



An overview of the recent progress in science and technology in Purba Medinipur district

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Abstract

That science is a unique subject among all its academic counterparts there is no doubt in this matter. And science aims at creating future scientists, engineers, environmentalists, academics, technologists, and in a word, every intellectual of whom we are proud today. The ideas, theories and the various doctrines of science are of great importance to us and the importance is increasing with the passing of time. If the study and cultivation of the study of science is to be made sufficiently interesting, our achievement in this field of knowledge will become immense and the knowledge so earned will be a perennial asset of the human race. Learning of Science in the school enhances the spirit of enquiry, creativity and objectivity. It aims at developing ability of knowing the unknown and doing something in a practical way.

Keywords: progress in science and technology, attitudes of learning science and technology, secondary and higher secondary results

1. Introduction

The present researcher has avidly followed the progress of the Purba Medinipur District for the last 15 years since his college days but is now feels fascinated more than ever by the recent statistics available in the matter. That the eastern part of the then undivided Midnapore district is greater in many respects and richer in talent and merit has now been proved by the present statistics available. Midnapore District was bifurcated in 2002, and after this division it was noticed clearly that Purba Medinipur District is far ahead of its western counterpart in all respects, in science and technology in particular. The pace of development is at present prominently felt after the division of the erstwhile Midnapore District. The fascination of the young generation towards science education, the opinion of their parents and guardians along with the data collected from individual houses in both the urban and rural areas of the 223 (two hundred and twenty-three) village panchayats of the 25 blocks under four subdivisions of the district: Tamruk, Haldia, Contai and Egra subdivisions, etc., all go to strengthen the view that the craze of the people towards science and technology is greater than those living and working in the semi-urban and remote rural areas where the light of education and civilization is not that bright. Research Methodology

To collect the data stratified sampling technique will be adopted. Groups will be formed on the basis of parents' education (less or well- educated) gender (male or female) and locality like rural or urban. Thus, the research will be based on 2X2X2 functional design. Therefore, there will be eight sub-groups and in each group there will be 50 students of secondary school of Purba Medinipur District from where the collected data-attitude and the scale will be used.

2. During the British Raj

For the sake of the clarity of the matter we may go direct into

the heart of the matter. During the British Raj, Calcutta (now Kolkata) and its adjoining districts of Howrah, Hooghly, 24-Parganas and Nadia saw a greater light of development in science and technology. The Englishmen had greater enthusiasm in commerce and industry than the real development and progress of the people. However, they saw that the production and supply of raw materials were profuse in the region and, for earning quick monetary benefit, they imported the technology prevailing in England and Europe during the Industrial Revolution under the reign of Queen Victoria. As the waves of industrialization spread further, they reached the district of Midnapore through the riverine routes of the Hooghly and the Rupnarayana, on the banks of which ports came up in a very short time. The Haldia port was the outcome of the commercial and industrial ambition of the British Raj. As industrialization needs the help of science, the science education also got a Philip less by the attitude of the British colonizers to science and technology, but more by the enthusiasm of the people of Midnapore, the dwellers of its eastern part in particular, which today is known as the Purba Medinipur District.

3. The Leading Light

That this researcher's claim is not a worthless figment of his imagination is proved by the fact that this Purba Medinipur District is now the best district in the state of West Bengal in education and culture. We may have a detailed view of the results of this Purba Medinipur district's Madhyamik (Secondary) and Higher Secondary Examinations in the last few years. The statistics of the results show that the students of the primary schools, (lower & upper), secondary and Higher Secondary schools are far ahead of those of the other districts because the students here are better in science subjects of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, botany, anthropology, psychology, physiology, mechanics, etc. That

does not mean that they are all far behind in the subjects of humanities. The study and pursuit of science subjects has conferred upon the young brains a kind of analytical skill that has helped them do better in arts subjects also. In other words, their principal pursuit of science has also made them stronger side by side in arts and literary streams.

