CHAPTER-IV

SGPC AND EDUCATION

The Wood’s Dispatch of 1854, laid the base of modern education in India. With it began a new era in the history of education not only in India but also in Punjab.\footnote{Despatch of 1854, Para 50 quoted in monograph No. 5 (PSAP); for further details see, Harbans Singh, ‘Beginning of Modern Sikh Education’, The Punjab Past and Present, Vol. VIII, April 1974, p. 127.} Organizations of the Sikhs like the Kuka and the Singh Sabha soon after their formation began to take interest in the field of education. Both these bodies had realized the worth of educating the individuals of their community. Thus, due to the efforts made by them this impulse could be noticed in the Sikh community. Arya Samaj and some other Hindu organizations too had starting taking keen interest in the field of education. The Sikh leadership began to realize that without the spread of education among the Sikhs, they would not be able to rise and compete with other social segments of the province. Before the formation of the Singh Sabha, Namdhari or Kuka organization had not only undertaken the work of socio-religious emancipation among the Sikhs but it had started taking keen interest in the field of education. It also made some efforts to develop education among the Sikhs; to enable them to understand and follow the true path of their religion and philosophy of life. However, it was some time in 1856, the Punjab Government constituted a separate department of education. It was required to open schools independent of Mosques, temples and gurdwaras, to which they had been previously attached.\footnote{Khushwant Singh, History of the Sikhs, Vol.II, Delhi, 1990, p. 145.} The chief purpose was to free education from the religious influence and to make it effective and secular in its character. The Sikh intelligentsia responded
to these gestures of Government under the auspices of Singh Sabha, the Chief Khalsa Diwan and then Sikh Educational Conference. Soon these organizations established a large number of educational institutions for primary, middle and high schools education.³ Arya Samaj educational institutions too had influenced and motivated the Sikh leadership to open their own educational institutions on the same pattern and lines, as they had realized and felt convinced that education was must for the proliferation of their faith.⁴

During the Sikh rule Maktabs (schools), Madrasas and Pathshalas existed where Persian, Arabic, Gurmukhi and Sanskrit were taught; also elementary knowledge was imparted to the young scholars as per their need.⁵ By this time the individuals of the Sikh community began to realize that only those, who were acquainted with Gurmukhi script, would be able to know, understand and follow the religious writings- Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Janamsakhis and the vars of Bhai Gurdas.⁶ Thus, the development and spread of education at advanced level became essential for the Sikhs. During Ranjit Singh’s period there were schools founded with the aid of the state. In Amritsar, e.g. there were Bhai Joone Singh schools, where both the Adi Granth and the Dasam Granth; Gur Bilas and some other religious books, along with arithmetic, grammar and

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³ V.P. Rana, *Dilemma of Growth; Education and Punjabi Society*, Delhi, 1982, p. 106.
Puranas, were taught. Similarly, there were Bhai Kahan Singh’s schools where the teachers held the class in their own respective houses. There they taught religious texts. Bhai Ram Singh, known for his learning, also established school. The students from distant parts of the province came there to take lessons and to receive primary education and of other subjects as well. Scriptures, Vyakaran, Kavya, Alankar, Pingal, literature, history, Niti Shastra, arithmetic and astronomy were the major subjects of teaching in these schools. These schools were endowed with Jagirs and grants by the Maharaja.

The Nirmalas and the Udasis sects of the Sikhs had founded schools in deras or monasteries; there a kind of elementary and primary education was given to all the pupils who lived there. The local communities supported the primary education in villages. Some teachers were paid in cash, but majority of them in kind. Pupils usually paid a pie or two per month as fees in addition to the goods they used to give as gifts or as token of respect and affection on festivals or some special occasions in their family like births and weddings. The average income of a teacher scarcely exceeded Rupees 2 a month in cash, but offerings in kind and fees for performing religious ceremonies considerably supplemented his means of subsistence.

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8 Y.B. Mathur, British Administration of Punjab, 1848-1901, Delhi, 1973, p. 100.
10 Selection from the records of the Government of India Home Department Records, No. LXVIII, p. 56; Khalsa Akhbar (Lahore) Saturday, November 6, 1886.
11 The Arya Gazette (Lahore) 28th April, 1898-Selection from the Vernacular News papers published in Punjab, received up to 7th May, 1898, Vol. XI, Reference No. 19; Report on Indian Government progress of education in India 1897-98 to 1901-02, para, 929.
Under the new set up some notable changes were introduced in the existing education system. Some new secular or religiously neutral vernacular schools were opened; there Urdu, elementary arithmetic, geography and history were mainly taught. English schools for higher studies were also established by the British. Another variety consisted of the missionary schools set up by Christian missionary’s organizations. In 1856 the Punjab Government constituted and set up the Department of Public Instruction with T.W. Arnold as Director. This Department opened thirty single-teacher primary schools in different districts at a monthly expense of rupees 15 per school. Soon, the education scheme was revised; it was decided to open aided schools with a grant of rupees 5 per to each school. This enabled the Department to have 90 schools instead of 30 as originally planned. Then the government freely invited individual’s cooperation in promoting primary education.

