Chapter VII

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An exploratory study on social welfare administration in Madras residency during 1920 - 1932 A.D reveals that the Madras administration gave such emphasis for the upliftment of the social welfare of the people. It followed series of measures and implemented them with great enthusiasm to improve society. The major subject of social welfare education, public health and ers were transferred subject of the 1919 constitution. controlled by the vincial legislations. The native administrators properly utilised it and earned high reputation not only from the English administrators but also from the ive administered. So both the administrators and the administered were py over the voluminous and various welfare measures undertaken by the iras government.

Integrated programmes on health, nutrition, education and socio-economic are of the society were considered for development. A combination of rational economical and social welfare were schemes instrumental in rating the social welfare programmes. The synthesis of these ideas resulted re creation and implementation of welfare programmes.

By social welfare administration there was an all round awakening - i.e l educational, moral, economic, public health and political in the Madras idency. The remarkable development started from the middle of Twentieth ury in all the provinces of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta eventhough the ents were under the colonial rule. The political condition necessitated the
British rule to introduce some reform in their administrative policies for Indians which laid the foundation for welfare activities in the British India especially in Madras. Thus the latter half of the Nineteenth century and beginning of the Twentieth century were characterized by intense activity for social reform. The earliest welfare programme was initiated by non-brahmins, when they were able to realise and bring to light their hidden creativity and abilities on par with brahmins who dominated the society. Growing westernisation of education, industrialization and urbanisation formed the nucleus to start social reform activities to remove the evils of the society which were prevailed at the time. There were intellectual giants who took interest in social reforms.

Majority of people in Madras had their livelihood below the poverty line. Poverty, social abuse, inequality and ignorance coupled together prevented them from reaching high standards of living. Massive unemployment and underemployment prevailed especially among the common people. The persistent social problems like untouchability, exploitation of the weaker section and estitution among elderly person had imprinted in the minds of the administrator the need to bring about a drastic change to eradicate all the above evils. The need for social development had been given ample recognition by the amers of the Madras legislation in the early 1920s. This was reflected in different fields for the development among women, children and backward classes. The administrator’s idea was to provide basic infrastructure facilities and social service to the weaker section of the society. These welfare activities vered elementary education, health, improvement in housing facility, child welfare and rural development.

The love for literacy and social freedom, sufferings of women from socio economic disabilities, a highly sensitive health status of the Madras residency forced the administrator to initiate welfare measures in the
Presidency. Henceforth they started implementing them for the upliftment of the people in general irrespective of the caste and religion. The initial stage of the implementation was initiated by the Justice Party Ministry, when it assumed its ministry in 1921 by winning in the provincial legislative election introduced by Montagu Chelmsford Reform Act of 1919. A new era was ushered in the history of the Madras presidency by the dawn of social welfare programmes organised by the Madras government. It marked a milestone in re-orientation of social perspective, restoration of social justice, development of education, raising the social status of women and public health in the Madras Presidency. The leaders of the new ministry played a dynamic role in lime lighting the social welfare measures in the Madras Presidency. The disparity and inequality between the people as brahmins and non-brahmins were taken away and all were considered equal not only in getting education but also in securing appointments.

The present investigation highlights the fact that Francis Day was responsible for the establishment of Fort Saint George in 1639 A.D for the commercial purposes of the trading company. The Madras Presidency constituted in 1800 A.D., from that time until 1920 the political condition was at its low ebbs. Various acts were issued to stabilise the British paramountcy. In order to win the confidence of the Indians, Britishers introduced manifold reforms in their administration. The social condition brought the emergence of a new party called The JUSTICE PARTY and this party started its welfare administration which improved the social condition of the people.

Education as a stepping ladder for the occupational and social mobility was instrumental to activate the welfare measure. The imbalance in the society was equated by educating the society. The primary education was improved. The secondary education also gained its progress. The development in collegiate education by the Madras University Act gave ample opportunity for vocational
guidance. The Industrial and Technical education enforced solved unemployment problem. Thus education played a vital role in social transformation. The motivation of the younger generation was successfully done through education. The principle that the process of development of the society was incomplete without active involvement of educational progress was the basic idea followed in implementing the educational developments.

From the perusal of the above discussion it can be inferred that education is important in order that social change is made possible. It can improve the power of understanding thus enabling a person to be better socialised. Education increases economic productivity and hence the earning power.

