CHAPTER 4 PRIVATE COLLEGES & INSTITUTIONS

4.1 Profile of Private Colleges & Institutions

The number of colleges and institution in Tamilnadu is steadily increasing. The scope of this chapter is restricted to Bachelors education and further to the academic year 2003-2004. The details are collected by adopting a field of study.

Most of the private colleges do not have good infrastructure, lab facilities, hostels, computer labs etc., even some colleges have half constructed buildings and they get brick loads, cement bags as donation from the students for completing the construction.

The private colleges collect very high amount as fees per year in the name of transportation fees, computer fees, hostels fees, stationery fees, library fees, development charges, caution deposit, cultural fees, sports fees, etc. Tuition fees has been fixed by the government but the tuition fees fixed by the government is also costlier to the lower middle class. But for management quota the college itself fixes the fee. Some of the private colleges are running even without getting approval from AICTE.

4.1.1 Anna University

Anna University was established on September 4, 1978, by bringing together and integrating two well-known technical institutions in the city of Madras, College of Engineering, Guindy and Madras Institute of Technology, Chrompet.

It offers higher education in engineering, technology and allied sciences relevant to the current and projected needs of the society. Besides promoting research and disseminating knowledge gained therefrom, it fosters cooperation between the academic and industrial communities.

Anna University is a member of the Association of Indian Universities and the Association of Commonwealth Universities. The University offers 33 undergraduate degree
programmes and 47 postgraduate degree programmes besides 4 postgraduate diploma programmes and M Phil programmes in 4 disciplines. Facilities are available for MS by research and Ph D programmes in all the faculties.

The intake for the undergraduate programme is about 1040 students and for the postgraduate program (including the PG diploma programme) is about 670 students. The University has an enrolment of nearly 5,130 students in the full-time and part-time programmes, out of which 18% are women students. With a sanctioned faculty of 540, the student to faculty ratio works out to approximately 10:1.

Objectives

- To provide facilities and offer opportunities for higher education in engineering, technology and allied sciences by instruction, training, research, development and extension, and by such other means as the university may deem fit.
- To devise and implement a program of education in engineering, technology and allied sciences that are relevant to the current needs of society, alive to the long term requirements, and responsive to the anticipated changes and developments, in terms of breadth of diversity and depth of specialisation.
- To further advancements of knowledge in engineering, technology and allied sciences, to promote research, to disseminate and advance the knowledge thereon for the betterment of society and to bring about a widespread awareness of the tools and methods continuously generated by the advances in engineering, technology and allied sciences.
- To serve as a centre for fostering cooperation and exchange of ideas between the academic and research community on one hand and the industrial and government employers on the other to promote entrepreneurship among the students.

4.1.2 M O P Vaishnav College For Women

This college was founded in 1992 as an unaided private college affiliated to the University of Madras. The college offers a selective combination of Undergraduate and Post Graduate courses.
The college has strength of around 1800 students and 70 faculty members. The college was incepted as a result of the collaboration between Vallabhbacharya Vidya Sabha and Dewan Bahadur M.O.Parthasarathy lyengar's Charities. Both these organisations have eminent industrialists, administrators and people committed to the cause of women's education. Vallabhbacharya Vidya Sabha is the prominent Managing Body of the D.G.Vaishnav College.

The mission of the college is to provide a unique learning experience which will enable students to realise their innate potential and mould their overall personality.

Aims and Objectives

1. To maintain a repository of knowledge and an environment, which fosters maximum intellectual, social, and cultural development of students, faculty, administrators and staff.

2. To engage in the exploration of innovative ideas through research and teaching, new programs, and educational experiments both within and across disciplinary lines, so that its students shall be informed, visionary, culturally sensitive and socially responsible individuals with an understanding of their heritage and a strong commitment to advancing social justice.

3. To promote artistic and creative expression and to emphasize their importance in shaping intellect, values and culture.

Library

The library comprises of three floors well stocked with reading material. The library has a total collection of about 12,000 books with more than 45 journals. The library is fully automated to meet the Academic needs with computerised cataloguing, automated circulation system with scanner facility and photocopying facility.

The Mylapore Academy adjudged the Library as the "Best College Library" in the year 1998. The college is an institutional member of the British Council Library, Chennai.
The college has a separate library, which has a total number of 8,000 books, with a thrust on a round-upgradation of books and journals. The library has foreign journals like HBR, BYTE, JM, MA etc. and latest books on Management.

