Chapter VI
HISTORY OF THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Tamil Nadu occupies pride of place in India, in that, it is one of the pioneer states, right from the British period, that has given great importance and priority for the protection and upbringing of children belonging to the underprivileged sections of society. This was facilitated through the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Children's Act, 1920.

Prior to the Tamil Nadu Children's Act, 1920, the Reformatory Act was passed in 1886. The first Reformatory school was initiated in Chingleput in 1887. Further improvement on the Reformatory Act was made after the Tamil Nadu Children's Act was passed in 1920. The Reformatory school was originally under the control of the prison's Department. Later, it was transferred to Educational Department, but it was subsequently retransferred to the Prison's Department. The Reformatory school was afterwards called the senior Certified School. Later on, some more Junior Certified Schools were also started. During the years 1930-1947, a few reception homes for boys and girls were started by private
managements, with financial assistance from the Government. These Reception Homes were set up for the temporary trial and investigation. These institutions were under the control of the Inspector General of Prisons who was functioning as an ex-officio Chief Inspector of Certified Schools. In 1939, the name of the Institution was changed from 'Certified Schools' to 'Approved Schools'.

The Department of Approved schools and Vigilance schools consists mainly of two branches - one, pertaining to the Observation Homes and Juvenile Homes established under the Tamil Nadu Children's Act, 1920, and the other to the Vigilance Institutions established under the supervision of Immoral Traffic in women and Girls Act, 1936.

The main objective and function of the Department is to provide care, treatment (correctional), training - educational and vocational and rehabilitation of the institutionalised juvenile delinquents, youthful offenders, destitutes and uncontrollable children under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Children's Act 1920 and Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, Girls and women under the
suppression of the Immoral Traffic in women and Girls (Amendment) Act of 1978. Under this department, provisions also exist for the institutional after-care for the discharged boys, girls and women of correctional institutions.

The Director of Approved Schools and Vigilance Service is the Head of the Department. He exercises administrative control over all the institutions (Government and private institutions aided by Government) in the department.

The Government Approved Schools for boys at Chengalpattu and the Government Approved School for Girls at Purasawakkam, both have their own history on course of evolution.

The history of the Government Rehabilitation Home, Juvenile Home for the boys at Chengalpattu dates back to the nineteenth century. During this century, the young offenders were kept along with the adult criminals in Central and District prisons. In these prisons there were

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1 Annual Report of Correctional Institutions, Chengalpattu, 1988-89.
no facilities for education and vocational training. After realising the lapses of the prisons and difficulties that the juvenile delinquents face, the Madras Presidency wanted to introduce the Western system of having a separate school for the young offenders. These efforts led to the establishment of the first Rehabilitation School in Chengalpattu on the 15th of October, 1887. It was known as the Reformatory School. This school was the first of its type in India. In the beginning, about twenty juvenile offenders were transferred from central jail of Madras to the Reformatory school in Chengalpattu. The District Medical Officer was appointed as the Superintendent of the school.

Although the Reformatory school was established in 1887 by the prison department, till 1926, it was under the control of the Department of Education. As a result of the efficient management of the Reformatory school in Tamil Nadu other states in India also started such schools which were under the control of the Department of Education.

In 1920, after the introduction of the Tamil Nadu Children's Act, the name of the Reformatory Schools was
changed to 'Certified Schools'. In 1947, these Schools were brought under the control of a separate Department. In 1958, the name of the Certified Schools was changed to 'Approved Schools'.

To start with, this School managed educational classes up to Standard V. Languages like Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Urdu were taught to these students. In 1957, the status of the school was raised to the establishment of the Middle School. Then again, in 1959, it became a High School.

Carpentry, blacksmith, metal marks, gardening, handloom weaving, tailoring and stitching, art drawing, laundry, hair-dressing, music-band, mat weaving, dairying, powerloom weaving, and soap manufacture were introduced as vocational training courses in these Approved Schools for the juvenile offenders.

On 2nd June, 1987, with the introduction of the Justice Juvenile Act, the name of Approved School was changed to Special School for boys. The special school for boys which started off with twenty inmates in 1987, now has to its credit, a total strength of two hundred and two Juvenile Justice Act, 1986.
forty boys. The strength of the staff at present, is one hundred and six.

