

## Development of Secondary Education in Sixth Scheduled Areas of Assam with special reference to Karbi Anglong District

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### ABSTRACT

Karbi Anglong is one of the two hill districts of Assam inhabiting by various tribal people like Karbi, Bodo, Dimasa, Kuki, Hmar etc and also non-tribals like Assamese, Nepali, Adivasi, Bengali and other Hindi speaking people. It is an autonomous district under the Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution. The investigator intended to study the development of secondary education in the district since its inception. The explored information says that prior to Independence secondary education was at a very glooming situation in Karbi Anglong. After Independence, some initiatives have been taken by both the state government and the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) for the expansion and development of secondary education in the district. A number of secondary schools were established in the district. Presently, Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA), a centrally sponsored educational scheme has been trying to develop secondary education in Karbi Anglong. The investigator adopted survey and documentary analysis method to collect data and information for the present study.

**Key words:** Secondary education, KAAC, Sixth Scheduled area, Development, RMSA.

### Introduction:

The present educational system of India has been divided into three stages i.e. Elementary, Secondary and Higher. Elementary education provides education from class I- class VIII, secondary education from class IX-XII and higher education provides degree and university education. The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 laid down the new educational structure i.e. 10+2+3 where the first stage is 10 years including two stages of +4 and +6 years. The first part i.e., +4 years is for primary education and the next part i.e., +6 years for secondary education. The second stage in the educational structure is for higher secondary education of 2 years and the third stage is for three years degree course. In 1948 the Radhakrishnan Commission pointed out, "Our secondary education remains the weakest link in our

educational machinery and needs urgent reform". This led to the set up of Mudaliar Commission in 1952 for proper assessment of secondary education. The Indian Education Commission (Kothari Commission) of 1964-65 made some valuable contributions for the development of secondary education. According to the National Policy on Education, 1986 (New Education Policy), Navodaya Vidyalayas are established in each district head quarter to give opportunities of free education to rural meritorious students.

Karbi Anglong is one of the two hill districts of Assam. The district has received the provision of the Sixth Schedule as per provision of Indian Constitution and accordingly in 1952 Karbi Anglong has achieved autonomous district status. As such, the development and administration of the district has been transferred to the Karbi

Anglong District Council (presently Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC)). Development of education has been an important subject for the KAAC.

### **Objectives of the Study:**

The present study has been addressed with the following objectives:

1. To study the development of secondary education in Karbi Anglong.
2. To highlight the role of Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA) in the development of secondary education in Karbi Anglong.
3. To find out the barriers in the progress of secondary education in Karbi Anglong.
4. To provide suggestions for the development of secondary education in Karbi Anglong.

### **Delimitation of the Study:**

The present study has been delimited to the government, provincialized and recognized high and higher secondary schools of Karbi Anglong district.

### **Methodology:**

The investigator adopted survey and documentary analysis method for the present study. The investigator used survey method for collecting information from various high and higher secondary schools. She also went through various documents for gathering relevant information.

### **Sample:**

The investigator selected 20% high and higher secondary schools of Karbi Anglong. She followed stratified random

sampling procedure while selecting the sample schools. Sampling was done on the basis of two strata i.e. urban and rural.

### **Tool:**

The investigator used a self structured questionnaire for collecting information from various schools. The questionnaire consisted of 12 different questions relating to the objectives of the study.

### **Data Collection:**

The investigator visited the office of KAAC, RMSA, Inspector of Schools and different high and higher secondary schools in Karbi Anglong as a primary source. She went through various reports, journals, books etc. as secondary source for relevant information.

### **Analysis and Findings:**

The development of secondary education began in India since the arrival of the British. Before Independence, proper recognition on secondary education was given by the Hunter Commission, 1882. Before 1947, the number of secondary school was 12,693 and the students enrolled from class VI to XI were 29,53,995. During 1947, only 315 or 8.6% of total higher secondary school were government. In these schools, the number of students in the age group 14-17 years was only 15,71,541 and the expenditure on secondary education was merely 8.9 crores. There were only 54.9% trained teachers in the country (Mathur, 2008).

