CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Historical Background

The region comprising Ambala district has legendary traditions of being a centre of Indo-Aryan culture. The ashrams of great rishis and sages lay in this region on the banks of the sacred river Saraswati. These ashrams were important centres of study and many disciples flocked to these ashrams for learning. The great sage and writer Ved Vyas who composed the *Mahabharata* is said to have lived in an ashram at Bilaspur (Jagadhri tahsil) earlier known as Vyaspur. This tradition of centres of learning appears to have continued over a long period. We find that Hiuen Tsang who travelled this region in the 7th century A.D. described Sugh (earlier known as Shrughna), a village 5 kilometres from Jagadhri, as a seat of considerable learning, both Buddhists and Brahminical.[1] During the excavation of Sugh in 1964 and 1965, a terracota plaque was recovered showing a child seated in a natural pose with a *takhti* having his first lessons on the *svaras*. It depicts the method of teaching during ancient (Sungha) period[2], which continued during the subsequent centuries.

With the onset of foreign invasions and the loss of political power by the Hindus and the predominant position attained by Islamic religion and culture, the old pattern lost its importance and was thrown into disarray. *Maktabs* teaching Persian and Arabic would appear to have replaced the old time *pathshalas* up to a degree for we find traces of them in the middle of the 19th century. Both types, the *maktabs* and the *chatasals or pathshalas* provide a glimpse of the educational system prevalent in the medieval period. Wynyard in his settlement report published in 1859 gives a vivid description of teaching institutions.[3] According to him, those were of six kinds : *maktabs*, where Persian was taught ; *chatasals*, where Hindi was taught ; *pathshalas* (from *path*, reading) where Nagri and Shastri was taught; *maktabs* where Arabic was taught, places in which Gurmukhi was taught, and finally modern type of

1. *Imperial Gazetteer of India, Provincial series, Punjab*, Vol. I, 1908, p. 337.

2. Devindra Handa, Some Important Towns of Haryana, *Journal of Haryana Studies*, Vol. III, 1971, p. 12.

3. W. Wynyard, *Report on the Revised Settlement of the Southern Paragunahs of the District of Ambala, in the Cis-Sutlej States*, 1859, pp. 89—91. The description of these schools has been repeated in *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, pp. 35—37, *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1892-93, pp. 44—46 and *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1923-24, pp. 119—121.

schools in which English was taught. There were 104 institutions in the then Ambala district and their number in 1853 with the estimated income of teachers received from the government and the individuals in the form of land, grain or money is given in Table XXXVI of Appendix. Teaching in *maktabs* was almost entirely in the hands of *maulvis* who, besides teaching the Quran in the mosques, gave instruction in the Persian classics, as also in the writing of letters and documents. Gurukuls of the old type in which Brahaman boys learnt Sanskrit and received a predominantly religious training were few and far between. In addition to the *maktabs* and *pathshalas*, there were large number of secular schools (*Mahajani*) where sons of Hindu shopkeepers were taught to keep accounts and read and write the traders script (*lande*). One significant feature of these indigenous institutions was that they were not confined to any particular class, but were open to anyone who cared to attend.

These indigenous schools afforded a foundation for the persent educational system, for some of these were converted as such into government schools or were brought under the control of district board or municipalities. Anglo-vernacular schools were also established with better personnel and improved curriculum. A Normal school for training vernacular school teachers was opened at Ambala and was later amalgamated with Normal school, Delhi in 1864.[1] With the decentralisation of finances by the Government of India in 1871, the district board and municipalities were able to devote more funds to education and the number of the new type of schools rose rapidly. In 1881-82, the then Ambala district had one aided high school, 5 (3 government and 2 aided) Anglo-vernacular middle schools, 11 government vernacular middle schools, 11 (6 government and 5 aided) Anglo-vernacular primary schools and 69 government vernacular primary schools. Besides, there were 2 government primary schools for girls with 31 girls on roll.[2] These figures, however, do not include indigenous schools. There was also a government Ward's Institute at Ambala City. It was started by Major Tighe, the then Deputy Commissioner of Ambala in 1866, and was intended chiefly for the sons of sirdars of the Ambala district. Later on, the school was thrown open to the sons of the persons of good social position from all provinces. The education given in this school comprised instruction in English, Persian, Urdu, history, geography, mathematics, and some other subjects. Particular attention was paid to games and out-door exercises of every description.[3] With the opening of

1. *Delhi District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, p. 152.

2. For statistical details see *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, Statistical Tables, Table No. XXXVII.

3. *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1883-84 p. 62.

the Aitchison College at Lahore which was to serve the same purpose for the whole province, this school was closed in 1887.[1]

Steady progress was witnessed during the following decade and the number of all types of schools increased. In 1891-92, there were 2 (1 government and 1 aided) high schools, 14 (13 government and 1 aided) middle schools and 120 (97 government and 23 aided) primary schools in the then district.[2] The old high school was run by the Christian Mission at Ambala city and a new government high school was opened at Jagadhri in 1891. Out of 120 primary schools, 8 were girls primary schools where 244 girls were on roll. Besides, there were indigenous schools some of which received aid from the district board. The schools in the Ambala district were under the charge of the Inspector of Schools, Ambala. Thereafter the advance in number was slow but there was marked efficiency in their working. The abolition of lower primary examination in 1898 led to more attention being paid to improvement of organisation, discipline and methods of instruction. The teaching of objective knowledge and elementary science in upper primary classes received added attention. With the passage of time, an increasing number of subjects, including science with its manifold branches, was introduced to meet the growing professional requirements of educated people.

Towards the close of the 19th century, the new type of education which became more and more popular received much fillip from the efforts of voluntary denominational organisations. The Christian Missions, Arya Samaj, Dev Samaj, Muslim Societies and Singh Sabhas opened many schools in the district with the help from their patrons. It is noteworthy to mention here that these movements (organisation) wished effectually to combine religious with intellectual instruction without inculcating any narrow spirit of bigotry.[3]

The dawn of 20th century witnessed a substantial upsurge in education in which the role of private enterprise was a remarkable feature. The education of the depressed classes and the education of girls also did not escape the notice of the voluntary organisations. In 1920, Arya Samaj was running 6 schools for Chamars, and other depressed classes and Dev Samaj was running 3 schools of similar character and all these were boy's schools. There were 30 schools for girls in the then district, 13 run by the local bodies, 6 by Christian Missions and 11 by other private enterprise.

In 1920, the then district had 10 high schools, 16 middle schools, 162 primary schools besides 44 elementary branches attached with high or middle schools, 2 industrial schools, 9 schools for depressed classes and 10 indigenous schools.[4]

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1. *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1892-93, p. 102.

2. For more details see *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1892-93, Statistical Tables, Table No. XXXVII.

3. G.S. Chhabra, *Social and Economic History of the Punjab* (1849—1901), p. 148. (Also see *Administration Report of the Punjab*, 1892-93).

