CHAPTER III

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION

Corresponding to the growth of Primary and Secondary education, there arose a need for establishing different colleges to provide higher education to the successful candidates in different arts and science subjects. Moreover, the rush for admission in the available limited colleges necessitated the opening of new colleges to quench the education aspirations of the people. Moreover, students hailing from economically weaker section are not in a position to send their sons and daughters in far off distant places. Further, the inadequate transport and accommodation facilities compelled the government or the Christian managements or some other private agencies to open more and more colleges to accommodate the growing student’s population. Besides, the parents too realized the importance of education and decided to educate their wards by any means as education is an asset to the family and yield high status in society.

The rush for admission to the Pre-University Course (P.U.C.) is continued to be fairly heavy on the whole particularly in thickly populated urban areas in Tamilnadu as early as 1960. The facilities available were inadequate to meet the demand. Madras University is the only authority providing affiliation of the colleges both government and aided. The availability of only one university at Madras and the limited number of colleges scattered in some pockets of the state offering limited courses admitting limited number of students posed a problem for
seeking admission. Realizing this trend, the successive governments envied one with the other and gave permission to open some new colleges every year according to the need. Above all, opening a college is not only lucrative but considered as a goose laying golden eggs. All those motives led to the blooming of additional colleges in every nook and corner of the state. Consequently Kanyakumari District is studded with a number of colleges in different parts to cater to the requirements of students as well as parents.

**Evolution of Collegiate Education**

Collegiate Education plays a significant role in the development of higher education in the state. But the growth of collegiate education was a slow but continuous process. During 1950 attempts were made to start one college in the mofussil area for the benefit of the rural masses. Before this period, much attention was paid to establish colleges in the urban areas only where boarding and lodging were expensive. In order to establish colleges in rural areas, government of Madras took various measures. Accordingly a sum of Rs.1,90,000 was sanctioned to purchase equipments under the scheme of Post Graduate Training and Research to equip the available colleges.

With the rapid expansion of education, a number of institutions came forward to offer post graduate education in the mofussil centers. In 1956 a new pattern of the collegiate education was introduced. It consisted of one year P.U.C. followed by a degree course of 3 years and the P.G. course of 2

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years after the first degree\(^2\). This system continued till 1977, the introduction of +2 patterns. The college which started P.G. courses were granted a sum of Rs.75,000 to expand facilities for P.G. teaching\(^3\).

In course of time fund was allotted to develop arts colleges. With this objective during 1961-62 Rs.1,00,000\(^4\) was allotted to each arts college for the construction of new buildings, hostels and additional blocks. But the amount sanctioned varied from college to college according to its need. At this time the philanthropist came forward to donate much money to develop the private colleges. With these liberal contributions private colleges made attempt to improve their laboratories, libraries, play ground hostels and other accommodation\(^5\).

Due to the opening of more colleges in the 1960’s and the construction of additional blocks in the existing colleges, there was a remarkable rush for admission to the P.U.C. and degree courses. To meet the growing needs Madras University sanctioned additional seats to the maximum strength of 5 more students in each of the Science sections in the P.U.C. and Degree course\(^6\). For the development and progress of education, the Kothari Commission (1964-66) recommended that the affiliated college be encouraged to provide centers of advanced study. Further it stressed the need to raise the quality of staff,

\(^2\) Madras Information, March 1958, pp.5-6.
\(^5\) During the late Fortier, T.V. Sundaram Iyengar and Sons Ltd. Madurai Contributed Rs.1,00,000. Shanmugaraja of Siraganga donated 200 acres of land to start a college.
general quality of students, research output, library facilities and improvement of student discipline\textsuperscript{7}. When the demand for higher education increased the Madras State gave permission to open 8 more colleges in 1966-67.

Let to revamp the course of scuttle with modern development the university of Madras and Madurai introduced the “Semester System” for the under graduate courses in colleges in phased programme from 1976-77. Though semester pattern continued even today, there was a huge cry among various educationalists to revise not only the curriculum but the pattern of examination system. Therefore the university academic bodies after long discussion introduced Choice Based Credit System. All the colleges willy-nilly adopted this pattern though there were objections from some quarters.

**S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil**

The South Travancore Hindu College Association with temple trusts and individuals share holders was registered as a company on 9 January 1952 with a view to promote higher education in South Travancore, now known as Kanyakumari District.

University of Travancore granted affiliation on 14 March 1952. Accordingly on 7 April 1952, Sri. A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, the then Vice Chancellor laid the foundation stone and on 11 July 1952 Sri. P.G.N. Unnithan, President, Travancore Devaswom Board, inaugurated the college at a special function,\textsuperscript{7}

\textsuperscript{7} Kothari Commission Report 1964-66, pp.284-86.
presided over by Kavimoni Sri. S. Desigavinayagam Pillai. Began on a modest scale as an intermediate college in 1952\textsuperscript{8}, the South Travancore Hindu College rapidly grew into a Degree college in 1955, and a post graduate college in 1956. Subsequently, with the re-organization of Indian States on linguistic basis and the formation and merger of Kanyakumari District on 1 November 1956 with Tamilnadu the college came to be affiliated to the University of Madras in 1957\textsuperscript{9}, then to Madurai Kamaraj University in 1966 and finally to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in 1990. Within this period the college grew into its present status as a premier institution accredited with B+ by the National Assessment Accreditation Council\textsuperscript{10}.

The South Travancore Hindu College has emerged into one of the most reputed educational institutions among the academic slum in South Tamil Nadu. It offers twelve under graduate courses, ten post graduate courses. Besides M.Phil courses in Tamil, History and Chemistry followed research departments in Tamil, Economics, Chemistry and History. Apart from them it also offers B.Sc. (Physics), B.Sc. (Computer Science), M.Sc. (Computer Science), M.C.A and P.G.D.C.A under the Self Financing Scheme, besides a number of career oriented certificate and diploma courses\textsuperscript{11}.

