CHAPTER VI

Higher and Technical Education

The progress and development of primary and secondary education, naturally leads to the establishment of colleges, the next level of learning after completing high school. The very fact that only one high school existed during the nineteenth century, obviously means that a collegiate institution could not have been opened during this period. At the turn of the century and during the first half of the twentieth century, more high schools were established in the two districts. This eventually led to a number of Khasi, Jaintia and Garo pupils completing their high school education after passing the Entrance Examination conducted annually by the Calcutta University. With the establishment of Pine Mount School, Loreto Convent and St. Edmunds, quite a number of their pupils who passed their Cambridge Local Examinations of London annually, had to proceed to Sylhet, Gauhati and Calcutta to pursue their collegiate education.

Realizing this need of a collegiate institution, the Prefect Apostolic of Assam invited the Irish Christian Brothers to open a high school and a college for boys in Shillong. After the site was selected and government approval was granted, the Irish Brothers set up St. Edmunds College on a hill from where the beautiful panoramic view of Laitumkhrah could be seen. The grounds of the college covers an area of about 23 acres, which provides ample space for construction of college buildings and recreational facilities. The college campus was especially designed to house buildings for educational purposes and for residential areas of the brothers. While constructing the buildings, care was taken to build a sound and hygienic sanitation system together with provision of electricity from its own plant. After the inauguration of the building in 1916, the institute accordingly started the classes, and thereafter, sent their boys to appear at their

515 C Becker, History of the Catholic Missions in Southeast India. p2 89-290
516 Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam 1912-13 to 1916-1”. p93
respective Cambridge Local Examinations, from the Higher Certificate to the Senior, Junior and Preliminary. Because the institute was intended to impart education to European, Eurasian and Anglo-Indian boys, therefore, these boys had to sit for the Cambridge Local Examinations of London, so they would be on par with their comrades from other parts of the country. The General Report on Public Instruction for 1917-18, reported that the standard of instruction imparted by the college was of high quality. It was foreseen that, this newly established college would become one of the premier colleges in Assam, and this indeed, had come true.

In 1922-23, St. Edmunds College applied to the Calcutta University for affiliation upto the Intermediate standard. The success of the boys at the Cambridge Examinations combined with the diligence and efficiency of the staff, undoubtedly, made a great impression on the Senate of the Calcutta University which, unhesitatingly, granted the affiliation upto Intermediate standard in Arts and Science. The Report on Public Instruction for 1923-24, asserted that the boys of St Edmunds performed excellently in the Senior Cambridge Examination, in which, six of the nine candidates, passed in Honours with Distinctions in English, History, Mathematics and Drawing. Alongwith the grant of affiliation for Intermediate Arts and Intermediate Science, the Calcutta University also granted permanent recognition to the institute to send candidates to the Matriculation Examination conducted by the University. The Matriculation Examination aimed to substitute the Cambridge Local Examination, but the change was not well received the parents and the pupils. For this reason, there was a big drop in the enrolment, particularly of boys belonging to Anglo-Indian community. Fear of a mass withdrawal by the Europeans and Eurasians, the college announced that it would continue to send candidates to the Cambridge Local Examination. The change to the curriculum and system of the Calcutta University and reverting back to the Cambridge one, had an adverse effect on the Cambridge results of 1926-27, compared with the result of the

\begin{footnotesize}
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  \item General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1917-1918,  
  \item General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1922-23, Quinquennial Review 1922-23 to 1926-27, p.06  
  \item General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1923-1924  
  \item Quinquennial Review Progress of Education in Assam, 1922-23 to 1926-27, pi 06
\end{itemize}
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previous years, when the college had a higher percentage of passes than any other school in Assam. Because the Calcutta University's course was unpopular, therefore, the college authorities decided to pursue the one of Cambridge. This decision of the college authorities to revert to the Cambridge Local Examination was a move in the right direction. The disappointment of the proceeding year was soon forgotten with the excellent performance of the boys from 1927 onwards. The Report for 1927-28, showed an increase in the enrolment of the boys from 115 boarders and 38 day-scholars to 124 boarders and 46 day-scholars respectively. On the academic performance of the boys, the report showed, of the 11 boys who appeared and passed the Senior Cambridge Examination, 8 secured Honours with Distinctions. And of the 16 who appeared the Junior Cambridge Examination, 15 passed, of which 4 secured Honours with Distinctions. This was a remarkable recovery from the lapses of the previous year.

Here, it is necessary to note that the college continued to be affiliated to the Calcutta University for the Intermediate Arts and Intermediate Science courses.

The year 1936 was a momentous year for St. Edmunds College, for on the 1st July 1936, the new, building which housed the classrooms for the Intermediate Science, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Teaching was inaugurated. Soon after, in 1937 affiliation for Degree Courses with Honours in English, Mathematics and Economics were granted to the college. The historic event of the quinquennium years of 1932-1937, was the opening of the Bachelor of Teaching classes, to impart training to teachers of secondary schools. This Department of Bachelor of Teaching fulfilled the long cherished objective of the Government to set up a teachers' training college in Shillong. The first batch of trainees performed exceedingly well, with six of them securing a First Class. This was a great achievement, in view of the fact that none of the staff were previously acquainted with the course of the Calcutta University. This good result strengthened the notion that the Irish Christian Brothers were great educators in the world. Without a

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321 ibid.
323 Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam during 1932-37, p52
doubt, the secondary school teachers in the Khasi, Jaintia and Garo hills, were fortunate to secure the services of such efficient instructors to train them. Again the superb performance of the first batch of trainees, earned for the college a place among the teachers' training institutes of Bengal and Assam as well as in the country. The success of StEdmunds College as a Teacher Training Institute found it imparting training not only to school-teachers but also to the Sub-Inspectors of Schools as well. The college sustained its good performance, and this could be seen in the Bachelor of Teaching result of 1939-1940 where one of its students stood First in the Calcutta University and 59 came out successful. The Annual Report for 1940-1941 showed the next batch of trainees too, performed quite well with one securing the Second place in the University and six placed in the First Division. The boys of the college also fared quite well in the Bachelor of Arts Examination, where 9 out of 10 candidates passed.

The college envisaged not only excellent performance in academics, but also gave due attention to the overall development of the boys, both mental and physical. Recreational activities, such as, music, debates, dramas, sports and games were greatly encouraged. The introduction of Boy Scouts, saw 82 boys joining the Boy Scout Troops headed by 2 Scout-Masters. A landmark in the history of the college was made with the decision of the college authorities to grant admission to Indian boys, for, till then, the college granted admission only to the Europeans, Eurasians and Anglo-Indian boys. This wise and important decision was lauded by the Governor and the Ministers. Also, this landmark decision was a boon to the Khasis, the Jaintias and the Garos, who till then were denied admission to this premier institution. The Irish Christian Brothers who had earned the worldwide reputation as educationists, had shown that they truly earned this honour for their efficient instructions even in this remote comer of the country.

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324 General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1937-1938
525 General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1939-1940
** General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1940-1941
K7 ibid..
Though St. Edmunds College grew from strength to strength, both qualitatively and quantitatively, it however, was not possible to enroll the many students who passed the Matriculation Examinations, mainly because the college was intended to cater to the collegiate education of those who passed the Cambridge Local Examinations. To fulfil the need for higher education, particularly for those who had passed the Matriculation Examinations, another three colleges were established in Shillong during the pre-Independence period. These were, St. Anthonys'College for boys, Lady Keane College for girls and St. Marys'College also for the girls. St. Anthonys'College, a project of the Salesian Brothers of Don Bosco, an Italian Order of the Roman Catholic Mission, had first started as a Middle English School for boys in 1911, later upgraded to High School standard which was granted recognition in 1931 by the Calcutta University. Like the Irish Christian Brothers, the Salesian Brothers too felt the need to introduce the next higher level of education after the high school section. However, unlike the Irish Brothers who catered exclusively to the higher education of the domiciled European and Anglo-Indian boys, the Salesian brothers wanted to bring higher education to the doorsteps of the Indian lads. Moreover, St. Edmunds College was intended for those who passed the Cambridge Local Examinations of London, a curriculum different from that of the Matriculation Examinations prescribed by the Calcutta University. Where would boys and girls who passed the Matriculation Examinations go? Prior to 1934, the affluent Khasis, Jaintias and Garos sent their wards to Sylhet Gauhati, Calcutta or Dacca to acquire collegiate education. But for those who did not have the means, their wards could not pursue the next level of higher education, despite their good performance at the Matriculation Examinations.

In response to the educational needs of the locals, in 1934. Fr. Joseph Bacchiarello, then serving as Headmaster of St. Anthonys'High School, decided to start a college, doors of which would be opened to all irrespective of community, caste, creed or religion. Encouraged and supported by Mr. GA Small, then Director of Public Instruction

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327 Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam during 1932-37, p51
of Assam, and a member of the Senate of Calcutta University, Fr. Joseph Bacchiarello in 1933 sowed the seed of St. Anthonys' College, realizing the vision of "College Education for the man in the street". Accordingly, in 1934, the First Year Intermediate classes were started with the assistance of two lecturers who were paid a nominal honorarium. Classes were held in the Assam type structure which housed the St. Anthonys' High School section. This was followed by the opening of Second year classes in 1935. A Khasi gentleman, Theodore Cajee, then Assistant Headmaster of St Anthonys' High School rendered valuable services in managing the clerical and paperwork of the college.; Fr. Bacchiarello who laid the foundation of the college could render only one year service to his educational venture, for he had to go on transfer in 1935. However, this one year service was a momentous year in the history of the educational works of the Salesian brothers in the state.

Fr. Bacchiarello's successor to principalship, Fr. Igin Ricaldone also made enormous contributions towards development and expansion of the college during his seventeen years of dedicated services. As expected, the college was granted affiliation in 1935 by the Calcutta University for Intermediate Arts only. Because he was holding the post as Principal of Don Bosco Technical School, an institute which needed more of his time and expertise, Fr. Ricaldone was fortunate to have Mr. N Sen as the Vice-Principal and Mr. Chrysosthomus Rynjah as the Head Clerk of the college. Mr. Rynjah, in particular, managed the day to day paperwork and administration of the college, because he was well conversant with the rules and regulations of the Calcutta University. Though he had to shoulder dual responsibilities, St. Anthonys' College made immense progress under the principalship of Fr. Ricaldone. He started the Intermediate classes for Science and Commerce and this was soon followed by the opening of Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Commerce courses. During the quinquennium years of 1937-1942, the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science courses were granted affiliation by

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m J J Appathara, op cit., p5

v2 ibid., p6
the Calcutta University. Fr. Ricaldone also started Honours classes in Political Science and Economics. To meet the academic requirements of the degree students, Fr. Ricaldone set up a library with 4000 books and a steady supply of daily newspapers, journals and reviews.333

St. Anthony's was affected by the Second World War. During the war period (1939-1945) classes were held in the morning, as the college building was occupied by the soldiers. The post war period was a period of progress and development. As was the practice with the Salesian Order, in 1952 Fr. Igino Ricaldone had to go on transfer and Fr. DJ. Wallaston joined as the new Principal of St. Anthony's College. Fortunately, for the new incumbent, he had the dedication and dexterity of Fr. Kenny to guide and assist him. Fr. N J Kenny was associated with the college from 1940 when he joined as an English teacher. Besides teaching English, in 1948 he took upon himself the task as Warden of the College Hostel. In 1953, he assumed office as the Vice-Principal of the college. The duo, Fr. Wallaston and Fr. Kenny, formed an excellent team, sharing the same vision for the growth and progress of the institution. During their tenure, the Honours classes for Science and Commerce were started. Accepting the fact that a sound and better salary meant acquisition of better workforce, Fr. Wallaston upgraded the salaries of the staff of the college. Though the two worked perfectly together, however, as practice demanded, Fr. Wollaston was transferred in 1958 and he was succeeded by Fr. Joseph Arokiaswamy, popularly known as Fr. Joseph, a man of extraordinary experience and capability in educational matters. He strove to make St. Anthony's College a college of repute, not only in Shillong and North Eastern India but in the whole country as well. He took a personal interest in the progress and expansion of the college. During his principalship, the New College Hall was constructed. His care and concern for the students from far-flung areas made him to build the Stephen Hall, to house the college hostel. The new hostel could accommodate one hundred and seventy five inmates. Regarding the academic expansion of the college, he completed the Science Block of the new college building located in the new premises, and simultaneously, the construction

333 Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam during 1937-42, p65
of the Arts Block was nearing completion. To facilitate the overall development of the students, he built the Basketball court within the new premises. Fr. Joseph's responsibility extended towards the teaching community also. Being a far-sighted man, he witnessed the accommodation problems faced by teachers from outside the capital. To harness their valuable services, he constructed ten wooden-structured cottages for use as family quarters by the staff.\textsuperscript{334}

A man of great ambitions and vision, Fr. Joseph took a personal interest in the academic progress of the students. His dedication was rewarded when the students of the college figured prominently in the list of Gauhati University- Toppers. The outstanding and excellent results of the boys made the people to believe that 'First Class First' was synonymous with St. Anthony's College. The remarkable achievements of the students were the outcome of the selfless and dedicated services rendered by the teachers who unstintedly co-operated with their kind and generous Principal, to achieve their goals and objectives. Without hesitation, teachers organized special coaching classes whenever required, and this goes to prove their care and concern for the boys. Though Fr. Joseph worked relentlessly towards the completion of the college building in the new premises, it is sad to note that, because of ill-health, he had to relinquish his post before the actual shift of the college from the present premise to the new one.