4. *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1923-24, p. 124.

The progress of education in the district was steady after 1920 and the first step towards the introduction of post-matric education was taken by Late Banarsi Das of Ambala Cantonment who raised Banarsi Das High School, Ambala Cantonment to the status of a college.[1] Later in 1938, S. A. Jain College was opened at Ambala City as an intermediate college.

Things materially changed after Independence and even the education of girls expanded at a rapid rate, there being no social prejudice against the western system of education. As a result of keen interest taken by the state government and voluntary organisations in the spread of education, a phenominal increase occurred in the number of schools and colleges. In 1977-78, there were 949 different types of educational institutions; 16 degree colleges, 2 teachers training colleges, 1 oriental college, 4 central schools, 14 higher secondary schools, 126 high schools, 78 middle schools, 691 primary including branch primary schools, 2 polytechnics, 11 industrial training institutes/schools/centres, 2 institutes for handicapped, 2 training centres for nursing and one training centre for multi-purpose health workers.

The following figures show the vast expansion of education during the period 1966-67 to 1977-78 :—

Type of Institution	Year	No. of Institutions			No. of Students		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Colleges	1966-67	6	4	10	3,918	2,582	6,500
	1975-76	12	6	18	9,039	4,714	13,753
	1976-77	11	6	17	7,709	4,863	12,572
	1977-78	12	6	18	8,202	5,363	13,565
High/Higher Schools	1966-67	62	29	91	33,780	17,357	51,137
	1975-76	101	40	141	56,813	31,086	87,899
	1976-77	100	40	140	55,496	30,605	86,101
	1977-78	100	40	140	54,636	30,130	84,766
Middle Schools	1966-67	63	17	80	15,693	9,914	25,607
	1975-76	71	9	80	14,084	9,490	23,574
	1976-77	69	9	78	14,596	9,229	23,825
	1977-78	67	11	78	16,140	9,918	26,058
Primary Schools	1966-67	611	—	611	40,496	23,304	63,800
	1975-76	703	7	710	48,512	28,677	77,189
	1976-77	684	7	691	51,181	30,042	81,223
	1977-78	684	7	691	48,610	28,821	77,431

The 1971 Census provides a broad based picture of educational facilities available in rural and urban areas of the district. The tables XXXVII and

1. The college could function only for a short period and had to be closed down.

XXXVIII of Appendix give the distribution of various types of educational institutions in the rural areas and the towns of the district. It will be seen from the table that as many as 557 out of 1,306 villages i.e. nearly 43 per cent enjoyed the facility of a primary school. The distance from the nearest town did not have any bearing on the availability or otherwise of the educational facilities in the villages and these were almost evenly distributed all over the district.

EDUCATION OF WOMEN

As in other districts of Haryana, the education of women remained neglected in the past. It was only in the last quarter of the 19th century that some efforts were made to provide schooling to girls. In 1877-78, there were only 2 government vernacular primary schools with only 37 girls on roll in the then district.[1] The number of girls schools rose to 8 and that of girls students to 244 in 1891-92.[2] There was, however, much private teaching almost exclusively religious, by Hindus, Sikhs, Mohammedans and Christian Missions. The most gratifying feature of these years was the steady increase of voluntary organisations in the field of women education.[3] In 1920, there were 30 girl schools in the district, 13 run by the local bodies, 6 by Christian Missions and the rest by other voluntary organisations.[4]

The progress of women education accelerated after Independence and voluntary organisations like Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Arya Samaj, Dev Samaj and others opened a number of schools for girls. In 1977-78, the district was well ahead in the field of women education and there were 5 colleges, 4 higher secondary, 36 high, 11 middle and 7 primary schools, 3 industrial schools, 1 technical institute and 2 centres for nursing and midwife courses exclusively for girls. Besides, all schools in rural areas are co-educational. In urban areas, the girls are allowed admission in all colleges.

EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

Before Independence , some efforts were made in the direction of eradication of illiteracy among the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. Arya Samaj and Dev Samaj made notable efforts in this direction in the beginning of the 20th century. In 1923-24, there were nine schools for Chamars and other depressed classes run by Arya Samaj and Dev Samaj in the then district.[5] These efforts, however, were slight considering the magnitude of the problem. It was only after Independence that the government vigorously directed its policy towards raising general level of literacy among them.

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1. *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, Statistical Tables, Table No. XXXVII.
2. Ibid, 1892-93, Statistical Tables, Table No. XXXVII.
3. *Imperial Gazetteer of India, Provincial Series, Punjab*, Vol. I, 1908, p. 140.
4. *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1923-24, p. 122.
5. Ibid.

The students belonging to these classes are provided with various facilities by way of reservation of seats in professional and technical institutions, exemption from payment of tuition fee and reimbursement of examination fee and also by giving financial assistance in the form of stipends. School books are supplied to them free of cost in 9th, 10th and 11th classes. College education is also provided free. Stipends under the State Harijan Welfare scheme and Government of India Post Matriculation Scholarship scheme are also awarded. Despite these concessions and the efforts made by the government in this direction, literacy among these classes is still low as they prefer to employ their children on odd jobs to supplement their meagre family income and are not able to make use of even the benefits of free education.

The following table shows the enrolment of students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes in different institutions in the district during 1975-76 to 1977-78 :—

Type of Institution	Enrolment of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes			
	Year	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary Schools ..	1975-76	9,959	3,438	13,397
	1976-77	13,633	4,970	18,603
	1977-78	11,622	4,554	16,176
Middle Schools ..	1975-76	1,786	817	2,603
	1976-77	3,049	898	3,947
	1977-78	3,505	1,091	4,596
High/Higher Secondary Schools	1975-76	5,611	2,057	7,668
	1976-77	8,209	2,105	10,314
	1977-78	8,174	2,222	10,396
Colleges ..	1975-76	647	44	691
	1976-77	556	55	611
	1977-78	593	57	650

Literacy Ratio

Literacy ratio both for males and females increased significantly over the period of the last ninety years (1881—1971). According to the 1881 Census, there were only 2.34 per cent (4.56 per cent males and 0.50 per cent females) literates in the district. Literacy ratio increased to 3.2 in 1891, 4.1 in 1901,

5.4 in 1911, 5.9 in 1921 and 7.5 in 1931. It further rose to 13.3 per cent in 1941 and 16.2 in 1951.

With the expansion of educational facilities after Independence, the literacy ratio exhibited a significant upward trend. According to the 1961 Census, the percentage of total literates in the then district worked out to 29.3 and that of males and females to 37.5 and 19.2 respectively.[1]

The extent of literacy of the present district as revealed by the Census of 1971 is 56.00 per cent (62.10 per cent for males and 49.10 per cent for females) in urban areas and 26.20 per cent (35.04 per cent for males and 12.90 per cent for females) in rural areas. The overall percentage of literacy was 35.50 (43.5 for males and 26.3 for females) and compared favourably with that of the Haryana state as a whole where it was 26.9 (37.3 for males and 14.9 for females).[2] Evidently, there was a marked increase in the number of literates in 1971. The extent of literacy in the urban and rural areas of the district, however, shows a wide divergence, more so in the case of females.

