
**Impact of Economy and Society upon Non Government English
Medium Schools in Darjeeling District -From Colonial Intervention
to Capitalist Venture
(1846-1991)**

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Abstract:*In this article an attempt will be made to cover the growth and expansion of English medium schools through economics and society in Darjeeling District of North Bengal in the state of West Bengal, India from the colonial intervention to capitalist venture started in the beginning of 1991 as a means of liberalisation of economy during PV Narasima Rao government . The growth and expansion of Non Government English medium Schools in Darjeeling is having a closer link with the holistic educational growth of Northern part of West Bengal. It should be stated that apart from the said that non government English medium schools were established in between 1846-1991. These have not been covered in this article but they have nearly common features in terms of promoting English education through English medium schools in the Darjeeling District. This phase of history has played a significant role in the educational history of North Bengal, at large.*

Keywords:*Darjeeling District, English Medium School, Non Government, North Bengal etc.*

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Introduction

Darjeeling is one of the most important district in North Bengal in the West Bengal in India so far as English medium school education is concerned. This English medium schools are run either by the Government or by the non government organization. In the initial years the English

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medium schools in Darjeeling district were administered by the Christian organization .This prevailed not only in Darjeeling but also in the then Calcutta, the capital of British India. Maximum English medium schools in Kolkata were governed by the religious bodies, specially churches. The oldest existing English medium school of Darjeeling Loreto Convent started her journey in Calcutta and then it shifted to Darjeeling. On the other hand the some of the English medium schools are governed by the state government or by the Central government. Their teachers are recruited through government agencies where as non government English medium schools recruit their teachers through their own channel. In this article it has been tried to show how the economics and society have put impact in the growth and expansion of the non government English medium schools of Darjeeling.

Society and Economy of Darjeeling District (1846-1991)

In between 1846-1991 the society and economy has seen many changes and challenges. From Tea industry to Timber and Tourism industry was the main economic base of this district in the said period, specially in the hilly Darjeeling whereas in the plains of this district other businesses have been added after the Independence period. Darjeeling district is a hub of Lepcha, Bhutias, Sherpa, Gorkha Bengali's , Oraon, Munda, Santhals, Kharia and Rajbanshis and many others covering hilly Darjeeling and plain Darjeeling. This Darjeeling was included in the British territory in 1835 .Then only 100 people lived there. By the progress of economy through Tea garden and agriculture many other people started settling here and automatically the population increased. There were four subdivisions in Darjeeling district before the bifurcation of Darjeeling with Kalimpong. Kalimpong was a sub division with Darjeeling Sadar, Kerseong and Siliguri in the district of Darjeeling.¹While Darjeeling became urbanised after the arrival of the British people of locality got the taste to stay in the urban centers .Urban people are benefitted by education. Niren Chowdhury has shown that downtrodden people of urban Darjeeling Sub division got better education than siliguri sub division .²As already it has been stated that Lepchas have their settlement in hilly Darjeeling, it is to be mentioned that they were the oldest tribe of Darjeeling. They came to Darjeeling before the arrival of the Tibetan, Bhutani or

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Nepalese. But it is quite difficult to say when they have settled in this calm and quite and peaceful atmosphere of this place. Tarv was the first Lepcha king as per record. Many researchers have given different opinions about the arrivals of the Lepchas. Some say that they have come from south Tibet, some say that they have come from Ladakh. On the other hand some say that Lepchas came from Assam and Brahmadesh to this region. But Lepchas believe that they are from Nearby Mayel state which was their oldest settlement.³ Lepchas lived in a matriarchal society. However it changes by the passage of time. In ancient times Lepchas married only with Limbus. But in post colonial era the system changed a lot. Widow marriage was practised. There were no caste system among the Lepchas. Lepchas were the worshipper of Nature. Many Lepchas have been converted into Christianity after the Darjeeling District merged with British India from Sikkim.⁴ Forest is a wealth in Darjeeling district. Darjeeling district is often called 'Three 'Ts means Tea, Timber and Tourism. These three things are interconnected. But trees have been cleared many times for the use of the people. However as Darjeeling is covered with hills it needs more trees. Darjeeling was covered 45 percent by forest in 1911 ,it decreased to 35 percent in 1941 and in 1981 it reached to only 20 percent noted by Manas Dasgupta in his article Darjeeling Jelar Arthonaitik Porichoy . It is affecting the entire weather system due to the scarcity of trees in the Darjeeling District. Agriculture is also affected because of it. It is because of the need of the railway 2000-4000 trees have been cleared every year in between 1874-1974. This was a disaster. Tourism is a big economy in Darjeeling .Hilly Darjeeling is a city of Hotels since it's economic development. In 1962 there were 1711 hotels, where as it reaches to 3000 in 1975 .According to Manas Dasgupta tourists spent nearly 7.65 crores in 1975 . As a growing industry the Darjeeling touring may rise their income double in the next 10 years. Transport business have also risen up maximum as it is directly connected to the tourism industry. ⁵

