Educational Endeavour
CHAPTER V

EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVOUR

Education in those days was a costly cum caste dominated affair. It was strictly denied to the unprivileged sections. In effect, the very society had acquired a tribal colour. The Churches on the other hand adopted education as an auxiliary for the propagation of the gospel and made the same a common man's affair. Among the early Churches L.M.S was the pioneer in the field of education.

Scott Christian High School of the L.M.S

Ringletaube developed Mylody centre with a Church and a School. He had the aim of raising his Mylody school into a Seminary but it did not materialise. However, his successor Charles Mead started a Seminary at Nagercoil in 1819.¹ This school was housed in a mud walled thatched shed near a Tamarind tree and came to be locally known as "Pulimood Seminary".² This institution was variously known as South

¹ L.M.S. Report for the year 1819, p.61.
² John A. Jacob, op.cit., p.38.
Travancore Seminary and Central School\textsuperscript{3} English, Tamil, Malayalam, Arithmetic, Sanskrit and Greek were taught. The scholars wrote in paper and palmyrah leaves.\textsuperscript{4}

**Upgradation of the School**

In 1921 the Seminary was upgraded into a high school.\textsuperscript{5} Before that due to the vicissitudes in the fortunes of the Mission the school was shifted to Neyyoor once in 1828 and then in 1824. In 1838 the school was again brought back to Nagercoil.\textsuperscript{6} Under the Superintendence of Rev. J.O. White House a three winged hall was constructed in the School in 1845 to house the high school classes.\textsuperscript{7} In 1859 Rev. James Duthie succeeded Rev. J.O. White House as the manager of this school. James Duthie continued as the Headmaster and manager of the school from 1859 to 1900. He was assisted ably by the native missionaries C. Yesudian and J. Jousha.\textsuperscript{8} No missionary was associated with the school longer than the Rev. Duthie. It was he who played a vital role in raising the school into a college.\textsuperscript{9} Mr. Lazarus a native teacher became the Headmaster of the School from

\begin{itemize}
\item[3.] L.M.S. Report for the year 1819, p.61.
\item[4.] Ibid., 1824, p.84.
\item[6.] Ibid.
\item[7.] Ibid.
\item[8.] T.D.C. Annual Report of the Nagercoil Station for the year 1870, p.1.
\end{itemize}
1884 to 1889.\textsuperscript{10} He was followed by Mr. Paul Daniel.\textsuperscript{11}

**Mr. Paul Daniel (1901-1927)**

In 1901 Paul Daniel became the headmaster of the school, while Rev. Parker was the manager.\textsuperscript{12} In 1905 Mr. E.D. Pochin of Manchester (Parker's father-in-law) purchased five acres of land situated on the west of the hostel (present school). Then he donated it to the Mission to be used as the recreation ground for both the School and College.\textsuperscript{13} In 1906 the school rolls showed a student strength of 191 in the primary school, 198 in the middle school and 125 in the High School.\textsuperscript{14}

Paul Daniel did many things for the improvement of the school like developing a garden and a museum. He also introduced physical education for the good of athletes.\textsuperscript{15} In 1914, following the announcement of the Government's new scale of pay to the Government School teachers, the

\begin{enumerate}
\item \textsuperscript{11} Paul Daniel: He was a native of Santhapuram and an alumnus of Scott Christian High School. He was the first ever South Travancore Christian to pass with distinction in M.A. degree examination through the H.H. Maharaja College, Trivandrum. With great devotion and distinction he served as Headmaster for thirty five years. He was associated with the church as well as the Government. He was nominated to the Travancore Legislative Assembly for a term and acted as the Chairman of the Nagercoil Municipal Council for one term. Ever since the formation of the church council in 1919, he acted as its Secretary till his death on 22 July 1931. (Tablet fixed on the wall inside the Home Church, Nagercoil)
\item \textsuperscript{12} "Our Managers", Scott Christian High School, loc.cit., p.xxvii.
\item \textsuperscript{13} Inscription on the eastern corner wall of the recreation compound wall.
\item \textsuperscript{14} L.M.S. One hundred and eleventh Report, London, 1906, p.116.
\item \textsuperscript{15} Ibid., p.172.
\end{enumerate}
Mission also revised the pay of its graduate teachers on the basis of 50-5/1-100, 5/2-120. Another important event during Paul Daniel’s period was the centenary celebration of the school on 20 October 1919. It was followed by many new developments like the construction of a new hostel building. Dignitaries like the Diwan of Travancore and the Maharaja hailed the achievements of the institution in promoting virtues like discipline. They also appreciated its strict adherence to the Government rules and norms and its service to the entire Travancore irrespective of caste and religion.

Paul Daniel having headed the school for many years retired from service in 1926 and passed away in 1931. He was followed by Trowell as the headmaster. A few years after the death of Paul Daniel the Mission in memory of his meritorious services constructed the “Paul Daniel Block” in the School. It was declared open on 22 April 1961 by Mr. K. Kamaraj the then Chief Minister of the Madras State. Similarly, his

20. G.W. Trowell was born in March 1903 at Beg city in England. He belonged to the congregational Church and the L.M.S. sent him in 1925 to work in the Scott Christian College Nagercoil. First he was appointed as lecturer in Science in the college and then assumed the headship of the school after the retirement of Paul Daniel. From 1931-1941 he served as manager of the school. In 1941 he was transferred to Martandam Training School. Many years he worked as missionary at Trivandrum. In 1953 he left for England with his wife.
21. Inscription on the wall of the Paul Daniel Block Scott Christian High School, Nagercoil.
missionary colleagues erected a tablet in memory of this Headmaster.\textsuperscript{22}

**G.W. Trowell (1927-1931)**

G.W. Trowell assumed charge as the Headmaster cum Manager in 1927. In 1931 he relinquished the office of headmaster and continued to be its manager till he was transferred to Martandam. In 1935 the Whitley hostel was divided into Senior and Junior hostels.\textsuperscript{23} Following him J.M. Joseph became the Headmaster of the school.

**J.M. Joseph (1931-1944)**

J.M. Joseph became Headmaster of the School in 1931 and served in this capacity for thirteen years.\textsuperscript{24} In 1943 he was appointed manager of the school. He was the first Indian to hold this high office. On his retirement as headmaster in 1944, Mr. D. Joshua was promoted as headmaster of the school.

**D. Joshua (1944-1956)**

D. Joshua was appointed as Headmaster in 1944 and continued upto 1956.\textsuperscript{25} During his period the Scott Christian High School was shifted to the present place.\textsuperscript{26} Whiteley Senior hostel which housed the High School was remodelled in 1949 and six additional classrooms were built to provide

\textsuperscript{22} Tablet set on the wall of the Scott Christian High School office.
\textsuperscript{23} L.M.S., Travancore Mission Council, Reports and Accounts for 1936, pp.11-12.
\textsuperscript{24} Name of Headmasters who worked in the Scott High School affixed on the wall near the Headmasters room of the Scott Christian High School, Nagercoil.
\textsuperscript{25} Ibid.
accommodation for the high school boys. The senior hostel was amalgamated with the Junior hostel. J.E. Kesari served as manager of the school from 1951 to 1955 and J.A. Jacob from 1955 to 1958. Introduction of free noon meal to the poor students and the formation of the Old Boys Association are two of landmark events of the period. D. Joshua retired from service in 1956 to be succeeded by V. Sathianesan.

V. Sathianesan (1956-1962)

V. Sathianesan, a native of Nagercoil, assumed the Headship of the school in 1956. Construction of the Joshua Memorial Hall, introduction of National Cadets Corps and Scouts and the introduction of engineering and secretarial courses in the school were his major achievements.

Scott Christian College

Propagation of the Christian faith could be most effective only through service to the natives. Hence the church authorities adopted teaching and healing missions to enforce the cause of evangelisation. Of the two the first one suited their purpose best. Thus the L.M.S became a pioneer in the cause of higher education in Travancore. The first English School of

27. Inscription on the front roof of the remodelled building Scott Christian High School, Nagercoil.
29. Ibid., p.4.
Ringletaube at Mylody inspired his successors to move along that line.\textsuperscript{32}

**Establishment of the Nagercoil Seminary**

Establishment of the Nagercoil Seminary marked a milestone in the history of English education of this princely State of Travancore. Mead who succeeded Ringletaube got a royal gift of Five Hundred rupees and a building at Nagercoil.\textsuperscript{33} It helped him to shift the mission centre from Mylody to Nagercoil in 1818.\textsuperscript{34} There at Nagercoil in 1819 Mead started a Seminary whose maintenance expenditure was met by the income from the mission fields.

**Object of the Seminary**

The primary object of the Seminary was to impart knowledge religious as well as secular. During the first year, only Christian boys of Nadar caste joined the Seminary.\textsuperscript{35} There were not enough teachers in the seminary in the beginning. Hence Mead invited some teachers like M.L. Allan and G.H. Aston from Europe and Rayappan, Christian Pillai and Siva Subramaniyan from Tranquebar and Tanjore of Madras Presidency to teach in the Seminary.\textsuperscript{36} In 1821 Mead added a new building to the Seminary. He also headed the English department of the Seminary while Mault looked after


\textsuperscript{33} Record No.172(a), Neetu Regarding grant of land and building to the Christian Missionary at Nagercoil, 17 April 1818, Kerala State Archives Trivandrum.

\textsuperscript{34} Joy Gnanadhason, *op.cit.*, p.74.

\textsuperscript{35} L.M.S. Report for the year 1820, p.83.

\textsuperscript{36} Ibid.
the Vernacular department.\textsuperscript{37} Along with the vernacular languages, subjects like Mathematics were also taught in the Seminary with the help of books and aids received from friends abroad especially from England.\textsuperscript{38}

\textbf{Development of the Nagercoil Seminary}

In 1825 Mault assumed charge of the Seminary. It was followed by the arrival of the L.M.S. deputation (Daniel Tyreman and George Bennett from England in 1827). The members of the deputation requested their home Board to send a school master to help strengthen the Seminary.\textsuperscript{39} At their request the Directors sent W.B. Addis in 1828 as School master. He worked for three years.\textsuperscript{40} In 1831 Robert, who worked in the CMS\textsuperscript{41} school at Kottayam was appointed as Headmaster of the Seminary on a salary of Rs.100/- per month.\textsuperscript{42}

Robert was found lacking in Christian character.\textsuperscript{43} So the Home Board soon sent Charles Miller to take charge of the seminary from Robert on 1 July 1834. Under Charles Miller the seminary rose to a high

\begin{enumerate}
\item[37.] Ibid., 1821, p.70.
\item[38.] Ibid., p.73.
\item[40.] Samvel Zechariah, \textit{The L.M.S. in South Travancore Vol.I.} (Tamil), Nagercoil, 1897, p.113.
\item[41.] The Church Missionary Society, shortly called C.M.S was the counterpart of the L.M.S., in North Travancore.
\item[42.] Minutes of the T.D.C., dated 18 February 1831.
\item[43.] Ibid., dated 4 and 5 January 1832.
\end{enumerate}
level of efficiency and won laurels from near and far. When the institution was in the path of progress, Miller died on 9 September 1841. This caused a vacuum in the teaching ministry of the L.M.S. in South Travancore which was filled by James Russel. Under the eminent care of Russel the seminary flourished. There were now six classes. Due to ill health, Russel handed over charge of the seminary to J.P. Pattison who in turn was succeeded by John Owen White House. He led the seminary to the height of its glory.

**Period of White House (1843-1859)**

White House raised the status of the seminary on all fronts. He enforced strict punctuality, discipline and exactness and added five more classes. All the students were assessed with half yearly examinations. Students of the Seminary like Rama Rao, S. Zechariah, Arumainayagam and J. Nathaniel could occupy high offices in the State and the Church. While White House went on furlough in 1859 his health did not permit him to return. Hence John Joll Dennis took charge of the seminary in the same year. Due to his pre-occupations he did not concentrate his attention on the Seminary. At this critical juncture Duthie took charge of the Seminary.

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46. Ibid.
47. Ibid., 1845, p.92.
48. Ibid., 1845, p.92.
49. Ibid., 1859, p.74.
Rev. James Duthie (1859-1900)

Duthie adhered to the principle of maximum work at minimum cost. In 1862 the Mission started an English day school, collecting a small monthly fee for its maintenance. Most of its students were non-Christians. In 1866 a special class called college class was started. Students studied subjects like Philosophy, Algebra and English poetry. The commencement of the college class was followed by the matriculation class in 1868.

Matriculation Class

In 1868 the Mission started a matriculation class with 8 students in the Seminary. When good progress was being made Duthie went to England on furlough entrusting the Seminary to the care of George Parkar. The matriculation class began to suffer for want of teachers. However, for the first time, the Seminary students appeared for the matriculation or Entrance Examination of the Madras University in 1876.

Duthie’s eldest son J.A. Duthie worked in the Seminary for a short period without any remuneration. His earnest efforts enabled all the

52. Ibid., 1868, p.1.
53. Ibid., p.3.
54. Ibid., 1872, p.1.
eight students who appeared for the examination to get through in 1882.\textsuperscript{57} At this stage of development J.A. Duthie left the Seminary in 1883 to become the Headmaster of the Kottar Government High School.\textsuperscript{58} The Nagercoil Seminary as a Higher education institution attracted dignitaries like the Kings and Dewans of Travancore and received from them a ransom for prizes for the Seminarists.\textsuperscript{59} As the Seminary grew in stature the need to upgrade it began to be felt.

**Second grade College**

The Mission wanted to upgrade the Seminary into a college in order to get a large number of qualified pastors and school masters. But the Board of Directors did not favour the proposal as it entailed heavy expenditure. Also, it was aware of the difficulty of collecting fees from the poor native population. The few who had the ability and the means went for higher education to the Maharajah's College, Trivandrum.\textsuperscript{60} The Seminarists were disappointed at the denial of college education to them. The South Travancore people wanted to upgrade the Seminary into a second grade college.\textsuperscript{61}

In the meanwhile an LMS deputation (consisting of Warlow Thomson and Albert Spicer) that visited India in 1882 recommended the

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{57} Paul Daniel, \textit{loc.cit.}, p.53.
\item \textsuperscript{58} L.M.S., Report for the year 1883, p.2.
\item \textsuperscript{59} T.D.C., Report of the Nagercoil Mission Seminary for the year 1861, p.8.
\item \textsuperscript{60} Ibid., 1883, p.3.
\item \textsuperscript{61} 94\textsuperscript{th} Report of the L.M.S. London, 1888, p.131.
\end{itemize}
upgradation of the Seminary to the level of a second grade college. It was backed by Duthie’s request to the Board of Directors in 1889 and his efforts to get the Syndicate approval of Madras University to start a college class. Finally in 1892 a college affiliated to the Madras University was started with effect from 1 January 1893.

The college was inaugurated in February 1983 with thirteen male students of whom seven were Christians and six Hindus. The setting up of the college gave great joy to the people of South Travancore. The college under Dennison grew to an exalted position. Duthie and Dennison formed the crux of the faculty along with the native teachers. Of the nine students permitted for the First Arts Examination, five passed. In 1894 when the college dormitory building was destroyed by fire, the Maharaja contributed Rs.500/- towards its reconstruction. However, its further development needed more buildings.

63. Ibid., 1889, p.8.
64. L.M.S., Report for the Year 1893, p.144.
68. T.D.C., Report of the Nagercoil Seminary for the year 1894, p.5.
69. L.M.S., Report for the year 1894, p.117.
College Building

The college did not have sufficient buildings. So the college classes had to be conducted some times in the Akin Head Hall specially meant for Theological studies.\(^\text{70}\) To overcome this difficulty when Duthie collected money for the construction of college buildings from different Philanthropists, Septimus Scott\(^\text{71}\) stood first in the list of donors. Septimus Scott gave the donation of £200 for the construction of the new college building.\(^\text{72}\) On 16 October 1896 Duthie laid the corner stone of the proposed building and the construction of the first part of the college building was completed in 1897.\(^\text{73}\) As more financial assistance came from Septimus Scott the Mission decided to name the college as Scott Christian College. The building was completed in 1899 at a cost of Rs.7946-8-1 and was inaugurated on 31 August 1899.\(^\text{74}\) The institution was so dear to Septimus Scott, that he provided a sum of £100 in his will towards its development.\(^\text{75}\) So, naming the college after Septimus Scott is a first and proper gesture.

The College under Parker (1901-1927)

The period of Principal Parker was a golden age in the history

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70. 94\textsuperscript{th} Report of L.M.S. London, 1888, p.131.
71. Septimus Scott was a member of the Board of Directors of the L.M.S. as well as the Chairman of the Eastern Committee. He was also a life long friend of Rev.Duthie.
73. L.M.S., Report for the year 1897, p.109.
75. Ibid., 1906, p.1.
of the college. He updated the library with nearly 4000 volumes of books.\textsuperscript{76} He offered education in the college from Infant class to the F.A Examination course. The student strength increased.\textsuperscript{77} In 1907 out of 28 students who appeared for the F.A Examination 22 students got through with first class.\textsuperscript{78} Besides being engaged in studies the students were trained in social activities like handling classes in the night schools and maintaining a library at Kottar.\textsuperscript{79} To promote co-operation among the students, they started football game in the college in 1907.\textsuperscript{80}

The upgradation of the college as per the new regulation of the Madras University required additional accommodation and equipment. Towards the same Parker sought State help. Accordingly the Travancore Government sanctioned Rs.5000 as a special grant to the college.\textsuperscript{81} This amount was used for the construction of building and to purchase equipment.

Parker had his first furlough on 15 April 1909 and Sydney Cave took over from him.\textsuperscript{82} Parker's return on 17 February 1911 was followed by the visit of the Second University Commission. As per its recommendation the staff strength of the college was increased from 17 to 34

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{76} L.M.S., Report for the year 1911, p.112.
\item \textsuperscript{77} Parker, Principal of Scott Christian College, Nagercoil dated 27-1-1907, Letter to Dewan, Travancore.
\item \textsuperscript{78} T.D.C., Report of the College for the year 1907, p.5.
\item \textsuperscript{79} L.M.S., Report for the year 1909, p.7.
\item \textsuperscript{80} T.D.C., Report of the College for the year 1907, p.21.
\item \textsuperscript{81} Bundle No.8 File No.246/1907 Education English Records Kerala State Archives, Trivandrum.
\item \textsuperscript{82} L.M.S., Report for the year 1909, p.9.
\end{itemize}
of whom 12 were graduates. Parker also purchased a fine ground of more than six acres in 1910 near the recreation ground to build a hostel. He did so at a cost of £1000, gifted by an LMS friend Alfred Whitley, and accommodated 150 Boarders.

In 1925 the Travancore Government sanctioned Rs.1162 being half the amount spent on educational appliances for the college. Before his retirement Parker purchased 30 acres of land in 1926 on the Santhapuram road to shift the college to a spacious campus as required by the University. In the same year a separation was effected between the school and the college in the same campus to satisfy the university. In 1926 new courses in Botany and Zoology were introduced. After twenty seven years of fruitful service the Parker family left the Mission. Parker was succeeded by G.H. Marsden as the last missionary Principal.

Marsden the Last Missionary Principal

George Henry Marsden, M.A.(Cantab) assumed charge as Principal in February 1927. He showed keen interest in women’s education

83. Ibid., 1911, p.112.
84. L.M.S., Report for the year 1910, p.112.
85. Bundle No.132 File No.78/1925 Education, English Record Kerala State Archives, Trivandrum.
89. L.M.S., Report for the year 1927, p.59.
and admitted girl students in June 1927 for the first time in the history of the Scott Christian College. In the academic year 1934-1935 the college received Rs.1500 from the Travancore Government as equipment grant. When the Travancore University was inaugurated in 1937 the Scott Christian College hitherto affiliated to Madras University came to be affiliated to Travancore University. In the same year the college received the usual annual maintenance grant of Rs.1000 from the Travancore Government. Following the attainment of Indian Independence in 1947 the progress of the college entered a new phase.

**Period of Progress**

In 1947 the Travancore Mission Council gave its consent to upgrade the college into a degree college. Accordingly, on 2nd August 1948 the Principal sent an application to the Travancore University seeking permission to start degree courses. The University sent a Commission to study the matter. The Committee inspected the site on 5th March 1949 and sanctioned upgradation.

90. L.M.S., Ten years of Church and Mission in Travancore 1921-1930, p.25.
95. Church of South India College Council, South Travancore Diocesan Council Reports of Boards for the year 1947-1948, p.12.
96. Ibid., for the year 1948-1949, p.16.
First Grade College

Under the Principalship of Marsden the college started functioning as a first grade college from July 1950 onwards. At first B.Sc. Mathematics and B.A. History courses were started. Following that, in July 1953, Economics major course was introduced at the Undergraduate level. Marsden the last Missionary Principal died on 25 May 1957. After his death B. Arumai Raj, the first Indian Principal, took over. At present this college is affiliated to Manonmanian Sundarnar University and accredited with the four star status of the NAAC. Today Scott Christian College is the biggest college in the Kanyakumari District with U.G; P.G; M.Phil and Ph.D programmes. It has 2295 students on its rolls. Thus the seminary started by Mead in 1818 to educate natives irrespective of caste and religion became the nucleus of the present Scott Christian College, Nagercoil. The contribution of Scott Christian College for the cause of higher education has been widely recognized. It is no exaggeration to say that the emergence of Nagercoil as a beacon of literacy is largely due to this college. At the same time the sacrifice of the early L.M.S. missionaries is of no less importance in the onward march of this temple of learning.

Duthie High School

Nagercoil Boarding School for Girls

Mead wanted to develop the Nagercoil Mission centre with certain establishments like schools, a printing press, churches and orphanages. To start these he purchased eight pieces of land adjacent to his house.\textsuperscript{101} His marriage to Johanna Celestina Horst\textsuperscript{102} on 13 July 1819 itself was of great advantage for the further development of the Mission.

Female literacy at Nagercoil was the contribution of Mrs. Johanna. The missionaries believed that one educated girl could in turn make a whole family educated.\textsuperscript{103} In 1819 Mrs. Mead assisted by Mrs. Mault organised a Boarding school at Nagercoil with fourteen Christian girls as inmates.\textsuperscript{104} It was the first school for girls in South Travancore. The children were taught Scripture, Geography and simple Mathematics.\textsuperscript{105} At first parents were reluctant to send their daughters to the Boarding School. A regular time table was followed in the school which helped the children to develop good manners, character, and clean habits.\textsuperscript{106} It inspired the

\textsuperscript{101} C.M. Augur, \textit{op.cit.}, p.679.
\textsuperscript{102} Johanna Celestina Horst was the third daughter of Christopher Henry Horst. He was the maternal uncle of Mead as well as the missionary at Tanjore.
\textsuperscript{105} Evangelical Magazine, Missionary Chronicle, Vol.VIII, New Series, December 1830 (UTC Archives, Bangalore).
reluctant parents to send their children to the Boarding School. The Boarding School had also the credit of being an asylum for the slave girls. Their education created in them an awareness about their degraded position in the society. This awareness contributed much towards the abolition of slavery in the year 1855.

**Promotion as a High School**

In the beginning the native authorities helped the missionaries by donating lands. In 1827, Mrs. Mault became the Superintendent of the Boarding School. She strained every nerve to increase the intake of girls especially poor ones in the school. In 1840 there were 94 girls in the school and most of them were destitu tes. In 1867 the European friends stopped the financial assistance to the school. As a solution to this problem Mrs. Newport introduced a system of collecting fees of one Fanam per month from each one seeking admission in the Boarding School. However, out of 35 boarders only twenty five could pay fees and the rest had to be

107. Ibid., p.70.
113. Fanam is an Anglicized form of Panam and one panam was the 1/7 portion of a Travancore rupee.
supported by the Mission.\textsuperscript{115} An important society called Band of Hope Society was also formed to educate the girls.\textsuperscript{116} Another association called Daughter of the Court helped put an end to superstitious habits like making big holes in the ear lobes.\textsuperscript{117}

**Government Recognition**

In 1894 the Travancore Government introduced a new Grant-in-aid Code. It insisted on the approval of inspecting officers for the appointment of teachers. The aided institutions were strictly directed to follow prescribed books.\textsuperscript{118} Due to the rigidity of the new grant-in-aid code many schools lost the grants. But the Nagercoil Boarding School could avail of it on the ground that it was the first girls school in Travancore.\textsuperscript{119} The code insisted on the appointment of Trained Teachers. Allen got two trained teachers from the Sarah Tucker School at Palayamkottai.\textsuperscript{120} The school was upgraded as a high school on 5\textsuperscript{th} September 1899. The earnest efforts of the Mission authorities enabled the institution to grow at different levels.

**Period of Growth**

In 1896 the Nagercoil Boarding School came under the

\textsuperscript{115} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{116} Annual Report of the L.M.S. London, 1885, p.89.
\textsuperscript{117} S.S. Hector, \textit{op.cit.}, p.83.
\textsuperscript{118} R.N. Yesudhas, \textit{op.cit.}, p.146.
\textsuperscript{119} Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S. London, 1897, p.133.
\textsuperscript{120} T.D.C., Report of the Nagercoil Mission District for the year 1894, p.19.
Nagercoil District Educational Council. The increase in the student strength of the Boarding School necessitated the acquisition of more land and buildings. The Nagercoil missionary Allen purchased 3 acres and 1 cent of land on 29.01.1898 for Rs.2500 from a Latin Catholic man named Kovilpillai. On 6.10.1902 he purchased another 2 acres and 23 cents land for Rs.4595 from Francis Peter Fernandez, Vanchiyur, Trivandrum. The education code introduced in 1907 recognised female education. The matriculation system of education was given up. The School Leaving Certificate scheme was introduced. Changes were brought in the Nagercoil Boarding School. Along with the appointment of a lady Principal a preparatory class was also started.

**First Lady Principal for the Boarding School**

On 16 January 1911 Miss. Harries took charge as the First Lady Principal of the School. She added seventh class to the elementary school. The English School continued with classes up to IV form. The appointment of a lady Principal made the native Christians eager to send their girl children to higher classes. As a result V form was started on

121. Ibid., 1896, p.4.
123. Ibid., 1902, pp.1-8.
125. Miss Gladys Mary Harries was born on May 7, 1885 at Stock Port, Clapton, London. She had her collegiate education in the university college at London. She worked chiefly in the girls high school.
19 May 1919 with 13 girls. In the next year the VI form was started.\textsuperscript{127} Thus the school became a high school. It required more buildings. Hence a sub-committee was formed for the construction of a new building.

**New Building**

The sub committee prepared a blue print for the new building. When the classroom construction was going on, the first centenary celebration of the school was celebrated on 22 October 1919.\textsuperscript{128} On request the Travancore Government sanctioned Rs.6750 for the construction of the new building of the school.\textsuperscript{129} The work was completed and declared open by Hodgson, the Director of Public Instruction on July 13, 1923.\textsuperscript{130} In 1924 Miss. Olive Morton\textsuperscript{131} became the Principal of the school. She obtained state sanction for the construction of the new building for the English School.

**Establishment of the Duthie English High School**

The new English School building was dedicated on 11 March 1927 by Stephen, the Director of Public Instruction.\textsuperscript{132} On that occasion a

\textsuperscript{127} Ibid., 1920, p.32.
\textsuperscript{128} Nagercoil Girls Boarding School English Department Log Book V, October 21-22, 1919, p.45.
\textsuperscript{129} File No.R.Dis 385/1922 Education, English Record, Kerala State Archives, Trivandrum.
\textsuperscript{130} Nagercoil Girls Boarding School English Department, Log Book V, 13 July 1923, p.65.
\textsuperscript{131} Miss Olive Morton was born at Shieffield in England on 2 January 1890. In 1924 she was appointed as principal and manageress of the Duthie School. She also acted in charge of the women’s work in Nagercoil. Due to family problems she resigned and left to England in 1950. Later she returned to Travancore and worked in the mission industries at Parasalai.
\textsuperscript{132} L.M.S., Annual Report of the Travancore Mission Council, Nagercoil, 1927, p.34.
new name ‘Duthie English High School” - was given to the school in commemmoration of the hard work of Miss. Duthie for its expansion. The name is found inscribed on the projecting window over the porch.133

**Innovations under Miss. Morton**

Under Miss. Morton the Duthie School made remarkable progress. Two acres and 99 cents of adjacent land was bought from Achuthan Thampi for Rs.10000 to make room for further growth.134

**Co-curricular and Extra curricular activities**

Various games like Badminton, Tennikoit, Volley Ball and Gardening were started. In 1932 the House system was introduced. Each class was divided into 4 houses namely Ramabai, Mault, Nightingale and Elizabeth house.135 This system enabled the maintenance of discipline among the students in the class and campus.

As per the 1933 Report of the Education reforms Committee of the Travancore Government, the L.M.S. formed a Board of Education in October 1934. Mr. Trowell was appointed as missionary Secretary.136 In the midst of these developments, Miss Morton gave the proposal of the upgradation of the school into a higher grade school.137 In 1946 the

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133. Ibid.
136. Ibid., 1934, p.21
Travancore Primary Education Act came into force in Thovalai and Agasteeswaram Taluks. Under this Act Grant-in-aid enjoyed by the private primary schools was withdrawn. The Government took up the responsibility of starting primary schools wherever necessary. However, in the case of Duthie School, the primary school was needed for the Training School. So the Government allowed it to continue with Grand-in-Aid.

But the Mission Council in 1946 felt that the Duthie Training School was not serving the purpose for which it was started. So they closed down the Training School. As a result, the Duthie Primary School and all the other Mission primary schools were handed over to the Government in 1947.

Miss. A.H. Daniel

Miss. A.H. Daniel was the first Indian Headmistress of the Duthie School, when Miss. Morton went back to England in 1936 on furlough Miss. A.H. Daniel was appointed as acting Headmistress. In 1938 she was confirmed as the Headmistress of the School. She framed the motto "Look up and Aim high". In 1939 the Director of Public Instruction visited the school and was impressed with the work of the school. Miss. Daniel retired as headmistress in March 1959. Then she continued as

139. L.M.S., Minutes of the Travancore Mission Council, Nagercoil, September 1946, pp.28-29.
140. Ibid., August 1947, p.67.
141. L.M.S., The ten years of Church and Mission in Travancore (1931-1940) Nagercoil, p.70.
manageress of the school till 1963. During her period the school was modernised.

**Development of the School**

The first batch of students of this school appeared for SSLC Examination in March 1959. They came first in the District in 1959, 1961 and 1962. In 1962 for the second time the school received the shield from the then education minister M. Baktavatsalam. The English medium sections started in 1962 appeared for the SSLC Examination in March 1968. The non-recognised English Primary School started in 1963 was named as Miss. Morton English Primary School. In 1978 the school was upgraded into a Higher Secondary School and began to be called Duthie Higher Secondary School for girls.

**Home Church Tamil Primary School**

The Home Church Tamil Primary School was started in 1819. It had its beginning in Dr. Henry’s house at Newport Street in the name of Puliyamoodu Palli. It was renamed as ‘Oor Pallikudam’ in 1878.

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149. Ibid., p.3.
This school under the Supervisory care of Parker did a lot for the literacy development of the Nagercoil region.\textsuperscript{150} In 1925 it came to be known as Scott Christian Primary School.\textsuperscript{151} In 1930 the school faced many hurdles and it was even decided to close it down.\textsuperscript{152} Many members of the Home Church objected to the functioning of the school near the Cemetery. But the then Home Church Secretary P. Deva Sahayam fought against the move and got the state order to continue the school.\textsuperscript{153}

In 1936 the Mission authorities tried to amalgamate the school with the L.M.S. Girls School, Nagercoil. But the Home Church congregation did not accept this move and upheld the view that the school was a separate primary school run by the Home Church.\textsuperscript{154} Subsequently the school with one hundred and eleven pupils was shifted on 20.05.1936 to the present premises to be housed in the Allen Memorial Hall, East of the Home Church. The London Mission Council accepted the stand of the Church and appointed Rev. Meadperdhas Nallathampi Charles as the manager of the school.\textsuperscript{155}

In 1943 the name of the school was changed to Home Church

\textsuperscript{150} One hundred and eleventh Report of L.M.S., 1906, p.115.
\textsuperscript{153} Letter of Secretary for Government, Travancore, Trivandrum dated 8-2-1932 to Secretary, Home Church, Nagercoil.
\textsuperscript{154} Minutes of the General Body Meeting, Home Church Nagercoil dated 17-5-1936.
\textsuperscript{155} Minutes of the London Mission Council Nagercoil dated 16-1-1937.
Primary School. As per the New Education Policy of the Government all the Mission primary schools were surrendered to the Government. But the Home Church retained the school with the usual aid. The swelling school rolls called for the construction of an additional building on the eastern side of the Allen Memorial Hall. It was dedicated in 1957 by Kamaraj the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. Paramanandam, the first Headmaster of the school, was succeeded by Mr. Masilamony, Mrs. Santhammal, Mrs. Nesammal, Mrs. Maragatham Jeya, Mrs. Vira Justin and Elislet Gnana Raj. Today the school is one hundred and seventy years old. Attached to the biggest Protestant Church of South Travancore, it reflects the growth of the congregation and the transformation of the society. As the days passed by the teaching ministry of the L.M.S became an eye-opener to the other Churches, especially the Salvation Army.

**Educational Activities of the Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army undertook educational work along with the healing mission and rehabilitation work. The educational programme of the Army could make considerable impact on the culture of the people. The Army took upon itself the eradication of illiteracy from among its adherents. It saw the failure of the schools established in South Travancore to do justice to the untouchables. The low castes were not treated fairly. To remove all

158. F.N. Prince, loc.cit., p.36.
these evils and to give proper education to the out castes, the Army started Boarding Schools and day schools in different parts of the region.

The south Eastern Territory of the Army undertook the task of giving education to the downtrodden. The origin of the Army’s Education programme in this territory is associated with the name of captain Gnanadesikar. In 1893 the Army sent him to the village of Attakulam for evangelical work. One day, after his usual visit, he collected the children from the street and made them sit together in the Varanda of his own house. Then he taught them scripture and trained them to write letters on the sand. This was done regularly.

One day as Gnanadesigar was teaching the street boys in his Varanda school. The district officer Major William Stevens made a surprise visit to his corps. He was astonished to see the teaching ministry of Gnanadesigar. He realised that it was the proper way to teach the poor out castes to read and write. Stevens was pleased with the work of Gnanadesigar. He requested all the other officers of the villages to emulate the model of Gnanadesigar. This marked the beginning of the teaching ministry of the Salvation Army in the Travancore Territory.

Within a short period about a hundred village schools were

159. Gnanadesikar belonged to Kadi Cherry village. This village is later renamed as Kadigrammam. He was the first convert in the village. Before becoming an officer of the Army he worked as a teacher in Palayamkottai.

160. Y. Peter, op.cit., pp.87-88.

started in south Travancore. The development of the school necessitated inspection. So Gnanadesigar was made the Inspector of those schools. The Gnanadesigar type of schools gradually came to prominence through out the Territory. In 1898 the Army started its first boarding school at Vadasery. Ninety pupils attended the school. Of them fifty were boys and forty girls. Captain Yudha Veeran was entrusted with the responsibility of supervising the schools.\textsuperscript{162} In 1900 the Vadasery school was shifted to Nagercoil. Mrs. Commissioner Muthiah was authorised to supervise the Nagercoil school. Another Boarding School was started in 1904 at Madavapuram in Madras. Excess children from Nagercoil Boarding School were sent to the Madavapuram Boarding School.\textsuperscript{163} In 1906 when one more Boarding School was started at Nagercoil, the Boys from the Madavapuram Boarding school were transferred back to Nagercoil Boarding School.

**Salvation Army High School, Vetturnimadam**

In 1914 Territorial Commander Clara Case Murani started an English medium school for the progress of the untouchables of Travancore.\textsuperscript{164} That English medium school was later converted into a Tamil medium school. It functioned as a middle school until 1967. Under the command of Joseph Daya this school was upgraded into a High School in

\textsuperscript{162.} The Salvation Army Year Book, 1959, p.47.

\textsuperscript{163.} Interview with S. Sathianesan, Divisional Commander, Rtd., Salvation Army, Dated 10-3-2002.

\textsuperscript{164.} Government Calendar for the year 1915, Trivandrum, p.121.
1967. Salvation Army's patronage of education had an impact on the cultural life of the poor untouchables. The efforts of the Army to run the day schools and boarding schools met with success in imparting education to the uncared for and repressed people in the remote villages. Having seen the L.M.S. and the Salvation Army adopting education as an auxiliary for the propagation of the gospel the Catholics also began to traverse the same path.

**Catholic Schools**

**St. Francis high school**

The Catholic Church established itself at Nagercoil and evolved in course of time as the Kottar Diocese. But the Kottar Diocese was rather late in providing secondary education facilities to its adherents and the public. At the time of its formation, the diocese, had seventy five primary schools, six middle schools and one high school. The St. Francis Primary School was founded on 15 October 1907 by Bishop Benziger for teaching Tamil. Subsequently it became a Tamil Middle School with fifth, sixth and seventh classes. The school aimed at having Catholic teachers trained to work in the Diocesan Schools

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169. Ibid.
for most of the Catholic Primary Schools were staffed by non-Catholics.\textsuperscript{170} Boarding facility was required for the further development of the school. Hence, in the beginning boarding facilities were provided to the needy.\textsuperscript{171} In 1936 through the efforts of Bishop Lawrence Pereira the school was upgraded into a Tamil high school with 8\textsuperscript{th} and 9\textsuperscript{th} standards.\textsuperscript{172} During the time of his successor Fr. Victor Rodriguez this school was closed down in 1947 to give place to a new type of middle school.\textsuperscript{173} The school once again raised to a High School in 1978.

St. Joseph's Convent High School for Girls

St. Joseph's Convent High School for girls was the only English High School possessed by the Kottar diocese.\textsuperscript{174} The missionary Canonesses of St. Augustine\textsuperscript{175} now known as ICM sisters started this school in 1906 as a primary school.\textsuperscript{176} In 1920 it was upgraded into an English medium middle school and in 1944 into a high school.\textsuperscript{177} Now this school is

\textsuperscript{170} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{171} E. Francis, \textit{op.cit.}, p.55.
\textsuperscript{172} Villavarayan. J.M., \textit{op.cit.}, p.57.
\textsuperscript{173} E. Francis, \textit{op.cit.}, p.56.
\textsuperscript{174} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{175} Sr. Marie Louise Meester, a member of the Canonesses of St. Augustine of Bruges, Belgium founded the first house of the missionary sisters of the Immaculate Mary (ICM) then known as Canonesses of St. Augustine, in Mulagumoodu in the year 1897. The sisters of this congregation work in six centres, Mulagumoodu, Kanyakumari, Kulasekaram, Nagercoil, Palliyadi and Thirumalai (Directory, Diocese of Kottar, 1983, pp.26-27).
\textsuperscript{176} V. Lawrence, \textit{op.cit.}, p.172.
one of the flourishing Higher Secondary Schools for girls in Nagercoil city. The elite of the Nagercoil population seek admission for their girl children only in this school.

Carmel School, Nagercoil

Carmel High School for Boys at Ramanputhoor officially called Carmel High School, Kottar is one of the best schools not only in the Nagercoil region but also throughout Tamil Nadu. To satisfy the needs of a bilingual people, the then Quilon Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Aloysius Maria Benziger started the Carmel English middle school with a preparatory class and Forms I and II in a tiled roofed building of 300 ft length.\(^{178}\) Under the management of Rev. Fr. Bernard Gonsalvaz and the headship of Rev. Fr. Antony Pereira, the school grew into full-fledged middle school. Rev. Fr. Antony Pereira worked from 1922 to 1925.\(^{179}\)

In 1930 Lawrence Pereira became the first Bishop of the newly formed Kottar Diocese. As soon as he assumed the headship of the diocese he wanted to upgrade the Carmel School into a high school. Accordingly it was upgraded into a high school in 1932 with the name “Carmel English High School”.\(^{180}\) The school got permanent recognition in 1934.\(^{181}\) The Carmel High School has a very spacious campus of 17 acres and 65 cents

\(^{178}\) This building is now converted into an administrative block. It consisted of Headmaster’s room, staff room and office.

\(^{179}\) Name Board showing the name of Headmasters who worked in the Carmel High School, Nagercoil.

\(^{180}\) J.M. Villavarayan, op.cit., p.58.

\(^{181}\) No.19521/2/177 office of the Director of Public Instruction Trivandrum, dated 4-12-1934.
comprised in two pattas.\textsuperscript{182} In that site the management started a massive building work in 1922. It was completed in 1934. This grand building was dedicated on 5\textsuperscript{th} October 1935 by H.E. Lawrence Pereira, the first Bishop of Kottar.\textsuperscript{183} The school also has the credit of having served as the Bishop’s house till a new Bishop palace was built at Ramavarmapuram in 1937.\textsuperscript{184} In the meantime Bishop Pereira was not satisfied with the development of the school. So he sought the assistance of the Brothers of Charity.\textsuperscript{185}

\textbf{Brothers of Charity (1936-1947)}

Bishop Lawrence requested the help of Englishmen to run his Carmel School. His request was duly honoured. Accordingly, the Superior General of the Brothers of Charity sent six Brothers of Charity from their house in Liverpool, England, to the Kottar Diocese in 1935 to promote the Education of the Catholic Boys and other youth of the place. It gave great joy to Bishop Lawrence Pereira. In 1936 the Brothers of Charity of England took over the management of the school.\textsuperscript{186}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{182} Patta Nos.J4/26 and J4/15.1.
\item \textsuperscript{183} Inscription on the wall of the massive administrative block, Carmel High School, Nagercoil.
\item \textsuperscript{184} Bishop House: At the time of the formation of the Kottar Diocese there was no special house for the Bishop. Hence the Carmel School was used as the Bishop’s House.
\item \textsuperscript{185} Brothers of Charity: The congregation of the Brothers of Charity was founded at Gheut, Belgium in 1807. They conduct asylums for human affection and houses of education for catholic boys and youths. The congregation is working in Belgium, Holland, England, Canada, America and in some of the mission countries.
\item \textsuperscript{186} School Calender (1987-1988) Carmel Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil, p.5.
\end{itemize}
Boarding House

The Brothers of Charity, during their stay in the Diocese, helped the school in many ways. Br. Dunston, the superior, took charge of the Carmel School Boarding on 9th May 1936. The first Bishop Lawrence Pereira died on 5 January 1938. In the next year Pope Pious XI nominated H.E. Rt. Rev. Agniswamy as second Bishop of Kottar. This was followed by a period of crisis and the outbreak of the Second World War. In the aftermath of the Second World War the Brothers found it difficult to continue their service in India. They returned to England in 1947 leaving the management of the school and the unfinished Carmel Church to the Diocesan Clergy.

Salesian Period (First Phase 1947-1950)

After the departure of the Brothers of Charity the Bishop of Kottar invited the Salesian Fathers of Don Bosco, Madras, to take over management of the school. Responding to the request of the Bishop they took over the management of the school from April 1947 and continued in it till April 1950. Their period was very short. But they worked for the development of the school. Then the school administration was taken up by the Bishop house. The school was upgraded into a higher secondary school.

188. Ibid., pp.57-58.
189. Ibid.
in 1978. Its management since 1994 has been in the hands of the Jesuits. Following the examples of the three unmindful of their late entry the Lutherans also took up the cause of education of the Nagercoil region.

**Lutheran Schools**

**Lutheran Lower Primary School, Vadasery**

Ninety years ago Nathaniel, the founder of the Independent Church at Vadasery started a small school. The school functioned in the Independent Church from 12.04.1083 M.E. Nathaniel worked as a teacher cum catechist. Only in 1912 did a trained man named Mr. Martanda Pillai join the school as teacher. He was a Hindu by faith and like him most of the teachers were Hindus. At first in the Vadasery school I to IV standards were started. For higher studies above 4th standard the pupils went to a vernacular middle school started in 1915 at Concordia, Nagercoil.

The Vadasery school developed gradually and the fifth standard started in the school got permanent recognition in the year 1946.

This school accommodated all the pupils of various communities who came

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191. Director of School Education Madras, C.No.113610-WZ/78 dated 7-6-1978.
193. Martanda Pillai: He belonged to Vadasery. He was the first trained teacher worked in the school.
194. Work Register, Lutheran Lower Primary School, Vadasery, 27-11-1907.
196. R.O.C. No.2603/VI-33 dated 15-8-1946, The Divisional Inspector, Trivandrum to Deputy Director of Primary Schools.
from different parts of Nagercoil. Students from the Naidu community, Pillaiyar community, Konar community and others gained entry to the school. Later this school was shifted from the church premises to the adjacent area of 13 cents purchased for the purpose. The land had been purchased in 1943 at a cost of Rs.423. In this school salary was given to the teachers according to their educational qualifications and experience. As a consequence of that at certain times the Headmasters draw less salary than the other teachers.

As a Lower Primary School the Vadasery School received grant-in-aid from 1.8.1961 ie, from the date of application. The church and the school gave the low caste people a respectable identity amongst the L.M.S. Christians and the Salvationists. Following this development the missionaries of the church could establish some more centres in the Nagercoil area. One such is the Nagercoil Lower Primary School.

**Lutheran Lower Primary School, Nagercoil**

The MELIM along with the church started Oorpallikudams or

197. Admission Register Book No.III Lutheran Lower Primary School, Vadasery, S.No.1007, Jeganathan Naidu, dated 25-11-1110 M.E.
198. Ibid., S.No.1030, Sudalaimuthu Pillai, dated 7-10-1111 M.E.
199. Ibid., S.No.1159, Ramalekshmi, dated 17-10-1113 M.E.
201. 78th N.D.C. Minutes October 25-29, 1943, p.2.
village schools for the benefit of its members. In the village schools they initially started the first and the second standards without government recognition.204 These schools helped the uncared for to read and write in the vernacular. Besides this, the village schools created a sense of awakening in them against the inequality and economic exploitation they had in the society.205 The Nagercoil Lutheran Lower Primary School was started on 15 June 1915 in an old building near the Girls Boarding Home.206 The school had classes from one to four standards. The Fifth standard was started in the year 1946 for which the Government recognition was received in the same year.207 The school received grant-in-aid with the effect from 1.8.1961.208

**Nagercoil Concordia High School**

The missionaries saw that most of the people in Nanchil Nadu lived in abject poverty and the resultant illiteracy. Rev. Henry Hamann decided to give education to the poor outcastes of villages. Hence he started village schools which were to be later handed over to the village teachers. He believed that village teachers could maintain better contact with the

204. 59th N.D.C. Minutes April 6, 1932, p.34.
206. Edward Krafft, Manager Lutheran Schools, dated 1-8-1961 Letter to Divisional Inspector of Schools, Madurai.
207. R.O.C.No.2603/VI-33 dated 15-8-1946, The Director of Public Instruction, Trivandrum to the Deputy Director of Primary Schools.
people than the local Catechists. The Government too did not object to such schools. In due course the Government imposed certain regulations regarding the qualification of the teachers. As per the rules of the government the teacher who served in the village school had to have a seventh pass certificate. To train teachers Central Boarding School was started in Nagercoil in 1909 with Mr. Vengadachalam as the first Boarding School teacher. This school was recognised by the Government and prepared pupils for ESLC Examination.

Concerned about the development of women the missionaries established a girl’s Boarding School in Nagercoil in 1915 with 15 girls. Students who came from Tirunelveli stayed in this Boarding Home. A small amount was collected from the Boarders as fees in instalments every August, December and February. The short fall was made good by the American Lutheran Church. Strict discipline was enforced through the Boarding master. The Travancore District Committee often helped the Home with its

210. Ibid., p.2.
211. Rev. E.H. Meinzen, Fifty Years (1907-1957) A brief record of the beginning of the work of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in the Nagercoil District Conference, Nagercoil, 1957, p.44.
212. Ibid.
214. 85th N.D.C. Minutes, July 16-18, 1945, p.23.
emergency fund.215 The Travancore Government brought changes in its educational policy.216 Hence Lutherans also changed their education policy. They were forced to start English medium schools instead of vernacular schools. The Nagercoil School was started on 8 July 1930 with a II Form class.217 In May 1935 the vernacular middle school with 5th and 6th classes were abolished. Instead of this a preparatory class was started.218 Similarly classes 5 and 6 functioning in the girls vernacular middle were abolished. The girls were enrolled in the English School functioning in the boys’ compound. From 1935 the school was made co-educational.219

In May 1936 the 7th class of the boys school and the girls school was abolished. In due course the girls primary school and boys primary school classes were amalgamated to function in the boys school compound. In 1936 the Travancore Government formulated new educational reforms. Hence form IV was opened in the boys school compound. Thus the school functioned as a full fledged English middle school since May 1936.220

The strength of the preparatory class increased enough for two divisions. In the Nagercoil English School religious instruction was given daily for all pupils from 8.00 A.M. to 9.14 A.M. This was inconformity with the departmental rule that all religious instruction must be given before

217. 80th N.D.C. Minutes June 27-29, 1944, p.17.
218. Ibid.
219. Ibid.
220. Ibid.
regular school hours.\textsuperscript{221} The Government also formulated the policy that no pupil shall be compelled to attend religious instruction classes in a faith which is not his own. People of one denomination should not be permitted to attend the religious instruction of another denomination except at the written request of their parents or guardian.

The Divisional Inspector of Schools, Trivandrum, instructed these schools to have joint meeting of the staff of English School with the adjacent high school staff. As per this departmental direction the staff of the Lutheran English School had to join meetings with the staff of the Scott Christian High School, Nagercoil.\textsuperscript{222} Only those with a Government recognised training course certificate became eligible for appointment.\textsuperscript{223} In May 1942 a Mission Training School was opened in Nagercoil.\textsuperscript{224} The Nagercoil District Conference and the Travancore District Conference opted for the three year high school course. Instructions were given in both the vernaculars.\textsuperscript{225} The first batch of the joint Nagercoil District Council and Trivandrum District Council Secondary Training School started with 8 boys.\textsuperscript{226}

On 14 July, 1945 the Mission received recognition for the

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{221} Ibid., p.26.
\item \textsuperscript{222} 73rd N.D.C. Minutes July 6-11, 1942, p.13.
\item \textsuperscript{223} Rev. Henry Hamann's Report, General Conference, Nagercoil, January 19, 1922, p.9.
\item \textsuperscript{224} Luther W. Meinzen, \textit{op. cit.}, Appendix, p.243.
\item \textsuperscript{225} Swavely, \textit{op. cit.}, p.198.
\item \textsuperscript{226} 73rd N.D.C. Minutes July 6-11, 1942, p.7.
\end{itemize}
Training School from the Travancore Government. A model school was attached to the Training School. The school functioned up to 1951. The Travancore District expressed its desire to start a separate training school to cater to the needs of the whole of Travancore State. Hence the existing training school was closed in 1952.

On completion of the primary education those pupils who wanted to do higher education could go to the middle school which was generally attached to the high schools. In Nagercoil the Lutherans had an incomplete high school for education. The Lutheran pupils on completion of their middle school education had to seek admission in schools like Scott Christian High School, Nagercoil, Salvation Army English Middle School, Krishnankovil, S.M.R.V. Vadasery, St. Joseph's High School, Nagercoil, Duthie High School, Nagercoil, Carmel High School and S.L.B. Nagercoil. But some parents wanted their wards to continue only in the Lutheran schools. Thus there was a real need for a complete Lutheran High School in Nagercoil. The Lutherans already had one in Vadakkankulam and another in Trivandrum. Pupils from its Nagercoil School used to be transferred to either Vadakkankulam or Trivandrum. But most of the pupils who had

227. File: D.Dis No.1157/45 dated 14-8-1945, Education Director of Public Instruction, Madurai.
228. 91 N.D.C., Minutes October 2-4, 1946, p.1.
230. 80th N.D.C., Minutes June 27-29, 1944, p.19.
231. Ibid., p.23.
passed Form IV exam from the Nagercoil Lutheran School were not prepared to go to Vadakkankulam or Trivandrum, but preferred to continue their education in various other schools in Nagercoil. In the meantime the local Lutheran community in Nagercoil discussed the question of starting a complete high school in Nagercoil.

Following this in 1953 Form V and VI were added to the existing school to make it a full-fledged high school. In the middle school the mother tongue, English and Hindi were taught, along with Bible lessons, Stories, craft and citizenship training were also part of the curriculum. The High School vocational courses were started. Electric Engineering for boys and sewing for girls were taught. Along with this handloom weaving and drawing were introduced. By the end of 1958 the government grant-in-aid was made available to the Nagercoil Lutheran School. Since then the Nagercoil Lutheran High School has been called Concordia High School.

Ganesapuram Lutheran Lower Primary School

Nursery schools sprang up in all the places, where Lutheran churches existed. These schools were considered as village schools. The village school children were taught catechism. They were encouraged to memorise verses, hymns or lyrics. They were also taught Bible stories,

232. Ibid., p.25.
235. Ibid., 1946, p.6.
prayers and simple activities connected with the Bible. In the initial period reading and writing in English and Tamil were taught to the children. The missionaries created high morals among the people. The village schools were also a means to read out to the Hindus and the Muslims. A primary school was started at Ganesapuram on 8 October 1917.\textsuperscript{237} In 1920 standard one and two were started in the school.\textsuperscript{238}

In due course classes third and fourth were added. The government did not give any assistance to run the schools, and so the entire burden of running the schools fell upon the missionaries.\textsuperscript{239} The Ganesapuram Lower Primary School was housed in the Church premises. Classes were held in a thatched shed.\textsuperscript{240} The Mission paid very poor salary to the teachers. To run the school, funds were collected from the local church. To reduce expenses, further, the catechists were appointed as teachers. As the school was attached to the local church the management of the school was entrusted to the local church. The school received permanent recognition on 15.08.1946.\textsuperscript{241} After 1952 the management was given to the local pastor.

\textsuperscript{237} Edward Krafft, Manager Lutheran Schools, Nagercoil, dated 20-5-1960, Application for grant-in-aid to the Inspector of Primary and Middle Schools, Nagercoil.

\textsuperscript{238} Fifty Years Report Bethel Lutheran Church, (1917-1967) Ganesapuram, Nagercoil, 1967, p.3.

\textsuperscript{239} R.O.C. No.2603/V133 dated 15-8-1946 from the Director of Public Instruction, Trivandrum to the Deputy Director of Primary Schools.

\textsuperscript{240} Ganesapuram Lower Primary School Report 1937-1938, p.1.

\textsuperscript{241} R.O.C. No.2603/V133 dated 15-8-1946 from the Director of Public Instruction, Trivandrum to the Deputy Director of Primary Schools.
The school had classes from standard I to IV up to the academic year 1956-1957. In 1958 permission was granted to start V standard.\textsuperscript{242} Accordingly V standard was started on 26.05.1958.\textsuperscript{243} The strength increased considerably and even the non-Christians of the area rushed to the school. The Ganesapuram school served as a feeder school to Nagercoil English School. All the communities voluntarily sent their children to this school for education. The school received Government grant from the date of application on 1.8.1961.\textsuperscript{244}

The Teaching ministry of the Churches in the State in general and in the Nagercoil Centre in particular helped to bring forth many social changes. This piece of work backed by local co-operation and State Patronage could see the eradication of many evils which stood in the way of the social renaissance of the country.

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{242} R.O.C. No.695/B2157 dated 6-7-1957, Divisional Inspector, Madurai to District Educational Officer, Nagercoil.
\item \textsuperscript{243} Edward Krafft, Manager Lutheran Schools dated 2.6.1958, Letter to District Educational Officer, Nagercoil.
\item \textsuperscript{244} Proceedings of the District Educational Officer, Nagercoil, R.O.C. No.623E/61 dated 21.04.1962 to Inspector of Primary and Middle Schools Bhoothapandy, Nagercoil and Thuckalay.
\end{itemize}