CHAPTER III

PROMOTION OF LEARNING

Education is the bed rock achievement of any civilized society. It denotes the methods in which a society hands down its knowledge, culture and values from one generation to the next. It helps all round development of the individual and makes him, fit physically, emotionally and morally an acceptable personality in society. The responsibility of imparting knowledge rested with teachers, parents, church or any other group in the society. This ultimately resulted in the establishment of educational institution by the government, private and individuals and other such agencies. Towards this objective, the Malankara Syrian Catholic Mission took a primary lead in this District.

Kanyakumari District, though a tiny part situated in the southern most edge of the Indian sub continent is known for education from yore. Thiruvalluvar extols learning as the only imperishable wealth and the learned are honoured highly not only in own their land but all over the world\(^1\). The sangam literature throws glimpses on the prevalence of education in ancient Tamil Nadu. It referred to the pial or portico schools of the villagers. During that period, education was wide spread and all the people irrespective of caste or sex enjoyed the benefit of education. However, with the onset of bhakthi movement and the spread of temple construction as its consequence, the function of educational institutions too were carried out by most

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\(^1\) *Thirukural*, 397, 400.
of the temples of prominence. As no other public agency including the state had taken up the responsibility of providing education, temple became the main educational agency. We come to know from several records that a number of major temples provided adequate facilities to run educational institutions in their own precincts. Such institutions attached with the temples were variously known as Ghatikos and Salas. Mostly, they served as residential colleges for the study of Vedic literature and secular subject\(^2\). Studded with the Parthibhasekarapuram Salai attached with the famous Vishnu temple at Parthibhapuram near Muncharai in Vilavancode taluk of Kanyakumari District and Rajarajaperum Salai attached with the Bhagavathi Amman temple at Kanyakumari were great centers of learning\(^3\). However, in the princely State of Travancore till the dawn of 19th century, education was the monopoly of the high caste. For instance in the Vedic colleges, the Brahmans and in the salas of South Travancore Nambuthiri Brahmans alone were admitted. Education was denied to other caste people\(^4\). The unprivileged section of the society could not dream of education as they were completely dominated and enslaved by the privileged section. So before the advent of Christian Missionaries, especially the protestant Christianity in Travancore, education was the sole monopoly of higher caste\(^5\). But by the beginning of 19th century this situation began to change considerably with the advent of protestant Christianity in

\(^2\) Gurumurthy, S., *Education in South India (Ancient and Medieval Period)*, Madras, 1979, p.4.


\(^5\) L.M.S. Report, 1822, p.84.
the State. The missionaries of the LMS realized and unprivileged people from the social mire and so started educational institution. Consequently W.T. Ringle Taube, started the first English School (Central School) in the Church Premises at Mylaudy in 1805. In course of time as there was no separate building for schools; the six churches established by him in the neighboring villages were used as schools. In these schools lessons were taught in Tamil. In the beginning only boys alone were admitted in all the schools. However, Charles Mead, the successor of Ringle Taube shifted the Central School to Nagercoil town from Mylaudy in 1818. It was the first institution imparted regular English Education in South Travancore. But girls were forbidden to study in these schools. Therefore, Johanna Mead the wife of the Charles Mead started a boarding school in 1819 for girls at Nagercoil near the Home Church, Nagercoil. As soon as Mead was transferred to Neyyoor, his wife started a boarding school at Neyyoor too. Between 1819 and 1823 many schools were opened in villages. But, the financial crunch, due to the restriction imposed on the grant in 1866 many schools were closed. On seeing this, in 1875 the Government of Travancore came forward to help the Mission Schools by granting Rs.15000 as grant in aid subsequently in 1894 the Madras Government issued a new order extending grant-in-aid on the basis of strict religious neutrality, which adversely affected the mission schools from using Christian text book and promoting evangelical work. Meanwhile the Travancore Government set up an Education