Students Association number about 26 plays a vital role in the furtherance of education and promotion of leadership

\textsuperscript{9} South Travancore Hindu College Magazine, Nagercoil, 2002-2003, p.8.
qualities. All associations functioned well and organized meetings inviting eminent scholars as guests. Sports and games occupy a prominent place in this college. Athletes and players of this college exhibited their skill and brought many laurel in the form of medals and prizes at the zonal, inter collegiate university and state levels.\footnote{South Travancore Hindu College Magazine, Nagercoil, 2001-2002, p.6.}

**St. Jude’s College, Thoothoor**

The thirst for college education by coastal youth of the region was finally realized with the establishment of St. Jude’s College at Thoothoor. It is a “daring and noble venture” said Rt. Rev. P.B. Pereira, the former Bishop of Trivandrum when he gave his approbation and blessings to the college. The patrons, Rt. Rev. Dr. Soosa Pakiam, Arch Bishop of Trivandrum and Rt. Rev. Dr. Leon A. Tharmaraj Bishop of Kottar continue to help and encourage the Managing Board in running the institution.\footnote{St. Jude’s College Handbook (2006-2007), Nagercoil, 2007, p.8.}

The college owes its existence to the indefatigable and daring efforts of the Rev. Fathers who formed themselves into a society named “The Latin Catholic Fisherman’s Educational Society” (Reg. No.13/78). Unmindful of the vague future and working under stress and strain, but continuing under the guidance of the Divine providence, the society made sincere efforts which were crowned with success when, at last, they started the college with the permission of the Tamil Nadu Government in the academic year 1980-81\footnote{Annual Report of St. Jude’s College (1980-81), Thoothoor, 1981, p.2.} affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University.
The college was affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University in the year 1980-1981. With the establishment of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University at Thirunelveli in 1990, the college came under this new university. It had to begin with, six major subjects in science and three major subjects in Arts and Commerce in the under graduate courses and a P.G. Courses in Information and Technology for both men and women. The college is also recognized by U.G.C. for grants under 2(f) and 12(b)\textsuperscript{15}.

St. Jude’s College is an institution of excellence with stresses scientific inquiry, dispassionate assessment of life and creative insights, strives hard for intellectual formation moulds the whole personality of the youth and paves the way for higher learning\textsuperscript{16}. The college aims at providing integrated and personalized higher education to the marginalized, particularly the Latin Catholic Fishermen Community in accordance with the rights of the minority community guaranteed in the constitution of the country. As per the 2007-2008 annual report of the college, there are 375 boys and 717 girls studying in this college. Sixty three teachers and thirty three non-teaching staff are working in this college\textsuperscript{17}.

**Scott Christian College, Nagercoil**

The present Scott Christian College was the first one to be established in the district, Nagercoil which was a seminary

\textsuperscript{16} Ibid., p.10.
\textsuperscript{17} St. Jude’s College year register 2007-2008, Thoothoor.
established by Charles Mead in 1818\textsuperscript{18}. This institution grew into a college and was affiliated to Madras University on 1\textsuperscript{st} January 1893 with the effort of James Duthie, an L.M.S. Missionary. While on Furlough in England, Duthie raised funds for upgrading the seminary into a second grade college. The first course namely Fine Arts (FA) was started on 1\textsuperscript{st} January 1893\textsuperscript{19}. One of the Directors of the L.M.S. Septimus Scott donated 200 pounds towards erecting a building for the college and hence the college was named after him as Scott Christian College in August 1899\textsuperscript{20}. In 1938 when the University of Travancore was founded, this college was affiliated to it. In 1950 the institution was raised to a first grade college\textsuperscript{21} offering Mathematics and History at degree level. After the merger of Kanyakumari District with the Madras State on 1\textsuperscript{st} November 1956, the college was affiliated to the University of Madras in 1957\textsuperscript{22}.

The missionary era of the college in May 1959 with the death of the last missionary principal G.H. Marsdon, who was succeeded by B. Arumai Raj, the first Indian principal cum secretary of the college\textsuperscript{23}. During the year 1960-61 the strength of the college was 1021\textsuperscript{24}. Though the college was centrally situated in Nagercoil on the site in which the present women’s college is functioning, further expansion and growth was

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{18} L.M.S. Report for the year 1819, p.61.
\item \textsuperscript{19} Report of the Travancore District Committee Nagercoil, 1894, p.8.
\item \textsuperscript{23} Joy Gnanadason, \textit{A forgotten History}, Madras, 1994, p.128.
\item \textsuperscript{24} Annual Report, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, 1960, p.20.
\end{itemize}
hampered by the dearth of space in the campus. So steps were
taken to shift the college to a new area\textsuperscript{25}. The grant of
Rs.1,00,000 from the University Grant Commission (U.G.C) was
utilized for the purchase of land\textsuperscript{26}. After the establishment of
Madurai University in 1966, the college was affiliated to Madurai
University which was subsequently rendered as Madurai
Kamaraj University in memory of late Mr. Kamaraj, C.M. of
Madras State. The Platinum Jubilee of the establishment of this
great institution was celebrated in the old campus from 1\textsuperscript{st}
November 1967 to 4\textsuperscript{th} November 1967\textsuperscript{27}. Since then, serious
efforts have been made to erect new buildings in the campus on
the southern side of the Kottar Parvathipuram Road, Nagercoil.
The college was shifted in phases and by 1970 all classes had
been moved to the new campus\textsuperscript{28}.

In 1971 post graduate courses in English and Economics
were introduced. Later on Post Graduate course in Zoology,
Commerce, Physics, Chemistry and Botany were introduced.
Since 1990 the college has been affiliated to the Manonmaniam
Sundaranar University (M.S. University) Thirunelveli. At present
the college offers, courses in Tamil, English, Economics, History,
Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Commerce at
the undergraduate and post graduate levels and self-financed
courses in B.Sc. Computer Science and Physical Education and
M.Phil in Physics, Zoology, Economics, Commerce and Tamil\textsuperscript{29}.
In addition, the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University

\textsuperscript{26} Minutes of the College Council, Nagercoil, 13\textsuperscript{th} April 1960, p.1.
\textsuperscript{27} Desopakari, Nagercoil, November 1967, p.11.
\textsuperscript{28} Annual Report, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, 1970, p.25.
\textsuperscript{29} The Dinanathani Kalvi Malar, dated 2\textsuperscript{nd} June 2004, p.11.
recognized the college as its first advanced centre for Doctoral Research in Economics in 1991\textsuperscript{30}. In the succeeding years the departments of Tamil, Commerce, Botany, Zoology and History also became Ph.D. Research centers\textsuperscript{31}. At present more than 100 scholars one pursuing their doctoral studies in different subjects in the college.

