CHAPTER - V
HIGHER EDUCATION AND PREMIER INSTITUTIONS

The British Government realized that unless they supported higher education the progressive development of the country might be seriously affected. They recommended for the introduction of higher education. They established a number of colleges throughout the Presidency. The private institutions of the southern districts of Madras Presidency established colleges. Only two colleges came into existence namely, the American College and the Madura College in Madurai region. Though they were two in number, they devoted much to the development of the standard of living of not only the students but also of the society.

Emergence of Universities

The Government established universities at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras in 1857 by the recommendations of an Act of the Legislative Council\(^1\) on the model of the University of London.\(^2\) In consequence of the establishment of the University of Madras the growth of higher education received considerable encouragement in the Madras Presidency. The Government appointed the Governor of Madras as the Chancellor of the University of Madras. It consisted of

\(^2\) Kali Kinkar Datta, *A Social History of Modern India*, New Delhi, 1975, p.16.
three Indians with a Senate of forty-members. During the period of Lord Curzon, the Act III of 1904 materially altered the constitution of this University. The Senate composed of a Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, five ex-officio fellows and the number of ordinary members was increased to one hundred. The Syndicate looked after the executive affairs of the university. It consisted of the Vice-Chancellor, the Director of Public Instruction and ex-officio fellows. Half of the ex-officio fellows were the professors of the affiliated colleges. The University received the right to spend money without seeking the approval of the Government and also to take over the conduct of examinations.

Establishment of Colleges

The Government as well as the private managements affiliated their colleges to the university and increased its strength gradually. In 1891, fifty colleges were affiliated to the university and in 1904, the number increased to sixty one. The private institutions especially the missionaries maintained most of the first grade colleges rather than the Government. The Government maintained the Presidency College, Madras and two other institutions at Kumbakonam and Rajahmundry. The private agencies managed the Madras Christian College and the Pachiappa's

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College in Madras, the Jesuit and S.P.G. Colleges at Tiruchirapalli, St.Peter's College at Tanjore, the Noble College at Masulipatnam, and the Maharajah's College at Vizianagaram, St. Aloysius College at Mangalore and the American College and Madura College at Madurai. The purpose of the above colleges was to equip the students to attain a higher class, distinction or rank in their knowledge and to improve their mental ability to make them as intellectuals in society.

**Growth of American College**

The missionaries made efforts greatly for the extension of the American Colleges into a dominant level. The American College, Madurai, had its beginning as a free school established at Tirumangalam in 1842. On the recommendations of the Government they transferred it to Pasumalai in 1845. They imparted general education on the basis of the principles of the Government for lower and high schools in 1875. The school attained a satisfactory result in Matriculation Examinations in 1879. It tempted Dr. George T.Washburn, Headmaster of the High School, to open a first Arts College at Pasumalai, five kilometers south of Madurai, to offer education at the intermediate level.

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The availability of vast area around Pasumalai for accommodating more buildings and a large number of students and also due to its proximity to the Madurai city, this area was selected for the college.\(^8\) It was affiliated to the University of Madras in 1882 as Second Grade College.\(^9\) Large numbers of students were admitted in the schools rather than in the college. The establishment of the Madura College in 1889 reduced the admission rush of the students at the Pasumalai College. Though they made all sorts of concessions to attract the town students, they could not attain their goal. The missionaries removed the location of the college to the center of the Madurai city in 1895 with a view to seek a large number of students in this college. It was located in the building of an Anglo-Vernacular School, namely, American High School near West Gate.\(^{10}\) The missionaries wanted to show off the colleges, in size and strength. Rev. Williams M. Zumbre, the Principal of the college, undertook measures for its extension. He brought a gift of one lakh of rupees from the Board of Trustees in the State of New York\(^{11}\) and purchased twenty acres of land at Tallakulam, north of Vaigai river, in 1905. They erected a college hall and a students' hostel. Thus they

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established and extended the size of the college to a fairly satisfactory level with the help of endowment fund and Government subscriptions.