7 Desopakari, Nagercoil, April 1987, p.37.
Reforms Committee\textsuperscript{11} (Satham Committee) in 1933. It proposed to give grant-in-aid only to the Primary Schools having five classes and recommending a five year course in Primary Education\textsuperscript{12}. As most of the Mission Schools had less than five classes this policy affected such schools. Moreover, according to the direction of the commission, many schools were upgraded into complete primary schools. Subsequently C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyer the well known, Dewan of South Travancore formulated a policy of compulsory education which not only resulted in withdrawal of Government recognition but grand-in-aid on 12\textsuperscript{th} September 1945\textsuperscript{13}. In consequence, nearly 110 LMS Primary Schools were surrendered to Travancore Government. As a result, the mission obtained a nominal amount as rent for the school buildings. The Governmental usurpation of the privilege to carry on primary education was a great blow to the LMS and hence the LMS School began to concentrate to promote higher education. The formation of Kanyakumari District and the Kanyakumari Diocese opened a new era in the history of education in the district. Subsequently various schools and colleges were flowered under the umbrella of Kanyakumari Diocese.

Similar to the protestant mission, the Missionaries of the Catholic Church too rendered meritorious service to promote education in Kanyakumari District. With this motto the Missionaries from early days found it necessary to instruct the converts to read and write. So, that they could read the Bible

\textsuperscript{11} Velupilaj, T.K., \textit{op. cit.}, p.727.
\textsuperscript{12} L.M.S. Ten years of church and Mission in Travancore, 1931-1940, Nagercoil, 1940, p.32.
\textsuperscript{13} Packiamony, A., “Christhavarkalin Kalvipani” C.S.I. Kanyakumari Diocese Souvenir, 43\textsuperscript{rd} Thanks Giving Festival, Nagercoil, 2002, p.52.
and receive spiritual substance. Besides, through education they tried to uplift the social, cultural and economic condition of the converts. But education is provided to all irrespective of caste and creed\(^\text{14}\). St. Francis School, Nagercoil was found on 15\(^{th}\) October 1907 stood for the promotion of Tamil Education. At the time of the formation of Catholic Diocese Kanyakumari District was blessed with 75 Primary Schools, 6 Middle Schools and 1 High School. The Central Carmel School, Nagercoil which was started in 1922 catered to the education needs. The only one English High School existed in the Diocese was St. Joseph’s Convent High School for Girl started in 1906, which held the absolute sway in Nagercoil for Primary Middle and High Schools for girls. Similarly, places like Mulakumoodu, Cape Comorin, Asaripallam, Kulasekaram, Palliyadi and Ritapuram had been their field of educational activities. As a result of their untiring efforts the Diocese is gifted with 4 High Schools, 18 Middle Schools, 81 Primary Schools, 1 teacher training school and 8 technical Schools imparting education to about 24,287 students population\(^\text{15}\). Ever since 1955, the educational avenues of the Catholic Diocese spread greatly to cater to educational needs of the Catholics and other people.

While the protestant and Catholic Missions attempted to impart education, the Malankara Syrian Catholic Mission too exhibited greater importance to promote education in Kanyakumari District. Ignorance and illiteracy on the one side, orthodox Hindu opposition with stringent taboo and caste


restriction prevailed. On the other side in Kanyakumari District motivated the Malankara Syrian Catholic Mission to focus its attention to promote education. Moreover, the Missionary felt that education is the only remedy not only to inculcate knowledge and promote culture. But, to propagate religious faith among the people, the achievements of some of their prominent schools and colleges are brought to light in the subsequent pages.

St. Mary’s High School, Vimalapuram

Vimalapuram, a place situated in the Nattalam village is blessed a school for imparting education. As a center of religious activities of Malankara Syrian Catholics, the first parish priest Fr. Joseph Kuzhijinalil realized the need for providing education to ignorant as well as illiterate people of the locality. With this motive, on 19th May 1947, the parish priest opened a primary school for 35 peoples with Malayalam as the medium of instruction\textsuperscript{16}. But enrolment was very low in the beginning. Public hesitated to attend the classes due to fear. Therefore, in the beginning the priest and the sisters suffered a lot. They went to the houses of the people and brought the children to the schools\textsuperscript{17}. Most of them were untidy without taking bath and wearing proper dress wandered from one place to another. So they willy, nilly attend the class. The sisters and the teachers besides teaching the alphabet, devoted there time for making them tidy. In order to attract the enrolment, free books, dress and nutritious food were given to them. Fr. Kuzhijinalil served as


\textsuperscript{17} Ibid., p.19.
head administrator of this School from 9 May 1947 to 1969. In the meantime, the Travancore Government introduced various changes in the education policy.

