CHAPTER -IV
MUSLIM ARTS AND SCIENCE CO-EDUCATION
COLLEGES IN TAMIL NADU

Education is the key to progress of mankind. It is for enriching knowledge
developing man’s character, perfecting and equipping for living collectivity in the
Society. UNESCO defines education as an "Organized and sustained instruction
designed to communicate a combination of knowledge, skills and understanding
valuable for all the activities of life"\(^1\) In the words of John Milton, a complete and
generous education is one which fits a man to perform justly, skillfully and
magnanimously all the offices, both private and public, of peace and war.\(^2\)

Education helps human ability and behavior. The Kothari commission Says,
"While the development of Physical resources is a means to an end, that of human
resources is an end itself; and without it, even the adequate development of physical
resources is not possible."\(^3\)

Never has in history an educationally backward come to the fore front; nor has
an educationally advanced nation been thrown behind. This is why in every Society
educational change precedes another change. Secondary education is followed by
Higher education which is also called tertiary education. Thus it is "an academic level
higher than that attainable on completion of a full secondary education."\(^4\) In the
context of Tamil Nadu, Higher education is pursued after the completion of Higher
Secondary studies. While secondary education helps to build character and intellect,
higher education aims to produce.

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\(^4\) Ibid., p.6.
1. “An enlightened group of graduates who have achieved mastery of knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and myths of their culture…;

2. A group of maturing, self-directed, responsible and productive graduates; and

3. A society in which the quality of life, physical, social and spiritual, fields increasing satisfactions to its co-members”

While describing the objectives of higher education, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once remarked that "a university stands for humanism, for tolerance for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search of the truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards even higher objectives" or Radhakrishnan commission on Educational and also stressed the importance of higher education in its report. It said, "As we claim to be a civilized people, we must regard the higher education of the rising generation as one of our principal concerns."

Muslims are educationally backward in India. It is due to many factors one of them is their aversion toward western education in the past one silver living in the gloomy picture of the past was that the Muslims of southern India responded more positively to the call for western education than their Northern counterparts. In Tamil Nadu, Muslims established a number of educational institution for the benefit of their community of them the higher educational institutions are proportionately greater in number than the Primary and the Secondary Institutions. Muslims took greater efforts to establish these educational institutions. Before this venture the Society depended on the Government in this regard. They were involved in making representation to Government, awarding Scholarships, establishing hostels and encouraging the

5 Henry weitz, The organization of student services in Indian colleges and universities, New Delhi, 1971, p.1.
community to take up Higher education later on they started establishing higher educational institutions of their own. This study tries to bring out the contributions made by Muslims to Higher education in Tamil Nadu.

MUSLIM ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES

ISLAMIAH COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE FOR MEN

Islamiah College is a symbol of devotion to education and love for learning of the Muslims of Vaniyambadi who in their zeal for translating into action the message of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, established the Vaniyambadi Muslim Educational Society in 1901, and Islamiah Elementary School was started in 1903.

The phenomenal growth of the school was due to the untiring and dedicated services and leadership of T.Hajee Badruddin Sahib, Malang Hayath Batcha Sahib, T.Ameenuddin Sahib and Malang Ahmed Batcha Sahib. The full-fludged Islamiah High School came into being in 1912. In 1916, the society resolved to establish Islamiah College and the foundation stone of the College was laid by his Excellency Lord Pentland, the then Governor of Madras Province. With princely donations from the Muslim philanthropists, the College was started in 1919 and got recognition from July 1921. The building in which the College is housed at present was opened by Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem Sahib who gave a munificent donation of Rs. 50,000 to the Society.

In 1946, the College was upgraded as a degree college offering two year degree courses in B.A Economics and B.Com. In 1954, B.A English and Mathematics was started in 1956, the College got affiliation for the pre-university and the three year degree courses, B.A., B.Sc., and B.Com. were started in 1957. The University

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accorded permission to start B.Sc. Zoology and B.A. History in 1967. M.A. History was started in 1974, M.Com. in 1975, and M.Sc. Mathematics in 1976.\(^\text{10}\)

Consequent upon the shedding of the Pre-university Course with effect from 1980, the College offers instructions for Degree and Postgraduate Courses only. The College has further introduced new courses like B.Sc. Physics Major in 1981-82 and B.A. Corporate Secretary ship in 1982-83 and in the year 1983-84, the College got affiliation in B.A. Industrial Organization (Leather), a rural-based job-oriented course suggested by the College to the University. B.Sc. Biochemistry was started in 1985-86. The College has been recognized as a research institution for Ph.D. in Commerce from the academic year 1986-87. During 1986-87, the College further introduced M.Phil. Course (Full Time) in Commerce and M.Sc. Chemistry. The College got affiliation for M.Phil. (Part time) Mathematics and B.Sc. Computer Science in 1988-89 and for M.Phil (Part Time) in History in 1993-94 and Ph.D. in History in 1996\(^\text{11}\).

The College had a humble beginning in 1919 has now grown up to a full-fledged P.G. and Research Institution catering to the needs of the rural lot who would have otherwise not dreamt of taking a Research Degree. Now the Management has come forward to introduce new courses in the Evening College.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES OF ABDUL HAKEEM COLLEGE**

Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem, the great Muslim business cum nationalist was born on 1863 in Keelvisharam, North Arcot District.\(^\text{12}\) The forefathers of Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem Sahib belonged to the Tanjore district. They left their native place and settled down at Kilvisharam.\(^\text{13}\) He studied only up to third standard and after that he entered

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\(^\text{10}\) Islamiah College, Magazine, 2009-2010, p.6.

\(^\text{11}\) Islamiah College, Hand book, 2012-2013,p.11.