The Government Girls Approved School at Purasawakkam in Madras is the only Government Institution for girls in whole of Tamil Nadu.


In the pre-independence period in 1920, the Tamil Nadu Children’s Act was passed. The efficient implementation of the Act led to the foundation of the Madras Children’s Aid Society in 1926. During the same year, the Senior Certified School for girls was started. Later in 1928, the Junior Certified School for girls was started.

The establishment of a Girls club began in 1933. Later the Institution was shifted from Retreat, Kilpauk to Palace Buildings, Tanjore. In March, 1947, the Department of Certified Schools was separated from the Prisons Department and a Separate Department was formed. The
Department had then six Certified Schools (Long-stay institutions) and four Reception Homes (Short-stay institutions). In 1948, with the provincialization of the two major Vigilance Institutions (Government Vigilance Home and Stri Sadhana) and two short-stay homes (Vigilance Rescue Shelter at Madras and Salem), the administrative control of the institutions under the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act was entrusted to the Department of Certified Schools. This brings to a close the development of the Institution during the pre-independence era.

During the post-independence era, much emphasis was given to assist the young offenders in society. In 1950, the Institution was shifted from Tanjore to ‘Pantheon Gardens’, Egmore, Madras. Later in 1953, the Institution was provincialized by the Government of Tamil Nadu and was shifted from Pantheon Garden, Egmore to Retreat, Kilpauk. In June, 1953, the Certified Schools for girls and the Reception Homes for boys and girls which were under the management of the Madras Children’s Aid Society were provincialized and placed under the control of this Department. In 1954, Smt. E.R. Jesudasan and Smt. P.T. Rajagopal were transferred from the Madras Vigilance
Service to the Department of Certified Schools as Headmistresses. In 1954-55, various programmes under the Second Five Year Plan were implemented by the Department of Certified Schools. These programmes were under the 'Social Defence', 'Social and Moral Hygiene' and 'After-Care' programmes. For the Girls School, a Hospital and a Dispensary were opened in 1956. At the same time, the Handicraft section for the offenders was started. The designation of the Headmistress and of the Assistant Headmistress were changed, respectively, to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the Schools in 1957. Later, the designation of the Compounder was changed to that of a Pharmacist.

In 1958, the nomenclature of the Certified Schools was changed into Approved Schools. The year, 1959, witnessed several changes. To begin with, a Spinning section was established. Later a Poultry unit was also started. The Institution was made permanent, and the 1920 Tamil Nadu Children's Act was amended. The upper age limits for the pupils of the Junior and Senior Approved Schools were raised from sixteen and eighteen years to those ranging between eighteen and twentyone, respectively, under the amended Children's Act.
A Departmental Psychologist was appointed in 1960-3 1961. It later led to the appointment of a Welfare Officer in 1967. In 1969 the Hospital Block of the Institution was inaugurated by the then Honourable Minister, Dr. Sathiavani Muthu. The post of Office Manager was replaced with that of Assistant Superintendent in 1972. During the year, 1974, many staff were appointed to the school. A Tamil Pandit was initially appointed. Besides, a full time Deputy Superintendent and a Medical Officer were appointed. In 1975, the mechanization of the Tailoring unit was achieved with the addition of two more tailoring instructors.

The Madras suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930, was replaced by a Central Act, namely, "Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956." This act was later amended and is now known as Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls (Amended) Act, 1978; but it was not enforced immediately. A Regional Office at Madurai was established in 1980. It supervises the institutions in the Southern Districts and functions under

3 Annual Report (1960-61), Directorate of Approved Schools, Madras.
a Deputy Director of Approved Schools and Vigilance Service from June, 1980.

The Approved School in Madras experienced further developments in their path towards successful operation of the motto 'Serve the Suffering'. Some Approved Schools under the private management were recognised by the Government and brought under the control of the Department. The Department was also renamed as the 'Department of Approved Schools and Vigilance Service'. The nomenclature of the Department of Approved Schools, and vigilance service was changed as the Department of Correctional Administration in 1975, and, again, as the Department of Approved Schools and Vigilance Service in 1981. In 1982, a creche for children of working women was set up. In 1983, a dining hall was opened. A sales emporium was sanctioned in 1984 to market the finished products that are manufactured by these inmates. The most important achievement of the Approved School in June 1984, was the introduction of Standard IX. The society of Madras for the protection of Children (M.S.P.C.) as it was known, devoted its services through the Madras Aid Society. This Aid society marked the welfare of the children from 1926 to June 1953.
The Department of Approved Schools and Vigilance Service consists of two branches of activities— one, relating to Observation Homes/Special Homes and Juvenile Homes established under the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, and the other to the Vigilance Institutions established under the suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls (Amendment) Act of 1978.

There are several institutions under the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, in Tamil Nadu. There are twenty special juvenile homes—long stay institutions in the State under this Act. Ten homes (3 special, 7 Juvenile Homes) are run by the Government of Tamil Nadu, while the rest are managed by private voluntary organisations with Government aid.

The children who are found to be mentally affected are also taken care of, in the Approved Schools/Juvenile Homes under the management of Bala Vihar.

There are 14 observation homes (short-stay institutions) spread over the State. Of these, eleven are managed by the Government while the rest, by private voluntary agencies such as the Children's Aid societies and Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies. These
organisations obtain financial assistance from the State Government. These Homes receive boys and girls and take care of them during the pendency of enquiry. They act as feeder homes to the Approved Schools/Special Juvenile Homes.

**SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS ACT**

**AND**

**THE INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE ACT**

The Government Vigilance Institutions — long stay ones — provide care and training to the women and girls committed under the provisions of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls, Amendment Act, 1978. In the G.O Ms. No. 690, Social Welfare, dated 18-12-1980, the Government Vigilance Reserve Shelters at Salem and Coimbatore into Government Protective Homes. These institutions admit girls exposed to moral danger and seek admission voluntarily. There are six Government Vigilance/Protective Homes under this Department. Apart from this, there are eight Vigilance Reserve Shelters (short stay) which receive and take care of girls and women during the period of trial before the courts. These short-stay institutions serve as feeder institutions to the long-stay homes.
**AFTER-CARE HOMES**

There are three After-care Organisations established under the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. Of these, two are for boys, while only one is for girls and women. The only home for women is at Vellore, while the other two Homes for boys are at Athur near chingleput, and Madurai. These homes provide continuous vocational training to discharges of special/juvenile homes and also the women released from prisons. An industrial unit, offering training in the manufacture of garments, holdalls and leather stitching is attached to the Government After-Care organisations for women, Vellore (North Arcot District), for giving training to repatriate girls and girls from local areas.

**JUVENILE GUIDANCE BUREAU**

This is an institution intended to rehabilitate maladjusted and deviant children and adolescents.

The Juvenile Guidance Bureau was a pioneering institution in India, which was started in the year 1954, under the auspices of the Madras State Branch of the Indian Conference of Social Work. It was initiated by the Later Mrs. Mary Clubwala Jadhav, a veteran social worker,
Dr. G. Boaz, the then professor and Head of the Department of Psychology, University of Madras and Justice P. Rama Krishna, I.C.S., the then Chief Presidency Magistrate. It was started to serve as an adjunct to the Juvenile court.

The Juvenile Guidance Bureau is managed by an executive committee consisting of officials and non-officials representing the government officials involved in correctional work along with the Social workers, Probation Officers, and Juvenile Court Magistrates. The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate is the ex-officio President of the Bureau. The Honorary secretary and Treasurer of the Bureau is an official connected with the Guild of service. The Professor and Head of the Department of Psychology, University of Madras is the Honorary Director of the Juvenile Guidance Bureau. There are four Honorary Testing Officers and Chief Testing Officer to assist the Bureau.

A full time psychologist, a junior assistant and an officer assistant also work for the bureau. The honorary director is in charge of the technical matters pertaining to the bureau.
The Bureau receives one hundred percent grant from the Tamil Nadu Government through the offices of the Directorate of Approved Schools and Vigilance Service, 153, Purasawakkam High Road, Kellys, Madras.

The Juvenile Guidance Bureau has laid down various objections for the official rehabilitation of the maladjusted and deviant children and adolescents. They are, to begin with, to interview, administer tests, diagnose and send other Welfare agencies and also public. It has to provide guidance and counseling to the juveniles and Juvenile’s parents and guardians. It has to reform and rehabilitates the young offenders. It has to refer cases to suitable agencies for treatment. Field work training and research facilities for the Degree students of psychology, social work, criminology, and child development are important and provided for by the juvenile guidance bureau. It has to promote programmes in the prevention of delinquency and vagrancy. Research in delinquency and allied fields are also undertaken by this institution. Finally, it has to assist nearby schools and other voluntary agencies in tackling the behavioral problems of children.
Some of the activities and highlights accomplished by the Juvenile Guidance Bureau are as follows:

The Bureau has so far covered individual intensive case studies of more than 6,700 children who were delinquents, emotionally disturbed, vagrant, school dropouts and mentally retarded. A monthly clinical conference is being conducted to discuss detailed case reports of the juvenile delinquents. It has provided help to nearby schools such as St. Antony's High School at Pudupet and the Government High School at Egmore, to deal with problem children. A research project was undertaken to study in detail the psycho-social problems of the institutionalized victims of Immoral Traffic and commercialised vice of Madras City. A research study was conducted to identify potential delinquents in Cox Colony in Chindadripet in Madras. It has helped many students and other trainees who sit at the Bureau throughout the year to understand its function and learn therapeutic and rehabilitation method followed in the Bureau. It has organized many seminars and workshops on juvenile

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delinquency and related subjects. The personnel of the bureau deliver lectures and talks to the post graduate students in service trainees and parent-teacher associations of various schools and colleges.

There are 3 Juvenile Guidance Bureau functioning in Madras, Madurai, and Vellore. They investigate the attitudes and the behaviour of the inmates referred to them by the Juvenile Welfare Boards/Juvenile Courts for institutionalization or otherwise and other private agencies apart from undertaking research programmes on the prevalence of juvenile delinquency among the children. These Guidance Bureau attend to the needs of the reception (Remand), investigation of the attitude and behaviour, and psychological problems of juveniles. They also suggests remedial measures to the juveniles. Though managed by the Executive Committees, the entire expenditure on them is met by the Government.

The inmates are rehabilitated in the society as normal citizens after the reformatory training in these institutions. Various methods of rehabilitation are provided by these institutions such as the arrangement of marriage for willing girls and women, who are destitutes. They also secure employment assistance to these helpless women. Tools and equipments for the skilled boys are
supplied by these institutions to follow the vocation and earn their livelihood so that they can settle peacefully in life. A marriage grant (Stree Danam) of Rupees 1,000/- is sanctioned by the Government to each married couple to enable them to start their new family. Apart from these grant, Rs. 100/- is provided towards marriage day expenses.

As per Government Order, a welfare fund called 'Tamil Nadu Welfare Fund for the rehabilitation of victims of Moral Exploitation' have been created to provide financial assistance to the deserving girls and women discharged from the Vigilance Protective Homes. This scheme has been implemented from 1987-88 onwards. Every year about 50 inmates who are discharged will be benefited by the scheme.

Competitions in sports and games are conducted by the special juvenile homes to develop their talents and create orderliness, brotherhood and leadership among them. These competitions have been started from the year 1980-81.

The Budget of the department for a year workout approximately to Rs. 210/- lakhs which includes the cost of personnel of their entire department and the grant-in-
aid to private voluntary agencies which approximately amounts to Rs.8.50 Lakhs.

It must be borne in mind that the correctional institutions for juvenile delinquents are primarily schools. They have a direct responsibility towards the education of these helpless boys and girls. They differ from other schools, in that, they have to train and rehabilitate pupils who are maladjusted and discontented with what they have. They have to cope with pupils who have a sense of social insecurity and failure.

In India, the functioning and training of the Approved Schools, Special Homes with special reference to the one in Madras was considered to be an educational venture right from the nineteenth century. It was not looked upon as a portfolio under the jail or police authority. It was felt that psychologically and educational tests should play a great role in the rehabilitation of the delinquents. Intelligence tests, aptitude tests and standard achievement tests will also be greatly valuable. The scope of recreational activities should be extended. A hobby programme may also be included in recreational activities.

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