

EDUCATION

School Education

There are 380 schools in A & N Islands, out of which 321 are managed by the Department of Education, 5 by Central Govt., 2 are aided schools, one is maintained by municipal council and 51 are private managed schools. The number of preprimary, primary, middle, secondary & senior secondary schools are 24, 207, 56, 45 and 48 respectively. Out of 321 schools 60 cater to the needs of tribals. The Schools have a total of 84484 students including 5908 tribal students. There are 5699, 39625, 21835, 11232 and 6093 students enrolled at preprimary, primary, middle, secondary and senior secondary stages respectively. Literacy rate of the islands is 81.18 % and education is provided in five languages viz, English , Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Bengali. The percentage of girls students is 47.91 and around 50% are the female teachers. There are 4394 teachers. The students teacher ratio is 19:1.

The department is implementing 13 plan schemes for school education during the year.

Some of the important targets and achievements under the school education are as follows:

- i. Cooked mid-day meals are being provided to all the students of Elementary stages i.e. upto class VIII for minimum of 200 days in a year. The responsibility of serving cooked food is entrusted to DWCR, Mahila Mandal, Self Help Groups in Andaman district and to tribal council/villagers in Nicobar district.
- ii. Computer education has been introduced in 16 senior secondary schools covering 11,538 students. During the current year 12 more schools are to be covered and the scheme will be introduced in all the Senior secondary schools in a phased manner under the current plan period.
- iii. Under the scheme "Enhancement of merit of students from rural and tribal areas" the number of seats have been increased to 75 this year from 50. Under the scheme students selected on the basis of talent search exams at

class VIII are brought to the Port Blair and given education in schools in the medium of their choice with free boarding and lodging facility.

- iv. The Sarva Sikhsa Abhiyan scheme has been launched and for the current. For this year an amount of Rs 757.23 lakhs has been approved for A & N islands.
- v. Free books, free uniforms, free travel concession, attendance scholarships etc are provided to eligible students.
- vi. A modern library building is expected to be functional at Port Blair by Jan 2004.
- vii. Library books, periodicals, magazines and newspapers are provided to all libraries.
- viii. During the last year 1 science lab, 2 toilets, 24 class rooms 1 PS building and 4 quarters have been completed.
- ix. Construction of 13 PS buildings, 96 class rooms 49 quarters 5 toilets 1 hostel and 1 science lab is in progress
- x. The GOI has been allotting 25 seats in Regional Engineering Colleges, and 71 seats in various professional technical colleges. 16 seats in MBBS and 2 seats in BDS are being allotted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. This year the engineering seats have been increased from 71 to 90 and MBBS seats from 16 to 18.
- xi. GOI has allotted 10 seats in various disciplines for the passed-out polytechnic students to engineering colleges in mainland for the first time during the year 2002-03.
- xii. The mess allowance/scholarship given to the students of A & N Islands in various residential higher education institutions like College, TTI, Polytechnics. has been increased from Rs.400/- to Rs.650/- per student per month.

College Education:

2 colleges viz. Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya in Port Blair and Mahatma Gandhi Govt College in Mayabunder are functioning in the islands. Those Colleges offer undergraduate and post-graduate courses leading to BA,

BSc, B.Com, BCA, BTMM degrees and MSC, MA and M.Com degrees. There are 2469 students in the colleges including 109 ST students. The College have hostel and library facilities, NCC and NSS divisions. All the students staying in the colleges are provided with mess allowance. The non-formal education and distance education programmes of IGNOU and Pondicherry University are utilized by more than 1000 learners and 200 candidates respectively.

Teacher Education:

Tagore Govt College of education located in Port Blair, affiliated to Pondicherry University is offering one year B.Ed. course. Hundred candidates are admitted every year to met the ever increasing demand of B.Ed seats in the islands. A new building with library, well equipped ET lab, psychology lab, language lab, computer lab etc. is nearing completion. The college has hostel facilities for women.

Technical Education:

A&N Islands has two Polytechnics viz. Dr B R Ambedkhar Polytechnic and Second Polytechnic. Those institutions are accredited with ISO-9002 in the year 1999. The institution offer diploma programmes in various disciplines like Electrical, Mechanical, Civil, Computer Science, Electronics and Hotel Management. The institutions have 411 students on the roll. The Polytechnics have been covered under the Third Technician Education Project assisted by World Bank. The total cost of the project is Rs.21.648 cr to be implemented within a period of 5 years. The project consists of 3 major components-viz. capacity expansion, quality enhancement and efficiency improvement.

Under the project the following targets have been achieved/will be achieved during the project period:-

- (i) Modernization of laboratories, revision & development of curricula, faculty and staff training, increased utilization of learning resources & media, promoting interaction with industry & community etc.
- (ii) MOU has been signed with many mainland organizations like-M/S CISCO, M/S HCL info-system, IIPM, M/S Siemens & Toyota

Kirloskar, ISRO, Microsoft, MTI etc. to ensure industry institute interaction.

- (iii) Major civil works to build hostels, class rooms, auditorium etc. are under progress.
- (iv) New course in Marine Engineering, Refrigeration, Information Technology, Hotel Management, Catering Technology etc is being introduced.

Youth Affairs, Sports and Culture:

Sports Authority of India has established a center at Port Blair under its Special Area Games Scheme to identify raw and natural talents and bring them upto national and international level. During the period from 1987-2002, 22 and 333 medals were by bagged by the students in international and national level competitions respectively. There is a Sports Council to promote sports in these islands and A&N Administration promote sports in these islands and A&N Administration provides annual grant-in-aid to the Council.

An Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary has been constituted to monitor the management and maintenance of the National Memorial Cellular Jail.

During the 9th Five Year Plan, the entire outlay has been spent and some of the important achievements include erection of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, face lifting of Cellular Jail and Amphitheatre, Organisation of Dweep Mahotsav, Setting up of Netaji Gallery at National Memorial etc. During 10th Five Year Plan, the important targets include beautification of Indira Point , establishment of State Bal Bhavan, bringing out a dictionary & grammar on Nicobari language etc.

The Science Centre being built in collaboration with the National Council of Science Museums is expected to be operational by end of the current financial year.