

# KONKANI: MYTHS AND FACTS

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## I. Myths related to Konkani Language:

1. Konkani is a daughter of Sanskrit.
2. Konkani is the mother tongue of over 50 lakhs of people.
3. Konkani is an Aryan language. Therefore Devanagari script is the natural script for Konkani.
4. Konkani sounds cannot be correctly written in Roman script.
5. Those who know Devanagari script can easily read and write Konkani.
6. In Goa Roman Konkani and Devanagari Konkani are found.
7. Compared to Catholics, Hindus speak pure and good Konkani.
8. Konkani spoken and written by the Saraswats is the standard Konkani.
9. Spoken Konkani is inferior compared to written Konkani.
10. Portuguese missionaries corrupted Konkani language of Goan Catholics.
11. Missionaries learnt Konkani to spread their faith and not out of love for Konkani.
12. Konkani written in Devanagari script is Marathicized Konkani.
13. One, who knows to speak, read and write only Konkani is a semi-literate.
14. The original inhabitants of Goa were Austro-Asiatic people and Konkani vocabulary is influenced by Mundari language.
15. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century there was only one standard Konkani, namely that of Salcete. Gradually other dialects emerged from it.
16. Konkani words of Portuguese origin are to be replaced by native words.

## II. Myths related to Konkani Literature:

1. Prior to the arrival of the Portuguese there was highly developed Konkani literature, which was destroyed by them.
2. Konkani written in Devanagari script is of high quality and Konkani written in Roman script is of sub standard quality.
3. Every year over a hundred Konkani books are published.
4. 16<sup>th</sup> century was the golden era of Konkani literature.
5. Krishnadas Shama is the father of Konkani prose.
6. The first Konkani inscription is found at the foot of Bahubali at Shravana Belagola in Karnataka.

## III. Myths related to Konkani Education:

1. Konkani is an easy language to learn.
2. Catholics are not competent to teach Konkani in schools.
3. Those who know Marathi or Hindi are competent to teach Konkani in schools.
4. Konkani is our mother tongue. Hence there is no need to study it.
5. In Goa Konkani is taught in most of the schools.
6. Primary education in Konkani hampers students' future career.

## IV. Myths related to Konkani Culture:

1. Konkani is the language of Catholics and Saraswats.
2. Konkani is the language of the socio-economically weaker section.
3. Saraswats brought Konkani to the Konkani.
4. Catholic culture is superior to Hindu culture or Hindu culture is superior to Catholic culture.
5. Tiatr is of Catholics and Nattok (drama) is of Hindus.
6. Tiatr is of socio-economically weaker section of Catholic community.
7. Shenai Gõybab awakened in us the Konkani identity.
8. Prior to their conversion Goan Catholics were Hindus.
9. Marathi language is related to Hindu religion and culture.
10. Konkani is the language of our lips, but Marathi is the language of our hearts, minds and souls.
11. One language, one script and one literature will unite Konkanis (Konkani speakers).
12. Konkani language will never die because it has survived innumerable hardships.

**Medium of Instruction in Primary Schools (I –IV Std) As on 30.09.2003**

SOUTH GOA	GOVT.			NON GOVT.		
	Total No. of Schools	Medium		Total No. of Schools	Medium	
		Konkani	Marathi		Konkani	Marathi
SANGUEM	118	01	118	10	04	05
QUEPEM	87	03	86	11	09	02
CANACONA	73	03	72	08	05	02
SALCETE	77	47	48	65	39	07
MORMUGAO	31	09	18	32	18	04
<b>NORTH GOA</b>						
PERNEM	87	0	87	21	04	11
BARDEZ	85	05	85	56	33	19
BICHOLIM	91	0	91	11	03	05
SATTARI	113	0	111	05	01	02
TISWADI	57	11	55	33	15	05
PHONDA	147	0	147	23	06	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>77</b>

Management	Total No. of Schools	Konkani Medium	Marathi Medium
<b>NON. GOVT.</b>	275	137 (49.62%)	77 (28%)
<b>GOVT.</b>	966	79 (08.81%)	918 (95.03%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1241</b>	<b>216 (17.41%)</b>	<b>995 (80.18%)</b>

**Konkani Medium Primary schools according to Management as on 30.9.2003**

Management	Total No. of Schools
Christian	125
Hindu	08
Muslim	01
Mixed	03
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>

**Medium of Instruction in Primary Schools (I- IV Std)**

As on	Total No. of Schools	Medium		
		Konkani	Marathi	English
30.9.1994	1280	238 (18.59%)	1030 (80.47%)	46 (3.59%)
30.9.1995	1280	244 (19.06%)	1023 (79.92%)	60 (4.69%)
30.9.1996	1281	236 (18.42%)	1024 (79.94%)	67 (5.23%)
30.9.1997	1277	229 (17.93%)	1018 (79.72%)	66 (5.17%)
30.9.1998	1280	231 (18.05%)	1027 (80.23%)	66 (5.16%)
30.9.1999	1277	229 (17.93%)	1024 (80.19%)	67 (5.25%)
30.9.2000	1263	220 (17.42%)	1012 (80.17%)	67 (5.30%)
30.9.2001	1250	217 (17.36%)	1004 (80.32%)	71 (5.68%)
30.9.2002	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
30.9.2003	1241	216 (17.41%)	995 (80.18%)	76 (6.12%)

**Schools where Konkani is offered as a third language from Std. VIII to X as on 3.2.2005**

Management	Total No. of Schools	No. of schools where Konkani is offered as a 3 <sup>rd</sup> language
Government	071	015 (21.13%)
Non Govt.	288	206 (71.53%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>221 (61.56%)</b>

- N.B.: 1. Out of these 288 Non Govt. schools, 127 belong to the Catholic management and of these 126 (99.21%) schools offer Konkani as a third language.  
2. Other managements have 161 schools of these 80 (49.69%) schools offer Konkani as a third language.

Compiled by Pratap Naik, S.J.  
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