

Development of Educational Journals in Orissa

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Introduction :

Journals are the real mirrors of the contemporary society - its art, literature, education, industry, religion etc. They reflect the socio-economic, literary and educational status of the people. They are, in a sense, the measuring rod or the barometer of the cultural heritage and social ethos. They actually indicate the stage of social awakening, alertness and milieus. Educational journals are the indicators of the educational progress of the people. They show the state of educational advancement, the kind of educational system, the various educational problems of the time. Hence the development of educational journals in Orissa cannot be considered without reference to its educational and social contents.

Backdrop :

Orissa came under the British control after many parts of India were subjugated by hook or by crook. The East India Company took over the administration of Orissa in 1803. Although indigenous schools like "Chatasalis" and advanced centers of oriental learning were there at different parts of Orissa, the modern schools were opened by Missionaries only in 1822. These schools again were confined to the Christian areas of the coastal districts of Cuttack and Balasore. The East India Company started Primary Schools under its

management since 1849. The people of Orissa. However, did not support the primary school run either by Government or by Missionaries as they were apprehensive of the loss of their religion by allowing their children to reading in these schools. The "theory of Downward Filtration of knowledge" prevailed till 1854 and education was limited to a handful of elites and wealthy people. On the whole, the progress of Western education unsatisfactory.

The spectacular progress of education was evidenced only after the Wood's Despatch of 1854. The principles of Government responsibility, grant-in-aid, payment by results to private agencies and teachers training encouraged education to develop in the province. The Campbell's Scheme of 1873 providing financial assistance to schools, scholarships to students and rewards to teachers accelerated the pace of educational progress. Since 1862 the Scheme of Compulsory Attendance in a few selected areas was implemented with limited success. Education was given impetus with implementation of the recommendations of the Hunter Commission, 1882. Education reached a stage of consolidation and improvement by the end of the 19th century.

It is interesting to note that only one year after the British subjugation of Orissa, on the 20th September, 1804 "A font of types in the Orissa

character (being the first in the language) is now casting under the superintendence of Mr. Carey "(Home Miscellaneous Vol. No. 556, part-II p. 723). The Missionaries set up the first Printing Press of Orissa-Cuttack Mission Press in 1837 for bringing out journals for their purpose. But with a view to ventilating the grievances of the public the Cuttack Printing Press was established in 1866 as a pioneer in the field of social reform and advancement.

The first Oriya Journal named "Utkal Dipika" was published by Gourishankar Ray and it acted as the mouth-piece of people's aspirations and activities in the various directions of development. The third printing press called Utkal Printing Company in 1868 was started at Balasore by Fakir Mohan Senapati, one of the foremost men of letters. The journals "Balasore Sambad Bahika" was brought out at first as a monthly and then as a weekly. Then the "Utkal Hiteisini" from Cuttack (1873), the "Utkal Darpan" from Balasore (1873), the "Sambalpur Hiteisini" from Bamanda (1885) etc. were published for promoting the cause of the people.

Initial Stage of Educational Journalism

The first flash of educational journalism in Orissa was evidenced in "Jnanarun" as a monthly in 1849 under the auspices of the Missionaries. Its editor was C. Lessie who brought out another educational journal entitled "Prabodh Chandrika" as a monthly in 1856. Lessie in an application to the Bengal Government pleaded for publishing such a journal and getting Government support for the same. Mr. Samuels, the Commissioner for Orissa also moved the Bengal Government (Orissa was a part of the then Bengal) to purchase 50 copies of the journal for distribution among the elites in order to disseminate learning and education in the province. However, the journal ceased to continue due to want of subscribers. It

has been rightly observed by N. Samantaray (1983), "The publication and management of journals entirely depends on an alert educated class and self-conscious nation. Both of them were lacking during the age of Missionaries".

Subsequently, however, educated people tried to assert themselves and journals were brought out by them as a means of development in various spheres. Educational journals like "Sikshak", a monthly (1874), "Sikshabandhu" a monthly (1885) were published for generating adequate awareness for education and improving the knowledge and skills of teachers. The Alochana Sabha (Discussion Group) was started in Cuttack Training School by Madhusudan Rao, an abullient educationist and well-known writer of children's literature since 1893 for holding deliberations on various topics including education and literature. This laid the foundation of the famous Utkal Sahitya Samaja in 1903 whose mouth-piece was "Utkal Sahitya" that made outstanding contributions to the growth of education and public opinion in the province.