It was an important reality that the Sikhs as a result of their own inherent genius first endeavored in this respect. They first got themselves educated particularly to primary education that was the founding stone. For the evolution of primary education the Singh Sabha played a vital role which the SGPC undertook and continued at later stage. The Singh Sabha did spread literacy, education and religious continuousness among the Sikhs. Various Singh Sabhas worked for promotion of education in the Sikh community. It opened a large number of primary schools in different parts of the province. The Sikh educational conference too realized the significance of primary education.

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12 Ibid.
13 Ibid.
14 Education committee, Chief Khalsa Diwan, 7th Annual Report for the year 1914-15, Amritsar (for further details).
15 Ibid; Harbans Singh's The Punjab past and present.
education; therefore it paid special intention to it. So, many schools were opened during 1914-1915. The number of primary schools for boys was quite large in comparison to girls' schools. These were governed by the educational committee constituted by the Educational Conference.\textsuperscript{16}

The aims of the Sikh Educational Conference were: promotion of new education, women education; religious education, Punjabi language or Gurmukhi script. The system of education as envisaged by the education conference was a well founded one. It laid much emphasis on both male and female education, and also equally on Sikh religion, Sikh history, Sikh traditions and the western ideas. It further emphasized on liberal education, professional education; on learning of English and vernacular language. It too emphasized that the medium of instruction should be the mother tongue along with the English. A chain of Khalsa primary schools was founded especially in Amritsar, Lahore and Ferozpur. Almost each and every village in Punjab had a school of its own. It provided elementary and primary education to both male and female. Bhai Takht Singh founded Sikh Kanya Maha Vidyalya in Ferozpur in 1892. The number of Sikh educational institutions constantly increased during the first ten years of the Sikh educational conference i.e. from 7 in 1908-09 to 110 in 1914-15 and to 210 in 1917-18.\textsuperscript{17} The campus of each school had a gurdwara where the students gathered for morning and evening prayers.\textsuperscript{18} Gurmat Vichar or Sikh teachings constituted curriculum. The Sikh intellectuals like Teja Singh (1895-1977), Bhai Jodh Singh (1882-1981), Sahib Singh (1892-1977),

\textsuperscript{17} Kahan Singh Nabha Gurshabd Ratnakar Mahankah, Bhasha, Vibhay, Patiala, 1974, p. 16-17.
\textsuperscript{18} Ibid.
and some others served as teachers of Gurmat at Khalsa schools. Syllabi taught there was later developed by Dharam Parchar Committee on behalf of the SGPC in form of elaborate teaching material (Dharam Pothis).

When the SGPC was constituted, it considered its religious duty not only to look after the educational institutions set by the Singh Sabha and other Sikh organizations/societies but to assist them financially so that education could reach the Sikh masses. The SGPC was convinced that education was essential for the development of its society; for the emergence of reformative movements, political consciousness and considerable economic growth in the province. The educational programme carried out by the SGPC and some other Sikh organizations so vigorously motivated the Sikh masses, particularly the youth to undertake social welfare works, especially the emancipation of women, opening of orphanages, houses for the poor and relief work during the famines and epidemics.\(^\text{19}\)

The impact of education and the social transformation in the Punjab left deep imprint on Sikhs' minds, especially their leadership. Consequently, the leading organizations of the Sikhs i.e. SGPC and Shiromani Akali Dal decided to work together for the emancipation of their community. They realized that they could achieve that only through the development and spread of education. They also felt that that could be possible if after independence they paid more attention to the spread and evolution of education particularly for the Sikh community. The SGPC too did much in the field of education even before partition. Here, it is pertinent to mention that during the period of our study the SGPC founded 10 senior secondary and high schools their

\(^{19}\) *Ibid;* Proceedings of the general meeting of the SGPC held on February 21, 1929, Library SGPC (reference section), Sri Amritsar.
names are as such: Sri Guru Ram Das Khalsa Senior Secondary School Sri Amritsar; Sri Guru Nanak Girls Senior Secondary School, Sri Amritsar; Khalsa Senior Secondary Schools Beer Sahib, Thatha (Sri Amritsar); Bhupinder Khalsa Senior Secondary School, Moga; Guru Gobind Singh Senior Secondary School, Khanna; Kallar Khalsa Senikor Secondary Schools, Haryana (Hoshiarpur); Guru Nanak High School Takhtupura (Moga); Sri Mata Ganga Girls High School Baba Bakala (Sri Amritsar); Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa High School Baba Bakala (Sri Amritsar); Khalsa High School Guru Ka Bagh, Sri Amritsar. These schools get 95% grant in-Aid. To this it may be added that 21 public schools were set up by the efforts of the SGPC.20 However, no grant-in-aid has been given to them. It also founded 22 Colleges in different parts of the province which where supported financially by the SGPC. It will be appropriate if some of the resolutions passed by the SGPC (pertaining to education) before and after independence are cited here:

In one of the general meetings of the SGPC, S. Chanan Singh presented the resolution that a rule should be implemented by the committee that the Sikh boys of Khalsa Biradari i.e. Rehtias Mazhabis and other untouchables should be given free education at Sikh National College, Lahore.21 S. Harnam Singh further suggested an amendment that not only Sikh National College, Lahore but all the Sikh Educational Ashrams should be urged to give special consideration to the wards of the so-called untouchable Singh's while granting scholarships and fee concessions. His amendment was also accepted and finally unanimously resolved that the management of Sikh Educational Ashrams would pay special attention to the wards of the so-called untouchables.22

20 For details see, appendixes II and III.
21 Proceedings of the general meeting of the SGPC held on February 21, 1929, Library SGPC (reference section), Sri Amritsar.
22 Ibid.
In the general meeting of the SGPC of November 28\textsuperscript{th}, 1937, it was resolved that rupees 10,000 should be given to the Sikh Education Society, Lahore out of the annual budget of Sri Akal Takhat Sahib, Amritsar as to open Sikh National College at Lahore.\textsuperscript{23}

The general meeting of the SGPC of June 29, 1939, resolved that hence forward three-year programmes should be chalked out to promote the economic, fraternal and educational progress of the Sikh Panth. It also resolved that in order to implement the above resolution, adult education should be started through out Punjab under the three-year programme to raise the level of education in the Panth. The working committee prepared a Scheme for Adult Education and presented that it in the next meeting of the committee. It further instructed all the local committees not to make any expenditure apart from the routine expenses without the permission of the SGPC and every local committee should contribute 20 percent of its annual income every year to this three-year programme of adult education of the SGPC. In view of the experiences and the difficulties encountered during the previous years, this meeting of the SGPC unanimously resolved that necessary amendments should have been made in the Gurdwara Act to ensure that the Panthic fund was accumulated at one place and the SGPC had the sole authority to disburse that. A sub-committee should be set up to achieve this very end. Further it was also resolved that a part of the accumulated fund should be spent on the progress of education\textsuperscript{24} meant for the Sikh community only.

\textsuperscript{23} Proceedings of the general meeting of the SGPC held on November 28\textsuperscript{th}, 1937, visit library SGPC (reference section), Sri Amritsar; for resolution also see, Shamsher Singh Ashok, \textit{Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhik Committee da Panjah Saala Itihas (1926-1976)}, Amritsar, 2003, p. 174.

\textsuperscript{24} Proceedings of the General Meeting of the SGPC held on June 29, 1939, Library SGPC reference section, Amritsar; \textit{Government Gazettee} of the year
Another General Meeting of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhik Committee was held on March 3rd, 1942 which criticized the school syllabus proposed by the Education Department of the Punjab Government. It was to be implemented in the coming year i.e. 1943. It totally stopped the teaching of the second vernacular language which means that that Urdu being the language of the courts would have to be studied by all but nobody would be able to study Pinyati which was the official language of the state and the language of the religious and cultural books of the Sikhs.\(^{25}\) This attitude of the Punjab Government was totally unjustified and contrary to the assurances given by the Prime Minister (ਤੰਤਰ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ) about maintaining status quo. Presenting strongly against this attitude, the meeting demanded that the study of the second vernacular language be incorporated in the syllabus as before. The meeting also appealed to all the Gurdwara Committees, Singh Sabhas, Managing Committees of schools and colleges, other Sikh Societies and the press to launch a mighty agitation against this unfair attitude so that it became impossible for the Punjab Education Department to implement this unfair and incomplete syllabus.\(^{26}\)

In its general meeting of March 3rd 1942 a resolution was unanimously passed about the teaching of Punjabi to the Sikh students at the School level. In this resolution it was decided to (a) Step up efforts for the study of Gurmukhi and also particularly adult education; (b) To Step up a Sikh University which should arrange education in Medicine, Medical Sciences, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Chemistry, etc; (c) To lay emphasis on the study of Sikh history, religious education

\(^{25}\) Proceedings of the General Meeting of the SGPC held on March 3rd, 1942, Library SGPC reference section, Amritsar; Government Gazettee of the year 1942, Khalsa College Library, Amritsar; 

\(^{26}\) Ibid.
and Punjabi in Sikh Schools and Colleges and (d) To open libraries in villages to enable the masses to acquire at least elementary education to read the books available in such libraries.\textsuperscript{27}

Another important feature of its policy and attitude regarding education, the SGPC began to award divinity scholarships to students from March 1945 onwards who won the top positions in competitive examination held every year. It provided financial assistance and also teams for Amrit Parchar in order to strengthen the Sikh religion among the illiterate Sikh masses. It established a Central Sikh Museum where hand-loom, old manuscripts and paintings were displayed. The Central Sikh Ithas Research Board happened to be one of its main departments. It also began to maintain a research and reference library on Sikh history.

