



# English Education in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**Bidyut Mandal M.A(English) , M.Ed,Assistant Professor.  
Tagore Govt. College of Education,Middle Point, Port Blair**

**Abstract :**English education aims to develop effective communication skills ,critical thinking and an application for the beauty of literature and languages ,but history knows the evaluation of english education in Andaman and Nicobar islands .In the year 1881-1882 first primary school was established in these islands for the prisoners and their children ,then in the year 1891-1892 a eurasian school was running and it was affiliated by Punjab education department ,then a tremendous change occurred in the history of english school .In the year 1857 education administration structure were set up at first in these islands and zone and sub -zone was divided after the penal settlements people was forced to learn english language by the britishers to make communication more easily than gradually english missionary school was started at first at car nicobar ,then Boys senior secondary school at aberdeen village time passes english education scenario was make a strong fingerprint in Andaman and Nicobar islands . The aim of this paper is to showcase the present status of English medium schools and how people were facing challenges during the pre independence era and after pannel settlements and at present how English education changes this beautiful island with full fledge of English education and makes this island more beautiful.

**Key terms :** Evolution of education ,Prisoners ,Anglo-vernacular,Rangoon university,Missionary school ,Wimberlygunj ,Part D state ,Penal settlements,Diglipur,Mutineers ,Balwadis ,Tunnu -Munnu ,Mus ,Panchabati.

## Introduction

English education refers to the teaching and learning of the English language related to arts ,music ,literature and other related subjects. English education aims to develop effective communication skills,critical thinking and an appreciation for the beauty of literature and languages .

English education often includes the exploration of cultural and historical aspects as well as the development of analytical and interpretative skills .It plays a crucial role in fostering literacy, enhancing verbal expression and preparing individuals for academic and professional quality where proficiency in English language is essential.In today's world directly or indirectly dependent on english education ,english education called as an window of the west and library education where all the other education system also involved with english education .

## Evolution of Education

The Evolution of Education in andaman and nicobar islands dates back to the history around 19th century ,in the year 1881-1882 first primary school established in these island as a structure of hut later on a double storied building in the year 1890 ,here a fine question will raise to my readers mind who are they to attend the school ..the school for the prisoners and their children .if we turn the pages of andaman history we all know andaman nicobar was captured by the britishers and the prisoners from all over the india they come here for the "kalapani

ki sajai” out of the diversified prisoners some are most educated and they continue to do their education ,in these case the british officers established the school for them and their children. In the year 1891-1892,a Eurasian school was running at port blair (Andaman & Nicobar) and the school was run by a single teacher and the syllabus ,curriculum and all pattern are affiliated through punjab education department ,the medium which is followed was Urdu all the teaching learning was conducted through Urdu only .

When the school was started first in the year 1895,enrollment ratio was very high, after that the local administration set up another six primary schools in the year 1900 at port blair.later on out of six primary school one school upgrade for middle school in the year 1904 -1905 and the language was followed “Anglo -vernacular” and remaining other five school follow the same curriculum and syllabus of punjab education department ,during the penal settlement in the year 1905 -1906 and inspector from west bengal who inspected the school premise of Andaman and nicobar island after that some changes happened in the history of school system in andaman and nicobar islands.

In the year 1920 after the first world war the middle school was upgraded into high school ,and the medium of instruction was english and school was affiliated by Rangoon University,but Urdu as a meyor language ,the exam pattern also changed the student underwent two different pattern of exam one was the end of 7th class and another at the end of 10th class.After that in the year 1922,a separate primary school was established for girls student but due to some reason it was collapsed not run smoothly ,when was Burma separated from India in the year 1936 again the high school was affiliated to Punjab University after that a tremendous change occurs in the history of Andaman and Nicobar school Education system ,a group of people from Missionaries come together and build five missionaries school in the year 1939 -1940 at the land of nicobar island .

In the year 1942 month of March second world war broke out after tha Andaman and Nicobar island was occupied by the Japanese army it continues till 1945 after four years the japanese changed the education system where britishers introduced the english and urdu language but after reaching japanese army they introduced japanese language and the system of education should be japanese and the medium of instruction also in their own way after that a clear cut document had written when a inspector came from west bengal and inspect the school from Andaman and nicobar island ,the inspector was found that one high school at port blair adjoining eight primary schools, one middle school at car Nicobar according to the inspection of 1946 -1947 the student ratio of that car nicobar school was 1013 in numbers .

