Chapter IV

EDUCATIONAL

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Education is modern sense means the systematic instruction in a language or languages, trades, arts etc. which subsequently results in the Development of characters and mental powers is called Education. The importance of education was realized by the people from time immemorial. An exposition of the value of learning is emphasized by Thiruvalluvar in his Kural. Parents attach importance to the education of their children.

Early Education:-

The traditional "pial" schools called "Pallis" were conducted invariably by individual teachers. The "pial" was the "Thinnai" or the platform like Verandha of the house. In certain cases, perhaps, sheds or covered shetters were set up near the teacher's house. We hear some of the pupils having lived in public rest houses like Manram seem to have served also as schools. However, information regarding the number of schools in each village or the

number of pupils who attended each school is lacking\textsuperscript{2} in Thengamputhur Panchayat.

In the \textit{pial} schools, a basic grounding language and literature as well as art was provided. Oral teaching played an important part, and the education of those days afforded great scope for the training of the memory. Writing was done on dried and seasonal palmyrah leaves with the aid of printed iron styles. The mode of writing continued to be vogue in this village's in Thengamputhur Town Panchayat until very long times.

What prevailed in the early centuries continued with improvements suiting to the Time. The only educational institution then existed in the district were the \textit{pial} schools. The \textit{pial} schools existed even in the first decade of the 20\textsuperscript{th} century and they faded away, as there had been gradual improvement of the systematic and uniform procedure followed in the field of education.\textsuperscript{3}

The Christian Missionaries were the pioneers of English Education in the South-Travancore the area presently forms the Kanyakumari District. The Portuguese and the Dutch, who came here even prior to the British, were the Roman Catholics and they

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{2} \textit{Ibid}, p.397
\item \textsuperscript{3} V. Nagam Aiya, The \textit{Travancore State Manual}, Vol.II, Trivandrum,1906, p.446
\end{itemize}
did title towards the cause education. But, the protestant Missionaries who arrived later were the first to introduce English education in the District, in which of Thengamputhur Town Panchayat was located.\textsuperscript{4}

The originator of the English school in the district was Rev. William Tobias Ringle Taube, a native of Prussia and a man of great force and character.\textsuperscript{5} He came to the District in 1806 and then onwards, he devoted his whole energy to evangelistic work and where he went, he carried with him the mission of English education. He was incessantly preaching and teaching and he established many schools for poor children, Christians as well as Non-Christians.

The second but most important missionary to be mentioned in connection with the promotion of education in the district is Rev. Mead. He was the master workman who developed the infant schools left by Ringle Taube.\textsuperscript{6} The earliest girls schools in the country were established between 1819 and 1823 and were mostly diligently developed and extended from time to time. Mrs. Mead, Baily and Mrs. Baker are the honoured names associated with these

\begin{itemize}
\item [4.] \textit{Ibid}
\item [5.] \textit{Ibid}
\item [6.] C.M.Augur, \textit{The church History of Travancore}, Madras, 1902, p.647
\end{itemize}
pioneer education enterprises among the women of Kanyakumari District.

In between the years 1899 and 1901, there were no remarkable changes either in the growth or in the policy decision of the Government in the field of education. But a notable change took place in the year 1902, when a revised curriculum of studies was introduced in all the schools of the district. The classifications of the schools, that was in existence till then was done away with and a new pattern was introduced.

Accordingly, the schools were classed as High, Middle, Upper primary and Lower Primary. In the last two sets of schools, i.e, upper primary and Lower primary, Vernacular language was introduced as the chief medium of instructions while English was taught as second language, commencing with class III. High schools and Middle schools were further classed as English and vernacular High schools and middle schools.

In Thengamputhur, Educational development is very nice and it is growing day by day. Thengamputhur Town Panchayat villages

7. M. Gopalakrishnan, op.cit, p. 864
9. M. Gopalakrishnan, op.cit, p.865
are highly qualified and here seven primary government schools, one high school, one higher secondary school and here one college and two private Matriculation schools.

