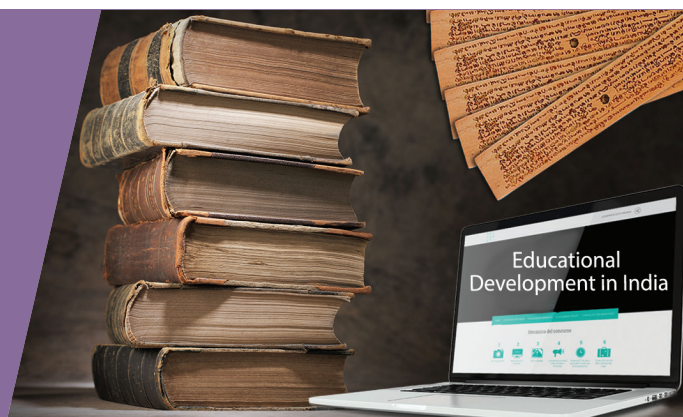


Unit - 5

Development of Education in India



Learning Objectives

To acquaint oneself with

- ▶ Formal education in ancient India
- ▶ Learning under *Gurukula* system in traditional centres and in mutts and monasteries
- ▶ Education in Medieval India
- ▶ European missionaries and advancement of Western education in British India
- ▶ Educational progress in the Post-Independence India



Introduction

Education is a process that begins at birth and continues until the end of life. The primary objective of formal education at school is to help children develop intellectual skills and physical capabilities. The pupils who join college or university after schooling acquire required skills to prepare themselves for the future. A person graduated from an institution of higher learning is expected to be endowed with holistic knowledge in their chosen subject of study, possessing scientific outlook and historical perspective. How an education system anticipating such a possibility evolved in India over time is dealt with in this chapter.



ashramas and hermitages to memorize Vedic hymns and learn the subjects such as Sanskrit grammar, prose, and verse compositions, logic and metaphysics. Their curriculum also included astronomy, mathematics, medicine and astrology. This tradition of teaching-learning was called Gurukula system.

In ancient Tamil Nadu, we find references to learned women in Sangam literature. We have examples of Aadhimanthiyar and Avvaiyar, and forty other poetesses who lived during the Sangam Age. The scripts engraved on potsherds excavated in Keeladi, Sivagangai district in Tamil Nadu is illustrative of the high literacy level the people had attained even as early as 6th century BC (BCE).



Avvaiyar



Potsherd scripts, Keeladi

Education in Ancient India

In ancient India daughters as well as sons of priestly and warrior classes had access to education. The pupils were taught in