After these the tremendous changes means a revolution was happened in the side of school education system of Andaman and nicobar islands ,britishers came and make their own officers and run the system of education ,then japanese came spread their own ideas of education introduced the japanese education system and again recaptured britishers they set up their own ides of education system after that a revolutionary changes had happened in the education system every things collapsed .

In 1947 there was no education department in Andaman and Nicobar island and the deputy commissioner of the islands took charge as the controlling officer of the education department. In his presence he can take charge as president of the education advisory committee.

In 1946 ,total number of school were 12 in these islands under it one high school ,one middle school ,eight primary school and one korean and one Burmese school .The education department has changed positively in these island after independence ,in the year 1948-49,a total number 20 educational institution were functioned with high enrollment ratio upto 1620 students and 51 teaching stachers .

To understand the educational scenario of the past and present of any country or union territory ,it is important to understand the geographical boundaries and the settlements of that particular area. In order to understand the English education system of Andaman and Nicobar island, the foremost thing is to understand the penal settlement of these islands.

## **Educational Administrative structure (1857)**

In the year 1857 the education department of andaman and nicobar administration was divided into two districts and five educational sub zones and main headquarters each of port blair each of these five sub zones has and education officer ,Middle andaman ,North and south andaman as well as wimberlygunj each has a deputy educational officer as an head .

## Education system during penal settlement

Penal Settlement contribute ample number of evidences in english education system in andaman and nicobar islands after the settlements of these islands,other states and union territories announced the islands falls under 'part D'state of union territory in the year 1956 and all the decisions and charges from all the department was taken by the Lieutenant governor collaboration with all the departmental heads.

### Physical features Of these islands in the year 1956

The history of andaman and nicobar islands Was the the proper evidences of these islands in the year 1956 ,the total number of islands were 323 and 248 rocks ,in those time some rocks are unnamed ,and the total area comprises 8,249 sq.km After these total islands was 265 its named as "The Andaman group of Islands "and it was seperated by the Andaman sea from the bay of bengal ,here five islands are overlapping with another and the five islands are "The north ,Middle and south Andaman ,Baratang and Rutland.

### Administrative structure after the penal settlements

For Smooth functioning all the departmental work specially education department And other important department the Andaman and Nicobar islands divided into two districts headquarters namely portblair and nicobar districts which comprises five main islands while nicobar districts consists of car Nicobar and great Nicobar these two districts divided with seven tehsils ,and the Andaman districts the tehsils are Diglipur ,Mayabunder ,Rangat ,Portblair and Ferrargunj.The Nicobar districts comprises the tehsils of car Nicobar and Nancowrie its followed by the four subdivisions called Andaman,Mayabunder ,car nicobar and Nancowrie.

### Imposition of english after penal settlement

English Education has a brief history After the penal settlements,In the year 1857 after the "sepoy Mutiny" a large number of prisoners or freedom fighters send to andaman for "kalapani ki saza"they called as an "mutineers" decided by the british.After the penal settlements the administration started to employee people and they need to communicate the people for smoothly running the departmental work ,in order to assign the people for the job sector they offered nominal pay job like clearing the forests and construction of roads ,but it was difficult to communicate the people because they don't know english how they communicate ,they are urgent need to teach them english ,in order to teach them english in the year 1870 ,an educated british soldiers was given responsibility of teaching english to some of the workers ,it's a ladder of success and in the year 1881-82 a regular primary school was started .

in the beginning of the twentieth century ,to meet the needs of the children of the penalised persons ,the administration had to start six more schools in and around port blair and after it ,one of these schools was upgraded to an english medium high school affiliated to Rangoon University and a provisions also made primary education for girls in the year 1936.

**Table no 1.**shows the evidence ,the prisoners from all over india then come to Andaman and they learn english language but their mother tongue is different but they are forced to learn english language as a means of communication .

Sl.no	State	no.of freedom fighters	Mother tongue
01	West Bengal	398	Bengali
02	punjab	95	Punjabi
03	Maharashtra	03	Maharathi
04	Bihar	17	Bihari
05	Uttar Pradesh	18	bhojpuri,mohali etc

06	kerala	14	Malayalam
07	Andhra Pradesh	08	Telugu
08	Odisha	05	Odia
09	Himachal Pradesh /jammu kashmir /Tamilnadu	27	Pahari /Hindi/Tamil

## Structure of Education system

Now our education system is totally changed according to NEP 2020, after the penal settlements of Andaman and Nicobar island, education system was like 'children from pre-primary education can enter at the age of 3. At the age group of 3-5 years there are four types of primary education named as a). pre-primary schools b). anganwadis c). balwadis and d) Tunnu -munnu etc. At the age of 5+ children can join the primary schools 'Anganwadis' are run by Integrated child Development scheme, launched by the Government of India, "Balwadis" are run by the social welfare department, the main motto to provide food and nutrition health related things and pre-primary education to children upto age of 5 years of age.