\(^\text{12}\) *The Hindu*, 28 January 1938.

into business. In 1890, he did leather business independently. After the demise of his father, Nawab Hakeem Sahib joined hands with C. Abdur Razaak Sahib, his father's brother, in his business. He married his uncle's eldest daughter, Kulsum Begam, who was an embodiment of all womanly virtues and a personification of all noble feelings such as magnanimity, philanthropy and self-confidence. Nawab Abdul Hakeem had three sons Abdul Subhan, Abdul Salam, Abdul Basith and a daughter Asiya Beevi.\textsuperscript{14}

The Nawab Sahib set up his leather business on the Moore Street in the city of Madras in 1890. He preferred to be a trader because many of his ancestors were businessmen. He spent three fourths of his earnings for the welfare projects of the Muslims. He sent donations to the health department, the education department and to the Defence Ministry at Delhi. He bought a piece of land on auction at Madras. He used only a part of the land for himself and on the remaining part he built a Mosque and named the building Siddique Sarai. In this building Muslim travellers were given accommodation to stay freely continuously for three days and charged\textsuperscript{15} a very little amount of money as rent for those staying more than three days. As a great philanthropist, he donated money for the establishment of Muslim educational institutions. In 1926, at Melvisharam with the support of Nawab Abdul Hakeem Sahib and other Muslims, he started the Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society. The society elected him as its first President. Nawab Abdul Hakeem Sahib was a seasoned politician and an ardent devotee of the Congress Party. He extended all possible financial assistance to the Muslim leaders of the Indian National Congress. Though he was a Congressman he liberally contributed money for the Khilafat Movement. The fund raising Khilafat Committee with Moulana Mufti Kifayathullah Sahib, Allama Shabbir Ahmed Usmani Sahib and Moulana Ahmed Sayeed Sahib arrived in Madras.

\textsuperscript{14} Ibid., p.30.
\textsuperscript{15} Philanthropy Thy Name is Hakeem, Melvisharam, 1990, pp.5-8.
Nawab offered ten thousand rupees and also arranged a function in their honour and raised a further sum of Rs.30,000 which was handed over to them. Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem actively participated in the freedom struggle. In the 1920's when the Khilafat Movement gained momentum in Tamilnadu, he served as the Vice-President and chief financier of the Khilafat Committee.\(^{16}\) The Government of Madras considered him as a serious politician because he, along with several Khilafat agitations, made preparations to conduct the Khilafat programmes successfully with the help of the Hindu community.\(^{17}\) When the Muslim deputation under the leadership of Muhammed returned to India from England in vain, the All India Khilafat Committee fixed 19 March 1920 as a day of national mourning and hartal to express their dissatisfaction over the attitude of the British Prime Minister. Following this, the Muslims of Tamilnadu observed hartals and prayer meetings. One such grand meeting was held at Marina Beach in Madras on 19 March 1920 and Hakeem spoke about the need of Khilfat Movement and condemned the British over the question of Turkey.\(^{18}\)

Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem became the Sheriff of Madras on 19 December 1929.\(^{19}\) He died on 28 January 1938. The Hindu paid rich tributes by naming him the King Emperor of Traders. Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem Sahib was one of those who played a leading role in the amelioration of the Muslim minority of India in general and Muslims of Tamil Nadu in particular. His political, social and cultural activities needed to be evaluated in the wider historical perspective. He was a liberal supporter and sponsor of educational, charitable and religious institutions. He was connected with various commercial and educational institutions. He was the life member of the


\(^{17}\) Ibid., p.162.

\(^{18}\) Narasimachari, K., Sheriff of Madras, Madras, 1946, p.68.

\(^{19}\) Ibid., p.75.
Aligarh Muslim University and was connected with the Government Mohammedan College, Madras.\textsuperscript{20} His splendid life had been a saga of service and sacrifice.

In 1916, Muhammedan Educational Conference of Southern India was held. The participants of the conference unanimously resolved to carry out the message and advise of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. Therefore many local Muslim educational societies were established to patronize education. The Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society was established in 1926, Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem Sahib, a leading businessman, Philanthropist was the President of that society.\textsuperscript{21} The Society started a primary school at Melvisharam, a village in between Arcot and Vellore on the Madras-Bangalore Trunk Road. The role of the Society was commendable for the next forty years, as it opened another girl’s primary school both of which were upgraded as High schools. In 1978, they were raised to the status of Higher Secondary School.\textsuperscript{22}

The need for another Muslim College in Vellore District was felt much. During the 1960s Islamiah College Vaniyambadi was functioning with full strength. The thickly populated Muslim students of Walajapet, Ranipet, Arcot and Melvishram needed one at their locality. Hence in 1965, the Abdul Hakeem College was started at Melvisharam.\textsuperscript{23} It was affiliated to the University of Madras. The College was first housed in local orphanage buildings, and later shifted to the newly constructed buildings at an area of 105 acres in 1968-1969 the year of inception. Many new courses were added. B.A. History, B.A. Economics, B.A. Corporate Secretary ship, B.Sc., Maths, B.Sc., Physics, B.Sc., Chemistry, B.Sc., Zoology, B.Com. We restarted

\textsuperscript{20} Madras Legislative Assembly Debates, Second session of the first Legislative Assembly, Vol.IV, No.1-7, 1938, p.331 \hfill \\
\textsuperscript{21} Hafiz AbdurRazzack and Hafiz BaqviRayachoty, \textit{Philanthropy Thy Name is “Hakeem”}, Melvisharam, 2000, p.26. \hfill \\
\textsuperscript{22} Subburathamlyar, ‘\textit{History of MMES’in Golden Jubilee Souvenir}, Melvisharam, 1981, p.67. \hfill \\
before 1970. P.U.C. Course was abolished in 1980. This college became a post
graduate center with M.A., Course in History, M.Sc., and Course in Mathematics,
Chemistry and Zoology. It became a research institution with full time M.Phil.
History and part time Ph.D., in Zoology. Students of all caste and creed are admitted.
The college houses a spacious large hostel also within the premises. A good play
ground and a large library are available. Two divisions of N.C.C. and five units of
N.S.S. are functioning in the college; Book bank is also functioning effectively for the
benefit of the poor and needy students. Computer Programming, Tourism, Leather
Chemistry and Poultry Science were some of the application oriented subjects which
were taught to the undergraduate students. Considering the job opportunities,
scholarships, stipends and fee concessions are provided to the students. Students are
granted medals and prizes in the name of the founder, for their academic excellence
and performance. The Motto of the college is “No guidance but Gods and the
institution insists “Enter to learn and leave to serve”.

C. Abdul Hakeem College is a government aided private college for Arts and
Science located in Melvisharam, Tamil Nadu. It is one of the oldest colleges in
Vellore District, affiliated to Thiruvalluvar University. The National Assessment and
Accreditation Council have conferred ‘A’ grade. Currently it offers 31 Courses at
Under-Graduate level, 6 Courses at Post-Graduate level and Ph.D programs. It was
granted autonomous status by University Grants Commission with effect from 2014-

The C. Abdul Hakeem College was established in the year 1965 by the
Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society (MMES) which was founded in 1918 by
Late Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem. He was a businessman, philanthropist, one of the

24 Ibid., p.5.
natives of Melvisharam and one time Sheriff of Madras. MMES started off with Primary, Secondary and Higher Education for people irrespective of caste, creed, community or social status. Presently, MMES manages 11 institutions from kindergarten school to a first grade college with five postgraduate departments and three research departments. They include M.M.E.S. Arts and Science College for women and C. Abdul Hakeem College of Engineering & Technology.\textsuperscript{25}

The College was instituted in the year 1965 with just Pre-University Course, in the local orphanage buildings. Subsequently, the M.M.E.S. acquired a site of more than 67 acres, on the eastern outskirts of the town, on the Chennai-Bangalore Trunk road, and constructed buildings to house the College and the hostels.

**MAZHARUL ULOOM COLLEGE**

Ambur Muslim Educational Society which was formed on the line of Vaniyambadi and Melvisharam Societies possessed the same ideals of improving the secular and moral education of the youth of Ambur. This Society which runs two elementary schools and two high schools, wanted to establish a college for the benefit of the youths of Ambur. The goal of the Society was materialized in 1969 and Mazharul Uloom College in Ambur was established with the assistance which came from every quarter. On 21st July 1969, the college was inaugurated. Temporarily located in the school buildings, this college started P.U.C. Classes initially. The affiliation from the University of Madras was obtained in the same year. With the benevolent grants collected, the new buildings were constructed in the heart of the town of Ambur and the college was shifted to the new buildings on 24\textsuperscript{th} January 1972. From the academic year 1971-1972, B.A. Economics and B.Sc., Mathematics was

\textsuperscript{25} C. Abdul Hakeem College, Annul Report, 2012-2013, p.29.
started. During 1975-1976, B.Com was introduced and in 1984-1985 B.A. Corporate Secretary Ship was commenced. 

This college is functioning only as an undergraduate college with only four major subjects. Students of all religion and race are admitted. This college is equipped with a good library. The only science subject is B.Sc. Mathematics and it is offered with allied subjects of numerical analysis and mathematical statistics. The applied subject is Computer Programming. This was the only college in Vellore District in which no science course was provided with laboratory facilities. However the library is well provided and book bank also exists to help poor students to borrow and use the books N.C.C. was started in 1979 and three N.S.S. units are also functioning in this college. This college did not possess a hostel of its own but for a limited number of student facilities are made available by the Muslim Educational Societies. The Motto of the college is ‘striver secures success’.

The Mazharul Uloom College was founded by the Ambur Muslim Educational Society (AMES) in 1969 with the united efforts of a dedicated team under the initiative, support and guidance of the gear leather industrialist and philanthropist late Anaikar Abdul Shukoor Sahib. The College started with a few students and has now grown over the years like a snowball with increasing number of students and teaching and non-teaching staff catering to the ever increasing student population. It is situated on its own grounds of 20.5 acres along with AMES College of Education founded from the academic year 2003-2004. The College, true to the vision of its founders, caters, to learners at large transcending the limits of caste, colour and creed with five UG courses in the Day College and even UG, four PG courses and also Research Programs in the Evening College.

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27 Ibid., p.8.
The college was upgraded to First Grade with the affiliation of B.A. (Econ.) and B.Sc. (Maths) for the academic year 1971-1972. The University of Madras granted affiliation to B.Com., Course from the academic year 1975-1976, B.A. Corporate Secretary ship (B.C.S) course from 1984-1985, and B.Sc. Computer Science from 1987-1988. Degree classes started functioning in the newly constructed permanent building from 24.01.1972. B.A. (Eco.) course was converted as B.A. (Corporate Economics with computer application) from the academic year 2002-2003. 

Another milestone in the history of the College is the commencing of Evening College within the same premises from the academic year 1995-1996 with B.Sc. (Computer Science) and B.BA. in 1996-1997 and B.Sc. Microbiology course in 1997-1998. In the year 2000-2001 B.C.A., was started. In the year 2007-2008, M.Sc. IT & M.Com courses were started. In the year 2009-2010 B.Sc ISMS, in 2010-2011 B.Com CA and in 2011-2012 B.A English were started. In the year 2012-2013 two more PG courses, MA English & M.Sc Mathematics were started.

THE NEW COLLEGE

The Muslim population was not satisfied by the Minister’s mere opening of the hostel. They wanted much more than what they got. A memorandum, pointing out the closure of the Government College for Muslim Women and withdrawal of facilities available to Muslims in the Government Muslim College, Mount Road, Madras, was submitted by the Honorary Secretary of the MEASI to the Education Minister, Government of Madras, on 24th August 1949. The memorandum certainly indicated the non-communal stand of the Government at Madras recalled the assurance given by the Government in G.O.NO. 260, Education, dated on 7th

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February 1949 that the policy of the Government with regard to Muslim education in this province which was till then in force would be allowed to continue without any interference for a period of five years.\(^{30}\) In his reply, the Minister made it clear that the G.O. was applicable only to schools and not to colleges. Regarding the admission to Government Arts College, the Minister asked, “Whether any Muslim has been refused admission improperly... If there are 400 seats available, and according to you, 75% is to be given to Muslims, are we to keep the seats vacant in these days if there are not 75% Muslim candidates forthcoming?\(^{31}\)

The MEASI wanted to start a college for the benefit of Muslim students in its formative period itself. Justice Abdur Rahim put forward this idea during his tenure of office. But, it could not come true due to the developments at Vaniyambadi. When the government opened college classes in the Madrasa-i-Azan the idea was postponed. In 1946, the education committee of the MEASI recommended the starting of a college. However; no serious effort was made in this direction. In fact, a determined attempt to start a college was made by the association only when the government changed the character of the Government Muslim College. In this situation the Executive Committee of the MEASI met on 2rd February 1950. In that meeting A. Mohamed Ubaidulla moved a resolution for constituting a committee to collect funds for the establishment of a college. Subsequent, the college began to function in 1951 and was named The New College.\(^{32}\) The reply of Minister was a little unexpected; but this was the ground reality. Disappointed by the reply of the government, the association revived its earlier decision to start a college in the City of Madras. It became a great event in the history of the association. A new era had dawned in the

life of the Muslims of the Madras Province. The MEASI entered a new phase. So far it was acting as a vital instrument in the development of Muslim education. But this new venture took MEASI from its traditional path and put on a new road of progress. The New College was established in 1951 and is affiliated to the University of Madras. Having completed 62 years of dedicated service to the nation, the college has earned an enviable reputation as a leading institution of higher education in Chennai. It was founded by the Muslim Educational Association of Southern India (MEASI) with the primary aim of providing higher education to the educationally backward section in general and Muslim students in particular. The Day College (Aided) offers 12 UG courses, 7 PG courses, 7 M.Phil and 6 Ph.D research programmes, while the Evening College (Self- financed) offers 8 UG and 5 PG courses Arts, Commerce & Science programmes. The College has achieved several significant milestones. It was selected by UGC in 2004, to offer Career Oriented Add-on programmes in Clinical Laboratory Technology (Certificate, Diploma & Advanced diploma courses), Computer Assembly & Servicing and Quantitative methods & Computer Applications. It was first accredited by NAAC with B++ in 2005. UGC conferred autonomous status to the College in 2007. The Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) recommended by TANSCHE was introduced in 2008.

These have helped the college to focus on Quality and holistic education of students, carry out many academic innovations in curriculum design, conduct of examination and evaluation and great students who are more employable with requisite life and personality skills. The college was re-accredited by NAAC in 2010 with the highest 'A' grade and CGPA of 3.18 on a scale of 4.00. The College is one of the most preferred educational institutions in Chennai due to its central location,

excellent infrastructure, dedicated teaching staff and emphasis on "Teaching beyond the classroom and beyond the curriculum". The curriculum includes modules on Deeniyath and Moral instructions, Computer skills, Personality enrichment, Soft skills and Environmental studies which help in the integrated/holistic development of the individual.34

The college campus is equipped with all necessary facilities for the all-round development of students including playground, Hostel, fitness centre, Staff Lounge, Library, Canteen, Wi-Fi internet connectivity and so on. Students' Union elections are conducted every year to select student representatives and to inculcate values of democracy in students. The college has two active units of NCC. The units of NSS, Roteract Club, Youth Red Cross and other social service initiatives of the college won several accolades from different agencies including Chennai city police, and health department for their services. There is a mosque in the college campus which is open for all for worship and meditation.35

The New College became autonomous in the year 2007, and it is recently re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade. Autonomy has enhanced us to periodically update our curriculum, and offer courses that are relevant to the times and aimed at enhancing employability of students. During its existence in the past 62 years, the college has produced about 75,000 graduates, many of whom have excelled in their chosen fields. The college continues to extend its services to the nation by means of adopting healthy practices and dedicated efforts to ensure quality of education.36

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Jamal Mohamed was born for the couple Jamal Moideen and Hiluru Beevi in the year 1882 in Ramanathapuram District. He learned Arabic and reading the Holy book after his parents sent him to an Islamic religious school at Ramanathapuram in 1892. Jamal Mohamed joined the Madras Christian College High School later after completing his primary education. The year 1910 saw the successful emergence of Jamal Mohideen and Company. He was successful in his export business in the United States, England and the European nations during his initial days. The British Prime Minister invited Jamal Mohamed with red carpet to attend the Second Round Table Conference. At the plenary session of the Round Table Conference, several Indian and British delegates present made important speeches, giving expression to their views on the future constitution of India. Jamal Mohamed met the Prime Minister and other British Statesmen who were interested in Indian political affairs and attended the King's garden party at the Buckingham Palace. He returned to Madras in 1932. On 19 March 1932, he presided over the annual general meeting of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce in Madras. He spoke mainly on the commercial problems generally existing in India generally and in South India in particular. Jamal Mohamed played a vital role in establishing branches of the Muslim League in the Madras Presidency. He served as a President of Muslim League from 1928 to 1940. He totally opposed the evil practice of untouchability. Further, he

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39 Satchit, T.N., Who is who in Madras, Cochin, 1986, p.73.
40 Indian Round Table Conference, Second Session, Proceedings of the preliminary session, Central Publication Branch, Calcutta, 1932, p.204.
42 The Hindu, 27 March 1932.
believed in the Indian made goods and requested the people to use Indian made goods. He was a great supporter of Khaddar movement. When Jamal Muhamed was elected the President of the Muslim Educational Association of South India in 1935, he wanted to have a change in the secular curriculum by including religious education. He was an ardent nationalist. His speeches on Hindu-Muslim unity clearly show his feeling of nationalism. His services to India in general and Muslim community in particular cannot be evaluated. He was an active participant of the freedom movement of our country and a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi and other veterans of our nation.

Jamal Mohamed College was founded in 1951, as an affiliated college to the University of Madras and then affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, when it was formed in 1982. The college was inaugurated on 11th July 1951 by .P.S. Kumarasamy Raja, the then Chief Minister of Madras with His Excellency, the Maharaja of Bhavanagar, the then Governor of Madras presided over the function. When the college was founded in 1951, the Founding Management Committee of the college consisted of N.M. Khajamian Rowther as the founder President (1951-1954), M.J. Jamal Mohideen Sahib as the founder Secretary (1951-1966) and N.M.K. Abdul Samad Sahib (1951-1964) as the founder Treasurer. Over the period of 6 decades, the college was able to scale greater and greater heights and rise to the present status as a multi faculty institution with 11 UG courses, 11 PG courses and 2 M.Phil. Programmers under Government Aided stream and 9 U.G. courses, 14 P.G. courses, 15 M.Phil and 14 Ph.D. programmes under self financing stream for men by