District Education Set-up

The District Education Officer is responsible for the administration and control of all primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools. He is directly under the administrative control of the Director, Public Instruction, Haryana, Chandigarh. The District Education Officer is assisted by a Deputy District Education Officer and 3 Sub-Divisional Education Officers (one each at Ambala, Jagadhri and Narayangarh) and 15 Block Education Officers. The area of operation of each Block Education Officer is normally coterminous with the development block but a few development blocks have been sub-divided according to the number of schools and as such there are 3 Block Education Officers in Ambala and Jagadhri and 2 each in Barara, Narayangarh and Raipur Rani and one each at Pinjore, Bilaspur and Chhachhrauli. An Assistant Education Officer looks after the promotion of physical education in the schools of the district.

General Education

Pre-primary Education

Pre-primary education caters to the need of children in the age group 3-6 years. The system of pre-primary education has not yet developed and it is not well organised. However, the people have become conscious of its importance for small children and a few voluntary organisations run nursery schools which are mostly located in Ambala, Yamunanagar, Jagadhri, Narayangarh

1. *Statistical Abstract of Haryana*. 1974-75, p. 476.

2. Ibid.

and Kalka. Besides, there are two convent schools and a few unrecognised schools too, which have nursery classes attached to them. The Haryana Child Welfare Council and Central Social Welfare Board are doing pioneer work to attend to welfare of small children and have opened 22 *balwaris* (nursery schools in various parts of the district.

Primary Education

The course of primary education covers children of age-group 6—11 and consists of five classes i.e., from Class I to Class V. Since April, 1961, primary education has been made compulsory. The education at this stage is imparted free and all such schools are mixed. Teachers are provided at the pupil teacher ratio of 40 : 1. Single-teacher schools are very few and function only in villages and habitations with a small population because in such schools, the number of students is also small. In March, 1978, there were 691 primary schools which were evenly distributed all over the district.

Middle Education

Education at the middle stage covers children of age group 11—14 and consists of classes VI to VIII. The pupil teacher ratio of 30 : 1 has been adopted for this stage and the education is free in all government schools. In 1978, there were 78 middle schools in the Ambala district.

Secondary Education

Secondary education comprises classes IX and X but it extends to class XI in higher secondary schools. For a majority of students, secondary education is of a terminal character. To meet the requirement of those who wish to earn their livelihood after completing their secondary education, besides providing a broad base for admission to higher courses of study, diversified courses were provided in some of the schools which were converted into higher secondary schools.

In 1977-78, there were 14 higher secondary schools and 126 high schools. Besides, there were 4 central schools, 2 at Ambala, one at Chandi Mandir and one at HMT Pinjore run by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sanghtan, to provide undisturbed studies to the wards of transferable central government employees. These schools are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, Delhi.

There are 2 convent schools in Ambala district located at Ambala Cantonment and Jagadhri.

Medium of Instruction

The medium of instruction in the schools of the district is Hindi. The teaching of Hindi as a medium of instruction and first language starts from

Class-I. English is taught from Class VI as a second language. Sanskrit, Urdu, Telugu or Panjabi is taught as a third language in classes VII and VIII. However, a few private schools, which had Panjabi as the medium of instruction prior to the formation of Haryana in 1966, have been allowed to continue instruction through the medium of Panjabi. To provide safeguards to the linguistic minorities, provision has also been made for the teaching of Urdu/Panjabi as an additional subject from Class I provided 10 pupils in a class or 40 in whole of a primary school or primary section of a middle, high or higher secondary school are desirous of studying this language. But the medium of instruction and the first language even for such schools, remains Hindi.

Incentives

Education is free upto the middle standard. Thereafter, boys and girls belonging to poor families are charged a reduced scale of fee. Education is free for all whose family income is less than Rs. 1,000 per annum in the case of boys and less than Rs. 3,000 per annum in the case of girls. Boys whose family income is between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 3,000 are charged fee at half the rates. Boys whose family income exceeds Rs. 3,000 per annum are charged fee at full rates whereas the girls in this category are charged fee at half rates.

Students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, who are studying in 9th, 10th and 11th classes, are given stipends at the rate of Rs. 8 per mensem under the State Harijan Welfare Scheme, provided the income of their parents/guardians does not exceed Rs. 4,200 per annum. They are also allowed refund of examination fee. Scheduled Castes are exempted from the payment of tuition fee, but students belonging to Other Backward Classes are allowed this concession subject to the above income condition.

Scheduled Castes are also given stipends under the Government of India Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. The stipends include refund of examination fee, tuition fee and other compulsory non-refundable charges. The rate of stipend varies from Rs. 40 to Rs. 200 according to different income slabs.

No tuition fee is charged from the children of serving defence personnel or of defence personnel who have been killed or disabled.

Higher Education

The origin of the post-matric education in the district can be traced to the twenties of the present century when Late Banarsi Das opened Banarsi Das Peace Memorial College.[1] Later in 1938, S.A. Jain college was opened at Ambala City. Soon after the Partition of the country, some colleges

1. The college could function only for a short period and had to be closed down.

formerly located at Lahore were re-established in the district. In 1948, D.A.V. College, Dev Samaj College for Girls and Sohan Lal College of Education were established at Ambala City and S.D. College at Ambala Cantonment. The G.M.N. College at Ambala Cantonment was also founded in 1948.* In 1978, there were 16 colleges, one run by the government and rest by private bodies. All these colleges were affiliated to the Panjab University, Chandigarh, but in 1974, these were affiliated to the Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

Shri Atmanand Jain College, Ambala City.—Founded in the memory of great Jain Saint late Shri Atmanand, the college was opened as intermediate college in 1938. It is one of the oldest Jain colleges in the country. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college provides courses in humanities, commerce and science up to degree level and post-graduate course in economics. It also provides two year diploma course in office management and secretarial training. It is housed in a commodious building with a 200 seats hostel for boys. It has extensive play-grounds, a stadium and well-equipped laboratories. The college maintains a well-stocked library with 31,721 books on all subjects. It subscribes to 110 journals and periodicals. A book bank also provides books to brilliant and needy students.

In 1977-78, it had 1,453 students (1,205 boys and 248 girls) on its roll including 60 belonging to Scheduled Castes and 48 to other Backward Classes. It had 45 members on its teaching staff. It also had one company of N.C.C. for boys and a unit of N.S.S. The college brings out annually a magazine named *Atmanand*.

D.A.V. College (Lahore), Ambala City.—The college was established in 1886 at Lahore (Pakistan) in the memory of Swami Dayanand. It is one of the oldest D.A.V. colleges in the country.

