



History of Nizams Rule and Education before Independence

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The Nizam-ul-Mulk of Hyderabad, popularly known as the Nizam of Hyderabad, was a monarch of the Hyderabad State, now divided into the states of Telangana, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Nizam, shortened from Nizam-ul-Mulk, meaning Administrator of the Realm, was the title of the sovereigns of Hyderabad State, since 1724, belonging to the Asaf Jah dynasty.

The Asaf Jah dynasty was of Parso tajik origin from the region around Samarkand in modern-day Uzbekistan, The dynasty was founded by Mir Qamar-ud-Din Siddiqi, a viceroy of the Deccan under the Mughal Empire from 1713 to 1721. He intermittently ruled after Aurangzeb's death in 1707. In 1724 Mughal control lapsed, and Asaf Jah declared himself independent in Hyderabad.

Following the decline of the Mughal power, India saw the rise of Maratha Empire. The Nizam himself saw many invasions by the Marathas, which resulted in the Nizam paying a regular tax (Chauth) to the Marathas. The major battles fought between the Marathas and the Nizam include Palkhed, Udgir, Rakshashbuvan, and Kharda, in all of which the Nizam lost.

In 1903 the Berar region of the state was separated and merged into the Central Provinces of British India, to form the Central Provinces and Berar. In 1947, at the time of the partition of India, Britain offered the 566 princely states in the sub-continent the option of acceding to either India or Pakistan or remaining independent. Hyderabad was the largest and most prosperous of all princely states in India. It covered 82,698 square miles (214,190 km²) of fairly homogeneous territory and had a population of roughly 16.34 million people (as per the 1941 census), of which a majority (85%) was Hindu. Hyderabad State had its own army, airline, telecommunication system, railway network, postal system, currency and radio broadcasting service. In spite of the overwhelming Hindu majority, Hindus were severely under-represented in government, police and the military. Of 1765 officers in the State Army, 1268 were Muslims, 421 were Hindus, and 121 others were Christians, Parsis and Sikhs. Of the officials drawing a salary between Rs.600- 1200 per month, 59 were Muslims, 5 were Hindus and 38 were of other religions. The Nizam and his nobles, who were mostly Muslims, owned 40% of the total land in the state.

The Nizam decided to keep Hyderabad independent, unlike the other princely states, most of which acceded to India or to Pakistan voluntarily. The leaders of the new Indian Union did not want an independent and possibly hostile state in the heart of their new country and were determined to assimilate Hyderabad into the Indian Union, by force if necessary. In 2 September 1948 in Operation Polo, the Indian Army marched into Hyderabad, deposed the Nizam, and annexed the state into the Indian Union.

Seven Nizams ruled Hyderabad for two centuries until 1947. The Asaf Jahi rulers were great patrons of literature, art, architecture, and culture, and rich food. The Nizams patronized Persian art, Persian architecture and Persian culture, which became central to the Hyderabad Muslim identity. The Nizam was known for his wealth and jewelry collection. The last Nizam had been the richest man in the world. The Nizams also developed the railway, and the introduction of electricity, developed roads, airways, irrigation and reservoirs in fact, all major public buildings in Hyderabad City were built during his reign under the British Raj. He pushed education, science, and establishment of Osmania University.

Rise of Nizams

The first Nizam ruled on behalf of the Mughal emperors. After the death of Aurangzeb, the Nizams split from the Mughals to form an independent kingdom. When the British achieved paramountcy over India, the Nizams were allowed to continue to rule their princely states as client kings. The Nizams retained internal power over Hyderabad State until 17 September 1948 when Hyderabad was integrated into the new Indian Union.

The Asaf Jah dynasty had only seven rulers, however there was a period of 13 years after the rule of the first Nizam when three of his sons (Nasir Jung, Muzafar Jung and Salabath Jung) ruled. They were not officially

recognized as the rulers. A legend about the first Nizam states that, on one of his hunting trips he was offered some kulcha oval bread (an Indian bread) by a holy man and was asked to eat as many as he could. The Nizam could eat seven kulchas and the holy man then prophesied that seven generations of his family would rule the state. By tradition no Nizam has ever left India no matter how good a reason might exist for doing so, as it was said, "the Sovereign is too precious to his people ever to leave India."

End of the Dynasty and Removal of the Last Nizam

General El Edroos (at right) offers his surrender of the Hyderabad State Forces to Major General (later General and Army Chief) Joyanto Nath Chaudhuri at Secunderabad.

