

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prior to the 19th century, there was no regular system of education in any part of the district. The indigenous system of education as prevalent in other parts of the then Haryana was followed here. Some sort of education was imparted in *maktabs*, *pathshalas* and *chatshalas*. The *maktabs* were Persian or Arabic schools where the Koran was learnt or Arabic was taught. These schools were in mosques where mosque-attendant taught them as a religious duty. In *Pathshals*, the education was religious and Brahman boys resorted to them for priestly lore and astrology. *Chatshalas* were *Mahajini* schools where *padha* taught *lande* and accounts to shopkeeper boys generally. The attendance in these schools was not regular. The well-to-do families taught their wards at home by engaging private teachers.

There was only one middle school at Rewari in 1857. To make the education available to the people in the remote corners in the villages away from the tahsil headquarters or towns, the government devised a plan and set up *halkabandi* or circle schools, i.e. one school in every circle (*halka*) comprising ten to 20 villages. Since the *halkabandi* schools catered to the needs mostly of the peasantry and subjects studied here "were closely connected with agricultural pursuits and requirements". These schools were financed jointly by the government and the public¹.

The schools existed at Rewari in 1877-78 are as follows :—

| Government Schools | Pupils on roll | | | | Teachers |
|---|----------------|--------|-------|-------|----------|
| | Hindu | Muslim | Other | Total | |
| 1. District School, Rewari | 112 | 18 | 2 | 132 | 6 |
| 2. Middle Schools, branch to District School, Rewari | 69 | 15 | 1 | 85 | 2 |
| 3. 6 Lower School branches to District School, Rewari | 291 | 48 | — | 339 | 14 |

1. Narration of the Proceedings of the Lt. Governor (NWP), No. 2 of the first quarter of 1857; Report on the Popular Education in the NWP for 1859-60, pp. 43-44.

The school at Rewari was made a high school in 1880 and there were 14 primary schools, one each at Dharuhera, Bikaner, Khor, Masani, Turkiawas, Gurawada, Shahjahanpur, Gokalgarh, Dahina, Garhi, Hasanpur, Jatusana, Bharawas and Balwari in 1881-82. Towards the beginning of the 20th century, there were 30 primary schools in Rewari tahsil and a high school at Rewari.

With the opening of government schools, the quality of instruction in the lower schools as compared to that in the indigenous schools improved. The agricultural classes paid the school cess and local rate but did not send their children for instruction. In many of the village schools there was a preponderance of the boys of the trading classes, which paid little towards this support. In any case fees charged from these classes was very small. Very few girls received any education beyond what their parents taught them¹.

In 1870, schools were opened at Narnaul and Kanaud and the teachers of the indigenous schools were taken into state service who taught Persian, the only subject of instruction. The progress of education was very slow as the erstwhile princely states paid little attention towards it. Shri Kishori Lal Sanskrit School was established at Narnaul in 1877.

In 1902, there were schools at Mahendragarh, Narnaul and Nangal Chaudhry. These schools were housed in their own buildings and functioned under the supervision of the Junior Inspector of Schools of Barnala Circle. The direct responsibility for the supervision of the schools vested in the Inspector who visited each school at least twice a year.

In the beginning of the 20th century, there was a school at Narnaul where Arabic was taught. In the above school, the Bagdadi Quida and Al-Quran were taught first and then the Mizan-us-Sarf, Sart-Mir, Nahav-Mir, Qafia and Shafia were taught.

Artisans' boys, such as blacksmiths, carpenters, goldsmiths, tailors, etc. were taught by skilled artisans who were presented with a rupee and some sweets by their apprentices.

Before the regular system of education in the Bawal *nizamat* in 1863 A.D., mensuration was confined, as a hereditary occupation, to a few families called *mirdah* who received a small salary from the Nabha state and dues in grain at each harvest from the villages.