**Table 1:No. and Type of institution providing Secondary and Higher Secondary Education in Assam during 2010-11:**

Sl.No.	Type of Institution providing Secondary and Higher Secondary Education	No.of Institution
1	Secondary School	4649
2	Higher secondary School	748
3	Junior College	200
4	Degree College with +2 level	155
5	PG college with +2 and +3 level	04
	Total=	5756

(Source: SEMIS DATA 2010-11)

The above table (Table 1) shows that there are total 5756 institutions in Assam that provide secondary and higher secondary education. Out of it 4649 are secondary

schools, 748 are higher secondary schools, 200 are junior colleges, 155 are degree colleges with +2 level and 04 are PG colleges with +2 and +3 level.

#### **Development of Secondary Education in Karbi Anglong:**

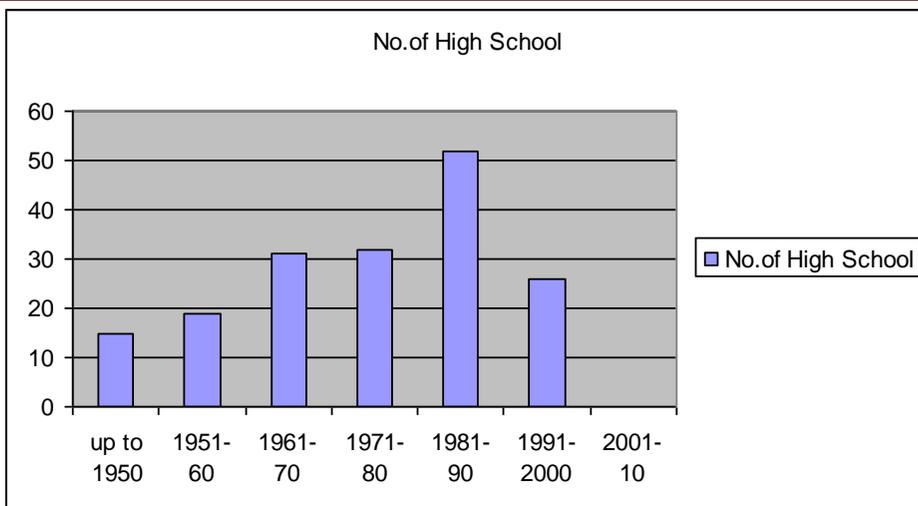
Before Independence, secondary education was at a very daunting situation in Karbi Anglong. Both central and state governments had not taken any proper step for the educational development of this hill district. Prior to Independence there were only 11 high schools in the district. Being a tribal dominated area the district has gained the power of autonomous as per the Indian

Constitution. As such, the Karbi Anglong District Council was formed in 1952 and since then it has started different developmental activities including education in the district. Secondary education has also been developed rapidly after formation of the Autonomous Council. The decade wise progress of high school in Karbi Anglong can be seen in the following table (Table 2).

**Table 2: Decade wise number of High School from 1950-2010 in Karbi Anglong:**

Sl. No.	Year	No. of High School
1	Up to1950	15
2	1951-1960	19
3	1961-1970	31
4	1971-1980	36
5	1981-1990	52
6	1991-2000	26
7	2001-2010	00
Total		175

(Source: DISE, SSA, Karbi Anglong)



**Fig 1:** Bar Diagram representing decade wise number of High School from 1950-2010.

From the above table (Table 2) and figure (Fig 1) it is seen that during 1950 there were only 15 high schools in Karbi Anglong. The decade from 1981-90 was very remarkable because during that period highest number of high school was established in the district i.e. 52. The table also showed that after 2000 no high school was established in the district. During 2010-11, the total number of high school became 175 out of which 01 government, 77 provincialised and 97 recognized.

**Table 3: Caste and Gender wise Students’ Enrolment in Govt. and all High Schools (Class IX and X) in Karbi Anglong during 2010-11:**

Type of School	SC		ST		OBC		Others		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Govt.	654	649	2975	2790	1563	1461	590	588	11270
All Schools	1399	1393	6956	6504	3099	2907	1393	1192	24843

(Source: SEMIS, 2010-11)

The above table (Table 3) shows that in government high schools the total enrolment was 11270 including children from different categories and the total enrolment including both Govt. and private high schools were 24843 during 2010-11.

