CHAPTER III

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

This chapter discusses the historical background, location, administrative divisions, features, climate, demography, higher education and arts and science colleges with special reference to different types of library in Kanyakumari District.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Kanyakumari District has been chosen as the study area for the present study, based on its high rate of literacy 97.6% (2011) in Tamil Nadu. It was a part of Chera kingdom¹ and erstwhile Travancore-Cochin state, especially the southern part of Travancore. The Tamil and Malayalam literary works refer to this area as ‘Nanjilnadu’ and ‘Edanadu’.² Kanyakumari District with Malayalam and Tamil speaking people was a part of Kerala state. The development of this district was ignored by the then Kerala state and Malayalam was imposed on Tamil speaking people. So, the tamil speaking people of Vilavancode, Kalkulam, Agasteswaram and Thovalai taluks agitated under the leadership of Marshal A. Nesamony, for the merger of these taluks with Tamil Nadu, then Madras State. Consequently, the district was merged with Tamil Nadu State. As per the recommendations of the States Reorganization Commission, this district was formed on 1 November, 1956.³ It is the southernmost district of Tamil Nadu.

LOCATION

Kanyakumari District takes its name from the tourist centre Kanyakumari. This place is named after Kanyakumari Amman (Bagavathi), the goddess of Hindu religion.⁴ It is the fusion of two words ‘Kanni’ and ‘Kumari’ either meaning virgin or
spinster. As Kanyakumari is a cape, the British called it Cape Comorin. It lies at the southern-most tip of the Indian peninsula, where Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal confluence. Kanyakumari District is the smallest district in Tamil Nadu. It contains a land area of 1672 square kms, which has 48.9% agricultural and 32.5% forestland. The density of population is 1119/sq.km. It stands first in literacy. It occupies a unique place amongst the districts of Tamil Nadu. It is the only place where one can see both the rising and setting of the sun. It has a coastal line of 68 k.m. stretched on three sides. This is famous on its paddy fields, coconut groves, rubber garden and luxurious forests. This district lies between $77^015'$ and $77^036'$ of the eastern longitudes and $8^003'$ and $8^088'$ of the northern latitudes. It is surrounded by Tirunelveli District in the east and north, the Gulf of Mannar in south-east, Bay of Bengal in the east, the Indian Ocean in the south, Arabian Sea in the south-west and Kerala state in the west. The head quarter of the district is at Nagercoil.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

Kanyakumari District is bifurcated in to two revenue divisions, namely Nagercoil and Padmanabhapuram. Nagercoil revenue division consists of two taluks, such as Agasteeswaram and Thovalai and Padmanabhapuram includes, Kalkulam and Vilavancode. There are nine panchayat unions such as Agasteeswaram, Thovalai, Rajakkamangalam, Killiyoor, Munchirai, Melpuram, Thiruvattor, Thuckalay and Kurunthencode. The nine panchayat unions have been divided into ninety five revenue villages. Moreover, there are four municipalities such as Nagercoil, Colachel, Padmanabhapuram and Kuzhithurai. Such divisions have been made with a view to administrate the revenue and to implement various developmental schemes of the state and the central governments in the district.
FEATURES

Kanyakumari District is fertile due to many water bodies and canal irrigation system. So, it was called granary of Travancore. Generally, this district is hilly with plains near the coastal areas. It has variety of eco-systems, like forests, wetlands, fresh water resources and coastal areas as found in Kerala. In fact, this environment has been changed due to the growth of population, raising deforestation, changing cropping pattern and utilization of land for non-agricultural purposes. This district has fertile agricultural land. Rubber and spices are cultivated in the hilly areas, whereas paddy, coconut, tapioca and plantain are cultivated in the plains. Red and alluvial soil is found in Agastheeswaram and Thovalai blocks, whereas latrite soil is found in Thiruvattar, Killiyoor, Munchirai and Thuckalay blocks. Moreover, Thamirabharani, Valliyaru and Pazhaiyaru are the important rivers. Peachippari, Perunchani and Sittar are the important dams. The annual average rainfall of this district is 1465 mm. The sloppy land prevents the district from flood. The land area is covered with dense trees, which makes the district beautiful. This district is the home of indigenous traditional system of medicines like Siddha, Varma and Ayurvedha.