1. F.C. Channing, *Land Revenue Settlement of the Gurgaon District*, 1882, pp. 54-55.

In 1863, a single-teacher school was opened at Bawal. In *samvat* 1939, a Nagri *pandit* was added to the staff of the school and the teaching in Mathematics was also introduced. In 1898 A.D. a Head Master and a second Master were appointed.

The school at Bawal was upgraded to the status of middle standard in 1899 A.D. The primary schools were also opened at Kanti and Kanina in 1899. These schools were open to all castes but the fees were charged from non-agriculturists; the sons of cultivators being exempt.

The district remained backward in the sphere of education till Independence although an Ahir High School was opened at Rewari in twenties of the present century. In 1945, the management of the school opened Ahir college and initiated post-matric education in the district. After Independence and particularly after the formation of Haryana in 1966, the district made rapid strides in education. In 1977-78, there were 572 primary schools, 82 middle schools, 94 high/higher secondary schools, 10 colleges and 8 industrial training institutes/schools/centres.

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

The medium of instruction in the district is Hindi. According to the policy adopted by the State Government in April, 1967, the teaching of Hindi as the first compulsory language and as medium of instruction begins from class I. English is taught from the 6th class as a second compulsory language. Safeguards have also been provided for linguistic minorities. The teaching of Urdu/Panjabi as an additional subject from the Ist primary class is provided if there are 10 students in a class or 40 in a school at the primary stage or 1/3 of the total number of students in the school at secondary stage, desirous to study this language. But the medium of instruction and the first language even for such school, remains Hindi.

After the creation of Haryana state on November 1, 1966, the whole of the state became a uni-lingual Hindi speaking state. With the passing of the Haryana Official Language Act, 1969, Hindi became the official language of the state. It was introduced in the administration at all levels on January 26, 1969.

EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTE AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

During Pre-Independence period, the members of the Scheduled Castes were forced by the caste-ridden society to keep their wards at home without receiving education. Even their entry to the indigenous

institutions was not allowed. The rulers of erstwhile princely states did not pay any attention to reform their conditions. As compelled by the above circumstances, they put their children to work on odd jobs in order to supplement their meagre income. Thus their children were deprived of all opportunities to get education. Nothing was done for the upliftment of socially and economically downtrodden people.

Generally, the whole area remained backward in the sphere of education even after Independence. In order to ameliorate the educational conditions of the Scheduled Castes/Backward Classes, the government has been persuading them to avail of liberal concessions granted from time to time. The students are specifically awarded scholarships and granted exemption from fees. A facility of reimbursement of examination fees is provided to them.

The number of Scheduled Castes students studying in different schools in the district, during 1977-78, was as under :—

| Type of Institution | Number of Scheduled Castes Students | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| | Boys | Girls | Total |
| High/Higer Secondary Schools | 5,237 | 736 | 5,973 |
| Middle Schools | 3,086 | 758 | 3,844 |
| Primary Schools | 6,999 | 2,687 | 9,686 |
| Grand Total : | 15,322 | 4,181 | 19,503 |

The total number of collegians belonging to Scheduled Castes as on March 31, 1978, was 583 (574 boys and 9 girls).

Incentives

In order to encourage the boys and girls belonging to poor families towards education, a reduced scale of fee is charged from them. The 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 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.

The students belonging to Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes, who are studying in 9th, 10th and 11th classes, are given scholarship 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. 1,800 per annum. They are also allowed refund of examination fees. Scheduled Castes are exempted from the payment of tuition fee, but the students belonging to other Backward Classes are allowed this concession subject to the above income condition.

Scheduled Castes students are also given assistance under the Government of India Post Matric Scholarship Scheme. This includes refund of examination fee, tuition fee and other compulsory charges. The rate of assistance varies from Rs. 27 to Rs. 75 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 during national emergency.

Educational Set-up

The District Education Officer, Narnaul, is responsible for the administration and control of all primary, middle and high and higher secondary schools. The control of college education has been vested with the Director Public Instruction (Colleges), Haryana, Chandigarh. The District Education Officer at district level, besides other allied staff, is assisted by a Deputy Education Officer. Either the District Education Officer or the Deputy Education Officer has to be a woman for consultation of matters relating to woman teachers.

