CHAPTER II

SECONDARY EDUCATION

With the completion of primary education, there arose the need for providing secondary education to the pupils who have successfully completed 8th standard. To cherish this ambition the government of Madras implemented the secondary education in the state starting from 9th standard to 11th standard subsequent to the introduction of 12th pattern secondary education was extended to 4th to 12th. The secondary education was established under this pattern are brought under director of school education.

Socio-economic development is a function of education and both are independent. Education expansion may be looked upon both as a consequences and a condition for economic development. Expansion of education leads to an increase in national income and hence more economic development which in its turn may provide means for large investment in education. Education and economic development can thus constitute a rising spiral and both can sustain and support each other\(^1\).

People need secondary education to acquire a broad base of knowledge skills, attitudes and values, which they can build in later life, even they do not receive further formal instruction. Such education provides people with the potential to learn to

---

respond new opportunities to adjust social cultural and social activities².

Since Independence, secondary education the policy of the government was to provide at least one high school for every taluk in the Madras presidency³.

The curriculum at the high and higher secondary school level emphasized the special abilities and interest of the pupils. University education commission in 1948 recommended the reorganization of the structural pattern of secondary education; Diversification of the secondary curriculum, establishment of multipurpose schools and reforms in the examination system⁴. Besides, the secondary education commission in 1952-53 recommended reorganizing the secondary education. As a result, the existing pattern of secondary education was given up and there by introduced an integrated course of elementary education for 7 years starting from standard I to VII⁵. This integrated course was a continuation of the lower elementary course without break. It replaced 3 separate courses namely the middle school course, the higher elementary course and the lower elementary course. The secondary stage under the reorganized scheme covered standard VIII to XI. The SSLC course of 3 years was to be reorganized as a higher secondary course of 4 years. This was to be achieved with a period of 11 years of school education by adding 1 year saved under

⁵ Proceeding of the 26th meeting of the Central Advisory Board, New Delhi, 1959, pp.91-93.
elementary education to the 3 year high school course. Again in 1963 for the betterment of school education the government revised the pattern of school education and lay that the school course should consist of an integrated course of 11 years covering standard I to XI as follows standard I to V primary standard, VI to VIII upper primary and standard IX to XI secondary education\(^6\).

The reorganization of secondary education led to establishment of number of multipurpose schools with a variety of subjects. When Kamaraj assumed office as Chief Minister a scheme of diversified courses such as Engineering Textile Technology, Agriculture, Secretarial Course and Home Science\(^7\) was introduced with a view to provide a variety of subjects to suite the different tastes and aptitude of the children. The study of the core subject like Mathematics, Social Science and General Science was made compulsory in Secondary School\(^8\).

In 1957-1958 eight schools were selected to improve the school libraries and 36 schools were for the introduction of craft. Hundred diversified courses of studies were introduced in secondary schools, thus raising 57 schools to the status of multipurpose\(^9\) institution. Subsequently 50 bifurcated courses were introduced in more than 28 secondary schools. To implement the above schemes a sum of Rs.8.04 lakhs was set apart in 1957-1958. An attempt was also made to improve the

---


\(^7\) Madras Information, March, 1958, p.4.


standard of education in the secondary schools by providing more facilities for the teaching of science and other core subjects\textsuperscript{10}.

During 1962-63, these bifurcated courses were introduced in 16 secondary schools of Tamilnadu\textsuperscript{11}. Further for the improvement of teaching facilities in science a sum of Rs.50,000 was sanctioned to 8 schools. For the improvement of facilities for teaching core subjects an award of Rs.15,000 was sanctioned to each of the 54 schools. Likewise 36 schools were granted Rs.3,000 each for the improvement of Libraries. In 1964 much attention was paid for the improvement of the existing facilities in a number of schools\textsuperscript{12}. Moreover the government approved the proposals of the Director to open bifurcated courses in 30 more schools during 1965-66\textsuperscript{13}. Besides secondary education was made free to all irrespective of caste. Similarly the levy of tuition fee was abolished with effect from 1\textsuperscript{st} April 1964\textsuperscript{14}.

Three parts of the report was submitted by Kothari Commission report entitled as “Education and National”. The first part covers primary education I to VI and the second part deals about VII to X standard problems of expansion curriculum, teaching methods, guidance, evaluation, administration and supervisions. The third part throws the flood of lights on problems of implementation\textsuperscript{15}.

\textsuperscript{10} Ibid.,
\textsuperscript{11} G.O.Ms.No. 2494, Education, 01.10.1962.
\textsuperscript{12} G.O.Ms.No. 726, Education, 18.05.1964.
\textsuperscript{13} G.O.Ms.No. 1703, Education, 22.10.1964.
\textsuperscript{14} G.O.Ms.No. 451, Education, 01.04.1964.
In addition, the Kothari Commission of 1964-66 threw some light on the expansion and further improvement in secondary education. The commission recommended a development plan for secondary education for each district separately. Accordingly all secondary schools were to be adequately staffed and equipped to provide good education\textsuperscript{16}. Each secondary school was to select the best students for admission from among the applicants. To give effect to the Kothari Commission report, 109 new high schools were opened for boys during 1965-66\textsuperscript{17}.

The Kothari Commission recommended that science education should become an integral part of school education and ultimately become a part of all courses at the University level, further advocated the introduction of work experience as an integral part of all education. The commission emphasized that every attempt should be made to orient work experience to technology, industrialization and to productive process including agriculture. It stressed large scale vocationalized secondary education.

