

CHAPTER 7

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT DUE TO RESIDENTIAL ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS.

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Chapter 7TOURISM DEVELOPMENT DUE TO RESIDENTIAL ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS.7.a : - Information of Residential English Medium Schools.

The Panchgani hill resort has become popular due to an education centre of an international character. It is one of the reputed centre of education in India. Due to the fresh and exhilarating climate of Panchgani, there are many residential English medium schools established in Panchgani. All the residential schools give priority to develop overall personality of boarding children.

Before independence, the Britishers developed Panchgani for missionary schools, four to five schools had been established by the Britishers. Then the educational importance of Panchgani was recognised by the Indians and therefore they also started residential schools in Panchgani. And now almost all prominent communities in India have their residential English medium schools in Panchgani. Now, there are fifteen English medium residential schools run on the basis of public schools. We can not talk of Panchgani without mentioning English medium residential schools.

More than five thousand boarders are taking education in these English medium residential schools, The educational

institutions belong to missionaries, Hindus, Muslims, Zoroastrians and Bhaias etc. These educational institutions have developed their own character. In reputed English medium residential schools, there has been an increasing flow of children.

The syllabus and curriculum are different among the schools. Few schools are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education and Indian Council of Secondary Education. Majority of the schools are affiliated to the Secondary School Certificate Board, Pune. All the English medium schools have good buildings, dormitories for boarders and staff quarters with modern facilities. In many schools, French, German and Other foreign languages are also taught for the foreign students. Every school strives for the overall development of the boarders and day scholars.

The fact remains that the economy of Panchgani is a school based economy. Being residential schools, they generate demand for all the necessities of life and luxurious goods, and the local market has to satisfy the continuous demand coming from the residential schools.

The fees charged by the schools vary among the schools, But it is very expensive to admit wards in the residential schools. Only the rich and high income people can afford to

to seek admission for their wards in residential schools.
 On an average, the fees charged by school ranges from Rs.20,000 to Rs.25,000/- per boarder per year.

List of Residential Schools in Panchgani.

1) St; Peters School	:	Boys School.
2) Sanjeewan Vidyalay	:	Boys & Girls School.
3) New Era School	:	Boys & Girls School.
4) St; Joseph Convent School	:	Girls School.
5) Kimmins High School	:	Girls High School.
6) Batha School	:	Boys School.
7) Billiamoria High School	:	Boys High School.
8) Oak's High School	:	Boys & Girls School.
9) Anjuman-Islam School	:	Boys & Girls School.
10) Pinewoods High School	:	Boys & Girls School.
11) Hill Range School	:	Boys & Girls School,
12) Bharati Vidyapeeth Academy	:	Boys & Girls School.
13) Happy Hours School	:	Primary School for Boys & Girls.
14) Dawn Academy	:	Boys & Girls School.
15) Scholars Foundation	:	Primary School for Boys & Girls.

1) Sanjeevan Vidyalaya, Panchgani : -

Sanjeevan Vidyalaya, a well known and reputed English medium residential school was established in the year 1922. It was Panchgani Hindu School when it was established by Pandit family. In the year 1956, it was renamed as Sanjeevan Vidyalaya and a Trust was established to manage it. This is the only school in Panchgani with Indian (Hindu) tradition and culture. Therefore, those who desire to educate their children in Indian tradition and culture prefer this school.

The total teaching staff is 33 teachers of whom 28 are trained while 5 are untrained. The staff is highly qualified and three of them are Ph.Ds. The total non teaching staff is 56 of whom 42 are females. The non teaching staff consists of persons working in office, dormetaries and school premises. The employees working in office, kitchen, dormetaries and all the teaching staff are paid according to government scales. Free accommodation is given to teaching and all non teaching staff. Food subsidy, medical reimbursement, leave travel reimbursement is also provided to the teaching and non teaching staff. Free education to children of teaching and non teaching staff is also provided. Class IV employees working in the school are provided free food and free accommodation.

The total strength of the school is 659 out of which 534 are boarders and 125 are day scholars. The students from Bombay city are 225 and from other parts of Maharashtra are about 200. The students from Gujarath are about 100. Quite a few are from foreign countries. The students from India and also from abroad are attracted to the school.

The school has Marathi medium section for standards VIII, IX and X for which the school gets the grants from the government. Therefore the school charges tuition fees and term fees as per the government rules for the day scholars irrespective of the fact whether they are in Marathi or English medium. This school takes maximum number of day scholars from Panchgani and surrounding villages as compared to other schools. This is the only school in Panchgani having a swimming pool.

The course prescribed by the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary Education is taught in the school. The medium of teaching is both English and Marathi. Being a residential school, it has a busy schedule of it's own. Along with curricular activities, extra curricular activities are also conducted throughout the year. Annual games, dramatics, elocution, Ganesh festival, Gokul Ashtami etc are arranged in the school. The school is adopted by the Sports Authority of India for various games and regerous training is given to the sports scholars

selected by the government.

