

Growth and Prospects

A. Personalities Behind the Institution

i. Donors, Patrons and Elite's

The establishment and development of Rajshahi College was possible with the generous and sincerest effort of some zamindars, patrons, elite's and some institutions. The main role of eminent personalities and institutions towards the establishment of Rajshahi College were Raja Haranath Roy of Dubalhati, Raja Pramathanath Roy and Basanta Kumar Roy of Dighapatia, Sharat Sundari Devi, Maharani Hemanta Kumari Devi, Mon Mohini Devi of Puthia and Kumar Shradindu of Bolihar. Besides these Khan Bhadur Rashid Khan Chowdhury of Natore Danated a hand some amount to Rajshahi College.¹

Among the institutions the Shah Makhdum estate and the Rajshahi Association played an important role for the development of Rajshahi College. The Rajshahi Association tried to collect money for the construction of own building of the college. Responding the clarion call of the Rajshahi Association, zamindars and well to do persons of Rajshahi bestowed money for the construction of college building and finally the building was constructed in 1884.

The role of main personalities and institutions behind the Rajshahi College were given below:

Raja Haranath Roy

In 1872, Raja Haranath Roy of the Dubalhati Raj family came forward with the gift of a zamindari estate yielding an annual income of Rs. 5000 for the foundation of a second grade college at Rampur Bauleah i.e., Rajshahi. The Government of Bengal accepted the offer and sanctioned the scheme in their letter No. 2924 of the 19 th August, 1872.²

Rani Sarat Sundari Devi

Initially the college classes were held in the school benglow. To remove this

inconvenience and raise the dignity of this new institution Rani Sarat Sundari Devi had a pucca building erected at a cost of Rs. 10,554.³ The college since its inception had been placed under the charge of the Head Master of Zilla School, Babu Haragobinda Sen.

In 1884 a beautiful two-storied building was constructed at a cost of Rs. 61,703 and Rani Sarat Sundari Devi paid Rs. 10,000 towards the cost of this building.

Raja Pramathanath Roy

For starting a first grade college, in 1877, Raja Pramathanath Roy of the Dighapatia Raj family made an endowment of Rs. 1,50,000⁴ through the Rajshahi Association, and B.A. classes were opened in 1878. The University affiliation was secured for teaching the “B” or science course B.A. The Bauleah was now named the Rajshahi College.

The P.N. Hostel was constructed in 1894. Raja Pramathanatha Roy of Dighapatia paying a large amount for construction of P.N Hostel.

Rani Mon Mohini Devi

Rani Mon Mohini Devi of Puthia made an endowment of Rs. 20,000 for the support of the law classes. In 1881 the B.L. classes were added to the Rajshahi College.

Rajshahi Association:

Rajshahi Association an organisation for the welfare of the people. It was established on 21st July, 1872 its founder and first President was Raja Pramathanath Roy Bahadur of Dighapatia. Of the important activities of Rajshahi Association, the mentionable ones are the upgrading of the Rajshahi College to a Degree College, raising subscriptions was constructed a beautiful two-storied college building, establishment of the P.N. Hostel, formation of a memorial fund for the assistance of poor students.

Maharani Hemanta Kumari Devi

In 1902, Hemanta Kumari Hindu Hostel was built at the cost of Rs. 18,000 donated by Maharani Hemanta Kumari Devi of Puthia. Beside these, for the

construction of Sanskrit College building she donated Rs. 17,000. Excepted these Maharani Hemanta Kumari Devi donated Company's paper yielding Rs. 1780 per year for maintaining Sanskrit College expenditure.⁵

Kumar Sarabindu Roy

In 1908, a common room building was erected, nearly half of the cost being given by Kumar Sarabindu Roy of Balihar.

Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy

Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy of Dighapatia, a noble soul of the illustrious family of Raja Dayaram donated a princely endowment of Rs. 2,50,000 for an Agricultural institute in 1920.⁶

This college for which so much has been done by these generous donations and by the large expenditure from time to time incurred on its improvement by Government as grown steadily and promises to be one of the most prominent educational institutions of the province.

Khan Bahadur Ashraf Ali Khan Chowdhury

Considering the ludicrous financial position of the then Muslim students zamindar of Natore, Khan Bahadur Asraf Ali Khan Chowdhury arranged for twenty students in his 'Kachari Bari' i.e., 'Chowdhury Lodge' at free of cost in Hatem Khan area. Moreover small amount of scholarship was also given to the students from his zamindari estate. Beside this, Khan Bahadur Ashraf Ali Khan Chowdhury Donated a hand som amount to Rajshahi College in primary stage.⁷

ii. Scholarships, Prizes, College Medals and Stipends.

Besides Government senior and junior scholarships, there were several other scholarships endowed by private individual in the Rajshahi College.

The Mohini Mohan Roy Prize Fund

The Mohini Mohan Ray Prize Fund was created in February, 1883. It started with Rs. 3,000. Prizes are annually awarded out of the income of this fund. The

rate of this annual prize was Rs. 80.⁸ It is awarded to the student who most successfully passes the B.A Examination with honours, or to a graduate of the college who passes the M.A. in any subject.

The Mayo Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Mayo Memorial Scholarship Fund was reorganized and strengthened by the Rajshahi Association in 1884. Its value was then raised to Rs. 1900 and scholarships are annually awarded out of the income of this fund. The rate of this scholarship was Rs. 3 a month, tenable for two years, open to the students in the third year class.

The Pramathanath Graduate Scholarship

There is a scholarship of Rs. 10 a month called the Pramathanath graduate scholarship; this was founded by Raja pramathnath Roy of Dighapatia, and is awarded to the graduate who passes highest from this college and reads for his M.A. degree here.

Ramkumar Free Scholarship

A Scholarship valued of Rs. 3 a month was established in 1892 by Babu Harakumar Sarkar of Rampore Bauleah tenable for two years in the B.A. classes. It was to be awarded to the student who secured the highest marks in the F.A. Examination from Rajshahi College provided that he did not enjoy any other Government or local scholarship. The scholarship was styled after the donor's father, the 'Ramkumar Free Scholarship.'

The Banamali Jubilee Scholarship

There were two scholarships, called the Banamali Jubilee scholarship, named after the donor Roy Banamali Roy, Bahadur, of Tarash, of the value of Rs. 8 a month, tenable for two years at the Rajshahi College.⁹ They were open to those students who pass the Entrance examination from the Pabna Zilla School and Serajganj H.E. School, and who fail to obtain a Government scholarship. No student will be eligible for a scholarship who fails to produce certificates of moral character, from the Head Master, Second Master and the Head Pandit of the school he reads in.

K.C Sarkar Scholarship

In the year 1897-98. "K.C. Sarker scholarship Fund" was established in Rajshahi College in memory of the late Krishna Chandra Sarkar, the Government pleader of Rangpur. The Collector of Rajshahi was entrusted with power of administrating the fund. Two scholarships for two years of the value of Rs. 15 per months were award able every year two good students passing the F.A. Examination on condition of their joining the B.A. classes of the Rajshahi College. Preference was given to students who passed the F.A. examination from the Rajshahi College. In the first year the scholarship was awarded to Ramlal Ghosh, a student of the 3rd year class of this college.

Rani Mon Mohini Devi Scholarships

The Rani Mon Mohini Devi scholarships of Rs. 10 and Rs. 8 per month respectively were tenable for two years at the B.A. classes of the Rajshahi College. Successful F.A. candidates from any college of Bengal were eligible for them provided they satisfied the condition for the award of these scholarships.

Rani Mon Mohini Devi Medal was also to be awarded to the student who obtained the highest marks among the successful F.A. candidates.

A Rani Mon Mohini Devi free studentship at the B.A. class was also established in the Rajshahi College.

