



Progress Of School Education In Tamil Nadu, 1951-1956

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ABSTRACT:

This paper highlights the school educational development in Tamil Nadu during the First Five Year Plan period of the Chief-Ministerships of P.S. Kumarasami Raja, C.Rajagopalchari and K.Kamaraj of the Congress Rule. Education is a determined factor for all growth of human beings. The socio-economic and political development of a country is based on the development of education. Everyone has the right to education. Education was expected to be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Technical and professional education was made generally available. Higher education was made equally accessible to all. However, education from the very beginning till date was costly affair. Hence finance played a vital role in the growth of education. The significance of education, however, was realized as it played a vital role to shape the personality of an individual.

Since independence, both Central and State Governments began to draft series of measures for the improvement for education in the various directions through Five Year Plans. Since education was an expensive one, Government began to plan for the expenditure for incurring on educational affairs of the country. The outcome was that Government included education in the Five Year Plan for the prosperity of the people and the nation as a whole. Hence in the First Five Year Plan of the Congress Rule, Madras Government included education as an important factor for the betterment of the people.

Primary Education

Prior to formal schooling, the senses and muscles of children are informally trained. After completing nursery or pre-primary education, the child is ready to enter into primary school. Formal schooling starts with primary education which includes the first five years of schooling. The constitutional directive is that free and compulsory education should be given to all children between ages of 6 and 14¹. At the time of the end of the First Five Year Plan Period there were about 3000 Basic Schools with a total enrolment of 30,000 children and about 20,000 Elementary Schools with an enrolment of about 16 lakhs of boys and 9 lakhs of girls.²

Considerable enthusiasm was created in the Tamil Nadu for the spread of education. During the year 1952-1953, 61 elementary schools, 214 night schools and 148 adult education centres were started, sixty three elementary schools were converted into basic schools and seventy school buildings were

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constructed.³

Three hundred and eighteen new schools were started during the year of 1954-1955, in the community development area of the state. Additionally 144 primary schools were converted into the basic schools.⁴

At the end of the plan period the number of basic schools were increased to 2,405 with a total enrolment of 2,06,244 boys and 1,27,097 girls. The number of elementary schools were also increased to 24,222 with a total enrolment of 19,24,874 boys and 11,34,428 girls. Opening of schools enabled the educated youth to get employed.⁵

Primary education was made compulsory and free mid-day meals were provided to the poor children. Most of the primary schools were Government owned. The private schools were of two categories acceded schools and non -acceded schools.⁶

Secondary Education

During the First Five Year plan period, remarkable growth of secondary education was witnessed. The number of secondary schools in 1951 was only 638 for boys and 165 for girls, with an enrolment of 3.4 lakhs boys and 88,000 girls. The number of public secondary schools then increased to 1,377 for boys and 269 for girls with the number of Indian secondary schools alone being 1,350 for boys and 235 for girls, sixty nine new secondary schools 62 for boys and 7 for girls were opened during the year 1952-53. The strength of Indian secondary schools rose to 609,351 boys and 141,557 girls.⁷

In 1950-1951, 83 schools offered bifurcated courses of students. During the plan period, bifurcated courses were introduced in certain schools and additional courses were introduced in a few other schools, which already had bifurcated courses, thus bringing the total number of secondary schools having bifurcated courses to 138 at the end of the plan period.

During 1955-1956 with the generous financial assistance offered by the Government of India, 450 schemes for the improvement of secondary schools were sanctioned as indicated below:

- 1) 100 courses were opened in 65 schools so that they could develop into multi purpose schools existing facilities for the teaching of science were improved in 20 schools.
- 2) Core subjects in 100 schools were improved
- 3) For fostering general knowledge among the students and teachers separate funds were allotted for libraries. In addition crafts were also introduced in the schools. For encouraging employment opportunities.

