CHAPTER III
PROFILES OF UNIVERSITIES IN TAMIL NADU

This Chapter deals with Profiles of the Universities in Tamil Nadu. The history of Higher Education in India starts from the middle of the 19th century. The British took concrete steps to introduce modern education in India. But the establishment of Universities and Colleges were very small in number compared to the vastness and population of our country. In the erstwhile Madras Presidency, at the time of independence, there were only two Universities namely Madras and Annamalai. After independence, the state has witnessed a tremendous growth in the field of higher education. Now, there are 24 Universities, including 8 Deemed Universities and two Institutions of National Importance.

3.1 University of Madras

The year 1854 was a landmark in the history of Indian Education, for it witnessed the dispatch of epoch-making
educational policy for India. An important document, hailed as the Magna Carta of English Education in India and as the Intellectual Charter of India, was issued by Sir Charles Wood, who was then the President of Board of Control, on 19th July, 1854. The most outstanding recommendation in the field of Higher education pertained to the establishment of a University in each of the Presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. The University of Madras was incorporated by an Act of the Legislative Council of India 5th September 1857 and was organized on the model of London University, of the day. It was progressed and expanded throughout the nineteenth century to span the whole of South India and subsequently gave birth to and nourished most of the Universities in India.

In 1912 endowments were made to the University to establish departments of Indian History, Archealogy, Comparative Philology and Indian Economics. In all there were 17 University departments, 30 University teachers, 69 research scholars and 127 University publications in that year and the budget was for Rs. 11 lakhs. Later, the research and teaching functions of the University were encouraged by Sadler Commission and the gains of the University were consolidated by the enactment of Madras University Act 1923.
About this time, the territorial ambit of the Madras University encompassed from Berhampur of Orissa in the North, Trivandrum of Kerala in the South West, Bangalore and Mangalore of Karnataka in the West and Hyderabad of Andhra Pradesh in the North.

However, Indian independence in 1947, the setting up of the University Grants Commission in 1956 and changes in political, social and cultural milieu had brought several amendments to the University of Madras Act of 1923 to permit qualitative and quantitative changes in its jurisdictions and functions. It has been continuously diversifying and expanding its teaching and research programmes.

At present there were 68 teaching and research departments functioning under 18 Schools in the University of Madras. The number of Academic staff was 263 with 208 Professors, 46 readers and 9 Lecturers and Administrative Staff numbered 1080.

3.2 Annamalai University

On 24th June 1920, Minakshi College was established by philanthropy Dr. Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar. R.G. Grieve, Director of Public Instruction, Madras, reported to the Government that the
College was to be treated in the language of the day, "Zamindar managed institution". Prof. K.A. Nilakanta Sastri was appointed the Principal. The Intermediate class - a two-year course - was first started, with 76 students on the rolls. Then the degree courses were started from 1922 onwards. On 11th May, 1929 the College of Music was established.

In 1926, the Government appointed a Committee to examine the question of establishing a University for the Tamil Districts. This committee reported that "it was desirable to have a unitary teaching university". The Madras University Commission which inspected the Meenakshi College at Chidambaram was impressed with its achievements and potentialities. The Commission expressed the hope that the Government "may bless the scheme and help the proposed university with liberal grants". A Bill to establish and incorporate a residential University at Annamalainagar was published in Fort. St. George Gazette on August 24, 1928, and it was introduced in the Madras Legislative Council on the 8th of September and referred to a Select Committee. A Select Committee suggested a provision for instruction in technology also, which was accepted by the House. The Annamalai
University Bill was passed into law in an atmosphere of extreme and exceptional appreciation and goodwill.

**Blossoming of the University**

Thus the University was founded in July 1929. The Senate was formally inaugurated on March 24, 1930 by Sir Frederick Stanley, the then Governor of Madras.

Pre-University Course which was commenced from the academic year 1957-58 was closed in 1979. All the UG Courses were abolished in 1983. At present the University has functioning with 9 Faculties and offers PG courses in 67 subjects, M.Phil. in 27 subjects, and Ph.D. in 50 subjects.