The Rani Mon Mohini Devi scholarships, free studentships and medal were founded out of the proceeds of the endowment of the Rani Mon Mohini Devi Trust Fund which formerly formed part of the remuneration of the law lecturer. The donor Rani Mon Mohini Devi of Puthia expressed her willingness to divert the fund from the law to the General Department and His Highness the Lieutenant Governor accorded sanction to the diversion by Government letter No. 2437 dated 5/8/1898. This took effect from the 1st October, 1898.¹⁰

Dighapatiya Scholarships

The zamindar of Dighapatiya instituted the following scholarships and free studentships :

- (a) One scholarship of Rs. 10 a month which was tenable at the Rajshahi College was to be awarded to a students of the Dighapatiya High School who had passed in the 1st division.
- (b) Three free studentships tenable at the Rajshahi College were also established by the zamindar of Dighapatiya. These were to be awarded to the successful Entrance candidates of the Dighaptiya School in order of merit.

Scholarships of Puthia Zamindar

One scholarship of Rs. 7 a month in the 1st year class and Rs. 8 in the second year class and tenable at the Rajshahi College were instituted by the zamindar of Puthia. These were to be awarded to the student of Puthia H. E. School who had passed the Entrance examination in the 1st division but failed to get a Government scholarship.

The Government Scholarships

- (i) The Government awarded five scholarships for this college and the scholars were to be nominated by the views of the zamindar of Dubalhati in consideration of the munificent gift to this college by their zamindary yielding a net income of Rs. 5,000 a year.¹¹
- (ii) During the sessions 1913-14, a Research scholarship of Rs. 100 a month was granted to a student who carried on his research work in the chemical laboratory of the Rajshahi College.
- (iii) There were two classes of college scholarships, senior and junior offered by the Government. Senior scholarships were given on the basis of the result of the Intermediate examination and the junior scholarships on the basis of the results of the Matriculation examination. These were tenable for two years in any affiliated colleges.

The scholarships were distributed in the following manner in the following places:¹²

- (a) Ten first grade scholarships of Rs. 20 each were awarded to the first ten eligible students on the basis of their results.

- (b) Thirty second grade scholarships of Rs. 20 each were awarded to students who passed from colleges of the following areas:

Calcutta	-	10
Presidency Division (excluding Calcutta)	-	5
Burdwan Division	-	5
Dacca Division	-	4
Chittagong Division	-	2
Rajshahi Division	-	4

- (iv) Five Mohsin scholarship of Rs. 10 each for the Muslims were awarded to each division.

- (v) Twenty one special scholarships of Rs. 10 each for the Muslims were distributed among the students who had passed from the colleges of the following areas:

Calcutta	-	5
Presidency Division	-	3
Burdwan	-	3
Dacca	-	4
Chittagong	-	3
Rajshahi	-	3

- (vi) Twenty-eight stipends of Rs. 5 were distributed among the students who had passed from colleges of the following areas:

Presidency Division	-	6
Burdwan	-	3
Dacca	-	8
Chittagong	-	5
Rajshahi	-	6

Table 1

The table showing the amount of different scholarship tenable in Rajshahi College.

Government Senior Scholarship	-Rs.	760
Assam Senior Scholarship	-Rs.	638
Special Mohammadan Senior Scholarship	-Rs.	310
Government Junior Scholarship	-Rs.	2,104
Special Government Scholarship	-Rs.	120
Special Assam Junior Scholarship	-Rs.	370
Post Graduate Scholarship	-Rs.	120
Special Reserved Junior Scholarship	-Rs.	447
Special Mohammadan Junior Scholarship	-Rs.	100
Special Senior Scholarship	-Rs.	150
Mohsin Senior Scholarship	-Rs.	196
Special Scholarship	-Rs.	45
Total =	Rs.	5,360

Scholarship paid from Trust Funds:

K.C. Sarkar	-	Rs.	360
Rani Mon Mohini Devi	-	Rs.	593
Mayo Memorial	-	Rs.	72
Mohini Mohan	-	Rs.	80
Total =		Rs.	1,105

Sources : Statement File No. 2. 1901-02, also letter to the D.P.I., Bengal, Dated 5.5.1913. Report on the Rajshahi College for 1912-13.

In the annual meeting of the associates of the Mohammadan Education Fund which was held at the settlement office, Dacca on August 19th, 1912, it was decided

to institute scholarship of the value of Rs. 120 or 135 on an experimental basis at Rajshahi College. The amount was not finally decided but it was proposed to be between Rs. 90, and Rs. 135. At the inception of the scheme, the amount was fixed at Rs. 90. The scholarship could be distributed in the form of free or half free scholarships; but not attached other scholarships. The scholar must live in the hostel attached to the college. Beside the Mukhdum estate provided scholarships for 5 students of the Rajshahi College, the value of which was Rs. 51 each.

Rajshahi College Scholarship

There is a scholarship of Rs. 5 a month tenable for two years in Intermediate classes of this college, annually awarded to best successful Matriculation candidate from the Bholanath Academy, Rajshahi.¹³

Under the new Scholarship Rules the Government have offered a number of special scholarships beside some general ones for the First year I. A. and I. Sc. students of the Rajshahi College. These are of the value of Rs. 10 per month and are tenable only at the Rajshahi College where the scholarship holders will also be given the benefit of free tuition. Particulars are given below:¹⁴

- 1) Two general scholarships for students of all communities passing from schools of the Rajshahi and Malda districts.
- 2) Two scholarships reserved for non-Muslim other than scheduled caste students who pass from school of Rajshahi (1) and Malda (1).
- 3) Five such scholarships for Muslim students who pass from the schools of the Rajshahi (2), Malda (1), Darjeeling (1) and Jalpaiguri (1) districts.
- 4) Four such scholarships for scheduled caste students who pass from schools of Rajshahi (1), Malda (1) and Dinajpur (2) districts.

Beside these, quite a large number of special stipends are also awarded by the Government to Muslim and scheduled caste students for the Rajshahi College. These stipends are sanctioned from year to year and are open to students of first and second year I.A. and I.Sc. and third year B.A. and B.Sc. classes.

The Government of Bengal regularly placed about thirty half-free studentships at the disposal of the Rajshahi College. Each of these is tenable for two consecutive sessions and all are intended for deserving students of the college as a whole irrespective of class or branch of study. Needy and meritorious students of the depressed, backward or minority communities receive special consideration.

Five free-studentships are disposed of by Dubalhati Raj estate, Dabalhati, Rajshahi, and awarded to students of the Rajshahi College. Each of them is tenable for two continuous sessions.

Beside the above free and half-free studentships, the Muslim students and students belonging to the scheduled caste and educationally backward classes are granted some free and half-free studentships specially sanctioned of them.

Rajshahi College has Government authority to nominate 16 graduates in Arts and Science for the Competitive Examination for recruitment to the Bengal Services.¹⁵

B. Rajshahi College as a Centre of Higher Education

i. College Library

For advance study and up to date research any educational institutions requires a good library well-equipped with books, journals and all other related archival materials. The authorities of Rajshahi College were very much conscious about the necessity of such a library and from the very beginning took all possible steps to procure books and periodicals from various sources and built the library as per demands.

The Rajshahi College Library had no building of its own. Consequently it was removed from one room to another on several occasions. Finally it was removed to three small rooms of the common room building in July 1910. The new University Regulation required that each affiliated college should have a good library. The Regulation also suggested that there should be qualified librarian who must be at least a man of education and intelligence so that he could to a certain extent guide the students in their studies.¹⁶

The library of the Rajshahi College was poor as far as the reference books were concerned. To facilitate the use of library, the rate of security deposit was reduced and scholarship holders were allowed to use and borrow books gratis. The annual Government grant for the library was Rs. 300 upto 1910; it was raised to Rs. 400 in 1911 which was also quite insufficient for a first grade college considering the grants awarded to the Presidency College, Calcutta, Dacca College and Chittagong College.¹⁷

Beside this, in the absence of a trained librarian, the works of the library were carried out in a disorganised manner. The arrangement of books were defective and for want of suitable glazed almirahs books were stacked as in a in go down. The total number of books in the library during the academic session 1910-11 was 9439. They may be classified as follows:¹⁸

English Literature	.....	.....	1844
Classics	.....	.....	48
Biography	.....	.....	170
Fiction	.....	.....	388
History	.....	.....	769
Mathematics	.....	.....	589
Travels	.....	.....	104
Physical Science	.....	.....	599
Medicine	.....	.....	24
Philology	.....	.....	65
Grammar	.....	.....	118
Philosophy	.....	.....	684
Politics	.....	.....	474
Law	.....	.....	196
Oriental Literature	.....	.....	215
Theology	.....	.....	128
Reference	.....	.....	454
Sanskrit	.....	.....	668
Persian and Arabic	.....	.....	672
Bengali	.....	.....	317
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	913
Total	.....	.....	9439

The Library was under the management of a committee of four members with the Principal as president. The work of cataloguing the books in a modified form of the Dewey System has been taken in hand by the secretary of the committee assisted by the librarian and an extra hand specially appointed for the purpose.

