

TEACHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH TRAVANCORE UPTO 1956

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Abstract

According to the ancient Indian Educators, the term “siksha” in education is derived from the Sanskrit verbal root “shas” which means to discipline, to teach, to instruct or to control. Then the word ‘Vidhya’ is also derived from the Sanskrit verbal root “Vid” which means “to know”. Thus the word Vidhya really means “knowledge”. The teacher is the pivot of any educational system for the younger pupils. The failure and success of the educational system rests on teachers. If the teachers are well educated and trained, then only the success is ensured, but if on the other hand they lack training in education, the system is destined to fail.

Key Words: Knowledge, profession, meritorious, commissions, recommendations, successful, skill development.

Introduction

All the teacher should be trained, but there should not be and also cannot be a specific training of teachers. Even the born teachers have to study the techniques of teaching craft. There are teachers who have acquired enormous success in teaching efforts can be saved if the prospective teacher is subjected to teacher education situations conducive for actualisation of potential in him. Training is necessary for every teacher. Trained teachers can do much more than untrained teachers. Demand of profession, the objective and expectations from a teacher certify the existence of teacher training.

After independence, the importance of teacher education was emphasised repeatedly by various commissions. The University Education Commission recommended that teacher training programme should be remodelled. Subsequently the Secondary Education Commission recommended for strengthening teacher education in the country. Schools also stressed the importance of teacher education.

In ancient period we find very little evidence of a formal system of teacher education. The monitories system in which some meritorious students of the same class or higher classes assisted the teacher in the performance of teaching and other allied works. In course of time such students who obtained knowledge in imparting education became efficient teachers. In fact, teacher education in systematic form was introduced in the modern times only. To achieve this objective, the Missionaries played the very important role in the training of teachers during the early days of the rule of East India Company. With the dawn of independence, the administrators of the subsequent periods introduced teacher education to cope up with the growing educational trends and requirements. Regarding South Travancore, there were some eminent training schools providing teacher education from the beginning. They were,

Infant Jesus Teacher Training Institute

Infant Jesus Teacher Training Institute at Mulagumoodu, the pioneer teacher training institution in Kanyakumari District is the great contribution of Immaculate Congregation Missionary Sisters to this district. The Belgium sisters strived hard to improve the economic, social and educational condition of the people. Therefore to uplift the society, the ICM sisters started a number of educational institutions all over Tamil Nadu. Subsequently

they started two teacher training institutes, one at Srivilliputhur and another one is at Mulagumoodu. This teacher training school was started at the beginning of 20th century with the permission from the Raja of Travancore.

The Infant Jesus Teacher Training Institute was started in the year 1937. Permission to open the training school was provisionally obtained from the Director of Education, Trivandrum in 15th May 1937. When the school was started, Sr. Arul Rajam served as its Principal, Miss. Arumainayagam B.A.C.T as its First Assistant and Sr. Mary Bernard as II Assistant. As the people were orthodox and economically poor, to impart education was a difficult task. Women folk hesitated to come out of their home. Moreover most of them were not willing to study. Therefore the teacher Educators visited home to home for canvassing and to attract the students at the time of admission.

During the early period, two types of training namely lower grade and higher grade training were given to the trainees. Upto 1956, the training period was fixed for one year. Later on, with the merger of Kanyakumari District with Tamil Nadu State on November 1, 1956, the institution came under the control of Tamil Nadu Government. Consequently in the same year one year training course imparted in this school under Travancore Government was changed into 2 years. It enabled the trainees to update their training skill. Successful candidates were given merit certificate. In the year 1975 onwards the course certificate T.T.C was changed into Diploma in Teacher Education (DPE). In the beginning year eighteen students were admitted in this institution. Among them sixteen for lower grade and two selected for higher grade. The same student strength continued for a long period. However in 1977-78 the number of students allowed for admission was increased to 25. In the beginning year, except the principal, first assistant and second assistant there were teaching staff for drawing, physical education, and sewing. According to government fixation on July 1969, including the principal seven teaching staff and three non-teaching staff were appointed

From the beginning, the Immaculate Congregation Missionary Sisters alone are appointed as principal of the Infant Jesus Teacher Training Institute. A study of the school records reveals the appointment of principals of this institution. Sr. Arul Rajam was the first Principal of the Infant Jesus Teacher Training Institute from 1937 to 1939. Her service to this institution was a model to other principals. After Sr. Arul Rajam, Miss. Homas was serving as Principal till 1961.

