



DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN EDUCATION IN NADIA DISTRICT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KRISHNAGAR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE: A STUDY

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Abstract:

Education is considered to be an instrument of Social change which played an important role in the development of human Society. Bengal had well developed System of Education from ancient times. As far as the progress of Indigenous and Elementary Education in Pre-Colonial and Colonial Bengal is concerned, a large number of Pathshalas, Tols, Chatuspathis, Madrasahs and Institution had been established. The introduction of Western Education in India was largely facilitated by British Colonial Policies. With the establishment of British Rule in Bengal, there was a massive change took place in Social and Cultural fields in Nadia district during Colonial period. Krishnagar Government College stands as a significant Educational Institution in Colonial Bengal, known for its contributions in the promotion of knowledge, cultural advancement, and societal transformation in Nadia District in particular and Colonial Bengal and after Independence of India in the State of West Bengal in general.

The article is an attempt to unfold the trajectory of Western Education in Nadia district across the time period. It is also an attempt to understand the role of Krishnagar Government College as an institution of higher learning in the promotion of Western, Secular and Scientific Education and its impact on socio, economic and political development during the period of study.

Keywords: Bengal, Development, Institution, Krishnagar Government College, Nadia District, Western Education.

Institutions are the integral part in the transformation of Western and Scientific System of education. The Indigenous System of Education in Nadia district had a great reputation since ancient times.¹ During Pre-Colonial period, the Medium of instruction in Education System in India in general and Nadia district in particular were in Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian languages.² The subjects taught were Scriptures, Grammmar, Indian Logic, Religious Literature, Poetry and Drama, Astrology and Indian Laws from early times.³ The people from Muslim Community were remained as an integral part in the administration during the Pre Plassey period.⁴ The introduction of Western Education in India was largely facilitated by British Colonial Policies. The district of Nadia was famous as the centre for learning and literature from ancient times.⁵ The people of Nadia district also supported and participated in the Indigenous and Vernacular Education System.⁶ In the first half of the 19th century, Western Education was introduced in the district through the efforts of both Christian Missionaries and British Government.⁷ Nabadwip became an important learning centre for Sanskrit literature with the propagation of Bhaktism in the district.⁸ Krishnagar, the chief city and administrative head quarters of the district which is situated in the middle of the very fertile area of Lower Bengal watered by the Jalangi River, lies between North latitude 23°24' and East latitude 88°31'.⁹ It was an

important town of the district which preserved its well known indigenous learning centre for education.¹⁰ Most of the people of the district were used to speak and read in Bengali language.¹¹

The district of Nadia forms on the North-eastern portion of the Presidency Division in Bengal. It lies between North latitude 24°11' and 22°53' and East longitude 89°22' and 88°09'.¹² It is bounded on the North by the Rajshahi district; on the East by the Pabna (Faridpur district); on the South by the 24 Parganas district; on the West by the Birbhum, Burdwan and Hooghly districts; on the North-west by the Murshidabad district and on the South-east by the Jessor district.¹³ It contains an area was 3414 square miles till October in 1871.¹⁴ The district takes its name from the town of Nadia or Nabadwip, which situated on the west bank of the Bhagirathi.¹⁵

According to First Census report of 1872, the total population of Nadia district was 1812795.¹⁶ Out of the total population, 877125 were males and 935670 were females, with males comprising 48.4 percent of the overall population in the district.¹⁷ The density of the population across the district was recorded at 530 persons per square mile.¹⁸ As per as the first Census of 1872, the total number of population from Hindu Community in Nadia district was 821032, comprising 393917 males and 427115 females. The People from Hindu Community made up 45.3 percent of the total population of the district. In contrast, the total number of population from Muslim Community in Nadia district was 984106, with 479407 males and 504699 females, accounting for 54.3 percent of the whole population of the district. The total number of People from Christian Community was 5977, comprising 3069 males and 2908 females. The Christian Community formed .32 percent of the whole population of the district. No Buddhists were recorded in the district at that time. The remaining population numbered 1680, consisting of 732 males and 948 females which accounted for .09 percent of the total population in the district.¹⁹ The Muslim Community was the largest religious group in Nadia district as per the Census of 1872.²⁰ They were predominantly engaged in agriculture and worked mainly as cultivators.²¹