At the initial stage there was no reading room attached to the library. The students had to take books from the library and read them in the common room, which was not a suitable place for the study of students. The library and the common room were unfortunately too far away from the college building. They were situated on the other side of the road. It is very inconvenient for both professors and the students to use the library and the common room. The grant for the common room was Rs. 200 a year.¹⁹

In the year 1917-18 the library grant was worth Rs. 1700 a year. The common room contained a large number of Newspapers, Weekly and monthly Magazines, both English and Bengal.

The library contained 10,012 books in the year 1917-18 and was manned by a very incompetent librarian. On 31st May 1920, the number of books in the library totaled 10,275. The following is the list of the periodicals that were subscribed and placed in the common room.²⁰

1. Century Magazine
2. Nineteenth Century
3. Review of Reviews
4. Fortnightly Review
5. London News (Illustrated)
6. Modern Review
7. Indian Review
8. Scientific American
9. Nature
10. Times
11. Strand Magazine
12. Hindustan Review

13. The Bookman
14. Business
15. The Wide World
16. Health & Strength
17. Bengali
18. Amrita Bazar Patrika
19. Englishman
20. Bharatbarsha
21. Sahitya
22. Probasi
23. Moslem Bharat
24. Krisi Sampad

The period 1927-32, was a significant, because during this time the library was housed in to rooms on the ground floor, a room was allotted for of and the other was in fast floor of the main college building. This brought a great relief to the inconvenience of the students and staff who felt the need over the decades. A big room was also constructed so as to allow the students to use of as reading room. It was attached to the library. It is said that this was a well-furnished room along with furniture a provision of an accommodation of 50 students at a time.

The library contained 17,927 volumes of books as per the report dated 31st March 1932, including bound volumes of periodicals, the exact varieties of which were about 40 in number. In respect of the number of books which were not only sufficient to meet the demands of the students and the staff for the their class work, but also intended to provide ample opportunity for serious research work as it contained various standard works of antiquities, the Rajshahi College library stands next to Presidency College library amongst Government institutions under the Calcutta University.²² There were valuable collections of both Sanskrit and Bengali manuscripts known as the 'Kumudini Kanta Collection; The library was fairly well utilised by the students and staff alike and the number of issues had been steadily in the increase during the last five years. A glance over the following may be presented here for consideration:²³

1927-28	.....	.....	7,623
1928-29	.....	.....	7,952
1929-30	.....	.....	8,051
1930-31	.....	.....	7,981
1931-32	.....	.....	10,579

This number was, however, excessive of the number of books issued for use in the students, reading room and in the seminars.

The normal library great is Rs. 4000 per year, but sometimes this amount is enhanced by reappropriation from the consolidated grant.²⁴ Nearly one thousand books are added every year. In the year 1931-32, 952 books were received, most of which a few copies were received as presentation copies.

The Total number of volumes in the library on the 31st March 1937 was 21,620. The two rooms in the ground floor and one in the first floor were providing more and more inadequate for the expanding needs of the library, and it has of late reached on almost scandalous stage of congestion. Every available inch of space has been occupied by book-shelves and almirahs, and the narrow lane that provides a passage between the different rows hardly offers any below room for ever a casual consultation of volume taken out of the shelves.²⁵

The Principal wrote in the Quinquennial Report of 1932-37: Newly purchased books are squeezed in somehow or other great difficulty, and it is no exaggeration to say that the utility of the library has been considerably owing to the serious shortage of space from which it suffers. Unless immediate steps are taken for the proper housing of the library, a serious situation is sure to be precipitated which will interfere with its smooth and efficient working. Adequate accommodation is at present the crying need of the college in all its departments, but now here is the inconvenience more acute and in more imminent need of instant relief than here.

The principal wrote again in the above mention report: The above remarks apply with almost equal force to the students reading room which barely accommodates fifty students at a time. As the total number of students in the

college is nearly 800, a provision of reading facilities for fifty only must be held to be grossly inadequate. This shortage of accommodation is particularly detrimental to the interests of advanced and honours students and is the rock on which the successful working of seminars has hitherto been wrecked. The members of the staff suffer from a similar grievance and have no rooms for carrying on their studies in quietness and privacy. This point of will again be stressed in connection with the report on the working of seminars, but it is as well to insist here that unless a comprehensive scheme of improving accommodation, the progressive activities of the college are going to be brought to a stand-still. The question of better results is bound up with that of improved accommodation, and so long as this latter facility is not available, the college must perforce be satisfied with its record of humble mediocrity and must not aspire to reach higher levels of achievement.²⁶

The total number of books in the library in the session 1940-41 was 24051. They may be classified as follows:

1. English	4638
2. Bengali	2966
3. Sanskrit	2422
4. Arabic	938
5. Persian	370
6. Urdu	288
7. Hindi	7
8. Assamase	7
9. Uriya	3
10. History	2278
11. Politics	710
12. Economics	1144
13. Philosophy	1513
14. Law	100

15. Education	237
16. Mathematics	995
17. Physics	1179
18. Chemistry	1102
19. Botany	224
20. Geology	21
21. Medical Science	160
22. Natural History	142
23. Fine Arts	56
24. Sports	85
25. Maps	56
26. Calendars	317
27. War Literature	119
28. Reports	1037
29. Gazetteers	30
30. Dictionaries	436
31. Miscellaneous	292
32. Manuscripts	179
Total	24051

It is observed that from the above mentioned book list the library of the college had more than twenty four thousand books. A student is usually allowed only one book at a time but honours students may take even three books at a time for home use with the approval of their departments. The pointed attention of students is drawn to the rules, controlling library management, a printed copy of which is put up in the librarian's office. The reading room adjoining the library is intended for quiet and serious study and seats 40 students at its tables.²⁷

The year 1956 is a memorable period in the history of Rajshahi College. In that year a two-storied building was constructed. The first floor was allotted for auditorium and the ground floor was allotted as library room. In this way two long standing problems of the College were solved.

Since the Rajshahi College library has a long tradition, it is likely that it must be proud of its collections. Rare books, valuable documents and various research materials are still preserved which have been serving the researchers and educationist till date. From a report it is learnt that in 1988-1989 the total collection of books was 66,079.

ii. Residence of Students

Accommodating students was one of the problems of the Rajshahi College. In 1875-76, the Head Master of the Collegiate School who was in-charge of the college proposed the establishment of a hostel. In that year, only 12 boys were given hostel accommodation and the remuneration of superintendent was fixed at the maximum of 8 annas per students which was considered too small by the teachers and as such they declined to undertake the responsibility of hostel management.

In 1882 when the Lt. Governor first visited the college to lay the foundation of the college building, it was proposed to erect a hostel in his name to be called “The Rivers Thompson Hostel.” But it did not materialise due to the shortage of fund.

At the time of the Lieutenant Governor’s visit to this college on the 3rd October, 1885 the ‘Rajshahi Students Club’ presented a memorial to him regarding the erection of suitable boarding house for the Rajshahi College. The Lt. Governor agreed to sanction a grant from Government for the purpose. The problem of accommodation, however, was solved to some extent by the construction of the Pramathanath Hindu Boarding House which was opened in August, 1894.²⁸ The management of this Boarding House was placed in a committee in August, 1897, the Principal being a president of that committee. It had an accommodation for 40 boarders and in the opening year there was large number of applicants for admission but 40 students were admitted. The monthly charge of the hostel was Rs. 6. Babu

Benode Behari Sen (Head Clerk of the college) was made the Superintendent of the Boarding House at the beginning.

