

1. Critically discuss the importance of recommendations made by Woods Despatch.

(250 Words)

Answer:

Charles Wood, the president of 'Board of Control' of England recommended to combine the streams of both the lowest and the highest form of education in 1854. This is known as 'Wood's Despatch'. This despatch is called '**Magna Carta**' in the history of English education in India. Its recommendations were:

1. To form a separate education department,
2. To establish three universities in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras presidencies,
3. To take adequate measures for the teachers and the teaching,
4. To reform the government schools and colleges,
5. To establish new middle schools,
6. To start grants-in-aid in private schools,
7. To improve the native primary schools,
8. To expand women education, mass education, progress in vernacular language and to set up of teachers' training,
9. To increase the number of government schools arranged for inspection and to initiate secular education system, etc.

Charles Wood played a very **positive role in the expansion of higher education in India. After his recommendation, three Universities were found in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. Later Lahore (1882) and Allahabad (1887) universities were found.** He rejected the filtration policy. Director of Public Instructions (DPI) was formed in 1855. There were 79 English schools and 140 aided government native schools under this organization.

On the flip side:

1. The **government did not curb the proselytizing activities of the missionaries.** The policy of neutrality was not acted upon even for a long time after the Despatch.
2. The state did not stop the instruction in schools and colleges through the medium of English and **local languages were neglected.**
3. The expenses on secondary and higher education were not cut down and the **funds for primary and elementary education could not be adequately provided.**

As a result, primary indigenous education suffered in comparison to secondary and higher education. The higher education also remained equally defective. Indian languages could not find any place in higher education and were neglected.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. Critically examine the Constitutional and Extra-constitutional challenges to working of Federalism in India.
2. The success of Bargaining Federalism in strengthening the Federal structure of India depends on its management. Critically comment.