

CHAPTER VII.

EDUCATION.

PROGRESS OF EDUCATION.

The progress of education in the district of Muzaffarpur from 1875 to 1957 is shown in the table given below :—

Year.		Number of schools.	Number of pupils.
1875-76	... ..	314	7,027
1885-86	... ..	1,787	20,726
1895-96	... ..	1,796	28,167
1905-06	... ..	1,463	38,248
1916-17	... ..	1,520	45,651
1926-27	... ..	2,223	73,205
1936-37	... ..	1,901	73,014
1941-42	... ..	1,996	90,523
1946-47	... ..	1,711	96,839
1951-52	... ..	2,118	1,34,422
1956-57	... ..	2,571	2,11,599

The schools included in the table above are of various types, i.e., primary, middle, high schools, basic schools and special schools.

The phenomenal rise both in the number of schools and in the number of pupils in the decade 1875 to 1885 is due to the educational policy of Government based on the report of the Indian Education Commission, 1882, popularly known as Hunter • Commission. The Commission had advocated for a liberal system of grants-in-aid in some places operating on payment by results, and had encouraged the private bodies to participate in the task of education. The Commission had also advocated for Indianisation of the upper staff in the organization which meant decrease in cost of education.

The figures in the table quoted above show that during the decade of 1895 to 1905 and subsequently during the quinquennium from 1941 to 1946 the number of schools had diminished from 1,796 to 1,463 and 1,996 to 1,711, respectively. Yet the number of pupils in the said periods rose by 10,081 and 6,272 respectively. It appears that this was due to the disappearance of smaller and inefficient institutions under the pressure of competition. In the quinquennium from 1941 to 1946 the decrease was mainly in the number of primary schools. In 1941—52 there were 1,635 primary schools as compared to 1,937 in 1946-47.

This decrease was mainly due to the abolition of some inefficient schools as well as to the amalgamation of upper primary schools with middle schools and lower primary schools with upper primary schools.

In the quinquennium from 1947 to 1952 there is a rise in both the number of schools as well as in the number of pupils. The rise is due to the fact that education up to class V has been made free from June, 1949 and therefore such children that were unable to go to schools due to economic reasons and on account of fees could now attend schools.

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

The schools in Muzaffarpur are directly under the Divisional Inspector of Schools with headquarters at Muzaffarpur. He is responsible for the efficient inspection of all educational institutions for general education of school status. He is assisted by a District Inspector of Schools and a Special Inspecting Officer for the Education of Depressed Classes. The Special Inspecting Officer for Muhammadan Education and a Special Inspecting Officer for the Education of Depressed Classes are in charge of the schools in Patna Division as well. During 1949-50 some of the work of Basic Education Board like active control and administration, has been delegated to the general Inspectorate. Since then, a Superintendent of Basic and Social Education is also attached to the Inspectorate of each Division.

The District Inspector of Schools is subordinate to the Divisional Inspector of Schools and acts as the Educational Adviser to the District Board and Municipal authorities in all educational matters. For girls' schools other than high schools for girls there is a District Inspectress of Schools at Muzaffarpur who is subordinate to the Inspectress of Schools for Bihar whose headquarters is at Patna. Each subdivision is in charge of a Deputy Inspector of Schools. He is immediately responsible to the District Inspector and acts as the Educational Adviser to the Local Board in his subdivision. The subdivision is again divided into several circles and each circle is in charge of a Sub-Inspector of Schools in the Lower Division of Subordinate Educational Service. The organisation is placed ultimately under the Director of Public Instruction for Bihar with headquarters at Patna.

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION.

The last District Gazetteer of Muzaffarpur, published in 1907, mentions only one college in the district. There are now six colleges in the district four of which are situated at Muzaffarpur. The oldest college is Langat Singh College in Muzaffarpur which was established in the year 1899 and was first known as Bhumihar Brahman College.