Under the able guidance of the Salesian Brothers, the college carved a name for itself in the sports arena too. Since the days of Fr. Ricaldone till the time of Fr. Joseph, St Anthony's College excelled in Athletics, Football, Hockey and other sporting tournaments. The tremendous growth, development and expansion of the college could be attributed to the co-operative team work between the management and the teachers who shared the same vision of making St. Anthony's a premier institute. This college soon became one of the most sought after by parents and guardians, and its popularity crossed the boundaries not only of the state but that of the north eastern region too.

\textsuperscript{3M} J J Appathara, op cit., p 6
The aforesaid colleges existing in Shillong were boys' colleges. But so long as a girls' college was not yet started, room would have to be made for them in the co-education colleges. In some cases, parents sent their daughters to study in the Arts colleges of Gauhati and even as far as Calcutta, Dacca or Sylhet. Some concerned residents of Shillong realized the necessity of having a college for girls only. Initiative was taken by these individuals and the first girls' college was set up in the heart of the capital in 1935. This college was named Lady Keane Girls' College after the First Lady, Mrs. Keane, wife of the Governor of Assam. As it was started by private individuals, the college therefore, was placed under private management. In the first year of its inception, the college opened the Intermediate classes with a meagre roll strength of only sixteen girls. Though short of man power, the then incumbents worked wholeheartedly to impart quality teachings to the girls. Because of their selfless services, the enrolment as per government records showed an increase from 16 to 34 in the following year, that is, more than twice the strength of the previous year. Again the college being a private institution at the time of inception, its financial position was not very strong. This can be taken as the main reason for the college being short staffed in the initial years of its existence. To ease the financial constraints of the college, the Provincial Government sanctioned a financial aid of Rs 3600/- towards cost of maintenance.

The quantum jump in the enrolment of girls was not sustained in the succeeding year. Based on Government reports, there was a minimal increase of only four girls in the roll strength of the college. A reason for this sudden drop in the ratio of increase, could be attributed to the opening of St Mary's College, the second college for girls in the capital, Shillong. Except for this one instance, records of the Government revealed a gradual progress and expansion of the institution. In 1941-42, the total strength of the Lady Keane college had increased to 66. The Government records reported that five girls appeared the Bachelor of Arts Examination and seventeen the Intermediate Arts

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335 General Report on Public Instruction in Assam. 1935-1936
337 ibid., p 38
338 General Report on Public Instruction in Assam. 1937-1938
Examination. Of the five BA examinees, three passed and one with Honours, and of the 17IA examinees, 14 passed with 7 in First Division, 3 in Second Division and 4 in Third Division.\textsuperscript{339} Seven years had passed, but the staff of the college comprised of only nine members, a strength so small, that the Quinquennial Review stated that for a first grade college, it was definitely inadequate. Consequently, the Professors had to put in extra hours of work. It was also found that, though Bengali girls were in a bigger number, there was no separate teacher to teach Bengali, not even a part-time teacher was appointed. The ongoing Second World War had an adverse effect on the college, because, most of the girls were reluctant to rejoin classes during war times.

However, a definite change was seen when the country achieved Independence in 1947. The post-independence era saw Lady Keane College effecting substantial progress and development. The college started the Science Department in Intermediate Science and Bachelor of Science standard. Also, there was an enormous increase in the number of students alongwith the proportionate increase in the number of the staff. The financial position of the college had improved with regular financial aids from the State Government complementing the fees collected from the students. The extension of the Deficit Grants-in-Aid to the college, relieved the college of financial responsibilities in paying the salary of the staff and at the same time ensured the financial security of all. So tremendous was its success, that, at the time of statehood movement, the college was considered as one of the premier colleges in North East India.

Contemporary with Lady Keane College, another college for girls called St Mary's College was opened by Sisters of Our Lady, popularly known as St Mary's Sisters, of the Roman Catholic Mission. This Society had already opened a girl's school from elementary level to high school level. In course of time, the society realized the necessity to open a college for the girls who had passed the Matriculation Examination. Undoubtedly, the college was meant to cater first to the needs of the girls who passed from St Mary's School in particular, and for the rest of the province in general.

\textsuperscript{339}Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam during 1937-42, p65
The High School section of St. Mary's School had achieved tremendous success, though it was yet to be granted an official affiliation by the Calcutta University. A request was made to start the Intermediate Arts for girls. Accordingly, in 1933, the school authorities applied for permission from the Calcutta University to start the college classes, but permission was not granted. Reason for not granting the same might be because at the time, it was not feasible as no concrete steps were taken in this direction. And another reason might be, because the high school section itself was not yet affiliated to the University. In 1935, the high school section of St Mary's School was granted affiliation to the Calcutta University. Soonafter in 1936, a request was made to the school authorities to open a teacher training department to conduct the Bachelor of Teaching courses for girls. This was a necessity, because there was no training college for lady teachers. Moreover, only a few lady teachers could receive training courses at St. Edmunds College alongwith the boys and gent teachers. Till that time there was no separate training classes for girls and lady teachers. At a meeting presided by M.St.Amie, the then Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Our Lady, the Provincial Superior learned that a request was made to the Sisters of Our Lady to open Bachelor of Teaching classes and L T classes for girls only. At this meeting, it was decided to draw up the plans and consider the funds required to meet this need.

Having made the necessary requirements available, the foundation stone of St. Mary's College was laid by His Lordship, Bishop S Ferrando on 11* November 1936. Immediatelly after, construction works on two lecture halls, a library, an assembly hall and a small hostel was started. Once these buildings took definite shape, the mission again applied for recognition of the BT and LT classes, and this time, affiliation to the Calcutta University was granted in April 1937. two months later, on 2nd July 1937, BT classes commenced with 10 students, while the 1A classes had 16 girls in the First Year and 4 girls in the Second Year. However the official opening of the college took place on the twenty-first year of the existence of St. Mary's Convent. The college was inaugurated by Lady Reid, wife of Sir Robert Reid, the then Governor of the province, on 25th

* M.St-Anne, "A Seed is Sown" in St.Mary's College Golden Jubilee-1937-87, p 3
October 1937. In her inaugural speech, Lady Reid congratulated the Sisters of Our Lady for their devotion and dedication towards education of girls. She also exhorted them to continue to labour in their service to the community and was hopeful that this girl's college would bring forth girls of substance who would play a constructive role in the society and the country as a whole. His Excellency, Sir Robert Reid, who accompanied Lady Reid to the inaugural function, expressed his appreciation for the good works performed by the members of St. Mary's Convent towards furthering women's education in Assam. He also expressed his hopes that the girls of St Mary's would go out and spread knowledge among others in the province. The inaugural function was also attended by other high officials, such as, Shri A n Mohamad Waheed, then Minister of Education, Government of Assam, Mr. G A Small, then Director of Public Instruction, His Lordship, the Bishop of Shillong, Rev. Bro. O'Leary, the Principal of St. Edmunds College besides a host of other officials and distinguished guests.  

Hardly a month passed from the official opening, on 23rd November 1937, Shri B B Roy and Shri Satischandra Ghosh from Calcutta University visited and inspected the college. During the course of their visit, the college authority placed the request for affiliation of Intermediate Arts course. Their inspection report of 16th December 1937 asserted that since these hill districts had no teacher training college for lady school teachers only and also because some prominent girls' schools, such as, St. Mary's School, Mission High School for Girls, Lady Keane School, Assamese Girls' School, Laban and Laban Bengali Girls' School had agreed to offer facilities for practical training to the trainees, permission was granted to start the Lady Teachers' Training classes. This endeavour of St. Mary's sisters was greatly appreciated by all.  

A year had passed and the college reaped the fruits of its labour. The First Batch of students performed exceedingly well in their Final Examinations held in 1938. Of the four students who appeared the Final I A Examination, two secured First Division and the other two were placed in the Second Division. The lone L T candidate, Mary

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341 ibid., p3  
342 ibid., p 4
Clague, secured Second place in the Calcutta University. Of the 7 B T examinees, 6 passed with 3 securing First Division and the other three Second Division. The success and achievement of the first batch boosted the reputation of the college, and this undoubtedly led to an increase in the next academic session. Thus in 1938, there were 26 girls in the LA classes, 9 in the BA classes, 3 in the LT classes and 7 in the BT classes. Like their predecessors, the second batch in 1939 fared quite well, with Amy Roy securing a Position in the Final IA Examination of Calcutta University. And a BA student, Mary Clague secured a Second-Class Honours in English. She too, secured a Position in the University and was ranked the First among the students of Assam. Words spread about the excellent results of the first two years, not only in Assam but across the border as well. As a result, the college was host to a series of visits by dignitaries and officials of the Government, who praised the staff and management for their success in their educational venture.\(^{343}\)

Early in March 1936, G A Small, Director of Public Instruction, Government of Assam, visited the college to inspect the B T students at work and was very satisfied with what he saw. Almost at the same time, two College Inspectors from Calcutta University arrived for inspection. They also expressed great satisfaction at the progress achieved by the college. On 4\(^{th}\) July 1938, A N Mohamad Waheed, then Minister of Education, Assam and J J M Nichols Roy, Minister of Local Self Government, Assam, visited and inspected the college. In their Report, they mentioned that M.St. Eusibius was very co-operative in showing them round the campus and also their latest financial statements. They found that the college campus had a healthy and pleasant atmosphere. They also found that while the approximate cost for building construction was Rs 24,000/- the college received a meagre Rs 100/- per month as Government grant and Rs 35/- per month as charges for boarding and lodging. A few months later, Mrs. Hogg, wife of the Acting Governor of Assam, paid a visit and praised the excellent performance of the first batch of students in their Final Examinations.

Different from other institutes, St. Mary's College obtained affiliation first for Bachelor of Training in 192.

The success of the students continued in the subsequent years and St. Mary's College figured as one of the prestigious colleges in the eastern part of the country right from the initial years. The 1940 Final Examinations saw Gwen Tobit securing the First Class First in the LT Examination, and Iris D'Silva stood Second among all the BT students and first among the female candidates of the university. In the BA Examination, Sylvia Shaw secured Second Class Honours in English and Sheila Bates secured a Distinction. The excellent results of the Marian girls impressed the governmental authorities. To speed up affiliation of the college, Government officials visited the college for spot inspections. All Reports filed by the visiting officials lauded the good works performed by the staff of the college, as was evinced by the performance of the girls at the University Examinations. Besides academic achievements, the college undertook extracurricular activities and social service. From 1938 onwards, students of the college participated in the Debate and Quiz competitions mostly emerging as champions or runners-up. College sports were held for the first time in 1939, which included games like Netball, Lawn Tennis and Badminton besides athletics and drill displays. The college also participated at inter-college sports conducted by University and the Government. The students rendered social service too, such as, by holding concerts to raise funds for the flood stricken people of the province. The Concert of 1939, was a huge success and they were asked to give a repeat performance of the same.

While the years of the 1940’s were years of turmoil and sufferings for the nation and the world, the year 1942 was a historic year for the college, for on 22nd May 1942, the college received Notification that affiliation upto BA standard had been granted by the Calcutta University, and the Marian girls could appear as regular candidates from 1944 onwards. With the establishment of the Gauhati University in 1948, affiliation of the college was transferred from Calcutta University to Gauhati University. When in 1973, the North Eastern Hill University was established, automatically the college came
under its jurisdiction and continues to be so till date, like all other colleges in the state of Meghalaya.

In course of time, the college grew and developed numerically and qualitatively. To prepare the students as builders of the society, the college in 1962 introduced the Home Science course, initially at the Pre-University level only. To meet the need of the students, the Home Science Block was constructed and by 1966, the completed Block housed the laboratories for Food and Nutrition, Clothing and Textiles and the self-contained unit for Home Management as well. In 1975, responding to the request of the Vice-Chancellor of North Eastern Hill University, (Late) Dr. C D Devanesen, the college opened the BSc (HSc) course. St Mary's College was the only college affiliated to NEHU which offered this particular course. Side by side with academic successes, the college ensured that its students were involved in extra-curricular activities. This was evident with St. Mary's College Guides and Rangers participating in different kinds of activities, from lending a hand at the Refugee Camps during Chinese aggression to being pioneer members of the Shillong Blood Donors' Association. When one looks at the performance of the students academically, one can see that the college has successfully maintained a high academic standard throughout the years till today.