During the early period of the British rule, the private individual and the missionaries came to India, were responsible for the promotion of Western education in Bengal in general and Nadia district in particular.²² Under the influence the Christian Missionaries, a new perception spread among educated and intellectual people of Bengal.²³ By the 'Charter Act of 1813', the British Parliament compelled the English East India Company to accept the responsibility for the promotion of Western Education among the people of India and one lakh rupees was spent for the spread of English Education in the Country.²⁴ By the Charter Act of 1833, the bulk of Missionary enterprise succeeded in establishing elementary Schools for Girls.²⁵ It was the beginning of the State System of Education in India under the British Rule.²⁶

The first half of the 19th Century, with the new spirit of the age of William Bentinck brought a complete transformation in the life of Bengal and created an entirely new order in the Province.²⁷ In 1835, Lord Macaulay, (Law Secretary of the Governor General of Lord William Bentinck) announced his famous 'Minute'. The Macaulay Minute of 1835, recorded about the changed the medium of instruction where English was to be as the medium of Public Instruction.²⁸ Lord William Bentinck accepted 'Macaulay's Educational Minute of 1835' and English as the medium of instruction for Government controlled Educational Institutions.²⁹ Both the Church Missionary Society and the London Missionary Society extended their activities in the field of Vernacular Schools in Bengal to other parts of India as well.³⁰ After that, Education started receiving impetus after 1835 through the "Macaulay Minutes".³¹ Western Education is given priority in this declaration.³² In 1837, English was recognized as the official language instead of Persian.³³ Many Day Schools and Institutions were promoted in different sections of the society for the development of Western Education among the people of the country.³⁴ Towards the end of 1838, the General Committee of Public Instruction took into considered, the three Reports of William Adam for the improvement of Vernacular Education.³⁵ British Official William Adam had clearly mentioned in his 'Third Report on Education' that, the Missionary Schools became more popular among lower castes such as -Bagdis, Muchis, Bouris, Domes, Haries, Vaishnavas, Tantis, Chandals, Kurmis and so on in Bengal presidency.³⁶ Though, the Government did not more attention in the development of Vernacular Education.³⁷

Governor General Lord Auckland had proposed to establish a comprehensive system of combined English and Vernacular education by the formation of District Schools and Central Colleges.³⁸ He also recommended to increase in the number of scholarships from Lower Schools to Central Colleges and proposed the establishment of five Central Colleges at Krishnagar, Chittagong, Bhagalpur, Murshidabad and Cuttack.³⁹

During the first half of the 19th century, there were 26 Day Missionary Schools, 690 Girls Missionary Schools and 28 Boarding Missionary Schools in Bengal.⁴⁰

In 1844, Governor General Lord Hardinge gave preference to English knowing person in the Government Services.⁴¹ During the period of Lord Hardinge, the Government of Local Committees were formulated in various zones of Bengal in terms of Bentinck's Resolution, one such committee was started a College at Krishnagar for higher education in Nadia district.⁴² By the initiatives of Lord Hardinge, the British Government of India approved and sanctioned the immediate establishment of the Krishnagar College and subsequent four District Schools at Burdwan, Bankura, Barasat and Bogura for an annual cost of Rs. 32000.⁴³

During the first half of the 19th Century, the King of Nadia, Shreesh Chandra Roy, patronized in different kinds of institutions in the course of time who greatly contributed in the progress of Western Education in the district. King Srishchandra Roy of Nadia and Queen Swarnamoyi Devi of Kasimbazar from Murshidabad, donated more than 100 bighas of land for the establishment of Krishnagar Government College.⁴⁴ The College was established on 1st October 1845 with the object of providing Western and Secular Education for the people of Nadia and surrounding districts.⁴⁵ The auspicious inauguration of the College took place on 28th November in 1845 in a rented house at Hatarpara in Krishnagar town.⁴⁶ On 6th December, 1845, the Council of Education submitted detailed proposals to the Government of India for the appointment of staffs as well as a Principal and the renting of a house for use of the College which was effect from on 1st January, 1846.⁴⁷ Captain D.L Richardson, a renowned Shakespearean Scholar, was the first principal of Krishnagar Government College.⁴⁸ The first combined staffs of the College was a Principal (01), three (03) European Masters and ten (10) Indian Teachers.⁴⁹ The College includes a School department which began its career with total roll strength of 246 boys.⁵⁰ Pandit Madan Mohan Torkalonkar served the College as a teacher for a very short time from January to June in 1846.⁵¹ The College was also open to all inhabitants of Nadia and adjoining districts irrespective of religion or caste.