In one of the general meetings of the SGPC in 1945, it was resolved that the Qaum should have its own university for the study of Sikh culture and traditions and also the education of every type. This meeting authorized the Executive Council to form a three-member committee to cooperate with it to seek help from other Sikh bodies and all the concerned institutions to accomplish this. It too resolved that such schools should be opened as early as possible for providing Gurumukhi education and also for the spread of religious education among Mazhabi Sikhs, etc. It was further pointed out, due to the lack of such education; the missionaries tried to detract them from Sikh faith. During this period, the SGPC set up the following institutions: Sri Guru Ram Das Library, Sikh Reference Library, Gurdwara Printing Press, Khalsa College Bombay, Guru Nanak Engineering College, Ludhiana, Guru Ram Das High School, Sikh Missionary College, Amritsar, Khalsa

\textsuperscript{27}\textit{Ibid}; Proceedings of the General Meeting of the SGPC held on March 10, 1945, Library SGPC, reference section, Amritsar.
College, Sh. Damdama Sahib Talwandi Sabo, Mata Gujrai College, Fatehgarh Sahib, Sirhind, etc. These were founded for the convenience of the Sikh students. Greater emphasis was laid on propagation of elementary, primary and higher education. From this work it was quite clear that the SGPC, though a religious body, but it had fully realized that its community, particularly the youth (both male and female) could not be successful if they remained illiterate. It obviously thought it its duty to take interest in the development and spread of education in the Punjab in particular and also in other parts of the country in general to enable the Sikhs to obtain education without much difficulty and compete the youth of other communities in all walks of life.

The general meeting of the SGPC held on January 1, 1949 resolved that schools of Gurmukhi education should be opened as early as possible for the spread of religious education among Mazhabi Sikhs, etc. In this meeting the committee had also decided to open a technical school at Amritsar to provide training in wireless and Telegraphy, Radio Engineering and electrical engineering. For the economic progress of the girls of these classes, it had also been decided to set up Hand-crafts Training Schools at various places to teach them Handloom work and Leather Tanning. Thus the SGPC was taking special interest in the female education so that the Sikh women should not remain illiterate, rather they should compete with the women of other communities.

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhik Committee held another meeting on March 8, 1953. In this meeting a decision was taken to provide financial aid to Engineering College, Ludhiana. It was also

29 Ibid.
31 Ibid; also see Government Gazette of 1949.
decided that out of the Handicrafts Fund of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhik Committee rupees. 2 Lakh be given to Nankana Sahib Education Trust as aid to open Engineering College Ludhiana. The Trust should also be given rupees 8 Lakhs from the funds of Sri Nankana Sahib and Sri Panja Sahib by making the requisite amendment in the Gurdwara Act. This resolution was passed unanimously. The budget of the educational ashrams under the management of SGPC was presented and passed in its general meeting held on March 7, 1959 as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income in Rs.</th>
<th>Expenditure in Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Khalsa College, Bombay</td>
<td>8, 16, 751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sri Guru Ram Das High School, Amritsar</td>
<td>69,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bhupinder Khalsa High School, Moga</td>
<td>26000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Sri Guru Nanak Kanya Pathshala, Amritsar</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the same general meeting of the SGPC a proposal for Mata Gujri College Fatehgarh Sahib, Sirhind was introduced. It was decided to set apart an amount of rupees 50,000 for setting up the said College in the name of Shahid Mata Gujri. Similarly, with the President’s permission, S. Dhanna Singh Gulshan presented a resolution: ‘keeping in view the importance of Sri Damdama Sahib (Talwandi Sabo), District Bathinda and the need of a Khalsa College in the Guru Kashi. This meeting of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhik Committee on 7th of March 1959 recommended that a college be set up there’.

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32 Proceeding of the General Meeting of the SGPC dated March 8, 1953.
34 Ibid.
Grant of Rupees 40,000 to Guru Nanak Engineering College Ludhiana was recommended by the executive committee vide its resolution No 1923, dated 11/11/1961. It was unanimously decided to sanction this grant of rupees 40,000 from the leased Land Account, when the said resolution was presented. At the end of the five years term of the previous trustees on December 31, 1962 six new trustees were unanimously appointed by the committee for the above trust under Article (1) (B) of the Trust Deed. Similarly Rs 5,22,000 were approved as total income and expenditure in the Educational Fund. Accounts of some other funds were also passed, in the general meetings of the SGPC held on March 3, 1963 and August 1, 1964. It was done to boost education in the province of Punjab keeping in mind the need of the Sikh masses. Resolution regarding SGPC taking over the management of Mata Gurji College Sri Fatehgarh Sahib was taken up along with the interim committee’s resolution No. 10 and 12 dated October 1, 1964. It was resolved that the interim committee be fully authorized to take any decision regarding the takeover of the College management and preparing its plan.

