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GORKHALAND TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DARJEELING

Under the provision of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration Act, the executive powers of the State Govt. relating to the management, control and supervision of the important departments mainly covering developmental functions and activities have been transferred to the GTA. Of the Departments, the executive powers of which have been transferred, Education is one of the transferred subjects to the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration .Under the MDA, as amended up to date, all the executive powers relating to Primary, Secondary ,Higher Secondary & Higher Education have been transferred to the GTA. The following are the institutions, which have, till now, been transferred to the GTA.

1. Office of the District School Board, Darjeeling.
2. Offices of the DI of Schools, Primary and Secondary Education.
3. Offices of the District Officers, Physical Education and Youth Welfare.
4. All Non-Govt. State aided Primary, Junior High, High and Higher Secondary Schools.
5. All Govt. Junior High, High and Higher Secondary Schools in the hill areas except Victoria Boys' School and Dow Hill Girls' School at Kurseong.
6. Primary Teachers' Training Institutes at Kalimpong and Darjeeling.
7. Sub Regional Kalimpong Science Centre. Kalimpong.
8. All Govt. aided colleges of the three subdivision of Darjeeling.
9. Technical Education.

Following the transfer of various Departments to the GTA, the formation of various Department of the GTA to look after the administration and organization set up of these various Departments took place. Accordingly, the Department of Education, GTA, came into being, presently headed by a Executive Director, for the Primary , Secondary & Higher Education. Further, to run the general administration and to act as the executive head of the Department of Education, GTA, a senior officer drawn on from the West Bengal Civil Service Commission, West Bengal, has been posted as Executive Director to the Department. With the transfer of all the unit offices as indicated above they have been made answerable to the Education Department, GTA, for every act of commission and omission, thereby losing their independent identity as they had been holding till the time of transfer. So, the entire management and administration of the policy of Education in Darjeeling GTA emanates from the Education Department, GTA with the approval of the Chief Executive, Gorkhaland Territorial Administration through the Principal Secretary, GTA.

(A) THE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM UNDER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN BRIEFED AS FOLLOWS:-

1. **Department of Education:** In order to run the general administration of the department, Executive Director, has been drawn from the State Civil Services, to act as the head of the Department. Though the final authority on taking decision about the policy matter relating to the Department rests with the Chief Executive, Gorkhaland Territorial Administration through the Principal Secretary, GTA, yet the Department virtually holds the overall charge of the management of the School Education in the GTA area.

2. **District School Board, GTA:** There exists an Ad-hoc Committee of the School Board transferred to the GTA. The body looks after the authorized affairs of the Primary Education under the supervision of the Education Department, GTA. There are altogether 778 Primary Schools in the three sub division of Darjeeling, whose administration were looked after by the District School Board as per the approval of the Education Department, GTA .

3. **The Inspectorate:** The offices of the DI of Schools, both Primary and Secondary stand transferred to the GTA. Hence, their entire functioning is monitored and supervised by the Education Department, GTA. So, is the case in respect of offices of the Sis/AIs of Schools of both the Primary and Secondary Education were looked after by the concerned DIs.

4. **Physical Education:** The office of the District Officer, Physical Education, also stands transferred to the GTA. Its activities are also monitored and supervised by the Education Department of GTA. The Physical Officer acts according to the norm of the instruction issued by the Department of Education, GTA.

5. **Primary Teachers' Training Institute:** 2(two) Primary Teachers' Training Institute at Darjeeling and Kalimpong have been transferred to the Education Department GTA by the State Government for their control, management and supervision which were looked after by the Education Department, GTA.

6. Government And Non-Government High Schools:

2(two) Government High Schools at Darjeeling and Kalimpong and Sardeswari Govt. Girls' High School of Darjeeling have been directly transferred to the Education Department, GTA by the State Government for their control, management and supervision. Among the Non-Govt. state aided Institutions; there are 778 Primary Schools, 132 Upper Primary Schools, 16 new set up Upper Primary Schools, 543 Sishu Siksha Kendras & 68 Madhyamik Shiksha Kendra stand transferred under Education Department, GTA.