As this school was situated in the Travancore State, no Government aid was given to it. Records reveal the fact that on 12 September 1945, the Government of Travancore by Gazette Extraordinary, promulgated its decision to abolish not only all private primary schools of the state but to stop all aid given to them\textsuperscript{18}. In consequence, the diocese paid a minimum salary to the teachers. However, in 1956 when the southern taluks were separated from Travancore and amalgamated with Tamil Nadu, Tamil language was introduced as the medium of instruction instead of Malayalam. As a result, the private schools in the district were deprived of building, maintenance and science grants usually given by the State Government. However, in 1976, during the president’s rule of the state, a representation was made to the Governor stating the precarious condition of the Private Schools. After a thorough investigation, on 14 October 1976, the management schools were entitled to receive grants\textsuperscript{19}.

After Kuzhinjalil, Vazhapilleth became the Head Administrator from October 1969 to June 1971. He often visited the school and gave biblical education to pupils and delivered good speeches to teachers. Thus, he guided the students and teachers by giving his able support. Most of the teachers were nuns who dedicated their life for the cause of education. Under their inspiring guidance many poor people from Nattalam got

\textsuperscript{18} Government of Travancore, Gazette Extraordinary dated 12 September 1945, pp.1-2.

\textsuperscript{19} Government of Tamil Nadu, G.O. MS. No. 2217, Department of Education, dated 14 October 1976.
education. They taught them discipline, cleanliness and develop motivated them to their personality. In course of time, the school became a popular institution of the locality. The enrolment increased year by year. This school remained as a primary school up to May 1977. But it was upgraded as a middle school on 20 June 1977 by the efforts of Rev. Fr. Mathew Kadaham Palliel who became the correspondent and Sr. Paulin, as Head Mistress. The encouragement of the parents, teachers association also improved the standard of the school. St. Mercy became the Head Mistress whose post has been sanctioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu on 20 February 1981. Under her, the teachers imparted education to the maximum benefit of the local pupils. As a Graduate Headmistress, she continued her service until 3 April 1989. After her transfer St. Euchristiya became the Headmistress from 04 April 1989 to 05 June 1994.

**St. Joseph M.S.C. Higher Secondary School**

St. Joseph M.S.C. Higher Secondary School is established at Chellamkonam, which is a rural village situated in between Karungal to Thuckalay bus route. When the Malankara Syrian Catholic Mission established a church, it realized the need for opening a school for imparting knowledge for the local people. As a part of religious propaganda, they started a middle school\(^{20}\). In 1942 it was upgraded as a middle school and from 1943 to 1968 nearly 8 Headmasters were appointed to manage the school\(^{21}\). However, to meet the requirements of local people, this school

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\(^{20}\) *Confluence, 79*, p.82.

was promoted as High School in 1968. Sr. Savio continued as
Zacharias Kuzhipparampil served as Headmaster from
01.06.1970 to 10.08.1975. He was followed by Fr. George
Oommen as Headmaster from 11.08.1975 to 31.05.1980.

Under them, the school attained great reputation. As a
result, in order to accommodate the successful candidates of the
10th standard this school was elevated as the Higher Secondary
School in 1980. George Oommen served as the Headmaster from
01.06.1980 to 03.07.1983. He was followed by the appointment
of eminent Headmasters\(^\text{22}\).

At present, the school offered Group A, Academic Subjects
Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science; Maths, Physics,
Chemistry, Biology (Tamil Medium); Physics, Chemistry, Botany
and Zoology (Tamil Medium) and Group B – Vocational Subjects
Electrical Domestic Appliances Repair and Maintenance and
Mathematics, Nursing Biology besides Part I Tamil and Part II
English\(^\text{23}\). At present the school has 735 students.

In the Higher Secondary Examination conducted during
1983-1984 the school secured first rank in the Thuckalay
Education District obtaining 84 percentage of pass. Similarly
during 1989-1990 and 1993-1994 once again this school
obtained district first rank.