When the issue of the nomination of 10 members by the SGPC under 4 (c) of Sikh Education Society, Sikh National College Kadia (Gurdaspur) and Sikh National College Banga (Jalandhar), came up, S. Lachhman Singh Gill, General Secretary SGPC proposed ten names in the general meeting of the SGPC held on March 20, 1966 which were

35 Proceedings of the General Meeting of the SGPC held on November 30, 1961, reference section Library SGPC, Amritsar
37 Proceedings of the General Meeting of the SGPC held on March 3, 1963 and also of August 1, 1964, reference section Library SGPC, Amritsar
38 Proceedings of the General Meeting of the SGPC held on October 1, 1964, reference section Library SGPC, Amritsar
unanimously approved. In this respect a resolution was unanimously passed and appointment of the members of Sikh Education Society was approved. In another general meeting of the SGPC held on January 1, 1968 the issue concerning trustees of Sri Nankana Sahib Education Trust, Ludhiana was raised due to the completion of five-year term of the trustees of the said Trust. Principal Bharpur Singh proposed the names of new trustees, which were seconded by S. Rawail Singh Advocate. Since no other names were proposed, they were nominated trustees of Sri Nankana Sahib Education Trust, Ludhiana on January 1, 1968 for the coming five years. This way the SGPC was particular about the functioning of the trust and the institutions that functioned under a particular trust. Another worth mentioning fact was that only men of caliber and who were interested in the field of education were appointed. They were expected that they must not indulge in politics rather look after advancement of the concerned institution for which they were appointed as trustees.

In one of its meetings held on November 12, 1967 the SGPC approved the supplementary budget of rupees 28968-98 as an additional education fund for Mata Gujri College, Fathegarh Sahib Sirhind for the year 1967-68 and 1968-69. Similarly, it approved supplementary budgets for some other educational institutions in the Punjab. It was made clear that the SGPC wanted to improve the infra structure of these institutions and also desire to improve the standard of education, particularly teaching. It is equally important to mention that a sum of

39 Proceedings of the General Meeting of the SGPC held on March 20, 1966, reference section Library SGPC, Amritsar
rupees 2500 was year-marked in the year 1971-72 for getting prepared two trophies to be given to Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar as per the decision taken by the Executive Council through its resolution 65 on December 5, 1971. A sum of Rs 25,000 was also approved for the emancipation of the Sikh community living in U.P. 42

The SGPC was not only concerned to develop and spread education in different parts of the country, rather it equally felt concerned with the different happenings that took place in educational institutions in different parts of the province and also in other states. For instance, general meeting of the SGPC held on October 20, 1972, expressed profound grief at the tragic incident of the police mercilessly shooting down innocent and unarmed students at Moga on 5th and 7th October, 1972. It strongly condemned the act of atrocity and prayed to the Akal Purkh to grant peace to the souls of these young martyrs and courage to the parents and relatives to accept Gods’ will. 43 Now, let us narrate in brief the development of the education in the form of higher educational institution setup by the SGPC. These institutions are situated in 14 districts of the Punjab and looked after by the SGPC.

A few visits were made to the Directorate of Education recently constituted by the SGPC leadership. The information about the institutions of higher education run by the SGPC has been collected from the records maintained by this organization as well as from the interviews with some prominent personalities. 44 It is pertinent of

42 Proceedings of the General Meeting of the SGPC held on December 5, 1971, reference section Library SGPC, Amritsar.
43 Proceedings of the General Meeting of the SGPC held on October 5 and 7, 1972 and also of October 20 and 23, 1972, reference section Library SGPC, Amritsar.
44 Jathedar Avtar Singh Makkar (President, SGPC) Dr. G.S. Walia (Director, Directorate SGPC), S. Manjit Singh (In charge of Educational Trust of SGPC), Sram Singh (Head of Publication Department of SGPC), S. Skatter
mention here that not only degree colleges have been established by the SGPC but it has also made a significant contribution in the field of professional education, in the main being engineering and medical education.