General Education

General education is imparted through schools and colleges in the State. The school education is completed in three stages—primary, middle and high/higher.

The course of primary education covers a period of five years. On April 1, 1961, it was made compulsory to cover the maximum children. Since then some improvement was noticed throughout the district. Almost all the primary schools are co-educational. The total number of primary schools in the district in 1977-78 was 572 (540 for boys and 32 for girls). The total number of students on roll during the same period was estimated at 64,341 (42,571 boys and 21,770 girls).

The compulsory and free education at primary level affected the middle school education with positive results. Subsequently the number

of schools and students increased. The total number of middle schools during 1977-78 was 82 and number of students during the same period stood at 27,667(21,235 boys and 6,432 girls).

For a majority of students the high/higher secondary stage has to be a terminal point. It provides a preparatory stage for limited number of students who intend joining higher education.

The total number of high/higher secondary schools with 51,265 students (49,728 boys and 10,537 girls) was 94 on March 31, 1978.

Higher Education

The origin of the post-matric education can be traced to 1945 when Ahir College, Rewari was opened. In 1977-78, there were 10 colleges including 2 teachers training colleges, as mentioned below :

1. Government College, Narnaul
2. Government College, Mahendragarh
3. Rao Birender Singh College of Education, Rewari
4. Ahir College, Rewari
5. Kishanlal Public College, Rewari
6. Rao Bahal Singh College for Women, Rewari¹
7. Satish Public College of Education, Rewari
8. Rastriya Jubilee College, Rewari
9. Janta College, Bawal
10. Sri Krishana College, Kanwali

A brief account of each of these institutions is given as under :—

Government College, Narnaul. —The college was started in 1954. Initially it was started in the building of the Government High School, Narnaul, but in 1956 it was shifted to its newly constructed building.

Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college provides courses in science, commerce and humanities upto degree level and post graduate course in Geography and Geology.

The library of the college is stocked with 35,209 books and it has open shelf system. It subscribes to 53 journals and periodicals.

1. Rao Bahal Singh College for women, Rewari was closed down in 1977-78.

In 1977-78, there were 2,055 students including 109 girls on its roll. It had 73 members on its teaching staff.

Government College, Mahendragarh.—Originally started in 1966 as a private institution under the name of the Mahendragarh Degree College, it was taken over by the government in 1971.

Affiliated to Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, the college provides courses in Science, Commerce and Humanities upto degree level.

The college library contains 21,314 books. A book bank was also started with the help of University Grants Commission. The college magazine, *Maru Madhvi*, is also published once a year.

In 1975-76, there were 1,053 students which declined to 817 in 1977-78. It had 43 members on its teaching staff.

Rao Birender Singh College of Education, Rewari.—Initially the college was started as a Department of Education attached to Ahir College, Rewari, in 1953. But in 1959, it was established as an independent institution. It is affiliated to the Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak and provides degree and post-graduate courses in education. It also provides Junior Basic Teachers Training and Nursery Teachers Training Courses.

The college library contains 14,678 books. A book bank has also been set up to provide facilities of giving free books to the poor students. It has three hostels, two for boys and one for girls. It brings out a magazine, *The Modern Education*, annually.

In 1977-78, there were 342 students on its roll. It had 16 members on its teaching staff.

Ahir College, Rewari.—It is the oldest institution of the district and was opened in 1945 by Ahir Education Board.

The college is affiliated to Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak and provides courses in Science, Commerce and Humanities upto degree level.

It is equipped with laboratories for Science and Geography, well stocked library and a reading room. There is a book bank for the needy students. The institution has its own hostel. It publishes its magazine, *The Phoenix*, annually.

The number of students on the roll during 1977-78, was 1,151. It had 34 members on its teaching staff.

