

Chapter 5

Initiation of Modern Education in the First Five Year Development Plan

First Five Year Plan (1961-62 to 1965-66)

Time based planning of centralized and integrated national economic and development programme, or the Five Year Plans, commenced rather late in Bhutan. The Soviet Union had introduced it in the late 1920s and India in 1951. When the winds of changes sweeping the world nudged Bhutan to open its doors, initially through introduction of modern education and a bit of limited diplomacy, it realized that the national infrastructure was abysmally poor. When schools were set up hostels were lacking and when hostels were put in place the roads were wanting and when even this, there was a chronic shortage of teaching staff. Finally, local citizens were wary of sending their children to these distant schools but when the students were actually sent the government was faced with the problems of text books, libraries, laboratories, scope for further education etc. The country's economy was characterized by severe degree of isolation. It was deemed necessary to have some sort of planning process for a paced progress to come out of the severe isolation and to catch up with a modern world. Before the advent of planned development, the social amenities like education, medical and public health were meager. So a Five Year Plan was proposed base on the Indian Five Year Plans.

Till the 1950s modern education facilities were available to a small section of the country. Families living near *dzongs* and monasteries could send their sons for education¹ where the concentration was to learn not only reading and writing but also in poetry, ethics and morality. However, for the vast masses, monastic or modern education was either nonexistent or it was a lavishness that infringed the family survival strategies. The net result was that very few Bhutanese were literate and most of them were men.²

The First Five Year Development Plan(henceforth FYP), formulated under the initiative of Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, the third King of Bhutan, in consultation with the Planning Commission, India, came into operation 1961 with an outlay of Rs./Nu. 1747 lakhs.³ It addressed to creating the country's basic infrastructural facilities like roads, power, communication system, transport, agriculture and animal husbandry.⁴

Social amenities like education, medical and public health, though provided with generous funding and Departments, were deemed of lesser importance. Creation of roads (Nu/R620 lakhs) far outweighed education (Nu/Rs 100 lakhs) in terms of priority. Despite, education coming second to roads, it was considered an important requisite to the Plan but since the necessary machinery for any form of development programme was missing, the Development Wing Headquarters was created with a Secretary General. Directorates for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Health, Publicity, and Education were also formed.⁵

Nevertheless, during the period of the Plan, the foundations of Bhutan's economy were firmly laid and significant progress was achieved in all directions including education. With the commencement of the First FYP the Government felt the shortage of manpower as the main constraint for country's development.⁶ So, the emphasis was mainly given to develop the administrative workforce and technicians to meet the requirements of the advancement policies. The urgency for the provision of universal education was something to come decades later. So the early years of the Plan period was utilized in founding the Directorate and schools in the interior and also creating the model for the upcoming education system in the country. In 1961, about 140 Bhutanese students were getting education in India, 100 with scholarships and 40 at their own expenses.

Table 5.1: The staff for the Directorate of Education according to the First FYP

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Director of Education-----1 |
| 2 | Deputy Director of education-----1 |
| 3 | Assistant Director of Education (Kalimpong)-----1 |
| 4 | Sub- Inspectors of School-----4 |
| 5 | Liaison Officers for school supplies-----3 |
| 6 | Clerical staff and Hostel Superintendent (Kalimpong Hostel)-----14 |
| 7 | Drivers-----4 |
| 8 | Class IV Staff-----8 |

(Source-www.gnhc.gov.bt/wp-content/upload/2011/04/2nd.FYP.pdf)

Of the three Liaison Officers one was accountable for the allocation of UNICEF milk to the schools. The Assistant Director was staffed by a small team at Kalimpong to take care of the students in schools and colleges in India and also to run a hostel for 80 students studying there. Under the instruction of the third King, a residential public school on the same pattern as in Public Schools in India and abroad was started in Thimphu on 01.03.65.⁷ A technical school was started during the First

Plan at Kharbandi in Phuentsholing for giving technical training in tailoring, mechanics, carpentry and basic automobile engineering. A new monastic school had also been established in Thimphu namely Rigney Monastery School which was intended to preserve the cultural heritage of the country and was also to provide Bhutanese language teachers required for the schools. Construction of buildings for the Teachers' Training Institute also began during the end of the First Plan at Samtse in Eastern Bhutan. Training for Bhutanese nationals under different schemes such as wireless, postal, mechanical sections etc were also arranged. The costs on the maintenance of the schools during the period stood at Rs./Nu. 1,05,99,849.⁸

In the final year of the Plan period it was realized that the attendance in primary schools in the interior had been low due to lack of population density and inadequate communications. The Plan also faced the challenge of not just the shortage of suitable teachers but also students as it was discovered that in many schools, there were very few students in classes IV and above. The difficult surface communication had come in the way of student enrollment and it also prohibited sufficient supervision by the directing staff. In view of the troubles faced, stress was directed on training of suitable personnel for managing properly the existing facilities rather than on mass education.