Non Government English Medium schools of Darjeeling District :1846-1991

Loreto Convent

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After the introduction of the Charter Act 1833 Christians missionaries were allowed to come to India to spread western education in India. Before this the Charter Act 1813 took the responsibility of the education of the Indians. The charter Act 1833 has liberated Christian Missionaries to set up European schools in different parts of India. At the same time this is to mention that Macaulay Minute played a pivotal role in preparing the Indian soil for English education. The then Capital of India Calcutta took the advantage of English education through English medium schools. Soon after in 1846 Loreto Convent was set up in hilly Darjeeling. This Loreto Convent is the first European schools with the medium of instruction is English in North Bengal. It was managed by Loreto Nuns with their headquarters in Dublin. The first building of Loreto Convent shifted to another spacious building. The Founder of Loreto Convent was Mother. M. Teresa Mons. She was one of the three Irish women who took the initiative to spread western knowledge and light in the hilly Darjeeling. Sister Gabriel assisted Mother M. Teresa while in their mission. This school was a girl school at the same time it was day boarding and day schools for the elite girls. When the school was set up in 1846, the number of students were only 6 and only six teacher were there. The number of the students rose to 54 in 1857. Probably this was a Primary school and it was regulated by European board.⁶ In her memoir, Leila Seth wrote, about the examination in Loreto Convent, 'Darjeeling was bitterly cold in December 1946 when we sat for our University of Cambridge School Certificate Examination, and the heating in the hall was totally inadequate.'⁷

Saint Paul School, Darjeeling

Saint Paul school Darjeeling is said to be the highest English medium school of the world. This age old school was established with an aim to impart education in moderate budget to the mediocre Europeans and Asian. However this school has turned to be one of the costliest school of Entire India. Financially Elite classes of people can afford their children to study here in this school in the Post Independence Era. This was established in Darjeeling in 1864 shifted from Calcutta. The school in Calcutta was established in 1st May 1823 by Daniel Corie. It runs in Calcutta for a long period of time. Later on it was shifted to Jalapahar in Darjeeling. The first

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batch in Jalapahar was having only 31 students. The land was purchased from Brian Hodgson for 45000 rupees. St Paul, Darjeeling was established by Bishop Cotton. This school is administered by the Church of North India. Previously there was no electricity in this school. The electricity in this school was connected in this school in 1909. The Maharajah of Burdwan donated liberally to construct Westcott hall. Many new building have been constructed by the passage of time. The oldest one building of this school does not exist at all. Students from different parts of the world come to study here. This ICSE based English medium school has produced many number of successful alumnae. Some of them include George Emette, Karun Krishna Majumdar, Anjan Dutt, Tashi Namgyal, Rajeev Mohta, Mahesh Jethmalani, Visnu Som, Swapan Dasgupta etc. George Emette was an English cricketer of repute in England. He was born in Agra in 1912. Later on he became a player at Gloucestershire Country Cricket Club. He also played test cricket for England. He died in 1976. The notable alumni of St Paul Karun Krishna Majumdar was born in 1913 in Calcutta. His maternal grandfather was Womesh Chandra Banerjee, the first congress president of the India. Karun Krishna Majumdar became an Air Force officer at an early stage of his life. He was first Indian Wing Commander. He was one of the best Airmen according to Life magazine. This magazine features him as the world 'most outstanding airmen' in 1944. He took his college education in England. He died in an early stage of his life at just 31 year. Another successful old Paulite, as the alumni of this school called such, Anjan Dutt was born in 1953 in Calcutta and took his education at St Paul, Darjeeling. His love for this school and for the entire hilly Darjeeling is immense. He is a successful film Director, Singer and actor who has been inspired by Mrinal Sen, a stalwart of Bengali Cinema. Anjan Dutt is very famous for his song Darjeeling which reminds us of his boyhood days at Darjeeling. The Bengali song is also given here.