CLIMATE

The agro-climatic condition is conducive for the agricultural production of this district. In fact, the proximity of the equator, its topography and other climatic factors favours the growth of various crops like rubber, coconut, plantain, paddy, pepper, mango, ginger, tapioca, pulses and herbals. The paddy varieties are grown in the first crop season in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks and during the second crop season in Thovalai and Agasteeswaram taluks. Moreover, the humidity of Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks is different from that of Thovalai and Agasteeswaram. It is seen
that, there is a distinct variation in the climatic conditions prevailing within the district. The unique feature of this district is that, it has rainfall in both the south-west and the north-east monsoons. The south-west monsoon starts in June and ends in September and the north-east start in October and ends in the middle of December.

DEMOGRAPHY

The Census of India 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 indicates that the total population of Kanyakumari District has been increasing from 1971 to 2011. The growth of population of the district is exhibited in Table 3.1

Table 3.1

Growth of Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>613097 (50.15)</td>
<td>609452 (49.85)</td>
<td>1222549 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>716958 (50.37)</td>
<td>706441 (49.63)</td>
<td>1423399 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>803839 (50.23)</td>
<td>796510 (49.77)</td>
<td>1600349 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>832269 (49.66)</td>
<td>843765 (50.34)</td>
<td>1676034 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>926800 (49.74)</td>
<td>936374 (50.26)</td>
<td>1863174 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 3.1 reveals the increase in the number of population from 1222549 in 1971 to 1863174 in 2011. It also shows that the male population is less (49.74%) than (50.26%) the female population in 2011.
HIGHER EDUCATION

Kanyakumari District is famous for higher education and educational institutions. This district gives much importance to higher education. In fact, it has the highest literacy rate in Tamil Nadu. It is one of the most important centers of higher education and research in almost all disciplines except Agriculture, Veterinary science and Law. Most of the institutions meet the educational requirements of not only the native people but also other districts and states. This district has a good historical background of higher education. Scott Christian College is the first college, established at Nagercoil by Rev. Charles Mead, a Christian missionary in 1893 to provide higher education. It has become an outstanding autonomous college, providing various levels of arts and science education. The privatization policy of the government is responsible for the establishment of more and more private self-financed arts and science, engineering, education, medical and para-medical colleges in the district.

However, it is regrettable that this district has only one government college offering arts and science education, one Medical and Ayurvedic College providing general medicine and one engineering college to impart engineering education. Thus, the number of higher educational institutions managed and financed by the government is very low in the district. But, the role of self-financed and private-aided educational institutions is significant in imparting arts and science, education, engineering, medical, and paramedical education. It is seen that 99 percent of self-financed engineering, education and paramedical colleges cater to the needs of professional education. Hence, people of this district depend on private aided and self-financed institutions for higher education in various disciplines.
Growth of Higher Education

After privatization, growth of higher education is very fast in terms of the number of higher educational institutions in Kanyakumari District. It is seen that Scott Christian College was the only one college offering arts and science education till 1952. But, the number of Arts and Science, Engineering, Medical, Nursing, Education, Polytechnic, Industrial Training colleges and Institutions has been increasing since the end of the twentieth century. The growth of higher educational institutions from 1970–1971 to 2013–2014 is presented in Table 3.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 3.2 reveals the growth of higher educational institutions from 23 in 1970-71 to 179 in 2013-14. It is understood that there was a slow growth in between 1970-1971 and 1990-1991 and a fast growth during 2000-2001 to 2013-2014. This is due to the privatization and liberalization policy of government on higher education. Thus, this district is a well developed one in terms of higher educational institutions. The number of higher educational institutions is shown in Table 3.3
Table 3.3


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Deemed University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Arts and Science Colleges</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Engineering Colleges</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Polytechnic Colleges</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Education Colleges</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>18.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Teacher Training Institutes</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Medical Colleges</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Nursing Colleges</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Dental College</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Ayurvedic College</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Homeopathy Colleges</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Siddha College</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Physiotherapy Colleges</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Pharmacy Colleges</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Naturopathy &amp; Yoga Science College</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Industrial Training Institutes</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Agricultural college (Horticulture)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


It is discerned from Table 3.3 that almost all types of educational institutions are available except Agriculture, Law and Veterinary Science in Kanyakumari District.

ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES

Arts and science colleges have a unique place in imparting higher education in various disciplines. There are 23 colleges to meet the requirements of higher
education in Kanyakumari District. This section deals with historical background of the colleges. The location of such colleges is shown in the Figure 3.1

**Figure 3.1**
Location of Arts and Science Colleges
Figure 3.1 shows the location of arts and science colleges in the study area. It is seen that most of the colleges are found in Agasteeswaram (39.14%), Vilavancode (30.44%) and Kalkulam (26.08%) taluks. There is only one college in Thovalai (4.34%) taluk.

**Scott Christian College**

This is the first college, established at Nagercoil by Rev. Charles Mead, a Christian missionary in 1893, affiliated to the University of Madras. Later it was affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University in 1966. It came under the control of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli in 1990. It is an autonomous college, accredited with ‘A’ grade by the NAAC. It is a well established institution, offering all courses at graduate, post-graduate and research levels. Now, it is a centre of higher education and research with a good library. The library functions with 90005 books, 130 journals, internet connectivity, network service, institutional repository and digital library. It is a co-educational college, having 333 teaching staff and 3600 students. This college is run by C.S.I. Diocese of Kanyakumari District.

**S.T. Hindu College**

The South Travancore Hindu College, known as S.T. Hindu College was established in the year 1952, to meet the growing needs of higher education, especially to uplift the Hindu community. It is managed by Vellala Educational Society. The college was granted affiliation on 14 March 1952 by the University of Travancore. It started with intermediate courses and grew rapidly into Degree College in 1955, offering graduate and post graduate courses. After the Reorganisation of Indian States, the college was affiliated to the University of Madras in 1957. It was affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University in 1966 and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in 1990. It is a co-education college, accredited with ‘A’ grade
by the NAAC. It has well-established library with 64211 books, 78 journals, internet service, network service and digital library. Today, it is another centre of higher education and research to meet the higher educational needs of the people of southern most part of India.

**Nesamony Memorial Christian College**

Nesamony Memorial Christian College is another milestone in the field of higher education and research. Marthandam was one of the most educationally backward areas of Kanyakumari district. The C.S.I. Diocese of Kanyakumari District therefore started a college in 1964 at Marthandam in order to provide higher education to the backward community. This college was known as Christian College, and was renamed it as Nesamony Memorial Christian College in 1983. With the permission of the University of Madras, the pre-degree classes were started in 1964 with 171 students. This college came under the control of Madurai Kamaraj University in 1966-1967 and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in 1990. It offers both aided and un-aided graduate, post-graduate and research studies. It has a good library having 58195 books, 72 journals and multimedia, internet and network facilities. It is a co-education college, accredited with ‘A’ grade by the NAAC, having 3500 students and 225 teaching staff.

**Lekshmipuram College of Arts & Science**

Lekshmipuram College of Arts & Science is another achievement in the field of higher education in the study area, established in 1964. This college is run by Lekshmipuram College Society. It was initially affiliated to the University of Madras and later to Madurai Kamaraj University in 1966. This college came under the control of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in 1990. This is a co-education college, accredited with ‘B’ grade by the NAAC, offering graduate, post-graduate and
research studies on aided and un-aided basis. It has a potential library having 19021 books, 34 journals and internet and network facilities.

**Vivekananda College**

Vivekananda College came into existence in July 1965 in the memory of Swami Vivekananda. It is run by Vivekananda Educational Society. It became a co-educational institution in June 1973. It also offers various graduates, post-graduate and research studies. It plays a vital role to disseminate higher education to the rural people of Agasteeswaram taluk. This college is accredited with ‘B’ grade by the NAAC. It has a smart library with a collection of 28426 books and 26 journals at national and international levels. It is a non-autonomous college, located in rural area.

**Holy Cross College**

Holy Cross College was established in 1965, to enlighten the women folk in the field of higher education. It is a Catholic College, administered by the Congregation of Sisters of the Cross of Chevanad under the Catholic Bishop of Kottar. It aims at nurturing well integrated citizens, who will strive to transform society by meeting the challenges of life and taking a stand in the struggles of the poor and the marginalized. This is an aided autonomous college, accredited with ‘A’ grade. It was raised to Degree College in 1966 and affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University. It came under the control of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in 1990. The college has an excellent library with a collection of 43676 books, 55 journals, standard reference materials, internet, network, institutional repository and e-resources. It maintains separate reference section, for the benefit of post-graduate and research scholars. The library is connected with CCTV security system. This is the first women’s college in kanyakumari district.
**Sree Devikumari Women’s College**

Sree Devikumari Women’s College was formed for the upliftment of Hindu women, started by Kanyakumari Devaswom Board in 1965. It was first started at Thiruvattar and then shifted to Kuzhithurai, Vilavancode taluk. Madurai Kamaraj University granted affiliation to start graduate courses in 1966. From 1990, it came under the control of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. This is a women’s college accredited with ‘B’ grade by the NAAC. It has a good library having 21901 books and 14 journals, which meets the information requirements of the users.

