Chapter 5

Golden Era of Physical Education in Bengal, 1932-1947
During this period an outstanding feature was the growth of public opinion in favour of physical education (25). Students Welfare Committee of Calcutta University did excellent work to change the outlook towards physical education. The untiring effort and missionary zeal of Mr. Buchanan was also a boon for the development of physical education. At that time Madras Y.M.C.A. College (established in 1920) was the only centre in the country for offering Diploma in Physical Education. But only a handful of Bengalee graduates took their diploma from that institute. A gradual social consciousness was there, public opinion was almost ready and Mr. Buchanan presented a comprehensive report (1929) recommending for the establishment of a training college of physical education. Govt. accepted (1930) the proposal of establishment of a physical education teachers training college to bring trained graduate physical education teacher. The idea was that these new teachers fully trained in the modern principles and practices in physical education were incharge of the programme of physical education at the educational institutes to spread the modern concept of physical education in educational system.

5.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST TRAINING CENTRE IN BENGAL (1932)

Inspite of sincere effort of Mr. Buchanan, the physical training centre could not be started before 1932. Ultimately the first physical training centre in Bengal was established and started functioning on temporary basis from 1st July, 1932 in a rented two storied building at 26-A, Ballygunge Circular Road at the junction of Ritchie Road and by the side of David Hare Training College (30). This was the third premier professional
institute in India and the name of the institution was “Government Training Centre in Physical Education”. This college was formally opened on 19th July, 1932 by the Honourable Mr. K. Nazimuddin, C.I.E., Minister for Education, Bengal. Mr. Stapleton then D.P.I., Bengal was also present (13).

Mr. K. N. Roy vividly described the facilities and infrastructure of the first training centre of Bengal in an illuminating article (30). The property, where the first training centre was instituted was belonged to Raja Subodh Mallick. The first floor consisted of a big hall and three small rooms. One of the small rooms was used as lecture room. In ground floor a similar big room was used as store room for equipments, one room as indoor gymnasium and the other one as office room. Mr. Buchanan, Physical Director of Bengal, was also the principal of the college and Mr. K. N. Roy was the full time lecturer and hostel superintendent. There were one office assistant and a stenographer, a jamadar and two gardeners. Number of trainee students admitted was twenty. However, Govt. sanctioned stipend of Rs. 20/- per month to sixteen students. For ready reference, researcher intends to append a few lines from the speech delivered by the Minister (13) on the eve of opening the training centre, “.....It was therefore decided that Government would start this training institution and provide stipend of Rs. 20/- per month to sixteen students. There are, of course, vacancies for students willing to pay their own expenses”. So it may be said that four candidates admitted to the course without stipend.

There was no big playground inside the college. Football, hockey were practised in the nearby play ground of Ballygunge Govt. School. Swimming and diving were taught in the Bishopes College tank about one and half km. away. The students had to go there on foot.

The university graduates could take a course of physical training in this centre. The age of the trainee was preferably 25 years. However, relaxation was made to deputed teachers or candidates with exceptional physical ability up to an age limit of 29 years (17). It was contemplated that the graduate trained at this centre might combine the duties of
academic teaching and of physical training in school (25). During the first five years 96 men were trained from this institute and were appointed in educational institutions. The number was of insufficient to the demand of trained teachers and therefore, elaborate plan was made to establish the training college in permanent basis.

It is in fact that during this period (1932-37) facilities were meagre and inadequate but students were enthusiastic. As such a bigger place was looked for the college by Mr. Buchanan and Mr. K.N.Roy, accidentally a big place of ten bighas was found at 30, Kankurgachi 3rd Lane, near Bengal Chemical Factory, Maniktala and finally college was shifted to this new rented house owned by S.N.Roy of Bhagyokul (30). The rent was Rs. 500 per month. The building, though old, was magnificent with varandas all around. Training centre was reorganised and given a new name "Govt. College of Physical Education, Bengal" in 1938 (17). Number of seats raised from 20 to 40 and teaching staff also increased. Sri Bhabasankar Bhattacharya was appointed as lecturer in 1938 and Sri Bankim Das as an expert in lathi play had already been engaged.

The session of the college was for nine months and begins on the 1st July and ends on the 31st March of the following year. After the successful completion of the course candidates were awarded with Diploma in Physical Education (17).

