CONCLUSION

The educational system and methods have been changing from time to time. In the beginning of the nineteenth century, the missionaries who came to India introduced western system of education. They contributed much to the vernacular education also. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Government had appointed various committees and commissions to review the educational system and it had been modified as per the recommendations and current trends. As per the enquiry made in 1822, by Thomas Munro, then Governor of Madras, Madurai District was not backward in education comparing with other Districts. But the number of girl students was very low. The ratio between the boys and girls was 13676:105. Education in Madurai district was given importance in the middle of the nineteenth century. In 1855, the Department of Education was organized and schools at Madurai, Dindigul and Periyakulam were established.

The incubation of Madurai Diocese solely belongs to the Jesuits. Fr.Francis Xavier started his work from Goa and then moved along the coastal areas in the southwest and southeast regions. Though missionaries had worked in India before the arrival of Francis Xavier, his kind words brought him success in baptizing thousands of people in the coastal areas where he worked. His arrival confirmed the missionary service of Jesuits in India. Following Fr.Francis Xavier, many priests rendered their services in the Old Madura Mission. There had been resistance for the Portuguese and the European Priests among the natives due to their western lifestyle. Nobili, who was the real founder of Madura Mission, gave up western lifestyle and adopted Indian lifestyle and hence the aversion on the western priests decreased. Nobili mastered Tamil and Sanskrit. The other remarkable Jesuit missionary was John de Britto from Lisbon. In order to serve the people in the Marava Country, he even rejected the post of Bishop of Cranganore. He concentrated in the missionary work alone and converted thousands of people
in the Marava Country. The Marava King arrested him and he was tortured. It was cruel and pitiable that he was beheaded. The other celebrated Jesuit missionary who followed Britto was Fr. Beschi. He was also called as Veeramamunivar. He had in depth knowledge in Tamil and wrote many books. During his period, the Jesuits spread all over Tamilnadu. He started a school of high standard in Tamil for the selected catechists. The Madura Mission was founded in 1592 with the sanction of Veerappa Nayak of Madurai. Pope Clement XIV abolished the order of Jesuits in 1773 due to political reasons. The Jesuits too were arrested in India and imprisoned. The local preachers continued their work. As a result, the activities of the Madura Mission came to a grinding halt. Soon the Mission was revived with vigour and reformed the missionary service. The Madura Mission, which was revived in 1836, was raised to a vicariate in 1846. In 1887, it became a main portion in Trichirapalli Diocese to which Mgr. Canoz was the first Bishop. The vernacular languages like Tamil, Sanskrit and Telugu might have attracted the foreign priests. A few of them mastered over the languages and worked for the promotion of native literature. They converted thousands of people into Christians. As there were no local priests in great number, the foreign priests dominated in the old Madura Mission. They concentrated much on preaching Christianity and social service. In 1938, Madura Mission became a Diocese and in 1953 it was raised to an Archdiocese.

Mgr. J. Peter Leonard was the first bishop of Madurai Diocese. He started Nobili Pastoral Centre. During his period, one arts college, seven secondary schools and one training school were started. Mgr. Justin Diraviam was the first bishop of our soil. He built many churches, chapels, presbyteries, asylums and complexes and so he was called as the Shajahan of Madurai. He started La Sal College, Justin Training College, St. Britto Higher Secondary School and some other institutions. Mgr. Casimir Gnanadickam succeeded him. He was born at Suranam on 25th April 1925. He was a great scholar in Chemistry. He worked as the Principal and the Rector of St. Joseph’s College, Trichy.
Mgr. Marianus Arockiasamy was born at Uthamanur Puthur in Kumbakonam Diocese. He was popularly known as people’s pastor. He ordered the construction of five hundred new houses for the poor on the occasion of the centenary celebration. He directed the new common equimerical Bible translation in Tamil. Mgr. P. Antony worked as the Auxiliary Bishop of Madurai Diocese. He was born at Marambady in Dindigul District. He worked as a professor of Philosophy at St. Paul’s Seminary, Trichy. He wrote many articles of theological nature. Presently he is the Bishop of the newly created Dindigul Diocese. The present Archbishop, Mgr. Peter Fernando was born at Idinthakarai in Tuticorin Diocese. He is a scholar in Psychotherapy and has written few books.

At the end of the eighteenth century and at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the missionaries turned their service towards education. During this period many institutions were established. For educational services they were in need of clergies. So they invited foreign congregations to work here. They founded new congregations comprising of local people also.