Later on, a Resident Superintendent was appointed and the fee-rate was raised to Rs. 7-8 but this was lowered down to Rs 6-8 on 1st September, 1897. In this year many messes in which the students lived were brought down by an earthquake. As a result, the problem of accommodation became serious. A small building with 8 seats was constructed at a cost of Rs. 300 Rs. 150 being contributed by the Rajshahi Association. However, with the increase of students the demand for accommodation became intense. In order to meet the situation, an attempt was made to construct an additional block to the west of the Boarding House the estimated cost of which was Rs. 10,000.

Babu Benode Behari Sen continued as Superintendent of the P.N. Boarding House till August 1897. He resigned only when a new rule was made to the effect that the Superintendent was to be a resident one. Babu Krishna Behari Ray, 2nd Additional Teacher of the Collegiate School was then appointed Superintendent in his place. Under his able management the Boarding House flourished.²⁹

A long felt want was removed by the opening of a Boarding House for the Muslim students of the College. There were two buildings with a capacity accommodation of 30 boarders each under the control of the Principal. As the Madrasa Boarding House and the new Mohammadan Boarding House were contiguous, they were placed under the same superintendent.

We come to know from the Quinquennial Report of 1900-01 to 1904-05 that in the Hindu Boarding Houses there was provision for 104 students. On the other hand, the number of seats in the Muslim Boarding Houses, was 59. The Boarding House, were too overcrowded. Some lived in messes in different parts of the town. The rent per month was Rs. 262. Annual contribution of the Government was Rs. 1,179 and the rest were realised from the students. Each mess had a resident superintendent appointed from the members of the teaching staff of the college or its attached institutions. The Government used to spend Rs. 680 as remuneration of the Superintendents.

The college hostels were under the supervision of college teachers as follows:³⁰

P.N. Hostel	...	Babu R.C. Biswas, M.A., Professor of Mathematics.
Hemanta Kumari Hostel	...	Babu R.P. Mazumder, M.A., Lecturer of English and History.
Moslem Hostel	...	Maulivi G. Yazdani, M.A., Professor of Arabic and Persian.

There are ten attached messes, six for the Hindus and four for the Muslims. The Hindu messes have accommodation for 227 and those for the Muslims 84. Each mess was under a superintendent, who was an officer of the college or its attached institutions. The messes were under the supervision of :³¹

1. Sadhan Kutir Mess ... Professor Bamacharan Bhattacharyya.
2. Manasmahdir Mess ... Babu Nalin Kumar Dutta, Lecturer.
3. Suradham Mess ... Babu Hemchandra Ganguli, Demonstrator.
4. Science College Mess ... Babu Chintaharan Banerjee, Lecturer.
5. Kumarpara Mess ... Babu Sureschandra Lahiri, Assistant, College office.
6. Liberal Mess ... Babu Matilal Chaudhuri, Assistant, College office.
7. Dargapra mess ... Maulvi Abed Ali, Teacher, Rajshahi Collegiate School.
8. Islamia Mess ... Maulvi Md. Hossain, Teacher, Rajshahi Collegiate School.
9. Kaderganj Mess ... Maulvi Yousuf Ali, Teacher, Rajshahi Madrasa
and
10. Hamida Mess ... Maulvi Md. Amiruddin, Teacher, Rajshahi Madrasa.

Rani Hemanta Kumari's endeavour in creating facilities for the accommodation of the students of Rajshahi College was praiseworthy. It was due to her assistance that a Boarding House named after her (The Rani Hemanta Kumari Boarding House) was constructed at a cost of Rs. 30,000. This was inaugurated by Sir John Woodburn, the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal on the 16th July 1902. She made over the hostel to the Government in the same year by a deed of gift. In appreciation of her munificent donations for the diffusion of education, she was offered the title of "Rani" in January 1902. The boarding had the capacity to accommodate 50 students.³²

The Developmental Scheme of the Rajshahi College pleaded for the establishment of six blocks- one for the Muslims and the rest for the Hindus each with a capacity of accommodating of 50 students. But the scheme did not get approval for a long time. However, after a long delay, the Government accorded sanction to be the construction of the proposed hostels in May, 1920 and January, 1921 respectively. Land for the purpose was acquired and construction began in August 1920. The estimated cost for these hostels were Rs. 3,18,500.

The College New Hostel, opened in July 1923,³³ is situated by the college in the healthiest part of the town, it has six two-storied blocks which surround the spacious quadrangle used as a play ground by the residents. Each block accommodates 50 students and has its messing managed by its own boarders under the supervision of the superintendent. Each student is given the full quota of boarding utensils apart from the kitchen utensils provided for the block by the hostel. a chair, a table with drawers, a book-shelf, a rack for wearing apparel and a bedstead are given to each inmate. The rooms are visited daily by the whole time Medical officer, and medicines and medical aid are assured to every boarder for the recurring charge of four annas per month. The boarders have their own library and reading room, a well-equipped common room, and provision for indoor and outdoor games and music.

Every year the boarders of the New Hindu Hostel celebrate the Foundation Day of the Hostel with great enthusiasm. Various physical feats are shown and prizes are awarded to the best competitors, the prizes being provided from the subscriptions raised by the students.³⁴

Besides the Government hostels, there are (1) the students home for Hindus which allows board and lodging at concession rates to a limited number of college students under a resident Hindu Missionary Superintendent, and (2) the two-storied Westminster Hostel, conducted by the English Presbyterian Mission under a resident European Superintendent, which is open to about 40 college students of all castes and denominations.

It is notable that out of these six blocks, five were allotted to the Hindu students and only one was for the Muslims. But in course of time the number of the Muslim students increased and it practically became a serious problem in 1938 because of the insufficient accommodation for the Muslim students. When the problem became more acute, the matter was brought to the knowledge of A.K. Fazlul Haque, the then Prime Minister of Bengal. Fazlul Haque took a historic decision whereby the Hindus and Muslim students got equal share of blocks i.e. three blocks each for accommodation of respective community. In fact this division continued up to 1947, the year of Indian partition.³⁵

After the partition, the college authorities wanted a permanent solution of the Hindu students of the College-and accordingly Rani Hemanta Kumari Hindu Hostel of the Sanskrit College, Rajshahi, was allotted for the Hindu students of the College. This system till continues.

1950s were period of expansion of the college. The number of students alarmingly increased and the accommodation crisis started. In the 1960s a new block was constructed which was in fact 70 seated three-storied Muslim hostel. Side by side the college authority felt the need of women hostel and as the situation demanded a two-storied hostel building was constructed for the female students. But in spite of these efforts the accommodation was insufficient and as a result the students had to seek for other arrangements namely lodging and other provisions. Incidentally the number of seats in most of the hostels were increased and as a result in 1990s a programme of hostel extension and construction of new building for hostel started. It is however notable that the college authority were ever careful about the management of the hostels and various type of officials and attendance were appointed to look after the affairs and administration of the hostels.

iii. Academic and Non-Academic Activities

The College Association

The college Association played a very important role in both academic and non-academic activities of the college. Though the college was established in 1873 we do not come across any dependable documents highlighting the history of this Association. On the basis of an intensive survey only a report of 1933-34 of the Association has been found it is likely that this wing of the college had its zenith of activities. But it seems that since this record depicts statement some years other than this (1932-33), some documents relating to the Association are missing. Until further investigation it is suffice to note here that the nature of the function of this Association since its beginning till date as it is being followed are more or less some and this particular years' activities may be the model of its functioning.