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promoting quality and excellence in higher education due to the sustained efforts and dedicated leadership given by the College Management Committee. The college also offers 13 U.G., 14 P.G. courses, 15 M.Phil and 14 Ph.D programmes exclusively for women as part of women empowerment during the second shift of the College.\footnote{Jamal Mohamed College, Handbook, 2011-2012.p.14.} \footnote{Khadir Mohideen College, Annual Report, 2014-2015.p.12.} 

**KHADIR MOHIDEEN ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE**

Khadir Mohideen Arts and Science College, commonly called Khadir Mohideen College is one of the oldest minority colleges in Tamil Nadu, established in 1955. It is located in Adirampattinam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu. The College is nationally reaccredited with 'B' Grade by NAAC. The college is affiliated to Bharathidasan University in Trichy. It offers more than 45 Undergraduate degrees, Post Graduate Degrees, Research, Diploma and Certificate programmes in Government Aided Course. It also offers Self-Finance Courses. Khadir Mohideen College supports enrollments of 3000 students annually.\footnote{Khadir Mohideen College, Annual Report, 2014-2015.p.12.} The College is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee Year.

**MSS WAKF BOARD COLLEGE**

Twenty fifth of July 1968 was a landmark in the history of Madurai Muslims. Sha SirguroWakf Board College came into being at a time when education at the collegiate level was inaccessible to the downtrodden and the less fortunate of the students who had neither means nor clout to pull enough strings to gain access into colleges. Sha Sirguro Wakf Board College was God-send, and answer to their prayers.

In 1967, a dispute between Isthiak Sha Sahib Sirguro and the Tamil Nadu Wakf Board over a stretch of valuable property was resolved under a compromise decree passed by the Madras High Court in A.S.No.435 of 1964 and it was decided to
set up a college in the city Madurai. Honourable Kadayanallur Abdul Majeeth Sahib, the then Minister for Local Administration has sown the seeds for starting the college by allotting the necessary funds for land acquisition and by extending unstinted support.⁴⁸

Fully realizing the need of the hour, M. Heera Sahib and M. Abdul Khader Sahib, the two dynamic social workers and indefatigable campaigners for higher education, plunged themselves into the task of transforming the vision of starting a college into a reality. Their steadfast determination and relentless pursuit resulted in the establishment of the college in a rented building at 5, Hakim Ajmal Khan Road, Madurai under the name of “Sha Sirguro Wakf Board College”.

The history of the college is a never-ending saga of the constancy and industry of many illustrious personalities. This galaxy is constituted of the following personalities whose involvement, being substantial and redolent of the spontaneity of their heart and the sagacity of their mind.⁴⁹ M. Heera Sahib and M. Abdul Khader Sahib mooted the idea of starting the college and spearheaded it into a historic success. H.K. Ghazi, I.A.S., and A.M. Nabi, I.A.S., extended their official patronage. F. Ahamed, the then Secretary to the Wakf Board strove his best to speed up the procedural process. The role of the Wakf Board in the establishment of the college is inestimable. The Government of Tamil Nadu assigned a vast stretch of valuable land of 28 acres at K.K. Nagar, Madurai. Local philanthropists, men of vision and resource fullness ceaselessly endeavored for the growth and development of this college through their sacrifices. Their dynamism enabled the collection of a sizeable sum towards the building fund. It is the only college in India that enjoys the exclusiveness of privilege to be run under the auspices of a State Wakf Board. The College secular

⁴⁹ MSS Wakf Board College, Annual Report, 2012-2013, p.16.
in outlook, though a minority institution admits to its fold, students of all communities. There has been an appreciable improvement in the excellence of coaching and conscientiousness of the staff. It is a matter of pride to note that many a personality from Madurai has contributed their might to the college and they deserve our enduring appreciation and gratitude.\(^{50}\)

The College has registered a steady progress over the years. B.A., Economics (both English and Tamil Medium) B.A., History and B.Com. Courses were started in quick succession. Consequent upon the introduction of plus two pattern of education, the college got affiliation for B.Sc., Chemistry and Zoology in June, 1979 after developing the necessary infrastructure. The College has been offering M.A., English Language and Literature since 1980, B.Sc., Mathematics since 1982, B.Sc., Physics since 1985 and M.Com since 1987 and B.Sc., Computer Science since 1992 and B.Sc., Electronics since 1997. B.Sc., Microbiology, B.B.A., and M.Sc., Computer Science course were started during 1998. B.Com. Computer Applications was started in 1999 and M.S. Information Technology and Management were started in 2000.

From the academic year 1994-95 onwards, the college offers Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications, B.A., English Literature and M.Com. (C.A.) were started in 2011-12. In 1981 a new block was inaugurated on the western side of the main block. Foundation stone for the hostel building was laid by Janab B.S.A Rahman on 26.02.1984 and the construction work commenced. The Hostel was inaugurated on 05.10.1986.\(^{51}\)

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Karutha Rowther’s real name was Muhammed Meeran Rowther who was born in the year 1888. He was from an agricultural family in Uthamapalayam. Karutha Rowther’s parents were Sentlial Syed Levai and Meerkutti came to be known as Karutha Rowther. The 19th century saw great reception for Ammal. Karutha Rowther had dark complexion as against his elder brother Nathar Hussain. So, the former religious education among the Muslims. Karutha Rowther, in this line, underwent Islamic education in Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu. It changed his personality, character and conduct. During his initial days, Karutha Rowther looked after agriculture successfully. He had two wives and six sons and six daughters. Karutha Rowther was a disciple of Congress principles. He was known for his philanthropic activity that was also famous in his town for his social works. His active days during India’s freedom struggle were an unforgettable one. His role in the Swadeshi Movement is one thing that brought his name and fame among other things. He campaigned for the Congress principles.

Karutha Rowther was instrumental in the Khilafat Movement and Civil-Disobedience Movement and conducted a conference of the Periyakulam Taluk Congress Committee. He injected the spirit of nationalism among the young people. He employed stage artists to conduct dramas and hired musicians and singers. All these measures yielded good results and attracted many rural people towards the national cause. He went around from village to village to take stock things and also to be aware of the mode of agitation the people liked. Congress volunteers stayed at the

53 Ibid., p.3.
residence of Veerabhadra Chettiar, a staunch Congressman of Pannaipuram. Karutha Rowther took part in this movement and in order to keep the tempo of the movement, later in his life, Karutha Rowther decided to hang his boots from politics but instead diverted his focus on social work and educational services. Karutha Rowther was popularly known for his intention to give away all his earnings towards undertaking several public welfare activities.