**Table 4: Students’ Enrolment in different High Schools (Class IX and X) in Karbi Anglong:**

Year	Class IX			Class X		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
2013-14	9818	9600	19418	7638	7426	15064
2014-15	9866	9771	19637	7974	7953	15927
2015-16	9525	9689	19214	7959	7835	15794

(Source: MIS, SSA, Karbi Anglong)

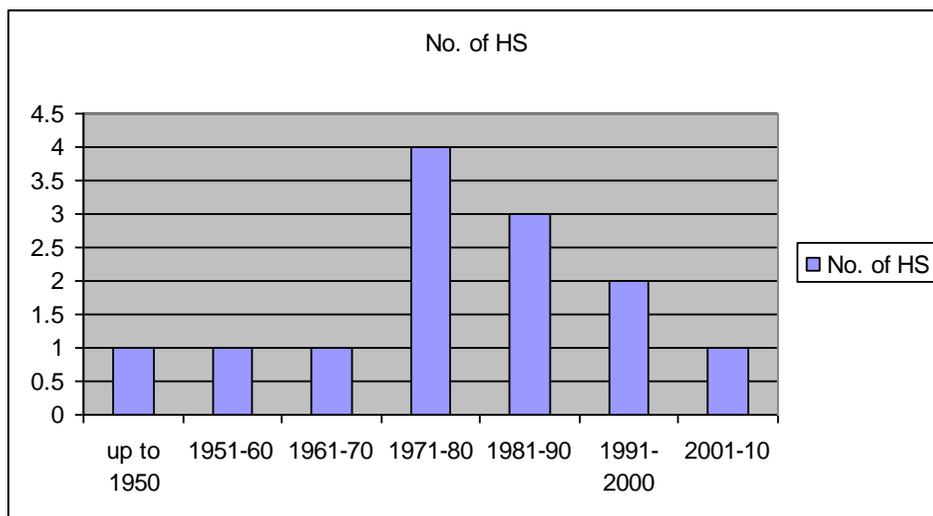
The above table (Table 4) shows the secondary students enrolment data of three years in Karbi Anglong. During 2013-14, the total enrolment was 19418 in class IX and 15064 in class X. During 2014-15, the total enrolment was 19637 in class IX and 15927 in class X. During 2015-16, the total enrolment was 19214 in class IX and 15794 in class X.

Higher secondary school includes classes XI and XII. There are 13 higher secondary schools in Karbi Anglong out of which 2 government, 9 provincialised and 2 recognized by the council. The following table (Table 5) and figure (Fig 2) shows the decade wise number of higher secondary school in Karbi Anglong district from 1950-2010.

**Table 5: Decade wise number of Higher Secondary School from 1950-2010 in Karbi Anglong:**

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Higher Secondary School
1	Up to 1950	01
2	1951-60	01
3	1961-70	01
4	1971-80	04
5	1981-90	03
6	1991-2000	02
7	2001-10	01
Total		13

(Source: DISE, SSA, Karbi Anglong)



**Fig 2:** Bar Diagram representing decade wise number of Higher Secondary School during 1950-2010.

The above table (Table 5) and figure (Fig 2) revealed that up to 1950 there was only one higher secondary school in Karbi Anglong. During 1971-80, highest number of higher

secondary school was established in Karbi Anglong i.e., 4 nos. The table also revealed that after 2010 no higher secondary school was established in Karbi Anglong.

**Table 6: Students’ Enrolment in different Higher Secondary Schools (Class XI and XII) in Karbi Anglong:**

Year	Class XI			Class XII		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
2013-14	3805	3034	6839	3339	2778	6117
2014-15	3809	3367	7176	3479	2988	6467
2015-16	3492	2842	6334	2782	2371	5153

(Source: MIS, SSA, Karbi Anglong)

The above table (Table 6) shows the higher secondary students enrolment data of three years in Karbi Anglong. During 2013-14, the total enrolment was 6839 in class XI and 6117 in class XII. During 2014-15, the total enrolment was 7176 in class XI and 6467 in class XII. During 2015-16, the total enrolment was 6334 in class XI and 5153 in class XII.

**Role of Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA) in the development of secondary education in Karbi Anglong:**

Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is a centrally sponsored educational scheme for the development of secondary education in the country. RMSA as a pre-project activity in Karbi Anglong district has been started since the year 2008. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan, Assam on 23/05/2012, for the smooth implementation of RMSA activities in the district, since then it has been implemented under the Inspector of School who acts as the District Programme Coordinator.

**Major Activities conducted by RMSA in Karbi Anglong since 2012-13:**

1.Under Civil Works Department, RMSA has done the following major activities: *i) Construction of 9 Model Schools in nine different blocks in Karbi Anglong to bridge the gap in quality education.ii) Construction of 9 Girls Hostels for Girls Students from nine Educationally Backward (E.B.) Blocks. iii) The civil works construction in 46 Govt./Provincialized high and higher secondary schools. iv) For strengthening of*

existing Govt./Provincialised high and higher secondary schools, civil work intervention such as construction of additional classrooms, science laboratory, computer laboratory, library, toilet block, drinking water facilities in 46 nos. of Govt./Provincialised high and higher secondary schools were provided during 2015. Toilets for boys and girls under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan were provided to 49 schools.