Although one would have expected Bhutan rush forward to open up as many schools as possible the country took up a more pragmatic programme of laying the foundations to create "the necessary machinery for carrying out the development programme." The hilly terrains, scattered population, virtual non-existence of surface, wired or wireless communication and most of all the paucity of trained teaching staff posed major hurdles in bringing about concrete and sustainable results. In view of the prevailing situation one has to conclude that the First FYP was successful. It was not a major success in setting up numerous teaching facilities, roads, hospitals etc but it succeeded in paving the path in that direction, which was the main goal set by the planners. For example, before the beginning of the FYP only the primary schooling system was available in the whole country, but within the five years of the Plan period some junior high schools, one public school with boarding facilities and one technical school was established. So in spite of many hurdles it was a grand success. The King and the country were satisfied and for a continued progress towards modernization and economic development the Second FYP was started in 1966.

According to the FYP report, there were in all 83 primary and 20 Junior High Schools with about 7000 students and 375 teachers.⁹ The figures given do not tally with the research undertaken. It was not possible to account for 83 primary schools and that could be possibly because of lost data as well as the remoteness of the institutions. Nonetheless, the junior high schools were in accessible areas and my total does not add to that sum. This anomaly is underscored by the report of the Second FYP where it states there were only 16 junior high schools in the beginning of the Plan period, so instead of adding schools 4 of them had mysteriously disappeared.

Below is a synopsis of schools in different districts. It must be noted that many places did not have names in the past and after districts (*dzongkhags*) were carved out some were bifurcated to form newer districts. Many places were transliterated and so the older names like Tashigang became Trashigang etc. I have attempted to list the schools according to the districts present today and sticking to the official names of districts, towns and villages. The names of schools are given as they were during the referred Plan periods.

Primary Schools

Bumthang Dzongkhag

1. Ura Primary School

This school situated in Ura Gewog in the east of Bumthung *Dzongkhag*, located on a beautiful wide valley along with a good educational facilities with boarding facilities, was founded in 1961.¹⁰ The founding head teacher was Mr. Jo-Phajo from Tang village, Bumthung who began the work of its progress. He was succeeded by Lopol G. Tenzin.

2. Tang Primary School

The school, situated at Tang *Gewog* was built in 1965 with a strength of 11 students and 2 teachers. Mr. Dorji, the *gup* (village administrative head) and Lyenpo Dawa Tshering, the then Director of Education, took the initiative in establishing this school.¹¹ The school has been a beneficiary of WFP facilities ever since its inception.

3. Jakar high School

Jakar Primary School was situated in Choekhor *Gewog* and one of the oldest schools. It was mobile court school during the time of the first King. Later it took the

shape of a formal school. The school was inaugurated by the Foreign Minister Lyonpo Dawa Tshering, on 10 April 1960 as Bumthung Government Secondary School.¹² Dasho Karma Gaylek, the first head teacher was assisted by three teachers from India. There were 101 students but no hostel facilities and they camped outside the school in small huts built by their parents. The first hostel was established as a two-storied building in 1965. After Dasho Karma Gaylek, Kuenzang Tshering became the head teacher in 1961 who continued till 1962 and then M. G. Kaimal from India became the head teacher who continued up to the end of the First FYP period.

Chhukha Dzongkhag

1. Bongo Primary School

The school under the Bongo *Gewog*, founded by Ap Phub Dorji in the year 1952, was named Gedencholing School with 58 students and three teachers. The school-in-charge was Pemba Tshering who supervised the existing classes from Pre-Primary to Class III. When it was renamed in 1964 as Bongo Primary School, it had then strength of 78 students and 2 teachers.¹³

2. Chapcha Primary School

The school situated at the Chapcha, was established by the third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck in 1960 under the headmastership of Mr. Babu, an Indian.¹⁴ The medium of learning in the beginning was Hindi and Choekey and later English was introduced.

