

Empowering Women: Basel Mission Educational and Industrial Endeavours in the Kanarese Region

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Abstract: *At a time when women's education was 'a new thing' in India, the Basel Missionaries from Germany ventured into the phenomenal task of educating the indigenous women in the Kanarese region of Karnataka by establishing schools devoted exclusively for girls in the first half of the Nineteenth Century. This was perhaps the early and most decisive step in the long process of 'empowerment of women', the positive effects of which are still felt in the Kanarese region as the district stands out in many sectors where women have been faring well in comparison to their counterparts in many other districts of the state. This paper tries to probe the missionary attempts to empower women through education and other philanthropic work and the way these attempts shaped the aspirations of women in the region.*

Keywords: Empowerment, Missionary, Indigenous, Educational, Industrial, Colonial

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