4. The Urban Lead

The 2 (two) blocks of Tamluk and Haldia of the district are an index of the development of industry, the upshot of science, in the Purba medinipur District. Haldia is famous in the industrial map not in the district and state alone, but for its geographical location and its commercial importance, it is famous in the whole of the Asian continent. The name Haldia port is well known in the industrial circle of Europe and the USA, the two industrially developed continents of the world. Coal, natural gas and other minerals would not find such a wide market in the world if there were no such port as Haldia in India. We may also take the Kolaghat Thermal Plant off Mecheda station of the district. This thermal plant provides electric power to the local industries of the region. This thermal power plant has thus contributed greatly to the development of the region. The Thermal Power Plant and the Haldia Petro Chemical Complex not only cause improvement in the progress of the district, they also generate a kind of enthusiasm among the students of the schools (Primary, Secondary & Higher Secondary) of the region. Students know that these two industrial hubs need colossal manpower that will come up from the student community of the district or the adjoining districts or state and the companies will be forced to import the said man-power from abroad which will not be very pleasant for the economy of the developing country. Much money, in that case, will be drained out of the land. Now that a great portion of the district's and the state's and also the country's talent is going abroad in spite of the manpower deficit in the land itself, the country cannot afford to allow the brain-drain any more. In view of the lure of rich job opportunities near at hand, the young generation has leaned towards the study of science and technology with a renewed vigour. The Leading Light:

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5. Professional Viewpoints

The present researcher has made a thorough study of almost all the pockets of the district: urban and rural. Everywhere the craze for reading science has been noticed. The picture is almost the same in the urban blocks of Haldia and Tamluk and the semi-urban blocks of Panskura and Kolaghat and the remote and backward areas of faraway Ramnagar, Khejuri, Patashpur and the agricultural blocks of Nandigram, Bhagwanpur and the two Nandigram Blocks (I & II). The doctors, nurses, paramedical staff of the allopathic, homeopathic and ayurvedic colleges have been consulted and they have all expressed their opinion in favour of the study of science. The medical practitioners also admit that the students who are admitted in the different hospitals and nursing homes of the district with any ailments are seen to be such students who study science subjects in the various schools, colleges, and universities of Vidyasagar and Calcutta Universities which are on the district's western and eastern sides respectively. The Leading Light:

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6. Domestic Inspiration

Moyna Block is solely dependant on agriculture where the sole crop is paddy, but the students there are very avid and they are also much ahead in expertise and the results which they perform in the 15 colleges of the district which are affiliated to Vidyasagar University. The students of this Moyna District may be seen scattered all over the state and the country and even the Far East and the west where they are spreading the merits of science in alien lands as opportunities were not available to them in the past, though it is now available in the wake of the country's low-key industrial revolution. Only a few years ago the soil of the block would be tilled by manually operated plough drawn by cattle, but now the same fertile land is cultivated by power-tillers and tractors and these inventions of science have expedited the economic growth of the block. The students, the children mostly of farmers, know the worth and contribution of science to the economic growth of their parents and naturally they become motivated to take up science and technology as their future course of study.

7. Agriculture & Pisciculture Scenario

It is a fact that the district is situated on the coastal areas and that there are much waterbodies within and without the district. People, the fishermen, till the other day, used manually operated country boats to cross the rivers, the Rupnarayana or the Hooghly or to catch fish in those rivers and the nearby Bay of Bengal. But they now use mechanically operated boats and trawlers. The recent spurt in the fishing of Digha and Shankarpur is the result of the fast improvement of science, and the students of this district admittedly are eager to contribute their share in the district's development and they can do it by first acquiring the relevant knowledge in these fields of fishing or pisciculture.

8. Conclusions

Thorough study was also made in the economics status of the minority population of the district. The statistics of the students appearing at the secondary and higher secondary exams show that now-a-days there are many Muslim students who are reading science subjects. Girls are also not backward in the respect. The 1000 odd girls who were interviewed after the publication of the Secondary and Higher Secondary results some 6 hundred and 13 girl students were found to be such girls who hail from economically backward Muslim communities as weavers and fishermen.

The long and short of the whole scenario is that the attitude of the people, both professional and lay people, has undergone a quick change in the recent few years and if this positive attitude is retained in the years to come, India will not lag far behind China and Japan that in recent times have posed a violent threat to the erstwhile industrialized and scientifically developed countries of the west, and the Purba Medinipur District with its skilled work-force duly equipped with sophisticated knowledge in the fields of science and technology will lead the state and the nation in its path of success and progress.

9. References

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