The Kothari Commission suggested novel school complex system which consisting of a secondary school and all the lower and higher primary schools within its neighborhood should be formed. All the schools in such a complex should grow up from a co-operative group working for improvements. It advised Universities and Colleges to assist secondary school in improving

their efficiency through a variety of measures. The commission encouraged part time and full time education on large scale at every stage and every sector of education\(^\text{18}\).

Secondary education is a complete unit by itself and not merely a preparatory stage; end of this period, the student should be in a position to choose to join college or technical institution. Secondary education covers the age group of about 11 to 17 years. To convert the high schools into higher secondary school the improvement should be done in its structure, better equipment, better laboratory and library facilities and better organized co-curricular activities.

Under vocational and technical education in secondary course, a majority of students will take up some suitable vocational pursuit. In due course they achieve a reasonable degree of competence in it either through practice and experience or through apprenticeship training. These students proceed with Polytechnics or Technological institution should spend two years technical courses available. Various courses were introduced in secondary schools so that the students can choose as per their nature aptitude and inclination in the special course of studies. It removes all individual distinction between students preparing for different courses of studies, breaking down the sense of inferiority that is associated with vocational subjects\(^\text{19}\).

---


According to the best modern educational thought, curriculum in this context does not mean only the academic subjects traditionally taught in the school but it includes the totality of experiences that a pupil receives through the manifold activities that go on in the school, in the class room library, laboratory, workshop, play grounds and informal contacts between teachers and pupils. In sense of whole life of the school become the curriculum which can touch the life and help in the evolution of their balanced personality. The curriculum should provide enough opportunity to think broadly to accumulate knowledge, skills and interest.

**Vocational Education**

Practical work and training are very important components of vocational education. Therefore, it is intended to produce people who could work with their brains as well as their hands, who could translate ideas into hardware, who would not be merely the “superiors” of skilled workers but could interact with them to produce new goods and services\(^\text{20}\).

The third plan aims at stepping up the rate of progress in educational sphere in the state with an outlay of Rs.23.43 crores. The additional intake of pupils envisaged during the third plan period 14 lakhs pupils in the age group 6-11, 2.12 lakhs pupils in the age group of 11-14 and 75,000 pupils in the age group 14-17. The additional enrolment upto the end of the 1964-65 in 14 lakhs. The expansion of secondary education is also

progressed satisfactorily. More than 800 new high schools were opened in the first 4 years of the third plan period\textsuperscript{21}.

During the fourth plan period, science education in school received considerable emphasis. As a result science laboratory grants at Rs.40,000 per high school were given to 366 high schools during the fourth plan period. A mobile science laboratory van has been provided to each revenue district in order to improve the standard of science teaching in those high school which have no laboratory facility. Considerable amount was sanctioned to construct new building in high school. Similarly grant was given to equip the libraries in 750 high schools during the IV plan period\textsuperscript{22}.

The aim of the government to have one higher secondary school with in 8 km and where the strength of students in 10\textsuperscript{th} standard is 100. Besides this an endowment of Rs.2 lakhs is to be created by the local buildings committee norms and criteria for standing or upgrading high and higher secondary schools is given in this act\textsuperscript{23}. Besides this government took effective steps to improve the quality of secondary education. Fifteen percentage of students from I standard reach higher secondary. Out of these students only 65% pass out to go to professional, technical and higher education. In order to meet the rising demands for high schools and higher secondary schools, government encourage private management to start unaided schools. Government will upgrade government middle schools too\textsuperscript{24}.

\textsuperscript{21} Madras Administration Report, 1964, p.259.
\textsuperscript{22} G.O.Ms.No. 1691, Education, 07.10.1975.
\textsuperscript{23} G.O.Ms.No. 235, School Education, dated 24.05.1977.
\textsuperscript{24} Policy Note on Education 1992-93, p.25.
Fees concessions in schools

The government of Tamilnadu adapted various schemes to promote education. In order to attract the pupil from depressed communities and other economically weaker section fee concession was introduced. It avoided drop outs in school considerably with this motive from the academic year 1958-59, the pupils belonging to schedule caste and schedule tribe Hindus are exempted from payment of three times of special fees viz library, laboratory and medical inspection in secondary schools. Similarly government have extended the concessions granted to children of all non-gazette officers, all employees of local bodies and all teachers employed in aided secondary schools allotted to this state from the former Travancore Cochin state. So also full fee concessions in forms IV to VI granted to last grade servants and non-gazette officers.

Medium of Instruction

Instruction in all the classes of an Indian Secondary School is in the regional language. But pupils whose mother tongue is different from the regional language may be given instruction through the medium of their mother tongue or any language other than the regional language. Provided there is a minimum strength of 45 such pupils. Special permission was accorded on a temporary basis in select cases to have the English medium in one or more sections of the higher forms or for only one subject. The revised syllabus for secondary school course for

---

standard VIII to XI was introduced in 1959-60 and was further revised for standard X to XI in 1961-62\textsuperscript{26}.

**Government Examination**

In order to measure the level of knowledge, government conduct examination at every stage. Usually quarterly, half yearly and annual examinations were arranged. Therefore the government of Tamilnadu created an examination wing under each directorate of education.