Course Curriculum - The normal curriculum of the college includes the following:-

A. **Theoretical**

  i) Principles of physical education; ii) Anatomy and physiology; iii) Health education; iv) First aid; v) Theory of games, athletics and gymnastics; vi) History of physical education; vii) Educational psychology; viii) Methods of teaching physical education; ix) Methods of coaching, organisation and administration of physical education; x) Rules of games and sports.
B. **Practical**

Indigenous exercise, Yogic Asanas, Gymnastics, Folkdancing (Bratachari), Major and Minor games, Athletics, Swimming, diving and lifesaving, Teaching practices in schools, Practice in coaching, judging and organising games and sports, Efficiency test, Defensive activities, Lecturing practice, Band music, Parade, Camping (17).

### 5.1.1 PHYSICAL EDUCATION COLLEGES IN INDIA DURING 1932-1947

At that time there were only nine institutions in the country which were imparting training in physical education in between 1932 and 1947. These nine institutions were situated in just 7 states. Out of these nine colleges only one was for women. In 1940, for the first time in India a training college of physical education for women was established at 7, Hungerford Street in Calcutta (24). However, functioning of this college was discontinued in 1947 (31).

List of Physical Education Training Colleges established between 1932-1947.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Year of Establishment</th>
<th>Name of the Institutions</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Madras</td>
<td>Tamilnadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Government College of Physical Education, Hyderabad</td>
<td>Andhrapradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Post Graduate Training College for Physical Education, Banipur, North 24 Pgs, West Bengal (First established in Calcutta, later shifted to Banipur in 1957)</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Christian College of Physical Education, Lucknow</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Training Institute of Physical Education, Kandiveli</td>
<td>Maharastra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Physical Training College for Women, Calcutta,(discontinued from the year 1947)</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Tirhut School of Physical Education, Muzaffarpur</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Indian Institute for Diploma in Physical Culture and Recreation, Amaravati</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2 PUBLICATION OF BOOKS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Some important events occurred during this period which was very important for the development of physical education. Mr. Buchanan published a book in 1932 (9). The erstwhile syllabus of physical training were thoroughly revised in May, 1933. It was a different type of syllabus than previous one. To understand this syllabus some instructions were given by James Buchanan. For this purpose a pamphlet was published in 1936 namely *Suggestions for the Improvement of Physical Education in Schools* (10). In this pamphlet he clearly emphasized and elaborately discussed regarding several aspects of physical education programme, such as - aims of physical education, scope of physical education, place of physical education in curriculum, scope of physical training, branches of physical training, qualification and duties of physical education instructors, facilities and apparatus required for a school, organisation of competitions, classification of boys' physical efficiency examination, house system, suggestion for daily assembly in secondary schools etc. Director of Public Instruction, Bengal issued a circular (11) for further guidance to the headmaster of all Govt. and Govt. aided high schools for boys in Bengal in 1937.

5.3 ALL BENGAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (A.B.T.A.) AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

There was dearth of trained teacher for imparting compulsory physical exercise programme. A.B.T.A., in order to meet the demands of schools, organised short vacational course of physical training for high school teachers from 1932 at various places in the province each year and the duration of the course was of 6 weeks. However, A.B.T.A. took another effort by forming a Physical Culture Sub-Committee in 1929 with the aims to examine the materials available for forming an estimate of the general health of the boys of the secondary schools of Bengal and to suggest ways and means for the improvement of the same (1).

Monoranjan Sengupta then secretary, A.B.T.A. clearly stated that
Student Welfare Committee of Calcutta University published a report where clear indication of bad health of the student was mentioned. They thought that one of the cause of the bad health is lack of physical exercise and physical exercise must be effective and useful by proper physical education teacher. Bengal has got 1100 High and 2000 Middle English schools and they desired that each school should have at least one trained instructor. However, Bengal Govt. started a training centre but provision was of only 16 candidates (3). Having caused this difficulty, the Executive Body of the A.B.T.A. has devised a scheme of six weeks vacational course in which the elementary principles and practices of physical education shall be imparted by properly qualified physical directors. And, as an experimental measure, one camp was held at Rajsahai from 19th May to 22nd June, 1932 (2).

A.B.T.A. conducted the physical training programme with all sincerity and in an organised manner they drew the course curriculum. They enforced the rules, administration criteria and took some steps as was required to train a teacher in physical education. From A.B.T.A. journal researcher has gathered many information which were relevant and are reproduced below for ready reference (3).

"An instruction to the trainee -

Attention of teachers who are willing to receive training in the camp is drawn to the following.