The Wood's Educational Despatch of 1854, recommended liberal grants for the establishment of Missionary Schools across India.⁵² In the Second half of the 19th century, the Christian Missionary Society began promoting Western Education in Krishnanagar, gradually expanding its efforts to Ranaghat, Santipur, and other parts of the district.⁵³ The first School was established on 22th August in 1855 at the village of Belgharia in Nadia district to promote western education among the people of the district.⁵⁴ In September, 1855, four (04) additional Schools were opened at Maheshpur, Bhajanghat, Kushdaha and Debagram in the district.⁵⁵

During the academic Session of 1856-57, there were only 19 Government and Aided Schools in Nadia district, attended by 1865 pupils.⁵⁶ There were three (03) Aided Higher and Middle Schools in the course of time.⁵⁷ Additionally, there was only one (01) Arts College at Krishnagar, established under the initiative of the Government and managed by the Director of Public Instruction of Bengal.⁵⁸ In 1856, the Main Building of the College was constructed on an acre of land.⁵⁹ It cost about Rs.66876 (Sixty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Six Rupees). Out of this, about Rs.17000 (Seventeen Thousands) were collected from private donations.⁶⁰ On June 1, 1856, the College was transferred to a permanent building with the established of Physical and Chemical laboratories.⁶¹ In 1857, the College was granted affiliation to offer instruction in Arts up to the B.A. level and in Science up to the B.Sc. standard, as per new regulations.⁶² On 1st May, 1858, Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar founded a Girls' School at Krishnanagar.⁶³ He not only pioneered female education in the district but also served as the Inspector of Girls Schools in Bengal, played an important role in advancing Women's education in the district.⁶⁴ In 1865, the Law Department was introduced in the College.⁶⁵ In 1871, the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, Sir George Campbell cancelled the B.A Course from the College.⁶⁶ In 1872, the Survey Department was introduced in the College.⁶⁷

Table-1

The following table provides information about the number of Government and Government-Aided Schools in Nadia District in the Years of 1856-57, 1860-61 and 1870-71.⁶⁸

Classification of Schools	Number of Schools		
	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71
Government Schools	1	1	1
Government Aided Schools	1	1	1
Government Vernacular Schools	5	5	4
Government Law Class in Krishnagar College	-	-	1
Government Aided English Schools (Higher and Middle Class)	3	11	44
Government Aided Vernacular Schools (Middle and Lower Class)	9	9	191
Government Aided Girls' Schools	-	1	11
Normal School for Teachers	-	-	1
Total	19	28	254

Source: Hunter, W.W. (1875), *A Statistical Account of Bengal (Vol. II)*, Trubner & Co., London, Page.122.

The table (table no.1) provides information about the number of Government and Government-Aided Schools in Nadia District which made the progress of western education in the district up to 1870-71. It was mainly due to Government initiatives. From the Second half of the 19th Century, the Western Education was done through scientific and secular basis in the district. There was not much Private initiative in this regard during this period. The number of Government and Aided Schools increased from 19 in 1856-57 to 254 by 1870-71.

Table-2

The following table provides information about the number of Students from various Communities in Government and Government-Aided Schools in Nadia District in the Years of 1856-57, 1860-61 and 1870-71.⁶⁹

Classification of Schools	Number of Students								
	Number of Students from Hindu Community			Number of Students from Muslim Community			Number of Students from Other Communities		
	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71	1856-57	1860-61	1870-71
Government Schools	20	41	112	-	-	4	-	1	-
Government Aided Schools	190	262	205	5	7	7	2	2	1
Government Vernacular Schools	548	377	202	4	8	4	-	-	-
Government Law Class in Krishnagar College	-	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government Aided English Schools (Higher and Middle Class)	374	1517	2615	5	32	136	3	-	23
Government Aided Vernacular Schools (Middle and Lower Class)	703	408	4834	11	12	873	-	-	103
Government Aided Girls' Schools	-	34	280	-	-	1	-	-	40
Normal School for Teachers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Total	1835	2639	8293	25	59	1025	5	3	196

Source: Hunter, W.W. (1875), *A Statistical Account of Bengal (Vol. II)*, Trubner & Co., London, Page.122

The table (table no.2) shows the educational situation of the people from the Muslim Community in the district was more deplorable compared to other communities in the second half of 19th Century. By the year of 1870-71, the ratio of Students from Hindu and Muslim Communities in various levels of School in the district was approximately 1:8.

