

**EARLY ENGLISH
ADMINISTRATION
OF BIHAR, 1781-1785**

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Early English Administration of Bihar, 1781-1785 by J. Reginald Hand

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BIHAR,

1781—1785.

BY

J. REGINALD HAND,

Late Deputy Collector, Shahabad.



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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions.

2. It then goes on to describe the various methods used to collect and analyze data.

3. The next section details the results of the study, showing a clear correlation between the variables.

4. Finally, the document concludes with a summary of the findings and a list of recommendations.

5. The data shows that there is a significant positive relationship between the two variables.

6. This relationship is supported by the statistical analysis conducted on the data set.

7. The results indicate that as one variable increases, the other variable also tends to increase.

8. This finding is consistent with the theoretical model proposed in the introduction.

9. The study also identified several factors that influence the relationship between the variables.

10. These factors include the quality of the data and the accuracy of the measurement methods.

11. The overall conclusion is that the relationship between the variables is both strong and positive.

12. This suggests that the theoretical model is a good representation of the real-world phenomenon.

13. The study provides valuable insights into the underlying mechanisms of the relationship.

14. These insights can be used to inform future research and practical applications.

15. The findings also highlight the need for further research to explore the relationship in more detail.

16. In conclusion, the study has provided a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between the variables.

17. The results are clear and consistent, providing a solid foundation for further research.

18. The study has also identified key factors that influence the relationship, providing a more nuanced understanding.

19. Overall, the research has made a significant contribution to the field of study.

20. The findings are both theoretically and practically significant, offering valuable insights.

21. The study is a testament to the power of rigorous research and data analysis.

22. It provides a clear and concise summary of the research process and findings.

INTRODUCTION.

A FEW words of explanation seem desirable, regarding the inception and subsequent publication of this work.

In 1886, when I was stationed at Arrah, Moulvie Muhammad Raffi, the then head clerk of the English Department of the Collector's office at that station, informed me of the existence of certain ancient records, which he had unearthed in a lumber-room attached to his office. These papers he had carefully arranged and had rebound into volumes, which he had placed in the record-room of the English Department.

On examining these records I found they consisted of office copies of letters written to, and by, the revenue chief at Patna, during the years 1781 to 1786.

The information contained in these papers appeared to me so valuable and interesting, that I determined to prepare a concise description of the Administration of Bihar, during the years 1781 to 1785; the period for which I had examined the records.

To this end, I employed a clerk to copy and arrange the papers, with a view to compiling, at some future date, an official report, embodying the facts and figures obtained from them. It is almost needless to add, that my researches were conducted with the full knowledge and approval of my Commissioner, Mr. Hewitt; and of my Collector, Mr. Power; to whom I had shown one of the volumes in 1886-87.

Press of official duties, and bad health, prevented me from carrying out my intentions till the year 1888, when I was on sick leave. Finding time hanging heavily on me, during the rains, I readily accepted the invitation of Mr. Macdonald, the Editor of the *Englishman*, to write a popular sketch of the English Administration of Bihar in the years 1781-85. The present work was accordingly written for, and published in, the columns of that paper in 1888.

My continued ill-health, culminating in the loss of my sight in 1890, and my enforced retirement from the service in consequence,

prevented me from remodelling and publishing the work in an enlarged, and more technical, form.

In 1893, yielding to the wishes of my friends, I submitted the work in its original form to the Government of Bengal, with the view of ascertaining if it would care to publish the book at the expense of the State; and this was ultimately determined on by the Government.

I may state here, that while the facts contained in this work are strictly official and authentic; the opinions expressed therein; while discussing historical and economic questions, more or less of a controversial character; are entirely my own; and the reader must take them for what they are worth.

In conclusion I have to thank my clerk Babu Nilmoni Basu and the Reverend J. W. Cullen for their assistance in correcting the proof sheets: which task my blindness has rendered it impossible for me to accomplish unaided.

J. R. H.

BHAGALPUR,
23rd April 1894.

PREFACE.

In the record-room of the Arrah Collectorate there are a number of bulky ancient volumes of correspondence, dating from 1781, which belonged to the office of the Revenue chief of Patna. According to a tradition in the office they were discovered shortly after the Mutiny in the Buxar Fort, and brought to Arrah. Unfortunately the correspondence is not complete; but there is sufficient material available to form a fairly accurate opinion of the political and economic condition of the country in those early years of our administration; while a flood of light is thrown on the fiscal system which preceded the decennial settlement, which subsequently became permanent in 1793.

These papers show the unsatisfactory results arising on our first attempts to govern the country on semi-Asiatic principles; and it is only after a perusal of these papers, that one has anything like an adequate idea of the huge, though silent, revolution which, under the benign sway of the English Government, has converted a land of reckless lawlessness and chaotic misgovernment, into one of the most prosperous and peaceful countries in the world.

The student of history will find much interesting information, which he will seek for in vain elsewhere; the economist will mark the difference which a century of English rule has made in the value of local products; the administrator of the present time will learn something of the ancient customs, usages, and laws which prevailed in Bihar; and the general reader will, I trust, find matter sufficient both to interest and instruct him in what our forefathers did, said, and went through in building up this mighty Empire; in educating order out of chaos; and uniting into one harmonious system the discordant elements which distracted the social, political, and religious life of the people of India.

August 1888.