It is a fact that the unit and solidarity of college life was fairly manifested in the formation of a body known as the Rajshahi College Association. In fact it was a nerve centre of the students and had its activities drawn the attention of the students as a whole. This was essentially a democratic body loving taken election to constitute the Association. From the report document 1933-34, it appears that the body of that particular year was composed of sixteen student representatives with the Principle as the ex-officio and Professor Girija Sankar Bhattachariyya as the Vice-President. The election of the Association was conducted as per the college status and the members of the body were elected accordingly. For the smoothness and efficiency the whole body was divided into fourteen different sections. Funds were allotted during the Annual Budget and a member of the teaching staff was placed for supervision.³⁶

As may be expected there was a common room for the students and it was furnished with electricity and electric fans. There was comfortable sitting arrangement of about 500 students at a time. In the leisure hours the students had to pass their time in reading dailies and periodicals. From the report it is clear that for that year only there were 24 dailies and periodicals and this section of the college remained open from 10 A.m. to 7 P.M. all the year round. The year 1933 the college was honoured with the visits of Khawaza Nazimuddin, Minister in charge

of Education, Government of Bengal and Sir Jadunath Sarkar, a great historian and former Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University.³⁷

The Common Room was the venue for the debates and lectures delivered by teachers students and visitors of reputation. The report 1933-34 supplies as a rare information about a lecture by Sir Jadunath Sarkar who spoke on the 'Rise and progress of Maratha Power' which was attended by various guests including honourable Education Minister, Government of Bengal, W.A. Jenkins, former Vice-Chancellor Dacca University a few other distinguish scholars from various parts of Bengal.³⁸

The Indoor Games section were furnished with couple rooms and its working ours were the same as those of the common room. Table Tennis, Chess, Carrom were some of the items of indoors games in the college.

The Gymnastic Section stood in its own independent ground inside the college and had variety of items for physical exercise of the students. It had its elected secretary and students captain to supervise the related affairs. There was however a physical Instructor who was suppose have a training of athelet and thus the Gymnisium was a first class centre for health culture and cultivation of the physique.

The College Magazine, run by student editors with the assistance of a committee of four members of the teaching staff, is ordinarily published twice a year and contains illustration whenever funds allow them. Students get copies of every issue, and the magazine is given vide publicity, more that fifty copies being sent on each occasion as complimentary exchanges to colleges and universities in Northern India.³⁹ Designed primarily as an organ of self-expression for present students above all, it opens its columns to former students every now and then and serves as a golden link between the old and the new.

The College Annual Sports, generally organised in winter, are managed by a strong students' committee with the co-operation of members of the staff who officiate as stewards, judges, starters and time-keepers. Various type of items were included and Weight lifting, Race, Cricket, Ball throwing, Tennis, Ha-Do-Do, Fast-cycle race, Tug of war were worethy of mention, Different categories of prizes were awarded to the succussful participants.

College lectures used to remain suspended for two days during the celebration of the Autumn Social which usually includes among other items a literary conference, recitations, music, magic, caricature, ventriloquism, physical feats and theatricals. Incidentally, it also reports that the Social Gathering in October, 1931 was attended by Mr. Ananda Sankar Roy, I.C.S., who addressed the audience on 'Democratic Ideals in Education' Mr. Ramananda Chatterjee of the Prabasi and the Modern Review and Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee of the Calcutta University graced with their presence the Social of 1932.⁴⁰ The former presided over the literary conference; the latter delivered a brilliant, illustrated lecture on the glories of 'Greek Sculpture,' and students were inspired with enthusiasm as much by their magnetic addresses as by their forceful and lovable personality. The college wireless set was requisitioned for the function of 1932, and students and their guests appreciated for hours the varied Broadcast Programme of the Calcutta Radio Station.

The Football Section, possessing three grounds in the college area, elected its own Secretary and Captain every season and enters teams in all the local tournaments run by the District Sporting Association. Inter-class college contests and away matches with colleges or universities are regularly organised. It is noted that the College Eleven had friendly bouts with Scottish Church College and Hooghly College on the home ground in 1931 and went to play Krishnagar College in 1932. Rs. 588 was the sum spent for the section last year.

The Cricket Section, working from November to January under its own office-bearers, usually attracted 40 players and holds regular matches with local rivals. We come to know from the document that Mr. N. Das, the renowned batsman of his Excellency, The Governor's Eleven, played for the Town Team against the college in 1931, and Principal Jenkins, an all-round sportsman, not only coached the students in practice games but also proved the bulwark of the college in the matches of 1932.

The document also supplies us the information of the Hockey section. Thus it is stated that the Hockey Section, current from January to April, usually enlisted 50 students with their elected secretary and captain, joined in the local cup competitions, and arranges away matches when the home eleven are exceptionally

strong. A set of superior quality sticks and valuable hockey outfit were specially obtained last year.

The students of the college enjoyed much river padma was full in the Rowing item of the college. The college possessed 2 steel boats, 2 country boats and one jolly boat which were all fitted with air-chambers to minimise risks. 120 Rowers, divided into 11 batches, had 502 outings in 1931-32. The Kalinath Memorial Tournaments Cup, presented to the college by Mr. Kumud Nath Choudhury, M.A., Professor of Chemistry, in the memory of his revered father, was a much-coveted rowing trophy. If the condition of the river was not impossible, a competition was specially organised for the cup every December in great pomp and vigour.

The Nature-Study and Excursion Society were the most enjoyable source of inspiration to the students of the college. The document gives a report of 1931 and it shows that a party of 18 students was conducted to the Paharpur Ruins in 1931 and a group of 24 was taken to Rabindranath's Santiniketan in February, 1932; again, one batch of 24 Arts students visited the Benares Hindu University, and another of 15 science students went round a few centers of Puri and Applied Science in and near Calcutta, shortly before the last Pujavacation. The educative value of these conducted tours can scarcely be overestimated.⁴¹

Tennis had four lawns in the college compound and Badminton two. One tennis lawn was transformed into a concrete hard court and equipped with permanent steel frames to hang screens upon. About the performance of 1932-33, the report shows that fifty students were engaged in Tennis last year, and 15 in Badminton. Besides the usual contests and the Hilda Cup Singles and Bhuban Mohan Doubles in Tennis, there was a special Tennis Competition in 1933 for the Rabi Memorial Cup made over to the college by the boarders of the H.K. Hostel.

Splendid scope was given to numerous students by the Country Games, Swimming and Water Polo Section. 'Ha-Do-Do' and 'Daria Banda' have their appointed places in the college precincts; Swimming, which had a platform build for it in 1932, is practised in the college tank, and Water Polo, played in the same waters, draws huge audiences in course of its frequent matches.

Conclusion

Thus the college Association, as may be expected from a good college had multifarious activities and programmes. This role of the college shows fairly that it was not only engaged in academic programmes but also had given due importance to various non-academic activities of the students. As we have seen how the students could pay attention and interest in the lectures of the intellectuals like Suniti Kumar Chatterjee or Sir J.N. Sarkar, but at same time they were even ready to take part in various indoor and outdoor games. The college students and the college itself could thus claim its eminence as a centre of learning and producing its students upto mark.

C. Rajshahi College and her Sister Academic Institutions

There were three institutions attached to the Rajshahi College, viz., i. the Junior Madrasa, ii. the Rani Hemanta Kumari Sanskrit College and iii. the Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institute.

i. Rajshahi Madrasa (Estd. 1874)

In the beginning, the Government of the East India Company patronized oriental learning. The result was the established of the Calcutta Madrasa. Its aim was to improve the administration of the criminal courts of judicature, and of the department of polices which had a large number of Muslim officers by cultivating the knowledge of Arabic and Persian. In the Government Resolution of July 1873, three Madrasas were established at Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong in 1874 each of which was placed under the supervision of an Arabic scholar of repute who was assisted by a staff of competent Maulvis.

The Rajshahi Madrasa began its function on the 1st of April 1874 under the control of a special committee. The Madrasa was classified into Higher, Middle and Upper primary stages.⁴²

The D.P.I. Report for 1877-78 reveals that the number of students on the rolls of the Madrasa came down on the 31st March 1878 to 45 from 74 a year before. The cause of such a decrease in number was explained by the superintendent

of the Madrasa in terms of the prevalence of fever in the station, the high price of rice and the scarcity of lodgings in the town. Beside the Madrasa could not start as a Senior Madrasan owing to the absence of Primary Maktabas of Madrasas in the town or in its environ and consequently the progress of the students was unsatisfactory.

