

Primary education in Chittoor town in the madras presidency

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Abstract:

Since the earliest times, the rulers and the people of India have given much importance to education. The instruction in those days was imparted in the village schools. There were specialized institutions like 'Ghnalika', 'Sthanas' and 'Vidyamandapams' and the 'Ashramas' of 'Acharyas' or 'Gurudevas'. Schools and other educational institutions were generally located in temples, monasteries, Mosques and Darghas. The British Educational policy in India was based on the famous Woods Despatch of 1854 which is considered as the Magnacarta of English education in India. It recommended the establishment of educational institutions such as primary schools, high schools, colleges and universities. A Department of Education was formed in each province to manage these institutions. This article focuses the British Government's efforts to improve the standards of education in Chittoor municipality in Andhra Pradesh, which was known as Madras presidency in British India. It is clear primary schools and secondary schools maintained by the Municipality worked satisfactorily. The Educational facilities offered for girls of both the Hindus and Muslim communities, made commendable progress. The standard of education in all schools improved after the inception of the Municipality. Thus, the municipality is rendering useful service for the cause of education and public learning in the town

Keywords: Gurudevas, Schools, Magnacarta, Progress, Public Learning

Introduction

From the earliest times, the rulers and the people of India have given much importance to education. The instruction in those days was imparted in the village schools. There were specialized institutions "Ghnalika', like 'Sthanas' and 'vidyamandapams' and the 'Ashramas' of 'Acharyas' or 'Gurudevas'. Schools and other educational institutions were generally located in temples, monasteries, Mosques and Darghas.

The British Educational policy in India was based on the famous Woods Despatch of 1854 which is considered as the Magnacarta of English education in India. It recommended the establishment of educational institutions such as primary schools, high schools, colleges universities and А Department of education was formed in each province to manage these instituions. The landmark of this Dispatch was sitting - up of vernacular primary schools in the



villages and encouragement given to women's education. Grant-in-aid.

System was introduced in 1857 to aid the private schools. During the Viceroyalty of Ripon, a commission, under the chairmanship of Sir William Hunter, was constituted in 1884 to enquire how far the recommendations of Woods Dispatch were implemented. Hunter Commission recommended that the primary schools should be entrusted to the local bodies like Municipalities. In accordance with recommendation of the the commission, schools in many various provinces were entrusted to the local bodies.

In 1913, Government of India urged the provincial governments to take early steps to provide free elementary education to the poor and more backward sections of the population. Accordingly, Chittoor Municipality exempted this section of the population from the payment of fees in all elementary schools under its management from 1925 onwards. The Sadler Commission in 1917-19 took steps to better the state of female education. Chittoor Municipality sanctioned scholarship and prizes for girls to encourage efficiency and good attendance even from its inception.

Chittoor Municipality, since its inception in 1917, maintained six elementary schools, four for boys and girls, earlier these two for institutions were under different There managements. were no secondary schools under the management of Municipality in 1917. In addition to these schools, there were 14 elementary schools run by private institutions. The enrolment of students in the elementary schools, maintained by the Municipality, increased due to many steps taken by the Municipality for better standards in education. On file advice of the District Educational Officer, and the Deputy Inspector of Schools, night schools were started for the children of working class in 1920. Apart from the Children of laborers even elders also joined these schools. Due to great demand, the number of night schools were increased to 6 by 1928. There were also separate schools for Adi Dravidas and Muslims. There were 15 Higher Grade teachers and 30 lower elementary grade teachers working in these schools. Though the compulsory primary education was introduced, council not the considered а proposal to levy Education – Tax, so that free and compulsory education might be introduced at a later date. In 1937, educational levy at 6 l/4% on the



property-tax was collected as per the instructions of the Government of Madras. The revenue realized from this levy was utilized for the maintenance of primary educational institutions. In 1950, the levy was enhanced to 21%.

The Government while reviewing the status of education in 1948, advised the council to take introduce steps to compulsory education at least for boys. Preliminary steps were taken by the Municipality, addressing the educational authorities to introduce the scheme of compulsory education for the boys in the municipal area. But the municipality expressed its Inability to implement the scheme due to its heavy financial commitment and corresponded with the Government of its readiness to continue the scheme if supported by Government grants. In 1961, as per the order of the Government, compulsory education was introduced. 14 By 1969, the Municipality maintained twenty two elementary schools, out of which one was upper primary school and three, secondary schools, out of twenty two elementary schools, twelve schools were special elementary schools taken over from private the managements.

managements.
Primary Education

The primary school is the real centre of elementary education and the primary and fundamental unit in the vast organization working to achieve the aim of total literacy for all boys and girls of school-going age. An attempt was made by the Madras presidency to liquidate illiteracy. The council, in desiring to realize the objective established and maintained number of primary educational institutions from time to time. As Municipality stated earlier the obtained/inherited primary six schools from the Local District Board. By 1920, the Municipality established three more schools raising the number of primary schools to nine. Of these nine schools six for boys including one night school and three for girls. The total number of pupil in these schools was 1700. By 1924-25, the strength in the primary schools increased to 2,341. The council granted Rs.5000/for constructing а Mohammedan building for Elementary School in 1917.

During 1932-33, the enrolment in the municipal schools declined, since five private aided schools in the town porved to provide better education than the municipal schools. In 1936, the fourteen schools run by municipality were amalgamated into 11 viable units. The



amalgamation resulted in increasing the average strength of the schools to 1260 as against 1190 If) the previous year. percentage However, the of average attendance decreased to 70.15% due to drop- outs. For, labourers and other weaker sections withdrew their children as they were employed elsewhere so as to support the family income. All the schools provided instruction upto fifth standard. 1942-43 council During the maintained eleven schools for boys, girl and for muslims. The total strength in all municipal

schools was 1287, in 1942-43. The total number of boys and girls enrolled in the municipal schools was 836 and 451 in the year 1942-43. The percentage of boys and girls actually attending municipal schools was 49% and 46.9% respectively. The number of boys and girls attending municipal Schools from Outside the town limits were 32 and nil respectively. During 1946-47, the council continued to maintain eleven schools for boys and girls and non-Muslims as shown below.

1. Hindu Boys Schools 3 2. Hindu Girls Schools 3 3. Mohammedan boys school 1 4. Mohammedan girls school 1 5. 3 Combined & Amalgamated Schools ------11



	Boys		Girls		
Standard	Number	Percenta ge	Number	Percentage	
I	246	24.4	238	36.6	
11	181	17.3	119	18.3	
	169	15.6	100	15.4	
IV	143	13.6	81	12.5	
V & Above	311	29.1	112	17.3	

The strength of the several standards and its percentage to the total strength in 1948 were shown below.

Source: Education Report Chittoor Municipality, Dated IO-6-1949., P. 6.

Twelve Grant-in-aid schools were handed over by the Government to the municipal council 1960. This was because of in embezzlement of Government grants by the private managements. Thus, the total number of elementary schools increased to twenty three. The takeover of the schools resulted in increasing the enrolment of boys in the Municipal schools to 3,000 as against 900 of the previous year and that of the girls to 1355 as against 700 in the previous year. In 1965, one of the eleven schools was amalgamated with the school in Medacoil street, due to heavy dropouts. Thus, the total number of elementary schools came down to twenty two in 1965 of these twelve were special elementary schools taken from the over private managements. The number of school going children was 10,369 during 1969. Out of twenty two elementary schools, one was upper primary school and the rest were with classes 1 to 5. The percentage of Pupils attending the school was 87% in the case of boys 88% in the case of girls during 1970 as against 60.8% and 56.6% in the previous year.

Elementary Schools for Girls

During the year 1917-18, the



municipality maintained two elementary schools. By 1918-19, the later was increased to three. The Municipal council constructed Santhapet Girls School in 1919. The number of girls attending these schools in March 1919 was 185 as against 150 in 1917. By 1924, there was an appreciable improvement in the number of pupils receiving the elementary education. The increase is particularly large in the case of girls. Owing to the strength and a demand for greater facilities for educating pupil beyond primary classes, VII standard in Chittoor girls school was opened with two additional secondary grade teachers. Council obtained sufficient land for the construction of a combined boys' and girls' school in Santhapet. The public came forward to bear the necessary expenditure in this The council regard. introduced Tailoring, Lace making, Embroidery and Cooking as vocational courses, Introduction of Vocational courses and providing of better amenities increased the strength of girls in Municipal schools. By 1935, the total strength of girls in the Municipal Schools increased to 600. The council continued to maintain three Hindu Girls Schools and one Mohammedan Girls School in 1946. The total number of girls studying was 850 as against 700 in the