The establishment of colleges under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Mission acted as a wake up call to the Protestant churches in erstwhile Assam. No doubt, the Welsh Mission and the American Baptist Mission were credited for ushering the Khasis, the Jaintias and the Garos into the realm of educated societies in the country. But their educational activities were restricted only to school education. It was almost a century after they made their presence felt in these hill districts that two leaders of the Protestant churches, Rev T E Pugh, then Headmaster of Shillong Government High School and Rev J M Forbes, an American missionary envisaged the idea of setting up a Christian college to be sponsored and managed by the Protestant churches of erstwhile Assam. In 1938, Rev. Pugh appealed to the Welsh Mission Home Board to open a

Christian college in then province of Assam. A year or two later, Rev. Forbes wrote to the American Baptist Mission Foreign Society highlighting the same need. Both the Home Missions were sympathetic to the needs of the people in the hill districts, but could do nothing due to financial constraints. To a certain extent, the ongoing Second World War also deterred them to undertake the project.

The negative response of the Home Boards triggered the Assam Christian Council, presently known as North East India Council of Churches, to consider undertaking the project itself. The Assam Christian Council was a council of the Protestant churches in the province of Assam. In 1941, the Council decided to set up the much needed college with sponsorships from its affiliated churches and Christian agencies. To realize this vision, in 1942 Rev J W Roberts, then Secretary of Assam Christian Council, wrote to R B Manikam, Secretary, National Christian Council, regarding the need to open a Christian college in the area. The Board of Higher Education of the National Christian Council in its Board meeting in 1943, granted the approval and the same was intimated to the Assam Council. Accordingly, the Assam Christian Council set up a sub-committee to work out the details for the purpose. To raise funds for the college scheme, the sub-committee resolved that each communicant member of the affiliated churches would contribute four annas (25p) annually. Despite the Council's enthusiasm, progress was slow because of the ongoing World War.

The chosen site for the college was located about 12 miles from Shillong. Though the land was leased from Sati Raja, Chief of Mylliem, the agreement was signed by his successor, Jormanik Syiem in the presence of his Dorbar and the representatives of the Assam Christian Council in 1952. Shortage of funds compelled the college to accept voluntary assistance from the local residents and Christian helpers. Work Camps were organized to clear the forests, to rediscover and construct the roads and to build the houses. This in a way gave the people a feeling of attachment to the institute. In the beginning, the college was housed in numerous huts where the pucca

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buildings now stand. These pucca buildings were described as one of the best during the period.

The Union Christian College officially started on 16th August 1952 with Rev B M Pugh as the Principal. At the time of inception, there were only three lecturers and a lone student, Gasperly Marwein. But by and by, he was joined by ten more. In course of time, the number of students kept on increasing. In the beginning the college provided courses in the Pre-University level. With passage of time, the Degree classes were opened in 1960 and the first Degree classes were conducted during the session of 1960-61. Till the F970's the college could be termed as an Arts college for Science departments were yet to be opened. The spacious grounds enable the college authority to expand and grow. Separate hostel facilities were provided for boys and girls with teachers as the wardens. The actual growth of the college can be seen in the enrolment which jumped from 11 students in 1952 to 189 in 1972. The efficiency of the Principals steered the college from its infancy to bloom into adulthood of today. Worthy to note that one of its principal, Dr. H J Taylor was elevated to the distinguished office of the Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University in 1967. Like all other colleges, the Union Christian College too, was at first affiliated to Gauhati University and later to the North Eastern Hill University in 1973. A unique feature of this college which set it apart from the contemporary colleges was its social services. It started an elementary school for local children and the teachers voluntarily taught them. It organized work camps and taught the students the dignity of labour. Being a Christian college it laid emphasis on morality and Christian way of living.

Though there were four colleges providing collegiate education to the boys and girls of the two hill districts till the Independence of the country in 1947, there was still a need to set up more colleges as the number of students passing the Matriculation Examination kept on increasing year by year. With this thought in their

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Footnotes:

347 BMPugh, op. cit., p13
348 A Profile, Union Christian College, p19
349 SK A John, op cit., p16
minds, some well-meaning philanthropists of Shillong formed a Steering Committee in 1950 which comprised of educationists and prominent residents of the city. This Steering Committee was headed by Rohini Kr. Choudhury as Chairman, Dr P K Gupta and Prof.D P Chakraborty as Joint Secretaries, A S Khongphai, A C Roy, K N Dutta, A B Choudhury, K R Bhattacharjee and P G Majumdar as members. The Committee formulated plans for establishment of the College and it decided to start the classes from 1951 onwards. However, due to some unknown reasons, their plan could not materialize and their objective suffered a temporary set back.

Five years later, a move was made to renew the efforts for establishment of a college by some eager and enthusiastic persons like Satyen Kr. Kar, Subhash Chatterjee and Rajendra Choudhury. At their initiative, a formal public meeting was held in May 1956 at the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad at Jail Road, Shillong. The meeting was attended by promoters and well-wishers. At this meeting, members present resolved to open a new college in the city of Shillong to meet the need for collegiate education. Satyen Kr.Kar and Subhash Chatterjee then serving as Lecturers in Lady Keane College were well acquainted with requirements and procedures needed for setting up of a new college. Their plan took a formal shape when they could constitute the Provisional Managing Committee of Shillong College with Benode Behari Ghosh, the ex-Registrar, Government of Assam, as President and S Dutta, the then Headmaster of Jail Road Boys' High School as Organizing Secretary. This Committee also consisted of fifteen other members. These were P C Sen, A K Bhattacharjee, K K Chakraborty, R C Nandy, Bibhu Bhusan Choudhury, Kumud Ranjan Bhattacharjee, K C Paul Choudhury, S B Choudhury, A K Datta, Lala B K Dey, R Choudhury, A B Dutta, Radha Raman Bhattacharjee, Smti. Nirjarini Deb Roy and Smti .Kanaklata Dey.

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351 ibid., p2
352 "First Managing Committee (Provisional) 1956" in *Souvenir, Golden Jubilee Year 2005-2006. Shillong College*, p 7
college as the First Managing Committee. Two years later, in 1958, the Governing Body was duly constituted as per rules and regulations of the Assam Education Department. The first Governing Body comprised of prominent citizens with Dharmananda Das as President, Maham Singh as Secretary and S C Dutta, Principal of the college as Joint Secretary. Eventually on 15th August 1956, formal inauguration of Shillong College took place at Jail Road Boys High School, Shillong. The College functioned temporarily in the premises of this school and the very first classes, the Intermediate Arts and Intermediate Commerce started to function from 16th August 1956.

Being housed in a school building, classes could not be held during the daytime and therefore during the first year of its inception, the college conducted classes only in the Morning section. The I A and I Com. classes together at the beginning had a roll strength of 35 students - 15 girls and 20 boys. Towards the end of 1956, the enrolment had increased to 50 students. In 1957, the college conducted classes in two sessions - morning session for girls and evening session for boys. Despite functioning for a year only, there was a tremendous increase in the roll strength in the second year of its existence. The number, of students had increased from 50 in 1956 to 250 in 1957. Reasons for this triple jump in the enrolment, might be due to non-availability of seats in the already existing colleges or it might be because the students at the time preferred to attend either morning or evening sessions, giving them the time to go to work during the day. Except for this astounding increase in the second year, the third year of its existence saw the enrolment increased to 300, which meant an increase of only 50 students. And by 1963, the students strength had crossed the 1000 mark and by 1970 the strength was about 1500.

To lead, guide and mould the college, Sudhinda Chandra Dutta, a Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics at St. Anthony's College took over as Founder Principal. Two years later, S C Dutta resigned from his job in St. Anthony's College and assumed office as the full-time Principal of the newly born Shillong College on 17th

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February 1958. He remained in office till his retirement on 31* August 1970. Also in 1958, the college authority started the Bachelor Courses for Arts and Commerce. Under the guidance and leadership of the Founder Principal, Shillong College witnessed growth and development both in terms of quality and quantity. N.K.Sarkar, the Ex-Vice Principal of the college, portrayed him as 'a constructive man to the core, possessing a definite vision about the college'. Sarkar writes, 'He was a real academician and he understood what really constituted quality. A great friend of students, he was ever ready to help the needy and distressed. He was a true democrat and builder at heart and was free from all kinds of smallness of thought, action and words'. The college was fortunate to have such a person at the helm of affairs and because of his dedication and sincerity, the latter generations could reap the fruits of success and glory.

The initial years of existence were undoubtedly years of stress and inconvenience, because the college was sheltered under the roof of Jail Road Boys High School. The need at that time was a permanent campus to ensure better and healthier educational environment for the students. A site at Boyce Road, Laitumkhrah, was chosen as the ideal site for the college campus and thus the two plots of land, Plot No.24 with an area of 4210.2 sq.m and Plot No. 4 with an area of 4500 sq.m were purchased from Ka Hinimon, mother of (Late) Maham Singh at a nominal price of only Rs75000/-. After the necessary paperworks had been completed, the foundation stone of the permanent campus of Shillong College was laid by B.P.Cha\liha, then Chief Minister of composite Assam on 11th May 1960. With donations pouring in from the public who extended their helping hands through financial contributions, the construction work of the college building was taken up accordingly. It is worthwhile to mention that the then Chief Engineer of Assam State Electricity Board, Mr. Shyamapada Choudhury, drew the plan...
of the college free of cost, thus sparing the college of expenses to a tune of Rs 30000/-. Another noteworthy person who secured financial assistance for the college was Birinchi Kumar Barua who was then in-charge of UGC grants at Gauhati University. Through his personal initiatives, the college could avail its first UGC grant of Rs 1,60,000/- during the early 1960's.\[359\] In 1962, the college undertook the gigantic and most significant step in its educational journey when it shifted to the permanent site at Boyce Road.

Once the college had settled and functioned from its own permanent campus, preparations were made to start the Science stream as early as possible. Hardly a year was required to make the preparations and in 1963, the Science classes were started. Opening of Science stream at the Intermediate level. This was followed by the Degree level Science course. Thus the BSc.(Pass course) was also started in 1963 with (Late) P.Deb, U.CKakoti, K.Dutta and R.K.Das as faculty members.\[360\] The Science Department was strengthened during the subsequent years with Smti.Anjali Dutta, Ranjit Kumar Dutta, Dr.Udyan Ghosh, Smamrendra Nath Dutta, Durbadal Mukherjee and Dr.S K Gupta joining as lecturers. The first batch of B Sc students appeared and passed the B Sc Final Examination conducted by Gauhati University in 1967. This was a memorable year for the college, for on that instance, the college obtained a cent percent success without any failures. It was only after ten years of toil and hardwork that the Science Departments were extended the Deficit grants-in-aid status by the Government of Meghalaya with effect from 1st April 1975.\[361\] Dedication and devotion of the teachers saw the college launching the Honours course in Mathematics in 1976 and this paved the way for other Science Departments to start their own respective Honours courses.

A college formed at the initiative of liberal and magnanimous individuals naturally placed students' welfare as their first priority. To ensure an all round development for its students, the college officially formed the first students' body, the Shillong College Students Union, on 9th August 1959 with Mohit Kr.Das as the first

\[359\] "Donations and Other Contributions", in Souvenir.Golden Jubilee Year 2005-2006, Shillong College, p6
\[360\] SK Gupta, op.cit., p11
KJeneral Secretary. One of the students was also co-opted as the students’ Editor of the college magazine and Jimut Bahan Dutta was the first to adorn this dignified and illustrious responsibility. The first Annual Magazine of the college was released in 1961 and since then was regularly published every year.

Even though the college was extended its Permanent Affiliation under Section 2F of the University Grants Commission Act 1956, on 3rd April 1982, Shillong College did receive a limited financial aid from this Commission during the 1960's. Despite financial hardships, the college authorities ventured to organize Seminars and Exhibitions to further academic performance of its students. The college also envisaged to tap the God-given talents of its students, be it Sports, Music, Social services and the likes. As early as 1959, the College team was invited to participate at the Sixth Session of All Assam Inter College Music Conference held at Tezpur, Assam. Participating for the first time, the college troupe was a small one comprising of 13 participants led by Mr. Dibyendu Guha as Professor-in-charge. The students participants were B.Baruah, H.PJBorah, P.Borah, Mrinmoy Dhar, M.P.Gurung, G.Bhuyan, C.B.Gurung, U.Borthakur, Meera Sharma, Reva Bordoloi, D.Choudhury, M.Kalita and Uma Choudhury. The troupe bagged the First Prize in Violin competition won by Mrinmoy dhar, the First Prize in Flute competition won by C.B.Gurung and the First Prize in Assamese Jhopi Dance won by Smti.Reva Bordoloi.