Kishan Lal Public College, Rewari.—The college was founded in July, 1964. Housed in a two-storeyed building consisting of several blocks, it has an open-air theatre, vast play grounds, spacious lawns, well-equipped laboratories, botanical and zoological museums and a library with a stock of 18,210 books.

The college imparts instruction upto degree level in the faculties of Humanities, Science and Commerce and is affiliated to the Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak. Training in N.C.C. and N.S.S. is also imparted to the students. A number of literary and cultural functions are arranged to inculcate the spirit of public speaking and to encourage healthy pursuits among the students.

The magazine '*Jigyasa*' is published once a year. The number of students on its roll in 1977-78 was 1,600. It had 47 members on its teaching staff.

Satish Public College of Education, Rewari.—The college was established in July, 1969. It is situated on Sohna-Delhi road. It is affiliated to Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak and provides course in education upto degree level. It also provides Nursery Teachers' Training, Art and Crafts Teachers' Training and Junior Basic Training (Home Craft) courses.

The college has a library containing 6,500 books. It subscribes to more than 47 journals and periodicals. There is also a book bank for the needy and deserving students. It publishes a magazine, *Satish Patrika*, annually.

The total number of students on roll during 1977-78, was 150 (93 boys and 57 girls). The Teachers' Training Course (Art and Crafts) had 45 students during 1976-78. There were 41 students of the J.B.T. (Home Crafts) during the session of 1976-78.

Rastriya Jubilee College, Rewari.—It was established in 1972 by the Rastriya Education Board, Rewari. It is affiliated to M.D. University, Rohtak and provides courses in Arts upto degree level.

There were 85 students in 1978 on its roll. It had 9 members on its teaching staff.

Janta College, Bawal.¹—The college was established in 1974. Affiliated to the Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, it provides courses in Arts upto degree level.

1. The college was taken over by the government in January, 1980.

There were 192 (145 boys and 47 girls) students on roll in 1977-78. It had 9 members on its teaching staff.

Sri Krishana College, Kanwali.—The college was established in 1967. It is affiliated to Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak and provides courses in Arts and Commerce upto degree level. It had 203 students (191 boys and 12 girls) on roll in 1977-78. It had 9 members on its teaching staff. It has a library containing 2,302 books.

Oriental College.—There is only one institution for the teaching of Sanskrit, viz. Shri Kishori Lal Sanskrit Mahavidyalya, Narnaul. Initially, it was established as a school in 1877 but in 1937, it was raised to college level. The college is housed in its own building having hostel and library. It provides courses in *Pragya* (Proficiency in Sanskrit), *Visharad* (Higher Proficiency in Sanskrit), *Shastri* (Honours in Sanskrit) and *Pra-bhakar* (Honours in Hindi) and is affiliated to Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak. The education is free and scholarships to all students at varying rates are awarded. Besides, the college provides courses in Sanskrit for other institutions and Universities. In 1977-78, there were 202 students (including 41 girls) on roll.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

There is no engineering institute in the district. However, industrial training is provided to men and women with a view to ensuring a steady flow of skilled workers in different trades. Training is provided in engineering and non-engineering trades. Initially an industrial school was opened for girls at Narnaul in 1955. Later industrial training institutes were opened at Mahendragarh and Narnaul in 1962 and 1963 respectively. In 1964, government industrial schools for girls were opened at Mahendragarh and Rewari. In 1974, teachers' training courses for girls in cutting and tailoring and embroidery and needle work were added in Government Industrial School, Narnaul and a Rural Artisan Training Centre was opened at Mahendragarh.

Training in industrial training institutes is provided in various crafts for the award of National Trade Certificate of 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. Besides technical training, medical aid, workshop clothes and hostel accommodation are provided free to all trainees. The training programme ranges from one year to two years.