The estimated total cost of the scheme of improvement of the secondary schools is as below:

	Non Recurring	Recurring
Introduction of bifurcated courses	24,82,800	3,74,500
Improved of teaching science	10,00,000	-----
Improvement of teaching core subject	15,00,000	-----
Improvement of libraries	4,00,000	-----
Introduction of crafts	1,87,000	-----
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	55,70,300	3,74,500

The state was not unaware of its own responsibility for giving financial assistance to educational institutions through the provision of adequate and suitable accommodation and equipment for the increased, enrolment of students. A sum of about Rs. 120 lakhs was given as a grant for this purpose from state funds during the plan period.⁸

BASIC EDUCATION

Basic education was the accepted policy of Government in the primary stage. It grew and expanded by plan schemes.⁹ There were 957 basic schools in Tamil Nadu.. The number of boys and girls reading in them was 73,273 and 43,188 respectively.

A course of Basic Education was conducted at the Government Basic Training School at Kallupatti for 27 graduate teachers. They were paid a stipend of Rs 25 per month each and substitutes were appointed in the place of those who were deputed for the course. A three month refresher course in Basic Education for elementary and secondary grade teachers was also conducted in 39 centres in the summer of 1952. Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty -Nine teachers underwent the training course and a stipend of Rs. 18 per month was paid to each trainees, summer course in physical education and in Khadi weaving were organized in April 1952 for the benefits of senior basic grade teachers who were selected for appointment in Basic training Schools.¹⁰

There were 1,115 Basic schools in the composite Madras State on the eve of reorganisation of the states. The number of Basic Schools in Madras State on 31st March 1954 was 905¹¹. Immediately following the partition of Andhra State(1953) there were 45 basic Training Schools for men and 17 basic Training schools for women, with a total strength of 5,399 men and 1,722 women. A new basic training school for men was opened at Mayanur, Tiruchirapalli District under Government's Management. The Government Basic Training school at Kovilpatti was shifted to Parivillikottai to occupy the new buildings constructed by Government.¹²

A revised scheme and school syllabus as recommended by the Adhoc Committee and approved by the Government was introduced in the Basic Training Schools in the year 1953-1954. It came into effect with examination given in April 1955. Examinations were made internal and Head Master and Staff of schemes were authorized to declare the result of the examinations. In order to ensure its success certain efforts, on a state wide scale, were taken by compiling common papers, on certain subjects by the State Board. Assessment made internally on practical activities had greater weightage than the marks obtained in written examination.¹³

The training for Gramma Sevakas extended for a period of 18 months. It was divided into basic training and extension training¹⁴. While undergoing basic training candidates would be eligible for a stipend of Rs. 30 per month during the entire period of training of 12 months. During their extension of training the candidates will receive Rs. 45 per month as stipend.¹⁵

TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

With the increase in the number of primary and secondary schools the necessity for opening additional training colleges and training schools, ordinary as well as the basic type was highly felt. The number of trainees in those schools in 1950-1951 was 13,351.¹⁶

During the year 1953-1954 teaching faculty in Annamalai University was opened for the B.Ed section attached to the Maharaja's College Vizianagarum and the A.C. College, Guntur and 15 training colleges were developed in basic education.

On the eve of 1951, the number of Training Colleges in the State was 7 for men and 3 for women.¹⁷ The strength of all colleges including the B.Ed. sections of the Annamalai University at that end of the year 1951 was 526 men and 236 women.¹⁸

There were by then 76 ordinary training schools for men and 74 training schools for women. Six new training schools were opened during the year 1952-19. In order to give a further intensified training for a year to candidates who had taken up teaching practice as a subject under the diversified courses training sections were permitted to be opened in 11 existing secondary and training schools. On completion of the training the trainees were required to appear for the T.S.L.C. examination of the secondary Grade while for all other purposes they were treated on a par with ordinary trainees of the secondary grade.

The number of pupil -teachers under instruction was then 12,985 men and 9,146 women.¹⁹ By the end of the First Five Year Plan period the number of training schools had risen to 105, and the number of trainees in those schools was 18,496. The total number of teacher trained during the plan period was about 41,000.²⁰

The Constitution of India provides free but compulsory education and it also aimed that this education should be given to all children. At the end of the First Five Year Plan of the Congress Rule the number of basic schools was increased. There was also simultaneous increase with elementary schools. The increase of schools enabled the youth to get employment opportunities. The secondary education during the First Five Year plan of Congress Rule witnessed a tremendous growth and it was called a nation building education.

END NOTES

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