**Computer Centres**

The college provides two sophisticated computer laboratories with more than 85 computers in all. This provides an opportunity for excellent hands-on experience on the most updated Pentium machines and up-to-date software like Oracle, Visual Basic, Java etc. It also provides Internet access to the students round the clock.

The college has a Microprocessor and Digital Laboratory.

The college has a computer centre for Management students. The centre is equipped with all the latest software tool-kits for benefit of students. The management centre also provides non-credit courses in Computer Applications.

**Laboratory**

The college has well equipped Hi-tech laboratories for subjects such as Chemistry, Biochemistry, Nutrition, Physiology and Microbiology. A spacious, laboratories for cookery and Food Service management are provided.

**Video and Photography Production Unit**

The college has an air-conditioned SVHS studio, shooting floor, editing room, developing and processing units fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology, to enable students to master skills in photography and television production. Computers are loaded with latest DTP page maker and layout software to train the students in publication and advertisement designing.

**Collaborations**

The College has an active student chapter of Madras Management Association. It collaborates both with MMA and Konrad Adenauer Foundation (K.A.F) and organises several seminars and workshops. This also enables the students to have an access to the MMA Library and opportunities to attend National and Regional Conferences and Seminars organised by them. The Department has conducted Management Education
Programmes – HR & Finance – jointly with MMA for the MBA students of city colleges.
The objective of the programme was to add value to the existing knowledge base in
Finance & HR and to bridge the gap between the theories learnt and the practices followed
in the industry.

Placements
Students pursuing careers have been placed with reputed companies such as O&M, RPG,
Software Solution Integrated Limited etc. Campus recruitment has also been initiated with
companies like Leadership RPG, Protech and Indian Express. Help is extended to the
students for summer placement also.

Other Infrastructural Facilities:
The infrastructure includes:

- Four well furnished seminar halls with audio-visual facility.
- A 450 seater conference hall with a 45 tonne A/c and excellent acoustics.
- Open air auditorium.
- Canteen offering delicious food at subsidised rates.
- Indoor sports auditorium (under construction).

Teaching Methodology
The teaching methodology is learner oriented and encompasses techniques that facilitate
visualising theoretical aspects from practical angles. This new methodology ensures that
students break free from the monotonous classroom learning process. This is facilitated
through seminars, workshops, group discussions, role-play, presentations and guest lectures
drawing specialists & professionals from various fields. The inter-institutional associations
and collaborations with professional bodies to further enhance the academic programmes.

Distance Learning
The college also offers distance learning course module to the students. These programmes
are designed by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, of which
this college is an accredited study centre (No. 2501). The courses include arts, science and
commerce programmes at undergraduate level, certificate and diploma courses and
postgraduate programmes like MBA and MCA. Counselling sessions and laboratory work are conducted in the college on Sundays and holidays throughout the year.

4.1.3 Ethiraj College For Women

Established in 1948 by V L Ethiraj, the Ethiraj College for Women today stands as a veritable citadel of learning. The college has been awarded Five Star ranking by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council signifying its outstanding status. The college has to its credit a total of 150 University Ranks, 120 in undergraduate courses and 30 in the postgraduate courses, including 12 covetable First Ranks and 10 Second Ranks in the university examination of April '99.

The college, with its emphasis on all round development, provides ample opportunities in combining academic excellence with co-curricular and extra curricular activities.

4.1.4 Loyola College

Loyola is unique, it's a legend — ever ancient, ever new — painstakingly spun over last 75 years. It's a mystique that spells excellence, dedication, quality and relevance. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council popularly known as the NAAC deemed Loyola as a five-star college after making a thorough review of the college and its various activities.

The NAAC judges the colleges on the basis of various parameters, such as related institutions of the college, facilities that are made available to the students studying in the college in terms of food, accommodation, lab., library, class-rooms etc. In every parameter of judgement, Loyola had an edge over all the other institutions. The college believes that it was primarily the autonomy factor that clinched it.

Loyola has a collaboration with the International School of Business, London which enables the students to get trained in Loyola and complete their degree course in England. Apart from that, Loyola has already signed a MoU with Pondicherry University for twinning programme in continuing education. Loyola prepares its students not just for a good career, but for life itself.
4.1.5 Courses

B.Sc. and B.Com.

The colleges which offer the three year non-professional courses are split into the following three categories:

- Government Colleges – includes Queen Mary’s college, Quiad-e-Millat, Nanadanam Arts College, Presidency college, etc.
- Minority owned colleges – includes Stella Maris, Loyala, Women’s Christian College, Madras Christian College, New College, SIT etc.
- Non-minority private colleges – includes Vivekananda college, Pachayappa’s college, A.M. Jain college, D.B. Jain college, Ethiraj, Gurunank, etc.