দার্জিলিং
অঞ্জন দত্ত
খাদের ধারের রেলিঙটা
সেই দুট্টু দোদো সিরিংটা
আমার শৈশবের দার্জিলিংটা

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জানলার কাঁচে ঠোঁট চেপে
ছবি ঝঁকেছি নিঃশ্বাসে
পাহাড় আঁকা কত সোজা
হারিয়ে গেছে সেই ড্রয়িং খাতা

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চ্যাপ্টা ঠোঁটের ভালাবাসা
খুদে চোখে কত আশা
যখন তখন সাদা কুয়াশা
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খাদে নেমে প্রথম সিগারেট
সেখান থেকে স্কুলের গেট
দশ মিনিট দৌড়ে নইলে লেট
রোল কল হয়ে গেছে, এবার বেত

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খাদের ধারের রেলিঙটা
সেই দুহুঁ দোদো সিরিংটা
আমার শৈশবের দার্জিলিংটা

টুং সোনাদা ঘুম পেরিয়ে
একা বেঁকা রাস্তা ধরে
যখন-তখন পৌঁছে যাওয়া যায়
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This song brings a clear nostalgia of Darjeeling of Anjan Dutt .Anjan Dutt received best actor award for Chalchitra movie at Venice film festival in 1981.Tashi Namgyal was the 11th Maharajah of Sikkim. He was the son of Thutob Namgyal. Tashi was famous for Land reforms and making India closer with Sikkim as Sikkim was not a part of India that time. Tashi was famous for advocating free elections. He had studied at St Paul school, Darjeeling.Tashi Namgyal was the first independent king of Sikkim. He was a Buddhist and he is originally from Tibet. He was crowned by 13 th Dalai Lama. On the other hand Rajiv Mohta, a successful alumna of St Paul, won silver medal in golf in Asian Games 1982.Mahesh Jethmalani was a lawyer of Supreme Court. After his school life he took education at Oxford University, England. Visnu Som is a successful news anchor of NDTV. He was born in Denmark in 1974.His father was in Indian Foreign Service. Swapan Dasgupta is an Indian Parliamentarian whose many wonderful articles have been published in The Telegraph. He is famous for his uses of bombarding English words.

North Point School, Darjeeling

North Point School which was known as St Joseph College was established in 1888 .It was founded by Henry Depelchin who was Belgium Jesuit Priest. He came to India at the age of

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37. He stayed few years in Calcutta. He was involved in the educational promotion in Calcutta through Jesuit mission. Later on he came to Darjeeling to set up school. He was the first rector of St Joseph School. He got only 25 students in his first batch. He was then 67 years old. But age did not stop him to promote education. He wanted a bigger campus. Finally he found a place called North Point. Once it was shifted to North Point the school came to be known as North Point School. The second rector of this school was Alfred Neut. Classes started there in 1892 in North Point. This school is ICSE based school. Some of the successful alumni include Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, Gynendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev, Lawrence Durrell, Erick Avari etc. Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev was the king of Nepal from 1972. He took his school education at Saint Joseph school, Darjeeling. He had studied at Tokyo University and in Harvard University also. Gynendra Bir Bikram Shah was the last king of Nepal. He was the brother of Bikram Shah Dev. He took his early education at Saint Joseph school with his brother. Later on Gyendra had graduated from Tribhuban University, Nepal. Paras Bikram Shah Dev was the son of king Gynendra. Paras took his early education at Saint Joseph school. Later on he went to Schiller International University of United Kingdom but he had not completed undergraduate course. Lawrence Durrell was the son of Luisa and Lawrence Samuel Durrell. Lawrence Samuel Durrell was an Anglo Indian Engineer. Lawrence Durrell is a famous writer in English Language. His famous work include "Alexandria Quartet ". Lawrence Durrell remained one of the best selling authors of England. Eric Avari was the son of Earach Dinsaw Avari. Eric Avari is a successful Hollywood Actor. He was born in Darjeeling. He studied at the college of Charleston. His great grandfather was Jamshedji Framji Madan, who was a pioneer of Indian cinema and theatre. Apart from these successful alumni so many successful people have studied at Saint Joseph school, Darjeeling.