During the first part of the 20th century there was enormous expansion of education at all stages of education. A few educational journals were brought out through private initiative only for dealing with the problems of teachers and students. Some important of them were "Orissa Students" from Kendrapara (in English) "Prathamik Siksha" (1913) (Oriya Siksha Darpan" (1934) "Chhatra" (1940), (Chhatrakatha" (1947), Prathamik Siksha (1947). It may be mentioned here that most of these educational journals are short-lived and some of them were brought out by different persons/agencies from various places with the same title.

Prathamik Siksha, Bharati & Bani :

After Independence, a number of Teachers Organizations were formed for fighting the cause

of teachers and they brought out Journals as their mouthpieces not only to ventilate their demands but also to improve education in general and promote professional growth of teachers in particular. The all-Orissa Primary Teachers Federation published a monthly journal entitled "Prathamik Siksha" in 1953 with the following objectives :-

- i) To improve the Primary teacher's knowledge and skill,
- ii) To bring out useful articles on improvement of Primary Education,
- iii) To provide incentive to primary teachers for writing articles.
- iv) To promote organizational work of the Federation.
- v) To provide a forum for children's writings.

The journal was popular and the number of its subscribers was about 4000. It was being printed by the National Press at Puri. Since 1962 this journal was renamed as "Bani" and the number of subscribers was 4500. Its name was changed again to "Bharati" in 1968 and its subscribers were nearly 6000. But unfortunately such a popular educational journal stopped its publication since 1979 most probably on account of organizational problems.

Sikshak Darpana :

The All Orissa Lower Secondary Teachers' Association has been publishing a monthly journal called "Shikshak Darpana" being printed at the Satyanarayan Press, Cuttack since 1957. It is heartening to note that this journal is published regularly upto now and bilingually in Oriya and English. The objectives of the journal are as follows -

- i) To develop literary competency of class-room teachers.

- ii) To improve their professional growth .
- iii) To inform them about the organizational programmes.
- iv) To ventilate the grievances of teachers at various quarters.
- v) To bring out articles on modern trends and methods of education.

The total number of subscribers is about 2, 500 and the journal has gained popularity among the teachers of lower secondary school. It has been reported by the Editor that besides aforesaid matters, they bring out experiments and innovations, Educational Acts and Rules, "Misdeeds of officers in implementing the plans and programmes of the State Government, "agitational programmes of teachers ", "reports of outstanding achievements of teachers and schools".

Siksha Pradeep :

The Orissa Secondary School Teachers Association has been publishing a journal named "Siksha Pradeep" for the last one decade. This journal is a monthly and bi-lingual (Oriya and English). It has been working as the mouth piece of the Association (OSSTA) for ventilating its grievances at various quarters and mobilizing the internal resources for fighting out the cause for which it stands. The journal has also provided a forum for academic discussion and for bringing out the contributions of teachers which are necessary for their professional growth. It has also been a means of dissemination of educational news from far and near and information about teachers' achievements in various spheres. It is printed in the own OSSTA Press at Cuttack regularly.

Siksha Samasya :

The Sikshak Mahasangh (All Orissa Federation of Teachers Organisation) has been bringing out "Siksha Samasya" a monthly educational ground which is a bilingual (Oriya and English). It regularly published since 1978 and printed at Bhoumanagar, Bhubaneswar. The journal deals mainly with the topics like problems of education and remedial measures, professional issues of teachers, reports of the teachers organizations and movements, national teachers and educational issues, educational rules and regulations of Orissa, educational policy and programmers, pedagogic problems, international teachers movements and so on.

NCCITO News :

Since 1984 a quarterly journal "NCCITO News" is being brought out on behalf of the National Coordination Committee of Indian Teachers' Organisations from Bhoumanagar, Bhubaneswar. Its medium is English and is not published regularly.

Arun & Others :

Besides teachers organizations, many educational institutions at various levels also bring out journals with the monetary contributions from the students. Many high schools, secondary Training Schools and Colleges, general, professional and technical, publish journals annually or occasionally. Articles contributed by teachers and students, reports on various activities of the institutions, achievements of teachers and students find their place in these journals with photographs and pictures teachers and pupils. Some regional or circle level teachers organizations also publish journals occasionally. For example, the primary teachers of Banpur circle in the Puri District used to bring out one educational journals called "Arun" during the years 1962-64.

Orissa Education Magazine :

With a view to generating educational awareness, promoting professional growth and disseminating educational information among the teachers, impacting officers and administrators, an educational quarterly "The Orissa Education Magazine" has continued to be published since 1957 by the erstwhile Directorate of Public Instruction and subsequently by the Directorate of Higher Education. The publicity officer used to edit the journal on behalf of the Director of public Instruction till 1968-69.

