adult education centres in the British province of Bengal. With these as well as others' efforts towards women's education through the establishment of schools and colleges, there arose the need for women teachers.

KEYWORDS:- 'Primary Education';

INTRODUCTION:-

Abala, Lady Bose (8 August 1864 – 25 April 1951) was a British Indian social worker well known for her efforts in the field of women's education and her contribution towards the alleviation of the condition of widows. She set up the **Nari Shiksha Samiti**, a non-profit making Society registered under Act XXI of 1860, was founded in 1919 by Lady Abala Bose, Wife of the illustrious scientist Acharya Jagadis Chandra Bose with the objective of educating children, girls and women. Muralidhar Girls' College was formed jointly by Lady Bose and Krishnaprasad Basak. The same two people also founded Beltala Girls' School in Bhowani pore area. A residential widow's home was started in Jhargram in 1940 with the kind help of the Raja of Jhargram who donated 24 Bighas of land and rs-10,000/- for this purpose. In order to provide teachers for these schools she set up Vidyasagar Bani Bhaban, Mahila Shilpa Bhaban and Bani Bhaban Training School for young widows.

Lady Abala Bose during her lifetime established about 88 Primary Schools and 14 Adult Educationa Centers in different parts of undivided Bengal. Lady Bose was also the pioneer thinker for establishing Centres like Mahila Shilpa Bhavan in Kolkata and Jhargram for providing vocational training to distressed women, securing placement for them so that they could earn their own livelihood through private entrepreneurship. Women education has always been a matter of grave concern for educationists all over the

world and India is no exception. The status of women in modern India is a sort of a paradox. Women's education, or rather the lack of it, was, along with sati, child marriage, polygamy, and the treatment of widows, one of the major components of the British argument that Indian women were oppressed, and that this was the source of India's 'backwardness'. In traditional Hindu society women's education was considered unacceptable and even dangerous.

Lady Abala Bose advocated Indianized Montessori system of education. She was in favour of using low cost and easily available material's (according to India) which would aid teaching process.

AREA OF STUDY:-

Kolkata and Jhargram districts of West Bengal have been selected for because there are situated a number of women's primary institutions. In India, she was the first person who through of institutional Pre-Primary and Primary Teacher's Training for which she established Vidyasagar Bani Bhavan Primary Teachers Training Institute in 1925.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:-

Women education has always been a matter of grave concern for educationists all over the world and India is no exception. The status of women in modern India is a sort of a paradox. If on one hand she is at the peak of ladder of success, on the other hand she is merrily suffering the violence inflicted on her by her own family members. As compared with past women in modern times have achieved a lot but in reality they have to still travel a long way. Here lies the significance of the present research study.

In order to improve the present position of women in the society it is important to know how education has served as a tool for improvement of women's position in the past. Historically it has been found that the two chief areas in which women progressed rapidly, once she started receiving education, were-one in writing and editing various periodicals and journals, the other one is to get involved in national politics. Women litterateurs of that period were not mere writers but social workers too, and were deeply concerned with the issue of women education.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-

1. To study the significance role of Lady Abala Basu about the primary education.

RESEARCH QUESTION:-

1. How far the significance role of Lady Abala Basu about the primary education.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY:-

1. The study is focuses on role of Lady Abala Basu about the primary education.
2. The present study time limited 19th century.

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH TYPE:-

It is **Historical Research**. These studies also historical prospective Lady Abala Bose on primary education in 19th century.

VARIABLE:-

The present study includes the following variables.

DEPENDENT VARIABLE:-

Contribution of Lady Abala Basu in the field of primary education.

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE:-

Time period (19th century), situation and women's awareness are considered as the independent variables.

SOURCES OF DATA:-

- i) Primary sources – some documentary report, letter of Abala Basu etc.
- ii) Secondary sources – some book Abala Basu related etc.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:-

In Historical Research data collection is very tedious and time consuming process. These data are classified into primary and secondary source. Qualitative data are gathering of these studies of various source and institutions. After data are collected and identified, data can be analysed in two ways: - Both externally and internally.