*2.District level Science Exhibition:* A two days long District level science exhibition ‘Bigyan Jeuti’ programme under RMSA has been conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of August, 2012 at Diphu club to explore the creative and innovative ideas of the students and to provide them scope for the development in the field of science.

*3.Book Fair:* A three days book fair ‘Granthor Surabhi’ programme under RMSA was also organized from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 at Diphu club, to develop a culture of reading habit among school going students and promote life-long learning and intellectual development.

4. *Excursion Trip*: Excursion trip for class IX students 'Gyan Yatra' of AWP&B 2011-12 under RMSA was organized by different schools within the district from the month of February 2013 for providing scope to the students to gather practical experience.

During 2012-13, the trip was organized by the District Mission Office from 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013 covering students from different government/provincialized high and higher secondary schools of Karbi Anglong.

5. *Training of School Management and Development Committee (SMDC) member*: A two days long training programme for members of School Management and Development Committee (SMDC) was initiated from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013, at 11 different venues in the district for active participation of SMDC members in concerned activities related to RMSA.

6. *Monthly Journal (Gyan Sagar)*: Fund has been allocated to different schools for publication of monthly journal for development of student's creativity.

7. *In-Service Teachers' Training Programme*: RMSA has organized 2 days programme on in-service teachers' training on Basic English for teachers other than English and 3 days programme on teachers training on social science for social science teachers has been organized at different venues in the district from 89 government/provincialized schools.

8. *School Grant*: Annual school grant and minor repairing grants have been provided to all the 89 Govt./provincialized high and higher secondary schools.

9. *Online School Monitoring Mechanism*: Online School Monitoring Mechanism for taking teacher's attendance on daily basis has been introduced for secondary schools

through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS).

10. *School Inspection by Eminent Persons "Dristi"*: In order to provide positive suggestions for improving school environment a Quality Assurance Group (QAG) consisting of three eminent persons was constituted. For effective academic monitoring and systematize the school inspection by QAG of 89 Govt./Provincialized high and higher secondary schools is going on.

### **Barriers in the progress of secondary education in Karbi Anglong:**

There are several problems in the progress of secondary education in Karbi Anglong. Though the literacy rate in the district is quite good, but the difference is very clear between the urban and rural areas. Many of its villages are still lagging behind in every sphere. Since it is a hill district, so it is very difficult to open up new schools in remote hilly areas where population is very less. Moreover it is also difficult to go to the adjacent villages to attend schools due to communication problem because some villages are segregated from each other by hilly river, dense forest, hills etc. It is also observed from the study that the local government has been facing various problems created by different insurgent groups in Karbi Anglong. Their demands for ransom and different anti-social activities have affected KAAC in materializing their policies. The frequent Bandhs called by these insurgent groups decrease the number of working days in educational institutions in Karbi Anglong. It slows down the developmental process. Both the central and state government provide the necessary grants to KAAC but still the council often faces financial hardship. Sometimes the governments cannot release the fund on time

and then the council has to face financial crisis. Sometimes their expenditure becomes more than the budget estimation. Moreover, some common problems like irregular teachers, irregular students, quality of teaching, medium problem, poverty and illiteracy among people etc. raise various problems for the development of secondary education in Karbi Anglong.

### **Suggestions for the development of secondary education in Karbi Anglong:**

Conclusions drawn from the present study showed that there are certain problems and issues connected with secondary education in Karbi Anglong that are to be solved for further development. Being the local government, KAAC should try to open up new educational institutions in rural areas. Communication problems should be solved. Insurgency problem is affecting the whole district in its progress; hence the local government should take serious initiative for channelizing these people in a positive way. Introducing vocational courses like sewing, knitting, weaving, fishery, agriculture, computer etc in the high schools would help students for their self employment. In every higher secondary school importance should be given on Science and Commerce. KAAC should seriously think over it and provide fund for the developmental programme. State government should also assist the local government for the educational development in the district.

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**Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn't matter to me. Going to bed at night saying we've done something wonderful, that's what matters to me.**

~ Steve Jobs