**Pioneer Kumaraswamy College**

Pioneer Kumaraswamy College was established by the family members of S.Kumaraswamy, a prominent citizen and an industrialist of Kanyakumari district. It started functioning on 1 July, 1967. It is a co-educational college, offering graduate, post-graduate and research studies at M.Phil level. The college possesses good library facilities with 27819 books, including book bank and audio-video collection. Apart from the central library, departmental libraries also function.

**Sree Ayyappa College for Women**

Sree Ayyappa Educational Society established a college for women at Chunkankadai, near Nagercoil in 1969. It is a boon to the women students of all disadvantaged communities. The vision of the college is to mould the students into competent, self-reliant and responsible women, who can act as the redeemer of the society. The mission of the college is to make the institution, a centre of academic excellence, cultural refinement and spiritual enlightenment. It was affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University in 1966. From 1990 onwards, this college is under the control of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. This is a non-autonomous college, accredited with ‘B’ grade by the NAAC, offering graduate, post-graduate and
research studies on aided and un-aided basis. It has a separate library building, with a good collection of 23541 books, 19 journals, internet and network facilities. This institution is functioning with the help and guidance of the Nair Service Society.

**Arignar Anna College**

Arignar Anna College is another milestone in the field of higher education. This is the only college located in Thovalai taluk. It caters to the educational needs of Thovalai and Agasteeswaram taluks of Kanyakumari district and Nanguneri taluk of Tirunelveli district. It was established in 1970 and affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University. Since 1990, this college has been affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. It is managed by Kanyakumari Educational Society.

This is one of the co-educational colleges, offering graduate and post-graduate courses on aided and self-financed basis. It has a library, possessing a collection of 21814 books and 19 journals. Every department has its own library which caters to the needs of its users.

**Women’s Christian College**

Women’s Christian College was established at Nagercoil in 1973, fulfilling the vision and mission of the dedicated and committed members of the Kanyakumari Diocese of the church of South India. This is partly aided and self-financed, christian minority, non- autonomous, women’s college affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University and accredited with ‘B’ grade by the NAAC. This college offers various graduates, post-graduate and research courses. The college library has good collection of printed documents and non-printed materials, to meet the requirements of its users, especially students and faculties. It has a separate building with library automation, internet, institutional repository, e-resources and network facilities. It has a collection of books and journals, useful for higher education and research. It has also departmental libraries.
St. Jude’s College

St. Jude’s College was started in 1979, in order to bring up the fisherfolk of Thoothoor. It is run by Latin Catholic Fishermen’s Educational Society. The dream of the institution is impart higher education to the youth of coastal region, situated in the southern-most tip of the country. It was affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University in 1980-1981. Then, it was affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in 1990. The college aims at the integrated and personalized education of the youth to produce intellectually trained, morally upright, socially committed and spiritually inspired men and women of Indian society. It is a co-educational college, offering graduate and post-graduate courses on aided and self-financed basis. It has potential library with a collection of 20506 books and 47 journals, to meet the needs of its users in their studies and research.

Muslim Arts College

Muslim Arts College, run by Muslim Educational society, started functioning in Madhavalayam in 1982. The aim was to have a college of equal opportunity and access for the muslim minority. It was affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University. Later the college was shifted to Jalal building at Thiruvithancode, where witnessed a steady growth. In 1992, it came under the control of Manonmaiam Sundaranar University. This is a minority, non-autonomous and co-education college. A milestone in the history of the college was the introduction of new courses in 2000-2001. Now, the college offers more than thirty graduate, post-graduate, M.Phil courses and two research departments. It has no separate building for library. The collection of library resources and services are found to be unsatisfactory. The library functions with a collection of 19571 books and 44 journals. The financial constraints, affects the
development of library and college. The management should give due importance to the development of library in order to provide quality education and research.