As there was no provision for higher education in North Bihar up to the year 1899, those students who wished to join a college were

obliged to go either to Patna, to Bhagalpur or to Calcutta. The rapid spread of education in this part of the State led the Bhumihar Brahman Sabha to hold a meeting in March, 1899, at which it was decided to establish a college at Muzaffarpur. The college was actually opened on the 3rd July, 1899. It was affiliated at first up to the I.A. standard and raised in 1900 to the standard of a degree college.

From the outset, the college was fortunate in enlisting the sympathy and support of a number of public-spirited gentlemen of the Tirhut Division, who submitted to the Calcutta University Syndicate a registered trust deed for Rs. 50,000 executed by Choudhury Mahant Raghunath Dass, Zamindar of Jaintpur, Rai Parmeshwari Narain Mahata Bahadur, Banker, Babu Jageshwar Pd. Singh, Pleader and Sri Langat Singh, Zamindar, for the maintenance of the college. But practically, from the beginning it was Sri Langat Singh, one of the signatories of the trust deed, who had to bear the heavy burden of maintaining the college. From 1899, till 1909, it may fairly be said that Sri Langat Singh exclusively carried this burden. We find from the Inspector's report in 1908, that he subscribed annually Rs. 5,000 towards the maintenance of the college.

In 1907, a representative committee under the guidance of Mr. H. C. Woodman, District Magistrate, took over the management of the college, and great efforts were made to place it on a permanent basis. A number of prominent leaders came forward to help the institution. Among those who made substantial contribution in aid of the college, were the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga and Rani Visheshwari Kuer of Narhan. From April, 1910, the Rani contributed Rs. 125 per month, which was later raised to Rs. 500 for some time, besides making a grant of Rs. 3,000 towards the permanent endowment fund. From June, 1910, the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga contributed Rs. 500 per month for a number of years towards the current expenses of the college. The college was also helped considerably by the Bettiah Court of Wards. Along with a new trust fund, a Board of Trustees consisting of 25 members with Mr. R. T. Greer, C.I.E., I.C.S., Commissioner Tirhut Division as Chairman was formed. It was fortunate that the college got about this time a patron in His Highness Sir Prabhu Narain Singh, G.C.S.I., Maharaja of Benaras who made a liberal donation of Rs. 50,000 in aid of the college funds.

The one great difficulty facing the college authorities was the want of a suitable building. The Bhumihar Brahman Conference in 1910 started collecting money for this purpose, and on 20th January, 1910, the foundation stone of the present building was laid by the Maharaja of Benaras. But, as the plans were not ready, the actual erection of the college building had to be postponed. By 1915 more land was purchased and the Patna University Committee drew up a detailed scheme for the development of the college. In 1915, the Government

offered to take it over, and to develop it on condition that its finances and its management were transferred to them. The college was actually taken over by the Government on the 1st July, 1915, and the name Bhumihar Brahman College was changed into Greer Bhumihar Brahman College. The name was subsequently changed into Langat Singh College in 1951. In July, 1918, the construction of the new college building was taken up, and the buildings were opened by Sir Henry Wheeler on the 26th July, 1922. Two hostels called Langat Hostel and Duke Hostel were added to the college building. New laboratories were also erected, and by 1930 the construction of the new buildings in accordance with the scheme of the Patna University was completed. The college thus came to possess good laboratories, a library and extensive playgrounds.

During 1951-52 a number of extension schemes with respect to construction of buildings were taken in hand and they have been completed. These buildings include a spacious Arts Block, Psychological Laboratory, Biological Laboratory, extension of Science buildings and the construction of a third hostel in the college compound for accommodating 125 students, with two sets of quarters, one for its Superintendents and the other for its Assistant Superintendents. For improvement of water supply in the college 2 tube-wells have been sunk and a large water tower in the north-east corner of the college compound has been constructed.