1. None but teachers who are members of A.B.T.A. will be admitted into the camps.

2. The age of the candidates must not be above 35.

3. None but Matriculates will be selected, but preference-will be given to graduates.

4. Every candidate must produce a certificate from a qualified medical man in the prescribed form of A.B.T.A.

5. No School shall depute more than one teacher.
6. The number of candidates to be taken for each camp must not be more than 50 and less than 20.

7. The course of training shall run for five weeks from the middle of May. It may be extended to six weeks if necessary.

8. Selected candidates will have tuition and lodging free, but they will have to bear their messing and other expenses. They shall have to provide themselves with shorts and shirts, bedding and other utensils”.

Candidates used to pass the following tests in order to get admission in the course.

1. Chinning the bar six times, later reduced to 3 times.
2. Performing 15 dunds and 30 baithaks at a stretch.
3. Jogging half a mile with ease.
4. Jumping a minimum height of 4 ft, later it is reduced to 3 1/2 ft. (4).

The syllabus that was followed by A.B.T.A for their short term physical training programme.

Practical

1. Physical exercise including indigenous exercise
2. Elementary lessons on Jiu-jit-su and Boxing
3. Minor games including indigenous games.
4. Athletics or Swimming
5. Bengali Folk Dances.
6. Practice in Teaching

Theoretical

1. Notes on the constitution of lessons on physical education and games.

3. Notes on the organisation of athletics and swimming contest.

4. Notes on methods of teaching

5. First Aid

6. Elementary lessons on anatomy and physiology (3).

In 1932 only one course was held. From 1933-1936 two courses were conducted each year one in East Bengal another in West Bengal. Mr. Buchanan used to visit the camps and conducted final examination for first 5 years. After 1937 only one course was held each year upto 1947 (6). No course was held in 1939, 1942, and 1943. Contribution of some persons in this regard must be remembered for organising and conducting this course successfully. They were Mr. S.C. Dutta, Sri. J.N. Chakravarti, Mr. J.N. De, Mr. C.B. Roy, Mr. J.N. Bose, Mr. J.K. Seal, and Mr. C.R. Roy etc (5). Following table shows the number of candidates passed in each year from such courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Number of trainee teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Rajsahahi</td>
<td>May-June</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dacca</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dacca</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dacca</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dacca</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Chittagong</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Dinajpur</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Munshiganj</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Dinajpur</td>
<td>May-June</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Munshiganj</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Burdwan</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.4 PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN

From Government records (18) it is revealed that from 1932 Govt. sanctioned a grant of Rs. 200/- per month to the Y.W.C.A. for payment and continued upto February, 1940 (21) and Rs.300/- annually for travelling allowance for the part time employment of the Physical Directress whose service was required for the development of physical training in girls' schools. Till 1936 a series of short courses were conducted by the Y.W.C.A. (25) for the training of women teachers in physical education. Miss Burton, the Physical Directress of Y.W.C.A. raised funds in Canada and set up a training centre for women teachers and first batch of 18 women completed the training in March 1937. For the further development on the basis of the recommendation of Youth Welfare Committee finally a training college for women was established in 1940 and a full time Physical Directress post was also sanctioned. Smt. B.M.Holmes joined the post (23) and also acted as principal till 1947. This college was closed in 1947 and she left this country. Smt. Leela Dey first Inspector of Physical Education (women), West Bengal and later was appointed as principal of S.I.P.E.W, Hestings House, got her Diploma in Physical Education from this institution. It may be mentioned here that Madras Y.M.C.A. also introduced Diploma in Physical Education for women in 1940.

The generated enthusiasm among the schools during this period ultimately led to formation of many District School Associations. During 1937 the Associations introduced competition in football, hockey, volleyball, gymnastics swimming etc. A scheme under which a physical efficiency certificates, issued by the Physical Director of Bengal, was introduced and the boys, who passed the approved test, were awarded with the certificates (25).
5.5 PHYSICAL TRAINING AT THE COLLEGES DURING THIS PERIOD

The researcher was tempted to present here some excerpts of the report of D.P.I. Bengal, as appeared in nineth quinquennial report (1932-37). The portion of the report presented below are self-explanatory and the state of affairs on physical training at the colleges during the period is envisaged "...... though physical training is not compulsory in colleges, some colleges particularly Govt. Colleges have made some form of physical exercise compulsory for the junior members of the college. The Department tried to encourage the colleges to appoint properly qualified physical instructors by offering special grants for the purpose, but only nine aided colleges had appointed trained physical instructors; the rest had either no provision at all for the physical training of the students or had only untrained instructors. The University of Calcutta appointed an organiser of physical education but the sphere of his work was strictly limited. But inter collegiate games and athletic competitions were better organised at Calcutta than in the past and the university rowing club did good work and rowing was growing increasingly popular amongst Calcutta students" (25).