7. Career Information And Counselling Coaching Centre (C.I.C.A.C.):

A Coaching centre at Darjeeling was started sometime in the year 1973 by the Hill Affairs Department for coaching of candidates from hill areas to appear in the competitive examinations conducted by UPSC and PSC, West Bengal. With the formation of GTA and consequent upon transferred of schools and institutions by the State Government to GTA, Career Information and Counseling Coaching Centre, Darjeeling was also transferred to the Education Department of GTA for its control, management and supervision. At present, about 30 students are enrolled in Coaching and counseling to enable the candidates for preparation in competitive examinations. It is accommodated in the rented premises of Darjeeling Red Cross. It is well equipped with the books, journals, magazines on career guidance and some other subject matters of the competitive examinations.

8. Kalimpong Science Centre: The Kalimpong Science Centre was constructed by National Council of Science Museum, Kolkata and handed over to erstwhile DGHC on September 2007. Kalimpong Science Centre also stands transferred to the GTA. Its activities are also monitored and supervised by the Education Department of GTA. The Curator (Pay Band Employee) acts according to the norm of the instruction issued by the Department of Education, GTA.

9. Colleges: After formation of GTA, 09 govt. aided colleges has been transferred to GTA for their management and supervision. Accordingly all the administrative matters of these colleges were looked after by the Department of Education, GTA.

SISHU SIKSHA KENDRAS (SSK):

As per the DISE 2013-14 there are 539 nos. of SSK centers under GTA .Altogether 1157 numbers of Sahayak/Sahayikas have been engaged by the respective Managing Committees of these SSK centers after obtaining approval of the Education Department, GTA. The payment of salaries of these SSKs has been made by the Education Department to the respective account of SSK through Banks.

MADHYAMIK SIKSHA KARMASUCHI (MSK):

As per the approval of the Panchayat & Rural Development Department, Govt. of West Bengal, 68 (sixty eight) numbers of MSK Centres have been established in various Gram Panchayats under Rural Areas of GTA.. Altogether 368 numbers of Siksha Samprasarak/Samprasarikas have been engaged by the respective Managing Committees of these MSK centers after obtaining approval of the Education Department, GTA. The payment of salaries of these SSKs has been made by the Education Department to the respective account of SSK through Banks.

EDUCATION IN HILLS OF DARJEELING

System of education is the reflection of ideals of any society which helps, coordinates and supervises. GTA with close co-ordination and support from the government diligently carrying out its mission to usher the society to new era.

The pioneers in the spread of education in the district were Christian missionaries and particularly those of the Church of Scotland Mission. When the British took over the district, popular education was practically unknown. The first attempt to reach the hill people by education was made about 1850 by the Rev. W. Start, a private missionary, who added to his record of good work in Darjeeling by opening a school for Lepchas. After him came a band of German missionaries, one of whom, Mr. Niebel, devoted himself to school work, prepared some Lepcha primers and gathered boys together to schools. It was not however until the advent of the Rev. William MacFarlane in 1869 that any board scheme of vernacular education was introduced into the district. He realized that it would be essential to train teachers and with this object he collected hill boys, to teach whom he devoted the first years of his missionary life in the hills. This group of boys was the nucleus of a training school at Kalimpong. In 1873 there were 25 primary schools with 650 boys and girls receiving instructions. Gradually there was expansion of primary schools. By 1941 one hundred twenty two of these schools were run by the Scots Mission, 10 by the Roman Catholic Mission, 3 by Ramakrishna Vedanta Ashram and 4 by the Buddhist Mission (Young Man's Buddhist Association). Darjeeling Municipality had under its direct management two free primary schools for boys and girls each.

Darjeeling has a specialty in what is called European education. An excerpt of the so called European education as described in the District Gazetteer of 1947 is as follows.

European education: Darjeeling owes its original development to its suitability as a health resort for the Government servants. It is not therefore surprising that schools were needed there for the children of those European Government servants who used it as a sanitarium and who could not afford to send their children to be educated in their native land. Schools were attracted to the district or were opened in it to meet these needs. At first the schools which were started were on a small scale and had a precarious existence. They gradually gained stability. Their aim was to provide for European and Anglo-Indian children that type of education and upbringing to which the parents had been accustomed in their native country. Though the schools were designed and maintained for European and Anglo-Indian children, the type of education they provided has proved attractive to a number of Indian parents who could afford the fees and practically all the so-called European schools now accept children of Indian parents up to 15 to 25 percent of the total number of their pupils.