In 1960, the College Troupe participated in the Seventh Session of All Assam Inter College Music Competition held at Jorhat. In this instance, the troupe was led by Prof. D S Rawat, who later served as Principal of the college from 1973 till 1990. At the competition, the college won as many as six prizes. The College Troupe again participated at the Eight Session of the All Assam Inter College Music Competition held at Gauhati in 1961 and bagged eight prizes. The college musical troupe exhibited its talent when it participated in a cultural function held at Opera Hall in Shillong, where they presented the famous song of Rabindra Nath Tagore, 'Nai Nai Bhoi Hobe Hobe Joi'

M CB Gurung, "The By Gone Memories of Shillong College", in Somenir, Golden Jubilee Year 2005-2006, Shillong College, p 28-29
sang in the **different tribal** languages of North East **India** in one rhythm and melody keeping the original **track of Tagore's song** in tact. This musical presentation, the concept and idea of **Prof.D Guha**, symbolized the **unification** of **tribal people** of North East and therefore, earned the **extreme appreciation of the audience**.\(^{363}\) In 1964, the college, organized an Art Exhibition and a Mock Parliament and these two activities later became common features of present day activities of colleges in the state.

The Shillong College had also carved a name for itself in the field of Sports and Games. In 1966, the College Cricket team led by Debo Baruah won the Runners-up title at the Inter College Cricket Tournament hosted by Gauhati University. In 1969, Muhi Ram Saikia, a second year B Sc Student was adjudged the Best Shooter in the Rifle Shooting Competition held at Army Attachment Camp. And in 1973, at the First ever Inter College Sports Meet of North Eastern Hill University, the Shillong College Team won the Championship Trophy in Hockey and also the Runners-up titles in Football and Table-Tennis. From then onwards, Shillong College Team went on to win many more championship trophies as well as developing successfully in academics.

Shillong College was the first college established after the Independence of India, and it was established at the initiative of a group of enlightened citizens of the town. They showed the way to others also. When in 1962, Shillong College shifted to its permanent site at Laitumkhrah, the boys who earlier attended classes at Jail Road High School, had to traverse a long distance to Laitumkhrah. Moreover, the only other college located in the heart of the city was a girls' college, and therefore, boys from Laban and other areas of Shillong had no alternative but to travel a longer distance in search of higher education. The immense increase in the number of Matriculated students every year put pressure on admissions into the five colleges existing during the 1950"s. This caused deprivation of collegiate education to students who were academically and economically weaker than others. To ensure accessibility to higher education for one and all, the Srimanta Sankardev Cultural Centre decided to start a co-education college to fulfill the dreams of the student community, particularly the socially weak and under

\(^{363}\) C B Gurung, op cit., p29
privileged students. Members of the Srimanta Sankardev Cultural Centre, Bishnupur, Shillong, put up a proposal to open a college in the name of Sankardev. The proposal was considered and passed by the General Body of this Cultural Centre, and thus Sankardev College was born in 1962. The acceptance of the proposal with no opposition from the concerned members was due to the fact that the venture was a constructive one. The members wanted to immortalize the name of Sankardev through an educational institution and this in turn was a blessing to the boys and girls of Laban and the neighbouring places. Accordingly with the proposal being passed, the General Body allotted a plot of six bighas within the premises of the Cultural Centre for this educational purpose. This notable venture was applauded by the then Minister of Education, Mr. D K Baruah. To shape and nurture the college at its infant stage, a sub-committee was formed with Mr. M M Choudhury, then Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly, as the President.

The newly born college needed a captain to steer the ship full of boys and girls. The Sub-Committee found an efficient captain in the make of Dr. R.N. Upadhayay, then serving as Lecturer in the English Departments of Lady Keane College and St Anthony's College. Impressed by the confidence of the sub-committee members and trust in him, Dr. R.N. Upadhayay resigned from the post of Lecturer in both the colleges and assumed the enormous task and responsibility to nurture the new college as its Founder Principal. Prior to his appointment at Lady Keane College and St Anthony's College in 1959, Dr. Upadhayay had first joined as a lecturer in M C College at Barpeta, Assam in 1958. And in September 1962, he joined as the Principal of Sankerdev College. Simultaneously, with his assumption of office, the college officially opened the classes on 2nd September 1962. Unlike the other existing colleges which organized befitting inaugural functions, Sankerdev College witnessed no such inauguration day. On that very first day when classes were started, the Intermediate and Degree students were jointly addressed by the Principal, who welcomed them formally to the college. As

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364 Principal's Note, in Accidentia 2004, p24
365 K S Nongkynrih, "Down Memory Lane with Dr. RN Upadhayay" in Academia, 2004, p 27.
no building had been constructed as yet, classes were held in the rooms of the Cultural Centre. Moreover, because the college did not have sufficient funds except for Rs 1000/- received as an interest-free loan from the Cultural Centre, the institute was not in a position to appoint full-time lecturers. That is why, at the time of inception, students were taught by six 'part-time' lecturers.

Despite its modest venture, Sankardev College fulfilled the objectives of the boys and girls who were admitted into its fold. Even though the college was yet to be officially affiliated to Gauhati University, the latter had from the very beginning made it an examination centre for the University Final Examinations conducted by the University. Within two years of its existence, the college was granted the formal affiliation to the Gauhati University. Another milestone was touched by the college in 1964 with the formal inauguration of the college building on 4th October 1964 by Mr B.P. Chaliha, then Chief Minister of Assam. A sigh of relief was breathed by the college management with the receipt of Rs 1500/- per month as Adhoc-Grant from the Government of Assam. Financial situation improved positively with the extension of Deficit Grant-in-Aid system to the college by the Government of Assam in 1966. This not only eased the financial responsibility of the college towards its staff but most importantly, made it possible for Sankardev College to start the Science Department in July 1966 which was a crying need at the time. Patience, toil, efficiency and discreet management of college finance by the Principal, staff and the Governing Body of the college resulted in the gradual progress and development of the college.

Requiring more land for future growth and expansion, the Governing Body of Sankardev College headed by Mr M.M. Choudhury appealed to the Chief Minister of Assam to allot one of the nearby Government estates to the college. While their request was being considered by the State Government, there was the transfer of power from Assam to the Autonomous State of Meghalaya. Except for a small plot being allotted at Rilbong for construction of a girls' hostel, no land was further received from the State Government. However, this minor set-back did not have an adverse effect on the college in the long run. As a matter of fact, attainment of statehood meant an improved
and better educational policy for the collegiate institutions and Sankardev College which benifitted from the changed policy, definitely showed rapid growth and development.

The next institution of higher education in the capital city of Shillong was the Synod College, established in 1965 by the KJP Synod, the then apex body of all Presbyterian Churches in Khasi and Jaintia Hills District of Assam. Shri B.M. Pugh, renowned educationist, was the first principal. As founder principal of two premier institutions in the N.E India, the Assam Agricultural College, Jorhat, and the Union Christian College, Barapani and also officiating principal of the Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Shri B.M. Pugh was well equipped with wide and varied experience of over forty years in the field of education. Under his guidance, the college started to function with 46 students at the Pre-University level only, along with 6 teachers belonging to 6 different departments. These founder teachers are:-

1. Mr. E.M. Sohkhlet (M.A. - English) - Head of English Department.
2. Mr. B.R. Kharlukhi (B.A.Hons.P.Sc) - Tutor & Head of Khasi Department
3. Miss Sidora Dkhar (M.A. Pol.Sc) - Head of Politicsl.Science Department
4. Mr. Rokamlova (M.A. History) - Head of History Department.
5. Mr. M. Ahmed (M.A. Education) - Head of Education Department.
6. Mr. Zasanga (M.A. Economics) - Head of Economics Department.

In the following year, Mr. P. Syiemlieh and Miss C.I. Dkhar joined as teachers in the Philosophy and History departments respectively. Classes were held in the premises of the Shillong Government Boys High School at Mawkhar. In 1967, B.A. classes were started with 45 students. The progress of the college can be better understood in Shri B.M. Pugh's words as recorded in his autobiography, "The College grew very rapidly, so that from the enrollment of about 40 in its first year, it jumped to about 300 in its fifth year. Students came every morning from places as far as 10 to 12 miles and went home..."
after eight at night Half of them were girls and almost all of them tribals. The majority of the students served as lower and upper division assistants in government service 367

After having served the College for about five years, Shri B.M. Pugh retired on 31st May, 1970. Dr. N.K. Mundle, former principal of the prestigious Scottish Church College, Calcutta, took over the principalship for four years. As the College made further progress, the need for suitable and permanent accommodation was felt keenly and efforts were made to initiate plans for a College building. In 1974, Shri H. Syiemlieh became the next principal and significantly it was in the following year, 1975, that the college shifted to the Tegfan bungalow, Jaiaw where it is presently located. Renewed efforts were made to plan the college building with the help of leading architect Mr. S. Corrie. The year saw many developments with Dr. C.D.S. Devanasen, first Vice Chancellor of N.E.H.U. laying the foundation stone of the College. Day classes commenced fulfilling a long-awaited dream. In 1976, two floors of the College building were completed with funds from the UGC and the State Government. In the same year, the College was granted permission to have its own examination centre and to start honours classes in English, Political Science and Khasi. Gradually other subjects in Arts were upgraded to the honours level.

Twenty years after Independence, neither the Government of India nor the Government of Assam established a Government college for the Khasis, Jaintias and Garos. Of the three indigenous tribes, the Khasis were fortunate enough to have the Christian missions undertaking the efforts to set up colleges in the city of Shillong catering to the collegiate needs of the Shillongites in particular and the people of the province in general. The move to set up a Government college was first taken up by Shri H E Pohshna, the only M L A from Jaintia Hills at the time. Being a member of the Advisory Council for the Welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the Autonomous Districts in Assam, Shri H E Pohshna had the opportunity to raise the issue of starting a Government college at Jowai in accordance with Rule No.7 which gave the Advisory Council the power to plan for the all-round development of the Scheduled Tribes in the Autonomous

367 Records of Synod College, Shillong.
Districts of Assam. He submitted a Memorandum to this effect, to be discussed as one of the agenda at the second meeting of the Council held on 11th May 1963. Unfortunately, the Council rejected the proposal for the establishment of a Government college at Jowai, because it would violate the principle of the Council which clearly stated that it would establish a Government college only at the Districts' headquarters.\textsuperscript{368} Jowai at the time was not a District Headquarter, but Shillong was. However, Shillong by then could boast of having adequate number of colleges to cater to the needs of the student community.

Without losing hope, Shri H E Pohshna, as a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly, placed before the House the necessity to establish a Government college at Jowai during the Budget Session of the Assembly in 1963 itself. The initiative taken by Shri H E Pohshna was greatly welcomed by the Jaintias. Supporting the efforts of Shri Pohshna, a deputation of some local residents together with some students met the then Minister of Education, Government of Assam, Shri D K Barooah, during his visit to the Jaintia hills. The delegation discussed with him the need to establish a Government college at Jowai. Though the Minister gave them a patient hearing and appreciated their concern for the student community, but no tangible step was taken towards this end.

To realize his objective, Shri H E Pohshna again moved the Assam Assembly during its Budget Session in March 1965. At this session, Shri Pohshna made a memorable speech wherein he specially requested the Minister of Education, the Minister of Finance and the Government as a whole to give serious consideration of the matter, because the college would cater not only to the educational needs of the people of Jaintia hills but also to the people of Mikir hills, North Cachar hills and Lushai hills. The Sein Raij, an organization of the Jaintias belonging to the indigenous religion, convened a public meeting on 12th July 1966 at Iongpiah Hall, Jowai under the Presidentship of Shri H E Pohshna to enlighten the people of this great educational need. The meeting was attended by Shri D K Barooah, Minister of Education, as a special invitee. It was at this meeting that the Honourable Minister declared that the dream of having a Government

college at Jowai would be soon materialized. He stated that it could not be started earlier because the relevant papers were pending with the Planning Commission at Delhi but the said project was later approved. The Government of Assam then notified the setting-up of four Government colleges in the hill areas, one each at Aizawl, Diphu, Jowai and Tura. In fact, in Aizawl, Diphu and Tura the existing Aided colleges were converted into Government colleges. It was, therefore, only in Jowai that a new college was to be started as a Government college. Accordingly on 31\textsuperscript{st} January 1967, J B Hagjer, the then Minister of State for Education, visited Jowai accompanied by the Joint Secretary of Education, Government of Assam; The Deputy Commissioner of United Khasi-Jaintia Hills, the Director of Public Instruction, Government of Assam and the Assistant Inspector of Schools, United Khasi-Jaintia Hills. The visiting team gave a favourable report for starting a Government college at Jowai and permission was granted to start the college at a rented house temporarily from the session 1967-1968.\textsuperscript{369}

Recruitment of the teaching staff was immediately completed vide Advertisement of the office of the Director of Public Instruction dated 11\textsuperscript{th} July 1967 for the departments of English, Economics, History, Education, Political Science and Khasi. Thus Prof. D Challam was appointed as Principal-in-charge of the college and teaching English simultaneously. Shri T K Dey was appointed in the Department of History. Shri F Syndai in the Department of Economics, Shri A Goswami in the Department of Education, Mrs T Pyrtuh in the Department of Khasi and Shri B Jyrwa in the Department of Political Science. These appointments were purely temporary and done on immediate basis, outside the Public Service Commission. The Government also recruited Mrs B Lyngdoh, Miss P Passah, Shri N G Laloo, Shri P Pariat, Shri T R Joicy and Shri L Lakiang as Non-teaching staff of the college. Eventually the college started functioning from the 15\textsuperscript{*} September 1967 with six students, three males and three females, in the Pre-University Arts Class and twelve students, five males and seven females, in the First Year Three Degree Course Arts (Pass) class. All the students were transferred students from other colleges. The Gauhati University accorded temporary affiliation to the
-aforementioned classes for the session 1967-1968.\textsuperscript{370} For smooth functioning of the college a Governing Body of the college was constituted in 1967 with the Deputy Commissioner of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills as the President, The Sub-Divisional Officer, Civil, Jowai as Vice-President, Principal of the College as Secretary and some prominent citizens as Members such as Shri E Bareh, MLA and Chief Executive Member of District Council, Jowai, Shri J D Pohrmen, EM, District Council, Jowai, Rev Fr. H Fantin, Rev. L Gatphoh, Member District Council, Jowai the Joint DPI, Govt, of Assam and two University nominated members.\textsuperscript{371} To facilitate the progress and development of the college, the Government made an immediate grant of Rs 10,000/- towards the college library for purchase of necessary books.