\(^{22}\) Rev. Fr. Zacharias Kuzhipparampil 04.07.1983 to 31.05.1995; Rev. Sr.
Vianney 01.06.1994 to 31.05.1996; Rev. Sr. Genevieve 03.06.1996 to
31.05.1998; P. Ramachandran 01.06.1998 to 31.05.2010; Rev. Sr. Theijus
Maria 01.06.2010 to till date.

\(^{23}\) St. Joseph’s M.S.C. Higher Secondary School, Chellamkonam, Calendar, 2011-
2012, p.37.
Similar to Higher Secondary Examination the teachers paid equal attention to boost the result of 10th standard too. A perusal of the school records reveals the fact that during the academic year 2010-2011, out of 133 candidates appeared 129 candidates’ successes, with 99% of pass. At present the school has 8 PG Assistant, to teach the Higher Secondary Classes, Ten Graduate assistants to handle High School Classes and Sixteen Secondary Grade Teachers to teach the primary and middle schools. Staff council is entrusted with the responsibility of looking after the welfare of teachers.

Apart from them, five non-teaching staff including one Junior Assistant, one Lab Assistant, one Office Assistant and one Watchman Manages the Campus Administration. In addition, to maintain discipline and to look after the entire administration, the school has different committees, such as Discipline Committees, Excursion Committee, Social Service Committee, Literary Association, Games Committee and Exam Committee.

The students were encouraged in extra curriculum activities. The school is endowed with National Green Corps, Red Cross Movement, Scout and Catholic Students League24. As a part of National integration the students were to wear school uniforms regularly25.

Kirathoor is one of the remote villages very near to sea shore. People of this locality were orthodox and primitive in outlook. Before the establishment of the school, pupil of this area went to Marthandam and other far off places to get education. With the establishment of Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, the priest and other church authorities. Understood the difficulty of the people and established a primary school in 1952. The school has an area of 50 cents of land. But in 1978 it became a high school. The late Bishop Rev. Mar Ephraem laid the foundation stone of this school. The school spread in an area of 5 acres of land. Since then the school began to prosper because the school premises provide an atmosphere conducive for an overall growth of the students.\footnote{Dairy of Margregorios Matriculation Higher Secondary School, 2009-2010, p.9.}

The school is a co-educational institution. It has classes from Kinder Garden Sections, L.K.G & U.K.G and Standard from 1 to 12. The lingua franca of the campus is English. Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi are taught as second languages. Usually admission is open to all communities irrespective of caste, creed and nationality. However, at present the school has a total strength of 914 pupils. Those who seek admissions to higher section will be admitted only after ensuring the proficiency. The working hours of the school starts from 9.30 am on every day and ends with general assembly at 3.30 pm with National Anthem. The pupils are to wear school uniforms. On every Wednesday, they should wear white uniform with red tie, red belt and white shoes and socks. Though different uniforms are
insisted, the students must come in full uniforms on all the working days including extra classes. Teachers are recruited on the basis of merit depending on eligibility and qualification. Usually vacancy position is announced in the newspaper and their bulletin\textsuperscript{27}. Strict discipline is maintained not only to promote the skill but to develop the personality of pupils. It is a common practice to publish the name and photos of rank holders\textsuperscript{28} of the examination in their bulletin. The total students strength of the school is 390 with staff strength of 16 teachers and 4 non teaching staff. Nowadays the school has 33 teachers and 5 non teaching staff. The staff of the school are treated very generously. This is evident from the sent off party given to Mrs. Kamalkashu the grafted teacher of Mar Grigorios Kirathoor at the time of her retirement\textsuperscript{29}. Moreover school day celebration is conducted with much enthusiasm.

**St. Ephraem’s M.S.C.H.S.S., Sooriacode**

Another important M.S. Catholic Missions School is St. Ephraem’s M.S.C.H.S.S. established at Sooriacode in 1961. Started in 1955 as a middle school by the control of Kalpazhamada Akramar, it was upgraded as a high school during 1961-1962. In this academic year, this school was brought under the management of Malankara Syrian Catholic Mission. Since then this school became one of the famous schools in the Kuzhithurai education district\textsuperscript{30}. In 2006 nearly 581 pupils were getting education under the efficient teacher’s. Besides this

\textsuperscript{27} MDB, Vol.II, No.4, April 2005, p.8.
\textsuperscript{28} Ibid., Vol.I, No.2, June 2004, p.10.
school have 6 non teaching staff and 3 mid day meal staff. Daily the school hour starts from 9.30 am and continues to work upto 4.30 pm. However, special coaching is offered till 5.45 pm, besides taking extra class for 10th standard from 8.30 am to 9.30 am and between 4.15 pm to 5.15 pm. The school has a total strength of 842 pupils of which 451 were boys and 391 were girls. The school admits all categories of pupil’s from all communities. Besides intensive teaching of all subjects, special attention is also paid to impart regular catechism classes 31.