Accordingly, the Government of Examination Department conducted SSLC Public Examination from the year 1911 and the Higher Secondary Public Examination from the year 1980\textsuperscript{27}. Pre university course should be transferred from the university and college to higher secondary school by 1975-76. The U.G.C should be responsible for effecting the transfer of all pre-university or intermediate work from university and affiliated colleges to schools. State Education Department should start the Higher Secondary Classes\textsuperscript{28}. Till 1977-78 the education pattern in Tamilnadu was 11 year schooling and one year pre-university course and 3 year degree course in college. From 1978-79 the 11 + 1 + 3 pattern of education has been changed into 10 + 2 + 3 pattern (i.e. 10 year school education 2 year higher secondary course attached with the schools and 3 year degree course in colleges). The students who studied XI standard in 1977-78 appeared for the S.S.L.C (XI standard elongated course) in March 1978 and P.U.C in the state. The students who studied X

\textsuperscript{26} G.O.Ms.No. 1599, Education, 01.09.1965.
\textsuperscript{27} Policy Note on Examination 1992-93, p.36.
\textsuperscript{28} Suresh Bhatnagar, *Kothari Commission*, Merrut, 1975, p.79.
standard in 1977-78 appeared for the S.S.L.C (X standard new pattern) in April 1978 and joined the first year batch of students who will write the Higher Secondary Public Examination in March 1980. Therefore the candidates appearing for both these examination in March / April 1992, Central valuation system has been introduced for S.S.L.C., Higher Secondary, Diploma in Teacher Education, Matriculation and Anglo Indian School Examination results are published with in 45 days from the last date of examination.

The first public examination should be conducted at the end of the first ten years of schooling. It deliberated the two types of secondary schools, high schools providing a ten year course and higher secondary schools providing a course of two years. Institutions which do not deserve the higher secondary status should be downgraded.

**Instructional Days in Schools**

Besides streaming the curriculum, duration of each courses and making improvement in infra structure facilities the Kothari Commission fixed the instructional days in schools. It fixed 234 days (39 weeks) for schools. It even minimized the holidays and restricted the religious holidays, birthday and death anniversaries of great Indian leaders. This might be utilized for working hard for national development.

---

29 Policy Note on Examination 1992-93, p.36.
30 Policy Note on Education 1992-93, p.36.
It advocated that the libraries, laboratories workshops and craft sheds should be open all the days of a year and it should be utilized for atleast 8 hours a day. It forwarded that vocations should be utilized through participation in studies social services, camps, productive experience and literacy drivers. It emphasized self study and stressed the need for reduction of wastage at every stage\textsuperscript{32}.

The aim of education is always two fold there is a collective aspect and there is an individual aspect. From the collective point of view education is expected to turn the individual into a good citizen ie into a person who has harmonious relations with the other members of the community who is useful to the society and who fulfils with zeal his obligations as a citizen. On the other hand, it may be expected that education will give to the individual a strong and healthy body, help him in building up his character and attaining self mastery and supply him good opportunities of discovering and developing his natural abilities\textsuperscript{33}.

The scheme for the supplying under the Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme feeding of pupils of standards VI to X in schools. Under this scheme children in standard VI to X are fed on school working days. Now a days this scheme was extended upto XII standard pupils. Poor children could not attended school lack of school uniform especially girls. There was a scheme to provide free uniforms to poor children

which helped to increase enrolment. In Madras State as a whole all poor pupils in standard VI to XI were given free text books.

**Teachers’**

Selection grades were created for the first time as on 2nd October 1970 for teachers under all kinds of managements from October 1973 onwards all person who have completed 18 years age on or before the first day of the month in which the examination is held and who have passed the E.S.L.C. Examination with English as optional subject or III form or VIII standard of the high school of this state recognize by the Director of School Education, Tamilnadu are allowed to appear privately for the S.S.L.C public examination. This is in tune with the philosophy of continuing non formal education\(^{34}\).

To raise the standard of teachers in secondary schools payments and awards were given to the teachers in schools who acquired higher educational qualification\(^{35}\). With a view to improve school education a number of workshops, seminars and refresher courses were also conducted for teachers. Further arrangements for the improvement of teaching of core subject improving the library and strengthening the teaching of science subject were continued\(^{36}\).

Now a days teachers are recruited through the written examination conducted by (TRB) Teachers Recruitment Board.

---

\(^{34}\) Report on Public Instruction in the State of Tamilnadu, 1976-77, p.3.
\(^{35}\) G.O.Ms.No. 42, Education, 10.01.1969.
**Teachers Remuneration**

The commission stressed the most urgent need of raising the economic, social and professional status of Teachers. So as to feed back talented people into the profession.

Upgrading remuneration especially in schools were recommended. A minimum scale of salary was to be laid down by government, so that secondary teachers certificate holders could get Rs.150 to Rs.250 in 20 years and selection grade teachers Rs.250 to Rs.300, Graduate and selection grade teachers Rs.220 to Rs.400 in 20 years and a selection grade teachers may get Rs.300 to Rs.500 and master degree holders teaching in higher secondary classes get the same as affiliated to college teacher Junior scale 300-25-600 or senior scale of 400-30-600\(^\text{37}\).

**Government Higher Secondary School, Thuckalay**

Swathi Thirunal the Maharaja established Sircar free school in 1836 at Thuckalay which is one of the first five sircar free schools flowered in Travancore\(^\text{38}\). In course of time thanks to the benevolent activities of local entrepreneurs, granted lands for the expansion of this school. Information pertaining to its early history prior to 1956 in scimpy. In the beginning of its inception the school had only 78 pupils under John Roberts a British served as its first headmaster\(^\text{39}\). However, due to economic shortage the school did not attain much progress as expected. Therefore during the reign of Uttram Thirunal Marthandavarma,


Charles Mead, a protestant missionary was appointed as superintendent to improve the education system including the school in 1855. He visited various schools, made a thorough study on the working of different schools and made arrangement to teach English in all the vernacular schools. Consequently he created an atmosphere to enroll more pupils in all such schools. Moreover he visited different village and advised the commons about the importance of education. Subsequently in 1860 it was upgraded as a middle school; and during 1926-27 it became a high school. The name of the school was changed from Government English High School, Thuckalay to Government High School in 1970. After a long period of ups and downs this centre of learning was upgraded as Government Higher Secondary School in 1978. The school offers different course of study including vocational groups. This facility enable the inmates to pursue higher studies in medicine, Engineering and other course depending on the marks scored.