Parent days are also arranged in the month of August and February each year, majority of the parents come to see their wards and to participate in the parent days of the school. Naturally, the number of tourists visiting Panchgani increase on such parent days.

2) New Era School, Panchgani : -

The National Spiritual Assembly of Bahai religion established the New Era School in the year 1945. Perhaps, this is the only school attracting scholars from all over the World. The school tries to help each student to fully develop the personality of scholars in the atmosphere of love and affection. The school's motto is " The Earth is but one country and mankind-it's citizens ".

The teaching faculty belongs to a wide variety of religions, nationalists and races. The total teaching staff is 24 of whom 10 are trained. The non teaching staff consists of 6 male and 10 females. Others working in kitchen and dormetaries are about 35. The teachers and office staff are paid government scales. Besides, they are given free food, free accommodation and free education to their children.

The total scholars in the school are 606 out of which 456 are boarders and 150 are day scholars. Out of the 456 boarders, 225 are boys and 231 are girls. The number of girls are more in this school as compared to other schools giving co-education.

The school has a junior college wing for Commerce and Science. The school conducts the course prescribed by the Central Board, New Delhi. But its junior college follows the course prescribed by the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary Education, Pune. The school has also ordinary level classes in Science and Commerce for foreign students as prescribed by the University of London.

The School arranges parents day once in two months. Mostly the parents residing in India come to meet their wards. The parents can collect their children on Saturday morning and return them back on Sunday evening. The parents of the foreign students sometimes come to India to see their wards.

3) St; Peters School, Panchgani.

St; Peter's English medium residential school is a reputed boys school established in 1902 by the Society of St; Peter, Panchgani. The former Principals of the school were Anglo-Indian personnel. The present principal is an Indian from

Christian community.

The school is affiliated to the Indian Council of Secondary Education (ICSE), New Delhi. In the school, Marathi and Hindi are taught as subordinate languages. Foreign languages are also taught in the school. There is a yearly planning of curricular and extra curricular activities and every effort is made to carry out the activities as scheduled. There are compulsory games for the children in the evening every day.

The yearly fees charged for a boarder are about Rs.20,000/- per annum. Besides, additional fees are taken for extra coaching, pocket money, trips and other educational purposes.

The total teaching staff is 14 of whom all are trained. They are paid salaries according to government rules. The majority of the teachers are from Kerala state and are Christians. The total non teaching staff working in office is 10. The others working in kitchen, dormitories and school premises are about 45. All the teaching and non teaching staff is provided with free food, free accommodation and medical facilities. The class IV employees are given lumpsum salary.

The total strength of the school is 243 scholars of whom 19 are day scholars. Scholars from Bombay city are about 150 and others are from Gujarath, Andhra Pradesh etc. Quite a few are from foreign countries such as U.K and East Africa.

4) St; Joseph Convent School.

St; Joseph Convent, a residential English medium school for girls was established in 1895. It is situated in a beautiful campus located at the foot of the Table land. Nowadays, it is run by the Provincial Society of Daughters of the Cross. From the origin of the school, the past Principals were of Indian nationality.

The total teaching staff is 19 and almost all of them are nuns. The non teaching staff is about 35 of whom 3 are in the office for clerical work and others working in the kitchen, dormetaries and school premises.

The total strength of the school is around 315 out of which 160 are boarders and 155 are day scholars. About 50 % girls are Christians and remaining 50 % are Hindus, Muslims and others. The girls from foreign countries are 55. About 50 % girls are from Maharashtra and almost all of them are from Bombay.

The school is affailiated to the Indian Council of Secondary Education (ICSE), New Delhi. Some foreign languages such as French, German and Arabic are taught in the school. For the admissions of the students, the school takes entrance examination and according to the performance in examination, the admissions are given. The fees charged for the boarders

are about Rs.20,000/- per year. Besides the curricular activities, extra curricular activities are also taken.

5) Kimmins High School, Panchgani.

The Kimmins High School, a English medium residential school for girls was established in 1898. It was founded by Miss.Kimmins, a British educationist. The school is located just near the main road and bus station. The former Principals of the school were British ladies. The present Principal of the school is an Indian lady from Christian community.

The total teaching staff of the school is 14 of whom only one is untrained. They are paid salaries according to government rules. The non teaching staff working in office is 3. The employees working in kitchen, dormetaries and school premises are about 20. They are paid in lumpsum. The teaching and non teaching staff is provided with free food and free accommodation.

The total strength of the school is 215 out of which 160 are boarders and 55 are day scholars. About 50 % girls are Christians and remaining 50 % girls are Hindus, Muslims and others. The fees charged for a boarder is about Rs.20,000/- per year.

The school is affiliated to the Indian Council of Secondary Education (ICSE), New Delhi. Hindi and Marathi are taught as the subordinate languages. French is also taught in the school. Being a residential school, it has a busy schedule. Besides the curricular activities, extra curricular activities are also given importance. There are compulsory games in the school for the students. All the ball games, athletics and gymnastics are conducted in the school. Training is also given to promote the liking for various hobbies such as needle work, knitting and craft.