The college is affiliated in almost all subjects in I.A., I.Sc., B.A., and B.Sc. There is provision for Honours teaching in (1) English, (2) History, (3) Sanskrit, (4) Persian, (5) Economics, (6) Hindi, (7) Mathematics, (8) Philosophy, (9) Experimental Psychology, (10) Urdu, (11) Physics, (12) Chemistry and M.A. teaching in English, Economics, History, Hindi, Mathematics, Philosophy and Sanskrit. Physics and Chemistry are taught up to M.Sc. standard. There are about 2,000 students in the college.

Darshan Das Mahila College, the only women's college in the district so far, was started in 1946 out of a handsome donation of one lakh of rupees by Mahanth Darshan Das of Maniari. In 1946-47 the college had only 15 students but in 1951-52 the number rose to 73. In 1954-55 the number had gone up beyond 75. In 1948-49 it had become a first grade college. The college has got a good location and hostels. The present (1957) number of students is near 200. Science classes have been added in 1957. The College has pioneered College education for girls in North Bihar.

In the quinquennium from 1947 to 1952 the following colleges were started :—Ram Dayalu Singh College, and Shrikrishna Jubilee Law College at Muzaffarpur, Raj Narain College at Hajipur and Goenka College at Sitamarhi. Ram Dayalu Singh College was established in 1948 in Muzaffarpur and is now a degree college. The colleges at Hajipur and Sitamarhi are affiliated up to B.A. standard of the Bihar University

while the Shrikrishna Jubilee Law College at Muzaffarpur prepares students for B. L. examination of the Bihar University. In 1951-52 Ram Dayalu Singh College had a strength of about 1,000 students. The present (1957) strength of students is 1,869. The Goenka College at Sitamarhi has at the moment on the roll about 500 students while the number of students in Raj Nargain College is 300. All these colleges are Government-aided while the Llangat Singh College at Muzaffarpur is now a constituent college of the Bihar University.

Apart from these colleges which prepare students for a degree in Science or Arts, there are two special colleges namely :—(1) the Basic Training College at Turki and (2) the Sanskrit College at Muzaffarpur. The Basic Training College formerly known as the Sarvodaya Mahavidyalaya was established in February, 1951 by the Government of Bihar. This is a pioneer institution in the State for promotion of higher studies in the rural environments. The institution imparts training in subjects such as Methodology of Social Sciences, Agriculture, Methodology of Languages, Rural Engineering and Technology, Nursery and Kindergarten and Crafts. The aim is that on completion of their studies the students will spread out either as teachers in basic institutions or as village welfare workers or teachers for social education or rural technicians. The expenditure on this institution is borne entirely by the Government. The direct expenditure apart from building, furniture, etc., for the year 1951-52 was Rs. 47,641. The number of students in the same year was 70. The present (1957) strength of students is over 100.

There is a Training College for teachers now located at Turki very close to the Basic Training College. This is a residential institution and gives the necessary training to the teachers and prepares them for university degree. The college is known as Janata College.

Tirhut was well noted for Sanskrit learning. As a part of the old Tirhut, Muzaffarpur district was also a great patron of Sanskrit and oriental culture. There used to be quite a number of well maintained *tols* in the district where the students would stay with their *gurus*, do household work and be given Sanskrit education without any fees. The *gurus* had dedicated themselves to the propagation of Sanskrit learning. The *gurus* on their turn used to be maintained by the zamindars and other philanthropic persons or institutions. A number of such Sanskrit *tols* in Sitamarhi and Hajipur subdivisions used to attract students from beyond the district. With the impact of the English schools and a general craze for receiving English education, there has been a decline in the Sanskrit *tols* many of which have faded out.