Table-3

The following table provides information about the Number of Various Levels of Schools, Number of Students and Daily Average Attendance of the Students in Schools in Nadia district in the year of 1871-72.⁷⁰

Classification of Schools		Number of Schools	No. of Students on 31 st March 1872	Daily Average Attendance of the Students
Higher Schools	Government Schools	01	195	154
	Aided Missionary Schools	01	172	127
	Aided Native Schools	09	754	574
	Total Aided Schools	10	926	701
	Total of Higher Schools	11	1121	855
	Total of Unaided Schools	04	782	-
Middle Schools	Government Vernacular Schools	04	219	158
	Aided Missionary English Schools	02	253	202
	Aided Missionary Vernacular Schools	02	218	178
	Aided Native English Schools	28	1282	954
	Aided Native Vernacular Schools	21	980	888
	Total of Aided Schools	53	2733	2222
	Total of Middle Schools	57	2952	2380
	Total of Unaided English Schools	08	277	-
Primary Schools	Total of Unaided Vernacular Schools	04	297	-
	Aided Missionary Schools	01	86	60
	Aided Native Schools	03	66	63
	Total of Aided Schools	04	152	123
	Pathshalas (Village Vernacular Schools)	168	4522	3203
	Total of Primary Schools	172	4674	3326
	Total of Unaided Schools	200	3808	-
	Total Pathshalas	29	1028	-
Normal School for Masters	Total of Unaided Schools & Pathshalas	229	4836	-
	Aided Vernacular Normal Schools	01	23	19
Girls' Schools	Aided Missionary Girls' Schools	2	112	93
	Aided Native Girls' Schools	9	238	159
	Total Aided Schools	11	350	252
	Total Unaided Schools	10	214	-
	Total Government & Aided Schools	252	9120	6832
	Total Private Unaided Schools	255	6406	-

Source: Hunter.W.W. (1875), *A Statistical Account of Bengal (Vol. II)*, Trubner & Co., London, P.124-125

The table no.3 shows, by 1871-72, Nadia district had 229 Primary Schools, including Pathshalas and Un-Aided Schools, of which 4 were Aided Schools. The number of Higher Schools had grown to 11. During this period, the progress of Female Education was more significant than that of the Male Primary Education. There were only 21 Girls' Schools in the district, attended by 564 pupils. By the year of 1871-72, the number of Government and Aided Schools had increased to 252, attended by 9120 pupils. In addition, there were 255 Private Un-Aided Schools in the district, attended by 6406 pupils.

The Hunter Commission of 1882 (also known as the Education Commission) made significant recommendations for the establishment of several new Colleges and Indigenous Schools in the promotion of vernacular education operated under proper Government grants.⁷¹ By 1882, Government Colleges in the district had a total enrolment of 2,394 students, while Private Colleges enrolled 1,433.⁷²

In 1892-93, there were total of 872 Schools in the district. Out of these, only 33 were Non-Government Schools, attended by 267 students and 29,097 students were enrolled in rest of 839 Government and Government-Aided Schools in the district.⁷³ In that year, only 21.1% pupils of the total population in the district were attending in School. In 1892-94, the percentage of Girls attending in School was only 2.2% that was very low percentage comparatively.⁷⁴ In 1894-95, there were total of 30,312 students in Nadia district. The percentage pupils of the total population in the district attending in School had increased modestly to 22.3% by 1894-95.⁷⁵ The percentage of Girls participation in School had slightly increased to 2.6% in 1894-95.⁷⁶ By 1895, the number of Schools had increased to 973, and the attendance of the pupils had increased to 31304 in the district.⁷⁷

From 1834 to 1897, there 17 Secondary Schools, 125 Primary Schools and 50 Girls Schools were established in various town and villages in the district and one (01) Public Library was founded in Ranaghat. In 1898-99, there were 48 Middle English Schools and the average attendance at them was 78 pupils per School.⁷⁸ At the same time, there were 85 Upper Primary Schools, 615 Lower Primary Schools, 28 Middle Vernacular Schools and 103 Primary Girls Schools in the district.⁷⁹ During the period of 1898-99, the ratio of pupils at Schools between the Muslims and the Hindus was approximately 1:4.⁸⁰ Although, the overall ratio of the people between the Muslims and the Hindus was about 6:4. In terms of School attendance, the ratio was closer to 1:2 in the district.⁸¹ On 31st March, 1899, there were total of 16 Aided High English Schools in the district.⁸²