Professor D Challam, Principal-in-charge of the college faced difficulties in acquiring a site for the college premises till a permanent site was selected and acquired. Shri. A C Das, the Civil Sub-Divisional Officer, Jowai negotiated with the Secretary of Iongpiah Club for usage of the club premises to hold classes. Negotiations failed when the Government would not agree to the terms and conditions of the Secretary of the club. Negotiations by the Principal-in-charge with the Presbyterian Lower Primary School, Jowai also failed. Thus the college had to start functioning from a rented house arranged by the Principal-in-charge. Meanwhile a Site Selection Committee was formed comprising of the Deputy Commissioner of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District, Jowai Civil Sub-Division Officer, the Director of Public Instructions, Govt, of Assam, alongwith some prominent residents, namely, Shri. E Bareh, Shri H E Pohshna, Shri. K Rymbai, Rev. L Gatphoh and Rev Fr. H Fantin. Three different plots of land were placed before the committee, of which the Site Selection Committee chose the plot located at Lathlaboh which covers an area of 33.18 acres of land. This site lies near the Veterinary firm on the Shillong-Silchar National Highway. The SDO Civil Sub-Division was authorized to initiate the process for acquisition of the said plot and the same was acquired in 1968.

\textsuperscript{370} ibid., p5
\textsuperscript{371} ibid., p7
In the same year, 1968, Shri K Chetia was appointed as the full-time Principal of the college and he took charge on 24th October 1968 from Shri D Challam, Principal-in-charge at the time. The latter continued to serve as Lecturer in the Department of English. Sad to say that on the 13th November 1971, Shri D Challam left for his eternal home while still in service. Prof. Challam was the one who nurtured and shaped the college while it was in the infancy stage, and his memory will always be remembered and cherished not only by his contemporaries but also by future generations as well. During 1968-1969, the college witnessed a change in its faculty members, when regular teachers were appointed by the Government on the recommendation of the Assam Public Service Commission. These teachers included D Challam, D C Bhattacharya, J Nongbet, R K Choudhury and J B Bhattacharjee. Realizing the necessity to strengthen the teaching faculty, the Government also created the second post, one in each department. It is worth mentioning that with the passing of the First year TDC, the Gauhati University felt the need to grant permission to the college to start the Second Year TDC Arts (Pass) course in 1968-1969. As was expected, the Students of the Second year TDC cleared their Examinations and were promoted to the Final Year, thus making it necessary for the Gauhati University to permit the college to open the Third Year TDC Arts (Pass) course in 1969-1970. The year 1970 would always be remembered in the annals of the college for this year witnessed the passing out of the first batch of the TDC Arts (Pass) course. Only four students appeared the Final TDC Examination in 1970 and all four came out successful. The first four students to pass the Final Examination and to graduate from this college were Smt. Ritimon Lato, Smt. Bih Shylla, Shri. Ajit Singha and Shri Rameshwar Kalita. When one looks at the number of students enrolled in all the classes, one can see that the college undoubtedly, had made a very humble beginning with only eighteen students at the time of inception. However, the strength of the students gradually increased with thirty five of them in the second year and fifty seven in the third year of its existence. From thence onward there was no

372 ibid., p6-7
373 ibid., p6
374 ibid., p9
looking back and the college kept on growing and developing. Incidentally, the Government college at Jowai was originally named as the Jowai Government College. It was only after the coming of Meghalaya that the same college was renamed as Kiang Nongbah Government College, Jowai, in memory of the great freedom fighter of the Jaintia Hills against the British.

The afore-mentioned colleges provided collegiate education in the B A, B Sc and B Com courses. Some concerned citizens visualized the need of having a law college in the capital, Shillong. With this in mind, the Shillong Law College was established in 1964 with L Sharma as the Principal and A Alley as the Vice Principal. In the beginning the college functioned at Shillong Government High School with classes being held in the evening. Management of the college was in the hands of the Governing Body, members of which were mostly lawyers and advocates. The teaching faculty comprised of well-known men in the legal field, such as, J N Das who later became the Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University and S N Phukan who became a judge in the Supreme Court. By holding classes in the evening, the college gave the employed personnels the chance to pursue a legal degree after working hours. This must be the reason why a sizeable number of working students completed their legal education and on retirement took to legal practice. Though classes were held in the evening, the Shillong Law College is duly recognized by the Bar Council of India. At present, the college is functioning as a full-fledged day college.375

In the previous discussions, thrust is on the beginning and growth of primary, secondary and collegiate education, which is the development of the student community academically. This type of education, is undoubtedly, restricted to a certain age group who hope to get a white collar job after completion of the prescribed course. The higher classes of formal education is limited to a small section of the student community. Therefore, the below average students would face an uphill task to compete against the average and above average students for employment in Government offices or in schools and colleges. However, it does not mean that the former type of students are

375 Interview with B P Datta, Advocate and Secretary of the Governing Body.
devoid of talents. Many times it was found that an academically poor student has a God-given talent which needs to be tapped and garnered towards productive usage. To tap these hidden talents of the Khasis, Jaintias and Garos and to ensure a better future for them, it was necessary to open some sort of artisan or industrial schools for the benefit of the local residents.

However, till the year 1878, there was no technical school nor industrial school in the districts of Khasi-Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills. This is confirmed by the Report on Administration of Assam, 1877-1878, which asserted that there were only two industrial schools in the province of Assam, and these were located, one each at Jorhat and Sibsagar. The American Baptist Mission, which was active in the Garo Hills, proposed to start an industrial department in 1877 to be attached to the Mission School at Goalpara. The American Baptist Mission also envisioned to open first an agricultural department where the Garo youths would be taught the use of latest method of agricultural production. The Provincial Government, which also had the same objective, sanctioned a grant of Rs.300/- towards the purchase of the required tools and equipments. Disappointingly, the proposed project did not materialize because of the speedy removal of the school to Tura. This setback did not disillusion the missionaries, as seen by the efforts made by Mr. Mason while he was in furlough in America. There in America, Mr. Mason influenced the mission's plan to raise a fund towards the establishment of the industrial department in Garo Hills. The fund could be raised through special and extra contributions voluntarily donated by the Americans. The fund raised would be used to buy tools, machineries and implements, and the same to be resold to the Garos. For successful execution of the project, a missionary would be sent to the Garo hills and accordingly, Mr. A. W. Weeks was appointed as the supervisor. Being a missionary, it was expected of him to devote some of his time towards religious works, mainly

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evangelization. Disappointingly again, Mr. Weeks never came to Garo Hills to assume his duties.\footnote{ibid \textit{5th 77*^ 1 Report of the American Baptist Missionary Union, vol.LXXh No7, July 1891.}}

The strongman of the American Baptist Mission in Garo Hills, Mr. Mason again was not deterred. While still in the United States of America, he bought the necessary implements and machineries. These were then brought and resold in the Garo Hills. He himself took the responsibility of teaching the Garos their usage, so that by introducing the people to their benefits, gradually it would lead to the development of agriculture and industries in this hill district. Mr. Mason's efforts to give the Garos some industrial instructions could not make rapid progress, because he was pressured by other works. Moreover, there was no extra hand to help him. Mr. Mason in the annual report of 1891 claimed that two or three men had gained experience in the use of the new machineries.\footnote{ibid \textit{5th 77*^ 1 Report of the American Baptist Missionary Union, vol.LXXh No7, July 1891.}} In this year, a Mr. Dring had arrived to take charge of the industrial work and this raised the hopes of the mission towards fruition of their plan of starting an industrial school at Tura. Like Mason, Mr. Dring too, was pressured by other responsibilities such as, teaching in the Tura school and evangelization. What the mission needed at the time was a teacher and a leader torn give his undivided attention to the industrial department of the school. Despite the efforts made by Mason and Dring, the industrial department even at the end of the century could not be said to have achieved substantial successes as was expected. The department could merely churned out a handful of men who acquired some knowledge in how to use the tools and machines brought from the States.

The missionaries never gave up hope. They wanted to see that their attempt to set up an industrial school should materialize. Because of their continuous efforts, many of the Garo boys and men acquired knowledge of the improved method of cultivation as well as the use of new and latest machineries. The mission's report of 1907 asserted that despite occasional setbacks, the ginning department started picking up slowly and the department could supply work to about seventy five boys during half of
the school year.\textsuperscript{379} In the meantime, construction work was in progress to house the ginning department so that it could be operational throughout the year, as the existing condition was not favourable for continuous work because of the rains. The mission was fortunate to obtain the service of Mr. Dring who, besides imparting some industrial training to Garo boys and men, could whenever required render help in the religious activities of the mission. Being adept at building houses, he was appointed the Chairman of the building committee of the mission. It was in the course of his work in the construction of the mission's buildings that Mr. Dring had the opportunity to guide and teach the Garo boys and men in construction work.

It is sad to note that the attempt of the missionaries to establish the envisioned industrial school did not materialize. The reason for this unsuccessful venture might have been the fact that the industrial department attached to the Tura school was meant to give employment to those boys who did not have the resources to pay the school fees.\textsuperscript{380} By working in this department, the boys, therefore, paid their fees through the services they rendered. The Annual Report of 1906 clearly stated that "the amount of cotton purchased and ginned has been less than usual on account of the dilapidated condition of the buildings. Necessary funds having been provided, it is hoped that the close of the present year will witness the completion of a new ginning shed, an engine-house and a store-house."\textsuperscript{381} The full equipment of this branch of work would mean much for the many Garo boys who were seeking an education. From this report, one can understand that the industrial department set up by the American Baptist Mission was not envisaged as a technical institution in the truest sense of the term. It is merely a means adopted by the mission to meet the fees due to it by the boys who were unable to pay the same. Lack of funds also tied down the hands of the mission. Even till 1937, the Garos were yet to witness the establishment of an industrial and technical school. In the Annual Report of 1937, the mission stated that there was no fund to start the industrial

\textsuperscript{379} Report of Ninth Biennial Conference, The Assam Mission of the American Baptist Missionary Union January 5*-12* 1907
\textsuperscript{380} ibid
\textsuperscript{381} Annual Report of the American Baptist Missionary Union, July 1906
school, even though the missionaries had realized the need for one, a long time back. According to this same report, it was the Roman Catholic Mission which set up the needed industrial school at Tura, the location of which, was not far from the Baptist Mission's compound. But even this mission, acknowledged globally as the great propagator of education, could not achieve the desired result - that of establishing a technical and industrial school in the real sense of the term.