In 1879-80, a fourth year Arabic class was introduced. During this session, 22 Government Jaigirs or free studentships were provided to the students as an inducement to study in this Madrasa and this helped to increase the number of students. As a result the number of students rose to 56 in 1879-80 and 77 in 1880-81. Again in 1882 the number increased to 87 and 127 respectively. This rapid increase of students evidently speaks of the popularity of the institution.

From the period 1884 and onward, the destiny of the Madrasa began to be determined by the Principal, Rajshahi College as it was placed under his control as an oriental department.⁴³ At that time the Rajshahi College was growing fast and it needed additional buildings for accommodation. Fortunately, the new building of the Madrasa had been completed in 1883-84 at close proximity of the college it was handed over to Rajshahi College. The Government in return "agreed to repay to the Mohsin Fund Rs 20,000, or the cost of buildings. Under the Principals of the Rajshahi College, the Rajshahi Junior Madrasa made some progress.

In line with the suggestion of A. Clarke, Principal of the Rajshahi College, twelve free boarderships were sanctioned in 1889-90. Apart from that, additional land measuring about 10 bighas were acquired by Government at a cost of nearly Rs. 10,000 from the Mohsin Fund for the extension of the Madrasa. With this amount of money several bustees were removed. A portion that land formed part of the Madrasa building the rest was earmarked for the play-ground.

The number of students came down to 46 on the 31st March 1900. The reason for the decline was "due to the appreciation by the Muslims of English Education in preference to a classical one in Arabic and Persian. As in 1898 so last year also the boys who stood first and were awarded the Mohsin Muslim scholarship obtained admission into the Collegiate School instead of into a senior Madrasa.

Some stability in the roll strength was noticeable from 1911-12. But still the number came down to 70 during the session 1914-15 owing to the unusual pecuniary circumstances of the people of Rajshahi town who could not afford food and lodge to the students. The D.P.I., H. Sharp, remarked in his visiting note that English was not taught in a very useful and practical manner. This shortcoming, he guessed, was due to the non-permanent post of Mr. Tasadaq Ahmed an able English teacher. He was satisfied with the progress of the Madrasa and suggested that two higher classes should be added to it. ⁴⁴

A new syllabus for the Tittle course was introduced and a revised syllabus for both junior and senior classes were drawn up. Arrangements were made for better in English as an optional subject and arrangements for small scholarships were made for its encouragement. An advanced study course in English were prescribed for two years either before or after the Title course, the motive behind being to make the educated Muslims fit for Government service.

The Mohammadan Education Advisory Committee which is otherwise known as Hornell Committee was appointed in 1914-15 to review the resolution passed by the Provincial Mohammadan Educational Conference which met in Dacca in April 1914 and all other matters relating to Mohammadan education. The Committee propounded the following recommendations on Madrassa education:

- (i) "That the income of Mohsin fund now devoted to the maintenance of certain Government Madrasas should be set free for providing scholarships for Muslim students.
- (ii) That an educational officer with special qualification in Arabic and Persian should be appointed to inspect the work of Madrasas in Arabic and Persian.
- (iii) That the Rajshahi Madrasa should be raised to the status of a Senior Madrasa.
- (iv) That a number of scholarships should be given from public funds to be awarded-
- (a) On the results of the Junior Madrasa Examination to be tenable for four years at a senior Madrasa or High School.

(b) On the results of the special Madrasa Matriculation, now, High Madrasa Examination".⁴⁵

The Madrasa was placed under the Reformed Scheme from the beginning of the year 1916 and in consequence certain changes were introduced in the staff of the Madrasa. Two Vernacular teachers were added to the teaching staff. The designation of the 3rd Maulvi was changed into a Head Pundit or 1st Vernacular teacher and a new man was appointed with the designation of the 3rd Maulvi. Another Vernacular teacher was also appointed. The number of teaching staff at that time was: 4 Maulvies, 2 Vernacular teachers and 1 English teacher. The Head Maulvi Mohammad Khalilullah was transferred to the Calcutta Madrasa and a graduate Head Master Maulvi Muhammad Sabed Ali was appointed to the post in 1917 in the subordinate Educational service.⁴⁶

Table - I

The table showing the number of students on 31st March and average monthly and daily attendance :

Years	Number of students on 31st March	Average monthly attendance	Average Daily attendance	Remarks
1885-86	58	54	43	
1886-87	53	57	80%	
1887-88	46	48	39	
1888-89	76	68	59	
1889-90	68	71	58	
1890-91	63	65	52	
1891-92	51	60	47	
1892-93	74	74	58	
1893-94	79	82	69%	
1894-95	54	57	83%	
1895-96	52	69	78%	

1896-97	53	63	49	
1897-98	62	52	69%	
1898-1899	55	40	30	
1899-1900	46	50	39	
1900-01	66	52	No Record.	
1901-02	47	53	47	
1902-03	53	53	46	
1903-04	55	59	No Record	
1904-05	65	62.5	49.5	
1905-06	73	69	62.5	
1906-07	67	No Record	No Record	
1907-08	72	64.66	50.72	
1909-10				No Record
1910-11	148	No Record	No Record	
1911-12	93	96	69	
1912-13	92	88	66	
1913-14	109	102	78	
1914-15	70	79	63	
1915-16	84	81	68	
1916-17	89	82	62	
1917-18	100	92	70	

Source : D.P.I . Reports and Annual Reports of the Rajshahi College and its attached institution for the years 1885-86, 1920-21.

In 1920 the Governor of Bengal gave much importance to the learning of Arabic and Persian in the Madrasas. As a result many students became interested in the Madrasa oriented education. About after a decade the Bengal Government recognised the English as a medium of instruction in the Madrasa education. During this time precisely speaking in 1930, the Rajshahi Senior Madrasa was upgraded as

High Madrasa. From this time onward there was a trend of huge admission of the students in the Rajshahi Madrasa. Since the location of the Rajshahi Madrasa was within the campus of the Rajshahi College, the then principal T.T. Williams faced many problems relations to the proper administration and of the college as well as further expansion of the Madrasa. Naturally there was an attempt to shift the Madrasa and in fact through his utmost efforts the Madrasa was removed to the eastern side of the Central Jail. Incidentally a building was being constructed and when at a certain time of 1930 it was completed, the Rajshahi Madrasa was brought to the new complex. This resulted in the separation of the Rajshahi Madrasa from the jurisdiction of the Rajshahi College and there by Rajshahi Madrasa flourished with its independent status.⁴⁷

ii. Rani Hemanta Kumari Sanskrit College (Estd. 1904)

The establishment of Rani Hemanta Kumari Sanskrit College at Rajshahi in 1904 was an eventful phenomenon in the development of Sanskrit education especially in North Bengal. Along with the English education, the orthodox Hindus were also taking keen interest in the development of Sanskrit language in different parts of India in the 19th and 20th centuries. The number of students learning Sanskrit especially in Bengal, during these periods was greater than the number of student learning Arabic or Persian.⁴⁸

The Rani of Puthia very keen to contribute to such a scheme and went a step ahead by agreeing to create an endowment yielding an annual income of Rs. 1780 (Rs. 1600 for the college & Rs. 180 for student stipends) for a Sanskrit College (to be named after her) attached to Rajshahi college. In addition, the Rani also promised to construct a suitable building for the Sanskrit College at her own cost which would probably cost no less than Rs. 12,000. The site for the College was selected within the Rajshahi College compound adjacent to Rajshahi Collegiate School: The foundation stone of the building was, as desired by the Rani laid by the Lieutenant - Governor of Bengal on 1st July 1904.⁴⁹

The College was thus founded and officially named Rani Hemanta Kumari Devi Sanskrit College which started functioning from 1905 at the Rajshahi College. With the funds available, the construction of the college with the supervision of

the Principal, Rajshahi College, with the assistance of a representative of the Rani, began. The college building, consisting of a long hall and six rooms, was completed probably in 1908. The teachers of the college were temporarily accommodated in the Rani's house in Rajshahi town. A two-storied building accommodating sixteen students was rented near the college and one of the teachers was entrusted to superintend the hostel.