It must be said to the credit of the early British administrators that as early as in 1811, there was a move for starting a Hindu college at Tirhut for imparting Sanskrit education. From Original Consultation, dated the 27th August, no. 14, 1811 preserved in Historical Records Room of West Bengal Secretariat in Calcutta, it appears that on the

23rd August, 1811, a letter was sent to the Committee for starting a Hindu college at Tirhut. In this letter, the attention of the Committee for superintending a Hindu college at Tirhut, was drawn to the establishment of the Hindu college in Nudiya and suggested that the plan was to be put into effect in strict conformity with the suggestions and observations contained in that minute. The later correspondence shows that the Senior Judge of the Court of Appeal at Patna had suggested that the Sanskrit college should be established at Bour near Bowrrah instead of at Muzaffarpur. The opinion was held that the Sanskrit college should not be founded at a distance from Muzaffarpur. In Revenue Department old correspondence, Volume 537, proceedings, G. G. in Council dated 6th to 27th August, 1811 (preserved in Historical Records Room, Writers' Building, Calcutta) the possibility of starting the Sanskrit college at Muzaffarpur has been examined. It was mentioned that the bungalow lately erected at Muzaffarpur for the accommodation of the Judge of Circuit would be perfect for holding the annual disputations and that there might be a library near it. Along with this letter, a plan of the library proposed to be erected was sent. In their letter no. 14, dated the 27th August, 1811, the Committee considered that the Hindu college at Tirhut could well be supervised from Fort William. A copy of a minute recorded by the Council of Governor General on the 6th March, 1812, was sent in which it was finally decided that the Hindu college at Tirhut would be founded.

Obviously the old Dharma Samaj Sanskrit Vidyalaya, established in 1873, was a continuation of the Sanskrit Hindu College established in 1811. The old Dharma Samaj Sanskrit Vidyalaya was converted into the Dharma Samaj Sanskrit College at Muzaffarpur in January, 1917, after the separation of Bihar from Bengal. The college owes its origin largely to the munificence of the Maharajahdiraj of Darbhanga whose house has always been a great patron of Sanskrit learning and oriental culture. The Dharma Samaj Sanskrit College imparts education in the following branches of oriental studies :—Vedas, Karmakanda, Philosophy, Puran, Vyakaran, Sahitya, Jyotisa, Ayurveda and Agam. Besides these subjects instruction is given in English and Hindi as well. The annual expenditure incurred is approximately Rs. 50,000. The college was first maintained by philanthropic persons by their donations but later on it was taken over by the State Government. With the spread of the present trends of education, there has been a certain amount of modernisation of the institution. English is taught to the students and there have also been changes in the curricula. It is now a modern type of a Sanskrit college.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

For 20 years after the formation of the district, Muzaffarpur had only one high school but the number rose to 4 in 1895. The number has steadily gone up and became 17 in 1937. In 1946 there were 37 high

schools while the corresponding number in 1951-52 is 60. The Chapman Girls' High School in Muzaffarpur was the first high school for girls. A small percentage of girls attend the Boys' high schools in the district. The Chapman Girls' High School was started as the Chapman Pathsala in 1905 with 50 girls on roll. It was first an upper primary school and then it became a middle English school. It was converted into a high school in 1936 and was provincialised in 1949 under the Bihar Education Post-War Development Scheme. The number of girl students is 500 in 1957.

The number of boys in the high schools in 1905 as mentioned in the last District Gazetteer was 1,279. It rose to 1,569 in 1911, to 3,152 in 1932 and to 4,269 in 1937. The number has steadily gone up and in 1952 the number was 9,468. The number of students in the Chapman Girls' High School was 124 in 1936, 207 in 1941-42, in 1951-52 the number was 330. As mentioned the number shot up to 500 in 1957.

According to the last District Gazetteer the annual cost of educating each pupil was Rs. 20-11-5. This figure represents the average of per capita expenditure of all institutions both Government and private. The cost in Government institutions was more by about Rs. 11 than the average. In 1941-42 the average expenditure per pupil in high schools rose to Rs. 39 out of which an average of Rs. 29-12-0 was met by the fees. In 1951-52 the average expenditure per high school pupil is nearly Rs. 90-12-0. For the girls' high school it will be slightly more, i.e., Rs. 98-6-0 approximately.