Likewise, in the Khasi-Jaintia Hills, no industrial school was set up worthy of a name. The provincial Government of Assam had realized the need of industrial and technical institutions to impart industrial and technical education to its people. During the quinquennial period 1902-1907, the Assam Province was fortunate to have Sir Bampfylde Fuller as the Chief Commissioner, a man renowned for his interests in spreading and stimulating the growth of education amongst the local people. Towards the close of the the Quinquennium, a technical school was opened at Shi Hong to impart technical education to the pupils and residents of Khasi-Jaintia Hills. Fortunately, for the people of Assam, Sir Bampfylde Fuller, was appointed as the Chief Commissioner of Assam after he had officiated for the same. With unstinted support from him, Officials in the Education Department were animated to open a number of Government educational institutions in Assam. An outcome of this stimulus of the Chief Commissioner was the start of an Industrial School at Shillong named the Fuller Industrial School. This was the first of its kind ever started in Khasi-Jaintia Hills. Mr. Barrow, Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley and Hill Districts maintained that, 'if education in these hill districts was to flourish, it should be on industrial lines'. The Fuller Industrial School at Shillong, a Government institution, offered courses in carpentry and blacksmithy only. These two courses were certified courses of Diploma status. In February 1912, the Provincial Government sanctioned an amount of Rs.1499/- towards the acquisition of land for a

383 Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam, 1901-02 to 1906-07, p109
384 Barrow, "Monograph on Education among Hill Tribes", in Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam 1901-02 to 1906-07, p109
385 General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1909-1910
hostel attached to the Fuller Industrial School.\textsuperscript{386} Accordingly, when the said amount was released, the Government with no delay, acquired the land for hostel facilities in March of the same year. Over and above the purchase of land, the Provincial Government also undertook to renovate the existing buildings for hostel use and to repair the Uving quarters of the Superintendent of this school. For these purposes, the estimate of Rs 3630/- was submitted to the Government in March, 1912\textsuperscript{387}

Being a Government institution, expenses towards payment of salaries were borne by the Provincial Government. However, the Industrial School was yet to have a proper qualified staff. In November, 1912, U Ramushon, an instructor of the School was paid an allowance of ten rupees a month. To motivate the instructors towards achieving success for their students, in January 1913, the Government granted a bonus of a hundred rupees each to the two Instructors of the school as an acknowledgement of their work and dedication when a student of the school passed the examination at the close of 1912.\textsuperscript{388} This system of rewarding teachers and instructors had been in vogue from the last century when teachers and instructors were given bonuses by the Government. Over, and above their regular pay, they would receive an additional sum for every student who passed the qualified examinations.\textsuperscript{389}

The courses offered at the Fuller Industrial School were meant only for boys. To provide vocational education for the girls, the Provincial Government in June 1919 launched a new project, the establishment of a Weaving School at Shillong. Here, in this school, the girls’ were taught the art of weaving cloth from yarn, the art of dyeing and the art of designing. The project cost the Government Rs.6474/- towards the construction of the building to house the school.\textsuperscript{390} Being a weaving school, the Government could partially meet the cost for purchase of yarn and payment of salaries, from the sale of the woven cloth. Besides the Weaving school at Shillong, Weaving schools were also set up at Jowai and Nongpoh. Compared with the Khasi-Jaintias, the

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{3.6} Proceedings of the Education Department, February, 1912
\textsuperscript{387} Proceedings of the Education Department, March, 1912
\textsuperscript{388} Proceedings of the Education Department, 1912
\textsuperscript{389} Proceedings of the Education Department, 1988
\textsuperscript{390} Proceedings of the Education Department, 1919}
Garos were far more adept at weaving. Most of the girls learned the art of weaving from a very young age, particularly, girls in the Garo Hills. Because of this inherent art, coupled with the availability of raw cotton, the American missionaries started the ginning department at Tura. This department, as mentioned earlier, was attached to the Tura Middle English School and clubbed with the Industrial Department of the school itself.

Technical education in these two districts took a step forward during the post-Independence period. In the 1930's the Salesian Brothers of Don Bosco opened an industrial school, Don Bosco Industrial School for young boys to impart training on carpentry, printing, binding etc. Boys who completed the courses of this school were absorbed in different technical divisions of Government Departments. Some of them started their own private enterprises in the state. Initially boys with lesser caliber to performed excellently in formal educational examinations opted for the vocational education in this institute. The school helped the local youths to gain employment by tapping their technical skill. With passage of time, the school expanded and offered Diploma Certificates in various technical lines. At present, it is considered as one of the most sought after industrial and technical school in the state.

It was in the 1960's that the Government laid emphasis on the importance of technical education. In 1965, the technical school named Shillong Polytechnic was started in the capital city. It was provided with a permanent building of its own comprising the school, workshop, laboratory and hostel. Courses offered by this institute were Diplomas in Automobile Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Applied Mechanics besides Economics, Management and English. The curriculum comprised of both practical and theoretical management, taught term by term till the completion of the required course. Admission to this Polytechnic was opened only to those who had passed the School Certificate Examination and the Pre-University Examination. The Shillong Polytechnic rendered a great service to the student community because after completion

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1. Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam, 1937-38 to 1942-43
2. H Bareh, op cit., p49
of the required course, the students and trainees were either absorbed in Government services, private enterprises or could start their own private firm and be self-sufficient.

Besides the aforementioned institute, another vocational school was also set up in Shillong. This institute gave industrial training to its pupils, and therefore, it was called the Industrial Training Institute. Unlike other educational institutes, this Industrial Training Institute was first established at Gauhati in 1965. Even when Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972, the institute could not be shifted immediately. It was four years later that the institute was transferred to Shillong in 1976 and it continues to function till today. This Industrial School imparts training in Radio and Television mechanism, Electrician, Automobile mechanism, Carpentry, Welding, Wiring, Stenography and such like. The eligibility for admission to the varied courses was School Leaving Certificate Examination except for carpentry, welding and fitting, where the minimum educational qualification is Class VIII passed. The only other vocational institution imparting technical education during the period under study is the Industrial Training Institute located at Tura. This institute adopted the same pattern of courses as the ones being offered in the Shillong Industrial Training Institute.

In the Jaintia Hills it was the Seventh-Day Adventist missionaries who stepped forth to establish an industrial school in this district. Having selected a site at Thadlaskein, about five miles from Jowai town, Pastor O W Lange of the Seventh-Day Adventist mission established the Adventist Training School, previously known as the Assam Training School. The school imparted both formal and vocational education to the students. Vocational education included training in dairying, pasturisation, methods of cultivation, driving and repairing cars. Provisions for hostel facilities for boys and girls separately, attracted students from all parts of northeast. A unique feature of this school was that it was the only school in Jaintia Hills which adopted English as the only medium of instruction. As it was a purely private school, expenses were borne by its mission. This was the only school in Jaintia Hills that imparted vocational education.

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School Records.
Another important requirement for the progress of education was adequately training the teachers. The foreign missionaries who ushered the era of education climbed the uphill task of learning the local languages and introducing the Roman script as the written script. They undertook the strenuous and onerous task of teaching a small number of people at the initial stage. Once they learned the art of reading, writing and simple arithmetic, they were sent out to teach in the village schools. But, how can such persons with very little knowledge be expected to impart a sound education to the young boys and girls. This prompted the missionaries to set up some sort of training schools for the then existing teachers as well as, for the would be teachers. Therefore, with this objective in mind, the American Baptist Mission started a Normal School at Tura to train Garo teachers, while the Welsh Calvinistic Mission started a Normal School at Cherrapunjee to train Khasi teachers.

Two decades after the Welsh missionary had tilled the soil and sown the seeds of education, their work started to bear fruit when about sixty five schools were set up having an enrolment of about two thousand pupils. Though there was a rapid increase in the number of village schools in Khasi-Jaintia Hills, sadly, the education imparted was not quality education, because teachers of these schools were underqualified. To meet the need of qualified teachers, in 1864 the elementary school at Nongsawlia was upgraded to a Normal School under the control and management of the Welsh missionaries. Thomas Jones II, the missionary who taught and headed the Normal School adopted an educational plan, by which the boy-pupils were taught and given instructions for six months and the next six months they were sent to the villages to serve as village school teachers. This system was adopted so as to help in the spread of education and Christianity to almost all corners of the district.

Seeing the good work done by the missionaries towards providing quality elementary education, the Government granted financial aids to the Cherra Normal School. In 1867, Hugh Roberts, the Welsh missionary serving at Sylhet was transferred to Cherra and on arrival was given charge of the Normal School. The salary of Roberts and

\[ \text{w G A Jones, op cit, p 45} \]
the two junior teachers was borne by the Provincial Government. The Government also sanctioned scholarships and stipends valued at four rupees a month to twelve local pupils for a period of four years, provided the recipients were sincere and diligent in their studies. As in the beginning, the school imparted training only to boy-pupils and male-teachers, there arose the need to train lady teachers who would serve in the girls' schools. To meet this requirement, the Girls' School at Nongsawlia was merged with the Cherra Normal School. Mrs. Hugh Roberts was given the task to take charge of girls and ladies in the Normal School with the objective to bring forth lady teachers. Ten years later, Revd. Hugh Roberts, the Headmaster of the training school, reported that the school had made some progress and succeeded in churning out some qualified teachers. He reported that, out of the sixteen pupils who completed the course in 1874-1875, five of them were females. Of the fives, one was Hannah, who took charge of the Girls' School at Shillong. According to report available, during 1874-75, the cost of educating each pupil at the Normal School was Rs.109-0-7p, of which Rs. 107-2-11 was contributed by the Government.

The Cherra Training School, which was partly a Government Normal School and partly an aided Practising School, continued to function under the management of the Welsh Mission with the Government rendering more than eighty percent financial assistance towards salary of the teachers. The school did serve the purpose for which it was set up for, that is, every year its pupils, both boys and girls, who completed the training course were absorbed in the teaching profession, thereby ensuring that trained teachers were available in the numerous elementary schools in Khasi-Jaintia Hills. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, in 1891, the Cherra Training School was shifted to Shillong and the same was amalgamated with the Mission High School and the Zillah High School of U Jeebon Roy. The amalgamated school, known as the Shillong Government School was then placed under the supervision of

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395 ibid., p 46
396 General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1874-75. p 56
397 ibid., p 56
Welsh Mission while financial expenses were borne by the Government. The transfer of the Normal School was necessitated by the financial need of the High school at Shillong. Because the Cherra Training School had currently enjoyed Government financial help, it was deemed necessary to merge the Aided Training School with the High School at Shillong so that the same Government financial assistance would automatically be extended to the High School as well. Alongwith the High school section, the school prepared and trained teachers for Upper Primary Schools and Middle English Schools in English. The teacher-pupils were to read the first four classes together with the boys of the High School, whilst the art of teaching, theoretical and practical and Sanitary Science would be taught separately. Ironically, the joint venture faced a hurdle with the emergence of differences between Jeebon Roy and the Welsh Mission, resulting in the withdrawal of the latter from the amalgamated school. This, therefore, led to the relocation of the Training School back to Sohra. The differences were resolved by an agreement among the Welsh Mission, Jeebon Roy and the Provincial Government. Consequently in 1891, the Normal Training School at Nongsawlia was shifted to Shillong and merged with the Entrance School of the Mission and of Jeebon Roy. The school henceforth, functioned under the headmastership of Revd. J.Ceredig Evans. As the school followed Government rules and regulations with the total expenditures borne by the Government itself, the School henceforth came to be known as the Shillong Government High School. Disappointingly, the Normal Department attached to the school was not given due importance as shown by the poor performance of the candidates sent up by the school for the Mastership Certificate Examination. This was so, because the school was intended to cater to High School education while the Normal training classes were merely attached to ensure continuance of Government finance which was then currently enjoyed by the Cherra Normal Training School. Not only boys but girls too, were admitted to the classes of this Normal Department of the Shillong Government.

** Report on the Administration of the Province of Assam, 1891-92
399 Progress on Education in Assam 1897-98 to 1901-02
400 R S Lyngdoh, Ka History Ka Thoh Ka Tar Bynta I p 52; Report on Administration of the Province Assam 1891-92
401 GA Jones, op cit., p 72
High School. In 1892, Miss Bessie Williams, a lady missionary, arrived at Shillong and on arrival was given the responsibility to teach and look after the girls in the Normal classes of the school.\textsuperscript{402}

The Shillong Government High School met the requirements of high school education as shown by the success of its students in the Entrance Examination conducted by the Calcutta University. But the Normal department did not fare very well. This was evident from the result of the Mastership Examination which showed no success of the trainees who appeared at the examination.\textsuperscript{403} In 1902, two candidates were sent to appear at the English Master's Certificate Examination and both failed. In 1903, only one candidate passed the same examination, that too, securing a 'medium' class. For the Vernacular Certificate Examination in 1903, there were 46 candidates, of whom only 17 qualified. Also in 1902, only 7 candidates passed the Primary Schoolmaster's Certificate Examination from among the 10 candidates sent, while in 1903 only 4 of the 11 candidates qualified for the same certificate. At the upper Primary Schoolmaster's Certificate Examination, both the two candidates of the school passed in 1903 while only one qualified from the two who appeared in 1902.\textsuperscript{404} Though the then situation appeared to be quite dim and gloomy, the missionaries who taught the trainers and the teacher-pupils did not lose hope. Instead great efforts were put in to ascertain the success of the candidates. Unfortunately, before their hard works could bear fruits, the district experienced a catastrophe when an earthquake of severe intensity shook the place on June 12, 1897.\textsuperscript{405} The classes of the Shillong Government High School had to be suspended because the buildings were destroyed by the earthquake. Three months after the quake, the Normal Training Department of the school suffered another loss in the death of Annie Williams, the lady teacher who replaced Bessie Williams in 1896 when the latter married Revd. T. J. Jones, the missionary from Silchar.\textsuperscript{406} Realizing the need of the hour was to rebuild the damaged buildings, the Provincial Government wasted no time and

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item ibid., p74
\item \textit{General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1902-1903}
\item ibid
\item E A Gait, \textit{Report on the Earthquake of June 12, 1897}-- Dated August 14, 1897
\item G A Jones, op cit., p78
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
accordingly, the same were reconstructed. As such, the building that housed the Normal department of the Shillong Government High School too, was rebuilt by the Government along with the other buildings in the capital. After overcoming the many hurdles, the years following the earthquake, were years of progress and development, particularly in the field of education. To encourage the Khasi boys and girls to perform exceedingly well in their studies, in 1904, the then Chief Commissioner, J.B.Fuller and his wife, conferred two merit awards, one each for a Khasi boy and a Khasi girl of the school. The Khasi boy who stood First in the Normal School would be awarded a Gold Medal while the Khasi girl who stood First in the Shillong Girls' School would be awarded a Silver Watch.\footnote{ibid, p 116}

His interest in promoting education, the Chief Commissioner visited the schools within the vicinity of Shillong. During the course of his visits he had words of encouragement and motivation for both the students and teachers as well as for the management of the schools.

Though the Shillong Government High School had grown and progressed during the first five years of the twentieth century, the Government saw that the performance of its Normal Training Department was not up to the expectations of all. The reason for this slow progress might have been because the school authorities had not given the Normal Department the priority it deserved. Therefore, to generate efficient and worthy teachers, the Government in 1906, established a Government training school at Jaiaw named Jaiaw Training School. This institution would comprise of buildings for school premises, hostel and living quarters for the Headmaster. The objective of the Government was to depute at least fifteen teachers every year to receive training in the school. The deputed teachers would be given an allowance often rupees a month towards their upkeep. The Government appointed Mr. Ondromoney as the first Headmaster of the newly established Training School. The Jaiaw Training School in the first year of its inception, also had seven pupils from the Lushais Hills undergoing teacher training.
During the first few years of its inception, the Jaiaw Training School was yet to adopt a syllabus and a curriculum equivalent to other training schools in the province. For a quarter of the century, it was noticed that candidates of these training schools did not perform well at the different level of Masterships' examinations. The Government, therefore, in 1915 relieved the Headmaster of the Shillong Government High School the charge of the Jaiaw Training School and the latter was placed under the direct charge of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Khasi-Jaintia Hills. Towards the close of 1924, the Normal Department of the Shillong Government High School was merged with the Government Training School at Jaiaw and the joint training school, henceforth, came to be known as the Jaiaw Normal School. The reason for this amalgamation of the two, might have been the outcome of the report of J.R. Cunningham, the then Director of Public Instruction of Assam, to the Chief Commissioner of Assam where in he asserted that, "Schools in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills are at present suffering for want of curricula. Neither teachers nor Inspecting officers have any standards to go by and progress is discouraged. The Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley and Hill Districts, has prepared the curricula in consultation with the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Khasi and Jaintia Hills. They have been approved by the Deputy Commissioner and the Mission authorities concerned...it will not be possible to bring the curricula into general effect. Teachers are doubtfully qualified and books are wanting...I am at present considering action with a view to improving the existing system for the training of schoolmasters in the Hills." With this merger a new system evolved which involved discontinuance of the existing system of training men who did not have the necessary preliminary education, and instead efforts would be concentrated to train men who had passed the Middle school level. Candidates admitted to the school were selected by a Board duly appointed by the Government. Revision of the course of studies was accordingly taken up. The amalgamated school officially opened its new session on March 16, 1925 with a

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408 ibid, pl40
409 Proceedings of Education Department, July 1915
410 General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1924-1925
411 ibid
class of four pupils only. The fall in the enrolment was due to the late issuance of the sanction order. To motivate the pupils to take up teaching profession as their career besides rendering financial assistance to the pupils under training, the Government at the time of amalgamation sanctioned eight stipends of Rs.9/- each per month to the training school at Jaiaw for a period of three years.\textsuperscript{4,2} Like other training schools in the province, the revised syllabus of the Jaiaw Normal School too, seemed to be too academic with lesser regards towards the objective it was set up for. The Report on Public Instruction in Assam claimed that the training schools in the province, failed, to ascertain the problems faced by the village schoolmasters nor did they render solutions to overcome the problems. In many instances, the village schoolmasters failed to deliver to his pupils the lessons which he himself had acquired as a trainee.\textsuperscript{413} Though the Normal school at Jaiaw was yet to be placed on a firm footing, the results of the first batch of students was commendable to the progress of the school. All the five trainers of the first batch, admitted in 1925 passed the Mastership Final Examination in 1927; while seven of the eight trainees admitted in 1926 passed the same examination in 1928.\textsuperscript{4,4} As the stipends sanctioned in December, 1924 had expired, the then D.P.I. of Assam, J.R.Cunningham, in his letter to the Secretary, Government of Assam, had specifically mentioned that the eight stipends duly given to the pupils of Jaiaw Training School were renewed and the same would continue to be given by the Government.\textsuperscript{415}

The experiment appeared to have proved satisfactory. With regard to the success of the institution as a place of training, the Deputy Inspector of School, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, wrote, "I beg to say that the result so far is very encouraging. Despite poverty of materials, the present Superintendent, Mr.E.Chyne, has no doubt accomplished a good work in bringing it in organization and instruction up to a satisfactory level, as the records of the higher inspecting officers and the examination results show.\textsuperscript{412} Despite the

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{412} \textit{Proceedings of the Education Department, 1928}
\item \textsuperscript{4,3} \textit{General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1925-1926}
\item \textsuperscript{415} \textit{Proceedings of the Education Department, 1928, Letter No. 164 / IN-2-28 dated Shillong, 25 April 1928}
\item \textsuperscript{416} ibid
\end{itemize}
favourable report of the Deputy Inspector of School, because of financial stringency, the training classes at Tura and Jaiaw were suspended by the Government in 1932.\textsuperscript{417} But the need of qualified teachers caused the Government to reopen only the Jaiaw Normal School in 1934 with the expectation that there would be a rise in the number of trained teachers.\textsuperscript{41} Since then till Independence, the Jaiaw Normal School performed remarkably well in sending out trained teachers to teach in the primary schools within the district.

Another training school in Meghalaya worthy of a name is the Tura Training School, located in the Garo Hills District. From the very beginning when education was introduced in the Garo Hills, the American Baptist Missionaries felt the need of a school to train teachers and to qualify them for the task of teaching the illiterate and uneducated Garos. When Ramke had opened a school for the Garos at Damra in 1864, Dr. Bronson, the American Missionary in 1867 upgraded it to a training school for teachers and henceforth came to be known as Mission Normal School. For the next three years, that is till 1870, the training classes for the Garo teachers were held at Damra.\textsuperscript{419} Later due to the unsuitable climatic condition, training classes during summer were shifted to the Goalpara school and the, rest of the year would continue to be held at Damra. From 1870 to 1875, training classes were therefore, held partly at Damra and partly at Goalpara. Such a situation would not ensure a proper and an efficient training for the teachers and the pupils of the school. Thus in 1875, the training classes were transferred to Goalpara.

The American Baptist Missionaries through this Mission Normal School had made concentrated efforts to furnish trained and qualified school village teachers to ensure that basic education was properly imparted to the village school children. Mr. Mason, the American missionary, reported that there had been a decided improvement in the attendance at the Normal School during 1876. This was evident by the enrolment records which showed that there was an increase from 17 pupils in 1875 to 37 pupils in 1876. Also compared with the only one pupil-teacher who passed in 1875, the school

\textsuperscript{417} Quinquennial Review of Progress of Education in Assam. 1927-1932, p20; Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in India, 1937-1942, p78-79; Proceedings of the Education Department. December, 1932

\textsuperscript{418} General Report on Public Instruction in Assam. 1934-1935

\textsuperscript{419} M S Sangma, op cit., p 78
could boast of three pupil-teachers in 1876.\textsuperscript{420} Taking the improvement of this one year only, it was hoped that the Normal School could turn out a good number of trained teachers in the near future. The success of this Normal School was even noted by Colonel Keatinge, Chief Commissioner, exhibits the efficiency of the native Headmaster, Ramke Momin, who was the Headmaster of the school at Damra, Goalpara and even during the initial years at Tura.\textsuperscript{421}

Regardless of the success achieved by the Normal School at Goalpara, the Officials of the British Government impressed upon the American missionaries to shift and settle at Tura. Colonel Haughton wrote to Dr. Stoddard of the American Baptist Mission in Garo Hills, impressing upon him that Tura as the mission headquarter would be a much more ideal site than Goalpara.\textsuperscript{422} Dr. Bronson, Dr. Stoddard, a teacher and two pupils of the Damra school with three other Garo men visited Tura in 1871 and chose the present parade ground as the site to set up the Mission Bungalow and a school. The missionaries returned back to Goalpara leaving behind the Garo teacher and the two Garo pupils to start clearing the site so as to start a school there. Three years had passed and yet no missionary had come forward to take up the task. This therefore, made the LtGovernor, Sir William Grey, to question the Mission whether or not it had the ability to undertake the management of a Normal School at Tura, and the capability to train teachers and to open village schools in the interior places within Garo Hills. The Mission was asked to make known to the Government, how many teachers competent to instruct in Garo and Bengali would be available annually from the Goalpara Normal School. The Government at the same time made it known to the Mission that if the latter answered negatively or hesitantly, then the Government would seek the hand of other Christian missions to do the job.\textsuperscript{423} Pressurized by the Government, eventually in 1876 a small sum was appropriated towards the building at Tura and in March 1877, Revd. and Mrs. Phillips moved to Tura. For the transfer of the Mission, the Government sanctioned

\textsuperscript{420} Garo Hills Administration Report, 1875-1876
\textsuperscript{421} M S Sangma, op cit., p 78
\textsuperscript{422} ibid., p 34
\textsuperscript{423} ibid., p 36-37
sufficient funds for the transfer of the Normal School from Goalpara to Tura. Thus in 1878, the Goalpara Normal School of the Mission was transferred to Tura. And by 1878, Goalpara was given up as a station and Revd. and Mrs. M.C. Mason too moved to Tura permanently. 424

On the other hand, the Commissioner still had his own reservations regarding the transfer of the Normal School. He feared that the transfer might result in the Garos losing their trust and confidence in the Mission, which the latter had successfully built during the past years. Because the Government looked upon the transfer as a matter of great urgency, the Commissioner recommended that an Educational Officer be deputed to Tura to start a Normal School there immediately. 425 Since the time of its inception, the Normal School became the spring from which there was a continuous flow, though sometimes irregular, of trained pupils to take up the task as teachers in the village schools. The Tura Normal School, like all other schools, faced some difficulties during the initial years. Firstly, the missionaries had to motivate the boys to complete the course, so they could be assign jobs as schoolmasters. To lure the boys, the mission gave stipends and scholarships to lighten the financial burden of the parents and guardians. This strategy was a success as the financial assistance acted as an incentive for the pupils and was greatly favoured by the parents and guardians. Another difficulty faced by the Tura Normal School was dearth of qualified teachers to instruct the pupil-teachers. The mission had even brought Bengali Christian teachers from Bengal but they did not prove satisfactory. The situation somewhat improved with the arrival of C.E. Burdette in 1883 and the appointment of Revd. Thangkan Sangma as the Headmaster in 1885. Under the guidance of Revd. Sangma, the school could produce efficient indigenous teachers. Sadly, Revd. Sangma served the school for only two years, for his personal objective was to take up full-time evangelical works. In 1887, he was relieved from the post and in his place, Lai Mohan Smith was appointed as Headmaster. 426 He too left the school when he was offered a Government post which he accepted. For a time, Revd. Phillips took charge

424 EG Phillips, op cit.,
425 M S Sangma, op cit., p 37
426 2nd Triennial Conference, Assam Mission of the American Baptist Missionary Union, Dec 21-30, 1889
as an acting Headmaster assisted by Mrs. Phillips and Miss Bond in teaching. In 1890, a Bengali teacher was appointed as Headmaster but he too, served for only one year. The subsequent years till the end of the century, the office of the Headmaster of the Tura Normal School witnessed frequent changes of headship. After the Bengali teacher left, Miss Bond for two years had to teach and supervise instruction in the school. With the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Boggs, in 1892, Mr. Boggs accordingly took charge of the Normal School. He served as the headmaster of the school till 1896 when he was transferred to Goalpara. In 1897, again Revd. Phillips assumed charge till the arrival of Mr. Munger, who then assumed Headmastership of the school in 1898. This frequent change of Headship eventually caused the American Baptist Mission to close the Tura Normal School in 1901-1902.