5.6 CREATION OF THE POST - SUB - INSPECTORS FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Another important development was that Govt. sanctioned five posts of Sub-Inspectors for Physical Education in the year 1936 in the five divisions of Bengal to take up the work for the organisation of physical training and extra academic activities on a mass scale in all schools and madrasahs (19). They were appointed in February, 1937. These men, having gained school experience and proved their ability, were given the work of travelling round their areas, visiting schools for demonstration purposes and organising training courses for teachers (12). From Govt. records it appears that Babu Birendranath Roy was appointed as Sub-Inspector for Physical Education at Chittagang Division in February, 1937 (20).
5.7 YOUTH WELFARE COMMITTEE & PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN BENGAL

An important step towards the promotion of physical education was taken up by the Govt. in 1937 by way of establishment of youth welfare committee with the following terms of reference:

a) To consider and advise as to the most suitable organisation to be set up for the purpose of:
   i) promoting and supervising activities designed to further the welfare and happiness of youth throughout the province and
   ii) co-ordinating agencies already working to that end.

b) To recommend in order of urgency, the steps which they consider, should be taken to achieve the objects at which, in their opinion, such an organisation should aim.

c) In that connection to take such evidence and hold consultations as they think fit.

The committee had its first meeting on 16th January, 1937 and 2nd meeting on the 6th February, 1937. It may be mentioned that for the development of infrastructure of physical education Mr. Buchanan & General Lindsay submitted a report which was discussed in the 2nd meeting of the Youth Welfare Committee and many proposals were accepted by the youth welfare committee. Finally the interim report of the committee was presented to the Govt. in May, 1937. The committee made various recommendations with regard to the improvement of health, general discipline and educational curriculum of the students.

The year 1938 saw the beginning of the Youth Welfare Scheme. Govt. accepted many recommendations of the Youth Welfare Committee (Letter No. 5530 Edn. dated 22.9.1938) such as

1) Expansions of Physical Director’s Establishment.

2) Creation of 26 temporary posts of District Organiser of Physical Education in the scale of Rs. 100- 10/2 - 200 with an allowance
of Rs. 10 per mensem for work in the connection with District Council with effect from 1st September, 1938.

3) Govt. also sanctioned establishment of a College of Physical Education in Calcutta.

4) And in this purpose budgetory sanction also allotted in several schemes.

The whole scheme of physical education has been placed under the head of Youth Welfare work in Bengal. Under the Youth Welfare Scheme a District Youth Welfare Council was established in each district in 1938-1939 with District Magistrate as president and D.O.P.E. as the secretary. From that time a super structure of physical education was formed.

The function of the organisers was of two folds, to assist and develop the subject of physical education in all grades of schools and to promote and extend the influence of organisations for youths. The organisers head quarters were in the office of the District Inspectors of schools and the organisers were working under the general control of Physical Director (28). Govt. report 1939-1940 had clearly indicated that District Organisers of Physical Education played an important role in the promotion of physical education throughout the province (26). They visited schools and colleges and demonstrated various kind of physical activities and conducted training courses for teachers and club leaders in different parts of the districts.

The following table will show the number of training courses conducted and number of teachers were trained by the D.O.P.E. during the year under review.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>Number of Courses</th>
<th>Number of teachers trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers of Primary Schools and Maktab</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers of Middle Schools and Madrasah</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers of High Schools and Sr. Madrasah</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 1938 D.P.I., Bengal, issued a circular (12) (No. 12 dated 29.08.1938) where he asked the Govt. officials to know that what steps had been taken by the initiative of Govt. for the improvement of physical welfare of youth in general throughout the province. From this circular it is found that Military Intelligency Officers were recruited in some districts.

Physical Director also issued a number of circulars and guide lines between 1939 and 1944 to the District Organiser of Physical Education for the smooth conductance, organisation and supervisions of physical training, games and sports in the districts. (Letter No. 1-26-S dated 4.1.39, No. 2603(26) dated 6.6.40; No. 1664-90 dated 28.06.44.).