3. Sinchula Primary School

Sinchula carries great importance as the place of signing of the famous Sinchula Treaty between the British Govt. of India and Bhutan in 1865. This is one of the oldest schools under Chhukha Dzongkhag which Jang Bir Rai, the then Gup of the village, and an elderly person Kharka Singh Rai took the initiative to establish in 1960. It commenced with 27 students and Dambar Bahadur Chhetri as the head teacher.¹⁵ The school gave importance not only in academic activities but also in games and sports, quiz, literary activities etc.

4. Dungna Primary School

This school situated in Dungna *Gewog*, four days walk from Phuentsholing was founded in 1965 with 40 students and 2 teachers.¹⁶ In the beginning the school was under Paro *Dzongkhag* but later it was included in Chhukha *Dzongkhag*.

5. Darla Lower Secondary School

This school began as Tala Primary School in 1950s is situated in the Darla valley under Phuentsholing. Such a need in the area was first felt by Mr. Karna Bahadur Chhetri, the then *gup* (village administrative head) of the Tala *Gewog* and supported by local community members. It started as community school under Mr. Laxmi Prasad Sharma. Mr. N. K. Sharma, an ex student of the school who later became a teacher of the same school remembers the days of his schooling in 1950s when there were twenty students under single teacher Mr. L. P. Sharma who taught them in a thatched hut. According to him, “There was no electricity, nor telephone. The favourable way of communication was on horse. ... Now how can I measure the changes that have taken place?”¹⁷ School building was constructed during the First FYP period.

6. Phuentsholing Junior High School

It is located close to Indo-Bhutan border at Jaigaon, besides the Amochu River. There was initially a big primary school in Phuentsholing started in 1960’s under the headship of Mr. K. D. Tshering.¹⁸ Gradually the number of students and teaching staff increased as it was located in a populated area.

Dagana *Dzongkhag*

1. Daga Primary School

This school is situated on the border between the *gewogs* of Tseza and Kana, established in 1962 at the initiative of the third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck with 100 students, four teachers and Lopen Tsheltrim as the head teacher.¹⁹

2. Drujeygang Primary School

This school, located on a hilltop within Durjeygang *Gewog* was founded in 1962 as a private school headed by language teacher Tshampa Druba who ran it on a monastic system.²⁰ The school was nationalized at the end of the First FYP when western style of education was introduced.

Gasa *Dzongkhag*-It was a part of the Punakha Dzongkhag and in 1992 was created as a new district, so all the schools were under Punakha Dzongkhag.

1. Gasa Primary School

This school, established in 1961, was located on the top of a hillock under Khatoe *Gewog*. It was the first school in the *dzongkhag* and the first head teacher was P. K. Bal from Kalimpong was assisted by two other teachers, Ms. Pelden and Azha Penjor and it started with 50 students.²¹

Lhuntse *Dzongkhag*

1. Zangkhar Primary School

The school, situated on the foothills of Yabi village under Jarey *Gewog*, is amongst the oldest schools in the *dzongkhag*. Its foundation began in 1960 and completed in 1962 but for the three years English medium was not introduced due to teacher shortage and that was remedied in 1965 when Mr. Galley Tshering from Trongsa joined.²²

2. Dungkhar Primary School

The school located in a beautiful valley under Kurtoe *Gewog* unfortunately has no specific record of its founding but it may be surmised to have been in the late sixties and that it was a mobile school: sometimes housed in a *lhakhang*(temple), sometimes in a private residence.²³

3. Tangmachu Primary School

This school in Tangmachu village was established mainly through the initiative of the village *gup* as the nearest school in Lhuntse was one day walk. The villagers constructed the school which started with lower kindergarten class in 1965 under the headship of Mr. Dendup Tshering with students from 10 adjacent villages.²⁴

Mongar *Dzongkhag*

1. Wirlingla Primary School

In 1961 the first school for the two *gewogs*- Silambi and Gongdue was founded in midway between the two at a place called Wirlingla. Infrastructural materials for the building came from the government while construction was done by the local people. It commenced with a locally appointed teacher Mr. Norbu as the

head teacher from whom Bajay, the first departmental appointed head teacher took over the charge in 1964.²⁵

2. Kengkhar Primary School

This boarding school is in a remote area of the *dzonkhag* under Kengkhar *Gewog*, a three days journey from *dzongkhag* head quarter. It was established in 1963 with 108 students, of whom 8 were girls.²⁶ Mr. Gogotal Chandra Gupta Sharma, an Indian was the first head teacher who was continuing at the end of the First FYP.