**Ph.D. Degree produced by various Faculties of the University**

| Faculty of Science | - | 732 |
| Faculty of Arts   | - | 340 |
| Faculty of Education | - | 130 |
| Faculty of Agriculture | - | 100 |
| Faculty of Indian Languages | - | 70 |
| Faculty of Engineering & Tech | - | 26 |
| Faculty of Fine Arts | - | 2 |
Staff and Student strength

Teaching and Non-teaching Staff on Rolls - 6000
Students (Full time) - 16,138
Students in Staying Hostel - 8,500
Ph.D. Scholars - 225
M.Phil. Scholars - 260
Distance Education Students - 2,59,000

Directorate of Distance Education

The Directorate of Distance Education (DDE) established in 1979, offers 303 programmes of study, the largest number of programmes in the world offered by any DDE. It is credited with the largest enrolment in India, 2.6 lakh and is well equipped with computers and other infrastructure adequate teaching faculty, an administrative set-up of its own, study centers and computer training centers to serve its students at their doorstep. It is the first such centre in India to offer post-graduate degree programmes in applied psychology, physics, chemistry, zoology, botany and law through the distance education mode. The Directorate has introduced a dual degree system to enables a candidate to acquire two degrees in four years with a significant focus on IT education. Short-term advanced certificate programmes on computer
education have also been introduced. The extensive network of 57 study centers across the country provides student-support services to learners.

Significantly the Directorate has been offering overseas programmes since 2000-2001. The distance education programmes are now available in Singapore, Malaysia, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Mauritius, Japan and Nepal.

3.3 Madurai Kamaraj University

In 1958, the University of Madras started a Post graduate Extension Centre at Madurai with five Departments. This is the seed which sprouted into the Madurai University, eight years later. The Madurai University Bill was introduced on July 27, 1965 in the legislative Assembly of the State Bill Tamil Nadu and passes into law and received the assent of the Chancellor/Governor on December 7, 1965. The University was formally inaugurated in the city (old) campus on the A1agar Koil Road on February 6, 1966. Two years later, the foundation stone for a new campus at Nagamalai, eight miles off the west of the city, was laid on 4th January 1968.
In 1972 University was shifted to the present campus of 750 acres at the foot of the Nagamalai Hills, near Madurai. In 1978, the Madurai University was renamed as the Madurai Kamaraj University in pursuance of Act No. 38 of 1978 to cherish the memory of K.Kamaraj, a freedom fighter and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for nearly a decade. At present the colleges located in Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts alone are affiliated to the Madurai Kamaraj University.

The University has functioning with the Faculty of Arts, Science, Education, Commerce, Management Studies, Language and Fine Arts. These Faculties includes 35 Schools/Departments in the University in the academic year 2000-2001. The University is both residential and affiliating. The student strength of 35,618 in 1966 has now reached 2,15,665. The Faculty strength has increased from 11 in 1966 to 263 in 2001. The number of affiliated and approved colleges grew from 60 in 1966 to 134 in 2001 with a student strength of 82,851. Over 1,500 P.G. students and 211 research scholars are engaged in academic pursuits in the campus.

**Directorate of Distance Education**
The Directorate which was started as Institute of Correspondence Course and Continuing Education in the year 1971-72 has now completed 30 years of its existence with the enrolled strength of 1,19,936 students during 2000-2001. Calendar year admissions were introduced from the year 2001. 15,265 students were enrolled under this scheme. Academic year admission for the year 2001-2002 is around 1,15,955.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council has accredited the Madurai Kamaraj University at the Four-Star level among the Universities for five years with effect from the academic year 1999-2000.

3.4 Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

On 1st June 1971, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University was established by an Act of the Tamil Nadu Government as an affiliating University with Head Quarters at Coimbatore.

The Agricultural College and Research Institute, the Horticultural College and Research Institute and the Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute are located in the main
campus. The campus spreads over nearly 535 ha. It was built with British colonial architecture during 1906.

The TNAU has 9 Faculties with 42 departments. The University offers 6 UG programmes, 22 PG and 20 Doctoral Programmes, distributed in various teaching campuses. There are 32 Research Stations, including 6 Horticultural Research Stations conducting researches on the frontier areas in Crop Improvement, Crop Protection and Crop Management.

Currently, there are 25 teaching staff deputed to other organizations such as Department of agriculture, Planning Commission and Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Science University in order to strengthen Teaching and research activities. The category wise strength of technical staff consists pf 238 Professors, 276 Associate Professors and 494 Assistant Professors. Since the inception of TNAU, 12,516 Farm graduates(UG), 4,699 Masters students and 1,263 Doctoral students obtained their degrees.
3.5 Anna University

The Peraringnar Anna University was established on 4th September, 1978 as a unitary type of University. The University was formed by bringing together and integrating the two well-known Technical Institutions in the city of Chennai viz., the College of Engineering, Guindy (CEG) and the Madras Institute of Technology (MIT), Chrompet and three Technological Departments of the University of Madras situated in the Alagappa College of Technology (ACT), besides the School Architecture and Planning(SAP) of the University of Madras. The name of the University was changed to Anna University in April, 1982. The University spreads over 100 hectares abutting the Adayar River.