The details of institutions alongwith the year of establishment and

trades or crafts provided as in 1978 are given below :

| S. No. | Name of the Institution | Year of establishment | Trades/ Crafts provided | Duration of course |
|--------|---|-----------------------|--|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Industrial Training Institute, Mahendragarh | 1962 | Turner, Fitter, Motor Mechanic, Machinist, Electrician, Radio and TV Mechanic | 2 years |
| | | | Sheet Metal Moulder, Welder, Carpenter, Stenography (Hindi), Cutting and Tailoring | 1 Year |
| 2. | Industrial Training Institute, Narnaul | 1963 | Machinist, Fitter, Electrician, Turner, Wireman, Radio & TV Mechanic, Draftsman (Civil) | 2 Years |
| | | | Moulder Welder, Sheet Metal, Carpenter, Stenography (Hindi), Cutting & Tailoring and Embroidery | 1 Year |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----|--|------|--|--------|
| 3. | Government Industrial School for Girls, Narnaul | 1955 | Cutting & Tailoring, Embroidery and Needle work & Teachers' Training Course in Cutting and Tailoring or Embroidery and Needle work | 1 Year |
| 4. | Government Industrial School for Girls, Rewari | 1964 | Cutting and Tailoring & Embroidery and Needle work | 1 Year |
| 5. | Government Industrial School for Girls, Mahendragarh | 1964 | Cutting and Tailoring and Embroidery and Needle work | 1 Year |
| 6. | Rural Artisan Training Centre, Mahendragarh | 1974 | Weaving, Carpentry, General Mechanic and Wireman | 1 Year |

Besides, the government had recognised a few private institutions for providing training in industrial trades to girls. The training in footwear and hide and flaying is also provided in Government Footwear Institute, Rewari and Government Hide and Flaying and Utilisation of Carcass Centre, Rewari.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is mainly a part of general education. Due attention is paid towards games, sports, tournaments and other extra-curricular activities. Physical education provides foundation for emotional balance and good social adjustment to the young children.

In colleges, a D.P.E. (Director, Physical Education) and in high and higher secondary schools, a P.T.I. (Physical Training Instructor) look after the physical education. In the middle or primary schools, a few teachers are detailed for this work. The Assistant Education Officer for physical training supervises and guides the physical education in schools.

Promotion of sports and games.—The development of body is as important as the development of mind. The sports activities include panchayat tournaments at the block and district levels, school tournaments at the zone and district levels and open tournaments at the district level. The colleges organise inter-college and University tournaments.

Representative teams from different panchayats take part in the block tournaments and then the block teams compete further at district level. The Deputy Commissioner is overall incharge for the management and control of such sports in the district.

The school tournaments are controlled by a District School Tournaments Committee under the chairmanship of the District Education Officer. The rural sports centres promote sports at the following places :

| Sr. No. | Name of Institution | Game |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Government High School, Seehma | Volley-Ball and Athletics |
| 2. | Government High School, Notana | Volley-Ball and Athletics |
| 3. | Government High School, Akbarpur | Do |
| 4. | Government High School, Bariawas | Do |
| 5. | Government High School, Mandola | Do |
| 6. | Government High School, Khorl | Do |
| 7. | Government High School, Pali | Do |
| 8. | Government High School, Krishan Nagar | Do |
| 9. | Government High School, Dongra Ahir | Football and Athletics |
| 10. | Government High School, Bawal | Do |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|---|------------------------|
| 11. | Government High School, Nangal Chaudhry | Football & Athletics |
| 12. | Government High School, Sulkha | Do |
| 13. | Government High School, Nikhri | Do |
| 14. | Government High School, Koriawas | Hockey & Athletics |
| 15. | Government High School, Kanwali | Do |
| 16. | Government High School, Bachhod | Basketball & Athletics |
| 17. | Government High School, Gokalpur-Kumbhawas | Do |
| 18. | Government Middle School, Nangal Pathani | Do |