3. Yadi Primary School

This school is located within Chaskar *Gewog* and was started by the people of the *gewog* in 1963 with 80 students in the rolls. Mr. Dorjang was the first head teacher and also supported by two other teachers.²⁷

Paro *Dzongkhag*

1. Rinpung Primary School

This school was established in early 1960s²⁸ but no record is there of its early stage.

2. Dobji Primary School

This boarding school was started in 1966 catering to many children from far-flung villages as boarders.²⁹

3. Bitekha Primary School

This school is situated in Chuzom *Gewog*, approximately 75 km far away from Paro. It was established in 1962 under order of the third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. In the beginning there were 20 students and one teacher, Tsip Rinchen Gyaltshen who continued till 1963 and then Jai Singh, an Indian became the head teacher who continued till 1966.³⁰

Pemagatshel *Dzongkhag*

1. Yurung Lower Secondary School

This school was founded in Shumar *Gewog* by the order of the third King. Construction began in 1957 and was completed in 1959 and academic session started in that same year with 138 students and three teachers- Mr. Tshewang Norbu as the teacher-in-charge, Mr. Sherub and *Dzongkha* Language teacher Mr. Dorji Wangchuk. Students stayed in their own self constructed little sheds until five years later when a hostel was built. For the first five years Hindi and *Choekey* were the medium of

learning and were replaced by English 1964. Mr. G. M. Mukerjee, an Indian, became the head teacher in 1964 and he was continuing in 1966.³¹

2. Shumar Primary School

This was the first school in the Mongar *Dzongkhag*(Shumar *Gewog*) founded in 1960. Mr. Chubnupal Bose, an Indian lead the way in establishing the school. In 1966, he was followed by Mr. Basudev Rokha who started with two sections of infant classes consisting of 120 students.³²

Punakha Dzongkhag

2. Logodama Primary School

Founded in the early 1950's it was the first school in Punakha *Dzongkhag*, and was initially known as Punakha School. In the beginning there was no permanent structure of the school and classes were conducted in a temporary shed. The medium of learning was Hindi and *Dzongkha* and teaching based on Indian curriculum.³³ The early records of the school were untraceable.

2. Kabesa Lower Secondary School

It was in 1966 that this school came up as a community school with 30-35 students, one head teacher and one *Dzongkha* language teacher. But the school infrastructure was very poor.³⁴

Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag

1. Neoli Primary School

This is the oldest primary school in the *dzongkhag* and was established in 1957. It was started at a place called Nainital by Mr. J.B Pradhan whose son, Om Pradhan, was to later become Minister for Trade. As the head teacher was commonly known as 'Neoli Babu', the school was took the name of Neoli Primary School.³⁵ At the ending of the First FYP one teacher from Kalimpong named Mr. Lepcha joined the school

2. Deothang Primary School

This school is located on the Trashigang-Samdrupjongkhar highway and 18 km from the *dzongkhag* headquarters. It started in 1962 with classes from Pre-Primary to V. Ms Sonam Choden was the first head teacher from 1962 to 1963, succeeded by

Mr. Gupta who continued from 1964 to 1965 and Mr. Rigzang Wangdi was the head teacher in the year 1966.³⁶ Besides educational activities students also took active part in sports and entertainment programme.³⁷

3. Dechheling Primary School

This school was established in 1964 and admitted children in Pre-Primary to class VI with Mr. Peshar, the then *gup* of Dechheling *Gewog*, having a pivotal role in its foundation. The required land for the building was donated by some Mr. Tenzin Wangchuck. Mr. Basnet, an Indian served as the head teacher from the year of establishment and continued till the end of the First FYP.³⁸

4. Martshala Primary School

Founded in 1964 this school was the centre of learning of 12 villages under Martshala *Gewog*. This *gewog* was then under Trashigang *Dzongkhag*. The school was started by some Lupon Chompa. Being only educated person in that area, he took the responsibility of establishing the school.³⁹

Samtse *Dzongkhag*

1. Chargharey Primary school

The people of the Chargharey village had started a school in 1947. One Nar Bahadur Pradhan spared one room of his house to run the school. The villagers had invited Mr. C. M. Rai from Phuentsholing to teach in the school, who was known as Guru Babu to the villagers. The school was taken over by the government in 1951. Mr. K.S. Gopinathan Nair was the head teacher at the ending of the First FYP.⁴⁰