In 1534, Ignatius Loyalo, Francis Xavier and five others began their religious life. A few years later, Loyola got the sanction of the Pope and established the Company of Jesus and later it was called as the Society of Jesus. Francis Xavier came to India in 1542. In India, the Portuguese had helped the Jesuits and they safeguarded the converts. Within a short time, he converted thousands of people to Christianity. He worked in the pearl fishery coast and Mylapore. The first Jesuit Missionary to visit Madurai was Fr. Ganzelo Fernandez. He served from 1592 to 1606 A.D. Nobili succeeded Fernandez in 1606. His method of preaching and his lifestyle as an Indian Sanyasi brought him success in converting people of all castes. His interest in the vernacular languages like Tamil and Sanskrit was an added advantage. During his period, the Madura Mission comprised of the districts of Tanjore, Madurai and Tirunelveli. In 1895, the Jesuits founded Sacred Heart College at Shenbaganur in Palani Hills near Kodaikanal.
The observations and activities of Jesuit Missionaries in the form of diaries, manuscripts, palm leaves and books are kept preserved here.

The Jesuit Missionary, Fr. Adrian Caussanel came over to India in 1888. He founded the Congregation of Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at Irudayakulam in Tirunelveli District in 1903. They shifted the headquarters to Palayamkottai in 1906. These brothers started their service in Madurai Mission by helping the Jesuits in the office, depot, orphanage and sacristy. After qualifying themselves, they entered into educational service. This congregation is now having two hundred and fifty professed brothers and forty-one communities in four southern states namely: Tamilnadu, Andrapradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.

An Irish lady, Nano Nagle founded the Sisters of the Presentation Convent. In South India, their first community was established at Fort St. George in Madras, which is now called as Chennai. Here in 1844, they established a school for Europeans. In 1884, they established a community house at Vapery with a school for poor and another pay school. In 1909, they established the School of the Sacred Heart for Anglo Indians and high caste Indians. In 1917, they started St. Joseph’s High School for European girls and students of Parsee Caste at Kodaikanal. In 1919, they started St. Francis Xavier Middle School in which the medium of instruction was Tamil. They started a school and medical mission at Periyakulam and later they shifted it to Theni. Here, these sisters established a hospital. The sisters started a center for AIDS affected called Jeevan Jyothi at Kailasapatti near Periyakulam.

The Sisters of the Holy Cross, St. Joseph’s of Lyons from France, St. Augustine’s from Belgium and the Sisters of the Presentation of Our Lady from Ireland were involved in missionary work in India. Fr. Larmey and Fr. Augustine Perreira who was fondly called as Brother Augustine played the key role in founding the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception at Panjampatti. Fr. Larmey came from France and Fr. Augustine belonged to Tuticorin. Fr. Augustine took the responsibility of formulating the four girls who wanted to
dedicate their lives to the service of God. After ten years of formulation, they became first nuns on 2nd February 1899. Fr.Augustine gave them primary education and made them qualified teachers. Fr.Augustine purchased a small tract of land in Madurai from the Sisters of the St.Joseph’s of Lyons and placed seven sisters under Sr.Radugandh on 2nd July 1911. The Sisters of Seven Dolours handed over their East Gate House at Madurai to these sisters. These sisters transferred their Generalate to Madurai on 23rd December 1923. These sisters are also called Blue Sisters on account of the colour of the dress they worn. The Sisters of Seven Dolours manage Justin’s College of Education, St.Theresa Teacher Training Institute, Nirmala Girl’s Higher Secondary School and Lourdu Annai Girl’s Higher Secondary School at Pudur, Madurai and Diraviam Girl’s Higher Secondary School at Kamalapuram. They give importance to education especially for the development of female education.

Monfort born in France in 1673 founded the Monfort Brothers of St.Gabriel. The Roman Catholic Church declared him a Saint in 1947. Monfort Brothers came over to India through Pondicherry in 1903. In 1947, it became an Autonomous Province in India. In 1975, the province was divided into three provinces such as South, Centre and North. In 2003, it was divided into six provinces. At present, there are six hundred members and they govern hundred and fifty-nine educational institutions.