The college which was re-established at Ambala City in 1948 consequently upon the Partition, is one of the pioneer arts and science colleges of Haryana. The college provides courses in humanities and science up to degree level and is affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. In the evening shift, which was started in 1967, only the arts classes are run up to degree level.

The college is located near Jagadhri gate and is housed in a commodious building with three hostels furnished with all modern amenities. It has extensive play-grounds, a botanical garden, an open-air theatre, well equipped laboratories, a students centre and a non-resident students centre.

The college maintains a well stocked library with more than 35,000 books on all subjects. It subscribes to nearly 100 journals and periodicals. The library is housed in a very spacious building.

In 1977-78, the college had on its roll 962 students including 63 belonging to Scheduled Castes and 35 to Other Backward Classes. It had 45 members on its teaching staff. It also had two N.C.C. companies and one N.S.S.(National Service Scheme) unit. *Gian Sheel* is the title of the magazine which the college brings out annually.

Dev Samaj College for Girls(Lahore), Ambala City.—It was established in 1934 at Lahore (Pakistan). After Partition it was re-established at Ambala City in 1948. It is one of the leading institutions of Haryana catering to higher education of girls. It provides courses in humanities up to degree level and is affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

Located near the Ambala City railway station, the college is housed in a commodious building having an auditorium, library and non-resident students centre. It also provides hostel facilities. It has one N.C.C. platoon and 2 N.S.S. units. It publishes an annual magazine named *Onward*.

The college possesses a well stocked library with 18,500 books on all subjects. It also subscribes to nearly 75 journals and periodicals. A book bank provides books to brilliant and needy students. The new three storeyed library building was completed during 1974-75.

In 1977-78, the college had on its roll 823 students including 6 belonging to Scheduled Castes and 5 to Other Backward Classes. It had 22 members on its teaching staff.

Sanatan Dharma College (Lahore), Ambala Cantonment.—Founded at Lahore(Pakistan) in May 1916, Sanatan Dharma College was re-established at Ambala Cantonment in March, 1948 after the Partition. Located on the Ambala-Jagadhri road, the college campus is spread over an area of about 15.5 acres(6.27 hectares). Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college provides courses in humanities, commerce, science and home science up to degree level and post-graduate courses in Hindi and English. It also provides job-oriented diploma courses in office management and secretarial training(two years course) and in secretarial practice (one year course).

The college has well-stocked library with nearly 22,500 books on various subjects. It also subscribes to 53 periodicals and journals. A book bank provides books to brilliant and needy students for entire academic session.

Housed in its own building, the college has vast play-grounds, a hall, botanical garden and well equipped laboratories. It has two hostels, one for

boys and the other for girls with the capacity of 175 and 75 respectively. It also has 15 staff quarters.

In 1977-78, it had 1,941 students (1,246 boys and 695 girls) on its roll including 69 belonging to Scheduled Castes and 53 to Other Backward Classes. It had 62 members on its teaching staff. It had one company for boys and one platoon for girls of N.C.C. It also had three units of N.S.S. The college brings out annually a magazine named *Sanatan Dharam College Patrika*.

Gandhi Memorial National College, Ambala Cantonment.—Located on Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, the college was founded in 1948 in the sacred memory of Mahatma Gandhi. The college campus covers an area of about 10 acres (4.05 hectares).

Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college provides courses in humanities, science and commerce up to degree level and post-graduate courses in political science and English.

The college library is housed in a spacious building and is well stocked having 24,955 books. It subscribes to 98 journals and periodicals. There is also a book bank which gives the books on loan to the deserving students. It has extensive play-grounds for various games, well-equipped laboratories, a museum and students welfare centre. The college also provides hostel facilities to students.

In 1977-78, 1,393 students (1,049 boys and 344 girls) were on its roll including 66 (64 boys and 2 girls) belonging to Scheduled Castes and 58 (52 boys and 6 girls) to Other Backward Classes. It had 51 members on its teaching staff. It also had one N.C.C. company of boys and one platoon of girls and also a N.S.S. unit. The college brings out bi-annually a magazine named *Gandhi Path*.

Mukand Lal National College, Yamunanagar.—Located in the heart of the city, the college was founded in May 1955 as an intermediate college. In 1956, it was raised to a degree college. It provides courses in humanities, science, commerce up to degree level and post graduation in English, economics and political science. It is affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

The college is housed in a commodious building with well-equipped laboratories, an auditorium, a gymnasium and extensive play-grounds. The college has a double-storey hostel with a separate hostel for teachers provided with modern amenities. The college has a well-stocked library with 60,894 books on all subjects and subscribes to nearly 250 journals and periodicals. The book bank gives books on loan to deserving students.

The college had 2,156 (1,828 boys and 328 girls) students on its roll in 1977-78 including 154 students belonging to Scheduled Castes and 90 to Other Backward Classes. Its teaching staff consists of 71 members. It had one company of N.C.C. for boys and one girls platoon. It also had one unit of N.S.S. The college brings out annually magazine named *M.L.N. College Magazine*.

D.A.V. College for Girls, Yamunanagar.—The college was established in 1958. It was shifted to its new premises on Jagadhri road in 1971. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, it provides courses in humanities up to degree level.

The college maintains a library which contains 8,918 books. It subscribes to 14 journals and periodicals. The college has the facilities of extensive play-grounds, a big hall and a non-resident students centre.

It had 311 students including 6 belonging to Scheduled Castes on its roll in 1977-78. It had 15 members on its teaching staff. It had one N.C.C. platoon and one N.S.S. unit. The college brings out a magazine annually.

Arya Girls College, Ambala Cantonment.—The college was founded in July, 1959. Located on Staff road, the college is housed in a spacious building. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, it provides courses in humanities up to degree level and post graduation in political science. The college maintains a well-stocked library containing 15,840 books. It subscribes to 20 journals and periodicals. The college hostel with modern amenities, has accommodation for 60 students. The college possesses extensive play-grounds.

It had 512 students including 18 students belonging to Scheduled Castes and 9 to Other Backward Classes on its roll in 1977-78. It had 18 members on its teaching staff. It also had one N.C.C. platoon and one N.S.S. unit. The college brings out bi-annually a magazine named *Yajna Ahuti*.

Hindu Girls College, Jagadhri.—The college was founded in 1962. It provides courses in humanities up to degree level and is affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

It had 393 students including 2 students belonging to Scheduled Castes and 26 to Other Backward Classes on its roll in 1977-78. It had one N.C.C. platoon and one N.S.S. unit. The college brings out annually a magazine named *Kuhu*.

The college maintains a library which contains 7,414 books. It subscribes to 59 journals and periodicals. The college has facilities of extensive play-grounds, an open-air theatre and a non-resident students centre. The college also provides hostel facilities.

Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Yamunanagar.—The college was established in 1968. It is housed in a newly constructed building located near Madan Lal Dhingra Chowk. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college provides courses in humanities , science and commerce up to degree level. The college maintains a library which contains 10,008 books and subscribes to 35 journals and periodicals. The college has well-equipped laboratories and spacious play-grounds.