2. Denchukha Primary School

It was founded in 1949 and was a private school in the rest house of some Mr. Gaj Raj Kazi and head teacher was Mr. Tshering Lepcha. In the year 1955 the school had to close down for five years as a consequence a heavy flooding. It was reestablished in 1960 by the government which eventually took over the management in 1965. In the same year one Indian Mr. M.M. Devesia became the head teacher while Mr. Lepcha continued teaching also. Records show Devesia was still working till the end of the First FYP.⁴¹

3. Bara Primary school

This was founded in 1954 as a private school. It was started with the initiative of the elderly people of the village and the donation of a paddy field, for fund raising, by Ms Nar Maya Gurung. The school started with classes from Pre-Primary to IV and Mr. K. B. Gurung appointed as the head teacher. In 1965 the government approved and took over the school.⁴²

4. Dorokha Primary School

This school is a three day journey from Samtse *Dzonghag* headquarters. The school was started in 1955 with G. S. Namchu as the head teacher. In the first year there were only 12 students and two classes but later the number of students increased and classes were upgraded to V. Mr. Namchu continued as the head teacher till the culmination of the First FYP and greatly contributed to its development. The school also provided for a number of co-curricular activities.⁴³

5. Nainital Primary School

This school was established by the people of Nainital in 1951 in a thatched hut. Mr. B. K. Thapa became the first teacher with only 12 children. He served for six years being replaced by Mr. Bhandari Chhetri for one year and when he left in 1958 Mr. B. Thapa became the head teacher. Till 1964 the school ran privately and parents of the children paid the teachers' salary and when government took the responsibility community benefitted a lot.⁴⁴

6. Samtse Primary School

Third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck founded the Samtse Primary school in the year 1957. It commenced as a small structure accommodating three classes and 109 students. Mr. Sada was the first head teacher and at the end of the First FYP the school had developed into one of the finest institutes in the country.⁴⁵

7. Chengmari Primary School

This school located within Chengmari *Gewog*, 10 km away from Samtse town, and founded in 1958 as a non-formal school under the initiative of D. D. Lama who collected 25 children for admission to the school. In 1961, with the launch of the FYP the government took the responsibility for building the structure of the school. In 1964 it was upgraded from a non-formal to a formal one with Mr. Raja Ram from India as a teacher and 300 students.⁴⁶

8. Peljorling Primary School

It was situated within Sibsoo *Gewog*. The school was established on 5th February 1961 under a teacher Ghimiray Upadhaya. In 1963 the government gave assistance by way of timber, roofing and salary for the teacher. In 1965 the school received official recognition with the name Pinjuli Primary School and a head teacher Krishna Kanta Mishra. There were 150 students with two teachers including a Lopen or Dzongkha language teacher.⁴⁷

9. Ghumauney Primary School

This school located about 26.5 km west of Samtse *Dzongkhag* was started in 1961 by Mr. Tika Sharma with enrollment strength of only 30. Initiative for the foundation of school was taken by Mr. N. K. Pradhan who believed that modern education was essential to open the lock of learning. After one year, Mr. B. B. Kulung replaced Mr. Tika Ram Sharma who continued till 1964. From then Mr. Kunjappan, a teacher from Kerala, ran the school till the end of the FYP period.⁴⁸

Sarpang Dzongkhag

1. Surye Primary School

The school had started in 1940s functioning for only one hour in the evening in a bamboo hut with thatched roof. The details are blurry but it must have continued till it was shifted below the highway in Gon-Dara village in 1962. And from then the school became a government school.⁴⁹ Initially the medium of learning was Nepali and later English replaced it. The school started with the teachers from India like Mr. S. B. Silwar, Gopilal John. Gradually the number of students increased to become a formal school.

2. Kalikhola Primary School

This school situated in a day long journey from Phuentsholing was established in 1957 by the people of the village and they took all the responsibilities and invited and Indian Mr. Nirola to run the school. In 1961 the government took all the responsibilities and a new building was constructed.⁵⁰

3. Sarpang Primary School

This school was founded in the early sixties to fulfill the aim of the third King to take education to the remotest parts. In the early years it was headed by Indian head

teachers.⁵¹ As the school was situated close to the *dzongkhag* headquarters it is certain that it contributed a lot in the spread of modern education in the *dzongkhag*.