In the quinquennium from 1947 to 1952 far-reaching changes in the curriculum and organisations of secondary schools were introduced. The teaching of English was discontinued before class VIII; and there was a gradual introduction of basic and technical bias for serving the needs of students of different aptitudes and abilities for meeting the requirements of different spheres of national life.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

Previously the middle schools were divided into two classes, namely,—(a) middle English schools, i.e., schools teaching up to middle scholarship examination in which English formed part of the course and (b) middle vernacular schools, i.e., schools which taught up to middle scholarship examination but where no English was taught. After 1911 there were no middle vernacular schools and all middle schools taught English. But since the new changes regarding curriculum were introduced English is no longer taught in any of these schools. The curriculum in these schools has also been extended. The study of that class of curriculum known as humanities has been widened and an attempt is made to make the children finger trained as opposed to mere book learning. The senior basic schools are also counted under

the heading of middle schools. The table below gives an idea of the progress of middle schools in the district :—

Year.				Middle English Schools.	Middle Vernacular Schools.	Total number of Middle Schools.	Number of pupils.
1880	..	..	..	6	13	19	1,177
1885	..	..	..	8	8	16	1,201
1895	..	..	..	7	8	15	988
1905	..	..	..	7	7	14	705
1932	..	..	..	..	..	63	6,179
1937	..	..	..	..	..	73	8,927
1942	..	..	..	..	..	106	12,478
1947	..	..	..	..	..	151	18,370
1952	..	..	..	..	..	264	34,384 (including Senior Basic Schools).
1957	..	..	..	..	..	238	34,954

The figures for the period between 1880 and 1905 have been taken from the last District Gazetteer while the rest of the figures are compiled from the quinquennial reports and other Government records. The hiatus between 1905 and 1932 cannot be filled up nor can the separate figures of middle English and middle vernacular schools be given as no reliable statistics are available. The last District Gazetteer of Muzaffarpur mentions only one girls' middle school, namely, the Methodist Mission Girls' School. The number of girls' middle schools increased to 2 in 1942, to 13 in 1947 and to 17 in 1952. The attendance in these schools is steadily increasing. It was 218 in 1942, 1,253 in 1947 and 2,202 in 1952. A number of middle schools are co-educational and the number of girls attending middle schools has exceeded the figure of 2,202 in 1952.

The last District Gazetteer does not mention the cost of education per pupil per year in middle schools. In 1941-42 it was approximately

Rs. 16 for boys and Rs. 24-1-0 for girls. In 1946-47 it was near about Rs. 28-8-0 for boys and for girls it was nearly Rs. 41. The corresponding figure in 1951-52 for boys is a little more than Rs. 58 and nearly Rs. 36 for girls. The rise in the cost in the boys' education is very steep. This rise is, probably, due to the opening of the senior basic schools which need more equipments and better trained and better paid teachers. The senior basic schools are Government schools. Most of the others are Government aided. The Girls' Middle School at Hajipur was provincialised in 1945. The number of middle scholarships is 14, out of which 3 are reserved for girls.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The figures of the primary schools are as follows :—

Year.			Number of schools.	Number of pupils.
1880	...	...	2,432	18,682
1885	...	...	1,765	19,209
1895	...	...	898	19,745
1905	...	...	1,033	31,890
1911	...	...	1,244	35,890
1937	...	...	1,772	58,072
1942	...	...	1,820	69,769
1947	...	...	1,565	67,352
1952	...	...	1,753	73,605
1957	...	...	2,324	1,32,423

It will be observed that decrease in the number of schools did not mean decrease in the attendance. The decrease in the number of schools in the decade 1885 to 1895 was due to the introduction in that year of the rule that *pathshalas* having five boys or only such boys as were related to the teachers were to be excluded from the returns. Between the years 1885 and 1895 a similar rule that schools with less than 10 pupils should receive no aid from public funds again caused a serious decrease. The figures in 1947 indicate a fall both in the number of schools and in the number of pupils. This is due to the fact that a number of lower primary schools were amalgamated with the upper primary schools and a number of upper primary schools were amalgamated with the middle schools. When the upper primary schools became a part of the middle schools the students were returned as students of middle schools. This fact is borne out by the figures under middle school. The rise in the number of pupils for middle schools is nearly 4,000 in 1947 but is only nearly 1,000 in 1942. The decrease, therefore, is due to the amalgamation and to different categorization.