It had 477 students(448 boys and 29 girls) on its roll in 1977-78 which included 35(34 boys and 1 girl) students belonging to Scheduled Castes and 42 (41boys and 1 girl) to Other Backward Classes. It had 25 members on its teaching staff. It also had one company of N.C.C. and one unit of N.S.S. The college brings out annually a magazine named *Vismad.*

D.A.V. College, Sadhaura.—The college was established in July, 1968. Located one kilometre away from main market with the backdrop of the Shiwalik hills, the college campus is spread over an area of 25 acres (11.04 hectares). Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, it provides courses in humanities up to degree level. The college maintains a library with 10,268 books on different subjects. It subscribes to nearly 50 journals and periodicals. The college possesses extensive play-grounds for various games.

In 1977-78, it had 386 (335 boys and 51 girls) students on its roll including 63(61 boys and 2 girls) belonging to Scheduled Castes and 43(41 boys and 2 girls) to Other Backward Classes. It had 7 members on its teaching staff. It also had one company of N.C.C. and one unit of N.S.S. It brings out annually a magazine named *Suveer.*

Government College, Kalka.—The college was established by the Haryana Government in July, 1970. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, it provides courses in humanities up to degree level. The college maintains library which contains 8,020 books and subscribes to 32 journals and periodicals.

In 1977-78, it had 445(194 boys and 251 girls) students on its roll including 18 students(15 boys and 3 girls) belonging to Scheduled Castes and 12(all boys) to Other Backward Classes. It had 20 members on its teaching staff. It also had one company of N.C.C. for boys and one N.S.S. unit. It brings out annually a magazine named *Shivalika.*

Maharaja Agrasen Mahavidyalaya, Jagadhri.—The college was estbalished in July, 1971. It was previously housed in Ram Lila Bhawan and was shifted to its newly constructed building on Jagadhri-Saharanpur road in July, 1974. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college offers courses

in humanities and commerce up to degree level. It also provides one year diploma course in secretarial practice. The college library contains 4,006 books and subscribes to 31 journals and periodicals. The college provides facilities for indoor and outdoor games.

In 1977-78, it had 509(476 boys 33 girls) students on its roll including 40 boys belonging to Scheduled Castes and 34 boys to Other Backward Classes. It had 15 members on its teaching staff. It also had one company of N.C.C. for boys and one N.S.S. unit. The college brings out annually a magazine named *Naval Deep*.

Guru Nanak Girls College, Santpura, Yamunanagar.—The college was established in 1973. Located in Santpura, the college has its own building, with hostel and residential accommodation for staff members. To cater to the needs of the surrounding rural areas, the college maintains 3 college buses to carry students. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college provides courses in humanities up to degree level.

In 1977-78, the college had 720 girl students including 3 belonging to Scheduled Castes and 19 to Other Backward Classes. It had 23 members on its teaching staff. The college brings out annually a magazine named *Sachiara*. It had one platoon of N.C.C. and a unit of N.S.S. The college maintains a library with 12,645 books on its stock and subscribes to 37 journals and periodicals.

D.A.V. College, Naneola.—The college was established in 1974. The college which was previously housed in a part of government high school building was later shifted to its own building. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, it provides courses in humanities up to degree level.

In 1977-78, it had 177(157 boys and 20 girls) students on its roll including 10 students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. It had one company of N.C.C. for boys and a unit of N.S.S. The college maintains a library and a reading room.

R.L.S.D. College, Shahazadpur.—The college was established in 1974. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college offers courses in humanities up to degree level.

In 1977-78, it had 45 students on its roll including 4 (2 boys and 2 girls) belonging to Scheduled Castes and 3 (2 boys and 1 girl) to Other Backward Classes. It had 8 members on its teaching staff. The college maintains a

library which contains 1,572 books and subscribes to 5 journals and periodicals.

Oriental College

There is only one institution for the teaching of Sanskrit, viz. Dewan Krishan Kishore S.D. Sanskrit College (Lahore), Ambala Cantonment. It was established at Lahore in 1918 as an allied institution of S. D. College, Lahore. It was re-established at Ambala in 1948. The college is housed in its own building having hostel and library, located on Jagadhri road. It provides courses in *Pragya* (proficiency in Sanskrit), *Vishard* (Higher Proficiency in Sanskrit) and *Shastri* (Honours in Sanskrit) and is affiliated to the Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. The education is free and food is provided to the boarders at subsidised rates. In 1977-78, the college had 57 students including 3 students belonging to Other Backward Classes on its roll. It had 4 members on its teaching staff. The college library contains 1,242 books and subscribes to 9 journals and periodicals.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Technical Education and Industrial Training

Hardly any effort was made to provide technical education in the district prior to the Independence. A few stray efforts were made by way of opening an industrial school at Ambala in the twenties of the present century. The school was up to 5th class and taught carpentry and drawing.[1] Later on in 1937, a Margret Irving Government Industrial school, Ambala[2] was opened to impart training to girls in a few household crafts.

After Independence, an engineering school was established at Chhachhrauli in November, 1950. Later on, it was shifted to Nilokheri (Karnal district) in October, 1951. Two polytechnics were established, a Government Polytechnic at Ambala in 1958 and a Government Polytechnic for Women renamed as Technical Institute for Women at Ambala in 1968. A number of industrial training institutes were also set up to ensure a steady flow of skilled workers in different trades for industry.

Government Polytechnic, Ambala City.—Located near civil hospital, it began as government industrial school in 1929 and later on developed into Metal Works Institute in 1933. It was recognised in 1948 and was thereafter known

1. *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1923-24, p. 123.

2. The school has now been named as Government Industrial School for Girls.

as Government Technical Institute. In 1958, the institute was renamed as Government Polytechnic. Affiliated to the State Board of Technical Education, Haryana, Chandigarh, it provides diploma courses in civil, mechanical, electrical and automobile engineering.

It has a library containing 16,000 books on technical subjects. It subscribes to 16 journals and periodicals.

It had 727 students on its roll in 1977-78 including 56 belonging to Scheduled Castes and 16 to Other Backward Classes. It had 87 members on its teaching staff. It had one N.C.C. company with 106 cadets.

Technical Institute for Women, Ambala City.—A Government Polytechnic for Women was opened at Ambala City in 1968 and was later renamed as Technical Institute for Women in 1971.[1] The institute is affiliated to the State Board of Technical Education, Haryana, Chandigarh and provides diploma courses in library science, pharmacy and dressers course, commercial practice and stenography and interior decoration. It has a library containing 6,500 books on technical subjects. It subscribes to 20 journals and periodicals.

There were 168 trainees on its roll in 1977-78 including 9 belonging to Scheduled Castes. It had one platoon of N.C.C.

