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A STUDY OF EDUCATION IN MEDIEVAL BENGAL

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ABSTRACT

A new period in the development of the Indian subcontinent's written language, visual SOCIAL SCIENCE, and literary may be traced back to the advent of Muslims. They introduced political ideas as well as cultural and educational ones. According to N.N. Law, the impact of the Muslim conquest of India was felt not only in the realm of politics and society, but also in the realm of learning. Muslim kings, ameer-omrahs, officers, olamas (scholars), and sufi-saints all played important roles in the development and dissemination of education during the Middle Ages. The vast majority of them worked toward the founding of madrasas, universities, and the like. The aristocrats and donors of Bengal played a significant influence in the development of education after the examples set by these non-native Muslim monarchs and sufi saints. Many schools, including madrasas, were established as a consequence. Muslims in Bengal, and indeed throughout the subcontinent, championed wide and inclusive educational philosophies. They made education available to everyone, even the poorer castes of Hindus who had hitherto been ignored by the Brahmins.