Marthandam Higher Grade Training School

R. Sinclair started the Marthandam higher grade training school in 1932 in the building formerly used by the girls middle school, thereby the need for training school for training Tamil teachers was satisfied

Concordia Secondary Training School

From 1939, the church had been making repeated attempts to obtain permission from the Travancore Education department to open an English high grade teacher's training school at Nagercoil for the purpose of giving VI form graduates a teacher training course offering either the Travancore course or a two-year course similar to the Madras Presidency SSLC training course. This training school in the name Concordia Secondary Training School was granted permission to conduct the two year training course in Malayalam or Tamil from the academic year 1943-44. But the Nagercoil District Conference and the Trivandrum District Conference of the Lutheran Church cooperated in the conduct of three year. The incomplete high school with Form IV and the Tamil primary school with class 1 to 4 served as the model school for the training institute. Then the school was named as Missouri Evangelical Indian Lutheran Mission Training School, Nagercoil. However, the working of the school was suspended with effect from 1st June 1953, in pursuance of the decision of the Lutheran Mission District Conference on the basis of the instruction from the Divisional Inspector of Schools. In 1956-57, the upper primary school which was treated as the model school for the Missouri Evangelical Indian Lutheran Mission Training School at Nagercoil was upgraded as a high school.

DVD Teacher Training Institute

Desika Vinayagar Devasam Trust Teacher Training Institute was popularly known as DVD Teacher Training Institute, which is the only aided non-minority educational institution administered by the Ninar Desika Vinayagar Trust, Kottar, Nagercoil. Once it was under the control of Travancore Cochin administration with the permission letter D1/21350/52 dated 10.03.1953, from the Director of Public Instruction, Trivandrum. After fulfilling the conditions of the directorate, the permanent recognition was obtained from the academic year 1953-

1954. When Kanyakumari District had merged with Tamil Nadu on 1.11.1956, the recognition of the DVD teacher Training Institute was accepted by Tamil Nadu Government as per Government Order No.450 dated 19.04.1969. At first only two teaching post was fixed. The act of regularisation of recognised private schools came into existence in the year 1973. According to that the Institute is administered by the Elected School Committee. In their fixation 5 teaching posts were sanctioned. The committee included a President, a Secretary and the four committee members. The present Managing Committee was formed in August 2009.

The Institution got its permanent recognition as per the letter number F/SRO/NCTE/97-98/5080 dated 9-2-98. According to that recognition, the institution was given permission to admit forty students for a year. According to the letter no. 3009 dated 18.10.202 from the South Regional Council for Teacher Education the intake was increased to 80 students. The institution with adequate infrastructures situated in the heart of the Nagercoil town, providing and fulfilling the need of teacher education in an around the town. In the beginning Basic Education was given to the students with Certificate Course (TTC). Later it was changed into Diploma Course (DTed).

Vilavancode Teacher Training School

Vilavancode TTC was started in the year 1943 within the school campus. It is the first and foremost Teacher training institution with Malayalam medium in the southern part of Travancore State. It is also a first co-educational teacher training institution with hostels facilities for boys and girls. Before the emergence of Kanyakumari district, students from Palakkad district and kanyakumari district especially from kaliyakkavilai and Kollamcode were studied in the training school. The Vilavancode Hr.Sec.School Head Master was working as in charge principal of the teacher training school. Separate teachers were appointed for the teacher training school. Unfortunately, due to insufficiency of land the training school was merged with District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Theroor in 1993. The school was functioning well for nearly 50 years. Those who got teacher training in this institution were working as teachers in Malayalam Medium schools in and around Kaliyakkavilai and also in Kerala.

Kottar Teacher Training Institute

The first vernacular spoken language Teacher Training School in the State was started in 1884 at Travandrum and Kottar. This school was closed in 1894 within ten years.

Teachers were trained in the training schools. The course prescribed for teacher's training extended over a period of two years. At the end of the course, the trainees had to undergo written as well as practical examinations. For the first time in 1884 a Vernacular Normal school was opened at Kottar and it was one of the two such Normal schools in the state. By 1908 there were five aided Normal Schools in the State and one of those aided Normal Schools was in Nagercoil. During 1913-14 in the state six lower grade training schools for the men were opened and two were in South Travancore, one at Kuzhithurai and the other at Parur. After completion of the teacher training the students were eligible for getting appointment in primary schools as teachers. Since only a few got the chance for teacher training, there was no unemployment problem.

Conclusion

Before 1956, various types of teacher training institutes were functioning in South Travancore that is in the present Kanyakumari District. Apart from the Christian missionaries, Govt and Govt Aided educational institutes also play an important role in imparting teacher education. These schools were providing teacher education with skillful training and by that they were producing efficient teachers for the state.

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