**School Education:**

The attention of the government turned towards improving the Vernacular education only in the year 1865 – 66. There were indeed many private vernacular schools in the state before that time. These indigenous schools afforded abundant facilities to the people to acquire the rudiments of knowledge. Any person who desired that his children should learn the proverbial three rupees had no need to go beyond his Village. The *Asan* or village teacher held his position as such by virtue of heredity the profession having been followed by his ancestors for several generations. The people, most of whom had their education under the “*Asan*” held him in great reverence and considered his teaching the best they could secure for their children.¹⁰

But the education imparted in these schools was based on a system which did not attempt the development of knowledge to the extent required, and was found quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the age. The Government therefore, deemed it

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¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 853
necessary to sanction in 1866, a sum of Rs.20,000/- per annum to meet the expenses for this purpose.\textsuperscript{11}

The Vernacular Middle schools were also run by the three agencies, Viz., Government, private aided management, and private management which were not availing of the aid. The aided (Private) agencies carried out more schools than the other two agencies. The details by 1895 – 96 are as follows.\textsuperscript{12} The Vernacular aided schools in Thengamputhur Town Panchayat is in the Agastheeswaram Taluks, they were Kulathuvilai and Kovilvilai.

Kulalhuvilai Government Primary School name was government primary school, under the \textit{saragam} Rajakamangalam. In this school, there are totally fifty nine students, and two teachers only, and Head master only one. The name of the teachers were S.B. Nazeera Banu and G. Kalathanaga bai.\textsuperscript{13}

For Kulathuvilai people’s improvement, this school was established by the British Government. Then this school was under the south Indian Diocease. According to the “compulsory Education

\textsuperscript{11}\textit{Ibid}, p. 853
\textsuperscript{12} \textit{Ibid}, p.862
\textsuperscript{13} \textit{Attendance Register of Kulathuvilai Government Primary School, 2007-2008}, p.3
Scheme" this school was brought under cochin – Travancore Government in 3.6.1946. Then, Kanyakumari District was joined with Tamil Nadu Government in 1.11.1956 and Kulathuvilai Government Primary School came under the custody of Tamil Nadu Government. Here I to V classes were teaching by the women teacher's. For primary schools government gives some rules and regulation, Kulathuvilai school is also under the control of systematic education of Government. Training is given to the teachers and regular parent meetings are being conducted. This school is run by the money and gifts given by the people in and around Kulathuvilai.

According to the scheme of Sarva Sixsa Abiya (S.S.A) a new building was built for the school. Then from this scheme teaching, learning, materials were given up to I to VIII std, and Rs.500 was additionally given to the teachers by the Government. I, II, and III std are learned by Active Based Learning (ABL) Kovilvilai Government Primary School is situated in Kovilvilai, and the students from the surrounding villages come here for learning under the Active Based

Learning method only. These schools come under Thuckalai Educational District and in the Rajakkamangalam Range.\textsuperscript{16}

Thengamputhur Government Primary School came into being in 2001 under the Head Master Mr. Ebenezer, M.A., M.E.D. Classes I to V were separated from Thengamputhur High School and thereby formed this school. This school is under the custody of Department of Primary education.\textsuperscript{17}

Total students of this school is 376 and Total teachers are 6 and name of the Head mistress in M.S. Rathamani Amma. The Thengamputhur Government Primary School gives education to all the poor students in and around of Thengamputhur villages like SasthanKovilvilai, Pudukudieruppu, Therku Anchikudieruppu, Vadakku Anchikudieruppu. From this schools students are getting afternoon food and uniform dresses. All these dresses and food are given to students free of cost. For improving the student's knowledge, they allow the students to participate in the competition conducted by the Vivekananda Kendra, and by the Annai Thereasa group. 359 students getting mid – day meals. For the sake of

\textsuperscript{16} M. Gopalakrishanan, \textit{op.cit}, P.920
\textsuperscript{17} Annual Report of Thengamputhur Government primary School, March 15\textsuperscript{th} 2002.
students health, a physical education, is imparted and they getting practice from Nagercoil stadium.\textsuperscript{18}

S.S.A. means sarva sixsa Abiyam, is a Sanskrit word and it is 10 years scheme introduced by the government. The duration of the year is (2001 –2010) From this scheme, for the development of school there is a groups of educational system was functioning by the order of Government.

1. In between the year 2001 – 2010 all students want to get school education.

2. Want to abolish the sexual difference between male and female children’s

3. Want to abolish the communal difference between the children’s who were students.

4. In the year 2010, want to abolish the child labour.\textsuperscript{19}

Kadetti Government Primary School is established in the year 1983. This school giving education to palkulam and Kadetti area people. Total students of this school are twelve, and only one

\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{18} Information Board of Thengamputhur Government primary School, March 28\textsuperscript{th} 2007 \\
\textsuperscript{19} Annual Report of Thengamputhur Government Primary School, March 15\textsuperscript{th} 2004. \\
\textsuperscript{20} Personal Interview with Brincer Mary Headmistress of Kadetti Government Primary School, March 19\textsuperscript{th} 2007
\end{flushright}
Teacher. Present Head Mistress name is Brincer Mary. This school not having basic facilities and this school under the GMS of Erumbukadu. All the students are scheduled caste only, and the teaching method was based on ABC Method – Active Based Learning only.20

Government Primary School Manikettipottal is separated from the Manikettipottal Higher Secondary School in the year 2001. The Present Head Mistress of this school is R. Prasana Kumari, and the total teachers are 5 including the head mistress, and total students are 101.21 The number of school in the Rajakamangalam Range Primary School is 22. Among the 22 schools, this school also one of them. This school joined in the counselling centre is Rajakamangalm. Books and uniforms are given to the students by the Assistant Education office. Here I to III std all the students are trained by Active Based Learning.

This Primary School and near by Higher Secondary School have the same centre for mid-day meal. The students from Vairavilai, Pillayarpuram, Muhilanvilai, Manikettipottal are getting education from this school. Those who are learned from this school

21. Personal Interview with Prasana Kumari, Head Mistress of Manikettipottal, Government Primary School, April 1st 2007
are Engineers, Doctors, Lawyer, Teachers, Lecturer's etc. Like the same pattern of Active based Learning is taught in Pulluvilai Government Primary School and Kilakattuvilai Government Primary School. All the students from those villages are getting good education.

In the Thuckalay Educational District,

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In Thengamputhur Town Panchayat there are 32 villages, for all these villages there is only one High school in Thengamputhur under Thuckalay Educational District. From Kulathuvilai, Therku and Vadaku Anchikudieruppu, Sasthankovilvili, Pudujudieruppu all the students are getting their High School Education in

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22. Information Brochure of Manikattipottal Government Primary School, April 1st, 2007  
23. M. Gopalakrishnan, op.cit, p. 939
Thengamputhur High School. Apart from that they go to Puthalam L.M.P.C. Higher Secondary School. Those who did their education in this school are highly well settled and they give respect to their School.

Next, the Thengamputhur High School present Head Mistress is Thiraviya Nadachi MA, MED. In 18.7.1980 this school is promoted as high school. Before 1980, this school was Government Middle School. The school under the educational district of Thuckalay, and the Saragam is Rajakkamangalam. Total teachers are and total students are 420, and those who are eating mid-day meals are 250, and mid day meal system was introduced in 1982, during the period of M.G.R. The number of teachers working in the school are four graduate teachers, three first grade Tamil Teachers middle grade teacher and two special teachers. A.Selvaraj is Assistant Headmaster, S.Serminal, Assistant teacher, S.Thangamani, Assistant teacher, S. Markandan, R.Indradevi are also Assistant teachers in Thengamputhur High School. Radha Krishnan,

S. Christo Bella Bai, V. Anbammal, S. Sam Muthu Nayakam, V. Don Jeramiya, S. Jeyasakthi, V. K. Mathi, M. Murugasen, R. Sudha Bai, S. Meena, and Jane Benedick Jegam are all teachers. Total female student are 200 and total male students are 220.

Last year a student, S. Sathya Devi, who secured 454 out of 500 marks in the X std, and this school has above 90% of pass every year in S.S.L.C. Teachers, parents and students are giving their co-operation for success of the school. For week students, extra class are conducted and for encouragement. They are giving prices in the form of money, to those who are getting good marks and first marks.

Mid-day meal centre, physical Education centre, N.S.S. camp center, Red Cross Society, Environmental studies, Art and Craft studies, are functioning in the school. All these societies and centers are functioning well, and for each departments viz., Literature, science, social, Maths, music all are under the custody of able teachers.

27. Ibid
For the benefit of the students scientific exhibition are arranged and they are participating in these exhibitions for improving the knowledge, of students. The students are allowed to participate in the competitions conducted by Vivekanda Kendra, and students are early participating sports events also. Thengamputhur High School is functioning well and all the students are getting the education in a good form, and they are attaining the high position.