Christuraja Matriculation H.S.S., Christurajapuram

Christuraja Matriculation Higher Secondary School was started in 1972 32 as a primary school. The sister’s of the congregation of the Daughters of Mary systematically managed the administration of the school. This institution is affiliated to the board examination of Tamil Nadu. A co-educational institution, this school prepares both the boys and girls for the Matriculation and Higher Secondary Examinations.

The school maintains strict discipline and inculcates sound moral, intellectual and physical education with objective of moulding the pupil’s to become god fearing worthy noble citizen 33. Their motto is “knowledge is to serve” will inspire the pupil’s to achieve the goals of education. Usually the working hours of this school are from 9.00 am to 3.30 pm. But the office

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31 Interview with Sr. Prema, Headmistress, Sooriyacode High School aged 45, residing at Sooriyacode, dated 23.02.2011.
33 Interview with Mr. Paul Raj, Physical Education Teacher of Msgr. Joseph Kuzhinjallil Higher Secondary School, Christurajapuram, aged 41, residing at Marthandam, dated 03.09.2011.
functions from 8.30 am to 9.00 am and from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm. Moreover, no school business will be transacted on holidays. The school has attained much reputation in the recent years.

**St. Mary’s Matric Higher Secondary School, Mariagiri**

Mariagiri is one of the remote villages of Kanyakumari District. The people of this area have to walk miles to seek education. Therefore, realizing the need for a school in this area, the Malankara Syrian Catholic Mission established St. Mary’s Matric Higher Secondary School in 1998. For this purpose 2 acres of land was purchased and constructed spaces buildings. It is a co-education school. English is the medium of instruction. The total strength of the school is 1230 of whom 598 boys and 632 girls. It is a self finance institution where 52 teachers are handling classes from L.K.G. to XII standard. The administration of this school is looked after by 14 non teaching staff. In the last year, this school secured 98% of pass in the Higher Secondary Examination\textsuperscript{34}.

**St. Joseph M.S.C. Middle School, Kulapparai**

This school was established in 1967 in 2 acres of land near Vellachiparai. As a rural area, the school provided instruction both in Tamil and Malayalam. The school comes under the State Board. It is a co-education institution with 374 pupils (141 boys and 233 girls). The management employed 13 teachers to provide quality education.

\textsuperscript{34} Personal interview with Sr. Angel, Headmistress, St. Mary’s Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Mariagiri, aged 46 residing at Mariagiri, dated 10.10.2011.
**St. Antony’s M.S.C. Middle School, Methukummam**

Established in 1983 in 1 acre of land, St. Antony’s Middle School offered instruction in Tamil. The school has enrolled 413 pupils (204 boys and 209 girls). In order to impart best education, 14 teachers are employed. Among them the teachers who handle classes from 1 to 5th standard are aided teachers category and the remaining teachers who handle classes from 6 to 8th standard are treated as self finance teachers. It is co-education school producing 100% result.

**St. Thomas M.S.C. Middle School, Themanoor**

Themanoor situated near Thiruvattar is gifted with St. Thomas School. It is a Tamil Medium School comes under State Board examination. Eleven teachers are employed to teach 460 pupils’ (260 boys and 200 girls). The teacher’s are classified into aided and self finance teachers.

**Little Flower M.S.C. Middle School, Anaikkarai**

Anaikkarai, a rural village near Chenkody is gifted with a middle school imparting education to the pupil of this village. Began with Little Flower Nursery School on 10, June 1976, it became a Primary School on 20, June 1977 with 54 pupils. This school comes under the State Board and Tamil is used as medium of instruction. An aided school for teachers who handle classes from 1 to 5th standard and teachers to teach from 6 to 8th standard are Self Finance Teacher’s. This school has the credit of 11 teachers engaged in providing instruction 324 pupils of whom 158 are boys and 166 are girls.