St. Mary Goretty Higher Secondary School, Manalikarai

In 1953 this school was started as a middle school with 88 pupils under 2 teachers. In 1957 this school was upgraded as a high school with 40 students thanks to the dedicated services of Fr. Leonard. Realizing the importance of higher education to the pupils of this school and the neighboring villages, Fr. Raymond who served as correspondent between (1975 and 1981) attempted to upgrade it into a higher secondary school. Due to

---

his effort the school became a higher secondary school in June 1978 and in March 1980 the first batch of 57 pupils appeared the higher secondary examination\textsuperscript{42}.

Subsequently various discipline such as Maths in both Tamil and English medium, Science in English medium. History in Tamil Medium, Computer Science English Medium and Tamil Medium were introduced. But due to shortage of pupils in Malayalam medium, such classes were converted into English medium in 1981\textsuperscript{43}. Between 1986 and 1991 teacher training course was introduced with the permission of government of Tamilnadu. The school attained the zenith of glory and at present 2764 pupils are receiving education under the guidance of 66 teachers, with the support of eleven non-teaching staff\textsuperscript{44}. The school has a well equipped laboratory and has the facilities of N.S.S. Organization.

During 2003 in Higher Secondary Examination one Ramesh secured 1148 marks obtaining second rank in Thuckalay educational district\textsuperscript{45}. Similarly in 10\textsuperscript{th} standard examination Zaheer Ahamed fetched 483 marks and stood second rank in Thuckalay\textsuperscript{46} educational district.

\textsuperscript{44} Attendance Register, St. Mary Goretty Higher Secondary School, Manalikarai, 2007.
\textsuperscript{45} Information board maintained in Headmaster Room, St. Mary Goretty Higher Secondary School, Manalikarai, 2004.
\textsuperscript{46} Personal Interview with M. Xavier (Headmaster) St. Mary Goretty Higher Secondary School, Manalikarai, 24.06.2006.
Government Higher Secondary School, Eraniel

Began as an elementary school in 1898 under the patronage of Sri Mulam Thirunal, the sovereign of Travancore. In 1899 Diwan Krishnan Nayar inaugurated this school as the first English medium high school\textsuperscript{47}. After a long period of imparting extensive learning to the pupil of near and distant areas, this school was elevated as a higher secondary school in 1978 by the government of Tamilnadu. From 1978 to 2001 the parent teacher association involved actively the promotion this school under the presidency of M. Subramaniam Pillai a leading lawyer of the locality\textsuperscript{48}. Now a days more than 2000 pupils are updating their knowledge in various disciplines like taught in Tamil, Malayalam and English mediums. This school has the credit of the services of 70 teachers under the administration of eleven non teaching staff\textsuperscript{49}. This school has the credit of the well equipped library with various organization like N.S.S., N.C.C, Red Cross Society and Literary Club.

Sethu Lekshmi Bai Girls High School, Nagercoil

Sri Chitirai Thirunal, Maharaja of Travancore established the school on 3 June 1946 in memory of Sethu Lakshmi Bai. He was responsible for introducing compulsory education in Travancore. This school offered instruction both in Malayalam and Tamil languages. One peculiar feature of this institution is that it conducted class for 1 and 2 standard during morning


\textsuperscript{49} Attendance Register, Government Higher Secondary School, Eraniel, 2011.
hours and 3 to 5 standard during afternoon session\textsuperscript{50}. From this it is understood that shift system was adopted on those days. With the passage of time this school rose to prominences and was upgraded as a middle school during 1965-66. Subsequently in 1977-78 it became a high school\textsuperscript{51}.

During 2011 S.S.L.C Examination the school bagged 83\% result and one K. Darshna secured 468 marks\textsuperscript{52}. Parent Teacher Association awarded her with a gold coin in honour of her meritorious achievement. This school is endowed with various organization like N.S.S., Junior Red Cross Society, Literary Club, Consumer Club and Quiz Club. At present M. Balasubramanian is the Headmaster of the school. A host of talented teachers are striving hard to preserve the glory of the school by maintaining strict discipline\textsuperscript{53}.

**Purushothaman Pillai Memorial Higher Secondary School, Anducode**

Purushothaman Pillai Higher Secondary School at Anducode was established in 19 May 1930 as a Vernacular Malayalam Middle School by Thiru. S. Purushothaman Pillai\textsuperscript{54}. In 1950 Primary English Medium was introduced subsequently. The middle school was upgraded as high school in 1959 to cater to the needs of the local people. It became a higher secondary in

\textsuperscript{52} Information Board Maintained in Headmaster Room, S.L.B. Girls High School, Nagercoil.
\textsuperscript{53} Personal Interview with B. Subramaniam, Headmaster, S.L.B. Girls High School, Nagercoil, 23.04.2012.
\textsuperscript{54} Personal Interview with Mr. V. Ramachandran Nair, Headmaster, Purushothaman Pillai Memorial (PPM) Higher Secondary School, Anducode, 21 May 2005.
1978. From 1992 onwards English became the medium of instruction up to high school. Thus the 3 languages Tamil, Malayalam and English became the medium of instruction. At present the total strength of the school is 1457.