**Technical/ Professional Institution:** Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College, Ludhiana, (presently affiliated to Punjab Technical University) was established by the Nanakana Sahib Education Trust (NSET) in memory of the most sacred temple of Nankana Sahib, Guru Nanak's birth place. It was the main force behind the mission of “Removal of Economic Backwardness through Technology”. With this mission, a Polytechnic was started in 1953 and then Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College was established in 1956. It was to uplift the vast weaker section of Sikh community comprising rural India by admitting 70% students every year from rural areas. This commitment was made to the nation on 8th April, 1956, the day when the foundation stone of the College building was laid by Late Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the First President of India. Nearly 10,500 Graduate and 350 Post-Graduate Engineers have passed out from this College till 1984 and are at present successfully employed in different parts of India and abroad. It has signed MOU with IOWA University (USA). The Institute has been accredited by NBA (National Board of Accreditation) New Delhi. The College was initially started with three conventional degree level engineering courses only i.e. Civil, Mechanical and Electrical. The College kept pace with the unending fast expansion in the field of engineering. Degree courses in

Singh (Supervisor of Educational Trust) and also Principals of different institutions run by the SGPC and above all the Chairman Punjab school Education Board Dr. Dalbir Singh Dhillon are the persons whom I have interviewed. (The various documents published by the SGPC regarding education and educational institutions have been examined and also analyzed) (First, an information sheet was prepared to collect needed information and then documentary analysis and interview technique have been applied to gather the required information).
Electronics & Communication Engineering and Production were started in 1981, 1986 respectively. Another two courses in emerging branches of engineering i.e. CSE & IT were also introduced. While introducing new branches, employability and need of the industry was given top priority. The following courses of study i.e. B.Tech., M.Tech., Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Production Engineering are offered by the College. It may be observed that this institution is properly fulfilling its mission that is removal of economic backwardness through technology for which this college was established. It is working for the emancipation of poor students in this global world by providing them education of international level. The technical education developed by the SGPC is a remarkable contribution in the field of education. So, it deserves a special credit for the interest it has shown in the field of professional education.

Medical Education: Sri Guru Ram Das Institute of Medical Sciences and Research was established in 1971. The institute is coming up fast at the Amritsar Mehta Road with a sprawling new campus in about 65 acres of land. It has been named after the name of fourth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Ram Das, the founder of the holy city of Amritsar. The classes in the above institute of Medical Sciences and Research practically started in the year 1997. The first batch of MBBS passed in December 2002. The institute presently has all Para-clinical departments and four lecture theaters of 150 seat capacities each. Ultra modern 992-beds new hospital building had been constructed within the new campus of the Medical Institute. It is functional with all the facilities required of a modern hospital in various specialties and super-specialties at an estimated cost

45 Interview with the Principal Mrs. M.S. Sahni in his office conducted by the candidate on May 15, 2005; also the office record of the college shown to the scholar by the college office.
46 Ibid.
of rupees 50 crores. The clinical teaching of nursing and Medical students was conducted in the old Sri Guru Ram Das Charitable Hospital, which were 400 bedded in the heart of the city near Sri Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple). At the new campus, a cancer hospital, named Sri Guru Ram Das Rotary Cancer Hospital had started functioning. Free Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy by a latest cobalt unit Service of Brach therapy had been started recently. From the above discussion it seems that the College has all the required facilities for medical education. The College has been running B.Sc. Nursing as well as MD and MS courses. It is pertinent to mention that this is being maintained by the SGPC and the most important point worth mentioning is that it is primarily meant for the minority community i.e. the Sikhs. No doubt this premier institution of Medical Sciences developed after the close of the period of the present study, yet it became imperative and essential to highlight the achievements of this institute. Indeed it is a tremendous work that has been done by the SGPC in the field of education.47

**Educational Institutions of General Studies:** Envisaging keen interest in education, the SGPC has been setting up degree colleges from time to time. A few of these institutions deserve a special mention. Guru Nanak Khalsa College, King Circle, Matunga, Mumbai (Maharashtra) was established in 1937 by the SGPC. It is affiliated to Mumbai University, Mumbai. There are two wings- junior and senior Colleges. The junior wing runs +2 and under-graduate courses whereas the senior wing is having post-graduate courses. Though, it was founded to educate the Sikh's students in particular but its door has been kept opened for the

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47 Interview with Principal Dr. Geeta Sharma on May 25-26, 2005, in the college premises, her statement pertaining to the establishment, mission courses run etc. was recorded by the scholar; records pertaining to various characteristics of the college were also recorded from the written records of the college.
students of other communities as well. It is worth mentioning that several professional and technical courses are also being taught there.

In 1966, Khalsa College, Gardhiwala was set up in Hoshiarpur District. It was got affiliated to the Punjab University Chandigarh. It offers under-graduate courses and also post-graduate courses. Guru Nanak College for Girls, Muktsar, affiliated to Punjab University, Chandigarh was established in 1969. The town Muktsar happened to be educationally sleepy, situated in remote and backward Malwa belt was roused when the then Chief Minister S. Parkash Singh Badal declared the opening of a College for the women folk under the mass celebrations project to mark the 500th birthday of Sri Guru Nanak Dev. The College emerged as a boon for the people of the region and has been radiating education in the town and its rural proximity. Soon the SGPC took over the institution. It began leaping towards progress and had touched the great zeniths in the fields of education, sports and cultural activities. Being situated away from the din and noise of the city, it began to provide an ideal ambience to the students who came there in endeavor to polish their intellect and bring their potential to light. It is known for its religious, co-curricular, yoga for health and as well as youth festival activities. It is equally known for its sports activities.