Sr.Marie Louise born on 8th April 1857 in Belgium founded the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She was ordained as a sister of St.Augustine order. As per the request of Fr.Victor Verlere, to manage an orphanage at Mulagumoodu in Kanyakumari District, Sr.Marie Louise and Sr.Mary Ursule came over to India on 16th October 1897. They opened a Primary School in 1899 in which all the classes were held in Tamil. Due to the need of more missionaries, Sr.Marie Louise started the Congregation of Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the beginning, Sr.Marie Louise recruited Indian girls and girls from Belgium for this congregation. In 1916, they established a community with a
school at Kodaikanal. The congregation started at Mulagumoodu spread over to China, Phillipines, Manila, States and West Indies.

From 8th December 1854, six ladies under the leadership of Maria Soosai Natchathiram started their religious life in a house at Trichy in the name of Viyagula Matha Sabai. The Bishop Canoz brought Sisters of Parigara Matha Sabai to train these sisters. The Sisters of Viyagula Matha Sabai started their first school in 1877. As per the request of Fr.Ravoo, four sisters of Viyagula Matha Sabai and a few French Sisters went to Tuticorin and they formed a community. There they founded Tuticorin Viyagula Matha Sabai for the ladies of Parathava caste. In 1881, the French Sisters left Tuticorin. In Sathankulam, many young girls of Nadar Caste wanted to dedicate their lives for Christianity. Fr.Denis Susen permitted them to live together as nuns. His successor Fr.Nicholas got permission and founded Viyagula Matha Sabai for girls belonging to Nadar Community. Sisters of these three congregations of Viyagula Matha Sabai got training in Trichy Mother House. Subsequently the three congregations were merged and began to be called as the Congregation of Order of Servants of Mary.

In 1906, six sisters of St Joseph’s of Lyons came from France to Madurai. These sisters started a school, a dispensary and a home for the aged. They helped the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in formation. In 1927, they started St.Joseph’s School at Madurai. They helped the refugees from Burma and Sri Lanka by erecting huts for fifty families. They established a school at Usilampatty in 1933. They established Fatima College in 1953.

In the beginning of nineteenth century many young girls became widows as Cholera swallowed the lives of many youth. They couldn’t marry again due to the customs and traditions. Rev.Mother Annammal the founder of St.Anne’s of Trichy started her religious life on meeting the sick, educating the needy and praying for others. Inspired by her activities, many widows followed her. She approached Bishop Canoz and founded the first community with nine widows. Fr.Penzole helped them in formation. In the beginning they admitted widows only. From
1923, they admitted virgins also. In the following years they educated themselves and started many communities and educational institutions. They founded the Jayaraj Annapackiam College at Periyakulam in 1971.

Sr. Rose, born in Canada and brought up in America, came over to Madurai in 1924. She founded the Fatima College in 1953 during the regime of Peter Leonard as the Bishop. She took up the responsibility of building the infrastructure. Miss. Shakunthala was appointed as the first Principal. It is administered by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyons. Admission Committee comprising of the Principal, Vice Principal and Heads of Departments selects the students for admission. The students are given opportunities to develop their job-oriented skill through communication skills. Taking account into the current trends, the college has introduced new courses like M.B.A, M.C.A, M.S(I.T) and M.S(C.S & I.T) as self-financed courses. Apart from scholarships from the Government and the U.G.C, students receive financial assistance from trusts like T.V.S Charities, Sitalakshmi Trust and individuals. The college also has a Care Fund to help the students. The U.G.C assist the College to establish laboratories. The College has many hobby clubs. The library is enriched with books and journals.

Arul Anandar College is located at Karumathur, a rural area where most of the residents belong to Piramalai Kallar Community. The Jesuits manages this college. Mgr. Justin Diraviam founded the Arul Anandar College in 1970. It was called as De La Salle College and De La Salle Brothers administered it. Br. C. Fernando was the first Principal. This college offers Philosophy Course mainly for Seminarians from various dioceses in Tamilnadu. In 1972, De La Salle Brothers withdrew themselves from administration and so the Archbishop requested Jesuits of Madurai Province to administer the college on a temporary basis. It was renamed as Arul Anandar College. A course in Rural Development Science was introduced in 1973. On 25th October 1977, the Jesuits took over the
responsibility of managing this institution. It received the autonomous status in 1987.

