

Growth of Higher Education in the Independent Tamil Nadu – A Study

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ABSTRACT:

Education is a key parameter in the growth of any developing nation and has rightly been accorded an honoured place in society. A nation could develop only its people make all-round progress believing in individual dignity and value of human life. It is widely recognized that higher education promotes social and economic development by enhancing human and technical capabilities of society. Technical change and institutional change are key components of development. Higher Education plays an important role in facilitating these changes by incorporating the various demographics of the population. Tamil Nadu has established itself as a model to other states in the field of Higher Education by making it more accessible to the economically weaker sections of the society hailing from socially backward, rural and marginalized families. In Tamil Nadu, we find some of India's best professional education institutions including the University of Madras. Tamil Nadu is a preferred destination for higher education because it has adequate number of educational institutions, efficient and committed teachers and infrastructural facilities. The participation of state run Universities in the educational movement it also worth nothing. Universities are a key part of the Higher Education System, which is also known as tertiary education, forming a net-work of institutions that support the creation of knowledge and the production of higher order capabilities. This paper will illustrate the contributions of Tamil Nadu for the growth of Higher Education after independence.

KEYWORDS: *Higher Education, Tamil Nadu, Universities, Commissions, Collegiate, Directorate.*

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I. INTRODUCTION:

Even though many colleges emerged in the colonial Tamil Nadu, they were mostly run by the Christian missionaries. They promoted both secular and religious education at all the levels. The admission in these colleges was meager and only wealthy and westernized educated people admitted their children in these colleges. The Madras Christian College, St. Joseph's College of Tiruchirappalli, St. John's College and St. Xavier College of Palayamkottai, American College of Madurai and Sarah Tucker College of Palayamkottai are the few oldest Christian higher learning centres in Colonial Tamil Nadu. In the independent Tamil Nadu many aided and government colleges, universities, medical and law colleges and technical institutions increased in all its parts.

Measures taken to improve Higher Education:

To strengthen the role of Central Government in the education of Indians and improve the standard of higher education to the international standard Dr.S.Radhakrishnan Commission and the Sappru Committee had advocated for making higher education a concurrent subject. As a sequel, the Government of India had brought a Constitution Act of 1976 (42 Amendment). Accordingly, education was placed in the concurrent list of Schedule VII of the Constitution of India. This led to the sharing of responsibilities of spreading higher education among Centre and the State Governments.¹

Thereafter, Education Planning in the country became essentially the joint Endeavour of Central and the State Governments. This is to ensure the national integration and unity and avoid disintegration forces. School education is predominantly a local-State endeavor and the higher education is a centre- state venture. In higher education the Government of Tamil Nadu continued to hold the major responsibility of administering and financing of higher reduction. By and large, the Government of Tamil Nadu operate the higher educational institutions through universities and other autonomous bodies which are essentially functioning according to the

guidelines framed by the University Grants Commission.

The State Minister for Higher Education look after the affairs of the Tamil Nadu State Higher Education Department. General education and Science and technology are his responsibility. But the specialized branches like medical education and agriculture education are under the control of other concerned ministries.

The Department of Higher Education is organized at two central point's viz., the policy making and the co-coordinating work in the Secretariat. The Secretary of Education is the administrative top of the Higher Education Department. He is directly responsible to the Minister for Education. He is assisted by the higher officials like Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary and other officials.

Directorate of Collegiate Education:

The Directorate of Collegiate Education was constituted in 1965. It gives directions, and to its institutions and also conducting inspections at regular intervals. It is under the control of a Director, mostly he belongs to collegiate education service or I.A.S. official. There were 198 colleges (54 Government colleges; 133 aided private colleges; 11 private colleges functioning without any aid from the Government), 22 Colleges of Education (7 Government Colleges; 15 aided private colleges), 15 Oriental Language Colleges, 3 colleges of physical education and 2 social service educational institutions . They were all under the control of the Directorate of Collegiate Education in 1986.

Statutory Council for Education

A statutory council of Education was established in Tamil Nadu with the Minister for Education as its Chairman. It included members representing universities in Tamil Nadu, all the Directors in-charge of different sectors of education and some prominent educationists. Its main aim is to suggest the new innovative educational policies and ideas to the meet the needs of the emerging new society. It is advising the State Government on all matters related to the development of education. It also reviews educational progress in the State and conduct evaluation programmers at regular periods. It submits its annual report and suggestions for improvement to State Legislature. Later the name of the Statutory Council for Education was changed to Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education.

Technical and Engineering Administration

There were twelve engineering colleges including the autonomous institutions like I.I.T. of Madras, M.I.T. Madras, twenty five polytechnics for men, three polytechnics for women, seven special institutions and one Technical Teachers Training Institute at Madras. These institutions with the exception of autonomous institutions were looked after by the Director of Technical Education and assisted by Joint Directors and Assistant Directors. They are supervised by Education Secretary and Minister for Education. The Industrial Liaison Board constituted by the State Government on 7th October 1972 aimed to enlist the co-operation of the industries in the development of technical education. It provides facilities for the training of teachers in technical education which instead enable them proficient in industrial works.