The American college attained a steady rate of growth in the attendance of the students and in quality gradually. The missionaries started this college with four Christian students. In 1883, thirteen students were admitted. Since the removal of the college to the center of the city, most of the students around Madurai and Ramnad were admitted. Majority of the students came from the family of traders and Government officials. Their hardworking, sincerity and satisfactory result in the examination earned the attention of the University Commission in 1912. They inspected and upgraded the college into first grade level with the opening of B.A. The opening of new courses attracted large number of students. The facilities for accommodation also attracted a number of students. The admission of a large number of students led the missionaries to build the James Hall of Science for Physical Science in 1916. Due to the improvement in all branches, the college was affiliated to the University in 1928 with different subjects like Zoology, Botany and Mathematics. The knowledge of Science is a must to the medical courses. It led large number of students to opt for admission in Natural Sciences, Physics and Chemistry. In course of time, they introduced

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12 Kali Kinkar Datta, *op.cit.*, p.20.
14 Kali Kinkar Datta, *op.cit.*, p.20.
different branches of subjects in the curricula. The changes in curriculum widened the employment horizons. It preferred majority of the students to seek higher education in this college. This gradual progress in all branches earned this college great reputation.

**Madura College**

The establishment of Madura College was brought under the management of a Committee of native gentlemen from the control of the government. In 1880, the Government opened a college department with Zillah School. It couldn't work as per the rules and regulations of the Government. Due to the financial restraint and lack of attendance, the government wanted to close the college department. It led the committee to take over the management of both and was named as Madura Native High School Committee. M.S.Narayanaswami Iyer, Secretary of the Committee, took over its management and renamed the college into Madurai Native College in 1889. Since 1889 the committee was known as Madurai Native College Committee. It affiliated the college with the Madras University in 1889. According to the Government instruction it was renamed as

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16 A.D.Campbell, Collector of Bellary, 5 September 1822, Letter to the President and Members of the Board of Revenue, Boards Consultations, Vo1.922, No.35, p.8425.
the Madurai College Board in 1905.\textsuperscript{20} The Board transferred the name of Madurai Native High School into Madura College High School and the Madurai Native College into Madura College. \textsuperscript{21} It collected funds for the expansion and improvement of the college. It spent the grants for buildings, prizes, medals and scholarships. It overcame the difficulties and handicaps through the vision, faith and the encouragement of the successive correspondents, principals and members of the Board, which continued as an influential institution in Madurai. It strove hard to impart sound learning and propagated the true righteousness among its students.

The principals and members of the Board undertook measures to give facilities for the students and for the development of the college. The Brahmins dominated in this college compared to other castes. They secured large number of admission in the schools. Naturally they rushed up to the colleges rather than the other castes.\textsuperscript{22} The Board made facilities for the accommodation of the students. The growing strength of the students led the Board to build a hostel at the Town Hall Road, Madurai, in 1915. The accommodation facilities attracted the students around the college to seek admission. The growing strength and quality of teaching made the college to affiliate with some of the subjects. It developed the

\textsuperscript{20} Baliga, B.S., \textit{op.cit.}, pp.56-57.  
\textsuperscript{22} \textit{Ibid.}, p.6.
college into a second grade college in 1922. The Board organized Grand Raffle for the collection of funds to raise it into a first grade college. The collection of liberal donations and the passing of the University Act of 1923 upgraded it into a first grade college. Due to impossibility of further expansion in the existing buildings, the Board separated Maduar College High School from the college and shifted it to the Madura College hostel building in the Town Hall Road. The hostel was shifted to Victoria hostel building near the Sethupathi High School.\textsuperscript{23}

The Board moved the college to the new campus in 1937. It spent large amount of money for the development of the college in structure and in quality. Due to economic pressure also, the college could not raise further endowments to the University. So the college became second grade one. The Board undertook various measures to make it up as a first grade college. P.N.Ramasubramanyam, Secretary of the Board, in 1945 to enlist the new members to the Board. He influenced personally his clientele and the members of the business community to give donation for the growth of the college. The correspondents, principals and the members of the boards overcame the difficulties and handicaps through vision, faith and courage. Their hardworking and worthful steps for its development raised its status again in a first grade college in 1946.\textsuperscript{24}

\textsuperscript{23} Jeya Kothai Pillai, \textit{op.cit.}, p.32

\textsuperscript{24} Naik, J.P., and Syed Nurullah, \textit{op.clt.}, pp.7-8.
The lectures taught not only the prescribed subjects but also developed the general knowledge to the students and the method of teaching was developed gradually. In 1889, the college was lacked with qualifying teachers to impart the knowledge in various subjects. It consisted of only four teachers holding only ordinary educational certificates. It affected the students and restricted the admission of them. In course of time, the Board strove hard for the development of the quality of the college and appointed qualified teachers. Most of the teachers acquired Bachelors degree. A. Rajarama Iyer, Principal read interesting pages of various books to create and stimulate the interest of the pupils in extra reading. They maintained good relations between them and the students. This cooperation helped for the development of the college and it earned name and fame among the people, not only in Madurai but also in other districts.

The managing bodies of the two colleges undertook steps to extend the knowledge of the students other than the academic subjects. In 1899, the Madura College Board arranged for a competitive examination in essay writing with the permission of Patridge, the Collector of Madurai. It practiced the Ramnad Rani Tamil Scholarship to develop the knowledge of Tamil among the students. They offered first, second and third prizes and also the medals to the successive students

according to the grade.\textsuperscript{27} It developed the students' position and standard not only in the college but also in the society. The American College conducted Peter-Cater examinations yearly to increase the knowledge of the Bible and impart Christian faith among the students. They gave certificates to the students according to their scholarships. Then it had a separate department for religious and ethical studies.

These two premier higher educational institutions provided an atmosphere of scholastic learning and catered the mental needs of the students. All the students came to know the essential values of life. Both the colleges nourished in every respective mind the freedom of original and honest thinking. The students were also allowed to practice their thoughts and experience the ever-increasing capacities of intellectual dissemination. The affiliation to the post graduate courses enhanced the reputation and the stature of the colleges and they ever maintained high standard in education and discipline and also extended the horizon of education to a high level. It stimulated other private agencies to open the professional institutions in the district.

\textbf{Cuddalore College or the Town College}

Prior to the year 1910, two colleges functioned in South Arcot District. They were the earliest, institutions in the district to impart education at the higher level.

\textsuperscript{27} Bhatia Singh, \textit{History of India}, New Delhi, 1975, p.147.
They were (1) the Cuddalore College which was also known as the Town College and (2) St. Joseph's College at Cuddalore.

One of the oldest educational institutions of the Madras Presidency was the Cuddalore College or the Town College. It was situated in the South West corner in Mankakkuppam, school which was opened there in 1853, was subsequently converted into a Zillah School in 1856. This was made possible by the Lord. Macaulay’s Memorable Despatch of 1854. A spacious building was erected in 1868 at cost of Rs.10,000/- public of Cuddalore gave away the site and subscribed half of the expenditure.\(^{28}\)

The school was later modified and upgraded into a college. When the authorities abolished the primary department of the college, the native residents joined together and formed the committee known as "Town School Committee". This committee started a primary school. In the 1884 the middle school department came under the management of this committee.

When St. Joseph's School was converted into a College in 1884, the Government felt that it was unnecessary and uneconomical to have two higher institutions of the same kind in Cuddalore. Consequently, the Collegiate

Department of the Town College was abolished on January 15, 1887 under the order of the government.

After the abolition of Collegiate Department, the High school classes were handed over to the school committee. The Cuddalore Town College was not an aided institution. It was managed by the native committee. This institution again raised to the level of a college in 1888 and it came to be called as a second grade college. The attendance of this college on March 31, 1888 was 14.  

In the same year, this college along with the school attached to it came to be affiliated to the University of Madras. The college continued to function for fourteen years. Again in 1902 the college was discontinued. But the High School continued till 1920. It was managed by the school committee. In 1920 the management of the school was handed over to the municipality and it was called as "The Municipal High School", and it continues to be so till date.

**St. Joseph's College, Cuddalore**

Another chief educational institution and the only college run in the district was the St. Joseph's College at Cuddalore. This college had its origin as a school and it was raised to the status of a college by the Roman Catholic Missionaries. It bears testimony to the involvement of the Roman Catholic Mission in the field of education.

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collegiate education in the district. The land in which the college was constructed, was first purchased by Bonnand, Vicar Apostle of Pondicherry from Colonel Hazle Wood, predecessor of Bonnand.\textsuperscript{30}

Through the untiring efforts of Rev. S. Renevier, the in-charge of the Cuddalore Roman Catholic congregation and the Right Rev. F. Leouenan, D.D. the Archbishop of Pondicherry, a high school was constructed in 1852, and further construction of the building was done in 1868.\textsuperscript{31}

In 1884, the school was converted into a second grade college and affiliated to the Madras University. The college had its own chapel. It also had boarding accommodation for 200 Roman Catholic Christian boys. A hostel for non-Christian students was also built.\textsuperscript{32}

The strength of the St. Joseph's college was steadily increasing. In the year 1886-1887 there were only forty four degree students. During the next year, the strength was raised to fifty- five. Father Tarbes rendered valuable service to this college. On account of its efficient functioning, the college secured the public confidence. The percentage of the successful students also increased. In 1886-1887, the percentage of the successful candidates was only 9.09. It was raised to

\begin{table}
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\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
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Year & Percentage of Successful Students \\
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1886-1887 & 9.09 \\
1887-1888 & 13.33 \\
1888-1889 & 18.51 \\
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\caption{Percentage of Successful Students in St. Joseph's College}
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\textsuperscript{30} Francis, W., \textit{op. cit.}, p.198.
\textsuperscript{31} \textit{Ibid.}
\textsuperscript{32} \textit{Ibid.}
26.3 in the next year.\textsuperscript{33} When the Cuddalore Town College was abolished in 1902, the district was left with St. Joseph's College. But in 1909 this college was reduced to the status of the high school and it continues to be so till date.\textsuperscript{34}

**Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal Tamil College, Mailam.**

Apart from these two colleges, there was also a college which fostered the study of Tamil literature in South Arcot district. It was situated in Mailam near Tindivanam. This college was popularly known as Sri. Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal Tamil College (S.S.B.S.). This College was a private aided institution and in this college, coaching was given for the Degree of Vidwan (Tamil Pandit). This college manifested the zeal of a Hindu Mutt in encouraging the study of Tamil literature at a higher level. However, this college ceased to function after a few years.\textsuperscript{35}

**Annamalai University**

South Arcot District witnessed progress in the field of University education. Annamalai University has been the centre of University education in the district. The University owes its genesis to the philanthropic efforts of Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, the founder of the Annamalai

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\textsuperscript{33} Report on Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency, 1887-1888, Madras, 1888, p. 60.
\textsuperscript{34}Baliga,B.S., Gazetteer of South Arcot District, Madras, 1961, p. 319.
\end{flushleft}
University was born at Kanadukathan, in the district of Ramnad, on September 30, 1881.\textsuperscript{36}

Very early in his life, he came to hold the view that education was the primary need of the country and that with wider dissemination of education, the other ills of the country would gradually disappear. He felt that colleges were in short supply and that there should be more and more of them. He made up his mind to find and endow a college and sought for a suitable locality. There were rival claims, but his own mind, right from the start was tending in the direction of Chidambaram. It was the home of the family deity, Sri Natraja. At Chidambaram, through the ages scholars had striven in the quest of truth. The very air of the place, its holy associations, and its history, which stretched back into the dim past, marked it out as the ideal abode of a temple of learning and Annamalai Chettiar decided to establish a college there.\textsuperscript{37} For a while, the two colleges in Cuddalore were abolished and the South Arcot District remained without a college for considerable period.

In 1915, Sir Annamalai Chettiar's elder brother, Ramaswamy Chettiar, had established a high school at Chidambaram. It grew from small beginnings and soon came to occupy an important place in the life of the town. On his death in 1917, the

\textsuperscript{36} Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Annamalai University, (1929-1979), Annamalainagar, 1979, p.l.

\textsuperscript{37} Ibid., p. 2.
management of the school passed into the hands of Annamalai Chettiar. Annamalai Chettiar upgraded this school into a second grade college and it was formally opened on June 24, 1920 by R.Littlehailes, the then Director of Public Instruction. It was raised to the status of a First grade college in 1922. The college was first named after his mother Minakshi and called as Sri Minakshi College. The first principal of the college was K.A. Nilakanta Sastri, a man of great scholarship, whose later research into South Indian History is well known.

In June 1925, Honours courses were introduced in English language and Literature and in History and Economics. Emphasis, so far, had been on the Humanities, the Sciences taking a back-seat. A science block was built with laboratory and lecture halls and this block was opened in October, 1926.

The Sri Minakshi College prospered and every year registered a notable advance. In 1927, Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar endowed Sanskrit College and a Tamil College at Chidambaram. Mahamahopadhayaya Dandapaniswami Dikshitar, an outstanding Sanskrit Scholar, was appointed, Principal of the former, while Mahamahopadhayay, V.V, Swaminatha Aiyar, whose scholarship was matched by the grace and simplicity of his style, was made the Principal of the latter. Soon an

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39 Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Annamalai University, (1929-1979), op.cit., p.l.
40 Nagarajan, K., The Annamalai University (1929-1979), A Short History, Annamalainagar,1979, p. 27.
Oriented Training College was established to be followed by a college of music.\textsuperscript{41} In a few years Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar selected a new site, two miles to the east of Chidambaram and built separate buildings for the colleges. The site was called as Annamalainagar. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar made an endowment of Rs. 3,50,000/- a separate building was constructed for housing the laboratory, and the Department of Science was opened in 1926. Honours courses were introduced in the Science Department in June 1927.\textsuperscript{42}

With every year, the college progressed. More courses were introduced. Students came in larger numbers and the staff was progressively strengthened. The intermediate classes began with seventy students on the rolls. English was the medium of instruction and students had to do a play of Shakespeare, selections from some of the major poets and prose works of leading writers. Students had to take a second language, Sanskrit or Tamil.\textsuperscript{43}

In order to give more advanced education Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar wanted to convert the colleges as a University. When the University was started it was named after its founder and it was called as ‘Annamalai University’.\textsuperscript{44}

\textsuperscript{41} Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Annamalai University, (1929-1979), \textit{op.cit.}, p.3.
\textsuperscript{42} \textit{Ibid.}, p.21.
\textsuperscript{43} Nagarajan, K., \textit{op. cit.}, p. 27.
\textsuperscript{44} Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Annamalai University, (1929-1979), \textit{op.cit.}, p.3.
For this Annamalai University, the Government and Legislature prepared a bill. The Government agreed to make a contribution of twenty seven lakhs of rupees to the endowment fund and did everything in its power to expedite the passage of the Bill into law, and it was done in double quick time.\textsuperscript{45}

Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar then offered several buildings and sum of rupees twenty lakhs to the Government for starting the University. The university started to function from July 1, 1929.\textsuperscript{46} The university marked the appearance of a new horizon in Annamalai Chettiar's life. When the University started to function, Tamil Honours course was started and intensive instruction was given to a large number of students in Tamil language and Literature, Higher research degrees, namely Doctorate in Philosophy Literature, and Science were introduced and the scope for research student and fellowships were increased.\textsuperscript{47}

Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar devotion to music was symbolized very early in the establishment in 1929 of the Music College attached to the Annamalai University. Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar was the founder of the Tamil \textit{Isai} (Music) Movement in Tamil Nadu, in the 1930s. In appreciation of Sir Annamalai's services, a beautiful building was constructed in the city, named Annamalai

\textsuperscript{45} \textit{Ibid.}
\textsuperscript{47} \textit{Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Annamalai University, (1929-1979), op.cit.}, p.22.
Manram (Hall), a home for music where concerts and conferences are regularly held.\footnote{Nagarajan, K., \textit{op.cit.}, p. 256.}

In the same month the Tamil and Sanskrit Colleges were moved to Annamalainagar. The University had Arts and Science Departments and the coaching was given to the students for B.A., B.A.(Hons), B.Sc., and B.Sc.(Hons). The Department of Oriental studies gave coaching for B.O.L. Pulavar, and Siromani and the Department of Music coached students for B.Mus and Sangeetha Bushana.\footnote{\textit{Report on Public Instructions in the Madras Presidency,1951-1952, op.cit.}, p. 82.}

This University has the distinction of being the first University in India to have a full, four year course in Music, leading \textit{to} the degree of Bachelor of Professional performs on the platform, while in the B.Music course, additional emphasis was laid on the theoretical and historical side of Music.\footnote{\textit{Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Annamalai University, (1929-1979), op.cit.}, p.110.} The Department had many artistes and teachers who possessed the ability to cultivate in the students his/her gift for Musical expression. Eminent musicians continued to serve here and established a name not only for them but also for the University. A large number of their students, thanks to their training in this University, have kept up high traditions of the art; many of them are holding high positions in All India
Radio and in school of music all over India and abroad, spreading sweetness and light through their mastery of music.\textsuperscript{51}

The Tamil \textit{Isai} Movement was inaugurated at Annamalainagar by Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar to rehabilitate the ancient Tamil Music and restore it to its primacy in Tamil Nadu. Keeping this as an ideal, compositions in Tamil have been accorded the pride of place in the curriculum. More than twenty volumes of old and rare gems and Tamil songs and new compositions have been published according to a scale of notation.\textsuperscript{52}

The Department has been making a great contribution to the "Thevaram Pann" research work of the Tamil Isai Sangam, Madras and the "Thirupughal Pann" research work of the Tamil Isai Sangam, Madurai. Swami Vipulananda's researches on Tamil Music during his stay in the campus as Professor of Tamil resulted in the publication of his monumental treatise on Tamil music, \textit{"Yazh Nool"}.\textsuperscript{53}

Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar's interest in Tamil Literature and Tamil Music was, in a sense, a part of his inheritance. His services to the cause of Tamil Music were publicly recognised in various forms. The title \textit{"Tamil Isai Kavalar’} was

\textsuperscript{51} \textit{Ibid.}
conferred on him by the hen Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran at a well-attended public meeting at Madurai on April 29, 1979.\textsuperscript{53}

The Annamalai University has been from its inception a great centre of Tamil learning and research. The Tamil Department's origin can be traced back to the Tamil college started by Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, which college later became an integral part of the Tamil Department.\textsuperscript{54} Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar was deeply interested in Indian Music. It was one of his aims to promote the teaching of music, especially Tamil music, under the auspices of the University. It was on the May 11, 1929 that a college of music was established. The steps were taken to increase the output of Musical compositions in Tamil.\textsuperscript{55}

Department of Philosophy is as old as the University. It started functioning with Dr. Saileswarsen as the Reader-in-charge from July 1, 1929. Then Prof. R.Ramanujachariar headed the department for the next twenty five years. During his term (1932-1957) the department was expanded.

The Department of History and Politics was started in the University, in 1929, and it was headed by eminent scholars like Prof. K.A. Nilakanta Sastri, Prof.

\textsuperscript{53} Nagarajan,K., \textit{op.cit.}, p. 257.
\textsuperscript{54} \textit{Ibid.}, p.48.
\textsuperscript{55} \textit{Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Annamalai University, (1929-1979), op.cit.}, p.22.
P.T. Srinivasa Aiyangar, C.S. Srinivasachari and Prof. R. Sathiyanatha Iyer. The Economics Department has had the unique distinction of being headed by eminent Professors of bright from its inception in 1929.

The Department of Mathematics was founded in 1929. Dr. A. Narasinga Rao was the first Professor and Head of the Department till his retirement in 1946. He was a dynamic research worker and a brilliant teacher and he put the Department in the academic map of India, right from its inception. He was closely connected with the formation of the Indian Mathematical Society and the subsequent development of Mathematics in this country. The Physics Department was started in 1929, when the University was opened. It has grown from strength to strength.

The Honours course in Chemistry was introduced in the year 1929 in Annamalai University. Even in its initial stages the Department of Chemistry has the advantage of having the service of eminent scientists like Dr. S.N. Chakravarthi, Dr. K.A.N. Rao, Dr. S.V. Ananthakrishnan and Dr. K.I. Kurian.

V.S. Srinivasa Sastri was appointed as the first Vice-Chancellor of Annamalai University on April 15, 1929. When he was called away to Kenya, S.S. Ranganathan was appointed to succeed him from May 12, 1929. The

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56 Souvenir on Facets on Indian Heritage and Culture, Annamalai University, 2003, pp.16-22.
57 Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Annamalai University, (1929-1979), op.cit., p.22.
58 Ibid.
60 Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Annamalai University, (1929-1979), op.cit., p.81.
appointment of Registrar and Teachers were made by a committee, consisting of
the Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and M. Rathanswami and Ferrand E. Corley,
the members of the committee were nominated by the Chancellor. The course of
study and syllabuses for several examination of this University were based on the
Madras University.  

Under the Annamalai University Act of 1928, the residence in a hostel or
lodging maintained or recognized by the University, was compulsory to the
students. The resident tutors stayed in Hostel quarters and regulated the attendance
and exercised disciplinary control and supervision over the students. Important
feature of the functioning of the hostel was the close association of the students in
the management affairs of each section.

Sri Minakshi College, Chidambaram which was the Chief College of the
Annamalai University had number of students in Honours classes increased from
680 to 724, of which 256 were in the first year 258 in the second year and 210 in
the final year classes, in the year of 1929-1930. In the same year the number of
Post-Graduate students also increased from 188 to 231.

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61 Report on Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency, 1929-1930, Vol. 1, Madras,
62 Ibid.
63 Ibid.
The Department of Physical Education has functioned right from the inception of the University. Unlike many universities, in the Annamalai University, Physical Education was a compulsory subject for all the students of the University. Weekly lectures on Physiology, Health and Hygiene were delivered during regular hours for the benefit of the students. In addition to compulsory Physical training classes, a variety of optional activity Programmes were organised by the University.⁶⁴

The Department of Botany was first opened in the University in 1931 with the intermediate course, later in 1934 the B.Sc., (pass) course was started. The B.Sc.,(Hons) course was instituted in 1940. Dr. T.S. Raghavan was Professor and Head of the Department from 1931 to 1947, except for about two years. When he was working in London University for his Ph.D. Degree, The Department of Zoology was also started in the year 1931, with the intermediate classes and became a full fledged Department with B.Sc.(pass) and Honours courses in 1946.⁶⁵

In 1931, an Honours course was started in Tamil and was soon followed by provision for research. In the same year, the tutorial system was adopted, tutors being appointed to guide students singly or in batches of three or four. The University had the example of Oxford and Cambridge before it, but the experiment


⁶⁵ Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Annamalai University, (1929-1979), op.cit., pp. 82 - 84.
was only a limited success. It did not make headway. That was because the number of students was fast becoming unwieldy; from hundreds it rose to thousands and that meant more-tutors than the University could provide. It lessened the scope for the personal contact of teachers and taught. Class-room lectures were good up to a point, but with fast growing numbers, teaching came to be like broadcasting.\(^{66}\)

In the year 1932, Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar made a free gift of Rs.25,000/- to be added to the Permanent Fund and also of 168 acres of land. As a result, the University becomes a considerable land proprietor. The area lies to the east of the Railway line at Chidamambaram and is bounded on the other sides by the Uppanar and Khan Shaib Canals.\(^{67}\) It came to own 572 acres in all which included 265 acres, acquired by the Government, under the law as to compulsory purchase and about 10 acres purchased by private negotiation. The Government directed that the University be exempted from liability to pay land revenue in the case of lands used for educational purposes, play grounds offices and so forth.\(^{68}\)

On the December 4,1937, the new convocation Hall was opened and named "The Srinivasa Sastriyar Hall" by Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, Founder-Pro-Chancellor. On that day, the Annual Convocation was held in the Srinivasa Sastriyar Hall.

\(^{66}\) Nagarajan.K., \textit{op.cit.}, p. 55.  
\(^{67}\) \textit{Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettair Commemoration Volume}, Annamalai Nagar, 1941, p.176.  
\(^{68}\) \textit{Ibid.}, p.56.
The growth of the University in the first decade (1929-1939) of its existence had been so rapid that the Building schemes and the provision of amenities could not keep pace with the needs of the expanding University. For all that, the University was forgoing ahead. The standard of teaching and the quality of students were upto the standard and thirteen of other Universities accorded recognition to its degrees as equivalent to theirs.\textsuperscript{69} The number of students rose from 771 to 983 in the three years ending 1940 and by the construction of four new hostel blocks, the accommodation was sufficient for only 651 students.\textsuperscript{70}

In 1941, Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar gave Rs.10,000/- as a First installment for the development of Tamil Music. Again steps were taken to collect and publish all the musical compositions in Tamil, which were available in different parts of the country. In 1944, spacious and extensive buildings were constructed and the necessary equipments for Engineering and Technological courses were acquired. As a result of the intensive work done, the construction was completed quickly and these departments became full fledged in record time.\textsuperscript{71}

\textsuperscript{69}. Nagarajan,K., \textit{op. cit.}, p. 56.
\textsuperscript{70}. \textit{Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettai Commemoration Volume, op.cit.}, p. 176.
\textsuperscript{71}. \textit{Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Annamalai University, (1929-1979), op.cit.}, p.23.
In the year 1942, Dr. Alagappa Chettiar gave a donation of Rs.5 lakhs for Civil, Mechanical and Electrical and the Bachelor of Science (Technology), courses were started in June, 1945.\textsuperscript{72} Though Annamalai Chettiar founded the Annamalai University, it was Muthiah Chettiar who worked all his life to develop it and introduced new disciplines. During the pro-chancellorship of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, the university expanded in many directions.

There are twelve charitable trusts which have functioned under Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar's fostering care in order to help poor students through a college course: Rajah Annamalai Chettiar Memorial Trust, Rajah Annamalai Chettiar Trust, Rajah Muthiah Charitable and Education Trust, Nattukkottai Nagarathar Trust, The Karur Dharmam Trust V.S. Trust, Nagarathar Federation, Rani Meyyamai Charitable Trust, Chettinad Charitable Trust, Willingdon Charitable Trust, The Tamil Nadu Education Trust, and Indian Culture and Research Trust.\textsuperscript{73}

The University has been receiving every kind of support from the State Government from the time of its inception. The all-round expansion of this university, the starting of the faculties of Agriculture, Marine Biology, Linguistic and other courses and the construction of imposing buildings therefore and the increased laboratory and library equipment have been made possible by the

\textsuperscript{72} \textit{Report on Public Instruction in Madras Presidency for 1951-1952, op.cit.,} p. 82.

\textsuperscript{73} \textit{Ibid}
generous grant which the university has been receiving from the state and central governments and from the university grants commission.\footnote{Ibid., p.282.}

Thus Annamalai University has become an important centre where research and training for research are pursued in various departments. It is the care and interest of the people which matters, and the people of Tamil Nadu showing their affection for the university by considering it as a prized possession of theirs.

The South Arcot District experienced outstanding progress in the field of higher Education. Though the Government played an important role in elevating the standard of the higher Education in this district, the yeomen service of the Annamalai University is unparallel. The University has lightened many candles with its wisdom and its service to the South Arcot District is unique and it is irreplaceable and it has to be continued for the young generation who are the pillars of the society and the nation.