Mount Hermon School, Darjeeling

Mount Hermon School, Darjeeling is located in North Point. It was established in 1895. The school is having a clear motto that reads 'Non scholae sed vitae discimus' which means we learn not in school but in life. The school was established by Emma L. Knowles. This is administered

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by the Methodist Episcopal Church of Britain. The first principal of this school was Emma L. Knowles, the founder this school. This school was primarily a girls school .Later on junior wing was opened for the boys also. Today's Mount Hermon was previously known as Acadia later on became 'Queen 's hill school. Bishop Fischer purchased the present campus at North Point from the lebong tea estate. This is icse based English medium school. Some of the notable Alumni include Altamas Kabir, Tom Stoppard etc. Altamas Kabir was educated in Mount Hermon School. Later on he moved to Calcutta Boys School. He had been a law graduate from Calcutta University. He became Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India. On the other hand Tom Stoppard, an alumni of Mount Hermon, took his early education at this school. He was an English playwright. His play 'Real Thing' earned repute. Tom Stoppard was an internationally acclaimed playwright. Mount Hermon School got their students from England, America, New Zealand, Australia and from different parts of India and the world.

Mahbert High School ,Siliguri

Mahbert High School Siliguri was established in 1967 .It is one of the old English medium school in Siliguri. The school is situated in Nice Environment. This is a private unaided English medium school. School fees of school has been kept moderate so that children of all sections may take admission in this school. This is a co -educational school from the initial days. The campus is urban. Maximum students are from Siliguri in the district of Darjeeling.

Lincoln's High School

This school was established in 1980 .This is an icse based English medium school in Darjeeling. It is administered by the Lincoln's Educational Foundation. Best education was the priority from its journey. Special focus has always been paid English learning and speaking. This school is having four acres of land as their campus.

Bhadrasheela Memorial Institution :

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Bhadrasheela Memorial Institution was established in 1980 .It is an icse based English medium school. This school is popularly known as BSMI. This is situated in Nalbangaon. This place is naturally beautiful place and a charming tourist sp

Notre Dame Academy ,Darjeeling

Notre Dame means mother Mary in French Language. This school has been named after Mother Mary .This is established in 1985.This school is administered by the Patna Notre Dame Sister Society. The society originated by St Julie Billiard of France. This society is branches in different parts of the world like in Germany, Italy, Brazil, England, Holland, India, Tanzania etc. They set up their first branch in India at at Jamalpur, Bihar in 1950 .This school is an icse based English medium school.

Sai Sundaram School, Dilaram

Sai Sundaram School is situated at Dilaram in Kerseong. This is administered by Dilaram Sai Sundaram Educational Society. The school was established in 1983.It is a Co educational school with English as the medium of instruction. It followed cbse pattern. Holistic growth of the students is the highest priority of this school.

DAV School Fulbari

Dav School Fulbari is an unaided English medium school. This school was established in 1986 .This is managed by Maharishi Dayanand Samriti Nyas .This is a cbse based school.The school was established in the rural set up. The atmosphere is serene and very noiseless. The school is having a big campus around. Students from Siliguri come by school bus as at the time establishment the transport and other communication was not so good.