The Rani Hemanta Kumari Sanskrit College, the only one of its kind in the whole of North Bengal, was in fact, organised as a branch or as an attached institution of the Rajshahi College with its Principal as the administrative head. Rai Bahadur Kumudini Kanta Banerji, had worked strenuously in collaboration with Bhuban Mohan Mitra, the legal adviser of the Rani of Puthia, for the development of the newly founded college. A Managing Committee,⁵⁰ consisting of twelve members, for the governance of the college, was formed with the Collector of Rajshahi as its ex-officio President and the Principal of the Rajshahi college as the Vice-President and Secretary.

The preliminaries being completed, the Rani of Puthia, at the instruction of the Government, executed a bond covenanting to pay Rs 1780 annually for the college and mortgaging the interest in Bharui- Pakhimari- Maizbari (An estate in Mymensingh yielding a net profit of Rs. 2753 a year), as security for the performance of the contract. The college started its classes with 35 students and 3 teachers. Tuition was absolutely free for the students. Provision was made for the teaching of English and a teacher of the Collegiate School taught English to the students of the Sanskrit College for three hours a day. A large number of students attended the English classes at their own interest because the knowledge of English was also considered essential for Government jobs and positions at the time. Beside English, the main subjects taught at the college included Smriti, Kavya, Vyakaran, Nayaya, Purana, Vedanta, Sankhya and Mimamsa.⁵¹

Students were prepared for the Title examination conducted by the Bengal Sanskrit Association, Calcutta. The session began in March. Twelve stipends of Rs. 8 each were distributed among the students. Sometimes half-stipends of Rs. 4 were distributed to accommodate larger number of students. Beside the twelve stipends,

five stipends (3 from the Rajshahi District Board and 2 from the Rajshahi Municipality) of the value of Rs. 6/4 a month each were awarded to the deserving students. Some students were provided with free board and lodging by the benevolent public. The students either cooked their own meal at the hostel or a cook on a monthly payment was appointed for the job. The Sanskrit College had no library of its own. The Rajshahi College library, however, served as a great storehouse for Sanskrit books and manuscripts. Both the teachers and students of the Sanskrit College used the facilities available there. The Rajshahi College authority bought Sanskrit texts on the requisition of the Pandits of the Sanskrit College. The Rajshahi College library still has some of these rare books on Sanskrit language and literature.

The Sanskrit College started with three⁵² Professors who were highly qualified. Of the three, Babu Gurucharan Das, in recognition of his profound scholarship in Sanskrit Philosophy was conferred the title of *Mahamahopadhyaya* in July 1908. An additional allowance of Rs 10 a month was awarded to him early in February 1905. The monthly remuneration of the teachers of the college was fixed at Rs. 50 and they were required to carry on researches on the subjects they profess, and deliver a course of lectures on special thesis connected there with These lectures were open to the public and the results of their researches were printed and published. A professorship of *Sahitya* (Literature) and *Alankara* (Rhetoric) to be named after Raja Paresh Narayan of Puthia was created at a monthly salary of Rs. 40. The number of teaching staff was probably increased to four during the year 1912-13 and the total number of teacher remained three to four throughout the whole period.⁵³ Beside the salary, the teachers used to draw Rs. 5 a month as dearness allowance in consideration of the high price of food-stuff.

In the beginning the Sanskrit College was maintained almost entirely by the proceeds of the endowment created by Rani Hemanta kumari Devi and by few subscriptions. Beside the Rani's contribution of Rs. 148-5-4 per month (Rs 1780 annually), Kumar Naresh Narayan of Puthia Charani Estate (Rs. 25 a month), Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy and Kumar Sarat Kumar Roy of Dighapatia (Rs.5 month) also contributed to the college fund. Other contributors were the District Board of Rajshahi, Babu Sasadhara Roy, Udai Narayan Bhaduri and Goswami Ram Ratan

of Rajshahi town. Still the income proved insufficient to meet the expenditure. The college authorities almost from the very beginning pressed for government grant which however came in 1917-18 in the form of a monthly grant of Rs.75 through the Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Division. The amount was later raised to Rs. 150 per month in April 1920 and municipal grant of Rs. 5 per month was also sanctioned during this period.⁵⁴

Table-1

The annual fluctuations in the number of students is clear from the table :

Years	Number on the rolls on 31st March	Monthly average attendencee	Daily aqverage attendencee
1904-05	35	29	18
1905-06	45	37	22
1906-07	30	36	20
1907-8	28	29	19
1908-09	25	No record	No Record
1909-10	17	18	No Record
1910-11	17	19	No Record
1911-12	29	31	22.5
1912-13	30	32.4	23.6
1913-14	37	35	27
1914-15	27	34	24
1915-16	32	31	18.5
1916-17	25	26	19
1917-18	15	17	15
1918-19	29	25.07	20.64
1919-20	21	30	25.4

Source: Annual Reports of the Rajshahi College and its institution from 1904-1920.

The Government grant-in-aid was however, sanctioned on condition of the regular payment of the Rani's contribution. But as the things turned out, the payment from the Rani's contribution was not regular. Arrears payment became a regular phenomenon. Since the college had no reserve fund which could be drawn upon in times of financial stringency, the Principal of Rajshahi College, as the administrative head of the Sanskrit College, often had to pay the salaries of the teachers and stipends to the students "by loans and advances" made from the funds of the Rajshahi College. The contributions from the charani estate of Puthia had also become irregular and it was finally stopped in October 1923 because of the "financial condition of the estate. Consequently, the Principal, according to a decision of the Managing of the Sanskrit College, approached the District Board for an additional monthly grant of Rs. 30 for the students hostel⁵⁵(rented for Rs. 20 a month and a servant was appointed on a monthly wage of Rs. 11). The Principal also appealed to the Rajshahi Municipality for an additional grant of Rs. 10 for the college.

With the death of Maharani Hemanta Kumari Devi in 1942, the Sanskrit College suffered a great set-back. The payment from her estate became irregular and at one stage it seemed that the college would have to be "shout down" for the paucity of fund. "The college may have to be closed", the Principal wrote to the Manager of the Rani's estate "and it will be indeed a great pity if immediately with the passing away of the Maharani her beloved Sanskrit College also becomes extinct". In spite of series of correspondence made by the Principal with the Rani's estate, no arrears amount could be received specially during the years 1947-48. Moreover, no donations from public body could be respected in those hard days of economic crisis that followed just after the Second World War. The responsibility of running the Sanskrit College now went to a new country, Pakistan- a Muslim majority state. Its attitude towards the Rani Hemanta Kumari Devi Sanskrit College was not same as before. As soon as the country was divided the college building had to be surrendered temporarily to the Government for accommodating the office of the Divisional Inspector of Schools which had been shifted from Jalpaiguri to Rajshahi. The classes of the Sanskrit College were arranged in one of the building of Rajshahi College. The Hemanta Kumari Devi Sanskrit College building in spite of the efforts of the Rajshahi College authorities could never be recovered. The

acute economic crisis and the rapid fall in the number of students after the partition ultimately led to the abolition of a hitherto unique institution of Sanskrit learning in North Bengal.⁵⁶

The indifference of the Government and less interest in the learning of Sanskrit brought disaster for the future of Sanskrit College of Rajshahi. The tragic end was complete in 1963 when the famous Maharani Hemanta Kumari Sanskrit College of Rajshahi was closed forever.

iii. Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institute (Estd. 1936)

In 11th August 1920 the second son of Pramathanath Roy named Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy, zamindar of Dighapathia, made a 'will' in favour of establishing an Agricultural Institute and accordingly he donated Rs. 2,50,000 only. But due to some inevitable problems the institute could not be established before 1936.