4. Leopani Primary School

This school was located beside the Gelephu-Sarpang highway. It was established in 1963 under the headship of Mr. Subba.⁵² Due to the scarcity of earlier records the number of students and teachers of the earlier periods can't be traced.

Thimphu *Dzongkhag*

1. Thimphu Primary School

It is the first school in the capital city which was founded in 1950s. The first head teacher in was R. Singh, an Indian. As the school was located in the capital it always enjoyed all the government facilities. Along with the academic activities, various co-curricular activities were also practiced by the students..⁵³

2. Khasadrapchu Primary school

This school situated in Mewang *Gewog*, 18 km from the Thimphu was started in 1960 under the headship of Lopen Passang, assisted by three Indian teachers with an enrollment of 100 students. Lopen Pema Wangchuck replaced him in 1962 and after him some Indian teachers had taken the charge of the school..⁵⁴

3. Dechencholing Primary School

This school located about six km towards north from Thimphu was established in 1960 under the headship of a certain Mr. Dorji with only a few children but gradually the number of students' increased..⁵⁵

4. Thinleygang Primary School

This school was founded in 1962 by a leading personality of the village Thinleygang. One teacher Mr. Yeshe Dorji joined as the first teacher-cum head. The medium of instruction was Hindi and books were brought from Kalimpong, India. In the beginning people of the community paid the salary of the teacher and also constructed the school building. After the Prime Minister visited the area government salary was introduced for the teachers and a new teacher Mr. Kazi was appointed to assist Yeshe Dorji and medium of instruction was replaced by English..⁵⁶

5. Thimphu Public School

Thimphu Public School was established in April 1965 as Bhutan's first public school. A total of 91 students including 20 girls were enrolled, all as boarders, in classes from Pre-Primary to IV with six teachers.⁵⁷ All India Radio broadcasted the commencement of the school on April 14, 1965- "Less than three miles from the new Dzong, Bhutanese workers are busy constructing Bhutan's first Public School.... The new school will be the main source for the flow of doctors, engineers...The school will also afford opportunities to the students to learn about and take pride in their country's history and culture."⁵⁸

6. Chhoeden Primary School

At the culmination of the First FYP period in 1966 Chhoeden Primary school was established. This was situated at Lungtenphu area in Thimphu to cater the educational need of the army men as this place was the headquarters of the Royal Bhutan Army.⁵⁹

Trashigang *Dzongkhag*

1. Bidung Primary School

Secular education in Bidung village came in late 1950s with a mobile school. Later the school was shifted to Trashigang town and from the year 1961 the government took over the responsibilities. Mr. Thinley Dorji was the head teacher in 1961 and Mr. B. N. Gurung replaced him in 1963 with the school registering 63 students. In 1964, 15 new students were added and that was followed by 23 in 1965.⁶⁰

2. Bartsham Primary School

This school was established in Bartsham *Gewog*, situated 29 km away from Trashigang. It was established around 1958-60 by Babu Karchung with two teachers, Babu Karpa and Asang Karma. At that time, the classes were up to V and following which the students were sent for further studies either to Darjeeling or Kalimpong.⁶¹

3. Sakteng Primary School

The place Sakteng was situated in the extreme north of the Trashigang *Dzongkhag*. This school was established in early 60s of the last century. Due to the indifference of the community people towards education it was closed down after some years.⁶²

4. Merak Primary School

This school was founded in the early 1960s but the school could not survive more than a year. The parents of the locality were very unenthusiastic about the education of their children as it was felt a waste of time. So, though the school was established with noble intentions there being no students it was shut down.⁶³

5. Thungkhar Primary School

This school is situated at Thrimshing *Gewog*, at the southern end of Trashigang, established in July 1961 to serve the people of Thrimshing, Kangpara and Gomdar *Gewogs*. It started with 101 students with Pema Tshering as the first head teacher. The students' roll strength gradually increased and much progress had been made at the culmination of the First FYP period.⁶⁴

6. Wamrong Primary School

The school is founded in 1961 with Hindi as the medium of instruction. The first head teacher was Major Pem Tshering who continued till 1963, after him Mr. Nayar and Mr. R. Krishnan continued for some period. In 1964 Mr. J. B. Rai joined as the head teacher, he was from Kalimpong and under his supervision the medium of instruction was converted to English. In 1966, at the end of the First FYP period Lopen Nado became the head teacher.⁶⁵