Industrial Training.—Industrial training is imparted to men and women with a view to ensuring a steady flow of skilled workers in different trades. The aim is to raise the quality and quantity of industrial production by systematic training of workers and to reduce unemployment amongst educated youths by equipping them for suitable industrial employment. Training is provided in engineering and non-engineering trades. Initially two industrial training institutes, one each at Ambala and Yamunanagar, were established under the Craftsman Training Scheme of the Government of India but the management of these institutions was later transferred to the state government in 1958. The state government also started 4 industrial schools, one each at Ambala, Chhachhrauli, Narayangarh and Kalka and one industrial training centre at Ambala Cantonment. These institutions are functioning under the control of Director, Industrial Training, Haryana, Chandigarh. Besides, 4 institutions, one each at Ambala City, Ambala Cantonment, Yamunanagar and Jagadhri are run by voluntary organisations and are aided by the state government. Training is provided in industrial training institutes in various crafts for the award of National Trade Certificate of the All India Council of Vocational Training, New Delhi. Incentives are provided by way of award of stipend of Rs. 25 per mensem per student on poverty cum-merit basis to one-third of the students on roll in each institution. Trainees belonging to Scheduled Castes are given a stipend of Rs. 45 per mensem. Ex-servicemen and their

1. It was renamed as Government Polytechnic for Women in 1980.

dependents are also awarded stipends for such training. Besides, technical training, medical aid, workshop clothes and hostel accommodation are provided free of cost to all trainees. The training period ranges from one year to two years.

The details of the institutions along with the year of establishment, trades or crafts provided and duration of the course is given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Year of Establishment	Total No. of Trainees	No. of Trainees Belonging to Scheduled Castes	Trades/Crafts Provided	Duration of the Courses
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Industrial Training Institute, Ambala City	1961	1,028	127	Turner, Fitter, Electrician Draftsman (Mechanical), Wireman, Pattern Maker, Machinist, Instrument Mechanic, Radio Mechanic, Motor Mechanic, Tool and Die maker, Refrigerator and Air conditioning Mechanic.	2 years
					Welder, Moulder, Painter, Blacksmith, Plumber, Printing Machine Operator, Hand Composing, Carpentry, Stenography (Hindi and English) and Cutting and Tailoring	1 year
2	Industrial Training Institute, Yamunanagar	1958	1,112	147	Turner, Fitter, Electrician, Draftsman (Mechanical and Civil) Wireman, Pattern Maker, Machinist, Instrument Mechanic, Radio Mechanic, Motor Mechanic, Tool and Die maker, Refrigerator and Air Conditioning Mechanic	2 years
					Electroplator, Welder, Moulder, Painter, Blacksmith, Plumber, Printing Machine Operator, Hand Composing, Carpentry, Steno-graphy (Hindi and English), Cutting and Tailoring and Embriodery	1 year
3	Margret Irving Government Industrial School for Girls, Ambala City	1937	314	17	Cutting and Tailoring, Embroidery and Needle Work, Dress and Design, Hand Knitting and Machine Knitting, and Craft Teachers' Training Course	1 year

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	Government Industrial School for Girls, Chhachhrauli	1963	43	—	Cutting and Tailoring and Embroidery	1 year
5	Government Industrial School for Girls, Narayangarh	1971	66	1	Cutting and Tailoring and Embroidery and Needle Work	1 year
6	Government Industrial School for Girls, Kalka	1969	70	2	Cutting and Tailoring and Embroidery and Needle Work	1 year
7	Mool Chand Government Industrial Training Centre, Ambala Cantonment	1959	107	99	Fitter, Turner, Stenography (English) Watch Repairing, Sheet Metal and Carpentry	2 years 1 year
8	Murli Mal Sanatan Dharam Industrial School for Girls, Ambala Cantonment	1956	73	7	Cutting and Tailoring, Embroidery and Teachers' Training Course in Cutting and Tailoring, and Embroidery	1 year
9	Women league Girls Industrial School, Yamunanagar	1956	143	..	Cutting and Tailoring, Embroidery and Needle Work, Stenography (Hindi and English), Teachers Training course in Cutting and Tailoring	1 year
10	Prem Sewa Samiti Industrial School for Girls, Yamunanagar	1962	..	1	Cutting and Tailoring and Embroidery	1 year
11	S.D. Indira Gandhi Mahila Shilp Vidyalaya, Ambala Cantonment	1959	19	2	Cutting and Tailoring and Embroidery	1 year

Medical Education

Training in nursing is provided by Philadelphia Hospital, Ambala City and Christian Hospital, Jagadhri. It is 3½ years course and its examination is conducted by Haryana State Nursing Council. In 1977-78, there were 120 students on roll in Philadelphia Hospital, Ambala City and 50 students in Christian Hospital, Jagadhri. Philadelphia Hospital also provides facilities for diploma courses in medical record technician training (6 months) and laboratory technician training (2 years). In 1977-78, it had 6 and 4 students in these courses respectively. Besides, Civil Hospital, Ambala City provides facilities of multipurpose health workers course for females (1½ years). Its examination is also conducted by Haryana State Nursing Council. In 1977-78, there were 30 girls doing multipurpose health workers course.

Teachers' Training

There are two colleges providing teachers' training. A brief account of these colleges is given below :

Sohan Lal College of Education, Ambala City.—The college founded at Lahore (Pakistan) in 1939, was re-established at Ambala City in 1948 after Partition. It is housed in a commodious two-storeyed building. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, it provides degree and post-graduate courses in education. It also provides Junior Basic Teachers Training (Home Craft) (two years course) and Arts and Crafts Teachers Training (two years course).

The college maintains a library which contains 11,925 books and subscribes to 85 periodicals and journals. It has a book bank from where the books are loaned to deserving students. The college provides hostel facilities both for boys and girls. It also has well equipped laboratories for home science, physical and life science and psychology.

In 1977-78, the college had 547 (231 boys and 316 girls) students on its roll including 34 (16 boys and 18 girls) belonging to Scheduled Castes. It had 17 members on its teaching staff. The college also had one N.S.S. unit.

Dev Samaj College of Education for Women, Ambala City.—Located on Dev Samaj College road, the college was started in June, 1976. It is housed in a commodious building. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, it provides degree course in education.

The college library contains 1,428 books and subscribes to 9 periodicals and journals. The college provides hostel facilities for 36 students.

In 1977-78, the college had 150 students on its roll including 5 belonging to Scheduled Castes and one to Other Backward Classes. It had 9 members on its teaching staff.

Education of the Physically Handicapped

S.D. Institute for the Blind, Ambala Cantonment.—The institute was established in 1952 by the Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Ambala Cantonment to educate, train and rehabilitate the blind so as to make them self-supporting. The inmates are imparted general education through Braille system and training in crafts like caning of chairs, weaving, *niwar* making and candle making.

The institute is a residential institution and is housed in its own building located on Jagadhri road. The inmates are provided free boarding, lodging, clothing, medical aid and education. The inmates desirous of pursuing higher education are provided facilities in S.D. High School and S.D. College, Ambala Cantonment.