Articles dealing "With topics of educational interest such as educational principles, guidance, methods, planning, physical training etc." were being published along with reviews of educational books and journals. It was printed out that the "journal is a departmental publication and does not pay for manuscripts of articles received for publication. The post of publicity officer (OES) was replaced by that of an Administrative Officer (OES) in 1968-69 and the work of editing was taken up by an officer of the Directorate along with his own charges.

Since the year 1974-75 the officer in charge of Educational Technology Cell (newly created) used to act as the Editor of the Orissa Education Magazine besides his own basic responsibility. The Director of Higher Education continued to be the Editor-in Chief of the journal. The tone and standard of the journal was improved by introducing some new features like experiments and innovations, research studies, news and views, reviews, editorial etc. Since its very inception the journal also continued to be bilingual consisting of articles both in English and Oriya. A token sum of Rs.15/- was also given for a published article and subsequently it was increased to Rs.25/-.

During 1978-79 the Educational Technology Cell was transferred to the state Council of Educational Research & Training. And along with it, the Orissa Education Magazine was also transferred to the SCERT. Since then the Director, SCERT was designated as the Editor and the Officer-in-Charge, E.T. Cell as the Managing Editor of the journal. As another journal named "Sikshalok" was being brought out by the SCERT. It was decided that this should be printed in Oriya and the Orissa Education Magazine would be exclusively in English. This Magazine has the privilege of publishing the articles on various educational topics written by eminent writers from this country and abroad. Since it is printed in the Government Press, regularity in its publication cannot be maintained under the pressure of so many Govt. Publications.

Sikshalok :

The State Institute of Education, Orissa (since 1979 upgraded to SCERT) was established in 1964, with a view to bringing about qualitative improvement of elementary education through research, training, publication and extension programmes. As a corollary to those programmes, the quarterly journal "Sikshalok" was started in 1965. The medium of the Sikshalok was Oriya and it was mainly intended to cater to the needs of the primary or elementary education. It was therefore laid down under the "Rules of the Sikshalok" that "Different articles, papers and news for various stages of education, particularly for all-round improvement of elementary education shall be published in this journal. These writings should be realistic and experience based." Reports on the activities and achievements of the Primary Schools and training schools were published with relevant photographs. In the beginning, the Principal of the SIE was the editor of the Journal. Now the Director, SCERT is the Editor and Head of the Deptt. of publication.

Journal of Teacher Education :

Besides this, the State Institute of Education was also bringing out one cyclostyled journal in English entitled "Journal of Teachers Education" during 1964-65. Papers, research studies and reports on the activities of teachers training institutions were published in this journal. It was although very well received in and outside the State, due to some difficulties it had to discontinue its publication after 2/3 years.

Journal of the Board of Secondary Education:

The Board of Secondary Education, Orissa has been publishing its journal since 1976 for promoting the cause of secondary education in particular and of all types of education in general. The journal is a bilingual (English and Oriya) quarterly and publishes news about the activities of the Board of Secondary Education which are of interest to teachers and educational administrators, articles of educational interest, specially on innovations in the field of education and the new curriculum, and information about programmes of interest to the teachers which are organized by the Board, the NCERT and other agencies connected with education in the country. The journal also contains news about important educational activities in different States of the country and other countries. It also reviews educational publications other than textbooks and a sum of Rs.50/- per article is paid as honorarium to every writer whose article is published in the journal with effect from December, 1979.

The Secretary of the Board acts as the Chief Editor, The Experts in Oriya and English as Editors and the Expert in Mathematics as the Managing Editor of the journal. Besides there is an Advisory Board of the journal with President, Vice-President, Deputy Secretaries and some experts in the field.

Conclusion :

Educational journals have not only increased in number but also have improved their tone, standard and get up during the post Independence period. But educational journalism has not yet been recognized as a profession, as a technical know-how or as a specific job calling for special training, experience and expertise. The editors of these journals are required to discharge this responsibility in addition to their basic duties and no special incentive or honorarium is paid to them for this additional work. The supporting staff are not earmarked for the job and no training is given to them. Even the advantage of experience cannot be availed of, as the staff/ministerial assistants are transferred to other sections where promotion and other facilities are available. Regularity in their publication is not maintained as these publications are required to be printed in Government Presses under pressure from various Departments. It is hoped that adequate awareness

at the planning and administrative level would improve the situation and education journals would be able to help improving the quality of education at different stages.

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Royal College of Science & Technology, Bhubaneswar handing over a cheque of Rupees fifty thousand to Chief Minister's Relief Fund for assistance to the flood victims at Secretariat on 26.9.2008 in the presence Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik.