CHAPTER V

SINCE INDEPENDENCE 1947-1957.

After Independence the college experienced substantial and brisk expansion of studies, buildings and other facilities. Mr. Narayana Gowd continued as the Principal of the college upto 1948. The strength of the college raised from 321 to 626. The students from other places like Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Chittoor and Guntur got admitted in the college. Among the students there were 21 Scheduled Caste students, 44 Muslims and 27 women students. In the year 1947 Government sanctioned 8 Government Scholarships, 1 Harijan Sevak Sangh Scholarship, 2 Government of India special scheduled caste scholarships and 12 endowed scholarships.

The college showed equal interest in the extra-curricular activities. The college Football and Hockey teams contested in the Inter-collegiate tournaments conducted at Salem in the year 1947 and though they were not successful in the finals, fared creditably in the earlier stages.¹

¹ Government Arts College Magazine, Anantapur, 1947 March, p.23
The Director of Public Instruction submitted a proposal to increase the strength of the B.Sc. Chemistry (Main) class in the Government Arts College, Anantapur from 30 to 48 with effect from the year 1948-49. The proposal was intended to meet the great demand for seats in B.Sc., Chemistry (Main) class. The Government also approved the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction and increased the admissions in the B.Sc. (Chemistry) (Main) class from the academic year 1948-49. Government also sanctioned further staff and further expenditure of Rs.5,000/- recurring and Rs.14,000/- non-recurring. The Government approved the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction and sanctioned the affiliation of the Government Arts College, Anantapur in Telugu under Part I of the B.Sc. with effect from the academic year 1948-49.2

The strength of the college on March 1948 was 722 as against 626 in 1947. Among them there were 34 scheduled castes, 29 Muslims and 40 women students. On account of increase in the strength of the Government Arts College, Anantapur, it was found necessary to provide additional hostel accommodation for the students.

The Government agreed for a proposal of the Director of Public Instruction to open an additional hostel in the year 1948 to be located in a rented building near the college. The Government also sanctioned an expenditure not exceeding Rs.3500/- for the purchase of furniture and an amount of Rs.1500/- for the purchase of utensils required for the additional hostel of the Government Arts College, Anantapur. Mr. Narayana Gowd, Principal of the College, retired and gave place to Dr. I.S. Peter on 12.7.1948.

The College Women's Club functioned satisfactorily in the year 1948 and almost all the women students were taking part in the games. In the same year the college Hockey Captain T.R. Sreenivasan was selected for the Madras University XI. The strength of the college St. John Ambulance Division went up to 36. The college U.O.T.C. was changed into National Cadet Corps with the advent of independence with effect from 15.7.1948. The strength of the college went up to 816 in the year 1949. Among them 773 were boys and 43 were girls. In the year 1949, 321 books were added to the library. Now the

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3. Ibid., G.O.Nk.998 dated 28.4.1948 (Andhra Pradesh Archives)
total books in the library were 19,636. Mr. T.S. Avinashalingam Chettiar, the Minister of Education, Madras Government visited the college on 29.7.1948. He addressed the students on behalf of the History and Economics Association and the Literary Union of the College. He exhorted the students to work hard and concentrate on their studies.5

The Government permitted the Principal of the Arts College, Anantapur to accept the offer of Sri N. Venkata Subramanyam, Advocate, Anantapur to present to the library of the college the personal library of his father late Rao Sahib N.K. Venkatesam, retired lecturer of the college. The proposed gift comprised of 500 books in English and 50 books in Sanskrit, which could be used by the staff and students and it was stipulated that it should be named after late Rao Sahib N.K. Venkatesam.6 I.S. Peter, Principal of the college retired and gave place to Sri S. Ramachandran as Principal of the college in July 1949. During the period of S. Ramachandran, Principal, the

5. Ibid., 1949, p. 61.

strength of the college rose to 900. Among them 644 were boy students and 96 were women students. In his period the Government sanctioned 350 free scholarships, 54 Central Government Scholarships, 33 full fee concessions, 134 half fee concessions and 24 military concessions. During the period of S. Ramachandrapr. Principal of the college, Hindi was introduced as a part II subject in the Intermediate course.