By 1958-59, the previous year. strength of the girls increased to 900 and it further increased to 1355 by 1960. Awareness among parents to educate their female children and the council efforts to provide vocational courses for girls resulted in the increased strength of girls in ail schools managed by the council. The council also upgraded Santhapet Girls school to a High School. The council also started Kasuturibai Municipal Girls School upto VI Form in 1970. These two girls secondary schools for girls served the educational needs of girls in Chittoor town.

School for Muslims

As mentioned earlier, the municipal council established a school for Mohammedan girls in Market Street in 1917. This school was continued until 1969. During 1941, another school for Mohammedan boys was started in Girdly locality. Urdu was the medium of instruction in these schools. The total strength of Muslim girls and boys in 1970 in these school was 78 and 150 respectively.

School for Harijans

TheResolutionofGovernmentofIndiaon21February1913onEducation



Policy, urged the Provincial Governments to take early steps to provide free elementary instruction for the poor and back ward classes. Accordingly in 1925, the council exempted the above sections from the payment of fees in all elementary schools. There was an Adi Dravida School, under the of Municipality, management exclusively for Harijans. This school was established in 1918 in Harijanwada. The working of the school was said to be satisfactory. Gradually, the strength in Harijan School decreased from 1955 onwards, for. the various regulations government encouraged them to join other elementary and secondary grade schools.

Night Schools

In 1919, a night-school was started by the Municipality 48 for the sake of children of daily wage earners, who were, also, taken to work by their parents during the day. By 1928, the number of night schools increased to 6. This increase was due to the demand from working class people. But, very soon the strength started dwindling in night school. This was due to the apathy of working class to send their children to night schools.

Even the children failed to evince any interest in attending night schools as they were tired due to their day's hard labour. So, all the six schools were abolished in 1938 on the recommendation of the educational authorities as there was no sufficient strength. The staff members of these schools were transferred to other schools. File Municipality tried to locate night schools nearer to the localities of working class to encourage them to send their children to night schools. But, the response from them was encouraging. Sufficient not strength was not there to start night schools again.

Outside Pupil: The ecducational atmosphere in elementary education of the municipal schools of chittoor attracted students from neighboring areas. In 1937, the strength of outside students was only ten. By 1943, their strength increased to thirty two. The following table shows the strength of boys and girls who came from outside the municipal areas to the Municipal Schools.

Year	Outside pupil		
i cai	Boys	Girls	
1937-38	10	Nil	
1943-44	32	Nil	
1953-54	150	20	



1963-64	200	80			
1969-70	247	120			
Source: Ad.R. of Chittoor					
Municipality; 1937-38 to 1969-70					

The above table shows that the students from outside the municipal limits started joining the municipal schools in 1937 and their strength gradually increased. girls from neighboring Even villages started coming from 1953 onwards and their strength increased to 120 by 1969-70, These statistics indicate the popularity of the municipal schools of Chittoor.

Accommodation

The council took steps to acquire own buildings for elementary schools. By 1924, the Municipality owned four buildings and seven buildings were taken on rent basis to house seven more schools. All the schools were well lighted lack of necessary funds. The council sanctioned Rs. 5000/to construct Mohammedan elementary school in Muslim locality. The Adi Dravida School was housed in a choultry, free of rent.

Every year, Municipality used to spend a good amount of revenues for maintenance and repairs to its own buildings, and payment of rent for the hired buildings. All buildings owned by the Municipality were solid constructions, properly ventilated and some were provided with playgrounds.

Seven schools were housed in rented buildings and four continued to be in their own buildings from 1943. A total amount of Rs.1811/- was spent on house-rent. The following table shows the number of schools maintained by the Municipality and its cost - input maintenance.

	Number of municipal schools	Schools buildings					
Year		Owned by the municipality	Rented	Maintaintance charges of column	Rent paid for column 4		
1	2	3	4	5	6		
1941-42	11	4	7	43	1428		
1942-43	11	4	7	145	1576		
1943-44	11	4	7	98	1811		

Source: Ad, R Chittoor Municipality 1943-44, Statement., Annexure III -4,, P.6.



