

## Education

21. There are about 15000 children in the age group of 3-5 who are served by the feeder and support programmes of primary education. A & N Island is presently having 255 Anganwadis run by ICDS to cater to the need of the children. There are 68 primary schools. There is a proposal to open another 20 pre-primary schools in the tribal area.
22. The literacy rate of 56.62% amongst the tribals is praiseworthy looking at primitive stage of the tribal people. Administration should make an attempt to collect statistics on the education among the 6 primitive tribes separately. This will give a clear idea of what type of educational programme is required for them.
23. A & N administration has introduced compulsory education for all the children till they complete the age of 14 years. Education is free for all up to 12th class and primary education from class I-V has been made compulsory. There are 291 primary, 114 middle schools with an enrolment of 300,48, 928 and 22443 children respectively. A policy has been adopted to open schools (primary) within radius of 1 km. and upgrade every second primary school to middle school so that ratio of primary and middle schools would be 1:2.
24. Mid day meals, travel concessions, hostels, stipend to middle school children, free uniform and stationary are provided to tribal children.
25. With the development of elementary education in these Islands the number of students are increasing and they need to be accommodated in higher classes. At present, 40 senior secondary and 27 secondary schools have been established to cater the needs of students. Due to paucity of funds administration could not construct class rooms, teachers quarters and play fields, libraries and laboratories etc. These are essential infra-structural requirements which should be taken up immediately on a priority basis.
26. To impart better education to the tribal children at the primary level the administration has constructed 20 Ashram schools (school with residential facility) in such areas where children are not getting facility for primary education. Efforts are being made to cover ST girl students to the maximum extent possible.
27. There are 2 degree colleges aiming at bringing socio-economic up-liftment and training to the tribal boys and girls in the fields of their choice and enabling them to use their talents in the best possible way. A & N administration has introduced special coaching classes for the tribal students so that their standards are raised at par with other advance section of the society. The expenditure required is met under SCA. To give better education and exposure to girl students they are sent to Rajasthan by funding major share of the expenditure. The Govt. of India released funds of a sum of Rs. 186 crores under centrally sponsored scheme for post matric scholarship and about 169 tribal boys and girls were awarded scholarship out of those funds. A sum of 0.55 lakhs was also released as CSS for Book Banks for ST students.