Sr. Lucy Crescentia founded the Jayaraj Annapackiam College for women at Periyakulam on 05-07-1971 with the blessings of Mgr. Justin Diraviam. The college was named after the parents of the donor Mr. J. Chelladurai who donated 6.53 acres of land and a sum of Rs. 2 Lakhs. Miss. Ian Gomez was the first Principal. Sr. Paulvency was the first Secretary. In the beginning History course was introduced. Gradually other courses were introduced. It is governed by the Congregation Sisters of St. Anne of Trichy. Through the WARD system individual attention is paid to students. NSS students visit the adopted villages and coach the school going children. The college has launched an extension programme called SARWODEP, which helps the rural women to form self-help groups. It helps them in all ways.

All the three colleges have sound infrastructure with fine laboratories and equipments. They conduct camps through NSS and NCC. The colleges have included ethic classes for Catholic students and moral classes for Non-Catholic students. They have well-established hostels. The study on the higher educational institutions, that is colleges gives the idea that all the three colleges run by catholic missionaries in Madurai diocese are well established with fine infrastructure and they cater to the needs of the local people in their respective areas. They admit students irrespective of their caste and creed. Other than the scholarships given by the government, they also support the poor by giving aid and concession. Taking the current trends into mind, they offer new courses as self-financed courses. Among the three colleges two are women’s colleges another one is a coeducational college. Thus, it is clear that the Catholic Missionaries impart women’s education.

The Congregation of Immaculate Conception established Justin’s College of Education on 31st July 1968. Regarding admission, the selected candidates are
interviewed and then admitted. This institution has made Yoga and Guide compulsory. Library hours are allotted within the timetable.

Jayaraj Annapackiam Community College is managed by the Congregation Sisters of St.Anne’s of Trichy within the campus of the Arts and Science College they have at Periyakulam. It makes the rural girls as employees through the courses of Pre-school Training, Paramedical Assistant, Textile Technology etc. It helps the girls to get jobs in textile industries in Theni.

In order to give an alternative education, which should employ the youth, the Jesuits inaugurated the Madurai Community College on 31-07-1997. It gives training in Refrigerator Service, Air-Conditioning, Two Wheeler Maintenance, Automobile Service, Computer Hardware and Office Management. This institution gives training out side the campus also. It finds success by placing 85% of students in various jobs. The Jesuits manage Madurai Community College.

Loyola Industrial and Technical Institute belongs to Jesuits was founded in June 1952 with the hard work Fr.Richard Paul. It is the base for Jesuit Brothers to get training in Machines. A Seminary is functioning on this campus. It has a hostel. It offers four formal courses and two non-formal courses. Salesians established Don Bosco Technical Institute at K.Pudur in Madurai on 4th July 1988. It offers six formal courses and six non-formal courses. The Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus established the Archbishop Marianus Arockiasamy Industrial and Technical Institute in August 2000 at Royappanpatti. They have a driving school too there.

The Sisters of the Immaculate Conception established the Theresa Teacher Training Institute at Palayakuyavarpalayam in Madurai in 1947. Every year, this institution produces good result. As per the changes in the educational system, they give training to the students to follow new methods of Teaching-Learning process. Visiting the Special School is customary for this institution. In November 2003, it was shifted to the new campus at Viraganur. Every year, eighty students are admitted in the first year. This institution produces efficient teachers.
The Jesuits established St. Stanislaus Teacher Training Institute on 4th July 1945 at Sattur with the permission of the Bishop Peter Leonard. Sacred Heart School which belonged to the Parish was renamed as St. Stanislaus Primary School and attached to this institution as they needed a model school. The Jesuit Fathers who worked here as heads improved the infrastructure steadily. The Monfort Brothers of St. Gabriel came over to Sattur in 1976. They took charge of running this institution. Brothers also improved the infrastructure by extending playgrounds and constructing an overhead tank. This institution produces eighty teachers every year. In these institutions, students of all categories are admitted.

St. Aloysius Primary School was established in 1921. It was as a High School in 1964 and further upgraded into a Higher Secondary School in 1979. During the Annual Day celebration and Christmas celebration the management supplies uniform to the poor boys by selecting each boy from a class. The children of tea-estate workers in the hill areas like Munar, Vandi Periyar and Idukki are the beneficiaries of this school. They reside in the hostel, which can accommodate thousand students.

Fr. Trincal founded St. Mary’s School in 1855. It became a High School on 27th July 1906. The boarding accommodates the students mostly from Marava Country. Vazhavan Illam accommodates the poor orphans. The hostel is known as the Beschi Home. The school has a library with 24,628 books.