7. Khaling Primary School

Khaling Primary School situated in the Khaling *Gewog* was established by the government. The community contributed in the foundation of school building. The school started with 60 students and one single teacher from India.⁶⁶

8. Kangpur Primary School

This school is situated in one corner of the Trashigang *Dzongkag* and was constructed in 1961 by the people of the locality, received formal government approval in 1963. The school started with 37 children and one teacher, Lopen Kalzang Dawa, who taught *Choekey* and *Dzongkha*. Later one Indian teacher Mr. Srinivasan joined as head teacher and medium of learning was changed to English.⁶⁷

9. Radhi Primary School

This school located in Radhi *Gewog*, some 25 km east of Trashigang, was established in 1963 in a two storied building with an enrolment of only 19 students.

Isaac James was the first head teacher. The school had also boarding facilities for the students from distant places.⁶⁸

Trashiyantse *Dzongkhag*-This *dzongkhag* was a part of Trashigang till 1992 when it carved out to create a new district. The list below includes the schools in Trashiyantse *Dzongkhag* when it was still a part of Trashigang *Dzongkhag* during the First FYP period.

1. Trashiyantse Primary School

This school is situated in Yangtse *Gewog* was started in 1961 with 20 students. At that time parents were very unwilling to spare their children from farm work. The school started under the headship of Mr. Som Sundar Ram and Lopen Dechen Lhundup as the Dzongkha language teacher. The school had one academic block and a hostel cum teachers' quarters. In due course, the number of students increased and classrooms were extended to meet the growing needs.⁶⁹

2. Thragom Primary School

This school is situated in Yalang *Gewog*. After much pleading by the people of the gewog the school was approved by the Royal Government and finally established in 1963.⁷⁰ An Indian gentlemen was the first head teacher but no details of the early period is available.

Tsirang *Dzongkhag*

1. Damphu Primary School

In the year 1947, one Mr. Lingden started teaching an odd group of children in the village of Damphu under a thatched and mud hut with the classes from Pre-Primary to VI. It was recognized by the government in 1954 and English became the medium of learning in 1964 when the first batch of Indian teachers under the headship of Mr. S. K. Nair were recruited.⁷¹

2. Salami Primary School

This school in Salami village was unofficially established in 1955. The villagers constructed temporary classrooms and it commenced as a '*pathsala*' maintained by a Nepali pundit, Mr. Barma Chari. In 1957, the government took over the school and Mr. Karki was appointed as a regular teacher. In 1960, Mr. Pasang Tamang from Kalimpong joined and in 1962 Mr. Chandra Ghising replaced him. Mr.

Hemanath Ghimerey took charge of the school in 1963 and was continuing till the culmination of the First FYP period. In 1964 the Department of Education built permanent structure for the school.⁷²

Wanduephodrang Dzongkhag

3. Wangdue Primary School

This school located in Theso *Gewog* started in 1955 under the then head teacher Lopen Sonam Chorten. He had with him a handful of teachers and 50 to 60 students. The medium of learning was Hindi which was later changed to English. In the year 1965 the school had 365 students as it provided boarding facilities to the students.⁷³

4. Gaselo Primary School

The school established in 1961 was a result of the vision and sweat of the people of the Gaselo and nearby villages. Under the headship of Mr. Gyelpo Tshering the school had classes from Pre-Primary to IV.⁷⁴ Due to scarcity of sources the number of students of the earlier period is not known.

5. Samtengang Primary School

This school was founded in 1962 in a temporary hut under the stewardship Mr. M. M. Joseph assisted by two Dzongkha lopens. New building for the school was constructed by the government in the year 1964.⁷⁵

Zhemgang *Dzongkhag*

1. Zhemgang Primary School

In 1958, this school was established with an initial strength of a hundred students. Mr. Kinley Tshering was the head teacher and Mr. Minjur, the *Dzongkha* teacher in the beginning. Both of them were the pioneer educationists of this region.⁷⁶

2. Bardo Primary School

The school falls under Bardo *Gewog* and was established in 1965 with 45 students in two classes under the supervision of a teacher-in-charge Dendup Tshering and a *Dzongkha* Language teacher. Gradually the student strength of the school increased and classes were upgraded from Pre-Primary to VI.⁷⁷

3. Bjoka Primary School

This school situated on the hilltop was established in 1966 and later government undertook it.⁷⁸ Nothing is available about records of the earlier period.