Women played an important part in social life and in history. Women occupied a high status in the ancient time, and this gradually declined during the medieval times and its status rose again during the modern period. It was only after the coming of English missionaries improvement in the status of women had significant changes and this was during the beginning of the Twentieth century. The awareness in their progress was induced by the women associations. It was the Madras Presidency which stood first for the removal of disqualification of women to contest in the municipal council. The enfranchisement of women was the main target to be achieved by the Madras Presidency during the Justice Party regime. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, hailed from Pudukkottai belonging to Devadasi family was the first woman vice-president of the legislative council who did pioneering work for women. Abolition of Devadasi system, removal of child marriages establishment of Age of Consent Act, Rescue Home for neglected women, were some of the noteworthy features in the improvement of women's status. Women's participation in politics exposed their potentialities to bring about unity and the integrity of the nations. The
Justice Party created a favourable and amicable atmosphere for the progress and development of women by removing the customs and systems which was an obstacle to their progress.

The plain fact which has been stressed throughout this study is that if the progress of women is neglected the modernisation of the society is not possible. If a country is to develop in social, cultural religious and spiritual levels, there should be an upliftment in the status of women in the society. A nation could attain the pinacles of its glory only when women are free, improved, developed and cultured in the society because genius is inherent in persons of both sex. If a man issues laws, it is the woman who carries them out in successful action. This proved that women are as much a factor of development as men.

The various Health measures were indispensable to all integrated programmes of the community. Special attention had been paid by the government for the improvement of public health, women and children unhygienic and insanitary conditions were removed as health care was given the first preference. The government played an active role and efforts were undertaken to improve health had been greatly intensified. Programmes for health, nutrition, education in public health and welfare of the society were considered for the development. Living condition of the people in overcrowded, insanitary housing colonies without even the basic amenities were viewed intensively. Various health schemes were undertaken to improve the same. Thus high mortality and morbidity were prevented. The public health department did a selfless service to eradicate epidemic and virus disease by its health propaganda schemes and maintained a good vital statistics.

Treatment and care given to the leprosy patient was immense and remarkable. Steps were undertaken to give facilities to the beggars suffering from leprosy. Establishment of maternity and child care centre contributed more
to the proper care of both the mother and the child. The organisation of baby week was responsible for the growth of healthy babies. Another noteworthy feature was the effective measures taken in the reduction of the dangerous disease like venereal disease. Adulteration of drugs were prevented by appointing Drug Committees and the medicines supplied were in good condition both in quality and quantity. This research studies implies that social progress is possible only if there is a simultaneous development of the health status of the population. A healthy person not only gains the enjoyment in life but he is also more productive.

Effective intervention and multiprolonged welfare activities were done during 1920 - 1932 A.D. Among them there were some remarkable ones which were considered as a boon to the natives of the Madras Presidency. Teaching vedas to non-brahmins to work as purohits, educational advancement given abroad, education of the physically handicapped, patronisation of other religions were some of the important welfare measures. Midday Meal Schemes gave a legal support to the depressed class people to avail their rights to get education without any trouble.

Town planning proved to an extend how the Madras Presidency developed its villages and towns by proper housing roads and railways. The glorious heritage of old historical monuments were protected under "Monuments Preservation Act". The most noteworthy activity was the introduction of Hindu Religious Endowment Act to use the property of the temple in an effective manner. Social reform marriages conducted in some parts removed the caste disparity among the people. In recruitments partiality as brahmins and non-brahmins were not shown. The literacy rate was increased by developing adult education. The Temperance Act prohibiting liquor was an outstanding feature
of this government. Music showed a great improvement. The world wide appreciated culture "Bharatanatyam" had its origin only during this regime of Krishna Iyer.

Other notable events were the James Bills which gave protection to the beggars, Arasu's bill which gave an opportunity to women appointed as Inspectress in the factories to check the position of women and children. Trade dispute Act increased the economy of the Presidency. Labour unions were established to solve the problems of workers in the factories. A relief fund gave rescue to affected people by flood and famine. The maintenance of law and order by establishing an efficient police department was an another work that received appreciation from every one. Because of the efficient work of the police, violence was avoided, crimes were reduced and theft and robberies were prevented. The reclamation work also gained good name to the police Department. Construction of roads and other schemes improved the social status and also the economic development.

In order to have a clearer insight and indepth knowledge of the various important historical events and schemes, these achievements are noted down in a chronological order.