In addition to the curriculum courses, students of the college and provided with opportunities to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities such as physical educations, National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme, Fine Arts Club, Photographic Club, Literary Club, Nature Club and Leo Club and the various department association functioning under the guidance of the teaching faculty of the college. In order to bring out the talents of the students, to make them speak better English, to cultivate and strengthen their reading habits and for wholesome personality development, the department of English started the ‘Scott Debating Society’ and ‘Scot Springs’. Moreover student publications one brought out from four departments namely ‘Scott Quarterly News Letter’ covering campus activities from the English Department, ‘Busicom’ from Commerce Department, ‘Botanical Trends’ from Botany Department and Ooviam from Tamil Department. The peer team of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) visited the college on 23.02.2000 and on the basis of its report, the great Pioneer Institution in the District has been accredited

\textsuperscript{30} Minutes of the Executive Committee, Nagercoil, 13\textsuperscript{th} April 1991, p.28.
\textsuperscript{31} Winston Somerwel, ‘Hundred years of Scott Christian College’, C.S.I. Kanyakumari Diocese, Thanks giving day celebration, Souvenir, 1992, op. cit., p.28.
at the four star level (70-75%)\textsuperscript{32}. The present strength of the students according to the report of 2002-2003 is 2442 including 1365 women\textsuperscript{33}. In 1959 the teaching staff consisted of 65 members out of whom 48 were Christians and 17 non-Christians. According to the report of 2002-2003, 92 members are one the teaching faculty, along with 24 staff members under self-finance scheme and 19 in other position. The strength of the non-teaching staff is 68, including 17 management staff\textsuperscript{34}. At present the college is promoted as autonomous college.

**Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam**

To uplift the downtrodden people in and around Marthandam in higher education, the Executive Committee of the Diocese was formed an adhoc committee headed by N. Dennis to collect fund from the public\textsuperscript{35}. Subsequently on 4\textsuperscript{th} January 1964, a college committee was formed and the Diocese provided 20 acres of land for the college with three buildings at Marthandam as endowment to satisfy the requirement of the University of Madras to which this college was affiliated. I.R.H. Gnanadason, the then Bishop inaugurated the collage for boys on August 6\textsuperscript{th} 1964 and named it as Christian College, Marthandam\textsuperscript{36} with its motto having “Faith, Endeavour and Power”. This college started functioning with only 160 men

\textsuperscript{32} The Thinathanti, 20\textsuperscript{th} April 2000, P.4, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Certificate of Accreditation, Dated 17\textsuperscript{th} April 2000.
\textsuperscript{33} Annual Report, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, 2002, p.73.
\textsuperscript{34} Ibid., 2003, p.74.
\textsuperscript{35} Hector, S.S., 'Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, 'C.S.I. Kanyakumari Diocese, Marthandam District Church, Pastorate Centenary Year, 1893-1993, Souvenir, op. cit., p.100.
\textsuperscript{36} Annual Report, Marthandam Christian College, Nagercoil, 1964, p.30; Minutes of the Executive Committee, Nagercoil, 18\textsuperscript{th} May 1964, p.6.
students with two section in Pre University Class (P.U.C)\textsuperscript{37}. In 1965, there were 13 teachers including the principal John D.K. Sunder Singh\textsuperscript{38}. The university inspection commission under Srinivasa Raghavan, former principal of V.O.C. College, Tuticorin visited the college in 1965 and on the basis of the recommendations affiliation for B.Sc. Mathematics, B.A. History and Economics, with 40 students in each group was granted in July 1965\textsuperscript{39}. In the year 1966, the college came under the control of Madurai University from 1977 it permitted to give admission to women candidates too. Then the name of the college was changed from ‘Christian College Marthandam’ to Nesamony Memorial Christian College’, in due recognition of the yeoman service rendered by A. Nesamony to Kanyakumari District in general and particularly to the people of Vilavancode Taluk\textsuperscript{40}.

Post Graduate courses in Physics, Mathematics and History are introduced in 1980. In the succeeding year several major subjects were added. In 1986, Madurai Kamaraj University granted permission to start, M.Phil course in history and M.Phil (Sequential Course) in the following year. Teachers from colleges of Kanyakumari District joined this course\textsuperscript{41}. The college came under Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (M.S.U) in 1990\textsuperscript{42}. Besides, the syndicate of the M.S. University in June 1996 recognized the History Department of the college

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\textsuperscript{38} Annual Report, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, Nagercoil, 1965, p.35.

\textsuperscript{39} Minutes of the Adhoc Committee, Nagercoil, 28\textsuperscript{th} August 1965, p.12.

\textsuperscript{40} Minutes of the Executive Committee, Nagercoil, 25\textsuperscript{th} October 1983, p.11.

\textsuperscript{41} Nesamony Memorial Christian College Magazine, Mullanganavillai, 1988, p.2.

\textsuperscript{42} Desopakari, October 1994, p.2.
as a Research Centre for studies leading to the award of Ph.D\textsuperscript{43}. Even though the college was started in 1964, the Silver Jubilee Celebrations were held only from 4\textsuperscript{th} to 8\textsuperscript{th} March 1991. At present the college offers undergraduate courses in Mathematics, History, Economics, Tamil, English, Commerce, Chemistry, Physics, Botany, Zoology and Computer Science (Self Finance) and post graduate courses in History, Mathematics and Physics. In the Self-Financed evening college post graduate courses in Zoology, Commerce, Computer Application (M.C.A) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A) are offered.

In the University Examination result, the college has secured the fourth position at under graduate level and the second in the post graduate level among the colleges of the district\textsuperscript{44}. In order to create a healthy mind in a healthy body, the college pays equal importance to sports and games. In addition, enough opportunities are provided to students to use their extra time in healthy activities through various associations of the Department Student Christian Movement, Eco Club, Adventure Club and N.C.C. and N.S.S. Realizing the role of counseling a counseling and vocational guidance centre for personal counseling has been functioning in the campus with a staff advisor since 1976\textsuperscript{45}. In 1997, a certificate course on leadership was conducted. 30 students participated in it and obtained certificates. The college co-operated with the Government whenever it implemented a new programme for the

\textsuperscript{43} Letter from P. Ramanathan, Registrar, M.S.U., to the Principal, NMCC, Marthandam, 22\textsuperscript{nd} July 1996.