Higher Secondary education has been introduced in school, after abolishing the pre-university courses in the colleges. Since, Higher Secondary Schools have come up, the administration of all schools under one roof vis-à-vis by a single Director was found difficult. So, as to avoid this hardship a New Directorate exclusively for the administration of elementary schools was formed in the year 1986. Subsequently the posts of Joint Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Directors of Elementary Education were also created. This Department is functioning separately only in the Head Quarters

29. Ibid
level. But, in the district level the district officers of the Directorate of school Education are in charge of elementary education also.\(^{30}\)

A notable feature in the Thengamputhur Town Panchayat is that there is only one Higher Secondary School in Manikettipottal. This school is started in 1979 as a permanent government school. The Headmistress of the school is S. Leo Elgin Rose, M.Sc.,M.Ed. Total number of teacher, of this school is 22.\(^{31}\) In the academic year 2007 – 2008 the total number of male students are 247 and total number of female students are 234 classes from VI\(^{th}\) to XII\(^{th}\) standards are functioning in this school.

The school was first patronised by Siva Neela Perumal Nadar. He gave 2 acres and 55 cent land for the improvement of the school. This School was situated in the natural scenic area by all facilities. Before 115 years this school was started by Thiru. Neelakandan. Then in the year 1932 it was functioning as a Tamil Middle School, soon after that it was named as a English Middle School, under the control of Private Management.

\(^{30}\) M. Gopalakrishnan, *op.cit*, p. 877
\(^{31}\) Attendance Register of Teachers 2007-2008, Manikettipottal Higher Secondary School, p. 3
In 1954, it was recognised as a High School, and in 1979 which was named as a Higher Secondary School.\textsuperscript{32} In this School, the vocational courses are offered Commerce and Business, Accountancy and Auditing.\textsuperscript{33} All these schools having their mid-day meal center and is supplying the free food to the students. The centres are functioning in Thengamputhur, Keezhakattuvilai, Kovilvilai, Pulluvilai, Kulathuvilai, Kadetti, and Manikettipottal.

\textbf{Collegiate Education}:-:

The Collegiate education comprises of the studies for graduate and post-graduate degrees in subjects viz., science, arts, commerce, and education. In the general, academic education, colleges are the apex institutions to teach higher studies though the universities, to which the colleges are affiliated, confer degrees.\textsuperscript{34}

Kanyakumari even though a small district in Tamil Nadu, has 15 colleges of which fourteen colleges educating arts and science subjects while the remaining college imparts training to graduate teachers. Two colleges are self-financing colleges, while other except one are private aided colleges, while other except one are

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item M. Gopalakrishnan, \textit{op. cit.} p.p. 912, 913
\item \textit{Ibid}, p. 975
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
private aided colleges. During 1956 – 66 there are eight colleges in the District, including one graduate teachers training at Atoor, established in the year 1963. Besides these 13 colleges, there are two self-financing colleges and they are Muslim Arts and science college at Thiruvithankode, and Sivanthi Aditanar College at Nagercoil, both established in the year 1984, the youngest college in the District. For Thengamputhur Town Panchayat have its proud by having the Sivathi Aditanar College.\textsuperscript{35}

For each college the administration head is the principal who is assisted by a Vice-Principal. Each Department of studies is headed by a head of the Department and to assist him there are assistant professors, lecturers, and demonstrators. For running the office administration of the college, Bursar is the head minstrel officer and he is assisted by managers, assistants, junior assistants, typists, and office assistants. In each college, there is also a physical director to direct and coach the students in Physical Education. The academic staff of the colleges, i.e. Principal, professors and assistant professors and other are governed by the Service condition of the University Grant Commission of India. The academic control, such as granting affiliations to the courses in the

\textsuperscript{35} Ibid, p. 977
colleges, increasing the strength in a course, conducting examinations, publishing results, are with the universities, to which the colleges are affiliated.36