SOME IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS AND SCHEMES BETWEEN 1920 - 1932 A.D

If the study is historically summarised, the important events, schemes between 1920-1932 A.D was remarkable. The year between 1920-1932 AD witnessed some achievements, political events and unforgettable visits. As already mentioned the real reform activities started from 1920 onwards
particularly in Madras Presidency under the popular Ministry headed by Diwan Bahadur A.Subbarayalu Reddiar. This was a turning point in the history of the administration of the Madras Presidency.

The first important event of the year 1922 was the visit of His Royal Highness Prince of Wales during the non-cooperation movement, Madras was the only Presidency which was not fully affected by the political unrest during the visit of Prince of Wales. He landed at Madras on 13th January and left on 15th January after an arduous round of official and private functions. When he visited Madras he was welcomed with high respect due to the arrangements done by Thiagorayachetty, the Chairman of Corporation of Madras and the prince was presented with gifts. The depressed class people were protected. The labour department continued its work for the welfare of the depressed classes. The City Tenants Protection Act safeguarded the Adi Dravida tenants from constant threat of eviction from their houses.

The year 1920-21 was notable for the progress in Agricultural department. The first action taken by the new ministry was that it affiliated all the agricultural colleges to the Madras University. Preventive measures for the control of insect and pests was implemented by the Madras Pest Act. It was for the first time the state aid to the Industries and the Industrial Department were undertaken for the control of sericultural work.

Compulsory elementary education, vocational training and Industrial education were given importance in this period of 1922 only. A noteworthy progress was in women's education. Under the Madras Children Act of 1920, Junior and senior certified schools at Ranipet and Chingleput gave protection to
children. Progress was made in the distribution of improved grains of cotton, paddy, and a new paddy breeding station was opened at Aduturai in the Tanjore District.

Anti liquor campaign was effective in the year 1923 and the passing of Temperance Act eradicated the habit of drinking liquor in the Madras Presidency. An extra-ordinary welfare activity towards the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes were undertaken for five new districts by providing house sites, pathways, wells and other facilities. A comprehensive scheme of scholarships for students of depressed class and a hostel for them was opened in Madras. Provident fund for teachers in aided school was introduced. An exemplary action of this year was the introduction of the Madras University Act. Health propoganda created "Sanitary conscience" among the people. The formation of a special committee for the compilation of the list of venereal diseases helped them to take immediate steps to eradicate the disease. Special Lunary act was amended to establish the "Mental Hospital" in Madras. The celebration of "Baby week" gained improvement in the child’s welfare. A school of Indian medicine was opened by His excellency in Madras to develop Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines.

In the year 1924, the Lepor colony at Tirumani was opened by Lord Willington and Lady Willington in March. A group of residence for clerks was declared open by Sir Charles Todhunter for clerks and was named after him as Todhunter Nagar. Closure of arrack shops in Tanjore, Ramnad, Tinneveli, Salem and Trichy where toddy was the prevailing drink, was remarkable. The first National Health Week was held from 14th January to 19th January. It was attended by most part of the Presidency and this showed the awareness in their health and hygiene.
The administration was done by the reunion of all non-brahmin parties under Raja of Panagal in 1925. An astounding feature was the work of reclamation of valuable lands which were covered with heavy deposits of sand or otherwise rendered unfit for the cultivation as a result of the floods in July 1924. Mr. Gandhi's visit in March paved the way to achieve towards nations welfare and inculcated in their minds the need for freedom.

The year 1926 witnessed the emergence of swaraj party. To adhere to its policy of non-acceptance of office, it declined to form a ministry. Again justice party had to continue its welfare administration facing the opposition of swaraj party. An interesting feature of the new council was the nomination of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, the first woman to sit in the council. This year witnessed the celebration of the Jubilee of agricultural education in the Madras presidency and the first farm model was formed in 1876 at Saidapet was converted into a complete and high class agricultural college.

The year 1927 was marked by the visit of Royal commission for the improvement in agriculture. Promotion of welfare and prosperity among the rural population was sustained. The establishment of Andhra University Act of 1926 was a boon to encourage other vernaculars. This year was considered remarkable because the government paid head to safeguard the interest of labourers since the labour political party was formed by the working classes. The two month tour of Mahatma Gandhi in Madras Presidency had its impact and the khaddi movement gained impetus. The women and children took interest in weaving threads to make their own clothing. The provision of "The Borstal school Act, trained adolescent offenders between the ages of 16 and 21 to a right path. The Cauvery Mettur irrigation project improved irrigation and hydro electric system in the Madras Presidency.
The Local Authorities Entertainment Tax Act of 1926 empowered the local bodies to levy an amusement tax. This put a check to unwanted practices which were detrimental to the improvement of the society. The constitution of new excise licensing boards and advisory committee helped to remove the evils done by the habit of drinking. The outstanding feature of this year 1928 was that there was a marvelous reduction in the street accidents because of the reorganisation of the traffic system implemented by the Madras Traffic police. Old and unfit buses were removed from the road and seating accommodation was adjusted to the comfort and convenience of the passengers. There was a better traffic control in congested areas. The creation of the "Madras milk supply union" ensured the proper supply of milk without adulteration throughout the Presidency. The propaganda scheme of Public Health constituted in 1927 organised an extensive programme of work. Many dispensaries were opened. The Madras nurses and midwives Act, 1926 was brought into force with effect from 14th February 1928. Compulsory medical inspection introduced in schools and colleges ensured better health standard.