\textsuperscript{44} Nesamony Memorial Christian College Magazine, Marthandam, 1999, p.1.

\textsuperscript{45} Annual Report, Nesamony Memorial College, Marthandam, Nagercoil, 1976, p.39.
improvement of the community. From 1979, the college implemented the National Adult Education Programme and conducted classes in ten different centers\textsuperscript{46}. From 1986 to 1991 “Each one Teach one” programme and Mass Literacy Campaign, were carried out in the Melpuram Block. Unfortunately National Adult Education Programme and Mass Literacy Campaign could not be continued for want of financial assistance\textsuperscript{47}.

Since many students cannot afford the fees prescribed for computer studies in the private institutions, the Department of Computer Science, signed an agreement with the government polytechnic, Nagercoil in 1998, and got recognition as a continuing Education Extension Centre. Out of the 1328 students enrolled initially in this programme, 587 were the students of the college and 741 were outsiders\textsuperscript{48}. New advanced courses are designed and introduced to keep pace with the changing trend and market demand\textsuperscript{49}. This programme also generates adequate income for the self sustenance of the Computer Department\textsuperscript{50}. The Department of Business Management brought out the Magazine ‘Zoomer’ and two other manuscript magazines ‘Maharantham’ in Tamil and Deepam in Malayalam, which reflect the academic research abilities of the students. The National Accreditation Council team visited the

\textsuperscript{46} Ibid., 1979, p.45.
\textsuperscript{47} Nesamony Memorial Christian College Magazine, Marthandam, 1993, p.4.
\textsuperscript{48} Takwale, M.G., Puttasawamy Gowda, A.M., Henry, G., Peer Team Report, on Institution Accreditation of Nesamony Memorial Christian College Magazine, Marthandam, 9\textsuperscript{th} April 2003, p.9.
\textsuperscript{49} Minutes of the adjourned Executive Committee Nagercoil, 21\textsuperscript{st} May 2002, p.12.
\textsuperscript{50} Annual Report, Nesamony Memorial Christian College Magazine, Marthandam, 2001, p.42.
college on 8th and 9th 2003 and graded the institution with B+\textsuperscript{51}. The college roll includes 2068 students out of whom 1282 are girls. Now the college is having 126 teaching and 56 non-teaching staff under both aided and self-financing streams.

**Women’s Christian College, Nagercoil**

The starting of the Women’s Christian College is a landmark in the history of the Kanyakumari Diocese I.R.H. Gnanadason, the then Bishop showed great interest in this venture. Subsequently the Executive Committee of the Kanyakumari Diocese appointed a sub committee under joy Gnanadhason as its convener, to study and consider the ways and means of establishing a women’s college\textsuperscript{52} in the old campus of the Scott Christian College, Nagercoil\textsuperscript{53}. Since the University of Madurai and the Government of Tamilnadu insisted on a cash endowment of Rs.2,00,000 lakhs, the Executive Committee decided to give the landed property at Pattenkalam in lieu of half of the amount and the half was collected in cash from the public as donations. On fulfilling the conditions laid down by the University\textsuperscript{54} affiliation was granted to the college and four pre university batches were started, one in Mathematics, two in Natural Science and one in Humanities (Tamil Medium). There were 318 students in all. On 13th June 1973, C. Selvamony the then Bishop, inaugurated the college\textsuperscript{55} and Joy Gnanadason was

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\textsuperscript{51} Certificate awarded by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, dated 29\textsuperscript{th} April 2003; Desopakari, September 2003, p.21.

\textsuperscript{52} Minutes of the Executive Committee, Nagercoil, 14\textsuperscript{th} April 1971, p.6.

\textsuperscript{53} Annual Report, Women’s Christian College, Nagercoil, 1972, p.6.

\textsuperscript{54} Minutes of the Office bearers meeting, Nagercoil, 24\textsuperscript{th} November 1972, p.34.

appointed the first principal of Women’s Christian College from June 1973\textsuperscript{56}. The Diocese was keen on upgrading the college and on 20\textsuperscript{th} June 1975 the University Commission under the convenorship of K. Sakthivelu, the principal of Vellachami Nadar College, Madurai visited the college. Based on the committee’s report, the university granted permission for one more science group, commerce group in pre university course. Permission was also granted for B.Sc., Botany with strength of 24 students and B.A. Tamil with 40 students\textsuperscript{57}. In course of time new courses were gradually introduced. At present the college offers at the undergraduate level, 11 disciplines namely Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Computer Science, History, Economics, Tamil, English and Commerce and at the post graduate level Botany, History, Economics, Tamil, English and Commerce and at the post graduate level Botany, History, Physics (Self Finance) and M.Com (Self Finance). The motto of the college is “Enlightened we serve”\textsuperscript{58}.

From the very outset, the Women’s Christian College produced good results. In the rank list prepared on the basis of the State wide academic performance data gathered by the commissioner of collegiate education, Chennai, out of the 141 Government aided colleges in the State, the college secured the 48\textsuperscript{th} rank, the fifth place in the M.S. University and first in the Kanyakumari District\textsuperscript{59}. The students of this college have done well in many sports events at the university, State and National

\textsuperscript{56} Minutes of the Women’s Christian College Committee, Nagercoil, 25\textsuperscript{th} October, 1972, p.34.
\textsuperscript{57} Ibid., 9\textsuperscript{th} June 1975, p.46.
\textsuperscript{58} Joy Gnanadason, op. cit., p.143.
\textsuperscript{59} Minutes of the Executive Committee, Nagercoil, 11\textsuperscript{th} December 1999, p.55.
level. Various Associations and Clubs are functioning in the college. The Department of Commerce conducted a course on ceramics pot work. Seven students of this college and 7 women from outside benefited since the students are living in an age of drug and AIDS, the college wished to sensitize them to those problems related to them. With this in view, a diploma course in ‘Drug Abuse and Aids Awareness’ were conducted for the hostel students in the year 1998 and 1999. Since these classes were conducted late in the evening only 22 hostel students attended this course.<sup>60</sup>

Knowledge of computer is essential for any career and hence the college provided computer education to its staff and non-computer science students. Accordingly the computer science department of the college started a Diploma course on Computer Application for the non-computer science students. Moreover the college signed an agreement with SITECH and started a two year Diploma Course in Information Technology affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University under the Distance Education Programme.<sup>61</sup> As per the report of 2002-2003, the strength of the college is 1763. 94 teaching and 49 non-teaching staff including self-financing staff are working in the college.

**Sree Ayyappa College, Chunkankadai**

This college owes its origin at Chunkankadai. This college has been established due to the initiative and munificence of the Malayalam speaking people of the district, under the leadership

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<sup>60</sup> Women’s Christian College Magazine, Nagercoil, 2000, p.8.

<sup>61</sup> Deed Agreement, Dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 1999, L.No.12144/1/97.
of Sri.K.P.Narayanan Nair\textsuperscript{62}, the college was started in 1969 as a men’s college\textsuperscript{63}. As there was a great pressure from women students for admission to the college, the management felt the need to provide higher education to the girl students. So the Men’s college was converted into a Women’s College in 1970\textsuperscript{64}. In the beginning there were only pre-university classes. Now the college offers seven degree courses and 2 post graduate courses. It also provides certificate courses in Information Technology and Spoken English Classes affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University for the benefit of the students\textsuperscript{65}.

The college council is formed to assist and advise the principal on matters of general discipline academic and non-academic matters. All Heads of Department, Staff Secretary, Librarian, Physical Director and the Senate members are the members of the college council. The council meets regularly to discuss matters of academic importance\textsuperscript{66}.

Students of the colleges are required to play games, proper encouragement is given to participate in competitions on the District and the State levels. Applicants who have proficiency in sports and games are given preference in admission\textsuperscript{67}.

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\textsuperscript{62} Administrative Record of Sree Ayyappa College, Chunkankadai, 1969-70, p.137.
\textsuperscript{65} College Calender, Sree Ayyappa College for Women, Chunkankadai 2005-2006, p.3.
\textsuperscript{67} Annual Report of Sree Ayyappa College for Women, Chunkankadai, 1994-95, p.7.
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The National Service Scheme is introduced in the college with the intention of mobilizing the strength and capacity of the youth for taking up and executing responsible project\textsuperscript{68}.

Fine Arts Club is also started aimed to bring out the hidden talents of the students and to equip them to participate in competitions outside the institution also. Youth Festival is celebrated every year. Competitions in connection with Festival Occasions are conducted and prizes are given\textsuperscript{69}. Besides, Rotaract Club acts as a platform for the students to develop their personalities. It arranges and executes projects successfully within and outside the college\textsuperscript{70}.

Tutorial System is also organized in the college and the students are divided into small groups. Each group is under the charge of a tutor. In addition to care and guidance, counseling is given to the students to overcome their problems too. Grievance and Redressal forum listen the grievance of students and takes appropriate redressal action\textsuperscript{71}.

Consumer Club is introduced with the objective of educating students in consumer rights and to improve knowledge regarding the role of consumers in protecting their rights. Competitions, seminar and lectures in the field of consumer movement are conducted for the benefit of the students\textsuperscript{72}.

\textsuperscript{68} Ibid., 1995-96, p.2.
\textsuperscript{69} Ibid., 1997-98, p.5.
\textsuperscript{70} Annual Report of Rotaract Club, Sree Ayyappa College, Chunkankadai 1999-2000, p.3.
Alumni Association

The college launched an Alumni Association in the academic year 2003-2004 with an aim of giving opportunity for its old students to recollect the good old days they spent in the campus73.

Legal Aid Cell is organized in the college to form monthly legal aid clinic and quarterly legal aid camp to help the students to learn the procedure of legal aid and service and the authorities whom they have to contact for legal aid and legal counseling74.

Remedial courses help the weaker students for improving their studies; other students also get a chance to do better75.

Quiz Club

The aim of the Quiz club is to bring out the creativity of the students and to improve their intellectual power. In order to enable the students to widen their horizon in knowledge and enlightenment76.

Muslim Arts College – Thiruvithancode

In 1984, the Government of Tamilnadu gave permission to establish a self financing college at Thiruvithancode. With this

objective the Muslim and other private agencies come forward to establish educational institutions. Therefore Muslim management sought permission to government of Tamilnadu in 1981 itself. The Muslims of Thuckalay and the surrounding regions felt the need for establishing a college under Muslim management.

This society was aim to fulfilling among felt need of the Muslims of that area to establish an arts college of their own. The college was founded at Madhavalayam, a small hamlet near Nagercoil, in 1982 after seeking permission from the government and the university. The college was inaugurated by Dr. N.A. Noor Mohamed, formerly Vice-Chancellor of the Calicut University\textsuperscript{77}. The Madurai Kamaraj University granted affiliation in 1984.

Although the Muslims of Kanyakumari District are well advanced in education, compared to their counter parts in the North Tamilnadu, they lagged drive energy and will to start an institution of their own. The Muslim Arts College was started at a time when the Islamiah College of Vaniyambadi was celebrating its Diamond Jubilee. It shows that the Muslims of Kanyakumari were sixty years behind the North Tamilnadu Muslims in private efforts in the field of education. Nevertheless, the starting of this college was a watershed in the history of Muslim’s education in this district\textsuperscript{78}. This is a co-educational college. The science departments of this college are having adequate laboratory facilities. There is also a good library containing 500 volumes of books. The departmental students association and a unit of

\textsuperscript{77} Muslim Arts College Magazine, Thiruvithancode, 1991.
\textsuperscript{78} Annual Report, Muslims Arts College, Thiruvithancode, 1999, p.13.
National Service Schemes are functioning in the college for improving the extra curricular activities\textsuperscript{79}.

**Velu Thambi Memorial College of Arts and Science, Arumanai**

Nair Service Society (NSS) of Kanyakumari District longed to establish a college of their\textsuperscript{80}, own in Arumanai area protect the fundamental rights and welfare by providing educational awareness. In order to achieve their motto, they established technical and general educational institution in Kanyakumari District\textsuperscript{81}. This college is a Minority College. The students belonging to Nair and other weaker community find more difficult in getting admission in other colleges.