After the British left India in 1947, the Nizam of Hyderabad initially chose to join neither India nor Pakistan. He later declared Hyderabad a free, self-governing independent state but the Government of India, desirous of ending marginalization of the hindu population under Nizam refused to accept his point of view citing reasons Hyderabad was surrounded by India on all sides and did not have an access to sea. After extensive attempts by India to persuade the Nizam to accede to India failed, the Indian government finally launched a military operation named Operation Polo to overthrow his rule and liberate the non Muslims. When the Indian Army invaded his princely State on 13 September 1948, his overwhelmingly Muslim forces were unable to withstand the Indian army and were defeated. The Nizam capitulated and his forces surrendered on 17 September 1948 and he broadcast this over radio the same afternoon. The Nizam was forced to accept accession to India. His rule ended on 17 September 1948. It was the end of the ruling dynasty. Mir Osman Ali Khan, the last Nizam, died on Friday 24 February 1967. All Nizams are buried in the royal graves at the Makkah Masjid near Charminar in Hyderabad except for the last Nizam, Mir Osman All Khan, who wished to be buried beside his mother, in the grave yard of Judi Mosque facing King Kothi Palace.

Education during Nizam's Period

Marathwada was an integral part of the former native state of Hyderabad prior to 1948. Ever since the introduction of modern education Urdu was the medium of instruction throughout the Nizam territories. Persian and Arabic were the only other languages encouraged, besides English, which was taught as a second language. All the primary and secondary schools were run by the Government. Private enterprises, in education were almost forbidden. Every public activity was looked upon with suspicion even literary activities were considered as political. Permission had to be sought to hold any function social, cultural or otherwise, let alone those of political nature.

Spread of Islamic culture was the main aspect of the educational system during the Nizam's rule. The establishment of Osmania University gave fillip to Muslim ambitions and aspirations, facilitating the spread of the creed of the rulers. The whole atmosphere of the University was filled with an aroma of Islamic fervor. As a result, other branches of knowledge did not receive the attention that was due. There were special facilities for the education of the sons of Jagirdars and the elite. The history of public instruction in the Nizam's dominions goes back to the reign of Sir Salar Jung, the Prime Minister of Hyderabad (1853-83). He was the first statesman to have taken the steps towards public instruction by founding the Darul - Uloom or Oriental College in the city of Hyderabad which was placed under the Educational Board. In the words of that great statesman, "The Darul-Uloom was to be the centre of oriental learning in the Deccan and the means of diffusing a taste for culture through our own classics." But these efforts were mainly restricted to Hyderabad city.

The first step for educating people in the districts of the state was taken in 1859-60 (1269 F). Government ordered opening of two schools, one Persian and the other Vernacular, in every taluka by making provision of Rs. 87 per month per school. Similarly one school at each district headquarters was established by providing Rs. 150.00 per month. The curriculum consisted of Mathematics, History and Geography besides languages (Marathi, Urdu, Arabic, Persian, Telugu and English). The Department of Education was established in 1869-70 and Mr. Wilkinson was appointed as the first Director of Public Instruction. "Madarasae Aliya" was founded in order to provide a sound English and Oriental Education for the sons of jagirdars, both Hindus and Muslims.

As regards the introduction of English Education in Marathwada, the year 1874 witnessed the opening of Anglo Vernacular School at Aurangabad. The subjects taught in normal school were History, Geography and Mathematics. Mr. Syed Hussain Bilgrami became the Director of Public Instruction in 1883-84(1293 F). He gave fillip to the establishment of Lower Middle Schools at Nanded, Jalna, Tuljapur, Latur and Bhir in Marathwada in the year 1892-93. Aurangabad High School was elevated to the rank of Secondary Grade College by the progress of the college was hampered due to plague and subsequently it was abandoned in 1904-05(1314 F).

Later on, Dr. Ross Masood (grandson of Sayyad Ahmad and the founder of Aligarh University) became the chief officer of the Education Department. He established a Urdu Middle School in every taluka and Urdu High School at district headquarters. Consequently Urdu education contributed to the growth of Muslim impact on the society in general. Similarly, Mr. Mackenzie submitted a new scheme of education. It was decided to convert all rural schools into agricultural schools. Besides this, all urban schools were to teach trade and commerce. The purpose of the scheme was to retain rural messes in villages only. It is well known that majority of the Hindus lived in villages.

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