The school possesses a well equipped laboratory mainly for higher secondary science students. Pursuing Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Electronics and Computer Science\textsuperscript{55}. The school library was started with 33 books in 1982 at rose to 500 books present the library contains nearly 500 books. These books are regularly used by the teachers and the students.

This school is one of the leading popular institution in Kanyakumari District, producing good results in the X and XII public examination.

In addition to regular classes special attention is given in sports and games, painting, tailoring, handicraft and sewing to equip the skill as well as practical knowledge. In the zonal level District level and State level school games and sports the students of this school won a number of prizes the students on certain important occasions N.S.S., N.C.C., Garden Club, Education Club, Quiz Club, Science Club and Music Club are effectively functioned in this school.

**Aided Higher Secondary School, Arumanai**

Aided Higher Secondary School, Arumanai was started as a primary school in 1940 by Sir. V. Thanu Pillai with the strength

of 23 students. The school was upgraded as high school in 1950\textsuperscript{56}. It became a higher secondary school in 1980\textsuperscript{57}. The present strength of the school is 1515 students\textsuperscript{58}. Tamil, Malayalam and English languages used as the medium of instruction\textsuperscript{59}.

The school possess a well equipped laboratory mainly for Higher Secondary Science students library consisted of 400 books\textsuperscript{60} and students are compelled to use library frequently. In addition to regular classes, special training is given in painting, drawing, tailoring and sewing. It enables them to seek self employment and promote self confidence among the students\textsuperscript{61}.

The school is endowed with Education Club, Quiz Club, Red Cross, N.S.S., N.C.C., Scout and Garden Club. Besides, various entertainment programmes are held for the benefit of the students on certain important occasions. Students participate in various items like singing, dancing, painting and sports on these occasions. Prizes are given to the winner’s at the school day function which encourage the students.

Various social value programmes were conducted in the school campus and the participant students are given merit certificates. AIDS awareness programmes and rain water harvesting programmes are organized by the school to create awareness among the pupils.

\textsuperscript{58} Students Attendance Report, 2004-2005.
\textsuperscript{59} Personal Interview with Mr. Kishore Chandh, Headmaster, Higher Secondary School, Arumanai, dated 23.06.2005.
\textsuperscript{60} Library Register, Higher Secondary School, Arumanai, 2003-2004, p.2.
St. James High School, Vaniyakudy

Vaniyakudy is surrounded by north Kandarvilagam, east Kodimunai, West Kurumbanai and the South Arabian Sea. Fr. Barnabas started the St. James school here with three classes in 1948\(^62\). In 1950 two more classes were added. The school also got government recognition\(^63\) and remained as a primary school till 1984. It was elevated into a middle school from 10.06.1985 through the hard work of Fr. Francis De Sales\(^64\). It got government recognition in 1987\(^65\). It remained as middle school till 2003. Then the school was upgraded into a high school by Fr. Robinson under the Self financing system during 2003\(^66\) and gained state recognition in 2005\(^67\). This school achieves 98% results in the S.S.L.C. Public Examination every year. The management of the school encourages the students to excel in fine arts and physical education\(^68\). As per its annual report for 2007-2008 the school has a student strength of 564 and staff strength of nineteen\(^69\).

Sethu Lakshmi Bai Boys Government Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.

The reputed Sethu Lakshmi Bai Boys School was started in 1860 in an ashram near Suchindrum in the name of Agastheeswaram Taluk School. Later it was shifted to the

\(^63\) DPI Trivandrum No.10192/50, dated 06.04.1950.
present Kavimoni Desigavinayagam Pillai Girls Higher Secondary School Campus. In 1883 it became a complete English high school as its first kind throughout Travancore.

Due to paucity of space, piece of land was acquired near Nagercoil court road and established the present school in the name of Sethu Lakshmi Bai, the regent of Sri Chitirai Thirunal Balaramavarma and classes were commenced from 28 January 1928 in the new campus\textsuperscript{70}. But with the formation of Kanyakumari District on linguistic basis this area and the school too were brought under the government of Tamilnadu since 1 November 1956. Since June 1978 this school was elevated as a Government Higher Secondary School\textsuperscript{71}. The teachers of this school stood for securing cent percent result in the higher secondary examination.

However, during 2004-2005 out of 395 pupils passed with a total pass percentage is 82\% securing 1144 marks as school first\textsuperscript{72}. As per the school register nearly 2540 pupils enrolled but the strength began to decline subsequently. At present the school has 1700 pupils and 61 teachers\textsuperscript{73}. The school has Parent Teacher Association, N.S.S and R.M.S.A providing extra caching class to average pupils\textsuperscript{74}.


\textsuperscript{71} List of Recognized Higher Secondary Schools in Tamilnadu as on 30.09.1985, p.130.

\textsuperscript{72} Information board maintained in Headmaster Room, S.L.B. Boys Government Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil.

\textsuperscript{73} Attendance Register, S.L.B. Boys Government Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil, 2010-2011, p.1.