Apart from it two Navodaya vidyalayas in the islands of those times, but now one more Navodaya vidyalaya recently started at Souldhari port Blair so total number of three Navodaya vidyalaya now and ashram school also here.

## Growth of education in pre-independence Era

In the pre-independence era the progress of education in Andaman and Nicobar island was slow and poor, being a penal settlement, the atmosphere and traditional settings of education lack that aura, there was not that much of educational development. Only after independence development was reached to some extent. When the first survey on educational administration was conducted in these islands in 1975, there were only 187 institutions in these islands out of it, 185 were schools and others were higher institutions and other training institutions like ITI, polytechnic, and Teacher training institutions.

## Establishment of first english schools in andaman and nicobar islands

After the penal settlements of Andaman and Nicobar islands the first English school was in Nicobar group of islands named as the secondary school "Mus" it was the oldest and prestigious school in Nicobar history, it was run by the government agent named "Visolomon" a government agent of meteorological observatory started the life mission school in the year 1896 with only 12 boys, He was continued to run the school till his death in 1909.

Another older English school was Government boys senior secondary school it was the first oldest government English school in the heart of Port Blair, in the year 1883 the school was started at Aberdeen village in Port Blair. After 3 years later in 1897 the school was upgraded into co-education system.

According to the collected data from department of Education, Andaman Nicobar Administration dated on 6 October 2023, There are 396 schools in Andaman and Nicobar islands scattered in urban and rural areas all over 36 islands, out of it 306 are under different Deo headed by department of education, out of it 2 Kendriya vidyalaya sangathan called as an KVS-1 which was situated Aberdeen and KVS-2 which was at Minnie Bay, both the schools run by Hyderabad headquarters and 3 Navodaya vidyalaya samiti one was at Carnicobar another one is Souldhari Port Blair and another one is Rangat, Panchabati middle Andaman all are English medium school and 71 are privately managed schools all are English medium.

## Establishment of first english department in concern with graduation and post graduation level

After the independence the first higher institution was set up in the city of port blair named as “Jawaharlal nehru rajkeeya mahavidyalaya”at port blair which was affiliated by pondicherry university and it was established in the year 1967 and some meyor department like english ,geography ,political science etc was the concerned subject both bachelor and master degree was there and there are limited seats those who are got high marks they can take admission in this college. It was the first higher institution where people got the opportunity to get an English education both bachelor and master degree.

## Present scenario of english education

At present Andaman and Nicobar island has changed drastically in terms of English education ,presently a total number of 445 educational institutions functioning in the islands with a total enrollment of 86467 imparting education from pre-primary to senior secondary level .

According to the census in the year of 2001 ,the literacy rate is 81.308 in total ,gender wise male literacy rates are 86.33 %and female literacy rate are 75.24% respectively.

From the department of education or siksha sadan in andaman and nicobar administration ,the adult education programme was also implemented to increase the literacy rates and achieve the target of total literacy rates .

## List of reputed english medium school at port blair

- 1.Kamaraj english medium school
- 2.Sri sai english medium school
3. Gurukul english medium school
- 4.Government boys school
- 5.Nirmala senior secondary school
- 6.Govt.Delinipur school
- 7.carmel senior secondary school
- 8.Mahatma Gandhi international school
- 9.kendriya vidyalaya no.1
- 10.Sagritara school
- 11.Govt.Model senior secondary school
- 12..vivekananda kendra vidyalaya
- 13.GDMS
- 14.Ummat public school
- 15.Invent public school
- 16.Govt.senior secondary school,schoolline

## Conclusion

English education makes a tremendous change in the history of Andaman and Nicobar islands from the british raj to the 21st century english education makes their own fingerprint in this islands ,missionaries school from car nicobar ,boys senior secondary school port blair ,from small hut to two storied building ,from primary english medium school to higher secondary school boys school to co -education system ,from japanese language again back to english medium school ,history knows everything ,from punjab education department to rangoon university ,time passes all changes now the present scenario is totally change from dark to bright ,this beautiful islands scattered by urban and rural english school ,and college also ,now the students are benefited by the english education ,and they make their life a fruitful one .

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