Siliguri Model High School

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Siliguri Model High School was opened in 1986 .The founder stone was laid by Dr S. S. Agarwal. The school was set primarily adjacent to the Mahananda Bridge. It has started it's journey with few students. It was Dr S. S. Agarwal whose mentorship has helped this to grow up .As my research period does only cover the beginning year of the school, therefore, very limited progression has been shown as the school in 1986 was in the cradle house.

Hindi Balika Vidyalaya, Siliguri

Hindi Balika Vidyalaya, Siliguri was established in 1977 .This school is administered by Hindi Valika Vidyapith Trust .This school always preferred to promote Co curricular activities apart from studies. This is a cbse based English medium school. Art club, music club, literary clubs are the integral part of this school. The school pays special focusses on the holistic development of the students.

Auxilium Convent Siliguri

Auxilium Convent Siliguri was set up in 1983 .This is administered by Salesian Sisters. Auxilium Convent is an icse based school. The campus has enough space which help students to move freely. Rev Eric Benjamin took this initiative to bring the salesian sisters to set up a school and a dispensary in Siliguri which was well connected to Darjeeling and Sikkim both. He was the Bishop of Darjeeling. After prolonged discussion and consultation the superiors agreed to set up Auxilium Convent which started it's journey on 31may 1983.Salesian sisters took the initiative for the growth and expansion of this English medium school.

West Point School, Darjeeling

West point school of Darjeeling is an icse based English medium school established in 1981.This school, since her inception, known for quality education through English as a medium of

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instruction. Students are prohibited to speak any other languages inside the classroom and in the campus like all other English medium schools.

Ruhiyyih School, Darjeeling

Ruhiyyih School, Darjeeling was established in 1985. Located in Jorebunglow Ruhiyyih School is an icse based English medium school. English is strictly taught in the Primary level so that all the primary students may talk smoothly and hassle-free. In the initial years they got less number of students. Later students got admitted in large numbers due the good administrative set up of this school.

Pine Hall Academy

Pine Hall Academy stands unique since it's beginning. It was established in 1980. Situated at Soureni Bazaar this school has become a shelter house for the willing students to learn English language in the primary section. The school, through their methods and techniques, earned reputation from 1980 to 1986 the years I am entitled to do research upon. This is icse based Co educational English medium school.

Good Shepherd School, Bagdogra

This school was established in 1970 at Bagdogra in the Darjeeling District. Bagdogra is known for Airport. The economic level of the people of Bagdogra was better in comparison to other parts Darjeeling. The sound economic base is an important factor for setting up private schools apart from the establishment of central government funded Kendriya Vidyalaya, Army Public School or Air Force school. Good Shepherd school is a Christian missionary led private school. So far as English medium schools are concerned the parents preferred to send their children to the private English medium schools rather than the government English medium schools for

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many valuable reasons. Bagdogra is no such exceptions in this regard. Rev Fr Koduppana was instrumental in setting up Good Shepherd School at Bagdogra. This is administered by the Catholics Diocese of Bagdogra. It is a Co educational and cbse based English medium school. This school always pays special attention to promote English language and literature, apart from following the icse syllabus.

Assembly of God Church School, Darjeeling

Rev Claude Barua was the founder of Assembly of God Church School Darjeeling. This school was established in 1985 at a remote place of Darjeeling. However the present campus of Assembly of God Church School was shifted from the old one campus. The old one school was just a rented wooden building and primarily it was built for a primary English medium school. It ran there for long eight years. This school got only 17 students in the first batch in 1985. Development of Heart, Heads and Hand is ultimate motto of this school. Claude Barua wanted students to take all challenges of life to make a resourceful country. Her wife Indira Barua helped incessantly to make Primary Assembly Of God Church School into an icse based senior secondary school in Darjeeling.

Camelia School Darjeeling

Camellia School is situated at Dr Jakir Hussain Raod, Darjeeling. This school is a Co educational school and ICSE based school. After its set up in 1980 the school ran as a primary school only.