The last District Gazetteer mentions the cost of education per pupil as Rs. 2-6-0 from all sources and Rs. 1-3-9 from public funds. It rose to Rs. 6-9-0 in 1937, to Rs. 11-9-6 in 1947 and to Rs. 17-11-0 in

1952. The cost in girls' primary schools per pupil was Rs. 4-9-7 in 1942, Rs. 5-12-9 in 1947 and nearly Rs. 9 in 1952.

The number of upper primary schools in the district of Muzaffarpur is 508 and the number of lower primary schools is 1,245. There are 19 upper primary scholarships and 76 lower primary scholarships for pupils out of which 26 are for girls, 7 for Muhamadans and 3 for Harijan castes in both the stages.

Since 1949 primary education up to class V has been made free. In order to compensate for the loss from the fees, the municipalities and district boards have been given extra grants by the State Government.

In 1938 the State Government introduced compulsory education in the district headquarters of Muzaffarpur. The quinquennial report for 1937-42, however, observes "the measure has not proved as successful as was hoped. This is because the authorities have been reluctant to enforce compulsion and the war has created chances of employment for children which the parents are loath to forego." There has not been much improvement in the position since. The other municipalities in the district, namely, Hajipur, Sitamarhi and Lagunj, have also since introduced compulsory education. Not much progress, however, appears to have been made in this direction.

In Muzaffarpur town, there are 42 institutions which are under the schemes of compulsory education. The total population of the children of school-going age (age-group 6 to 10 years) has been estimated to be 4,170 of whom 3,472 received education in 1951-52. The proportion of enrolment and average daily attendance to the population of children of school-going age is 83 per cent and 74 per cent, respectively. The total expenditure for the town of Muzaffarpur for the year 1951-52 was Rs. 91,451.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

The Engineering College, Muzaffarpur has two parts, namely, (1) Muzaffarpur Institute of Technology and (2) Tirhut School of Engineering.

Muzaffarpur Institute of Technology was started in 1954 in the Tirhut School of Engineering, Muzaffarpur. Separate buildings for the Institute and hostels are under construction at Daudpur.* The course is spread over four years leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Civil Engineering of the Bihar University. The total number of present students is 180.

The Tirhut School of Engineering was started in 1949 at the premises of the Tirhut Technical Institute that was established in 1925. The Subordinate Engineering classes which were attached to the Bihar College of Engineering in Patna were transferred to the Institute from July, 1952 as the Engineering College in Patna was transferred to the control of the Patna University. The present course is for three years followed by one year's practical training leading to the diploma in

*The foundation stone was laid on 21st April 1956 by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India.

Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering awarded by the State Board of Technical Education. Diploma in Civil Engineering has been suspended from 1954 and in its place two years' special diploma course in Civil Engineering was started with I.Sc. as the minimum admission qualification. The total number of students at present is 250.

The School of Engineering has now been converted into an Engineering College affiliated to the Bihar University. There has been a great expansion in the Engineering College recently. The school section for turning out Overseers has been maintained.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

The last District Gazetteer mentions 14 Special Schools in 1905, three of which were *Guru*-training or elementary training schools in each subdivision for the teachers of primary schools. The remaining were Sanskrit *tois* which prepared candidates for the Bihar Sanskrit Sanjiban. There are six training schools in 1957 with 531 students.

BASIC EDUCATION.