\textsuperscript{74} Personal Interview with Subbaiah, Librarian, S.L.B. Boys Government Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil, 20.05.2011.
ST. Joseph’s High School, Ramanthurai

St. Joseph’s High School was started in 1845 as a night school in Ramanthurai. In 1846, it became a primary school with two classes. Owning to the arduous efforts of the parish priest and the active co-operation of the local people, the number of classes rose to 5\textsuperscript{75}. The school got recognition from the Tamilnadu Government on 11.02.1967\textsuperscript{76}. It became a Middle School on 01.06.1985 due to the untiring efforts of the parish priest Arul Raj. The strength increased year by year and the school developed into a self financing high school during 1998 at the time of the parish priest Dominic and is continuing as High school now\textsuperscript{77}. This school has been producing 97% results in the S.S.L.C., Public Examinations for many years and also won prizes at the various District and Zonal level sport programmes\textsuperscript{78}. The staff strength is twelve and 428 pupils out of this 224 boys and 204 girls\textsuperscript{79}.

Sacred Heart High School, Kadiyapattinam

In 1921, some nuns from the congregation of Immaculate Heart of Mary came to Kadiyapattinam and started the Sacred Heart Primary School for girls as per the advice of Mother Superior. The school had only four classes till 1959. The fifth class was added in 1960\textsuperscript{80} and the school got Government

\textsuperscript{79} Ibid., 2007-2008.  
\textsuperscript{80} Sacred Heart Middle School Log Book 2001-2002, Kadiyapattinam, p.2.
recognition in 1962\textsuperscript{81}. In 1965, it was upgraded into a co-educational middle school\textsuperscript{82}. Sister Emilia Mary (mother general) laid the foundation stone for this school building in 01.06.1982\textsuperscript{83} and following that the sacred heart middle school was elevated into a high school on 16.06.1982\textsuperscript{84} and was recognized by the Government in 1983\textsuperscript{85}. The students of this school have been encouraged not only in the studies but also in other arts like dance, music, embroidery and craft works. Physical education has been given utmost importance. The school got first position in the Kho-Kho games at the zonal level during the year 2005. It is something remarkable that the school has been achieving 100\% results in the S.S.L.C., Public Examination every year. However it continues to be a High School. The School is flourishing with 752 girls and 210 boys as students and 28 teachers and 9 non teaching staff\textsuperscript{86}.

\textbf{St. Pius XI Higher Secondary School, Thoothoor}

St. Pius XI School was started as a night school on 05.07.1921. It began with two classes as primary school. Gradually it became a full-fledged primary school in 1947. The Latin Catholic Diocese of Trivandrum helped this school to become a Middle School\textsuperscript{87}. Subsequently Fr. Clarence was instrumental in elevating it to the High School Level with

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{81} D.E.O. No. RC. No. 34F/62, dated 24.07.1962.
\item \textsuperscript{82} Sacred Heart Primary School Log Book 2001-2002, Kadiyapattinam, p.2.
\item \textsuperscript{83} Inscription wall on Sacred Heart High School, Kadiyapattinam, p.2.
\item \textsuperscript{84} Sacred Heart High School Log Book 2002-2003, Kadiyapattinam, p.2.
\item \textsuperscript{85} Director of School Education Number R.C. No.229782G2/83, dated 31.10.1983.
\item \textsuperscript{86} Annual Report of Sacred Heart High School, 2007-2008, Kadiyapattinam, p.2.
\end{itemize}
Government recognition in 1959. On 01.08.1959 Mr. K. Kamaraj, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, laid the foundation stone for the new school building and on completion it was inaugurated on 08.09.1960 by Mrs. Lourdhammal Simon, the then Fisheries Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The St. Pius XI High School was made into a State recognized Higher Secondary School in 1981 through the earnest effort of the parish priest Fr. Francis Peters Borgio. An average result of 97% in S.S.L.C. and 93% in Higher Secondary Examinations is produced every year. Parent Teacher’s Association and Junior Red Cross Society of this School are also functioning well. During the academic year St. Pius XI Higher Secondary School has a student strength of 2295 and a staff strength of 70.

**Little Flower High School, Melamanakudy**

Little Flower School was started on 25 January 1927 as a primary school and remained in the same status till 1962. The students who completed their 5th standard were sent to the neighboring L.M.S. Middle School at Puthalam. To end this difficulty the Roman Catholic Parish started a Middle School called Little Flower Middle School in 1963. This school continued

---

88 Director of School Education Number R.C.No.309/G3/59, dated 01.06.1959.  
89 Inscription Wall on St. Pius XI Higher Secondary School, Thoothoor, 01.08.1959.  
as a middle school for 20 years under the active care of the nuns. Fr. Vincent Pereira made it into a High School in 1983\textsuperscript{93} and since then it has been functioning as an outstanding institution of its kind in the region with state recognition. Girls alone are admitted upto 5\textsuperscript{th} standard and from the middle and high school sections became co-educational. The fine arts club engaged in spotting the hidden talents of the students and encouraged them to participate in inter school competitions who obtained shields and laurels. The availability of a well furnished play ground within the school campus made the students to show great interest in Kho-Kho, Kabadi, Badminton and athletics.

The students securing centum results in S.S.L.C. Public Examination is a notable achievements\textsuperscript{94}. As per the school record there are 156 boys and 335 girls learning under 16 teachers and 2 non teaching staff\textsuperscript{95}.