As per the Census of 1901, there were a total of 294072 literate individuals in the district. Among them, 281207 were Hindus, 12,532 were Muslims, and 333 belonged to other communities in the district.⁸³ By the year of 1908-09, the number of Schools had increased to 1175, attended by 41505 pupils. Out of these, 46 were maintained by Municipalities while 738 were managed by District Boards.⁸⁴ During 1908-09, the numbers of Girls were attending in classes at Government Institutions increased from 4275 to 4753.⁸⁵ At the same period, the number pupils increased to 6.2 percent in Special Schools and by 11.3 percent in Secondary and Primary Schools.⁸⁶ There were two (02) Government Model Primary Schools at Santipur and Nabadwip in the district.⁸⁷

The Krishnagar Collegiate School was officially separated from Krishnagar College on 7th January 1908. Aswini Kumar Dutta shortly served as a member of the teaching staff at Collegiate School.⁸⁸ In 1909, the faculty of Krishnagar College consisted of a Principal, five (05) Professors, four (04) Lecturers and an Assistant assigned to each of the Laboratory.⁸⁹ A Library was attached to Krishnagar College which accessible for staffs and students only.⁹⁰ A weekly newspaper 'Banga Ratna' published from Krishnagar. Other publications included the weekly 'Banga Lakshmi' and the monthly magazine 'Yubak' which were published from Santipur.⁹¹

In the year of 1908-09, there was no Government Technical Institution in the district. Only an Industrial School in Chapra, attended by 33 pupils which was maintained by the Church Missionary Society.⁹² The Church Missionary Society was first running a Training School at Krishnanagar for the development of Vocational and professional education on 31st March 1909 and attended by 27 pupils.⁹³ The total expenditure of this School was Rs. 9069 (Nine Thousand Sixty Nine Rupees), of which Rs.2400 (Two Thousand Four Hundred Rupees) came from Provincial Revenues and rest of the money contributed by the Society through donations.⁹⁴ Another a special Training School was established in Krishnanagar for Girls attended by 36 pupils which was maintained by the Church of England Zenana Mission Society.⁹⁵ There were also ten (10) Guru Training Schools attended by 134 pupils, maintained at a cost of Rs. 14,709 which was funded by Provincial Revenues and Student fees.⁹⁶

By 31st March 1909, the number of High English Schools in the district had increased to 25. These were Krishnagar Collegiate School which was maintained by the Government; Santipur Municipal School, managed by the Santipur Municipality; Seventeen (17) Aided Schools were run by the District Education Department and the Municipality; and Six (06) Un-Aided Schools.⁹⁷ The total numbers of student enrolments in these Schools were 4,813, with an average cost of Rs. 4,047 per school for the year.⁹⁸ On 31st March in 1909, there were 123 Upper Primary Schools, 706 Lower Primary Schools, 13 Middle Vernacular Schools and 152 Primary Girls Schools in the district.⁹⁹ The total number of students at three level of Schools (Primary, Upper Primary and Lower Primary) were 4836, 20824 and 26117 respectively.¹⁰⁰ During the first decade of the 20th Century, the Church Missionary Society operated One (01) High English School with 216 pupils, Four (04) Middle English Schools with 517 pupils and Forty One (41) Primary Schools with 2052 pupils in the district.¹⁰¹