Hajee Karutha Rowther was born of noble parents at Uthama palayam in 1888. Being the founder president of Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College, he was a well known Philanthropist of the Cumbum valley. He was extremely simple and pragmatic. The Hajee was a Patriot, Philanthropist, Pious Muslim all rolled up into one. Blessed with the altruistic ideal of doing good to others, the Karutha Rowther liberally gave as and when he was called upon to do so. A staunch nationalist that he was, he took part in the Khilafat Movement during the Freedom struggle. The Karutha Rowther who was truly religious had the conviction that true religion consists in service to humanity. He donated a building worth Rs.75000/- to the local Government Hospital. He made liberal contributions for the construction of mosques in and around Uthama palayam. In 1914, he founded a Residential Madrasa, which has been doing great service to Islam and the Muslim Community. Besides imparting Islamic education the Madrasa provides free education for about twenty men students with facilities for free boarding and lodging all the year round. Though the Karutha Rowther did not receive higher education, he realised the need for modern education. He knew well that education was the key to social and economic progress of the masses. It was this laudable idea that prompted him to establish a primary school at Utham palayam as early as 1914. In the year 1950, when the Local Board High

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School was on the verge of closure for want of a permanent building, Hajee Karutha Rowther came forward to construct a building worth about one Lakh Rupees. The Madurai District Board magnanimously named the school after him as ‘Karutha Rowther Howdia High School’ has catered to the educational needs of people ever-since it was stabilized.\footnote{Sakthivadivel, K., \textit{An Article in Tiennattu Gandhi Krishinaswamy Iyengar Avaragali NuttranduVizha Malar (T)}, p.32.}

Hajee Karutha Rowther did not like the benefit of education to be confined to this locality alone. So, he made liberal contribution to Jamal Mohamed College, Thiruchirapally, The New College, Chennai and the S.I.E.T. College, Chennai. After his pilgrimage to Mecca in 1954, he came back with renewed enthusiasm and ambition to start a college at Uthama palayam. For this purpose he offered Two Lakh Rupees to the Madurai District Board. But the Government was not in favour of the Board running a College. The Hajee was not disheartened. He rushed to A.L. Mudaliar, the then Vice-Chancellor of Madras University, for guidance. Seeing the boundless enthusiasm of the Karutha Rowther, Mudaliar came to his help. It did not take long for the Hajee to start the College. He created an endowment of Five Lakh Rupees in the form of Bank Deposit and also he donated landed property around 58 acres in the fertile area on the banks of the river Periyar. Apart from these, he contributed several lakhs of rupees towards the construction of the College and Hostel buildings. In 1956 the college was declared open by K. Kamaraj, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.\footnote{Ibid., p.40.} Fascinated by the sanctity of a famous Muslim saint of Baghdad, Howdh- Ul-Ahlam Mohideen Abdul Qadir Jeelani, the Hajee had the name "Howdia" added to all the institutions founded by him. "Howdia" has become a household name in the Cumbum Valley. Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College,
occupies a unique place among the institutions of higher education in Tamil Nadu. It owes its existence solely to the munificence of Hajee Karutha Rowther, who was a man of simple living but lofty ideals. By establishing this college in 1956, he had fulfilled the long-cherished dream of the people of the Cumbum Valley. His name will ever be remembered by posterity with gratitude and affection. The college provides opportunity especially to the poor students who could not afford to continue their studies in cities like Madurai, Tiruchi and Chennai. Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College claims the reputation of the first rural college ever established in the erstwhile Madurai district.\[58\]

**DR. ZAKIR HUSAIN COLLEGE**

There is a Chinese proverb which states, "If you plan for a year, sow the seed; if you plan for a decade, plant a tree and If you plan for a century, educate the people". The founder members of this institution had this noble ideal in mind when they started this college. It is said that when a person crosses a river, he ought not to forget that he has left the other bank behind. This college has seen the light of the day due to the Herculean efforts of some of the elders of Ilayangudi. Ameen Nainar Howth sounded the idea of establishing an Arts and Science College in Ilayangudi. The unique feature of this college was that unlike other colleges, this College was not started by any single rich man or business people. Rather, this college was started by the ordinary citizens who have the thirst to start an education in their locality. A membership fee of Rs.11/- each was collected and every citizen of Ilayangudi has contributed for the emergence of the College (At present, the membership fee was increased to Rs.3000 and today there are 550 members in the College Society). The yearning for a college in this area in the minds of the elders of

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Ilayangudi, when they had bitter experience in admitting their wards to colleges situated at far off places like Jamal Mohamed College, Trichirappalli, New College, Madras, or colleges at Madurai.\(^5\)\(^9\) They found it difficult in getting the desired courses also. The colleges in Sivagangai, Karaikudi and Ramanathapuram were not convenient for them due to some reasons or other. The position of the people in the interior villages was pathetic. Therefore, with the main objective of providing facility for higher education in Ilayangudi, this College was named after the great educationist, a devout scholar and the third President of India, Dr. Zakir Husain, in 1970.