The University offers higher education in Engineering, technology and allied Sciences. There are 7 Faculties covering 43 Under Graduate Degree programmes, 19 of them self-supporting programmes and 70 Post-Graduate Degree programmes, 16 of them self supporting programmes, besides 5 Post-Graduate Diploma Programmes and 5 M.Phil. programmes offered. Facilities are available for M.S. (by Research) and Ph.D. Programme in all the Faculties.
The intake under the undergraduate programme is about 1,970 students in Full Time/Part Time and under the Post Graduate Programme, including the P.G. Diploma is about 1,019 students. The University has an enrolment of 7,047 students in the full-time and part-time programmes, out of which about 1,364 are women students. With a sanctioned faculty strength of about 725, ratio of the number of students to faculty works out to 10:1.

During the last five years, the faculty have undertaken various research projects, totaling 600-involving approx. Rs.10242.97 lakhs. Similarly, various consultancies totaling 238 involving approx. Rs.760.48 lakhs have also been undertaken.

The Crystal Growth Centre (CGC) established in 1982 and has been doing pioneering research work on both fundamental and applied aspects of Crystal Growth. The facilities of the Centre have amounting to Rs.762.00 lakhs.

The University has been awarded with 5 star status from February 2002.
3.6 Bharathidasan University

Bharathidasan University was established by an Act of the Tamil Nadu government (The Bharathidasan University Act 1981, Tamil Nadu Act No.2 of 1982), as an affiliating University, with headquarters at Tiruchirappalli. The University since then has grown from strength to strength in respect of University Departments and affiliated colleges. Today, the University has 74 Arts and Science Colleges which are non-autonomous located in the seven Revenue Districts and 11 autonomous Colleges within the jurisdiction of the University. In 1994, the CDE had an expansion the University's main campus is located on a sprawling area of 1000 acres situated 16 km away from Triuchirappalli city on Trichy-Pudukottai highway. There is also a down-town city campus located in Khajamalai, spread over 52 acres of land. The Bharathidasan Institute of Management is functioning at the B.H.E.L. Campus on Triuchirappalli- Thanjavur highway.

The University has more than 30 Departments covering several UG, PG, M.Phil. and Ph.D. Programmes.
Centre for Distance Education

The Centre for Distance Education (CDE) of Bharathidasan University was started in 1992, confining its activities to the population not only in respect of courses but jurisdiction as well, and Centres were started in the four southern States of the country.

3.7 Bharathiyar University

The Bharathiyar University was established in Coimbatore by the Government of Tamil Nadu, in February 1982, under the provision of the Bharathiyar University Act 1981, (Act 1982) with jurisdiction over the revenue districts of Coimbatore, Erode and Nilgiris. The Post Graduate Centre of the Madras University, which was functioning in Coimbatore before 1982, formed the nucleus of the Bharathiyar University. The University was accorded recognition by the University Grants Commission for the purpose of ward of grants in May 1985. It is situated at the foothills of Marudhamalai, a mountain that forms a part of the Western Ghats range, in a sprawling campus of 1,000 acres, fifteen kilometers from the city of Coimbatore.

The University has more than 17 departments includes Under Graduate, Post Graduate Courses, M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes.
During the academic year 2001-2002 Choice Based Credit System was introduced in all the Departments of the University.

**School of Distance Education**

The School of Distance Education was established during the year 1991-1992. Presently the students in the various courses offered by the School of Distance Education is about 7,000. This School offers many Under Graduate and Post Graduate Courses.

**3.8 Alagappa University**

Dr. R.M. Alagappa Chettiyar, a great philanthropist, started Arts and Science College in 1947, in Karaikudi. The college was housed in the beginning in the "Gandhi Maligai". The College of Education and the College of Physical Education were started in 1950 and 1956, respectively. The Alagappa University was started on May 9, 1985 through a special Act of the Tamil Nadu government. The College of Education, the College of Physical Education and the four Departments (Tamil, Mathematics, Physics, and Commerce) of the Alagappa Arts College formed the nucleus of the Alagappa University. Its campus is spread over a sprawling 430 acres of land.
At present, the University offers 39 regular courses and one part-time course. In all, the total number of students in P.G., M.Phil. and Ph.D. courses is nearly one thousand during 2001-2002.

A separate Directorate of Distance Education is functioning in the University from 1992. The Directorate is offering M.Phil., Post-graduate Degree and Diploma Courses. During the period of inception (in 1992-1993), the total number of courses offered was 7 and it increased to 24 in 1996-97, to 32 in 1997-98 and then to 43 in 2001-2002.