**Sivanthi Aditanar College**

Sivanthi Aditanar College was established at Pillayarpuram in 1984 and affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. Financed and managed by Thenkumari Educational society, it created a new epoch in the field of higher education. This is a self-financed, co-educational, non-autonomous and non-accredited college, which offers graduate, post-graduate and research courses. It has located in a pollution free environment and has a separate building for library with a collection of 7535 books and 12 journals. The collection of library resources and services are found to be at an unsatisfactory level. The management should give due importance to the development of library to provide quality education and research.

**Annai Velankanni College**

Annai Velankanni College was started in 1987 at Tholayavattam, near Karungal. The college is owned by the ‘Friends of Kottar’ and administered by Annai Velankanni College Administrative society. The college is under the religious jurisdiction of the Latin Catholic Bishop of Kottar, affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. This is a self-financed, non-autonomous institution. It is a co-education college, offering various courses at graduate and post-graduate levels. The college also conducts M.Phil programme in commerce. It has a potential library with a collection of 17256 books and 17 journals, which is useful for higher education and research.
Malankarai Catholic College

Malankarai Catholic College is run by Malankarai Catholic Diocese of Marthandam. It is located at Mariagiri, near Kaliakkavilai. This is the first higher educational endeavour of Malankarai Catholic Diocese, which imparts science education in rural area. With the permission of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, graduate courses like Computer science, Physics and Bio-chemistry were started in 1998-1999. It is a non-autonomous, self-financed, co-education college which caters the higher educational requirements of Kanyakumari and Thiruvananthapuram districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. At present, it offers various courses at graduate, post-graduate and research levels. It is an excellent college with good library, laboratory and other infrastructural facilities, accredited with ‘B’ grade by the NAAC. In fact, the library provides conducive atmosphere for learning with a collection of 7518 books and 34 journals. Library automation, internet service, network facility are also available.

Noorul Islam College of Arts & Science

Noorul Islam College of Arts & Science is run by Noorul Islam Educational Trust, reputed for its commitment to the cause of higher education. This college is situated on the slope of Velimali hills in the Western Ghats, at Kumaracoil near Thuckalay. With the permission of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, the college started offering three degree courses namely Computer science, Information Technology and Computer application from 2001 with 75 students. Currently, the college has effective student strength of about 1100 and teaching staff of 88 and offers 13 graduate courses, 6 post-graduate, 5 M.Phil and a Ph.D programme. It has a good library, having 8310 books, 10 journals and internet connectivity. This is a
non-autonomous, self-financed, co-education college, accredited with ‘B’ grade by NAAC. The college imparts higher education to the rural mass.

**V.T.M. College of Arts and Science**

Velu Thampi Memorial College of Arts and Science was established in 2004 at Arumanai, Vilavancode taluk. The college is owned and managed by Velu Thampi Memorial Educational Trust. The college has been sanctioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu and is affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. It is self-financed, linguistic minority, co-educational, non-autonomous and non-accredited college, which offers graduate and post graduate courses. The college has no separate building for library with a collection of 3817 books and 8 journals. The library collection and services are found at unsatisfactory level. The management should allot sufficient fund for the development of library to provide quality higher education.

**Udaya College of Arts and Science**

Udaya College of Arts and Science was established at Vellamodi in 2006. The college is financed and managed by R.V. Educational & Charitable Trust. It is a self-financed, non-minority, non-autonomous, co-educational institution located in rural area. It offers graduate and post-graduate courses. There is no separate building for library resources and services. It has a collection of 9158 books and 14 journals. Lack of internet facility networks, automation, e-resources and photocopying service affects the effective use of information sources and services. The college meets higher educational requirements of the students of Agasteeswaram and Kalkulam taluks. It is functioning under the control of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.
St. Jerome’s College of Arts and Science

St. Jerome’s College has been established in 2009, managed by Somascan Fathers. The college concentrates on imparting and providing quality education for the holistic growth of the youth. It was affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli and offers graduate courses, including Mathematics, Physics, English Literature, Commerce, Business Administration, Computer Application and Computer Science. Currently the college offers 7 graduate and 3 post graduate courses. This is a self-financed, non-autonomous, co-education college, imparting higher education to the rural students. It has a potential library, with a collection of 8147 books, 21 journals and internet facility. The library is connected with CCTV security system.