Meantime, the demand for village school teachers had far exceeded the supply. The reason might have been the slow progress in supply of trained teachers by the Normal School. Another reason could have been lack of incentives in the teaching profession when compared with other Government jobs. Moreover, the pay of a school teacher was very meagre, its only Rs7/- or Rs.8/- a month. Also another reason, could be caused by the temporary closure of the school in 1901-02. This was evinced by the report of Mr. Mason which asserted that out of the twenty-nine pupils who left the school in 1902-1903 and 1903-1904 only fifteen took teaching as their profession, while the rest either pursued higher education or took up employment under the Government.

Seeing the need of more schoolmasters the Government of East Bengal and Assam sanctioned the establishment of a Garo school for training the Garo Primary School teachers. Thus, the Government started its own training school for teachers at

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427 3rd Triennial Conference, Assam Mission of the American Baptist Missionary Union, January 14-22, 1893
428 3rd Triennial Conference, Assam Mission of the American Baptist Missionary Union, January 14-22, 1893
429 11th Biennial Session, Assam, Baptist Missionary Conference of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, March 4-12, 1911
430 8th Session of the Assam Mission of the American Baptist Missionary Union, Dec., 24, 1904-Jan, 1905
431 ibid.
Tura to meet the requirements of the village schools. This newly established school came to be known as the Tura Training School. The need for qualified teachers, was also evinced by the monograph of Mr. Barrow when he reported that 'Garo teachers are in the main poorly qualified, and their schools have recently been subjected to, a good deal of criticisms... As with other missions, the village teachers are invariably Christians and are expected to devote a certain proportion of their time to religious work... Whatever be their qualifications, as leaders of the Christian community, many of these men in their secular capacity were distinctly inefficient.' The Tura Training School was expected to turn out an average of twelve teachers annually. However, the school was temporarily closed for a year, 1915 to 1916, to enable the newly appointed Bengali Headmaster to learn and acquaint himself with the Garo language. In June 1916, the school was reopened with twelve trainees on the roll, of whom eleven qualified the Mastership Certificate Examination. As reported in the subsequent quinquennium, the Tura Training School functioned mostly as a finishing school for those who had passed from the Mission Middle English School. Such pupils were given training as school teachers inorder to meet the increased demand for Garo teachers in the district. From this time onwards, the Education Department of the Government and the American Baptist Mission of Garo Hills laid great stress on the need to get their teachers trained in the Tura Training School. Almost every year, the Government deputed teachers from Government schools and the Mission would depute its own teachers from the Mission schools, to undergo training in this Tura Training School. From records available, it was seen that about 75% to 85% always came out successful at the Mastership Examinations. This training institution, therefore, was a blessing to the Garo Hills, because it served as the spring from which flows a stream of trained teachers till the mid-twentieth century.

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432 J R Barrow, op cit.,
433 Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam, 1912-13 to 1916-17, p101.
434 Report on the Administration of the Province of Assam, 1915-1916,
435 Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam, 1917-18 to 1921-22, p 98-99
Not only the primary schools required trained and qualified teachers, even the Middle English Schools and High schools need trained teachers to ensure quality education at this level. The first institute to start a teacher training college for secondary school teachers was St. Edmunds College. The St. Edmunds College had existed as a secondary school since 1916. Twenty years later, on July 1, 1936, the Department of Bachelor of Teaching, commonly called B.T., was opened in a splendid set of the newly constructed building. This Department imparted training to Secondary school teachers and also to Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of schools.\textsuperscript{436} The B.T. Department of this college was affiliated to the University of Calcutta, an affiliation granted from the first session 1935-1936 itself.\textsuperscript{437} The Irish Brothers of StEdmunds College started the B.T. classes because they saw that the schools of the time were staffed with unqualified, untrained and underpaid teachers. This was a very serious matter and it was expected that the Government and the Members of the Legislature should give due attention to the problems and to find solutions to the same. The province was fortunate to have the Irish Christian Brothers train the school teachers, as the Brothers had earned a world-wide reputation as great educationists of the period. School teachers admitted to the B.T. Classes of the college, were therefore, fortunate to be trained by such efficient instructors.\textsuperscript{438} The efficient and dedication of the Brothers can be seen in the result of the first batch of trainees. It is gratifying to note that, though the teachers, were not previously acquainted with the course of the Calcutta University, the Brothers did a commendable job, for, their students performed exceedingly well. Of the thirty two who appeared, twenty four qualified of whom six secured a First Class Degree. The excellent result of 1935-1936 batch, attracted a number of students and the enrolment rose to sixty in 1936-1937.\textsuperscript{439} Of these sixty on the roll, fifty seven appeared the Final Examination and

\textsuperscript{436} General Report on Public Instruction in Assam, 1935-1936
\textsuperscript{437} Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam During 1932-1937, p51
\textsuperscript{438} ibid,
\textsuperscript{439} Report on the Administration of Assam, 1937-1938; Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam During 1932-1937, p51
forty of them passed.\textsuperscript{440} A superb work performed by the "Irish Brothers acted as a motivation to other colleges to start B.T.Classes of their own.

Because St. Edmunds College is a boy's college, there was a need to open B.T.Classes for girls and lady teachers. This does not mean that the latter were deprived of educational training, for they were admitted to the B.T.Classes of StEdmunds. But only a few could be accommodated. It was St. Marys'College of Shillong who came forward to provide the needed B.T.Classes for lady teachers by opening the B.T.Department in 1937. In the same year, the Department was granted affiliation to the Calcutta University.\textsuperscript{44} Compared with St. Edmunds, the B.T.Department of St. Marys' College had a very low number of teachers undergoing training. St Marys' presented its first batch to the Final Examination in 1938. Of the eight girls who sat for the Final B.T. Examination, six of them passed with three securing First Class. Despite the excellent performance of the first batch, yet in totality, only twenty six girls passed the B.T.Examinations between 1938 and 1941.\textsuperscript{442} The reason for the lesser enrolment might be due to the fact that there were lesser number of lady teachers in the Middle English Schools and the High Schools; or it might be because of the excellent performance of St. Edmunds College, that even lady teachers wanted to be trained at the latter rather than at St. Marys' College. Whatever be the quantity, St. Marys' Training and Arts College had performed an exemplary work in imparting training to school teachers and this is continued till the nineteen seventies.

Till the 1960's there was no move to start a college intended purely for training school teachers. The idea to start a teachers' training college was mooted by some concerned citizens of Shillong at a public meeting held on 12yh July 1963 in the Library Hall of St. Edmunds College. At the meeting Shri K C Paul Choudhury, the Ex-Vice- Chairman of Shillong Municipal Board and a practicing advocate, moved a resolution to start a teachers' training college as soon as possible. The resolution was seconded by Smti N Majumdar, Headmistress of Army Children School, Shillong. The

\textsuperscript{440} Report on the Administration of Assam, 1937-1938
\textsuperscript{441} Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam During, 1937-1942, p65
\textsuperscript{442} General Report on Public Instruction in Assam. 1937-1938
resolution reads, "Be it resolved that the teachers' training classes be opened in Shillong from this session, that the Government be moved for financial and other assistance, and the University of Gauhati be requested to grant recognition to these classes and permit their students to take the relevant examinations. To carry out this scheme, a committee be formed now." Accordingly, by this resolution the Post Graduate Teachers' Training College was established, intended purely for training secondary school teachers. The meeting appointed a committee to work out the details for establishment of the college. The committee was entrusted with the authority for management of the institute. The Committee comprising often members was headed by Shri M Sultan as the President and Shri B P Datta as the Secretary.

Without wasting time, Shri B P Datta in his capacity as the secretary officially informed the selected teaching faculty via Letter No.PGC-7 / STF-12-21 ?63-64 dated 9\textsuperscript{th} August 1963, about their appointment on honorary basis. The teaching faculty was headed by Shri S C Majumdar as the Principal, and Shri R Bhattacharji, Shri S N Paul, Shri N G Goswami, Shri O Rowie, Smti M Ghosh, Smti B Lais, Rev M D Curran and Rev T Phillips. The letter shows that the initial classes were held in the evening from 5 PM to 8 PM in the building of Jail Road Boys High School. Meantime, a site at Laitumkhrah had been chosen as its permanent campus. The location of the college is quiet and serene, thereby having a calming effect on the trainees and the staff alike. The Post Graduate Teachers' Training College was initially affiliated to the Gauhati University and then to the North Eastern Hill University when it was created in 1973. During the period under study, this was the only college which was set up purely for training the school teachers.

Besides the presence of the aforementioned training institutions for school teachers, the Government of Free India in 1948 wanted to include and adopt the Gandhian concept of education. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, viewed that education should not be limited to the mere teaching of the Basic Three R's, but should

\*\* Copy of the Resolution received from Shri B P Dutta.
\*\*\* Post Graduate Teachers' Training College. Letter No. PGC- 7 / STF-12-21 / 63-64. dt.9\* August 1% 3.
include the Education of the four H's too- Health, Hand, Head and Heart. This type of education imparted to the schoolgoing children came to be known as Basic Education.\textsuperscript{445} According to Gandhi, Basic Education combines in it, both the mental and physical education or in other words, it's a combination of intellectual and manual labour.\textsuperscript{446} Gandhi observed that the Government of British India had undoubtedly tried to impart the basic three R's to the school going Indian children but had neglected socio-economic and ethical education. To rectify and fill this need, Gandhi advocated that Basic Education should be adopted and promoted throughout the country. This form of education would be imparted through the Basic Schools set up by the Government. The Basic Schools were expected to introduce certain basic principles and activities leading to healthy living and better knowledge of the environment, social and citizen training, enhancement of simple crafts and handiworks and acquaintance with some of the modern and scientific methods in cultivation. At the Basic Schools; the children were taught self-reliance, responsibility and dignity of labour. They were also trained in art and craft to tap their talents and creative potentialities. Should this form of education be adopted seriously and on a massive scale, it would have removed the national malady of mass unemployment and low standard of living.\textsuperscript{447}

Here in our state, the credit for establishment of the first Basic School went to Miss Margaret Barr, an exponent of Gandhian concept of Education. According to Miss Barr, the Khasis had honed their artistic skill in various arts and crafts, but lack of marketing facilities had caused a stunted growth of their production. To make education an economic viability, Miss Barr started the first Basic School in 1948 in the premises of the Mission Compound at Malki in Shillong.\textsuperscript{448} The Basic School did not confine its teaching only to school children. The school also imparted training to the teachers of the Junior and Senior Basic Schools in the district. It is worthwhile to mention that, in this

\textsuperscript{445} E W Dkhar, \textit{Primary Education in Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Its Socio-Cultural Roots and Early History}, p 87

\textsuperscript{446} S Nurullah & J P Naik, \textit{A Students' History of Education in India}, p 336-337

\textsuperscript{447} S Nurullah, & J P Naik, \textit{op cit.}, pp 398-399

\textsuperscript{448} E W Dkhar. \textit{op cit.}, p 88
Basic school, the children were taught not only elementary education, but simultaneously their hidden talents were tapped and their creative potentialities were brought to the forefront.

As agriculture was the main source of livelihood of the people, Miss Ban took a keen interest to help in the improvement of the methods of cultivation, thereby increasing production. Her dedication and hard work, certainly was rewarded. This Basic School at Malki achieved tremendous success and till the late nineteen seventies, the school was considered and looked upon as the headquarter of all the Senior and Junior Basic schools within the district.

Taking heart from Miss Ban’s success, with the co-operation of the local residents, the Government set up the Mawlai-Nongkwar Junior and Senior Basic School in 1950. Though this Basic School faced some financial stringency during the first years of its existence, yet through dedication and hardwork, the school in the 1970’s had finally reached the level of a Proceeding High School. Again, in 1950, another Basic School was set up at Nongpoh called Saiden Junior Basic School. Viewing the Basic Education as the need of the time, the state Government in line with the Central Government’s educational policy, had opened Basic Schools in different villages of the State to ensure quality and productive form of education reached the people.

Despite the fact, that, objectives of Basic education was more wider than the formal education prevalent in the schools, sadly, instructors at the Basic Schools fell short of expectations. By the 1960’s and 1970’s, it was found that these Basic schools had moved away from the goals they set up. Arts and handicrafts were no more stressed upon, instead, the Basic schools had started to adopt similar curriculum of the formal schools. The aims and objectives propounded by Miss Barr in our State were given a deathblow with the handing over of the Basic Schools to the District Councils. The failure of the latter to maintain and sustain these Basic schools in its original set up, eventually led the authorities to replace Basic Education with formal education altogether. By late 1970’s these Basic Schools were no more different from elementary education.

*ibid., p 88*
fact that they were continued to be used as training centres for both Lower and Upper Primary certain extent to Middle English School teachers as well.