1959, In twelve special schools came under the control of the Municipality. But most of the schools did not have sufficient accommodation and the buildings were dilapidated. So, the Municipality had to shift them to more secure buildings. The total expenditure on elementary schools was Rs. 60,527 in 1959 and it increased to 1,51,960 in 1961-62. This sharp increase was due to amalgamation of 12 schools and their maintenance respectively.

The ten Municipal elementary schools other than amalgamated school were housed in the rented buildings. The council spent Rs.8.550/- towards rent during 1969 as against Rs. 5418.13/- out of the twelve Municipal Special Elementary schools, the following seven schools were accommodated in private rented buildings.

- Jecvakarunyam Municipal Elementary school
- Girdly Elementary school.
- Shunmuganandha Municipal elementary school
- Srinivasa Municipal Elementary School
- Saraswathi Nilayam Municipal Elementary School

• National Element a School Santhapct and S.Y.V.C. elementary School.

The following Municipal Elementary Schools were located in busy localities where no Vacant sites were available for play grounds for the school children;

- Jeevakarunyam Elementary School Medacoil Street.
- Shunmugananda Elementary school, Medacoil Street

• Girdly Girls School, Girdly locality.

• Venkateswara Elementary School, Brahmin Street and

• Saraswathi Nilayam - Brahminstreet.

Government issued instructions to the Municipality on 25.4.69 to construct building of its own to locate schools by earmarking funds every year. These schools could not be shifted to other localities where vacant lands may be available on the reason that there were a large number of school going children in the locality in which these schools were located. If there were no vacant sites in these localities, the only alternative was either to acquire suitable building in the locality or to continue to be in the rented buildings. From the above, it is clear that the Municipality took necessary steps



from time to time, to provide all primary schools with buildings of their own.

Staff: Both trained and untrained teachers were employed in the primary schools. For want of trained teachers untrained teachers were recruited. The trained were given the pay scale of the lower secondary grade teachers, while the untrained were placed in the primary grade. Untrained teachers were appointed on temporary basis. These untrained teachers were sent to Karvetinagaram Teacher's Training Institute for training. All the schools in the Municipality were manned by trained teachers. During 1920-21, there were twenty five trained teachers working in the elementary schools. By 1929-30 the strength increased to 30 trained teachers. The Municipality appointed one woman teacher for music in Santhapet girls school in 1923 and this number increased to three (women teachers) by 1929-30. The teaching staff in the municipal schools were experiencing hardship due to low pay scales, yet these teachers continued in their jobs for want of alternative lucrative employment.

From 1936 onwards, the service conditions of the elementary school teachers were governed by the rules framed by the Madras Government as applicable to Municipalities. In 1935-36, the total number of teachers both men and women were forty one. Of them three were women. Five teacher, three male and two women teachers, were working on temporary basis. By 1941 the strength increased to The following table fifty three. shows, the staff position during these years.

Year	Number of trained teachers	Number of untrained teachers	Total	Number of pupils per teachers
1941-42	53	Nil	53	33
1942-43	53	Nil	53	34
1943-44	52	Nil	52	33

Source : Ad.R. of Chitfoor Municipality 1941-42 to 1943-44

The above table shows that there were no untrained teachers in the

Municipal elementary schools. The number of teachers came down to 52 in 1943-44 due to the retirement of one teacher in Santhapet elementary school. In 1950-51, the number of



teachers in elementary schools increased due to the appointment of sewing mistress. By 1960, the strength of teaching staff doubled as the Municipality took over all the 12 special schools. From that year onwards, the strength of the teaching staff increased and it stood at fifty.

The strength of secondary grade teachers was 40 and of higher-grade teachers was 122 by 1969-70. The strength of teachers working in the municipal schools increased to 162 phenomenally.

Staff Training

Municipality The evinced keen interest promote to primary education. So, it deputed some of the untrained teachers, to the College of Education to better their gualifications. In 1932, municipal council resolved to appoint only trained teachers. The same policy has been continued till date.

Provident Fund Scheme

As stated earlier, the pay scales of the teachers were very low and their conditions of service were not attractive. Only in 1937, all the permanent teachers were brought under Provident fund scheme.