Hence the District Committee of Nair Service Society decided to start an educational institution in the name of Veluthampi Dalawa, a patriot and freedom fighter. Twenty members were elected from shareholders and the Board of trustees was formed\textsuperscript{82}.

They applied to the Director of Collegiate education Chennai for the establishment of a college on Linguistic Minority (Malayalam) Right. And sought affiliation from Manonmaniam Sundaranar University\textsuperscript{83} for 3 subjects. Thus they laid the foundation stone for the building on 17 March 2002, in the

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item \textsuperscript{79} Muslim Arts College Magazine, Thiruvithanocode, 2003-2004, p.6.
\item \textsuperscript{80} Annual Report of Kanyakumari District Nair Service Society, Thuckalay, 1995, p.1.
\item \textsuperscript{81} Minutes of Kanyakumari District Nair Service Society, Thuckalay, 1995, p.1.
\item \textsuperscript{82} Ibid., 1997, p.6.
\item \textsuperscript{83} Ibid., 1998, p.6.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
presence of Uthradam Thirunal Marthanda Varma Maharaja of Travancore.

On 21 May 2004, Government Order sanctioned permission to the college during the academic year 2004-2005 and affiliation was given by Manonmaniam Sundaranar University on 19 August 2004 as on Self Financing institution.

Named Velluthampi as Memorial Arts and Science College, it was started on 1 September 2004 with the service of Dr. N.S. Nair as the principal the vision of college is Education to all. The college offers the courses of B.Sc. Computer Science and B.Sc. Microbiology were sanctioned with the strength of forty each and B.Com with 60 students as its strength.

The college has well equipped laboratory for microbiology course and modernized lab for computer science with internet connection. The library provides standard books, journals, newspaper in Malayalam, Tamil and English. Tutorial system is introduced to solve the socio economic problems and counseling is given to them to equip their skill.

Extra Curricular Activities like Quiz Club Students Welfare, Cultural and Fine Arts and Youth Red Cross are functioning effectively in this college. They conduct competitions

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84 Incription found in foundation stone, VTM college of Arts and Science, Arumanai, 17 March, 2002.
85 Report from M.S. University, Thirunelveli, V.T.M. College of Arts and Science, Arumanai, dated 21.05.2004.
87 Souvenir of VTM college of Arts and Science, Arumanai, 2005, p.15.
examination in Quiz, essay writing and fine arts to develop creative ability of the students.  

**Pioneer Kumaraswamy College, Nagercoil**  

Pioneer Kumaraswamy College, Nagercoil was established in 1967. Dr. K. Padmanabhan and his wife Tmt. N. Bhagavathy Ammal, Son-in-law and daughter respectively to late Thiru. S. Kumaraswamy started this college Pioneer Kumaraswamy in Kanyakumari District originally affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University and later to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Thirunelveli. This college started functioning on 1st July 1967 with pre-university classes and was housed in buildings belonging to Tmt. N. Bhagavathy Ammal. In 1968, the college was upgraded and degree programmes were started in Economics, Zoology and Commerce. During the subsequent years, degree programmes in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, English and Tamil were introduced with in a brief span of 10 years. The college rose from a humble beginning to a leading position among the colleges in Madurai University in matters of discipline and academic excellence.  

It won the rolling cup instituted by the government of Tamil Nadu in 1975 and 1976 for the best result in P.V.C. in Madurai University area. During the year 1976, the college was shifted to the present campus. Subsequently, the college offered courses B.A. Tamil, B.A. English Literature, B.Sc. Mathematics,

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Students association was formed for each department. Besides these some Planning Forum, Social Service League, Fine Arts, Club and Hobby Club are also functioning. The National Service Scheme, National Cadet Corps and National Adult Educational Programme are also functioning in the college\textsuperscript{92}.

**Holy Cross College, Nagercoil**

Established in 1965, it is the first Women’s College in Kanyakumari District, a fulfillment of a long-felt need of the district. The college under the religious jurisdiction of the Catholic Bishop of Kottar was inaugurated on 2\textsuperscript{nd} August 1965 and is administered by the congregation of the sisters of the cross of chavanod which has its head quarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Rt. Rev. Dr. Agniswamy, the then Bishop of Kottar was the motivator and mastermind behind this institution.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Antony Muthu, who was the parish priest of Kurusady and the then Bishop of Vellore, co-operated with this idea of establishing an institution for higher education for women. It is his invitation to Rev. Mother Maria Ceille, the then provincial superior of the congregation of the sisters of the cross, that sowed the seed of this edifice of learning. Her response to the invitation was positive. She left no stone unturned to realize

the dream of a Women’s College in this remote area of the Southern most district of the country\textsuperscript{93}.

In 1965 the college inaugurated P.U.C courses with affiliation of Madras University with 327 students. Part I – English, Part II – Tamil, Malayalam and French and Part III – Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Economics and Advanced Language taught to the students as per their elective subject\textsuperscript{94}.

In 1966 this college became a first grade college and affiliated to Madurai University. Some U.G. Course in Science and Arts were introduced. But in 1980 B.Com course was started\textsuperscript{95}. It was affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in the year 1990. Various progressive measures were taken by the management for the growth of the institution and for the welfare of the students.

The goal of the college is for total liberation and development of the whole person of the students in order to prepare them to take their rightful place and responsibility in society\textsuperscript{96}.

The objective of the college is to give an all round information to students in the light of Christian Principles inculcating spiritual cultural, social and ethical values. Then work towards academic excellence on per with international standards and to motivate students towards environmental

\textsuperscript{93} Holy Cross College Magazine, Nagercoil, 2001, p.6.
\textsuperscript{94} Administrative Record of Holy Cross College, Nagercoil, 1966-67, p.12.
\textsuperscript{95} Administrative Record of Holy Cross College, Nagercoil, 1980, p.17.
\textsuperscript{96} Annual Report of Holy Cross College, Nagercoil, 2000-2001, p.3.
issues and sustainable development. With regard to NAAC accreditation, the college got 4 star level ranks in 1999.