Junior High Schools

Haa Dzongkhag

1. Haa Junior High School

Initially the name of the school was Haa School and was established in 1914 at the initiative of Raja Ugyen Dorji, *Gongzim* of the first King Ugyen Wangchuck. The first two teachers were Ugyen Chirring and Dawa Namgya Targyen from Kalimpong, India.⁷⁹ The third King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, made Haa School a model for the other schools.

Lhuntse Dzongkhag

1. Thsompaling Junior High School

The school located in Gangzur *Gewog* was established in 1962 and was later renamed as Lhuntse Junior High School. In the beginning there was a single classroom and a small staffroom.⁸⁰ As is the case in many other schools records pertaining to the school's early history is not available to us.

Mongar Dzongkhag

1. Mongar Junior High School

This school situated about half a km from the district town on a large tract of flat highland and falling under Mongar *Gewog* and *Dzongkhag* was founded on May 21, 1959 with 200 students and 5 teachers by Babu Tashi of Pemagatshel, the then Dzongpen (Head) of Mongar *dzongkhag*.⁸¹ The medium of instruction was Hindi and during the time of First FYP it was changed to English. The following teachers performed their duty as the head teachers in the early period-

Mr. Najay, a Bhutanese, in the year 1959, Mr. Shiv Dasan, an Indian as the head teacher in 1963 and Mr. P. B. Nair replaced him in 1964 who was in turn replaced by Father William Mackey, Jesuit missionary from Canada.⁸²

Paro *Dzongkhag*

1. Paro Junior High School

This school was located at Gapoy in Paro in 1962 but due to a heavy landslide in 1986 the school building was extensively damaged and it was relocated to Tsentok *Gewog* with the name of Drugyel High school.⁸³ Babu Adhi from Kalimpong was the first head teacher who continued till 1966.

Sarpang *Dzongkhag*

2. Gelephu Junior High School

This school was established in 1966 i.e. at the last quarter of the First Plan period. In its earlier period, this school provided education to Gelephu and adjacent areas. It was a boarding school with classes Pre-Primary to VIII.⁸⁴ But no record is available about the teachers and students of the earlier period.

Trashigang *Dzongkhag*

1. Trashigang Junior High School

This school was opened in 1952 where 30 students chosen by Dr. Karchung, Lopen Kharpa and Karma Dorji were initially housed in a lhakhang.⁸⁵ In 1950s, after the visit of the third King in the school, building was constructed in Trashigang town. In the beginning it was an elementary school and gradually rose to a junior high school. In 1961 many teachers came from Kalimpong and in the following year another batch of teachers from South India were serviced. Father Mackey joined the school in 1963 and he played a pivotal role in the all around development of the children. Dasho Sonam Tobgey, former Chief Justice of the High Court, Thimphu, and a student of the Trashigang School in the 1950s quotes from a letter written to him by one of his teachers of the Trashigang JH School dated 17th October 1966: "...the school is progressing well. It is famous throughout Bhutan."⁸⁶

Trongsa *Dzongkhag*

1. Trongsa Junior High School

The school situated in Nubi *Gewog* was founded in 1956 with 56 students. Mr. Lawrence Sengupta was the first head teacher. It was a day boarding school till the culmination of the First Five Year Plan period and students had to make arrangements for their food and lodging after school hours.⁸⁷

Tsirang *Dzongkhag*

1. Lamidara Junior High School

This boarding school was established in 1960s with classes Pre-Primary to VIII and students from the distant places joined the school. It functioned very well in both academic and co-curricular activities leading to a high enrollment. The school's name was later altered to Mendrelgang Lower secondary School.⁸⁸

Although Jesuit educationist to Bhutan, Father William Mackey, mentioned about some more schools around this period in his article "How it all began" such as Sibsoo in Samchi (Samtse), Tschosa in Punakha, Gangtey Gompa in Wangdi (Wangduephodrang), Domkhar in Bumthang, Gopini in Chirang (Tsirang), Goshi in Dagana⁸⁹ but no records are available elaborate on their commencement, teachers serving the institutes or the number of students in the rolls. This paucity of information or records is also found in the case of the early Primary Schools as well as in the initial Junior High Schools. Documents appear to be non-existent in many cases and oral testimony almost impossible to obtain with most of the teachers either dead or relocated in far flung areas of India. It was a major surprise and disappointment to discover that some of the leading schools had very little documentation as regards the history of their institution.

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