From these findings regarding the development of physical education in Bengal, it appears that a small endeavour during 1907 ultimately paved the way for construction of a superstructure of the profession of physical education during 1932-1940. The vision of early leaders are still in vogue and many recommendations and plans have not been properly implemented even in present time. Had this been introduced properly as per planning the perspective of physical education even at present time would have been different.

Second World War (1939-1945) made a long lasting effect on the all spheres of life and destroyed not only many lives but also the cultural and educational sphere was damaged severely. Physical education has no exception and the development, so far made, got a set back during this period. The Second World War broke out in 1939 and its severe blow fell on physical education profession when Mr. Buchanan was shifted to the Home Department in 1942 (14). Mr. K.N.Roy took over the charge of principal of the college of physical education in 1942. Mr. Buchanan was entrusted for training and organisation of the home guards. The service of most of the District Organisers and many physical education teachers were requisitioned by the Home Department and they were employed as officer in the Civic Guard, Civil Pioneer Force and A.R.P. (14). The physical training college was also affected badly because Home Guard Training
Centre was set up in the physical education college campus (7) and number of regular trainee in the college reduced abruptly from 1942. Between 1942-1943 to 1946-1947 only 62 trainee were passed out (29) when the capacity was about 200 during these five sessions.

The progress in physical education during the period 1942-1947 was comparatively slow. Though there was no lack of enthusiasm in rural and urban area regarding implementation of new syllabus, but in many schools there were no trained teacher. District Organisers have done some useful work in conducting short course training for teachers including primary teachers. A.B.T.A. also organised short course training to meet the demand of trained teachers. Many trained physical instructors had left their job in schools for better employment under the defence department. During this period Govt. provided a grant of Rs. 26,000/- per year for the promotion of physical education in schools (27). Inter district competition (school) was organised in some sports discipline. In many schools there were no playground in Calcutta but in rural areas in many schools play grounds were taken over under the ‘grow more food’ drive (27). The Bratachari movement gained in popularity during this period.

After the World War, serious communal riots was erupted and this was followed by partition of India. Pakistan was formed and East Bengal was transformed to East Pakistan. Division of Bengal had made strong and lasting effects on the physical education also. The furniture, books and staff of the Govt. Training College were divided (30). During the communal riot many physical education personnel had devoted to the relief operation during the turmoil of Bengal even taking risk of their life. Eminent physical educationists, Phani Gupta and Bani Roy were summoned for relief operation work in the interior of Noakhali. Mr. Phani Gupta had the opportunity to accompany Mahatma Gandhi during his tour at Noakhali. Sri Amal Bose, another eminent physical educationist was appointed as Relief Supervising Officer for the refugees at Chandpur along with Mr. Buchanan (7).
5.8 JAMES BUCHANAN AND HIS CONTRIBUTION

Mr. Buchanan left West Bengal in 1947 being persuaded to take up the work of organising home guards (Ansars) in East Pakistan. Sri Amal Bose described the departure of Mr. Buchanan in a communication (7) that ".......Mr. Buchanan had no other alternative but to opt for East Pakistan. I saw him shedding tears when the Chittagang mail steamed off Sealdah station. I could not check myself. A great administrator, an efficient teacher, a strict disciplinarian, a man of strong sense of duty and personality came to teach us, to instruct us the spirit of service".

The great physical educationist, Mr. J. Buchanan stayed West Bengal from November, 1928 to July, 1947. He made significant contribution for the development of physical education in Bengal and his achievement may be summarized as follows:

(i) Survey of the affairs of the physical education in Bengal.
(ii) Detail report and scheme for the development programme.
(iii) Establishment of first teachers training centre for physical education.
(iv) Introduction of Bengalee command.
(v) Publication of books on physical education, sports and drill etc.
(vi) Introduction of compulsory physical education in schools with a comprehensive syllabus.
(vii) Preparation of a scheme along with General Lindsay for the improvement of physical education.
(viii) Taking important role in Youth Welfare Committee.
(ix) Creation of the post of District Organisers.
(x) Prepare a syllabus for A.B.T.A. teachers training course (one month) and to conduct examinations.
(xi) Wrote different articles relating to development of physical education in the A.B.T.A. Journals.

(xii) Trained a sizable number of students and prepared leader of the profession.

(xiii) Expansion of Physical Director's office with more personnel/officials.

Considering his enormous contribution for the cause of physical education he has been described as 'father of physical education in Bengal'. The physical education teachers training course at the Govt. training college was popularly known as 'Buchanan Training'. Which also reflects the popularity of Mr. Buchanan.