Elementary Education Fund

The expenditure on elementary

education was met by the Municipality from its own funds and by the grant-in aid by the Government. The total expenditure primary education was on Rs. 17,660/- in 1928-29. The expenditure increased to Rs.20,637/- in 1942-43 and Rs.56,713.15 in 1969.

Play-Grounds

The Municipality provided play grounds for the following elementary schools.

- Municipal Elementary school, Greamspet.
- Municipal Elementary school, Gandhipalli
- Municipal Elementary school, Market Street.
- Municipal Elementary school, Vanniar Block.

The rest of the elementary schools were not provided with Playgrounds.

Representation in District Educational Council

From its inception in 1917, Chittoor Municipality was represented in the Chittoor District Educational Council by four members. Of these, three were elected by the council and the other was nominated by the Government.

Inspection

The schools were periodically



inspected by the Commissioner of the Municipality.

Medical Inspection

Medical inspection of children in primary schools was not in force till 1968. But, woman Medical Officer was appointed in 1969. The government instructed Municipality to commence medical inspection of pupils of all the schools. So, the Municipality, under the orders of the Government conducted medical inspection of all pupil in 1969.

Nature of Primary Education

Instruction in general was in Telugu, in some schools Tamil as well as Urdu was also offered as medium. By 1968, the medium of instruction in nineteen municipal Elementary schools was Telugu, Urdu and Tamil. They were taught in the following municipal elementary schools.

- The Municipal Urdu Girls Elementary school Market Street.
- The Municipal Elementary School, Mittoor Tamil.
- The Municipal Elementary School Girdly - Tamilfl9
- In all other schools, Telugu was the medium of instruction.

Secondary Education

The main object of secondary education was to give instruction for the standards above the primary school level, generally consisted schooling from classes 6 to 11. The Chittoor Municipality took steps to provide secondary education also. Apat from twenty two elementary schools the Municipality established three secondary schools starting with sixth class to eleventh class. They are

- Kasthuribai Municipal
- Girls High School, Santhapet.
- Municipal High School, Greamspet.
- Municipal High School, Santhapet.

Besides the Municipality, Secondary education was also provided in Chittoor by other agencies. By 1924, there are three secondary schools maintained by different managements and another secondary school was established in 1955. They are -

- Government High School"
- The Sherman's Memorial Girls' High School.
- Bangari Zamindari School
- B. Subramanyam Kannan High School.

Accommodation

Kasthuri Bai Municipal Girls' High School

K.M.G. High School is located in the Old Taluk Katcheri Building. The District handed over the



building to the Municipality to continue the school.

Play-Ground: The vacant site adjacent to K.M.G. High School, measuring 2852 Sq. Feet was being used as playground. The site was enclosed and connected to the main school with a pucca compound wall raised at a cost of Rs. 3,400/- physical activities and games were conducted in the said playground.

The Municipal High School, Santhapet: The Municipal High School, Santhapct was constituted in 1955 and continued to be located in a rent free Choultry in thatched constructed sheds by the municipality. There was a proposal for a lease of 10 acres plot by C.N. Namberumal Chetty Charities Trust for a period of 99 years on nominal rent for construction of School building on the plot for the accommodation of the High School and Municipality was conducting correspondence for the executive of the lease of agreement. Now the said school was housed in its own building. A small Piece of land is provided for Municipal High School, Santhapet, as playground of the School.

TheMunicipalHighSchool,Greamspet:ThemunicipalHighSchool,Greamspet, was established

in 1958. This school was located in the building Owned by the Municipality.

Play-Ground: The adjacent Government site, measuring 10.41 acres, in S.No.231 was vacant. The Municipal authorities approached Revenue Department, Government Andhra Pradesh, of through District Collector, to give the site to the municipality for utilizing it as a playground. This request was considered favorably by the Government and handed over the site to the municipality.

Physical Education: There was only one Physical Education Teacher working in K.M.G.H. Secondary School. The other schools lacked Physical Education Staff. So, the students were unable to make any mark in games and sports.