St. John’s College of Arts and Science

St. John’s College of Arts and Science was established at Ammandivilai in 2009, providing higher education for the disadvantaged people along the coastline of Kanyakumari District. It is financed and administered by the JVDC (Jan Vriend Development Centre) trust. This college has been approved by the government of Tamil Nadu and affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. It is self-financed, non-autonomous, co-education college offers graduate and postgraduate courses. The college library has a good collection of printed and non-printed materials. It has sufficient space with automation and internet facility. The library is connected with CCTV security system. It has a collection of 9573 books and 21 journals, which cater the needs of students and faculties.
Nanchil Catholic College

Nanchil Catholic College was established at Kaliakkavilai in 2012. It is the only college managed and financed by Latin Catholic Diocese of Kottar.\(^{37}\) It offers graduate and post graduate courses. This is a new college with a separate building for library resources and services. It has a good collection of 4115 books and 12 journals, newspapers and e-resources. This is a non-autonomous, non-accredited, self-financed, co-education college that imparts quality education to the rural mass.

M. S. University Constituent College of Arts & Science

Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Constituent College of Arts & Science caters the educational requirements of poor and needy people. It offers higher education at low cost. At present, it offers graduate courses like English, Mathematics and Computer Science. It has a small library to meet the needs of the students as well as the faculties. It is a co-education college, managed by Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, established in 2012.\(^{38}\) It is the only college located in Kanyakumari. It needs to be developed in library and laboratories to provide quality education.

DESCRIPTION OF COLLEGES

This part describes the arts and science colleges offering higher education and research in arts, science, commerce and management studies in the study area. These colleges are classified on the basis of type of management, location, nature, status and accreditation.

Types of Management

There are three types of arts and science colleges namely, government, private-aided and self-financed. Out of the total colleges, 4.34 percent are
government, 52.18 percent are private-aided and 43.48 percent self-financed. It is shown in Figure 3.2

**Figure 3.2**

**Type of management**

![Pie chart showing type of management](image)

Figure 3.2 shows that the number of aided arts and science colleges is more than the self-financed one in the study area. It is interesting to note that this district has only one Constituent College of Arts and Science to provide higher education to the rural people. This managed by Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.

**Area-wise location of colleges**

As far as the location of the arts and science college is concerned, 68.18 percent found in rural and 31.82 percent in urban areas. The area-wise location of colleges is displayed in Figure 3.3
Figure 3.3 exhibits that the number of colleges located in rural areas more than that in urban areas. This is because, the district consists about 80 percent of rural areas.

**Nature of colleges**

There are three types of arts and science colleges, for men, women and both. But, this district has two types of colleges – women and co-education. Out of the total institutions, 18.18 percent are women’s and 81.82 percent are co-education college. It can be shown in Figure 3.4
Figure 3.4 shows that the number of co-educational colleges is more than women’s in the study area.

**Autonomous colleges**

On the basis of the status, the total arts and science colleges can be classified into autonomous and non-autonomous. Out of the total colleges, 9.09 percent autonomous and 90.91 percent are non-autonomous. This is shown in Figure 3.5
Figure 3.5 exhibits that the number of non-autonomous colleges are more than the autonomous ones. This is because most of the arts and science colleges do not offer all courses and there is a lack of buildings, laboratories, library, playgrounds and other infrastructural facilities.

**Accredited colleges**

The National Assessment and Accreditation council, established in 1994, scrutinizes the higher educational institutions in order to improve the quality of higher education and other academic facilities. It provides accreditation to the college on the basis of its academic achievements, faculties, research facilities, class rooms, library, laboratories, retiring hall, play grounds, and other infrastructural facilities. The arts and science colleges has been accredited with A or B or C in the study area. Accordingly, there are 18.18 percent colleges which obtained ‘A’ grade and 36.37
percent with ‘B’ grade and 45.45 percent college that are non-accredited. It can be seen in Figure 3.6

**Figure 3.6**

**Accreditation status**

![Accreditation status graph](image)

Figure 3.6 shows that the number of non-accredited colleges are more than that accredited with A or B grade. It is observed that most of the colleges do not have sufficient facilities in all aspects to be accredited by the NAAC.