**St. Michael’s High School, Kodimunai**

Fr. Barnabas started St. Michael’s School in 1941 with two classes\textsuperscript{96}. Then it was promoted into a primary school which obtained government recognized in 1947\textsuperscript{97} and remained as a primary school till 1984. Due to the untiring efforts of the parish priest. Fr. Baskal S. Bassber it was elevated as a Middle School in 1985\textsuperscript{98}. The Government gave recognition to the Middle School

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{93} Annual Report of Little Flower High School Melamanakudy 2003-2004, p.3.
\item \textsuperscript{94} Little Flower High School Diary 2003-2004, Melamanakudy, p.5.
\item \textsuperscript{95} Annual Report of Little Flower High School, 2007-2008, Melamanakudy, p.3.
\item \textsuperscript{96} St. Michael’s High School Diary 2001-2002, Kodimunai, p.2.
\item \textsuperscript{97} DPI, Trivandrum No.4641 VI 32/47, dated 29.07.1947.
\item \textsuperscript{98} St. Michael’s High School Diary 2001-2002, Kodimunai, p.3.
\end{itemize}
in 1987\textsuperscript{99}. This school became as High School due to the earnest efforts of Fr. Selvaraj during 2005 and functioned under the self financing system till December 2007\textsuperscript{100}. In January 2008 the government recognized these schools as an aided high school\textsuperscript{101}. The Parent Teachers Association has been functioning well in this school since 1990. Students Sanchajika Scheme has also been introduced since the academic year of 1999-2000. Fine arts and physical education are also given due importance\textsuperscript{102}. During the academic Year 2007-2008 the school enrolled 394 girls and 202 boys, under the able guidance of 23 teachers and two non-teaching staff\textsuperscript{103}.

**St. Aloysius Higher Secondary School, Marthandamthurai**

Geographically Marthandamthurai a tiny coastal village is adorned with ST. Aloysius Higher Secondary School. It was started with five classes in 1917 through the active support of the parish priest Rockey Fernandes. It became a Middle school in 1922 and continued in the same status for 56 long years due to poor financial situation. In 1978, it was elevated into a high school through the efforts of Fr. Xavier Alexander and the local people. Since students had to walk long distances to go to higher secondary school else where, in 1985 it became a higher secondary school when Fr. Romans was the parish priest\textsuperscript{104}. A teacher’s committee is formed under headmaster and an elected

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item [\textsuperscript{102}] St. Michael’s High School Diary 2006-2007, Kodimunai, p.4.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
teacher serves as its secretary and all other teachers as its members. This helps the school to achieve an average of 97% results in the S.S.L.C. and 92% in Higher Secondary School every year. Parent Teacher’s Association and Junior Red Cross Society are functioning well here. The Junior Red Cross Society of this school has an enrolment of more than 100 pupils. Usually pupils are participating in competitions like essay writing, drawing and singing and have brought many laurels to the school. In the year 2003 the school won the rolling trophy in the District Zonal level Kabadi tournament. As per the 2007-2008 annual report of St. Aloysius Higher Secondary School, there are 755 boys and 827 girls in this school, fifty eight teaching and non-teaching staff are working in this school.

**Special Schools**

Apart from ordinary schools both private and public started special schools exclusively for imparting knowledge to the physically challenged especially the blind, deaf, dump and mentally immature pupils. From records it is understood that several such school were sprung up in Kanyakumari District to provide education to the physically disabled.

**Assir Vidhala, Thetticode**

Assir Vidhyala school for the Mentally retarded was started in 1991 by Sister Alfonso (Mother of Francisan Claristic

---

Congregation). The school was established at Thetticode near Kaliyakkavilai which was registered under the Tamilnadu charitable societies registration act of 1915. The total strength of this school is 59 in 2004. This school provides free education, meals and traveling facilities to the students. Various scientific and modern techniques are adopted to impart knowledge as well as induce self-confidence. The students are encouraged to participate in the important national and religious celebrations Independence Day, Republic Day, Onam, Pongal and Christmas like.

**School for the Deaf, Kottaram**

Rehabilitation of the handicapped is a missionary service. The protestant missionaries ventured to remove the isolation of the hearing impaired children. I.R.H. Gnanadason the first Bishop of the Diocese took steps to start a school at Kottaram for the hearing impaired. A School, Committee under A. Samuel was constituted and Sundara Rajan, the then District Educational Officer inaugurated the school on 29 June 1966 with twenty hearing impaired children. C. Chittendon, C.M.S. Missionary was the first principal of this school. This school obtained recognition of the government on 29 June 1966 and this school

---

111 Minutes of the Education Board, Nagercoil, 29th February 1965, p.12.
113 Minutes of the Executive Committee, Nagercoil, 18th July 1966, p.27.
was recognized as high school\textsuperscript{114} in 1\textsuperscript{st} June 1976. Pre School for the deaf children was started in 1988. The children from the age group of three to seven are admitted. Though it is a special school, it follows the syllabus of the normal schools except English. The children are trained to acquire language skills, to develop lip reading, speech skill, thereby helped to communicate with ordinary people\textsuperscript{115}. The central government encourages this school and supplied the required study materials and aids to improve their speech\textsuperscript{116}. Students who are not good in academics are detained in the 8\textsuperscript{th} standard and given training in cutting and tailoring students generally excelled in sports. The strength of the school is 190 at present.

\textbf{School for the Blind, Irenipuram}

To impart education and develop the visually handicapped children to live like other children Bishop I.R.H. Gnanadason took steps for the establishment of a school for the visually impaired in the Irenipuram church campus and applied to the government for permission. On 3 August 1970 the school started functioning at the primary level with eight visually challenged children of both sex\textsuperscript{117}. The main aim of the school is “Give Light to the Blind, Lead Blind to the Light”. D.S. Spurgeon was appointed as the Honorary Director and Correspondent of the school on March 1970 and his wife Evangeline was appointed as


\footnotesize\textsuperscript{115} To honour Miss. Elizabeth Megan Jones C.S.I., High School for the Deaf, Souvenir, Kottaram, Nagercoil, 1988, p.10.