Inspection of Schools: The schools were periodically inspected by the authorities. Municipal District Educational Officer, Chittoor also inspected the schools. His suggestions regarding recruitment of the staff and purchase of the scrupulously equipment were followed by Municipality. the Generally, the duration of the inspection spread over to three days cover of to all aspects administration, teaching and other



co-curricular activities, usually followed by suggestions for improvements. The Municipal Council used to implement the suggestions made by the Inspecting Authorities.

S.S.L.C. Examination: The number of pupil sent for S.S.L.C/S.S.C Public Examinations, the number of people came out successful and the percentage of passes in each Municipal High School were shown in fife following Table.

S.No. School		No. of students for public exam		No. of successful students		Percentage	
		1967- 68	68- 69	1967- 68	68-69	1967- 68	68-69
1	K.M.G.H. school	30	24	20	33	67	63
	SSLC/ SSC	-	29	-	10	-	34
2	M.H. school	31	74	30	42	96.7	56.7
	Greamspet	-	63	-	22	-	34.9
	SSLC/SSC						
3	M.H. School	35	40	22	26	62.8	65
	SSLC/ SSC	-	36	-	12	-	33.0

Medical Inspection

Cost Per Pupil: The average cost of educating each pupil was estimated to be Rs. 10-8-8 in 1923-24. This was increased to Rs.14-15-3 in 1943 as against Rs. 12-15- 10 in 1942. This average cost increased to Rs.50-24 in 1969 as against Rs. 47.1 in 1968. In the year 1956, the Government of India has introduced decimal system under which rupees and paise alone arc used.

Finance: The Municipality levied education tax since 1943. And, it also received grants-in-aid from the Government.

Scouting Activities: The municipal schools conducted scouting activities as extra curricular activity. The

scouts took part in public activities in the town whenever some public functions were organized in which large number of people participated. The scout masters and cub-masters were paid Rs,5/- and Rs.3/- p.m. respectively as allowance for maintenance of scout troop.

Library: Library and Reading rooms of the town and its maintenance was considered to be the important educational activity of the municipality. The council and District Board maintained and shared the expenditure of the library in 1917. The Municipality constituted a joint committee for the management of the library. This library was located in Kaji



Street. The expenditure incurred by the Municipality was Rs.269/in 1924. The library subscribed for newspapers, both English and native languages like Telugu, Tamil and Urdu. The council purchased 800 books in 1935 and the number increased to 1500 by 1943. In addition to the purchase, made by the municipality, many book were presented by the philanthropic citizens of the town.

The District Board handed over the library to the municipality in 1950 for its maintenance. The council continued to evince interest in adding books to the library and by 1969 there were 2768 books for the use of public.

The library subscribes 16 dailies, 21 weeklies 4 Bi-monthlies and 15 monthlies. The government of Andhra Pradesh created local library authority in 1956. The local library authority started managing libraries in Chittoor District. The local library authority, Chittoor, maintained a district local library in addition to municipal library and one public reading room in Sundarayyar street in ward no. 11.

Reading Rooms

Reading rooms played vital role in catering to the needs of the entire town. The Chittoor

Municipality started establishing Reading Rooms in Chittoor town since 1942. The council subscribes 3 dailies — one each in English, Telugu and Tamil. The daily average attendance varies from 40 to 50 persons. Bhajana Mandirams belonging to private bodies, were given free of rent, to start Reading Rooms. By 1964-65, there were 13 Reading altogether Rooms maintained by the Municipality in various localities. The library supervised attender and maintained the accounts of other Reading Rooms also where dailies were supplied for which a monthly remuneration of Rs. 10/- was paid to him in addition to conveyance allowance of Rs.4/- p.m., for the proper discharge of his duties. An Rs.24,763.62 amount of was collected under library-cess during 1964. The Reading Rooms subscribed 8 newspapers 4 weeklies and 3 monthlies. From the above account, it is clear that primary schools and secondary schools maintained by the Municipality satisfactorily. worked The Educational facilities offered for girls of both the Hindus and Muslim communities, made commendable progress. The standard of education in all schools improved after the inception of the Municipality. Thus, the



municipality is rendering useful service for the cause of education and public learning in the town.

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Telugu: Andhra Patrika, Visalandhra, Andhra Prabha, Navasakthi, Andhra Janatha, Northakam.

Tamil: Dinathanthi, Navamani, Dinamani, Murasli Namba Nadu, Kaditham, Malaimani.