

DEPARTEMNT OF EDUCATION

BY

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AREA: DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN INDIA

UNIT II: WOOD DESPATCH

- BIEEF HISTORY
- PURPOSE
- RECOMMENDATIONS

BRIEF HISTORY: It has a very important place in the history of the Indian education. It consists of 100 paragraphs. This despatch was declared on 19th August, 1854 under the chairmanship of Sir Charles Wood. Sir Charles Wood was the president of the Board of Control. This despatch deals with the various aspects of the Indian education system.

PURPOSE:

1. To impart western knowledge and extension of western culture.
2. To create educated, reliable and efficient public servants.
3. To provide greater attention to vernacular schools.
4. To raise the moral character of native Indians.
5. To secure the economical development of U.K by providing raw materials from the Indian market.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Creation of a Department of Public Instruction(D.P.I) under the chairmanship of director of public instruction in each of the five provinces of Bengal, Madras, Punjab, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh.
2. Establishment of the universities in each of the three presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. The universities were to be constructed

according to the model of London universities. The universities would confer honours degree to the successful candidates.

3. This despatch admitted the importance of primary education.

4. The Wood despatch recommended the Grant-in-aid system in the Indian education system. Though grants were given to those educational institutions which satisfied the conditions framed by the British government.

5. Establishment of teacher training schools. This despatch also emphasized on the provision of scholarship for the trainee teachers.

6. The Wood despatch gave importance to the advancement of women education.

7. In Wood's Despatch much emphasize was given upon vocational education. It recommended the establishment of law, medical, technical and other professional universities.

8. This despatch discarded the ' Downward filtration theory' and encouraged the advancement of mass education.

9. The despatch pointed out the need of secular education. Therefore, only those institutions were able to receive grants which were free from religious bias.

10. The despatch also pointed out the importance of Muslim education.

In conclusion, it has been observed that, this despatch has certain merits and demerits. It is an educational document , which gave forth recommendations for the improvement of Indian education system. But the recommendations could not be carried out in their entirety. This despatch failed to emphasize on national education system, importance of mother tongue, advancement of higher education. So, Indian education system never recognized this despatch as " the Magna Charta of Indian Education System".

REFERENCES:

Bhakta, B.B. (2008). Bharatiya Shikhar Ruporekha: Wood's Despatch. West Bengal.

http://www.kkhsou.in/main/education/wood_despatch.html

<http://www.publishyourarticles.net/knowledge-hub/education/importance-of-woods-despatch-to-educational-system-of-colonial-india/5346/>

SUGGESTED READINGS:

English Books:

1. Banerjee, J.P. - Education In India: Past, Present , Future.
2. Purkait, B.R. -History of Indian Education.
3. Singh, Y.K.- History of Indian Education.

Bengali Books:

1. Jotiprasad Bandyopadhyay – Bharatiya Shikhan & Sampratik Samashya.