

# CHRISTIAN CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN EDUCATION

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The extent and breadth of the educational effort of Christian agencies in India in the last two centuries may have no parallel in any other country. The latest Statistical Yearbook of the Church -2012 (restricted to data only from the Catholic Church) offers the following staggering statistics from the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century till today.

Students in Primary Schools (2012)	38,96,557
Secondary Schools	4,727
Students in Secondary Schools (2001)	28,45,889
Students in Secondary Schools (2012)	39,35,203
Students in Catholic Higher Education (2001)	3,28,358
Students in Catholic Higher Education (2012)	6,27,948
Catholic Hospitals	770
Homes for the Aged, Handicapped, Invalids, etc.	1,206

The Directory of Church Related Colleges in India, published by the All India Association for Christian Higher Education in India (AIACHE) adds to the Christian contribution in the post-school education. In 2001, there were 274 Christian university colleges in India, established between 1817 and 1999. 200 of them were established during post- independence period of which 45 were started after 1993. Most of them (193) are co-educational, 73 women's colleges and 5 men's colleges. About 25% of the students are Christians.

Another common characteristic of Christian education is the importance given to value education as essential to an overall understanding of life. Moral education and Bible based stories have been part of the curriculum for ages. Today, value education forms an intrinsic part of education in all schools. CBSE has introduced it as a subject and has made an attempt to integrate value-based questions in all subjects taught. Concerted efforts and

attempts are now made by vested interests to tarnish and diminish this noble contribution of Christian communities.

## **CONCLUSION**

Christian educational institutions have played a great role in eradicating the social evils from the Indian traditional society. It has empowered the marginalized through education.

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