The Literary Union of the college celebrated the United Nations Organisation Day on 23.11.1949. The Social Service League of the college visited the slum areas of the town and the villages. It preached and practised the ideas of personal and environmental hygiene, and it started a modest adult literacy class with women students for teachers. The National Cadet Corps of the college became very popular and the strength rose to 92 cadets. The college teams participated in the Inter-collegiate Tournaments and the college Football, Hockey and Tennis teams qualified themselves for the divisional finals at Coimbatore. The Football team of the college came out victorious as the divisional champions. A parliamentary debate

was conducted by the Literary Union of the college. The topic on that occasion was "This house is of opinion that with a view to solving the present unemployment problem all Government offices must be closed to women". Meetings were convened to felicitate the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru whose signal services to the Nation were lauded highly. Tributes were paid highly to Sri Aurobindo Ghose and Sri Sardar Patel at the meetings specially held soon the demise of those national leaders. The Social Service League of the college formed a group for conducting a campaign against illiteracy, ignorance, and ill-health in the slum areas of the town as well as in the neighbouring villages. It was also proposed to study the economic conditions of the rural folk in the neighbouring parts.8

The Government accepting the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction, sanctioned the affiliation of the Government Arts College, Anantapur in Hindi under Part II of the B.A. Degree Course from the academic year 1951-52. The Government also sanctioned a non-recurring expenditure of Rs.800/- on

8. Ibid., March 1951, p.27
books and furniture in 1951-52. In July 1951 Sri R.H.P. Holman took charge as Principal after the retirement of Sri S. Ramachandran in April 1951. During the year 1952-53 the N.C.C. detachment was converted into an independent Company with a strength of 194 cadets and 3 N.C.C. Officers. In the year 1953 the strength of the college was raised to 1139. Among them 194 students belonged to Scheduled Castes and Backward Communities and 17 were women students. In the same year Hon'ble Sri Tenneti Viswanatham, Minister for Finance, Government of Andhra visited the college and addressed the hostel union and later the college union and the staff club. He stressed the need for a moral reconstruction among the people, especially the teachers and the taught. The college day of 1953 was celebrated under the presidentship of Hon'ble Sri D. Sanjeevaiah, Minister, Government of Madras and an old student of the college. After the formation of the Andhra State in the year 1953, the college was affiliated to the Andhra University. With


the passing of the S.V. University Act of May 1954, the college got re affiliated to Sri Venkateswara University. In the year 1954, the strength of the staff in the college was 14. Among them 8 were Assistant Lecturers, 3 Tutors and three Demonstrators.

During the month of April 1954, the college Social Adult Education Association held the 40 day summer Social Service settlement at Ipperu from 7th April to 16th May 1954. The members spent 6 hours daily on the road work. The night part of the programme was the conducting of Adult education classes. Apart from manual labour and night classes, the members performed many activities like collecting the statistics, distribution of drugs, cleaning up the village, improving drains, educating the villagers on hygienic living, cattle rearing and prevention of diseases. In the year 1955 the college participated in the Andhra University matches and won the final in Football. The most important event of the year 1955 was the visit of Hon'ble Governor Sri C.N. Trivedi to the college. The Governor addressed the students and stressed the many activities available in modern institutions as compared with those of olden days and he exhorted the students to be studious and disciplined.12

Sri R.H.P. Naiman, Principal of the college was relieved on 3.6.1935 by Prof. John Sundara Rao, Lecturer-in-charge. Sri N. Rama Rao, Principal, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati was appointed principal of the college by direct recruitment and he took charge from Prof. Sundara Rao on 24.6.1935. The college provided instruction in the Intermediate in Group I was Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Group II was Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Group III was Indian History, British History. In B.A. course the Group I was Mathematics, Group II was Zoology Main and Botany subsidiaries, Group V was Economics and History and in B.Sc., the groups were Physics (Main) Mathematics and Chemistry subsidiaries, Chemistry (Main) Mathematics and Physics subsidiaries, and Chemistry (Main) Physics and Zoology subsidiaries. Language offered under Part II for both Intermediate and B.A. were Telugu, Sanskrit, Urdu, Hindi and Kannada. The accommodation in the Junior Intermediate class was increased from 600 to 650 and in the Junior B.A. from 150 to 200. The present strength of the college was now increased to 1634. The staff in the college was 18.13