In 1977-78, 45 students were on the roll of the institute. Of these, 12 were in primary section, 6 in high school and 27 were receiving college education.

Besides, there were 2 blind workers for caning of chairs and 4 blind teachers for running the primary section of the institute.

There is also a proposal to set up a work centre for the blind and other handicapped persons.

Saket, Chandimandir.—Saket is a hospital-cum-home for orthopaedically handicapped children. It is located on Chandigarh-Kalka road at Chandi Mandir, about 15 kilometres from Chandigarh. It was established in 1957 and is managed by Haryana Saket Council, a body sponsored by the Red Cross of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Saket is located in a campus spread over an area of 2.02 hectares. It is housed in a commodious building having facilities of hostel, hospital, staff quarters and a guest house. The hospital is provided with an X-ray plant and operation theatre. A prosthetic workshop to prepare artificial limbs, calliper jackets, cervical collars and belts, crutches and orthopaedic shoes is running in Saket.

The intake capacity of the institute is 120, 100 for handicapped children and 20 for disabled grown-ups. The admission is allowed to orthopaedically handicapped but mentally alert children, boys in the age group of 5-12 years and girls in the age group of 5-16 years. The adults are admitted for treatment and rehabilitation in the rehabilitation centre of Saket. Besides providing treatment to the children for their orthopaedic defects, general education is provided up to the middle standard, and training is imparted in crafts like leather work, wood-work, carpentry, weaving, toy-making, book-binding, tailoring, embroidery, knitting, etc. They are also imparted training in tailoring and making of artificial limbs, etc. in the prosthetic workshop. A nursery school and a creche for young inmates and children of the staff members of the Saket has been opened in the campus. The inmates of the Saket are provided with free boarding, lodging, clothing and medico-surgical and vocational training.

In 1977-78, there were 85 children and 20 adults on its roll.

Adult Education[1]

Farmers Functional Literacy Project was started in the district during 1973-74, with the aim of spreading literacy among the villagers. Apart from imparting knowledge of reading and writing, these centres also acquainted the villagers with new scientific developments and methods for increasing agricultural production.

1. This programme was expanded in 1978 when National Adult Education Programme was launched on October 2, 1978. There were 283 adult education centres in the district in 1978-79 and 8,610 persons were made literate during the year.

In 1977-78, there were 60 such centres in the district and these centres made 1,622 persons literate during the year.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

National Service Scheme (N.S.S.) was introduced in the educational programme of the country in 1969. The scheme was adopted in the colleges of Haryana in the year 1970-71. It aims at educating the students through community service. It enriches the students' personality and deepens their understanding of the social environment in which they live. It helps the students to develop an awarnesss and knowledge of the social reality and to have a concern for the well being of the community.

Under the scheme, the students undertake activities designed to tackle social problems and promote social welfare. Its activities are multifarious and include adult education, tree plantations, family and child care, rural cleanliness, blood donation, etc. N.S.S. volunteers also render valuable help at the time of natural calamities like floods and famines.

N.S.S. training is imparted regularly during the academic sessions and through out-door camps. The programmes under the scheme are project oriented as per guidelines provided by the central government from time to time. The theme for the special camping programme from 1976-77 has been 'Youth for Rural Reconstruction'.

The scheme is functioning almost in all the colleges of the district. In 1977-78, 1,804 students (895 boys and 909 girls) in various colleges of the district had opted for the scheme.

NATIONAL CADET CORPS

The National Cadet Corps (N.C.C.) was introduced in 1948-49 as part of educational programme to develop the qualities of leadership, unity and discipline. Later in July, 1963, after the Chinese Aggression, it was made compulsory for all able bodied under-graduate boy students at college level. In 1969, two other programmes, namely, the N.S.S. (National Service Scheme) and the sports were introduced as an alternative to N.C.C., which is no longer compulsory. The N.C.C. training is imparted regularly during academic sessions and through outdoor camps.

N.C.C. is organised in the district through Group Headquarters, Ambala Cantonment. It has under its jurisdiction 2-Haryana Battalion, Ambala Cantonment, 14-Haryana Battalion, Yamunanagar and 1-Haryana Girls Battalion at Ambala Cantonment. These battalions cover cadets of senior division in the colleges and junior division in schools.

In 1977-78, 2,067 cadets (1,600 boys and 467 girls) in senior division and 2,100 cadets (1,800 boys and 300 girls) in junior division had taken up N.C.C. in different institutions of the district.

SPORTS

Sports activities in the district include school tournaments, panchayat tournaments, and open tournaments. The sports activities in the district are organised by the District Sports Officer who is assisted by 7 coaches.

Coaching Centres.—Eight coaching centres have been established in the district for promotion of sports. These centres provide facilities of spacious play-grounds. School and college students and departmental/club players regularly attend these coaching centres for specialised training in sports. To prepare them for competitions, coaching camps for selected teams of the district are held from time to time. Talented young players are sent to centralised state level coaching camps, where they get advanced training and an opportunity to participate in competitive and exhibition matches. Such camps are held separately for school and college boys every year during vacation. The list of the coaching centres is given below :

Name of Coaching Centre		Venue
Football coaching centres	..	(i) War Heroes Memorial Stadium, Ambala Cantonment (ii) D.A.V. College, Ambala City
Athletics coaching centre	..	War Heroes Memorial Stadium, Ambala Cantonment
Gymnastic coaching centre	..	S.D. Institute for the Blind, Ambala Cantonment
Badminton coaching centre	..	S.D. High School, Ambala Cantonment
Hockey coaching centre	..	D.A.V. College, Ambala City
Volley-ball coaching centre	..	Dev Samaj College, Ambala City
Basket-ball coaching centre	..	Government High School, Model Town, Yamunanagar

To promote sports activities in rural areas, 16 rural sports centres have been started at Panjokhra, Chauramastpur, Barara, Bihta, Damla, Sabapur, Bilaspur, Musimbal, Kharwan, Kot Basawasingh, Sarawan, Patrehri, Nanakpur, Panchkula, Barnala and Morni hills.

Scholarships.—To encourage young players, who are good at games, the state government awards sports scholarships at the rate of Rs. 30 per mensem per player.

Tournaments.—The coaches co-ordinate the sports activities at the district level and organise school/college tournaments. To promote sports

in rural areas, the District Sports Officer organises tournaments at the block level.

Voluntary associations and organisations in the district also promote sports. They organise exhibition matches of outside teams with local teams.

Stadia.—There is a stadium, War Heroes Memorial Stadium at Ambala Cantonment.

LIBRARIES

The history of the establishment of libraries in the district dates back to 1926, when the first full-fledged library was established at Ambala City by H. Fyson, the then Deputy Commissioner of Ambala. The library movement gained momentum after the Independence. Village libraries scheme was introduced in 1950 when some panchayats collected subscriptions and opened libraries and reading rooms.