Diraviam Girl’s Higher Secondary School at Kamalapuram was started as a High School in 1970. It was upgraded into a Higher Secondary School in 1990. It is managed by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. It has a hostel. The sisters help the orphan girls in the hostel in all the possible ways.

In 1933, The Little Flower School was started at Usilampatti by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyons. It became a Higher Secondary School in 2003. A children’s home is attached to this school. This school works for the development of the girls belong to the Kallar community.
The Presentation Sisters with the help of the Sisters of the Congregation of Immaculate Conception started the Presentation School in 1950. This school became a High School in 1987 and it was upgraded into a Higher Secondary School in 1997. This school is situated in Theni. This is the only one Higher Secondary School run by Catholics in this city.

R.C Town Primary School was established in 1906. In 1986, it became a Middle School. In 1996, it became a High School and a Higher Secondary School in 1999. It works for the development of the children in the tribal area of Kodaikanal. Another school which imparts tribal education is St.Xavier’s Higher Secondary School at Shenbaganur. It became a High School in 1988 and subsequently a Higher Secondary School in 1999. The school has a hostel and nearly three hundred and fifty boys and girls are staying there free of cost.

The Jesuits with the help of Sr.Rose founded a small school at Madurai in 1905. They also started the English medium school in 1907. In response to the request of the parents, the school was expanded. In 1980, it became a Higher Secondary School. It is one of the most popular schools in Madurai and the Sisters of the St.Joseph of Lyons govern it.

Another famous missionary school in Madurai is the Nirmala Girl’s Higher Secondary School. The High School was started in 1954 as part of the centenary celebration of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. Its campus is called St.Theresa Campus. In 1978, it became a Higher Secondary School.

The next pioneering school in Madurai is St.Britto Higher Secondary School run by the Diocesan Fathers. It was started in 1968. The diocese helps the poor students through Diraviam Hostel. This school has a band set consisting of students. The students themselves help the poor students through the Silver STEPS (Students Team Elevates Poor Students). It has Integrated Education for the Disabled. Through this, the handicapped children get the benefits.

There is another one Higher Secondary School in Royappanpatti. It is St.Agnes Girl’s Higher Secondary School. It is run by the Sisters of St.Anne of
Trichy. In 1910, they started a school having three classes. In 1918, it became a Primary School. In 1964, it was merged with St.Aloysius High School. In 1979, it became a Higher Secondary School. In 1989, the girl’s sections were bifurcated and functioned as St.Anges Girl’s Higher Secondary School.

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary started a school in 1916 at Kodaikanal. In 1962, it became a High School and further it was upgraded into a Higher Secondary School in 1984. The Amala Annai Higher Secondary School at Sinthalaichery is run by the Diocesan Fathers. In 1908, Fr.Mares started this school as a Primary School. In 1957, it became a Middle School and in 1988 it was upgraded as a High School. In 199, it became a Higher Secondary School.

Lourdu Annai Girl’s Higher Secondary School at K.Pudur in Madurai is managed by the Sisters of the Congregation of Immaculate Conception. In 1931, as per the call of Fr.Gabriel Gomez, these sisters started a Primary School. In 1976, it became a High School. In 1995, it was upgraded into a Higher Secondary School.

Sirumalar Girl’s Higher Secondary School is the only one Higher Secondary School owned by the Servites in Madurai Diocese. They started this school as a High School in 1969. It was upgraded into Higher Secondary School in 1981.

From the investigation it is found that 47% of the schools (seven out of fifteen) were upgraded as higher secondary schools only after 1996 and therefore they have no aid for their higher secondary sections and as a result they employ teachers as management payees. Regarding the results, consistently all the schools have been producing very good results. All the schools run by the Catholic Missionaries follow a syllabus with prescribed text for moral studies and ethics and they conduct exams on that syllabus thrice in a year. Without any variation, all the schools encourage co-curricular activities like NSS, NCC, NGC, JRC, YCS/YSM, literary and faculty associations. As a result the students’ strengths of many schools are on the increase. Most of the schools have hostels and orphanages
in which poor students are considered for concession. The infrastructures in these schools are good and they provide a peaceful and conducive atmosphere for studies. There is no disparity in admission and students of all religion and caste are admitted. In the foundation of these institutions, the Jesuit priests who were working in parishes had played a vital role. All these institutions especially the institutions in rural areas strive hard to remove illiteracy.

Thus the educational contribution of the missionaries belonging to the Madurai Diocese is laudable.