13. Ibid., March 1956, p.31
The college provided help to poor and deserving students in the form of awards from the College Poor Boys' Fund which was maintained solely by the profits of the college co-operative stores. In the year 1956 the co-operative stores got a profit of Rs.1105.4.0. In this year the college had the privilege of conducting the Andhra University Inter-collegiate finals in games and sports for the first time in the annals of the history of the college. Twenty six colleges of the Andhra University area participated. The college also had the privilege of conducting trials for selecting the Andhra University Hockey team, which took part in the Inter-university Hockey tournaments at Madras. Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister, Andhra State presided over the concluding day of the sports events and gave away the Prizes. The strength of the National Cadet Corps had risen to 154 cadets and 3 officers forming the 'A' company of the 2nd Andhra Battalion N.C.C. A ceremonial parade was presented to Hon'ble Sri B. Gopala Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh when he visited the college on 8.9.1955. The N.C.C. Day was celebrated on 4.12.1955 with Hon'ble Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister, Andhra State, as the President. The College union celebrated the U.N.O. Day on 3.11.1955.
On 17.12.1989 a debate was held on the proposition "The neutrality of India's foreign policy is disproved beyond doubt by the recent visits of the Soviet leaders".\textsuperscript{14}

Dr. S. Gopalakrishna Murthy replaced Sri N. Rama Rao and became the Principal of the college in July 1986. The Pre-university course came into existence in July 1957 and some new posts were sanctioned for the Intermediate course according to the proceedings Rs.No. 1130-K1/56 dated 2.7.1957. The old Intermediate course was completely done away with in April 1958 from the sphere of the University education. Proposals were sent to the Director of Public Instruction for the introduction of the three year degree course. In the same year a new course called Human Achievement was introduced. This was a distinctive feature of the several courses in the University. In the year 1957 the college got a special grant of Rs.2000/- for purchase of books in addition to the usual yearly grant, consequent on the introduction of the Pre-university course. The college strength was also increased to 1647. Among them 1999 were men and 68 women students.

\textsuperscript{14} Ibid., January 1956, p.37.
The National Cadet Corps unit of the college formed a Company of 2nd Andhra Battalion N.C.C. The strength of the unit was 4 officers and 157 cadets. The cadets of the unit presented Guard of Honour to the Chief Minister Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddy on the College Day held on 20.12.1957. A Senior Division Girls unit was raised in the College on 1.12.1956. Kum S.C. Komala, a member of the staff was deputed for training. The strength of this unit was one officer and 30 cadets. It was satisfying to note that one of the Girl cadets, Cadet P. Balasubbalakshmi was selected to participate in the Republic Day Celebrations at Delhi in January 1948.

On 24.8.1957 Prof. K. Subbarayappa of the Mysore University inaugurated the Andhra Saraswatha Sangham and spoke on the mutual influence of Telugu and Kannada literatures. There was a debate in the college on 27.9.1957 on the proposition "it is impossible and dangerous to make Hindi the special language of the country immediately or in the near future" and the best speaker on that occasion, Y. Ramananjeyulu, was selected to represent the college in the Inter-collegiate debate at the University, Tirupathi. In lieu of the History and Economics Association, the Humanities Association was constituted in the year 1957 with the lecturer in
Economics as Vice-President and the executive consisting of the lecturer in Telugu and the Senior Assistant lecturer in Logic as members in addition to the usual student office-bearers. On 30.9.1957 the association was formally inaugurated by J. Satyanarayana Murthy who spoke on 'The contribution of Andhra to the Religious History of India' with the Principal in the chair. On 28.11.1957 Sri M.S. Muthuswami inaugurated the Science Association and gave a talk on 'Parental care in animal kingdom'.

On 16.12.1957 the speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Sri Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao visited the college and addressed the College Union. Surveying the glorious history of Andhra through the ages, Sri Kaleswara Rao explained to the students their role in contemporary society, fast changing through industrialisation and social reform. On 20.12.1957 Sri Sanjeeva Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra State visited the college and agreed to preside over the college day celebrations. Outlining the progress of the country, Sri Sanjeeva Reddy asked the students to develop a broad perspective in thinking and exhorted them to work hard to become useful citizens of tomorrow. On that occasion a play on the Freedom Movement of 1857 (Swatantra Yagnam)
written by B. Bhaskar Rao of the Sanskrit department
was dedicated to the Chief Minister.15

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