

# *WOOD'S DESPATCH*

Wood's Despatch on Education in 1854 laid the foundation on which the educational system has since developed. Various problems related to education in India had become one of the key concerns of the British government by 1853.

In order to provide a solution, the secretary of state of that time, Sir Charles Wood, presented a despatch to the directors of the British East India Company. The despatch expressed that education in English as well as Indian local languages should be enhanced and encouraged through out the nation.

According to Charles Wood, the English institutions could serve as the useful model for education. In 1854, Wood prepared his comprehensive despatch on the scheme of the future education in India.

The despatch came to be considered as the *Magna Carat* of English education in India. The Scheme of education, as proposed by Wood's Despatch, envisaged a co-ordinated system of education throughout the country.



Sir Charles Wood

## **WOOD'S DESPATCH**

The East Indian company had to take orders other every 20yrs, from the British parliament and each order something was written about education of Indians. In 1813 a sum of 1.00.000 was sanctioned for the development of education in Indian.

This amount was increased to 10.00.000 in 1823. in 1853 the directions of the company thought for laying down a definite policy in regard to educational policy in India, a parliamentary committee was appointed to survey the educational progress in India. The committee reported clearly that the question of Indian education should not be in any case harmful to the British empire.

The woods dispatch was came into existence, on July 16,1854 as M.V. Wood was the Chairman of Board of control. So wood educational dispatch. It has very Important place in the history of Education.



## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF WOOD'S DESPATCH**

### **I. Aims of Education :**

- a) To impart Western knowledge, information about the western culture to the Indians.
- b) To educate the natives of India so that a class of public Servants could be created.

- c) To promote intellectual development and also raise the moral character of the young generation.
- d) To develop practical and vocational skills of the Indians people so that more and more articles could be produced and also to create a good market for consumption of those goods.
- e) To supply the company with reliable and capable public servants
- f) To secure a certain supply of materials of British manufacturers.
- g) It declared “we desire to see extended in India English knowledge”. It emphasized that both English and Indian languages would be the media for the diffusion of European knowledge.

## II. COURSE OF STUDY :

It had encouraged the usefulness of **Sanskrit, Arabic,** and **Persian** languages and recommended them as the subjects for study in regular institutions. finally like Macaulay wood also recognized the usefulness of western knowledge to Indians.

### III. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

Despatch says that due to the death of course book in Indian languages, the medium of education should be “**English**”. The Wood’s Despatch gave importance to teaching of English, but at the same time, it also stressed on the teaching of Indian languages.

The Despatch realized that any acquaintance of European knowledge could be communicated to the common people and that could be conveyed to them only through learning their own mother tongue. Therefore the Despatch clearly stated that Indian languages as well as English should be used as media of instruction.

## **IV. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (DPI)**

Dispatch declared that in all the provinces, the department Of public instruction must be set up. Its highest authority will be given to a person known as “**Director of public Instruction** and assisted By Deputy DPI, Inspection and Deputy Inspector.

Public Instruction in each of the **five** provinces of **Bengal, Bombay, Madras, North-western** Province and the **Punjab**. The Director was required to submit to the Government an annual report on the Progress of Education in his province.



## V. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSITIES :

1. The Despatch recommended the establishment of universities In the three Presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.
2. The universities were to be modeled after the London University and these were to have a senate comprising of a Chancellor, a Vice Chancellor, and fellows who were nominated by the Government.
3. The Universities would confer degrees to the successful Candidates after passing the examinations, (of Science or Arts Streams) conducted by the Senate.
4. The universities were to Organize departments not only of English but also of Arabic, Sanskrit and Persian, as well as law and civil engineering.

## **VI. ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL IN COUNTRY.**

Among the high schools, already in existence, there were some Anglo - vernacular schools and some vernacular school. In the former , education was imparted through the medium of English and in the latter, the medium was vernacular.

## **VII. SCHOLARSHIP**

Scholarships to be given to promising pupils in order to enable them to continue their to a higher schools or college. “ impart life and energy to education in India and lead to gradual, but steady extension of its benefits to all classes of the people”.

## VII. GRANT- IN -AID

The Wood's Despatch recommended the sanction of a grant-in-aid system in the Indian educational system. To educate the large number of people of India was a difficult task and so the grant-in-aid system was adopted by the government. Grants were given to those schools and colleges which satisfied the conditions given below :-

- a) The schools must provide secular education.
- b) The school management should run the school well.

- c) The school should agree to state inspection from time to time.
- d) The schools should follow any rule prescribed by the government for the regulation of the grant.
- e) The school must charge fees from the students.

Grants were given to the schools for increasing the salaries teachers, construction of school buildings, granting scholarships to students, improving conditions of literariness, opening of science department etc.

## TRAINING OF TEACHERS

The Wood's Dispatch recommended the establishment of **teacher training schools** in each of the provinces. There should be training schools for teachers of engineering, medicine and law.

The qualified teachers should be given better pay scales. The Despatch further emphasized on the provision of scholarships to the teachers during their training period.

## EDUCATION OF WOMEN

The Despatch recommended that the government should always support education for women. The wood's Despatch stated,

“The importance of female education in India cannot be over rated; and we have observed with pleasure the evidence which is now afforded of an increased desire on the part of many of the natives of India to give a good education to their daughters. By this means a far greater proportional impulse is imparted to the educational and moral tone of the people than by the education of men”.

The Despatch also encouraged the private enterprises to promote women education. The schools for girls were to be included among those to which grants-in-aid would be given.

# PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The Wood's Despatch encouraged professional education. It recommended the establishment of medical, engineering law and other institutes of professional education.

The Despatch stated that in order to develop vocational efficiency of people and also to make people realise that the British rule was progressive. Another reason for the encouragement of vocational education was to control the problem of unemployment.



## MERITS OF WOOD'S DESPATCH

The merits of the Despatch are discussed in the following points:

1. The Wood Despatch started a new era in Indian education system by clearly defining objectives of education.
2. It made the Government realise the importance of education for the people.
3. It presented a comprehensive scheme of education embracing primary, secondary and higher education.
4. It recommended the creation of a separate Department of Public Instruction in five provinces and appointment of a Director to head the Department.



- 5) The principle of Downward Filtration Theory was discarded by the Wood's Despatch and it encouraged the promotion of mass education; it recommended the establishment of indigenous schools.
- 6) By the grant-in-aid system many schools were benefited and the quality of education improved and private organizations were encouraged to open new schools.
- 7) The Despatch encouraged higher education by recommending the establishment of universities in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

- 8) The Wood's Despatch emphasized on the necessity of vocational education.
- 9) The Despatch recommended the importance of establishing teacher training institutes to improve the quality of teachers and also improves their conditions and salaries.
- 10) The Despatch recommended scholarships for the poor and deserving students.
- 11) Language teaching was encouraged by the Despatch; as a result, regional languages and classical languages were taught in the schools.

## DEMERITS OF WOOD'S DISPATCH

1. Wood's Dispatch could not remove the imbalance in Indian education system.
2. The Dispatch, in reality promoted Western literature and knowledge and government offices showed preferences for persons educated in English.
3. It neglected general education. Only the privileged class received education.
4. Departments of Education were opened in the five provinces but they could not promote the real interest of education

5. The Wood's Dispatch had a partial attitude towards the Christian missionaries.
6. The three universities were modelled on the London University and the Government's policy of nominating members to the senate was biased. Therefore higher education was not related to Indian conditions.
7. The Dispatch succeeded in only producing a class of clerks and accountants.