Saint Helen Secondary School, Kerseong

Saint Helen Secondary School, Kerseong is one of the oldest school of Kerseong as well as in the entire North Bengal. This school was established in the month of April, 1890. It is administered by the congregation of the daughters of the cross that was established by Jeanne Haze on September 8, 1833. Jeanne Haze was born in League in 1782. Her father was deeply affected and

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died because of the French Revolution which took place in 1789. Her mother and she survived and struggle to live by the grace of God. So, they dedicated the rest of life to the service of Lord Jesus. Later on, Jeanne Haze was known as Mother Mary Therese. Congregation of the daughters of the cross was engaged in social services. They reached to Kerseong in 1890. Though this is a Christian minority institution it takes admission of all classes of children of all people since their beginning. Sister M. Winifred was the first headmistress of this sacred institution. The motto of this school is Diet Mon De voir means God and my duty. The school started at a rented house named, Charleville. Then it shifted to nearby Railway location. This house was larger than Charleville which was on the top of Clarendon Hotel. It ran in the second campus for long nine years. Due to the expansion of the school, it needed to be shifted to the Present location. The school started their journey with just only 12 students in the month of April. The students increased to 39 in the month of November in the same year. The school is ICSE affiliated English medium school.

Himali Boarding School, Kerseong :

Himali Boarding School, Kerseong is an icse based English medium school. It was established in 1978. As this is a boarding school, students from different parts of India and abroad do come to study here. This school is commonly known as HBS. It takes special care of the students as they come far away from the school. The school maintains a right nutrition so far as the Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner is concerned.

Little Flower School, Kurseong

Kurseong in West Bengal is wonderful place for its lovely weather, tea gardens and for English medium school. This town is also called as a town of English Medium Schools. Many English medium schools have been set up during colonial period and in post colonial period due to the favourable Natural atmosphere and of course for educational legacy of Kerseong. Little Flower School, Kerseong was established in 1978. It is a Co educational school and presently affiliated

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to ICSE. It was only a primary English medium school during 1978-1986 which covers the period of my research. This school is administered by Little Flower school and Education Society.

Lewis English School Mirik, Darjeeling

Lewis English School, Mirik, Darjeeling was established in 1975. This is the oldest English medium school of Mirik. The school is affiliated to ICSE and it was affiliated in the year 1986. Lewis always believes in the overall growth of the students who will build the nation in near future. Innovative Pedagogy was main attraction of the children at Lewis. As it is a fact that Mirik is a wonderful place having greener pastures, tea gardens, mountain ranges which attracts ambience for better study. It encouraged games like Football, Badminton, Table tennis etc from the beginning of the school.

Green Lawn School, Darjeeling

Green Lawn school is situated at Soureni Bazaar in the district of Darjeeling. It is icse based English medium school. It was established in 1983 with aim to provide quality education to all sections of Society.

Glenhill Public School, Kurseong

Glenhill public School was established in year 1985. It is situated at 39, Downhill road in Kurseong. It was founded by Prem Dayal Pradhan. The school aims at making global citizen from the very beginning. This is one of oldest privately owned Icse based English medium school in Kurseong in the Darjeeling District.

Belle Vue Boarding School, Kurseong

Belle Vue Boarding School, Kurseong is situated on the hilltop of Kurseong. This school was established in 1981. Followed by icse, the school always emphasised on English Language to

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attract students from different parts of India. It is administered by Kurseong Belle Vue education and welfare society.

Dawn Boarding School, Kurseong

The hills of Kurseong and Darjeeling and Kalimpong are famous for boarding schools in India from the Colonial period to the post colonial period. The wonderful weather of the hills is one of the important reasons for such conglomeration. Dawn Boarding school was set up to cater education for the students of different parts of India and abroad. It was established in 1985. It started its journey following ICSE curriculum.

Dow Hill School, Kurseong

Dow Hill School is one of oldest English medium school of Kurseong as well as in entire West Bengal. The school was established in 1879 at Kurseong by the then Lt Governor General of Bengal Ashley Eden. This ICSE based English medium school is administered by Government of West Bengal. Some of the Successful Alumni of Dow Hill include Manish Gupta, Eva Dasgupta, Churni Ganguly, Gita Sen etc. Manish Gupta became a beauracrat turned politician. Eva Dasgupta became the former head of the education department of Loreto College.(8) On the other hand Gita sen became the teacher of Don Bosco school, Park Circus, Calcutta. Anne Lumsden was another successful alumni who won the Arjuna Award for hockey in 1961. She was the first female player to receive it.