**TYPES OF LIBRARY**

Libraries can be classified into public, private, academic, mobile and special based on the management, users and purposes. However, there are three types of library namely, public, private, and academic in the study area. Besides, a hundreds of libraries and reading-rooms are found throughout the district. Such systems are run and managed by the social activists and well-wishers. As these libraries and reading
rooms have not been registered or recorded in the statistical reports, the present study neglects them. So, the study examines public, private, academic libraries of this district.

**Public Libraries**

The library which is open to the public is called public library. It is meant for public at different age groups. Public libraries are financed and managed by the local or state governments. Generally, the public library functions from 8.30 to 11.00 A.M and 3.00 to 8.30 P.M. However, the working hours vary from library to library and area to area in the study area. There are 131 public libraries; it includes a district central library at Nagercoil, head-quarters of Kanyakumari District. It also consists of 16 branch, 109 village and 5 part-time libraries. The public libraries have the collections of printed documents, which include books, newspapers, magazines, bulletins, newsletters and so on. A few public libraries in urban areas have internet facilities. Moreover, some libraries have been attached with television. The public libraries charge nominal fee from the members for using library resources. It is important to note that the district central library also acts as special library for prisoners in the district jail, Nagercoil. The role of public libraries is important to make use of leisure fruitfully. In fact, it quenches the thirsty for reading newspapers, short stories, drama, fiction, riddles, poems, novels, puranas, dictionary and religious books. It is boon for human resource development of huge population. Thus, it plays vital role in the informal agency of education.

**Private Libraries**

These libraries are financed and managed by individual or charitable trust or society to overcome social and intellectual barriers. This kind of library is maintained
for the welfare of the people especially youths so as to make use their leisure time fruitfully and produce a knowledge society. There are 233 private libraries functioning in the district in 2013-2014. The important collections are books, newspapers, general and religious magazines published in regional languages. The services of these libraries are highly useful to the area, where public libraries are not available. In fact, it also serves as one of the important source of informal agencies imparting education and knowledge to the needy man.

**Academic Libraries**

Academic libraries are attached with educational and research institutions. Such libraries are meant for users studying and working in the respective institutions and also for externalists. Every college / institution has its own library to meet the information requirements of its students, teachers, researchers and the managements. This type of library helps the users to prepare examinations, assignment, discussion, seminar, projects and researches. There are 179 higher educational institutions in the study area. It includes arts and science, engineering, medical, education and polytechnic colleges. These institutions have separate / attached building for library use. The collections are printed documents and non-printed materials that vary from institution to institution based on the nature of subjects, types of user, level of studies, number of users, research facilities, type of management and availability of financial assistance. Most of the academic library resources are text, reference and general books, newspapers, journals, magazines and research reports. Moreover, e-resources like, e-books, e-journals, online databases, CD-ROM databases, internet and network facilities are available in the well-established higher educational institutions. This type of library not only undertakes circulation and reference services but also, photocopying, current awareness and book-bank services with a view to maximize the
satisfaction of users as far as possible. Generally, the academic library functions before and after 30 minutes of the institutions’ working hours. However, it also varies from college to college based on higher education and research.

**Special Libraries**

Apart from public, private and academic libraries, there are special libraries in Kanyakumari District. The special libraries are found in courts, hospitals, clubs and industries. This is meant for specialists in the respective fields. It has the collection of dictionaries, government reports, statistical hand books, special books related to medical, industrial and law subjects. Most of the collections are reference materials. The users are workers, managers and higher officials. It is kept open only during working hours. These types of libraries are highly useful to clear the doubts and clarification of ideas and so on. The different types of library are shown in Table 3.4

**Table 3.4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number of Library</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>24.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>42.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>32.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 3.4 exhibits the different types of library in the study area. It is seen that out of the total libraries, 24.13 percent are public, 42.90 percent private and 32.97 percent academic. It is discerned that the number of private libraries are more (42.90%) than the public (24.13%) one in Kanyakumari district. It is shown in the Figure 3.7
Figure 3.7 displays the number of public, private and academic libraries in the year 2013-2014. The number of private libraries are more than public ones in the study area.

The profile of the study area reveals that this district gives importance to higher education. It is seen that arts and science colleges are found throughout the study area. Such college libraries have different collections of printed and non-printed materials with a view to meet varied information requirements. Moreover, this district has public, private, and special libraries. Such libraries serve as a close substitute for intellectual development. In fact, its role is important in making people to know what is happening at national and international levels.
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