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The earliest of the European schools in the district was the Loreto Convent for girls founded in 1846 and managed by the Loreto nuns who have their mother house in Rathfarnham, Dublin, St.

Paul's School for boys was opened in Darjeeling in 1864 with 30 pupils on the rolls. St. Joseph's College, North Point, is conducted by the Jesuit fathers under whom the Rector of the college is in charge. It was founded in 1888 when Father Henry Depelechin was placed in charge of the small school of St. Joseph at Sunny Bank, Mount Hermon. An institution of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America, is a co-educational school. The Board of Governors is made up of missionary representative of many different missionary societies. The school was founded in 1895 in order to provide a Christian school in a favourable climate, where missionaries' and other English speaking children might be trained physically, mentally, and spiritually under Christian influence, guidance and education. The school is in the approved list of the Cambridge Syndicate.

During the Second World War of 1939-45, a need arose for education for the children of British residents in India who normally sent their children to Europe to be educated and who desired for them conditions comparable with those which they expected to find in Europe. Various schools were started in India to supply the needs of such parents. Two of those which opened in Darjeeling were the New School and Singamari School. The New School was founded in Calcutta in 1940 and first moved to Jalapahar for the summer in 1941; later the main school was transferred to Jalapahar where it continued until December 1944. It provided education from the Kindergarten to the Higher Certificate stages and numbers were limited to 170 Europeans boys and girls. Singamari School was opened in 1941 and was closed after the termination of the war.

The oldest of the schools for Europeans in Kurseong is the Victoria Boys' School. It was founded in 1879 by Sir Ashley Eden for boys and girls and housed in Constantia, at present the residence of Subdivisional officer. The school was moved to Dowhill in 1880. In 1897 the present Victoria School was opened for boys and the Dowhill School for girls was separated. The Victoria School is a Government School, established originally for the children of Railway employees, later opened to the sons of Government servants and now also to European or Anglo-Indian boys of parents of any occupations.

The Dowhill Girls' School was separated from the Victoria School in 1897 and in 1898 opened as a Middle school with 80 children.

St. Helen's College, Kurseong is conducted by the Daughters of the Cross of Liege and was opened in a small rented house in 1890 by Mother Marie then Provincial.

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The Goethals Memorial School was founded in memory of the Most Rev. Dr. Paul Count Goethals, S.J., Archbishop of Calcutta, and was formally opened in 1907 by Sir Andrew Fraser, Lieutenant – Governor of Bengal. The school is under the management of the Christian Brothers of Ireland.

The most important establishment for European education in Kalimpong is that founded in 1900 by the late the Very Rev. Dr. J.A. Graham, C.I.E., D.D., Guild Missionary of the Church of Scotland. The object for which these Homes were established was “ to provide for children wholly or partly of British or other European descent such an education and training based upon Protestant principles, as may fit them for emigration to British Colonies or for suitable work elsewhere”.

St. Joseph’ Convent , Kalimpong was founded in 1922 as a sanitarium for Sisters teaching in plains schools and in 1926 was opened as a boarding school for Anglo-Indian and European girls by the Sisters of the Congregation of Saint Joseph de Cluny.

A first grade Government College , teaching up to B.A. Honoursof Calcutta University was opened in Darjeeling in 1948.

After independence of India several changes are witnessed. Education system is also not exception. With the passing of time, several new ideas were also introduced in the system of education. One of which is ‘Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan’. It is a Government of India’s flagship programme of achievement of universalization of Elementary Education in time bound manner as mandated by the 86th amendment of Constitution of India making free and compulsory Education to the children of 6 to 14 years age group, a Fundamental Right. This mission was also started in three hill Sub-Division of Darjeeling in the year 2001-02. Besides Panchayat and Rural Development, from the year 1999 introduced a programme named Paschim banga Rajya Shishu Shiksha Mission under which there is establishment of Shishu Shiksha Kendra with the objective of enrolling school dropout children.

Presently the statuses of schools under GTA are as follows:

Primary schools: 774
 Junior High Schools: 11
 High Schools: 66
 Higher Secondary Schools: 59
 Shishu Shiksha Kendra: 539
 Madhyamik Shiksha Kendra: 67
 College : 10