Important administrative charges taken in the police department in the year 1929 reduced crimes and other offensive activities. The year 1929 showed an amazing increase of economy due to increased receipts under Excise and Forest. The establishment of the central Land Mortgage Bank improved both the cultivators and the cultivation. Technical training in various arts and industries was provided for all prisoners in jail and compulsory education was imparted to them.

The year 1930 was famous for the main political event of Civil Disobedient Movement. Both men and women participated with vigour and patriotism. An outstanding feature of the administration was the opening of a special jail for women who got arrested due to political disturbances and other reasons. It was the first of its kind in India. Women were allowed to contest in election, to municipal councils and the franchise had been enlarged considerably. Central
Intelligence Bureau was established in Madras to maintain law and order. Juvenile court was established in the Madras city for trial of all cases in which juveniles were involved.

In the year 1931 there was nothing extra ordinary in the public activities because of the proceedings of the Round Table Conference. But the most important action taken by the administrators was that it was for the first time the Madras service commission held its first competitive examination for the recruitment to clerical posts in government services. The amendment of the Town Planning Act improved the public health. Cauvery Mettur dam project showed a great progress to improve irrigation.

The year 1932 was a turning point in the history of Madras Presidency. The ministry was revived for its furthering activities of welfare administration under the Honourable P.T Rajan, Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur S.Kumarasamy Reddiar and Honourable Raja of Bobbili. Industrial and Technical education showed vast improvement. The reclamation of kallars in Madurai and Ramnad got a wide recognition and was effected with much enthusiasm. Ramsay Macdonald's Award gave reservation to women belonging to depressed classes. Irrigation schemes were widened.

One of the paramount activity of the industrial department was the encouragement in domestic Textile Industries. The Madras government sanctioned a system by which departmental textile appliances were hired to small capitalists. Polavaram project was completed to irrigate 17,500 acres and 2 miles of the Crivisola was made in accordance to the Kattalai scheme. The execution of the Thippayapalaiyam extension was put in hand. Irrigation under the vadavar extension actually commenced in August 1932. In the Grand Anaicut canal system of the major channels was completed. The Pykara scheme was in commercial operations by the end of the year. The year 1932 was a milestone in the development of irrigation and agriculture.
It is also not an exaggeration to say that the colonial rule benefitted to some extent not only the Madras Presidency but also the whole of India. It is clearly narrated by T.Krishna Aiyar superintendent of students home St. Joseph’s college, Trichirappali in the Appendix No.1.

The study infers that a combination of education, upliftment of women, enhancement of depressed classes, women and the development in the status of health and wealth was indispensably responsible for the progressive growth of welfare measures in the society. Non-brahmins were given equal opportunity in entering into the civil services by contesting in the Public Service Examination. The celebration of Fair and Festivals, Health week and Healthy Baby Exhibitions contributed much for the healthy development of the society. The establishment of Madras University Act, Annamalai University and amendments of Andhra university had greatly improved the educational system. Women franchise, social reform marriages, representation to legislation according to population aid to labourers and workers by Land Mortgage Bank and Co-operative Societies, Malabar Tenancy Act and Religion Endowments were the unabated welfare measures undertaken for the benefit of the people of Madras Presidency.

It is beyond doubt that the manifold changes and development of the society in the various fields was a colourful reality indulged in by the Justice Party. Ever since then there has been a phenomenal growth in the physical, mental, social and moral aspects of our society at large. Hence it is apt to say that the period 1920-1932 A.D encouraged social skills, promoted physical hygiene, health and fitness, and also fostered dominant society goals.

In the course of history the Justice Party ministry’s administration was responsible for reshaping the society and made them self motivated, self contained and self directing by ensuring ‘Justice’ as with its name - "JUSTICE "ARTY".