6: S.M.Batha High School, Panchgani : -

S.M.Batha, an English medium residential school for boys was established in 1922. The school is managed by the S.M. Batha educational trust.

The total teaching staff is 18 teachers of whom 13 teachers are trained. The teaching staff is paid salaries according to government scales. The non teaching staff working in office is only one. The peons working in office, kitchen, dormitories and school premises are about 20. They are paid maximum upto Rs.1,000/- per month. Most of the teaching and non teaching staff is provided with free food and free accommodation facility.

The total strength of the school is 338 out of which only 6 are day scholars. The scholars from Bombay are 122 and from Gujarath are 161 and few remaining are from other states of India.

The school conducts the syllabus prescribed by the secondary school certificate board, Pune. Besides the curriculum, all the indoor and out door games are conducted in the school. The school arranges parents day. More than 80 % parents visit the school every year.

The fees charged by the school for a boarder per year are Rs.15,000/-. Additional fees are also charged for pocket money, clothing, stationary and trips etc.

7 : - Hill Range High School .

The Hill Range, an English medium residential school is established in 1987. It is run by the society. It is located in the area of Bhilar village, just six kms away from Panchgani.

The total teaching staff is 18 teachers of whom 12 are trained. The non teaching staff is 16 working in office, kitchen, dormetaries and school premises. All the teaching and non teaching staff is paid lumpsum salary depending on the agreement with the Principal of the school. They are provided



with free food, free accommodation and free education to their children.

The total strength of the school is 206 out of which 117 are boarders. The day scholars are 89 coming from the nearby villages of Bhilar and Panchgani. The majority of the scholars are from Bombay, Pune and Gujarath.

The fees charged for a boarder per year are Rs.17,000/- including pocket money, clothing and stationary. The fees for day scholars are Rs.50/-. Besides curriculum activities, the school conducts Yoga and Malkhamb classes. The school has band troop of boys.

8) Billimoria High School, Panchgani.

Billimoria High School, an English medium residential school for boys is one of the reputed school located near the Sydney point on the way to Poona. It is established in 1908 by Mr.Navroji Billimoria, a Zorastrian. Since it's begining, the Billimoria family runs this school. All the Principals present and past are from Billimoria family only.

The teaching staff is 13 teachers of whom 10 are trained. The teaching staff is paid salaries according to government scales. Teachers possessing higher qualification are paid

more than government scales. Some of the teachers are provided with free food facility. The non teaching staff is 3 working in office and about 30 others working in kitchen, dormitories and school premises. They are paid lumpsum salary.

The total strength of the school is 179 out of which 155 are boarders and 24 are day scholars. The majority of the boys are from Bombay and Surat (Gujarat). The students from Bombay are 105 and from Gujarat are about 33.

The school is affiliated to the Central Board of Education, New Delhi. Hindi, Marathi, Gujarathi and French are taught as the subordinate languages. Besides curricular activities, extr: curricular activities, hobbies such as gardening, social service, painting, music and singing are conducted in the school. The school has a very good team of hockey players. School annual sports, dramatics and elocution competitions are also organised.

The fees charged by the school for a boarder is Rs.18,000 and for day scholar, it is about Rs.1,000/- per year. Additional fees are charged for school uniform, pocket money, school trips and private tuition. The school arranges parents days twice in a year. The majority of the parents visit the school on the parents day.

7.b : - Residential Schools and their effect on local market and local economy.

The economy of Panchgani is a school based economy. The local market gets a flourishing business due to the residential schools. These schools purchase their requirements from the shops of local market on wholesale basis. Particularly, the vegetable market has highly developed due to residential schools of Panchagani.

Boys and girls residing in different schools come at the market either once in a month or at least twice during the first and second term. If we take that if 3500 boarders are brought to the local market four times in a year and each child once spends about Rs. 20 on sweets, ice-cream, chhana and other eatables, then the total amount spent by all the boarders would be around Rs. 2,80,000/- per year. Thus the sweetmeat, ice-cream, chhana shops and video games get a substantial business due to the residential schools.

When the schools arrange parents days or Annual sports, parents of the scholars and local inhabitant are invited to witness the games. On such an occasions, the schools provide

snacks and cold drinks to all attending the function. Thus all the schools spend such an amount in the local market and the local markets are benefited. The schools give a great deal of business on the occasions of various programmes.

The washing business in Panchgani is highly developed due to schools. Due to the residential schools, business of washing clothes is more flourished and it remains continuous for the whole year. The schools employ hair dressers and these people also get the good business due to the residential schools.

Tailoring business in Panchgani is also well developed due to the residential schools. More and more tailoring shops have been coming up due to residential schools. The milkmen from Panchgani and surrounding villages also get a wholesale business from the residential schools.

The employment generation of the residential school and local people is also noteworthy. Due to the residential schools, the local people have been employed in various schools and more employment opportunities are created.

The residential schools in Panchgani have ample funds with them and every year a few projects and expansion work is

undertaken. The work of construction always goes on and the local people in Panchgani are benefited in several ways due to the English medium residential schools.