The proposal for the establishment of a university of technology was sent to the Government of India. The working group of the University Grants Commission visited the State on 14th June 1972 for discussion on this subject with officials concerned.² It was finally formed in 1980 as Anna University which was the first University of Technology of Tamil Nadu.³ To suggest ways and means for improving the functioning of the continuing education programmer and to identify new courses, a committee of the State Board of Technical Education and Training was formed. It was first established at the College of Engineering Guindy in 1977.⁴ Based on its recommendations, the faculty members were deputed every year to attend seminars and short courses conducted by the various technical institutions in the country.

Further, on the direction of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Anna University had introduced entrance examination to the Engineering Degree courses. This system gained appreciation from the public opinion. Hence this unique and meritorious system was extended to medical, agriculture and veterinary courses. When the number of technical institutions increased, the Government organized a review board and a review committee to assess the progress of the newly formed self-financing institutions. It helped the Department of Technical Education to establish a constant connection with the self-financing engineering colleges, and supervise the progress the self- financing colleges. Further the Director of Technical Education also organized periodical meetings of heads of the self-financing institutions and analyzed in deeply the details of the action taken by the self-financing institutions. Further the Council for Science and Technology, supervised the implementation of many programmers with a aim to inculcate and encourage new scientific spirit and knowledge.

Medical Education

There were ten medical colleges functioning in Tamil Nadu in 2001. The number of medical colleges increased to seventeen in 2010.⁵ The Madras Dental College was the only Dental College functioned at Madras. All these medical institutions were under the direct control of the Directorate of Medical Education which was started in the year 1966. The main function of this Directorate was teaching to and training of medical and para medical personnel, providing medical service and advancing medical research.⁶ In addition to this, four private medical colleges namely, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Centre, Porur, Raja Muthiah Institute of Health Sciences, Annamalainagar and P.S.G. Institute of Medical Science, Peelamedu, Coimbatore are under the jurisdiction of Directorate of Medical Education.⁷ Selection to different courses were made through entrance examination conducted by the Anna University, taking into consideration the higher secondary examination marks plus the entrance examination marks from 1984-85 onwards.

The Directorate of Indian Medicine was constituted on 1st July 1970. It was functioning independently from 1st April 1971.⁸ Government College of Indian System of Medicine, Palayamkottai and Arignar Anna Government Hospital of Indian Medicine, Madras are offering U.G., P.G. and Diploma courses in Siddha, Ayurveda and Unani since 1974-1975.⁹

Administration of Veterinary Education

The Department of Veterinary Education and Research was created in 1969 with a view to integrate education, research and extension education and to accelerate the tempo of activities in its various spheres. It is headed by Director. He was also Dean, Madras Veterinary College, Madras among others.

There were two agricultural colleges – one at Madurai and another at Coimbatore under the control of the Agriculture University, Coimbatore. They offered courses like B.Sc. (Agriculture) M.Sc. (Agriculture) and Ph.D. The objective of the agriculture education was that the aspirants would take up agriculture as a profession in their own farms or be able to find gainful employment elsewhere.

Department of Legal Studies

The Department of Legal Studies was started in 1953 with the aim of improving the standard of legal education in Tamil Nadu. The Madras Law College which was started in 1891, came to function under its control since 1951. Apart from three-year law courses the five-year law courses had been introduced in these colleges from the academic year 1983-84. In 2008 there eight law colleges in Tamil Nadu. The students who have passed + 2 Examination are eligible for admission to this course. They also offer M.L.Courses. To enable the employed persons to study B.L. and M.L. Courses in the Evening Law College. They are functioning under the control of the Director of Legal Studies.¹⁰

Universities in Tamil Nadu

In 2008 there were 19 Universities namely, University of Madras, Madurai Kamaraj University, Tamil University, Thanjavur, Bharathiyar University at Coimbatore, Bharathidasan University, Trichirappalli, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, Mother Teresa Women's University at Kodaikanal, Gandhigram Rural University at Gandhigram near Madurai and Annamalai University at Chidambaram at private University. They are all autonomous institutes of higher studies, operating under the purview of Higher Education Department of Tamil Nadu, through Vice- Chancellor and other governing and academic bodies.¹¹

II. CONCLUSION:

Thus higher educational institutions which were commissioned in Colonial Period received impetus in the post-Independent period in Tamil Nadu. In the beginning of the Twenty –First Century, many higher educational institutions emerged in the spheres of engineering, medical, technical and legal spheres. A number of universities were started in the first decade of the Twenty-First Century in Tamil Nadu.

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