This College has been established and is administered under Article 30 (1) of the Indian Constitution, by the Muslim Minority Community which has invested in them, all the funds required. This College was registered under the Societies Registration Act No.64/68. The Govt. of Tamil Nadu has permitted to open the college here vide its G.O.Ms.No.450 dt.23.03.1971. Later it was registered in the name of "The Dr. Zakir Husain College Society" as per S.No.8 of 1983 under the Societies Registration Act 27 of 1975.\(^6\)\(^0\) On April 28, 1970, His Excellency Sarda Ujjal Singh, the then Governor of Tamil Nadu, laid the foundation stone of the college building. The function was presided over by Meenakshi Sundaram, Vice-Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University. On July 1, 1970, the College began to function with three sections at the Pre-University level with 173 students. It was on July 5, 1970, the inauguration of the College was formally held. Quide-Millath, M. Mohamed Ismail Shahib, M.P., presided. V.R. Nedunchezhian, Hon’ble Minister for Education,

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\(^{60}\) G.O.Ms.No.450,23.03.1971.
delivered the inaugural address. The first team of Management Committee was headed by V.K. Ibrahim Ali Ambalam.61

SADAKATHULLAH APPA COLLEGE

The Tirunelveli district has a sizeable Muslim population which felt the need for an institution of higher education. It is a major custom in a particular religious community to accommodate its own students. Due to the dedicated and sincere efforts of the Muslim elite, a College of Arts and Sciences, named after the noted Arabic Scholar Sadakathullah Appa, was started in 1971. The College is located on a 40-acre sprawling campus. Sadakathullah Appa College is the fifth star to rise in the academic sky of Palayamkottai in 1971. The College is situated on the high-way between Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi near the District Court of Tirunelveli. The College is run by the Sadakathullah Appa Educational Society. It was first affiliated to the Madurai Kamaraj University for twenty years, with the birth of the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in 1990; the College which came into existence only in 1971 till now has been able to make rapid progress in all fields of life in the educational map of South India. Moreover due to the efforts taken by the management and other various facilities the college has made a significant contribution in the field of education. Between 1985 and the College has made a remarkable progress. This is inferred from the introduction of many more departments which enabled a large number of students to get themselves educated. This enabled the College to provide more facilities to students both in academic and non-academic fields. The College also procured a large number of books which facilitated the students to prepare themselves in their examinations. The College has been keen in conducting religious instruction classes every Wednesday. The College also invited a number of eminent scholars in their

respective fields to provide the students a food of thought. Apart from the academic activities, the College also got involved itself in Fine arts Association, N.S.S. and N.C.C. The College had also distinguished itself in the field of sports, both in the district as well as inter-state levels. The College has also laid emphasis on the Islamic study. Now, this college is a research institutions having research programme (Ph.D.,) in History and Commerce. Hence, Sadakathullah Appa College is the only aided Muslim Arts and Science in the Tirunelveli District.62

The College celebrated its Silver Jubilee in March 1999. The College has been re-accredited with ‘A’ Grade by NAAC with CGPA 3.11. It is also an ISO 9001:2000 Certified Institution from the year 2004. The academic year 2007-2008 is a milestone in the history of the College.63 The Research Programmes offered are M.Phil in History and M.Phil. In Commerce. The College offers U.G. courses in History, English Literature, Commerce, Business Administration, Mathematics, Advanced Zoology and Bio-Technology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Microbiology, B.Com, with Computer applications and BCA. The Post-graduate Courses offered are M.A, History, M.A., English, M.Com, M.Sc., Mathematics, M.Sc., Industrial Microbiology and P.G. Diploma in Computer Application. It also offers Certificate Courses in Arabic. Translation Proficiency. Tamil Journalism, Tourism Management, and Diploma Courses in Islamic Theology, Translation Proficiency and Tamil journalism.64 and so many Ph.D Programmes in the college.

62 Interview with; Mohammed Sathik, Principal, Sadakathulla Appa College, Tirunelveli, 19.04.2013.
63 Sadakathulla Appa College, Annual Report, 2009-2010, p.17.
THE QUAIDE MILLETH COLLEGE FOR MEN

In addition to The New College an SIET College, another college was started bearing the name of a leading Muslim personality. It was established and administered by the Quaide Milleth Educational and Social Trust (QMEST), Madras, to perpetuate the memory of the late leader of the Indian Union Muslim League M. Mohammed Ismail Sahib.

The very idea of establishing a college of commercial technology in the name of Quaide Milleth M. Mohammed Ismail Sahib was found impractical. But to the surprise of many the college became a fait accompli with the help of men with charitable dispositions and of social commitments. Abdul Wahab Jani, the then Muslim League leader and social worker, was the "soul behind the establishment of this Trust in 1974". The donors of this college were not only from different parts of India but also from different parts of the world. The Government of Tamil Nadu assigned 40 acres of land to this Trust for the purpose of running the college. The college is situated in a serene atmosphere on the Tambaram–Velachery road.\(^\text{65}\)

The college was duly inaugurated on 24th July 1975. That year itself the college offered Pre – University courses. In 1977-78 B.A (Co-operation) and B.Sc(Mathematics) were started. The University Grant affiliation to the B.Com degree course in 1978 – 79 and B.A (Corporate Secretary ship) degree course in the year 1981-82. The college grew into a post – graduate institution in 1982 – 83 with the introduction of M.Com degree course.\(^\text{66}\) The college offers mainly job-oriented commercial courses to suit the needs of modern times. The aim of the college is to foster, in the teachers and students and through them in society generally, the attitudes and values needed for developing good life in individuals and society. Although the


\(^{66}\) Annual Magazine, Quaire millath College,2012-2013,p.12.
college has been established to cater to the educational needs of the Muslims, its doors are open to deserving students belonging to all communities. The college has provided job opportunities to a good number of teaching and non-teaching staff. The motto of the college stresses the importance of education by declaring that one who seeks knowledge will be bestowed with knowledge and benevolence in attendance. The college has a dubious distinction of having 9 principals in the first 9 years of its existence. It shows the instability in the administrative mechanism of the college. No principal could do anything concrete in a shortest tenure of one year. Without a stable principal academic advancement in a college could not be dreamt of.