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35 *Confluence 79*, p.114.
St. Thomas M.S.C. Middle School, Mankuzhi

Mankuzhi another rural village situated near Adaikakuzhi is blessed with St. Thomas School established by Malankara Syrian Catholic Mission. It provides instruction both in Tamil and Malayalam. The teacher’s who handle classes from 1 to 5th receive Government Salary as aided school teachers where as the teachers who engaged in teaching classes from 6 to 8th standard are termed as self finance teachers. A co-education institution, this school has 195 boys and 187 girls totalling to 382 pupils in the attendance role. Seventeen teachers are employed in the school. Usually the school produces 100% result\textsuperscript{36}.

Kanyakumari Community College

Kanyakumari Community College affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, was inaugurated on August 1997\textsuperscript{37} at Mariagiri. This college is started for providing facility for the undeveloped rural people to get equipped with skills for employment and meaningful living. It is stated that it is a college without walls and brings training facilities near to people. Therefore, this college was launched with the aim of empowering the local semi literate and unemployment youth with knowledge, skills and right attitudes for which the college offers 4 university approved certificate courses. The college offered courses like, computer system technology and computerized accounting, office management and secretaryship, Multi purpose health worker\textsuperscript{38}. The college

\textsuperscript{36} Interview with Mr. David, Teacher of Middle School, Mankuzhi aged 35, residing at Mankuzhi dated 23.02.2012.
\textsuperscript{37} Confluence 79, p.83.
\textsuperscript{38} Kanyakumari Community College, Magazine, 2008-09, p.12.
facilitates not only formation of new skill but upgradation of existing skills. The admission is based on talent test.

During the second year of its inception, a survey was undertaken among the industries and business establishment to know their man power demand to design course curriculum suitable for placement opportunities\textsuperscript{39}. During 1999-2000 the third year, there was good rush for admission. Most of the students got some job, in private enterprises. Subsequently female nursing assistant course was introduced in 2000\textsuperscript{40}. In course of time, the college offered courses in different trades which attracted the less privileged youths to seek admission. The college organized many seminars and workshops for the benefit of the students. A full fledged computer lab and a placement cell are set up in the college\textsuperscript{41}. In order to develop additional skills, Spoken English, Computer Operation, Project Work and to face job interviews are imparted to the students\textsuperscript{42}. Thus, the Kanyakumari Community College offering a platform for the less advantaged students hailing from poor set up to persue the studies. It provides them a ray of hope in times of darkness\textsuperscript{43}.

\textbf{Malankara Catholic College, Mariagiri}

Kanyakumari District is studded with enumerable colleges of great repute. One among them is Malankara Catholic College established at Mariagiri a remote village. Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli with the

\textsuperscript{39} MIDSAR, 1998-1999, p.5.
\textsuperscript{40} Ibid., 2000-2001, p.12.
\textsuperscript{41} Ibid., 2001-2002, p.9.
\textsuperscript{42} Ibid., 2004-2005, p.12.
approval of Government of Tamil Nadu, this college was started during the academic year 1997-1998. It is one of the development activities initiated by the first Bishop of Marthandam Diocese Lawerence Mar Ephraem. Owned and managed by the eparchy of Marthandam of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church, the foundation stone of this college was blessed by Achile Cardinal Silvestrini and laid by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Maria Arputham, the administrator, diocese of Marthandam. From the inception of the college Fr. Premkumar served as its correspondent cum secretary. Under his guidance, the college began to attain glory. The present Bishop of Marthandam Eparchy namely Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom, who evinced great interest in making the college a leading higher educational institution blessed the college on 20th July 1998 and dedicated to “Our Lady of Annunciation” Maran Cyril Mar Baselios Catholics, Major Arch Bishop, Thiruvananthapuram inaugurated the college on 20th July 1998.

A self finance college, it has the facility of well equipped class rooms, laboratory, library, computer lab and technical machines. The college helps the poor students by way of fees and bus concession to the backward class and depressed communities. The staff and the management maintain good discipline.