5.9 INTENTION OF THE BRITISH GOVT. TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION - VIEWS FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE

Mr. Buchanan was very very efficient and devoted man with the great vision for future and made long lasting impression not only in the minds of professional colleagues but also in the educational sphere of Bengal. However, serious questions may be raised regarding the intention of the then British Govt. in Bengal. Apparently the intention of Govt. was for the development of physical education but some other intention may not be ruled out. It appears from various records that Mr. Buchanan created an atmosphere for taking up physical education as a profession by young men with strong physical attributes. But it is a fact that young Bengalees with good physique at that time were motivated to join the revolutionary groups. Mr. Buchanan's potentialities were exploited by the British rulers to divert the young men from revolutionary movement to physical education profession. This assumption may be reinforced from the review of progress of Education in Bengal (1932-1937) published by Govt. of Bengal (25) which indicated that, "........ some money out of the Rural Development Grant which was placed at the disposal of the Provincial Government by the Govt. of India, was spent in providing playing fields to some rural
schools. The Military Intelligence Officers who were posted in certain Bengal districts, mainly to fight the terrorist movement, wisely realised that the extreme dullness in the life of the Bengal school boy often drove him to the rank of the terrorists and tried to fight terrorism by offering greater facilities for the playing of games, etc. by school boys”.

In this connection the researcher intends to put forward some excerpts that were published in magazine and newspaper during that time. Desh Patrika, Calcutta on 16th January 1937 on the eve of the appointment of Youth Welfare Committee in 1937 wrote “.......Bengalee youngmen will be bred up as loyalists under the joint pressure of the repressive pressure on the one hand and the more subtle pressure of discipline exerted through this committee. This policy of Govt. will put an end to the newly awakened nationalism in Bengal and pave the way for and perpetuate alien administration; it will, further, put an end to all possibilities for political advancement and create an atmosphere of loyalism. As on the one hand, through the activities of the intelligence branch and secret agents the lives of young men in the rural areas have been made miserable, so, on the other hand, as a result of this plan, under the enervating atmosphere created by it, the lives of young men will be made miserable”.

Anandabazar Patrika (Calcutta) of 8th January, 1937 wrote “This plan of his Excellency Sir John Anderson is injurious to the country and the people; for, the motive lying behind this plan is nothing but a clever trick for the suppression of nationalism in Bengal ".

Had this intention of this British Govt. was not true then, why was Mr. Buchanan shifted from Education Directorate to Home Department? In 1942, he had to leave the charge of principal of Phyical Education College to take over the training of home guard. This incident is a clear indication that the intention of the British Govt. was not entirely for the development of physical education but to curb the terrorist movement in Bengal. Renowned physical educationist, Sri. S.N.Choudhury has also expressed similar views.
5.10 INITIATIVE OF CENTRAL GOVT. IN DELHI

Another important event during this period was the appointment of Joint Committee in 1941 by the Central Advisory Board of Education and Health. So far in this chapter the discussion made on the development of physical education in the province of Bengal through provincial Govt's. effort and by the effort of some non Govt. agencies. Both Govt. and non Govt. efforts were crucial and took effective measure to fulfil their objectives. However, British Govt. in Delhi also took some initiative for the spread of physical training and culture. Central Advisory Board of Education & Health appointed the said Joint Committee in 1941. This Committee recommended for certain important steps for implementation in educational institutions. This chapter is concluded with indicating below the salient-features of the said recommendations of the Joint Committee (8).

1. The Education Department headquarters staff should include a well qualified and experienced officer to organise the scheme for physical instruction in colleges and schools. He should have an Inspector for each District.

2. The physical instructor should have training in the elementary principles of physiology of the hygienic mode of life and of nutrition.

3. Health education should find a prominent place in the programme of study of the physical instructor, the aim being to develop in them the incentive and the ability to train children to practise healthful living and to enable them to co-operate intelligently in medical inspection.

4. Every secondary school should have a fully trained physical instructor, and his appointment should be a condition for a grant-in-aid.

5. District Inspector should organise training camps for physical instruction, lasting about a month, for primary school teachers.
6. A special effort should be made to accelerate the rate of progress of physical education in girls' schools.

7. Some periods everyday during school hours should be devoted to organise physical activity but undue emphasis on drill is undesirable. Organised games should form an important part of the curriculum for physical education.
5.11 REFERENCES FOR CHAPTER - V


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