DISCUSSION:-

Lady Abala Bose 19th century was an orthodox society where women were much neglected. Lady Abala Bose worked hard and dedicated her life for women education and thereby their empowerment. She even went various districts to women education and that time. Her event wrote many magazines for women education. She supported in the national movement in India. Lady Abala Bose was socially, politically and educationally active beside spreading national consciousness among people.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY:-

- The first school under the Samiti, the Ballygunge Girl's School, was founded in April, 1919 with 25 girl students and a Matriculate lady- teacher.
- The 2nd school of the Samiti was the Shyambazar Balika Vidyalaya founded in July, 1919 with 7 pupils under the supervision of a trained lady-teacher.
- Naricaledanga girl's school is the third of its kind founded by the Samiti in September, 1919 with students numbering 15.
- Beltala girls' school at Bhawanipur with 5 students and a trained lady-teacher. Total students of two schools- 144.
- In 1923 the Hindu Balika Vidyalaya was amalgamated with the Rajeswari Municipal School.
- 1919-1949 number of school 373 and numbers of students 23,645.
- 1921 the Samiti started 8 free primary schools for girls in Hooghly and Howrah.
- The Debanandapur Balika Vidyalaya in Hooghly and the Balika Vidyalaya, the Bakurda Balika Vidyalaya and Tajpur Kumbhakar Balika Vidyalaya in Howrah.
- In 1923 the Samiti started 14 free primary schools in the districts of Dacca, Faridpur and Pabna.
- The NariSikshaSamiti (society for the education of women) was founded in 1919.
- Primary school = 61, Primary & child education centre = 6.

In Kolkata & Jhargram educational institutions were Pre-primary education centre = 2 Primary school = 2, Junior high school = 1, Primary teachers training institution = 1 She was impressed by the Montessori Method of teaching at the pre-primary level. She invited sister Nivedita to give instruction to a group of teachers on Froebel's method of kindergarten teachings. Vidyasagar Bani Bhavan (founded in 1925), whose inmates received free board and lodging and also a training for primary teachers. More than fifty women are receiving training every year.

- In the 1920 year the Samiti took charge of the Hindu Balika Vidyalaya, started in 1917.
- The Beltola Girls' School has since developed into a second- grade college for women affiliated to the university.
- Fifty-nine girl's schools have been established up to the present time since the samiti started establishing school.
- The centre in the village of Sthal-Nahata was started in 1941. They were very eager to get elementary education.
- A residential widow's home was started in Jhargram in 1940 with the kind help of the Raja of Jhargram who donated 24 Bighas of land and rs-10,000/- for this purpose.
- 1948-1949 numbers of school 9 and numbers of students 713. The official sanction to impart primary education to women.
- The Nari Siksha Samiti (society for the education of women) was founded in 1919.
- Primary schools for girl's education are necessity; people realize the value of women's education mostly.

- The establishment of the Adult Female School (1873) mentioned above came under the auspices.
- The centre in the village of Sthal-nahata was started in 1941; to spread education among local artisan women. They were eager to get elementary education.
- The students of the adult primary education centre all communities without any distinction of caste and creed. Their ages vary from 16-to 60.
- She was impressed by the Montessori Method of teaching at the pre-primary level. She started a Montessori section within the school campus.
- Miss. Meher Vakil and Miss. Mayalata Shome who were trained abroad as Montessori teachers and Mrs. Sovana Nandi were appointed teachers of the section.
- Later Lady Bose sent Mrs. Nalini Raha to Rome, to be trained under Mme Montessori.
- She invited sister Nivedita to give instruction to a group of teachers on Froebel's method of kindergarten teachings.
- The Hunter Commission exempted to spread female education by recommending that mass primary education be the responsibility of the local government.
- Despite fact that the Government of India has its own education department to take care of primary education all across the nation.

CONCLUSION:-

In the concluding section it is really worthy to be mentioned that the candle of women education which Lady Abala Bose had kindled during her age is still now being realised in the present society. The study deals with the life of Lady Abala Bose and how she contributed in every field – social, political, economic and cultural and also in education women in the soil of India. She made India her life's mission and became a Bengal builder. She also made a series of diverse contributions to the various project specially focused women education. She established the education institution for women education, in every year through all over India in 19th century Bengal.

IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY:-

Lady Abala Bose, better known as organiser lady and her contribution in the field of education during 19th century Bengal. India leaving all her golden opportunities and probabilities of her bright future and educational work in India (West Bengal). We can think about to conduct further research about her girls education, social reform and well organiser an institutional work that she had undergone. The curiosity and inquisitiveness that drove her all the time in search of primary education for women can also be a subject of further research. The flavour of feminism that Lady Abala Bose had scattered in the 19th century male dominated society in India and the reason behind it's still going on is another subject for further study. Her influence in education of women, emancipation of women, even today really provides wide scope for further study and research on her, Lady Abala Bose---the dedicated soul.

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