3.9 Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

The Madras veterinary College became a constituent college of the University of Madras and from July 1936 B.V.Sc degree programme was introduced. It also attained the unique privilege of being the first Veterinary College in India to be affiliated to a University. In the year 1958, on the recommendations of the First Indo-American team on Agricultural Research Education, this Institution was recognized as a Southern Regional Centre for Post-graduate Education and Research. The introduction of M.V.sc degree programme in various disciplines was carried out in a
phased manner and by 1962, fifteen Departments offered Post-Graduate courses. In the year 1969 this Institution was made a separate Directorate of Veterinary Education and Research.

During 1974, this Institution was academically affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore (TNAU). To strengthen further and to meet the demands of Veterinary graduates, the second Veterinary College was started at Namakkal during the year 1985. Realizing the importance of veterinary Education and Research and to increase the productivity for better income generation of rural farmers, a separate University for veterinary and Animal sciences was established on 20th September, 1989 annexing the Fisheries College and research Institute at Thoothukudi. TNV ASU is the first veterinary and animal Sciences University to be established in Asia.

TNV ASU offers two Under Graduate courses viz. B. V .Sc and B.F.Sc. Apart from this, Post Graduate courses are offered in 18 disciplines in Veterinary and Animal sciences and 7 disciplines in Fisheries Science. Doctoral programmes are offered in 19 disciplines in Veterinary and Animal Sciences and three disciplines in Fisheries Science. Besides these, Post Graduate Diploma in
Business Management in Veterinary and Fisheries Sciences is also offered.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Accreditation Board, New Delhi has accredited the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University at the Five-star Level for five years with effect from 14th August 2001.

3.10 Manonmaniam Sundaranar University

The University was established by an Act passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislature on June 12, 1990. It was formally inaugurated on September 7, 1990. The University was carved out of the area covered by the Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. The three southern districts of Tuticorin, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari were brought under the jurisdiction of the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University and is located at Abishekapatti, near Tirunelveli.

The University has more than 16 Departments covering UG, PG, M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes. The University have been received more than Rs.100 lakhs by the faculties of various departments to carry out their research projects. The University has 78 affiliated Colleges.
In 1992, the Institute of continuing education was started. It often UG, PG, M.Phil., Diploma and P.G. Diploma Courses through correspondence. It was renamed as Directorate of Distance Education in 1994.

3.11 Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed University)

Gandhigram was founded in the year of India's Independence (1947) by a team of dedicated disciples of Gandhiji led by Dr.T.S.Soundram and Dr.G. Ramachandran. Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI) was started in 1956 as a higher education center in Gandhigram campus, inspired by Gandhiji's concept of Basic Education.

GRI, one of the fourteen Rural Institutes of Higher Education, functioned under the Central Government's programme to carry higher education to the doorsteps of the village community. After 20 years of active work in promoting education through rural experiences, GRI was conferred the status of Deemed University in 1976 by the Govt. of India, on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission.
Today GRI has carved out a niche in the rural higher education map of India. GRI is fully funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi, through the University Grants Commission. GRI students are drawn from various parts of the country besides developing countries.

GRI has more than 7 Faculties covering several UG, PG, M.Phil., Ph.D. and Diploma Courses. The Institute was awarded 5 Star Status by NAAC in February 2002.

3.12 Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and High Education for women (Deemed University)

Sri Avinashilingam Trust was founded on the Vijayalaksmi day in 1952 by Dr. T.S. Avinashilingam, one of the foremost freedom fighters under Mahathma Gandhi, and the first Minister for Education, after Independence, of the composite Madras Presidency. The first institution to be started under the Trust was Sri Avinashilingam Girls High School in 1955. Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College for Women was started on 6th June, 1957. The College of Education, Nursery School, Primary and High
Secondary School followed in the succeeding years. When the college completed 20 years of outstanding work in 1978, the University of Madras conferred the Autonomous status for a period of 10 years. During these years, the curricula were restructured, Triple major pattern for Bachelors Degree Courses was introduced and innovations in teaching, evaluation, research and outreach programmes were introduced. Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College and Avinashilingam College of Education were merged to form the Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women. The Government of India conferred the Deemed University status on the institution on 8th June, 1988.

The Institute has 7 Faculties with more than 25 departments. The University offers UG, PG, M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes. More than 50 projects have been carried out since 1988.

The University has been accredited with four stars by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
REFERENCES

3. <http://www.annauniv.edu>
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