**MUSLIM ARTS COLLEGE**

Muslim Arts College was started to improve the condition of the Muslims in the region. Various reform measures undertaken in the field of education endowed the country with a network of schools and colleges. In the midst of such developments, the progress of Muslim education remained very slow. This was mainly because of their strict adherence in their faith. For the education of the Muslims, the government faced certain difficulties. In 1984, the government of Tamil Nadu introduced the self-financing educational scheme to prevent the Tamils seeking admission in other states by paying huge sums. The Muslims also started one college under this scheme. The Muslim Arts College, a self-financing college is a benefaction under the society known as Muslim Educational Society of Kanyakumari district at Tiruvithancode. This Society was founded in 1981 by the Muslims of Kanyakumari district with the laudable aim of fulfilling a long felt need of the Muslims of that area to establish an

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Arts and Science college of their own.\textsuperscript{69} The college was inaugurated by N.A. Noor Mohammed who was formally the Vice-Chancellor of the Calicut University. The Madurai Kamaraj University granted affiliation in 1984. The starting of this college was water shed in the history of the Muslim education in Kanyakumari District.\textsuperscript{70}

Muslim Arts & Science College has well equipped laboratories for Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Computer Science courses. Every department has their own library, book bank and audio-video collections. This college campus enjoys internet connectivity.\textsuperscript{71} The library of this college has a good collection of 1500 books for all subjects. A remedial coaching committee has started functioning in the college from 2009-2010. One of the major objectives of this committee is to conduct UGC, C.S.I.R. coaching classes for those appearing for research fellowship examinations after completion of their Post Graduate studies. The committee is also conducting classes for civil service examination.\textsuperscript{72}

**MOHAMED SATHAK COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE**

Mohamed Sathak College of Arts & Science was established in 1991, by the Mohamed Sathak Trust with the sole aim of spreading quality education. A co-educational institution it is affiliated to the University of Madras, and approved by the AICTE. The College situated in Sholinganallur (near Chennai) on the IT corridor offers 20 Undergraduate, 11 Postgraduate, and 6 Research programmes to 4854 students.\textsuperscript{73} The courses offered reflect the vast career options today available to the

\textsuperscript{69} Annual Magazine, Muslim Arts College, 2015-2016, p.14.
\textsuperscript{70} G.O. M.S. No.814, May 11, 1984.
\textsuperscript{71} Thina thanthi, (*Tamil Daily*), *Industrial Malar*, Nagercoil, Dated: 05.10.2012, p.78.
\textsuperscript{72} Muslim Arts College, Annual Magazine, Thiruvithancode 2007-2008, p11.
\textsuperscript{73} Mohamed Sathak college of Arts and Science, Hand Book, Thiruvithancode, 2010-2011, p.4.
youth, and the curriculum is designed to make them employable the moment they complete the courses and face corporate challenges with the right skills.

**NAINA MOHAMED COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE COLLEGE**

Naina Mohamed College of Arts & Science (NMCAS), Pudukkottai was established in 1997. The institute is affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Trich.\(^7^4\) The Group of Institutions functions on self-financing basis. No grant is obtained from Government or any funding agency to meet capital expenditure or day-to-day expenses. It sustains itself on the self-generated funds for its establishment and development.

**M.I.E.T. ARTS COLLEGE**

The M.I.E.T. Arts college was established by the Mohammed Institute of Education and Technology Society Tiruchirappalli in the year 1994, a society registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975, at the initiative of A. Mohamed Yunus, an industrialist-cum-educationist as founder secretary and S.M. Hassan Mohamed, a Philanthropist as the founder president, with an objective to serve the cause of higher education. The college is affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli. It is recognized as a Muslim Minority Institution under the Constitution of India. In a short span of time, the college has registered a good track record of academic performance. It carries out several co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for developing life skills in students and offers useful placement services. The college has well laid hostels inside the campus for both girls’ and boys’.\(^7^5\) To exhibit the scientific knowledge and technical talents of the school students MIETY EXPO the science exhibition was conducted every year. Many

\(^7^4\) Naian Mohammed College of Arts and Science, Annual Report, 2011-2012, p.17.

\(^7^5\) MIET Arts College, Annual Report, 2011-2012, p.11.
schools in and around his college actively participate and exhibits their models. Best and innovative models which express social awareness and current affairs grab prizes and certificates.

**RAJAGIRI DAWOOD BATCHA COLLEGE ARTS AND SCIENCE**

Rajagiri Dawood Batcha (RDB) College of Arts And Science, Papanasam was established in 1999 to provide quality education to the students especially living in and around the rural areas. The college is dedicated to all-around development of the students. It prepares them intellectually and emotionally to compete at national and international levels and teaches them to face the future responsibilities in society confidently. The college stands unique by emphasizing sound education to the rural people who were far neglected and couldn't stand parallel with urban students. The College has a highly sophisticated campus with 70,000 sq ft. building in 10.25 acres of land in a calm, green and healthy atmosphere.

**NOORUL ISLAM COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

Noorul Islam College of Arts and Science is an offspring of Noorul Islam Educational Trust. Noorul Islam Educational Trust is reputed for its Commitment to the cause of higher education. A.P. Majeed khan, a well-known Philanthropist, is the founder Chairman of the Trust. The college is situated in the serene picturesque slope of the Velimalai hills in the Western ghosats near the historically famous and once the capital of Travancore Kingdom. Padmanabhapuram. The college campus is spread ever an area of more than 15 acres of greenery. Noorul Islam College of Arts and Science started in 2001 by Noorul Islam Educational Trust, is affiliated to

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78 Ibid., p.2.
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. With a meagre strength of just 75 students offering three courses computer science Information Technology and Computer application.\textsuperscript{79} It imparts world class education to the growth for their overall development and thereby positively furthers the nation’s Economic and Social Development is the vision of the college. Expanding the horizons of knowledge and achieve excellence by creating an atmosphere of learning, research and all round development of the students with a steadfast focus on empowerment, engagement and employability. The college strives to do this by creating a strong of shared values. Self-reliance and commitment is the mission of the college.\textsuperscript{80} The college progressed leaps and bounds by adding new courses and infrastructure facilities. During in the year 2011, the college has effective student’s strength of about 1.163. It offers 13 UG courses, 8 PG Courses and 5 M.Phil. Courses and 1 Ph.D. Programme. There are 93 teaching staff and 38 non-teaching staff in the college. Among the teaching staff, there are 9 Ph.D., holders and 74 M.Phil. Degree holders.\textsuperscript{81} The college has excellent laboratories for all branches of studies. It has a fully equipped studio for the department of visual communication built at a cost of Rs.30 Lakhs and there are spacious halls and a well-furnished library in the college.

\begin{thebibliography}{9}
\bibitem{1} Noorul Islam College of Arts and Science, Annual Magazine, Thuckalay, 2010-2011, p.5.
\bibitem{2} Ibid., p.7.
\bibitem{3} Noorul Islam College of Arts and Science, Annual Report, 2011-2012, p.30.
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