As a new college, it offered three under graduation programme in the discipline of Biochemistry, Computer Science

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45 Prem Kumar, “Marthandam Maraimavattathiel Kalvipani”, Confluence 79, p.82.
and Physics. In course of time, the college offered viable programme of the study such as Software Engineering, Micro Biology, Social Work, Bachelor of Commerce with Computer Application, English and B.C.A. to suit the youths inhabiting the inter border areas of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Subsequently, PG courses were started in Software Engineering, Integrated Software Engineering, Physical Biotechnology, Biochemistry, M.B.A., M.S.W. and M.Phil. The introduction of these P.G. Courses motivated the management to create research department. Accordingly research in Biotechnology and Micro Biology were introduced.

With in 12 years of origin, this college, the reputation of the college reached the Zenith in the district level as well as in the university level. At present the college has 1098 students studying in different discipline under 130 teachers. Besides the college has 16 staff members to look after the administrative and other managerial duties. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited the college with B+ grade during 2004-2005. In the same period college went into the process of thorough quality cheque and secured ISO certification too. During 2009-2010, eleven meritorious students of this college obtained first rank in various discipline and received gold medal from the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.

**College of Education, Kirathoor**

Realizing the importance of trained teachers in developing the personality of students and moulding the society, the Marthandam Diocese of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Missions
started a college of education during 2006-2007. To affiliated Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. Originally it was established in the Malankara Catholic College, Mariagiri Campus. The college is named after the Bishop, Mar Chrysostom. Later, it was shifted to Kirathoor. With the establishment of a separate university for education, this college was affiliated to. Every year the college is admitting 100 students\(^{48}\) for different branches of studies. At present Prof. Zechariah is the principal. The college is known for integration and discipline. The college provides efficient teaching with the help of skilled qualified teachers. Moreover, every year the college is conducting campus interview to select teachers for the leading schools in Tamil Nadu\(^{49}\).

**Bishop Lawerence Mar Ephraem College of Engineering Technology**

Various Engineering Colleges under Catholic and Protestant Missionaries, Private Management and Public Engineering College sprung of in every look and corner of Kanyakumari District. However, the Malankara Catholic Missionary has no engineering college. Therefore, to provide better quality technical education to the young student’s, diocese of Marthandam decided to establish an Engineering College of their own. Moreover, it was the dream of the first Bishop of Marthandam Most Rev. Lawerence Mar Ephraem, to establish and provide higher educational opportunities to the young men and women. To fulfill his dream, the present Bishop Most. Rev.

\(^{48}\) *Confluence* 79, p.84.

\(^{49}\) Personal Interview with Prof. Zechariah, Principal, Marchrysoostam College of Education, Kirathoor, aged 58, residing at Trivandrum, dated 28.02.2011.
Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom founded and established “Mar Ephraem College of Engineering and Technology”. This college is located in a eagle view and eco friendly environment at the Malankara hills in Elavuvilai which is 4 km south from Marthandam bus stand.

A world class Malankara Institution of higher learning renowned for its excellence in Science and Technology and for its Commitment to the holistic development of the individual and society is the vision of establishing this college. It has the mission to provide quality and value based education for the industrial and socio economic development of the nation with its diverse culture through relevant programmes in teaching and learning, research, extension and community development. Moreover, the college has various goals. To provide value based Engineering Education that produces engineers who are innovative entrepreneurial, globally compatriotic and vested with high values and under standing of their professional social and ethical responsibilities. To provide general, specific and soft skills to the engineers to advance the knowledge and competence of engineers for successful careers and life long learning. To initiate research activities focused on need based areas in engineering and technology which enhances creative and innovative endeavors and promote social development. To motivate the engineers to participate in community activities that will serve as avenues for lab to land application of knowledge in engineering and technology. To establish linkages Memorandum of understanding with National, International Governments,

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Industries and other Institutions in the areas of Engineering education, research and extension services. The motto of the college is “Towards the Light”. The college is affiliated to the Anna University, Tirunelveli in the beginning. But when the government of Tamil Nadu abolished Anna Universities established in various regions, this college was brought under the control of Anna University, Chennai. The college offers BE courses in Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electronic and Communication Engineering and Computer Science Engineering.