**Sivanthi Aditanar College**

Then Kumari Educational Society established the college in 1984 as the first self-financing institution in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu. This college is situated at a distance of 6 kms from Nagercoil at Pillaiyarpuram. This institution stands as a tribute to Dr. B. Sivanthi Aditanar, a top brass in Journalism, education, industry, politics and the world of sports and games. This college caters the need of the poor and the downtrodden people of this area with care and affection. The college has been producing many first generation graduates for more than 23 years.

The primary aim of this college is to impart a value based education to the poor and the marginalized rural people. Besides the academic education this college aims at developing multi skills of the students including the spiritual enlightenment. Apart from this a strict disciple is maintained.

The college runs with U.G. degrees such as Economics, History, Commerce, Zoology, Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science as well as the P.G. degrees in Microbiology, Maths, Physics, Tamil, M.Com and M.C.A. with adequate lab library and internet facilities. M.Phil Maths also taught in this college.

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Students can get necessary information regarding state and central government scholarship from the college office. All scholarships are granted to students as per their category like BC, MBC, SC and ST. Scholarship is granted by the government of Tamilnadu for the first generation graduates belonging to BC and MBC classes.

**Malankara Catholic College, Mariagiri**

Another reputed college imparting higher education is the Malankara Catholic College established at Mariagiri in a remote village. Started during the academic year 1997-1998[^100], this college was affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli with the approval of government of Tamilnadu. Maran Cyril Mar Baselios Catholics, Major Arch Bishop, Thiruvananthapuram inaugurated the college[^101]. Managed by the Diocese of Syro Malankara Catholic Church, Marthandam as a self finance college, it offered 3 UG programme in the discipline of Biochemistry, Computer Science and Physics. Subsequently the college introduced Software Engineering, Micro Biology, Bachelor of Commerce with Computer Application, English Literature and BCA to accommodate the Youths hailing from the border areas of Tamilnadu and Kerala.

Knowing the need for Post Graduate Course the college with the permission of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University started M.Sc. Software Engineering, integrated course in software Engineering (5 years), M.Sc. Biotechnology, Bio

Chemistry, Micro Biology, Physics, MSW (Master of Social Work), MBA, MCA and M.Phil. After some years of the introduction of PG Course the management created research department in Biotechnology and Micro-biology\textsuperscript{102}.

The college has the facility of well equipped classroom, laboratory, library and other basic requirements. Moreover the college helps the poor students by way of fee and bus concessions to the economically weaker and depressed community. It is a noteworthy to state the staff and management in co-operation with each other maintained not only the academic standard but good discipline too.

At present the college has admitted 1098 students in various branches of study under the guidance of 130 teachers. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) provided B+ grade during 2004-2005. Eleven students of this college obtained First rank in various discipline and the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University awarded them with gold Medal.

\textbf{Vivekananda College – Agastheeswaram}

The history of the college begin with the name of Thiru. S.D. Pandianadar, B.A., a retired senior officer of the erstwhile Travancore – Cochin government. The Vivekananda College association was registered on 29 December 1965 under the Travancore Cochin Literary Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act XII of 1955. The Pandianadar’s idea of starting a

college in the name of great patriot saint of India first occurred and when he moved with this idea to his friends and relations they supported him enthusiastically. They donated acres of lands\textsuperscript{103}.

Encouraged by this healthy response, the chief promoter pushed ahead and convened a meeting on 18 January 1964 in the Government High School, Agastheeswaram to organize a governing body for the college. Steps were immediately taken to apply to the University of Madras for permission to start the college in June 1965\textsuperscript{104}. The foundation for the college building was laid by Thiru. S.D. Pandianadar on 17\textsuperscript{th} March 1965. It got affiliation in July 1965 and college started functioning from 11\textsuperscript{th} August 1965 as a pre-university college offering courses in Science and Humanities with a modest strength of 167. In June 1966 Madurai University granted further affiliation to start B.A. Economics and B.Sc. Maths.

The college has been widening its sphere of usefulness to the students community by opening new courses. Therefore in July 1967 the university was pleased to grant further affiliation to B.A. English Language and Literature. Chemistry in June 1968 and B.Sc. Zoology in June 1969. The laboratory block was named after S.K. Pandian, the past president for which his brother S. Kannappan, made an endowment\textsuperscript{105}.

\textsuperscript{103} Malankara Catholic College Magazine, Mariagiri, 2004-2005, p.15.
\textsuperscript{104} College Calender, Vivekananda College, Agastheeswaram, 2001-2002, p.4.
The college reached another milestone in its progress, when it became a co-educational institution in June 1973, thereby fulfilling the long cherished aspirations and hopes of the promoters to provide higher education to women in Kanyakumari District.

Affiliation was also granted to physics major in July 1979 B.Com in July 1981, B.A. Tamil literature in June 1982 and Botany major in July 1983. The university granted affiliation to M.A. Economics in July 1984, M.Sc. Mathematics in July 1985, M.Sc. Zoology (Self Finance) in July 1992, M.A. Tamil (Self Finance) and M.Com (Self Finance) in June 2006. The university also granted permission to start M.A. English (Self Finance) and M.Phil Economics (Self Finance) from the academic year 2007-2008\(^\text{106}\).

**Sree Devi Kumari Women’s College, Kuzhithurai**

Sree Devi Kumari Women’s College was started in the year 1965 at Thiruvattar and later it was shifted to Kuzhithurai\(^\text{107}\). The college was established by the Kanyakumari Devaswoms Board. It was started with pre-university courses in 1965 and in the next year affiliated to Madurai University to start degree courses in Economics (BA), Chemistry (B.Sc) and Zoology (B.Sc). The degree courses in Maths, Botany and Commerce were introduced in the college in the year 1985, 1986 and 1987 respectively\(^\text{108}\).

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The library of this college is having 1748 volumes of books. Each department of this college has its own associations. National Service Scheme (NSS) unit planning forum and social service league are also functioning in this college\textsuperscript{109}. At present the college is brought under the control of Hindu Religious and Charitable board.