On 12th May, 1936 by a Government notification Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institute⁵⁷ (B.K.A.I.) came into existence under the jurisdiction of the principal of Rajshahi College. The opening of the B.K.A.I. was at the Dining Hall of the Rani Hemanta Kumari Hostel, Rajshahi College, located beside the Natore road. The beginning of the institute was inspiring and classes started with the roll strength of sixteen students only. From our records it appears that upto 1947 the B.K.A.I. was at its normal functions in forms of agricultural education. But from 1948 onward this institute faced many problems and practically its academic programmes were almost collapsed. From 1952 initiatives were taken up to restore its position and a scheme for development was placed to the Government of Pakistan for approval. But it was unheeded and as a consequence its future was sealed and in the long run by an order of 1952⁵⁸ by the Government the institution was permanently closed up.

Courses :

The courses of study were included and practical training in dairy-farming, including preparation of dairy products, horticulture, poultry, cigar making and agricultural farming, as outlined below and as detailed in the syllabus:-

- (a) The syllabus for the course of training in horticulture was included practical farm work for the production of vegetable and fruit crops, instruction in canning and bottling of fruits and specialised instruction in the chemistry and bacteriology of fruit and fruit products, standardisation of veneers suitable for the various types of fruit and vegetables, horticulture chemistry.
- (b) The syllabus in dairying was included dairying, cattle management, preparation of dairy products, such as butter, ghee, cheese, casein with a specialised course in dairy chemistry & dairy bacteriology and was included milk pasteurization, milk and butter-testing, foods and feeding management of dairy live stock, economic of dairy farming with practical farm work.
- (c) Poultry, training was offered in management of poultry, poultry food, feeding of the chickens and adults, rearing and production management and marketing with practical farm work.
- (d) Cigar Making.
- (e) Training in agriculture with agricultural biology, agricultural botany and farm management with practical field work.
- (f) Agricultural chemistry including the chemistry of soils fertilisers and plants.
- (g) Botany (plant pathology and plant breeding.)
- (h) Book keeping .

The course of study should be spread over the following period:-

For Matriculates or for those who have not read up to the end of second year I. Sc. course-

First year- Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Botany-theoretical and practical-with farm work.

Second Year- Mathematics, Physics, Botany and Chemistry as above but with more practical work and with more farm work.

Third year - Horticulture Dairy, Poultry, Agricultural farming.

Fourth Year - Horticulture, Dairy, Cigarmaking.

In the first and second years provision were be made for some suitable practical field work either in poultry or in dairy or in cultivation of crops or in agricultural farming. Students completing the I.Sc course up to he end of the second year were able to begin from the third year's course. Before appearing for the final qualifying examination for the Diploma, all students would pass an examination in Agricultural Chemistry, Botany and Book-keeping. This examination might be taken at the end of the third year course. For the final examination to be held at the end of the Fourth year. Students might take either (1) Horticulture Cigar-making or (2) Dairy and Poultry or if he desired he might take both (1) and (2), no extra fee being charged for this.

Staff:

The following staff who joined the college on First April, 1936.⁵⁹

- 1) Mr. S.R. Swarup, instructor in Horticulture and Fruit canning.
- 2) Mr. P.C. Gupta, instructor in Dairy and Animal husbandry.
- 3) Babu K.N. Sinha, Dairy overseer.
- 4) Babu G.C. Bose, instructor in poultry.
- 5) Babu Kalipada Ganguli, Laboratory Assistant in Agricultural Chemistry.
(Vice Mr. M.A. Saboor resigned.)
- 6) Maulvi Rahmat Ali, Cigar Roller.

The Board of Management :

The Board of Management were constituted in 1941 as follows :⁶⁰

- 1) District Magistrate, Rajshahi- President -(Ex-officio)
- 2) Director of Agriculture, Bengal- (Ex-officio)

- 3) Director of Public Instruction, Bengal (Ex-officio)
- 4) Principal Rajshahi College & Administrator, B.K. Agricultural Institute- (Ex-officio)
- 5) Dy. Director of Agriculture, Northern Circle, Bengal - (Ex-officio).
- 6) Kumar Sarat Kumar Roy, M.A., Dighapatia Raj, Junior Branch.
- 7) Raja Prativa Nath Roy of Dighapatia.
- 8) Rai Bahadur Brojendra Mohon Moitra, M.A.,B.L.,M.L.C., Representative Rajshahi District Board.
- 9) Kumar Hemendra Kumar Roy of Dighapatia.
- 10) Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhury, M.A.,B.L., Nominated.
- 11) Babu Sarat Kumar Ghosh, M.A.B.L., Representative Rajshahi Association.
- 12) Moulvi Md. Aminul Huq. B.L., Representative Mohamedan Association.
- 13) Moulvi Md. Mobarak Ali Khan. B.L., Nominated.
- 14) Superintendent, B.K Agricultural Institute, Secretary- (Ex-officio)

Admission :

The minimum qualification for admission was University Matriculation, and sixty-nine candidates applied for admission at the beginning of last session, (i.e. 1935-36), but twenty-one had to be refused on the ground of being overage. The age-limit had since been modified, and it is expected that a larger member of students will be admitted next session.

Hostel Accommodation :

There was no special hostel attached to the institute for the residence of students, but the Government had as a temporary measure permitted the admission of the institute students into the college hostels. The candidates for admission to

the institute were generally poor as they belonged to the agrarian class, and they found it exceedingly difficult to meet the full hostel charges that were of that time levied from college students, If the member of the students in the Institute increased as was expected, the Problem of finding hostel accommodation for these students would be acute.

Department of Horticulture and fruit-canning :

This department had been equipped with a most up-to-date power driven canning machinery and steam plant capable of turning out 5,000 tins of conned fruits per day. Considerable delay occurred in putting the machinery in running order owing to the absence of electric power to run the same The administrative approval of the Government to install the necessary motors and electrification of the building was obtained, and it is expected that the machinery will be in running order by the end of this month.(i.e. April, 1936).⁶¹

Another more serious problem of the college was to tackle very soon. viz, the marketing of the products of this department. At that time the Indian Market for canned fruits was entirely under the control of the Australian and American fruit growers, and it is no use canning 5,000 tizs per day unless there was a market for the same as the Principal of the college reports as senior Marketing officer, Bengal, that for this purpose. Unfortunately fruits in sufficient quantities are not available through out the year, and it was therefore, decided to run the canning plant during the mango season only. Under the circumstances it was decided that if the scheme would have been successfull, the Department would be able to contribute a substantial part of the income from this item.

Dairy :

This department started work at the very beginning of the last session (1935-36) with milk purchased from local gowalas, (milkmen) on the advice of the Government live stock expert, eight Haryana cows were purchased and large quantities of butter, cream, ghee and other products had steadily produced and disposed of in the local market.

The total cost of equipping this department had been Rs. 3,736-4-6, and the sale proceeds up to 31st March 1937 had been Rs, 615-13. It is noted that these was huge demand among the local residents for the daily products of this institute, as these had been found to be very pure and for superior to those produced anywhere else.

Poultry :

This section started work on the 14th February, 1936, with the arrival of stock selected and supplied by the live stock expert, Bengal, from the Dacca farm. This department had been equipped with four large fowl chicken runs. It is under the supervision of Babu Gopal Chandra Bose, atache of the college, who was very experienced in poultry management. A hearson's incubator for 50 eggs had been purchased and was being used at present for artificial hatching.⁶² In the light of the report of the Principal, it appears that the college had taken various plans for the development of the poultry section and thereby to earn revenue as well.

Cigar Rolling Section :

The work of this department had been some what handicapped owing to the difficulty of obtaining sumatra leaves and wrappers, but inspite of that, about one hundred good cigars were produced and sold in the market.

Conclusion :

Two of the sections of the institute, namely. The Dairy and Poultry, were located in Government Agricultural Farm, and the staff in charged of these two sections had been to be on duty through the greater part of day. As no suitable residential quarters were available near the farm, the staff, who lived in town, had to travel great distances several times during the day.

Notes and references

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