Thus the history of the college displays the work done by the SGPC in the field of education and the financial assistance given to this institution from time to time in order to strengthen its academic, sports and extra curricular activities.

Babbar Akali Memorial Khalsa College, Garshankar, Hoshiarpur (Punjab), affiliated to Punjab University Chandigarh was set up by the

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48 Interview with Dr. Tejinder Kaur, Principal of the college on June 9, 2005. She not only narrated verbally the history of the college instead record of the college activities was shown.
SGPC in 1969. The College provides education of +2, under-graduate courses and also PGDCA. In fact, it was founded to feed the rural area and to unable the boys and girls to compete in life with the urban students. Guru Nanak Co-Education Khalsa College, situated at village, Drolly Kalan, 25 kilometer from Jalandhar, affiliated to, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar was established in 1971. The SGPC purpose to open this college was to provide education to the rural boys and girls. Besides running the traditional courses like B.A., B.Com, the college has also been running post graduate (P.G) diploma in computer application. Special emphasis has always remained on sports, co-curricular activities, social service and moral values to ensure the all round development of the personalities of the students.

Mata Gujri College, Fatehgarh Sahib, affiliated to Punjabi University, Patiala was founded in 1957 to commemorate the supreme martyrdom of Mata Gujri, the revered mother of the tenth Master, Guru Gobind Singh. Bibi Gurcharan Kaur Mann, the founder of the college was a lady of great determination, dedication and vision. Her sole ambition was to promote and highlight the contribution of the SGPC in the field of education. The college has been functioning under the management of the SGPC. It has made tremendous achievements and rapid progress under the able guidance, dynamic leadership, far-sighted vision and unstinted dedication of the Panth Ratan, Late Jathedar Gurcharan Singh Tohra. He remained the President of the college managing committee as well as the SGPC for a record period of more than 25 years. Development of the college in various fields could be achieved due to his dynamic guidance and over all supervision. A man with a deep religious bent of mind and very seasoned and committed leader S. Avtar Singh, President of the college managing committee. S. Dilmegh Singh, Secretary of the SGPC who was an able administrator.
and committed to the cause of education, was the secretary of the local managing committee. A senior Akali leader and well known philanthropist, eminent industrialist and a renowned transporter S. Ranjit Singh Libra was the Additional Secretary of the local managing committee.\textsuperscript{49} The college has a huge campus comprising of research centre, management and commerce block, a modern computer laboratory equipped with IBM computer server, Internet facilities, a well maintained Administrative Block, a stadium with all modern amenities, a well furnished canteen, boys hostel and modern parking facilities. Besides running the traditional courses the college has also been running successfully the prestigious professional courses also.\textsuperscript{50} The college has also started much sought after professional courses like PG Diploma in Insurance and Risk Management, PG Diploma in Mass communication. The college has unique distinction of introducing three UGC sponsored career oriented courses in the field of Seed Technology, Food science and quality control and Mass communication with effect from the last three academic years. The classroom teaching has been supplemented with ultra modern teaching aids and methodologies.\textsuperscript{51} Babbar Akali Khalsa Memorial College, Garhshankar, affiliated to Punjabi University, Patiala, was opened on July 1, 1969 to perpetuate the memory of dauntless Babbars who made sacrifices for the liberation of their motherland. The college prepares students for the Pre University and the Three year Degree course in Arts. There was a provision for training in the National Cadet Corps (NCC). The National Service Scheme (NSS) was also introduced in the college in 1974. The college

\textsuperscript{49} Interview with Dr. Gurmohan Singh, Principal of the college on June 15, 2005; also the college records pertaining to the number of students, various activities and achievements of the college was consulted.

\textsuperscript{50} \textit{Ibid.}

\textsuperscript{51} \textit{Ibid.}
also started PGDCA for providing computer education. The college has a computer laboratory, a well stocked library with more than 16,300 Books, a stadium with all modern amenities, a well furnished canteen. Special emphasis has been laid on sports, co-curricular activities, social service and moral values to ensure the over all development of the Sikh students.