Victoria Boys School, Kurseong

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Victoria Boys School Kurseong was established by the then Lt Governor of Bengal, Sir Ashley Eden in 1879. It was a primary English medium school in the initial years. It was primarily set up for the railway employees. Later on other government servants of low or middle income group could facilitate this school. However by the passage of time the civilians started getting advantages by giving a high school fees. It was a residential school at Constantia but as the number of the students increased it shifted to the present location. There were only 16 children in the first batch. The first headmaster was Mr Edgar Pegler. Mr Edgar Pegler was deeply supported by his wife Mrs Elizabeth Pegler. Mr and Mrs Bernes joined as a teacher from England. In 1888 this school became reserved for the boys as the demand for the boys increased. The government decided to do so.

Saint Robert Higher Secondary School, Darjeeling :

Saint Robert Higher Secondary School was established in 1934 in Darjeeling by the government of West Bengal. It is administered by the Roman Catholic Church. It was established for the education of the Catholic community. The school keeps special focus on social justice, genuine freedom, respect for moral values etc. This school follows the syllabus of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education and West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education through English as a medium of instruction.

Goethals Memorial School, Kurseong

Goethals Memorial School, Kurseong is one of the old English medium school of Kurseong. This school was established in 1907 by the Congregation of the Christian Brothers, an international Catholic Organisation. The school has been named after the name of Paul Goethals who was the Jesuit Arch Bishop of Calcutta. Stanislaus O'Brien was instrumental in building the School. He became the first Superior. M. S. O'Brien was the first principal of Goethals Memorial School, Kurseong. The school was run under his principalship from 1907-1914. *Omnia bene facere* is the motto of this school. It means Do all things well. Maharaja of Bardhaman had donated the land of

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the School .It is presently icse based English medium school but before the functioning of the icse this school was following the Cambridge Local Examinations pattern which was an European Education Board used to be followed by the English medium schools in West Bengal that time, specially before the introduction of ICSE board.

Conclusion

The economy and society always play a pivotal role in the growth of the educational institutions, specially in the cases while it deals with private or non government English medium schools. Christian missionaries were the first to introduce English education in the Darjeeling District which is referred by LSSSO 'Malley who wrote, 'When the British took over the district, popular education was particularly unknown .' ⁹ He refers English education as popular education. Church of Scotland Mission played a pivotal role. LSSSO'Malley added, 'Not only have the missionaries been the pioneers of education among the native population, but for the last generation practically the only organization for meeting the primary educational wants of the people of the hills has been the church of Scotland.' ¹⁰ It deals with the prosperity and future of the students. Darjeeling district has accepted the wave of English education since her cultural, social and educational development, however reserved for the European for a long period of time but later on liberated for everybody having the capacity to make their children educated in those English medium schools. In the end it may be said that the English medium schools of Darjeeling saw both the impact of the Christian missionaries and in the later part by the care of the capitalist. At the same time it may be added that tea economy is also a good factor for the economic prosperity of Darjeeling District where cheap labour remained available from the beginning of the tea garden. According to Minakshi Das and Anil Bhumali, 'A good number of the gardens in Terai and Darjeeling region were successfully able to constitute a permanent and settled labour force, much earlier than Assam since the economic pressure in Nepal brought Nepalese in large numbers to Bengal.' ¹¹ The Christian Missionaries laid the foundation of the non government education in different parts of India and in Darjeeling .Jonathan Masih wrote, 'Acceptably the missionaries had initiated the very inception and thereafter the growth of Grant in Aid system and therefore, the private sector in education .' ¹²

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Last but not the least it should be stated that apart from the said non government schools few other non government English medium schools were established in between 1846-1991. These have not been covered in this article but they have nearly common features in terms of promoting English education through English medium schools in the Darjeeling District.

Notes and References

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