In 1977-78, there were 719 libraries and reading rooms in the district. Of these, 168 libraries were owned by colleges and schools for their students and staff, 539 by panchayats, and the remaining 12 libraries and reading rooms were maintained by the government, local bodies and private organisations. The details of the important libraries are given below :

Central State Library, Ambala Cantonment.—Located near Ambala Cantonment railway station, it is the only state library in Haryana. It was set up in 1957 as a district library and was upgraded as central state library in 1967.

Housed in its own building, the library contains 34,890 books on various subjects and subscribes to 30 journals and periodicals. It has a separate reference section, children section and text-book section.

Guru Gobind Singh Municipal Library, Ambala City.—It was the first full-fledged library in the district set-up in 1926 by H. Fyson, the then Deputy Commissioner of Ambala. Earlier known as Fyson library, it was renovated and renamed as Guru Gobind Singh Municipal Library in 1949. It is a well equipped and well furnished library having a big hall in the centre with attached study rooms. The library contains about 7,000 books on various subjects and subscribes to 54 journals and periodicals.

Gandhi Shanti Pratishthan Library, Ambala Cantonment.—Established in 1954, it is maintained by Gandhi Peace Foundation. It has 8,500 books and subscribes to 22 journals and periodicals. It has a separate section for children.

Atmanand Jain Sabha Library, Ambala City.—Located in Halwai Bazaar, it was founded in 1904. It contains 4,577 books on religion and philosophy and subscribes to 9 journals and periodicals.

Kashi Ram Jain Sabha Library, Ambala City.—Established in 1906, it contains 15,000 books on religion, philosophy and general subjects and subscribes to 4 journals and periodicals.

Municipal Library, Yamunanagar.—Maintained by Yamunanagar municipality, it was founded in 1953. It contains 2,158 books and subscribes to 3 journals and periodicals.

Municipal Library, Sadhaura.—Maintained by Sadhaura municipality, it was established in 1945. It contains 1,569 books and subscribes to 6 journals and periodicals.

Municipal Library, Jagadhri.—Located in the municipality building, it was established in 1952. It has 3,900 books and subscribes to 54 journals and periodicals.

Gandhi Municipal Library, Kalka.—Established in 1949, the library is located in the heart of the town. It contains 3,398 books and subscribes to 12 journals and periodicals.

Railway Library, Kalka.—Establised in 1948, it is maintained by railway authorities. It contains 940 books on different subjects and subscribes to 4 journals and periodicals.

Municipal Library, Narayangarh.—Established in 1976, it is maintained by Narayangarh municipality. It contains about 500 books and subscribes to 6 journals and periodicals.

CULTURE

The bulk of the Vedic literature was composed here in the valleys of the holy rivers of the Saraswati and the Drishadwati. It was the abode of Ved Vyas, the legendary compiler of the *Mahabharata*. A place named after him as Vyaspur still survives as Bilaspur.

The tradition of literary productions seems to have lingered long in this region. While no details are available for the later ancient and the early medieval period, the district made its contribution during the Mughal and modern periods by being the home of some well known writers. Birbal, one of the *navrattnas* of the great Mughal emperor, Akbar, belonged to Buria (Jagadhri tahsil). Besides his qualities as a great humourist, he was known for his romantic poetry in *Braj Bhasha*. Another noted Hindi poet of the medieval period, Bhagwati Dass belonged to Buria. He wrote 23 poetic works in Hindi during the reign of Jahangir and Shah Jahan, the prominent among these were, *Sita Sat*, *Laghu Sita Sat*, *Jogi Raas* and *Chatur Banjara*. Bhai Santokh Singh, the great author of *Gur Partap Suraj* and many other works also belonged to Buria. He remained state poet of Raja Udai Singh of Kaithal.

The names of Jain poets of the Ambala district Rai Chand Jain, Vijaynand Suri, a Jain monk and Fateh Chand Jain can not escape mention. Prominent works of these poets were; *Sita Charitra* of Rai Chand Jain written in A.D. 1656, *Atam Baavni*, *Agyan Timir Bhaskar* and *Jain Tatvadarsh* of Vijayanand Suri written during the 19th century, and *Suktavali* of Fateh Chand Jain also written in the 19th century.

The modern noted Hindi story writer and novelist Bishambar Nath Kaushik was born at Ambala Cantonment. In his novels *Ma* and *Bhikharni*, and collections of stories *Chitrashala* and *Manimala*, he has drawn the attention of society towards various social problems of the time. Bhadant Anand Kaushalyayan, a leading Hindi author and Buddhist monk was also born at Ambala. His prominent works are *Budh Vachan*, *Budh Aur Unke Anuchar* and *Bhikshu Ke Patar*.

Two prominent modern story writers in Hindi, Swadesh Dipak and Prithvi Raj Monga also belong to the district. Prithvi Raj Monga for his two works, *Plastic Ke Gulab*, a collection of stories and *Soona Ghonsla*, a novel has been honoured by the state government.

In the realm of sculpture, however, we have archaeological evidence to support the cultural activity of this area during the period for which creative literary work are not available. The culture of the district also finds expression through the medium of sculpture, terracota figurines, paintings, etc. A number of old sculptures have been recovered from Pinjore ; notable among these are of Vishnu, Ganesha, Shiva-Parvati, Mahavira and Parsva Nath. These sculptures can be assigned to about 10th century A.D. Similarly, the terracota figurines recovered from various parts of the district particularly from Sugh are known for imbued beauty, plastic conception and artistic disposition.

The art of painting can be witnessed in the wall paintings in Mansa Devi shrine (village Balaspur) which are specimen of the 19th century. Though these paintings are not of high standard but nevertheless, these represent a number of themes and floral designs painted all over the ceiling and on the arches. The main shrine has 38 panels of such paintings, one of these illustrate Brahamasur *rakshsa* stealing the bangles of Parvati and then returning them at the intervention of Shiva. The other panels show Devi riding on her *vahana*, the tiger, receiving homage from Shiva, Vishnu and other gods or just seated on her throne. There are different panels depicting Shiva, a very peculiar panel shows Shiva riding a dog. Krishna , the most popular hero of Pahari artists has also been illustrated as a child sitting with his brother Balaram and parents, Nanda and Yashoda, his romantic dalliance with the *gopis*, etc.

So much by way of the cultural past. The present picture is dismal in so far that there is no trace of any worthwhile cultural activity. What is described in the following words is more like an elementary effort. There is no academy or institution in the district for the promotion of fine arts, drama, dance or music. However, a few amateur cultural, dramatic and musical societies organise cultural functions in the district. Some of these also provide private coaching in these arts.

The colleges and other educational and technical institutions lay a great emphasis on the promotion of cultural pursuits. Some colleges have introduced music and dance as the regular discipline in the course of studies while others have cultural societies for the promotion of fine arts, music, dance, drama, etc. These societies organise cultural functions and partake in various cultural competitions and youth festivals organised at regional and university levels.