Throughout the 19th Century and the first half of the 20th Century, several Educational Institutions were established in the district. These were - St. John's C.M.S. School(1834), Krishnagar, which upgraded to High School status in 1901; Hat Chapra King Edward School (1841), Chapra, it became a High School in 1946; Krishnagar Collegiate School(1846), Krishnagar; Lakuria School (1848), Kaliganj; Krishnanagar A.V High School (1849), Krishnagar, it elevated to High School status in 1868; Ranaghat P.F. Chowdhury High School (1853), Ranaghat; Santipur Municipal High School (1856), Shantipur; Muragachha High School (1864), Muragachha; Majdia Railbazar High School (1868),Majdia; Tara Sundari Girls High School (1870), Navadwip; Sutragarh N.M. High School (1872), Shantipur; Krishnanagar Debnath High School (1873); Navadwip Hindu School (1873), Navadwip; Nabadwip Bakultala High School (1875); Santipur Muslim High School (1887); Plassey High School (1879), Plassey; Sudhakarpur High School (1886), Nakashipara; Belpukur High School (1895), Belpukur; Santipur Oriental Academy (1896), Santipur; Jamserpur B.N. High School (1899), Jamserpur Shikarpur High School (1900), Baruipara; Kutirpara High School(1900),Patharghata; Aranghata High School (1900), Aranghata; Siddheswaritola Institution (1921), Shyamnagar; Bethuadhari J.C.M. High School (1942), Nakashipara,; Palshunda High School (1942), Palashipara; Panighata Umadas Memorial High School (1943), Kaliganj.¹⁰²

In 1917, the Sadler Commission (also known as the Calcutta University Commission) was appointed to evaluate the overall structure of university education. In 1918, Krishnagar College was granted permission to offer Honours courses in English, Mathematics, Economics and Philosophy. In 1932, the College was formally opened to both Men and Women for higher education and that year, the College admitted its first female student. By the academic Session of 1945–46, Krishnagar College had 450 female students enrolled, of whom 90 belonged to the Muslim Community.¹⁰³ Krishnagar Government College, stands as one of the earliest institutions in the district. It was followed by the founding of Navadwip Vidyasagar College in 1942, Srikrishna College in Bagula in 1942–43 and Santipur College in 1947.

The Radhakrishnan Commission of 1948 (also known as University Education Commission) recommended substantial reforms at the advancement of Western Education during Post Independent India. The Mid-20th Century witnessed further expansion in higher education with the establishment of several Colleges in the district. These were- Ranaghat College in 1950, Krishnagar Women's College in 1958–59, Sudhiranjan Lahiri Mahavidyalaya in Majdia in 1966, Karimpur Pannadevi College in 1968–69, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar College in Betai in 1973. During 1980s, Bethuadahari College, Chakdah College, and Haringhata College were founded in 1986.¹⁰⁴

Table-4

The following Table provides information about the Growth of Literacy of the people in different categories (Male and Female) in the district from 1901 to 1991.¹⁰⁵

Year	Total	Male	Female
1901	12.08	22.43	1.87
1911	11.72	20.55	2.85
1921	13.54	22.35	4.31
1931	12.49	19.85	4.74
1941	20.32	30.24	4.83
1951	15.31	18.16	12.23
1961	27.25	35.78	18.24
1971	31.31	39.28	22.92
1981	36.80	43.70	29.40
1991	52.50	60.10	44.40

Source: Compiled by the Researcher based on Census of India from 1901-1991

The table (table no.4) illustrates the progression of literacy rates among different demographic groups (male and female) in Nadia district from 1901 to 1991. In 1901, the overall literacy rate was just 12.08%, with a significant gender gap 22.43% of males were literate compared to only 1.87% of females. By 1941, there was a considerable increase in overall literacy to 20.32%. In 1951, the overall literacy rate declined to 15.31%, despite a remarkable rise in female literacy to 12.23%. From 1961 onwards, the literacy rates of the people in different categories (Male and Female) in the district showed consistent improvement. By 1991, the overall literacy rate had increased to 52.50%, with male literacy at 60.10% and female literacy at 44.40%, marking significant progress in education and a noticeable narrowing of the gender gap over the decades.

Conclusion:

From mid-19th Century onward, Nadia district had witnessed remarkable progress in Western Education as an integral part of Western and Scientific System of Education. Numerous Primary, Middle, and High English Schools were established across towns and villages in the district by the efforts of Christian Missionaries, British Colonial Government, and Private Individuals. Western Education gradually grew among Women in the district as well. Professional and Technical Education also began to take root during this period. With the spread of Western Education fostered a cultural shift in the district, encouraging the establishment of libraries and promoting the reading of newspapers. Krishnagar Government College evolved not only as a centre of Western Education but also served as a breeding ground for Scholars, Intellectuals, Reformers and Freedom fighters who played vital roles in Social changes in the district. The Education System of Nadia district was largely shaped by a combination of traditional and Western systems. This unique blend contributed in the development of a dynamic Educational framework rooted in Secular, Scientific and Liberal ideals in Nadia district during Colonial and Post Colonial Period.

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