Basic education was introduced in this district in the year 1949. A number of primary and middle schools were converted into basic schools. The following table will show the number of various types of basic schools and their numerical strength during the year 1951-52 :—

—		For boys.	For girls.	Number of boys.	Number of girls.
Post Basic	.. ..	1	..	92	8
Senior Basic	.. ..	59	2	8,191	1,132
Junior Basic	.. ..	Nil	Nil	..	..

The following table shows the present position of the basic schools :—

—		For boys.	For girls.	Number of boys.	Number of girls.
Post Basic	.. ..	2	..	213	14
Senior Basic	.. ..	65	3	17,936	2,438
Junior Basic	.. ..	120	3		

Instruction is imparted in the following crafts :—Spinning, Weaving, Book-binding, Agriculture and Carpentry. The articles produced by the pupils and the teachers are sold and the money is credited in the treasury. In 1951-52 the earning from this source was Rs. 2,268 in post basic and Rs. 30,372 in senior basic schools. It is difficult to say if the basic education will pay its own way. This new system of education appears to have been well received by the people in the rural areas and a number of offers of land for basic schools have been received.

The basic schools work under the control of the District Education Council with the District Magistrate as the President and District Inspector of Schools as the Secretary. The Chairman of the District Board with three Subdivisional Officers, the Principal of the Turki Sarvodaya Mahavidyalay, the Principal of the L. S. College, a representative of the Primary Teachers' Association, a representative of the Secondary School Teachers' Association and the Superintendent of Basic and Social Education are the members of this Council. There are also four additional members nominated by the Government. Each basic school has a local committee of its own which functions as advisory body.

SOCIAL EDUCATION CENTRES.

The scheme for social education provides not only for the training in the three R's, but also provides for instruction in a variety of useful subjects and activities. Each centre has a daily literacy class. There are cultural programmes and social gatherings from time to time. Religious songs, readings from religious books, newspapers and magazines, practical demonstration on agricultural tasks, village welfare work form a part of the work of a social education centre. Most of these centres are housed in school or college buildings or in the offices of Gram Panchayat or Co-operative Societies.

After the 31st March, 1952 there were 74 centres in this district. The number of persons participating in the work of these centres was 4,971 men and 123 women. The total expenditure for these centres incurred by the Government for 1951-52 was Rs. 67,247. 27 circulating libraries are working in this district under this scheme.

LIBRARIES.

The last District Gazetteer does not mention any public library. The library movement has been encouraged and in 1951-52 there were 307 libraries in Muzaffarpur district. The number of libraries in 1957 is 611.

EDUCATION OF THE BACKWARD COMMUNITIES.

Thirty-two special schools for Momins and backward Muslim communities were running in the district including two for girls in 1951-52. Besides there were 17 special Harijan schools which were financed by

the Welfare Department. • The total expenditure incurred • by the Government on these centres for 1951-52 was Rs. 21,266.

In 1956-57 there were 54 special schools for Harijans and Backward Muslim communities with 2,024 boys and 200 girls as scholars.

YOUTH WELFARE ACTIVITIES.

The National Cadet Corps, Bihar Scouts and Guides, Junior Red Cross, sports and physical education are some of the youth welfare activities that may be mentioned.

Some other institutions for the welfare of the youth such as Physical Training Institute, etc., have been noticed in the chapter on Social Welfare.

JAIN PRAKRIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

Jain Prakrit Research Institute has been established at Vaisali in Hajipur subdivision. Vaisali is taken as the birth-place of Lord Mahabir, the 24th Tirthankar of the Jains although there are some Jains who do not concede this. Some excavations had been made at Vaisali and a number of ancient relics had been found. To mark the birthday of Lord Mahabir a *mela* has been started at Vaisali. All this has given great encouragement and an institute for the study of Jainology has been started at Vaisali in 1956. The institution has still to develop. It may, in a way, be described to be the nucleus which might one day develop into a full-fledged Vaisali University. The rapid increase of educational institutions of various types in the district and the expansion of the older institutions have naturally fostered the idea of an University for Tirhut.