The Sivathi Aditanar College is born in July 12, 1984 as the first institution of Thenkumari Educational Society, Nagercoil. This Institution is dedicated to the Goddess Devi Kumari who stands at the peninsular tip of the Mother Land and showers blessing upon all. This college stands as a tribute in recognition of the services rendered by Thiru.B. Sivanthi Aditanar, a top brass of our time in journalism, education, industry, politics and the world of sports and games.37 The main aim of Sivanthi Aditanar College is to impart education to the rural people of the locality. It must be acknowledged with great indebtedness that the philanthropic mind of the people around Pillayarparum, Udayapankudieruppu, Muhilanvilai, and Maniketipottal who spontaneously came forward to donate their valuable lands to build the college. This sylvian land is located 6 k.m. South to Nagercoil,Via, from Beach Road Junction. The college is run by the Management of Thenkumari Educational

36. Ibid
37. Pillayarparum, Athikattuvilai, Nagara Sirappu Malar, March 29th 2004, p.1
Society. The college imparting education in U.G. Degree such as Economics, History, Commerce, Zoology, Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science, as well as the P.G. Degree in M.Sc-Micro Biology, M.Sc-Mathematics, M.Sc-Physics, M.Com, and M.C.A. with internet facilities,\textsuperscript{38} and M.A. English. A library having about 5847 books is in the college. The Department of Science holds good laboratories as prescribed by the norms of the University. Besides the departmental level students associations, there are two units of National Service Scheme functioning in the college.\textsuperscript{39} Here in the year 2004 students from Maths, Zoology, and History Departments secured the University Ranks.\textsuperscript{40}

Thus, this Sivanthi Aditanar College giving college education to the village students and it severs as a good educational institutions. Now the present Principal – in-charge of the College is K. Annakunjaran, M.A. M.Phil, B.Ed., D.G.T., D-Ling.

\textsuperscript{38} Sivanthi Aditanar College, Hand Book 2001-2002, p. 6
\textsuperscript{39} Sivanthi Aditanar College, Pillayarpuram, Annual Report, 2004-2005, p.21
\textsuperscript{40} Daily Thanthi, Students Special, p. 1, April 4\textsuperscript{th}, 2005
Anganvadi Child Care Schools:

This School is situated in Pudukudieruppu, Muhilanvilai, Thirunagar, Keela Udayappankudieruppu, Thengamputhur. In Keezhaudayappankudieruppu, total strength is forty seven and the salary of the teacher Rs.1500 and helper receives a amount of 1150 as his salary. Weekly two times eggs are given to children, and pregnant ladies. For pregnant ladies special flour was given. For students, uniform was given by the village people.

Muhilanvilai Anganvadi Centre is established in 1980, (26.7.1980) Total strength of childrens are eighteen. Teacher of this centre is C. Thanga Pushpam. The working time is 7.30 to 4.00. The helper name is J. Paul Thangam. Total number of 36 months Babies are 45, and they are getting mixture of rice, egg, potato, cereals, and nuts. The basic aim of Anganvadi Centre is to improve the health condition of the poor child. For pregnant ladies and feeding mothers are given special care.

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41. Personal Interview with Head of Anganvadi Centre Baby, July 25th 2007.  
42. Stone Inscription of Muhilanvilai Anganvadi Centre, July 26th, 1980  
43. Personal Interview with Teacher Thangapuspham-Muhilanvilai Anganvadi Centre, July 25th 2007
Next Thengamputhur Anganvadi Centre, the total strength of this center is 30.\textsuperscript{44} and the Children are getting healthy foods like, egg, mixed rice, nuts, cereals, boiled potato. The Anganvadi centers are getting their scholarship from UNICEF and from the World Bank. In Pudukudieruppu, there is also one Anganvadi Centre. This center was established in 2003, total strength of this center is 30, Teacher of the school is Janet Angelin, and helper is Revathi.\textsuperscript{45} The usual pattern on education followed in the other Anganvadi schools are followed here in this centers too.

Education is much developed in the Town Panchayat of Thengamputhur through various educational institutions. The panchayat is based with a number of Anganvadi centre schools of various levels upto college. They provide education to the masses according to the changing condition of the educational transformation. Infact they will function for the needs of different sections of people of Thengamputhur.

\textsuperscript{44} Attendance Register for 2007 – 2008, Thengamputhur Anganvadi Centre July 30\textsuperscript{th} 2007.
\textsuperscript{45} Attendance Register of Puthukudieruppu Anganvadi Centre June 6\textsuperscript{th} 2003.