There are various sports associations which organise open tournaments for different games. The coaching camps are also organised to train young sportsmen with modern techniques by the expert coaches of the Sports Department. For the promotion of sports in the district, there is a District Sports Officer who controls the sports activities including the rural sports centres and coaches throughout the district. The following coaching centres have been established in the district for promotion of sports :

| S.No. | Name of the Game/Sport | Place |
|-------|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Athletic | Narnaul |
| 2. | Yoga | Do |
| 3. | Hockey | Rewari |
| 4. | Hockey | Kanwali |
| 5. | Basketball | Nangal Pathani |
| 6. | Football | Krishan Nagar |
| 7. | Volleyball | Notana |
| 8. | Volleyball | Motla Kalan |
| 9. | Wrestling | Mahendragarh |

periodicals for general reading. It is open to public and 20 to 30 persons visit it daily.

Janta Library, Bawal.—It was started in 1952 by a private organisation. It has 5,953 books valuing approximately Rs. 15,000. It subscribes to dailies/periodicals for general reading. It is open to general public and about 40 to 50 persons visit it daily.

Aggarwal Library, Rewari.—Set up in 1942, it is run by a private organisation. It has 4,500 books valuing approximately Rs. 14,000. It subscribes to dailies/periodicals for general reading. About 70 persons visit the library daily.

Maa Bharti Library, Kanina.—It has been running under the auspices of the Sanskrit Vikas Parishad at Kanina since 1973, with the help of public support. It has about 1,200 books valuing approximately Rs. 4,000.

Municipal Library, Narnaul.—Set up in 1954, it is situated in the heart of the town at Manak Chowk. It has 4,101 books on different subjects valuing approximately Rs. 24,606. The Administrator of the municipality looks after its functioning. It subscribes to a number of dailies and periodicals for general reading. About 60 persons visit the library daily.

Municipal Library, Ateli.—Set up in 1956, it is run by the Municipal Committee, Ateli. It has about 1,548 books of all kinds and their estimated cost is Rs. 10,000. It subscribes to a number of dailies/periodicals for general reading. About 10 to 15 persons visit the library daily.

Municipal Library, Rewari.—It was established by the Municipal Committee, Rewari, in 1952 and is located in the Town Hall, Rewari. It has about 4,000 books on different subjects and their estimated cost is Rs. 8,000. It subscribes to a number of dailies/periodicals for general reading. The Administrator of the municipality looks after its functioning. About 25 to 30 persons visit the library daily.

Municipal Library, Bawal.—The Municipal Committee, Bawal, with the assistance of Central Library Committee, Haryana established this library in 1968. It has about 1,185 books valuing approximately Rs. 7,000. It subscribes to a number of dailies/periodicals for general reading. About 25 to 30 persons visit this library daily.

Municipal Library, Mahendragarh.—It was established in 1953 and has about 7,000 books. The estimated cost of these books is Rs 35,000. It subscribes to a number of dailies/periodicals for general reading and about 50 persons visit it daily.

Municipal Library, Kanina.—It was set up in 1973. It is a small library containing about 500 books valuing approximately Rs. 1,500. It subscribes to a number of dailies/periodicals for public reading.

District Library, Narnaul.—It was set up in 1962 and is housed in Zila Parishad Hall near Bus Stand, Narnaul. It has 27,393 books of all kinds valuing approximately at Rs. 2,70,000. It subscribes to a number of dailies/periodicals for public reading. About 100 persons visit the library daily.

Bar Library, Narnaul.—The library was set up in 1925 for members of the Bar Association. A full fledged librarian, appointed by the Bar, looks after its working. There are 130 members of the Bar who subscribe Rs. 5 per month. It has A.I.R. sets from the year 1923 to 1978. It has about 650 books consisting of A.I.Rs, Digest, etc. valuing approximately Rs. 20,000. A member of the Bar can take a book for 10 paise for the first day and 5 paise for the subsequent days up to ten days. No newspaper/periodical is being subscribed at present. It is worth mentioning that it contains all PEPSU /Joint Punjab Gazetteers.

