

#### **REFORMS IN EDUCATION**

## The Hunter Commission (1882)

William Hunter was appointed as the Chairman of a special committee on education by Lord Ripon in 1882. The various recommendations made by the Hunter Commission included increased control of local governing bodies its primary schools and educational institutions. It also stressed on uniformity in fees and conduct of the primary schools, middle schools and colleges. It also proposed special arrangements tor patronizing Muslim education in India. The Government accepted most of its recommendations, except the imparting of religious education.

## The Raleigh Commission (1902)

The Raleigh Commission, during the tenure of Lord Curzon, recommended giving more powers to universities to improve education in India. It stressed upon the need for revamping the existing system of governance of universities and the reconstitution of the Senate and the Syndicate in order to give greater importance to higher education.

#### The Saddler Commission (1917)

The Saddler Commission was constituted by the government to study the affairs of the Kolkata University. After studying the overall aspect of secondary and collegiate education prevailing in India at that time, the commission recommended that the intermediate courses should be separated from the University and merged with secondary education. It decreed that the Kolkata University should be considered to be the seat of higher education and the appointment of all lecturers and professors should be through the Kolkata University. The university degree was to be limited to a 3-year period only. It also made important recommendations for the medium of education. The local language was to be made the medium of education up to high school and thereafter education was to be imparted in English only. The recommendations were accepted by the government

and universities were established at Patna, Mysore, Deccan, Lucknow, Aligarh, Banaras and Hyderabad.

# **Other Important Reforms in Education**

- 1. The Indian University Act of 1914 It extended the jurisdiction of universities and empowered them to maintain discipline in affiliated colleges.
- 2. The Act of 1913 It brought all around development In the field of education in India. Due importance was given to primary education. However, certain existing privileges of universities were curtailed.
- 3. Harding Committee of 1915 Inter-University Committees were set up to study the working of different committees and the University Training Corps was established to impart military training to students; the trained students formed the Imperial Cadet Corps (ICC. now called NCC).
- 4. The Act of 1919 National schools and other educational institutions were set up to impart training to people for basic education, under the Wardha scheme. The Government took control of the higher education and primary education was under the control of the local governing bodies.
- 5. Wood Abbot Commission o£ 1935 It recommended reconstitution of the textbook committee and appointment of teachers for primary schools. The recommendations of this commission held prime importance for bringing remarkable progress between 1937 and 1947, under provincial administration.
- 6. The Sargant Commission of 1944 It recommended compulsory primary education for all children, boys and girls, between 6 and 14 years. It proposed basic education in two stages each of 3 years and limited entry into university through competition only.

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# **Ilbert Bill (1883)**

Lord Ripon passed the Ilbert Bill (1883) in an attempt to pass a low to enable Indian district magistrates to try European criminals. This was vehemently opposed by Europeans. British government ultimately withdrew the bill much to the anger of the Indians Nationalist Indians realized that they she a organize themselves on a national scale and agitate unitedly to get their demands accepted. It paved the way for the foundation of the Indian National Congress.

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