\footnotesize\textsuperscript{116} Desopakari, Nagercoil, March, 1982, p.1.

its headmistress from 1 June 1971\textsuperscript{118}. The Silver Jubilee Celebration of the school was held on 25 October 1995 and a Souvenir was released on that occasion\textsuperscript{119}. This school that started functioning with temporary recognition from the government, obtained permanent recognition only on 25 November 2002\textsuperscript{120}. The visually impaired children are admitted in the school irrespective of caste, colour or creed. After completing the 10\textsuperscript{th} standard, the children with high mental Calibre continue higher studies and the others are given life-oriented education for their rehabilitation. They have participated in inter schools tournaments, state and national level competitions and won prizes\textsuperscript{121}. An Integrated Education programme was introduced in the school in 1984, which enabled the visually handicapped children to take their rightful place in society and to prepare them to face life with courage and confidence\textsuperscript{122}. Under the programme the visually impaired children who came out successfully in Std. VIII were sent to CSI. V.V. Higher Secondary School, Irenipuram and C.S.I. V.V. High School for girls, Irenipuram. Later on, such boys and girls were admitted only in Scott Christian Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil and Duthie Higher Secondary School for Girls, Nagercoil respectively. Specially qualified teachers, working in Duthie Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil and Scott Christian Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil take care of the Children.

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item Minutes of the Education Board, Nagercoil, 9\textsuperscript{th} May 1970, p.11.
\item The \textit{Dinamalar}, Dated 25\textsuperscript{th} October 1995, p.10.
\item Minutes of the Governing Board, C.S.I. School for the Blind, Nagercoil, 17\textsuperscript{th} February 1987, p.135.
\item Annual Report, Blind School, Ireneapuram, Nagercoil, 1984, p.3.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
**Nambikkai Illam, Kuzhithurai**

Nambikkai Illam for the mentally retarded was started in 6 June 1998 by Sister Agnus (Mother of Franciscan Congregation) in Kulithurai. It was registered under the Tamilnadu Charitable Societies registration Act XXVII of 1975. There are 58 students and seven staff in the school. The school provides vocational education to the students. Most of the students from this school hail from poor families. So it provides free education and meals to the students.

Cultural programmes like dance, music, painting, craftworks and drawing are conducted in this school for the encouragement of the students. Independence Day, Republic Day, Onam, Pongal and Christmas are celebrated to motivate the students\(^\text{123}\).

**Karunalayam Special School, Thuckalay**

‘Karunalayam Special School’ for mentally retarded was started at Thuckalay in 1999 by Sister May Joseph (Mother of Karmal congregation) and Mar-George Allencherry, the Catholic Bishop of Thuckalay\(^\text{124}\). Pre primary, primary and secondary education are given to the students. 30 students and 4 staff are in the school. The school provides free education, meals and travel facilities to the students. The school is financed from the Bishop’s funds and donations from other sources. Cultural programmes are conducted to bring out the hidden talents of the students painting, drawing, music and dance are imparted to the students\(^\text{125}\).


\(^{125}\) Personal Interview with Sr. Rosette, Thuckalay, 22.06.2005.
Besides these institutions such as Assisi Vidhyalaya, Chennacode and Mentally Retarded School, Rajakkamangalam are doing meritorious service to the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped.

**Non Formal Education**

Adult Literary and Non Formal Education are important educational strategies for achieving universalization of education. Therefore sporadic efforts have been made to educate adults in a systematic way. Due to high drop out rate in the school education the number of adult illiterates increased. Hence efforts were made to educate the adult through adult education programme\(^{126}\). Non formal education system is formulated in 1986, plans to deal with the drop out problems.

The national policy on Non formal education in 1986 expressed some opinion about non formal education. It is a large and systematic programme which cover the school drop outs without the habitation of schools, working children and girls who cannot able to attend the school for whole day. Moreover, effective steps were taken to provide work the curriculum of the Non Formal education. The government took various measures to impart education to all set of peoples. Most of the task of Non Formal education process were done through voluntary basic and through Panchayat Raj Institutions. The Non Formal Education Policy of 1986 will give the highest priority for solving the problems of children dropping out of school. It adopt meticulous fundamental strategies based on macro-planning

---

\(^{126}\) Policy Note on Education 1992-93, p.42.
and applied to the gross root levels all over the country. To ensure that all children who attain the age of about 11 years of schooling or its equivalent through the non formal stream. Likewise by 1995 all children will be provided free and compulsory education upto 14 years of age. According to the programme of Action in 1986. The essential characteristic of Non Formal Education are flexibility regarding admission, duration and training127.

Government of Tamil Nadu have already announced the policy of achieving total literacy in the state by the end of 1993-94. Therefore a 3 phased total literacy campaign strategy has been drawn up. In the first phase 7 districts have been covered under the total literacy campaign in 1991-92. One among them is Kanyakumari District128.

Inorder to make the total literacy campaign successful, few steps were taken by the Collectors through Arivoli Iyakkam. Mass mobilization and environment buildings activities proceeded the literacy programme and people are involved in the post literacy campaign. The level of literacy should be sufficient to enable learners to achieve self-reliance in learning. The total literacy movement brings learners together in dialogue, so that they understand their predicament, develop a feeling of solidarity and move towards the solution a feeling of solidarity and move towards the solution of their problems in an organized manner129.

---