**Annai Velankanni College, Tholayavattam**

Tholayavattam one among the remote villages situated between Karungal to Puthukadai is gifted with an arts college to cater to the needs of the economically backward communities. Annai Velankanni College is the brain child of Fr. Lucas under whose inspiration this college was established to cherish the dreams of the Roman Catholic Mission\textsuperscript{110}.

It was established in 1987, is owned by the friends of Kottar and administered by Annai Velankanni College of Administrative Society, a body registered under the Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act 1975. The college is under the religious Jurisdiction of the Latin Catholic Bishop of Kottar Annai Velankanni College is affiliated to M.S. University. The college is primarily intended to provide educational to Latin Catholics of the region in accordance with the rights of the minority community guaranteed in the constitution of India. However, the college is open to all, irrespective of religion, caste or community\textsuperscript{111}.

\textsuperscript{110} Ibid., p.12.
The main objective of the college is to make a significant contribution to education, the improvement of which is a primary need of our country. In this endeavour the college aims to train students according to progressive academic standard and also to prepare them for the role of future leaders dedicated in the spirit of Christ to the service of their fellowmen and the welfare of the country particularly of the rural and under developed areas. Emphasis is made introducing job oriented and other courses relevant to local needs.\textsuperscript{112}


Thus the college is trying its best to promote academic excellence to the students of distance and near by areas.

\textbf{Arignar Anna College, Aralvoimozhi}

Arignar Anna College at Aralvoimozhi was started on 1 July 1970 by the Kanyakumari Educational Society, the Chief patrons are M. Sankaralingam, Chidambarathan and V. Paravaikkarasu. The college was started with all the groups in pre-university courses, like Science, Maths and Arts. Subsequently degree courses in History, Economics, Mathematics, Botany and Commerce were introduced. Later degree courses in science like Chemistry, Zoology and Physics

were introduced and post graduate course in History also started in the college.

**Lekshmipuram College, Neyyor**

Lekshmipuram College was established in June 1964 as a Men’s college\(^{113}\). It was a second grade college affiliated to Madras University with pre university classes. In 1966 it was upgraded as a first grade college with B.A. History (English Medium) B.Sc. Zoology and B.Sc. Mathematics with the establishment of Madurai Kamaraj University in 1966. This college brought many more new affiliated courses to the campus – B.A. History (Tamil Medium) in 1967, B.A. English Literature and B.Sc. Physics in 1979 and B.A. Tamil Literature in 1980\(^{114}\).

However in 1990, the college is affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Thirunelveli, where fresh affiliations for new self-financing courses like B.Sc. Information Technology in 2001, B.Sc. Bio-chemistry in 2002 and B.Sc. Costume Design and B.Sc. Electronics in 2003 have been obtained P.G. Courses like M.A. (Tamil) and M.Sc. (Maths) were introduced in the academic year 2006-2007 and M.A. (English) and M.Sc. Physics in 2007-2008; UG Courses in B.Com with Computer Application was introduced in 2007-2008\(^{115}\). The college is non-autonomous and enjoying non-minority status too. The fee collected to any course is strictly in accordance to the government norms. Merit alone is the criteria for admission. At the same time the reservation to various categories is made as per government

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guidelines. Kanyakumari District is not only blessed with number of Arts and Science Colleges but some training institution too.

Nalloor Vettuvenni Koandan Sastha Devaswom College of Education, Attoor.

One among the pioneer Institution is the NVKSD college of education at Attoor in Kanyakumari District started functioning on 8th July 1963\textsuperscript{116}. K.P. Ramakrishna Pillai was responsible for establishing this college\textsuperscript{117}. Managed by a governing body elected by the NVKS Educational Society, the trustees of the NVKS Devaswom consisting of five persons belonging to Nair families. They decided to utilize its funds for establishing educational institutions in October 1961. In the beginning the college was affiliated to the University of Madras\textsuperscript{118}. The syndicate of the University of Madras granted provisional affiliation to the college to admit 60 students, 40 men and 20 women. Instruction was given in 4 subjects namely English, Mathematics, History and Natural Science\textsuperscript{119}.

The primary aim and goal of the college is to propagate education and culture especially to Malayalam speaking linguistic minority. The college acts as a medium for transforming the society and building up mighty, India based on Gnanam, Dharmam and Sneham (Knowledge, Righteousness and Love)\textsuperscript{120}.

\textsuperscript{116} Lekshmipuram College of Arts and Science, Magazine Neyyoor, 2009-2010, p.13.
\textsuperscript{117} G.O.Rc.No.153/KA/64, dated 20.06.1963.
\textsuperscript{118} NVKSD college Education, Magazine, Attoor, 2000-2001, p.5.
\textsuperscript{119} Madras State Administration Report, 1963, p.141.
\textsuperscript{120} Annual Report, NVKSD College for Education, Attoor, 1965-66, p.3.
The foundation stone of the college buildings was laid by his Excellency, the governor of Madras on 8th October 1963\textsuperscript{121}. The wise and expert guidance was given by Sri. A.N. Thampi, the president of the then managing committee and the untiring efforts of the correspondent paved the way for the growth and achievement of this institution. The college is established in an area of 11 acres and in an elevated place situated in the Attoor Panchayat\textsuperscript{122}.

In 1987 N.V.K.S.D. College has been attained Linguistic Minority Status as per the order of the Government of Tamil Nadu\textsuperscript{123}. To fulfil the long cherished need of management and teachers a model school with central based syllabus education (CBSE) was started in the same campus\textsuperscript{124}. This helps the B.Ed. students of this college to obtain teaching practice. The post graduate degree in Education (M.Ed.) was introduced in the year 1987 in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee celebration of the institution. The M.Ed. degree course was started with the strength of 15 students and it raised the standard of institution to post graduate level\textsuperscript{125}. This was the only teacher training college flowered in the district and it offers co-education too. But in recent years a number of teacher training colleges were opened in every nook and corner of the district which increased output of B.Ed. graduates.

\textsuperscript{122} Foundation Stone, NVKSD College for Education, Attoor, 08.07.1963.
\textsuperscript{123} Administration Record of NVKSD College for Education, Attoor, 1967, p.17.
\textsuperscript{124} G.O.No.1276/80, dt. 04.11.1987.
\textsuperscript{125} Minutes of NVKSD Educational Trust, Attoor, 1987, p.12.