

CHAPTER XIV.

VACATIONS, HOLIDAYS AND NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS.

1. The present arrangement is as indicated below :—

	Summer vacation	Dasara holidays	Christmas holidays	Other holidays	Minimum No. of working days
Primary Schools.	7th April to 21st May (inclusive).	14 days	16 days	24 days	200
Middle Schools.	do	do	do	do	200
High Schools.	7th April to 6th June (inclusive).	do	do	do	170
Colleges	1st April to 23rd June (inclusive).	do	do	do	Varies from College to College.

2. The present system of vacations has been criticised as being too artificial. As the chief aim of educational re-organization to-day is to bring education more in tune with the life of the people and their needs, a necessary reform will be the re-adjustment of the vacations to natural conditions. This has been one of the terms of reference to us.

3. Years ago, the school year commenced in January and concluded in December and examinations used to be held in the latter month. Presumably, to suit the convenience of the European Officers and officials, a vacation was given during the summer months and the commencement of the school year was shifted from January to June. The chief objections to the changed and present system has been that the vacations do not fit into our agricultural conditions, that parents are deprived of the help of their children for agricultural work when such help is most needed, and that it has tended to make students lose contact with rural life and needs. It has been also pointed out that the climatic conditions in the hot months of

March and April are not congenial for studies and examinations, and that it would be an advantage to shift the examinations back again to December.

4. A difficulty which has been pointed out as standing in the way of re-adjustment to suit the agricultural seasons, is that the seasons are not the same in all areas and that different holidays in different areas will result in administrative difficulties in regard to examinations and admissions.

5. We are of the opinion that ours being an essentially agricultural country, the vacations must be re-adjusted to suit agricultural conditions, so that students may be enabled to do agricultural work in the sowing and harvesting seasons when such work is most necessary. This will help students to maintain touch with rural life and it may react favourably on the villages. It may also enable the poorer students to earn something when work is available.

6. We feel that the number of working days in schools and colleges must be raised. As the Chief Minister said in his speech inaugurating the work of the Committee, "We are having too many holidays". We recommend that the number of general holidays be restricted to 15 including the following:—

(1) Sivarathri, (2) Yugadi, (3) Shravani, (3) Ramanavami, (5) Ramzan, (6) Independence Day, (7) Gowri, (8) Ganesha, (9) Gandhiji's Birthday, (10) Krishna Janmashtami, (11) Id Meelad, (12) Deepavali.

7. We also recommend that the number of working days in the Primary Schools be raised from 200 to 250 and in other institutions from 180 to 220. Examinations take away a good many days and this being the case, the present number of working days is very inadequate for efficient work being turned out. The number of actual working days in the Primary Schools would be greater than in other institutions considering the nature of the work in the Primary Schools and the fact that adequate time will have to be allowed for valuation of examination papers and publication of results in respect of the higher grades. Moreover, in the High Schools and Colleges, provision for activities connected with Social Work and

Manual Labour have been provided and time would have to be allowed for Students' Camps for these purposes.

8. We have noticed that owing to faulty organization, schools and colleges often begin the year's work not on the date of re-opening after the long vacation but many days after. We are of the opinion that steps should be taken to see that schools begin their work on the scheduled dates. Incidentally, the observance of this rule will improve the discipline in the institutions. We suggest that transfers of teachers should be made before the vacation so that the transferred teachers may prepare themselves to be at their new schools on the day of re-opening.

9. We suggest the following Calendar for school work. This may be adopted as the general pattern, any special cases being considered as such. The change over is a drastic one and alterations may have to be made in regard to the actual dates in the light of experience.

10th December to 31st January.	Annual vacation	53 days	(Primary Schools to have vacation from 23rd December).
1st February to 30th June.	First term	.. 150 days	
1st July to 31st July.	Vacation	.. 31 days	(For Primary Schools from 1st July to 15th July).
1st August to 30th September.	Second term	61 days	..
1st October to 12th October.	Dasara (Nadu- habba).	12 days	..
13th October to 9th December.	Third term	58 days	..

The actual number of working days will be as follows :—

First term	.. 150 days
Second term	.. 61 days
Third term	.. 58 days
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Total	.. 269 days
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Deduct—Sundays during the terms.	34
General holidays	.. 15
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Net number of working days	.. 220 days
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