Further these colleges have day college and evening college. These have different rules, different fee structure, quality etc.

Government colleges and day college programs at non-minority colleges have stringent quota system in place for admission and government administered fee structure which is very low.

The evening colleges at the non-minority colleges and both day and evening colleges at minority colleges have little of no caste based quota restriction but they do have management quotas which they use to their discretion. Government does not administer the fees for these courses. Predictably the fees for these programs tend to be much higher.

The quality of the courses also differs because of these factors. On the one hand the very best students would probably go to the government administered courses because of the low fees. However because of the quota system the average quality of the students at these courses tends to be worse. Further the colleges, since they charge more for the non-administered courses tend to have better instructors, resources for these courses. However these also vary a lot from college to college. So it is difficult to make a broad statement.

Admissions to most of these colleges involve submission of application form with the 12th standard mark sheet. Some of the colleges also conduct interviews and base selection on letters of reference from the schools. There are no entrance tests.
The annual fees for the government administered courses is a very low Rs 2000 per year. Other expenses like bus charges, books etc. would run about Rs 3000 per year.

For evening colleges and minority colleges the fees vary a lot. Here are some samples.

- B.Com DB Jain – Rs 5,000.
- B.Com Vivekananda – Rs 15,000.
- B.Com QMC – Rs 5000 – 6000.
- B.Com Stella Maris – Rs 13,000.

The cost for B.Sc. is also in similar range. Sometime specific courses in high-demand like B.Sc. Bio-technology costs more – as much as Rs 40K at Loyala!

The fees are typically fixed once you join. i.e. the fees will be the same for the 2nd and 3rd years.

**Engineering**

Here the organization is completely different. Here the colleges are organized as follows:

- Government aided Colleges – total of about 16 in number.
- Self-financing colleges – total of about 200 in number.

The Government aided colleges have significantly better facilities and quality than the self-financing colleges. The engineering education in Tamilnadu is going through a period of crisis. During the boom years of late '90s several self-financing colleges came up because their promoters saw an opportunity to make good money. However the downturn that followed saw a huge drop in their fortunes. In 2003 some 40% of the seats in the self-financing colleges went unfilled!!! Further till 2002, these colleges came under Madras University and were operating in fairly autonomous ways in setting their question papers, correcting them etc. In 2003 the government brought all these colleges under Anna University. Because of this out of the total 200 odd colleges only about 10 had more than 50% pass rate! About 16 of them had under 5% pass rate and some 5 colleges had absolute 0% pass rate!!!

These statistics should give a reasonable idea as to the kind of facilities and the kind of staff that these colleges have. Some colleges provide computers for only 2 hrs a week and that too during a lab class! Shockingly this is true even for students in 3rd and 4th years! The
net effect of all these is that a good number of these colleges are likely to close down in the coming years. Further the engineering graduates these days from colleges lower down in the rung find it very difficult to get jobs.

Coming to the fees at these colleges, the Government aided colleges charge about Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000 per year for fees (including exam fees, bus fees, etc.). The private colleges charge about Rs 45,000 to Rs 55,000. There are exceptions in both sides. Annamalai University in Chidambaram charges only Rs 10,000 per year. Sathyabama Engg. College charges something like Rs 80,000.

Management quota exists in private colleges (note there are private government aided colleges as well like PSG College of Technology in Coimbatore). Here the amount charged by the colleges as capitation fee varies significantly. But given that many of the seats in the self-financial colleges are going vacant there is no need for any student to resort to a management quota seat.

4.1.6 Faculties

Education in Tamilnadu has now become a very big business. Most of the private colleges appoint freshers as faculties to save on the salaries to be paid. The faculties lack they lack in experience and obviously they cannot teach the students well. Even if faculties with good experience join the private colleges and institution, they get de-motivated and this gets reflected on the students. The very essence of this research is to identify these factors and highlight to the management.

4.2 Emergence of Private Colleges and Institutions

With the increasing demand for education and lesser number of institutions offering the required education, private colleges and institutes started emerging in Tamilnadu. Slowly the number of colleges has increased as our population has also increased and the demand for education is also increased.

While it is true that some colleges have good infrastructure and staff, it is also true that some are just the contrary and consider education as a business.
ENDNOTES

Mouthshut Website