The college has the salient features such as most Hi-Tech Campus “Wi-Fi Enabled lab and computers”; Video conferencing, Video lectures and Modern teaching guides; Health Club; Yoga and Meditation programme; Off-shore programmes with foreign universities and companies; Gate club for the student spring for Gate examination; E-class room with modern teaching aids like LCD projectors; Well qualified and experienced faulty rich in industrial and teaching experience; Language Lab; R and D cell for Research Programme; Most updated and Ultra modern Laboratories Catering to the need of Mechanical, Civil Electronic and Communication and Computer Science Engineering disciplines; Training and placement cell to facilitate students to choose their carriers with a variety of choices for growth and progress; students provided vide exposure visits to the industry, trade get together and techno fairs; merit based scholarships to deserving students; soft skill development programmes.

At present Fr. Premkumar is serving as the correspondent and Dr. Lenin Fred is the principal of the college. Under their
able guidance, the college maintains high standard of discipline within and outside the precincts of the college. Ragging in any form is banned and treats ragging as a consignable offence and offenders will be severely punished\textsuperscript{51}.

**Students Welfare**

With the establishment of schools and colleges, the Malankara Catholic Missionaries exhibited greater interest to promote the welfare of the student’s population. In order to avoid dropout from schools due to poverty and failure in examination, experienced, resource person were invited to animate the teachers on issues like students psychology for adopting participatory learning process. Likewise, the students were given special coaching in different subject. Special coaching class programme was organized at different centers on Saturday and Sunday and other holidays. So also a two day orientation programme namely skill training was organized to give them information about electronics and electronic equipments. During this period some 20 students were provided with scholarship\textsuperscript{52}. Similarly during 2000-2001, students of IX\textsuperscript{th} standard were given special coaching for English, Mathematics and Science in ten centers. Moreover, 40 students were given scholarship\textsuperscript{53}. In 2002 nearly 113 students were given scholarship\textsuperscript{54}.

On 3\textsuperscript{rd} May 2004 a guidance and counciling camp was organized and distributed scholarship to them\textsuperscript{55}. Similarly to

\textsuperscript{51} Prospectus, Mar Ephraem College of Engineering and Technology.
\textsuperscript{52} MIDSAR, 2000-2001, pp.9-10.
\textsuperscript{54} Ibid., 2004-2005, p.10.
meet the expenses of economically backward student’s children’s sponsorship programme is initiated and special coaching classes are organized on Saturdays. In the next year under children sponsorship programme, 60 children were given assistance to meet their educational expenses. Moreover, special training was organized on Saturdays and study tour was conducted for them. In order to encourage the students studying in different courses scholarship was given to two nursing students with Rs.25000 each, to polytechnic students Rs.20000 each during 2006 and 2007.

In order to avoid drop out in the High School level evening tuition programme were arranged at Pallukuzhi, Manjathoppu, Kanchiyodu and Ezhausattupattu to the school going children. To encourage them in studies they were supplied with school uniform and study materials. During 2007-2008, 159 bright children are supported with finance to continue their school education. In addition, some children were supported with interest free loan scholarship to continue Job Oriented Courses.

In order to develop the skills of the children, sponsorship programme is also arranged. Sponsorship is run with the generous financial support of benefactors from abroad with their help. Special coaching classes were arranged for the sponsored children at MIDS office at Kaluvanthitai and Nagercoil to improve the skills in English, Mathematic and other soft skills to the school going children. According to these scheme 193 children

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got the benefit\textsuperscript{60}. Apart from this, ‘Adopt a student scheme’ extended financial support of Rs.2326 each to 12 poor students\textsuperscript{61}. Mar Evanios, Education Endowment was created to give financial assistance to the meritorious students, who secured rank in the examinations\textsuperscript{62}. Thus a glance of the records reveals the fact that the Malankara Syrian Catholic Mission not only established schools and colleges but looked after the welfare of the economically weaker students to persue their studies by giving scholarships, interest free loan, free dress, study material and nutritious food.

From this analysis, it is evident that the Malankara Syrian Catholic Mission provided the required education to the people. It enabled them to equip their knowledge and compete in world affairs as true citizens.

\textsuperscript{60} Ibid., 2008-2009, p.12.  
\textsuperscript{62} Ibid., p.8.