Bar Library, Rewari.—It was set up by the Bar in 1973. It has about 350 books valuing approximately Rs. 8,000. It subscribes to two dailies, viz. The Tribune and the Hindustan Times only. There are 110 members of the library.

Bar Library, Mahendragarh.—It was set up in 1977. It has about 325 books on law valuing approximately at Rs. 10,000. Every member can take the book free of charge.

CULTURE

The district is known to have asharams of three ancient great sages; Chyavana on Dhosi hills, of Udalak at Siana (Mahendragarh tahsil) and of Pipplad at Bhagot (Mahendragarh tahsil). The recovery of inscriptions and fragmentary sculptural remains from Gurawada (Rewari tahsil) and Narnaul indicate that some cultural activity was initiated in the region roughly during the period of about four centuries, i.e. from 9th to 12th century.

No cultural or literary details are available for the ancient or early medieval period. In the 16th century, Vir Bhan, the founder of Satnami sect at Narnaul, contributed a lot to the Hindi literature. Born in 1543 at Bijesar, a small village near Narnaul, the saint-poet composed a large number of verses which are now found in his *pothi*, popularly known as *Granth Sahib*. His brother, Jagjiwan, was also a good scholar and his *banis* are also of literary value. In the 17th century, Khadag Sen of the district authored several works, of which *Trilokadarpana* which described three worlds (*lokes*) was very famous. The copies of above works are available in the Digambar Jain Panchayat Mandir and the temple of Adinathji (Mujjafarnagar-U.P.).

Achalkirti, a Jain Acharya of Narnaul also wrote many books. Copies of *Vishapahara* written by him in verse are available at the office of Jain Sabha, Jaipur and Shri Jain temple, district Mainpuri (U.P.). Mir Zafar Zatal (1659-1713) of Narnaul, a great humourist of the court of Aurangzeb was an eminent Urdu Scholar. He wrote many good poems which have been recently published from Lucknow. Zatal's contemporary and 'spiritual brother' Abduljabil 'Atal', also from Narnaul, was an equally famous humourist. Unfortunately, none of his works is available, although his stray verses are found in several works of the 18th century. During 18th century Nityanand, an ascetic of Narnaul made substantial contribution to the *Nirguna* literature by his *Guru Grantha* and *Satya-Siddhanta Priksha*. Both these works of Nityanand are published. Lal Chand Jain of Rewari was also a great scholar of the period. He wrote *Sammed Shikhar Mahatmya*, in praise of the place where 20 Jain-Tirthankaras got nirvan. A copy of manuscript of the above book written by him in *samvat* 1895 is available at Jain temple (Tairapanthi) at Nanwa (Bundi-Rajasthan); while another copy of manuscript written by him in *samvat* 1890, is in a good condition at Shri Digambar Jain Panchayati temple, Abupura (Mujjafarnagar). A Haryanvi poet *Dedhraj* of *Nangipanth* was born at Dharso (Narnaul tahsil) in 1771. He was a social reformer who preached against social evils through simple verses in Ahirwati dialect. His *banis* are found in published form in *Dedhraj Ke Banioki Pothi*. He is said to have written other three works, too, but these are not traceable so far.

In addition to the above poets, the poet Umed Singh of Rewari and Pandit Sukhi Ram of village Siana contributed a lot to the Hindi literature.

The colleges and other educational institutions lay emphasis on cultural pursuits and organise cultural functions. Some of these institutions have introduced music and dance as a regular discipline while others have cultural societies for promotion of fine arts, dance, drama, music, etc.

In addition to the above points, the attributes of traditional culture are as follows :-

1. The outlook of the people is other-worldly. People have faith in the doctrine of *Karma*. They are of the view that good deeds in this life will lead to salvation from the cycle of birth and death.
2. The people are highly fatalist. They believe in the inevitability of fate. They attribute their miseries and failures to fate.
3. The hold of superstitions is very strong. The diseases are generally attributed to evil spirits and witchcraft. They believe in cure by magicians and those having supernatural powers.