Sant Baba Dalip Singh Memorial Khalsa College, Domeli, Kapurthala, affiliated to Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, was started in 1972 in the memory of Sant Baba Dalip Singh. It prepares students for the +2 and the Three Year Degree Course in Arts. The college also started PGDCA for providing computer education. The university allotted 25 seats for this course. A number of cultural and literary societies also function in the college. The college has modern computer laboratory and a well stocked library with more than 3300 books. The college lacks in modern courses as well as modern facilities which were the need of time and the SGPC is required to do the needful.\footnote{Statement given by Dr. Kirpal Kaur, the Principal of college on June 25, 2005, was noted. Also the records concerning various features of the college shown by the college office were recorded.}

Khalsa College, Garhdiwala (Hoshiarpur), affiliated to Punjabi University, Patiala was opened in July 1966. Being co-educational institution, it prepare students for the +2 and the three year degree course in Arts, science as well as pre-engineering courses. Guru Nanak College, Moga, spread over an area of 7.5 acres and got affiliated to Punjab University, Chandigarh and was established in the year 1971 to celebrate 500\textsuperscript{th} birthday of Sri Guru Nanak Dev. Besides running the traditional courses, the college also started PGDCA course. Special emphasis was laid on sports, co-curricular activities, social service and
moral values to ensure all round development of the personalities of the students.

Guru Nanak College, Batala Gurdaspur, affiliated to Guru Nanak Dev University; Amritsar was established in 1971 as a co-educational institution. Guru Nanak College, Bhuclada Mansa, affiliated to Punjabi University Patiala was established in the year 1971 in the memory of 500th birthday of Sri Guru Nanak Dev. Being situated away from the din and noise of the city, it provided an ideal ambience to the students who came there in endeavor to polish their intellect and bring their potential to light.

Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa College for Women, Jhar Sahib, Ludhiana, affiliated to Punjab University, Chandigarh was established in 1975. It emerged as a boon for the female folk of the area. It began to radiate education in the town and its rural proximity. The college provided education to girls only. The main purpose of opening the college was to increase literacy among women in the area.

General Shivdev Singh, Divan Gurbachan Singh, Khalsa College, Patiala, affiliated to Punjabi University Patiala was established by the efforts of Dr. Ganda Singh and Dr. Khusdeva Singh in 1965. General Sukhdev Singh Devan Gurbachan Singh trust played an important role in establishing and working of the college. But soon it was taken and governed by the SGPC. During the session 1984-85 the strength of the college began to rise and touched the figure 1789 out of them 1063 in Humanities group, 202 in Science group and 262 in commerce group. Besides running the traditional courses, the College was also running professional courses like Biotechnology, Computer Maintenance, Computer application Information technology and BCA. There was provision for NCC in the College. During the session 1984-85 a sum of rupees 90,000 and again an amount of rupees 1,30,498 were spent on
new books for library. The college management chalked out a program for initiating a few new courses. From the above information it may be gathered that the College had good infrastructure; it had been paying attention to both curricular and co-curricular activities. It may be concluded that the college had all the required facilities. Indeed, the SGPC had been taking keen interest in this college because the college had to compete with other colleges in the city of Patiala. The SGPC has made clear to the local management of the College that there would not be any paucity of funds if certain modern courses were introduced in the College to enable the students to compete with the students of the mainstream in the country.53

Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College, Anandpur Sahib, Ropar, affiliated to Punjabi University, Patiala, was established in 1968. The college has good infrastructure. It may be observed that college is paying attention to both curricular and co-curricular activities, but it lacked in modern courses.54

Of course, the development of education after 1984 does not form the part of the present study, but still some additional information about the institutions established by the SGPC may be mentioned. In 1993 Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Engineering College, Fatehgarh Sahib, affiliated to Punjab Technical University, Jallandhar; in 1997 Mata Sahib Kaur Girls College, Talwandi Bhai Ferozepur, affiliated to Punjabi University, Patiala; Mata Ganga College for Women, Kotan Ludhiana, affiliated to Punjab University, Chandigarh; Sri Guru Ram

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53 Interview with Dr. Dharminder Singh, in his office of the college on July 10, 2005, his statement was recorded by the scholar. College records pertaining to various features of the college activities and functioning were also shown to the scholar.

54 Statement made by S. Jatinder Singh, Principal of the college on April 28, 2005 in the college office; also the records maintained by the college office and regard with its activities.
Das of Dental Sciences and Research, Amritsar, affiliated to Baba Farid University, Faridkot; in 1999 Tri Satabadi Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa College, Amritsar, affiliated to Guru Nanak Dev University; in 2000 Mata Damodri Kanya Mahavidalya, Droli Bhai Moga, affiliated to Punjab University, Chandigarh are some of the premier institutions set up by the SGPC with a definite mission.

Thus, the SGPC has taken special interest in the higher education after 1966 when the present Punjab was constituted. Again it is important to mention that 68 percent educational institutions of the SGPC are functioning in urban areas whereas 32 percent educational institutions function in rural areas. No doubt it is because of the efforts of the SGPC the Sikh students who belong to the minority class have been able to achieve their goals and at present can compete with other students belonging to different classes. The Sikh youth can be seen in almost all streams, may be defense, finance and home departments, private sectors, government offices, higher education centers, like universities, etc. The detail of the education budget is given in the form of appendix-II in the end of the thesis. Directly and indirectly credit goes to the SGPC for introducing the Sikhs in all walks of life of the country because of its efforts in the field of education.