



INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION IN COLONIAL TAMIL COUNTRY- 1835 TO 1947

¹B. Chitra and ²Dr.Y.Srinivasa Rao

¹Ph.D. Research Scholar,

²Assistant Professor ,

Department of History, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

ABSTRACT

Initially, the British government was creating the institution for its own purpose. Later on apart from transforming cantonment hospitals into dispensaries, new instructions of care and institutions of imparting theatrical medical education and training was introduced at regular intervals. Most of the institutions both medical schools and hospitals came in Madras city to serve European people living in the city. Penetration of medical institutions into non-urban areas to serve local people was due to the public demand and to deal with epidemics but the government did not spread them to rural areas voluntarily. Local rich and intelligentsia made initiations for which the government provided grants, experts and instruments. In this article Researcher examine the origin and development of Madras Medical School, Royapuram Medical School and Prince Wales Medical School etc. to understand the process of the institutionalization of medical education in this presidency.



KEY WORDS : Colonialism, Institutionalization, Medical Education and Tamil Country

1. INTRODUCTION

Medical education in India came late though methods of treating body, dispensaries, and other such institutions came early. Initially, the British Government was creating the institution for its own purpose and later on these institutions were being created for the purpose of the natives. Most of the institutions, both medical schools and hospitals, came into Madras city to serve European people living in the city. There are established regular mode of medical institution in Madras Presidency. Rt. Hon'ble Sir Frederick Adams (the governor of Madras) on June 1835 opened the Madras Medical School in spite of opposition from the medical board. The object of the government in establishing the first institution of this kind of south India, was a modest one namely "affording better means of instruction in Medicine and surgery to the Indo- British and native youths, entering the medical branch of the service under this presidency". The foundation of the school was an epoch in the annals of the department and the effects were soon realized. Following the Madras Medical College Some other medical educational institutions also constructed with same objectives and implemented it properly [1].

MADRAS MEDICAL COLLEGE

The history of medicine cannot be understood without the history of institutions, from the beginning of Company government in India. The first allopathic dispensaries were established in Goa and santhome in Madras by the Portuguese. Most of these surgeons were in ships, later the surgeons in went various places. When the company started to build warehouses and factories in trade centers, later these houses became

school. The surgeons treated Europeans in the garrisons during the time of epidemics, famines and frequent battles. The military surgeons appointed to treat troopers during war period were divided into two branches, as civil and military. The civil doctors were treating common natives and Europeans, in military hospitals only soldiers of the army both Europeans and natives were treated. In the year 1664, the general hospital was started and later turned over as military hospital. Until 1640, the surgeons who were employed by the East India Company were not fulltime medical professionals, medical care that they were offering was a secondary occupation to them. They employed the natives of every location as their assistants in the general hospital and military camp hospitals [2].

In 1740, British Government had created the Medical Department. It was composed of British military surgeon's assistants and the native doctors, who had no other qualifications, except some practical training at the Military Station Hospital. Madras Government constituted the Board of Hospital Council, which was run by director, chief surgeon and surgeon to administer and organize in three presidencies as Calcutta, Bombay and Madras under headquarters. Later the council of Hospital Board changed into Medical Board. In the year 1786 Medical Board was renamed as Madras Medical Board [3].

The Madras Medical School, which was established during the governorship of Sir Frederick Adam in 1835, was originally a school of medicine in which medical subordinates were trained for the public service. It was under the control of the Director of Public Instructions. Initially this school was started in temporary rooms. As the accommodation was insufficient for the purpose and as the arrangements was otherwise inconvenient, sanction was accorded for the erection of a separate building which is consisted of four sections- a Theatre, a lecture room, a Museum and Library. The teaching staff consisted of four persons-two British officers, the superintendent, Assistant superintendent and two Indian Assistants. The qualification for entry to this department was that the candidates' for the former degree must have passed the First Examination in Arts and those for later degree the Matriculation Examination of the University. The course was for two years and curriculum was consisted of Anatomy, MateriaMedica, Medicine and Surgery. Later, the course was extended to five years. Those who finished the course would get a degree L.M.S (Licentiate of Medicine and Surgery). The British Government sanctioned three additional professorships Anatomy and Physiology, Midwifery and Ophthalmology and Chemistry later [4].

In 1850, this school was upgraded into Madras Medical College. Student of the college consisted of consisted Private and Stipendiary who had a five year course, Apprentices qualifying for the Apothecary grade after five years course and Medical pupils qualifying for second grade dresser of the Medical Department with a three year course. The Medical College under the control of the Medical Board and Head of the Medical Department, but by a government order dated 1st June 1855, the college was brought under the control of the Director of Public Instructions, in accordance with an order of the Honorable the Court of Directors.

In 1867, Madras Government in an order increased the staff of the college to eight major and five minor professorships. In 1875, for the first time women students were admitted into the medical college by the recommendation of Surgeon General Balfour. Perhaps this was the first step towards creating local Indian women medical professionals. This in course of time has brought visible changes in the healthcare of women. Strict purdah system in Islam and strong Hindu social and religious prejudices against treatment by male physicians made women plight all the more pitiable. The Modern Indian women medical professionals were began to emerge only from time the government and Christian missionaries began to produce them in their institutions. Till such time, role of the Indian women in the Indian indigenous medicine was limited to conducting delivery known as Dai System. The scale of female casualty in childbirth and infant mortality was very high in India. Mrs. Scharlieb the earliest crusader for women healthcare and education in India.

The Hospital Assistants Department of the college was moved to an Auxiliary Medical School at Royapuram in 1882 which is continued to work there till 1887, when it was shifted back to the college. It was again transferred to Royapuram in 1903 under a new management and with better facilities made available. In 1900-01, the Madras Government expanded the college and created new departments: College

Department, Apothecary Department, Chemists Department, Hospital Assistant Department and the Sanitary Inspectors Class. During the First World War and some for years afterwards little progress was made in important directions such as the modification of medical regulations of the university and the abolition of L. M & S Degree in the year 1925. The new regulation which came into force in 1928 for M.B.B.S degree introduced a pre-registration course of 6 months. The new buildings were opened for giving facilities for the work of these departments, they provide excellent library with seating of accommodation for a large number of students. In 1939, the course was centralized teaching in Bio-Chemistry and Organic Chemistry [5].

AUXILIARY MEDICAL SCHOOL (ROYAPURAM MEDICAL SCHOOL)

In 1877, the Auxiliary Medical School was established at Royapuram to meet a deficiency in the strength of the subordinate medical service introduced during the Madras famine. The school was affiliated to the medical college in 1879. In 1883 the government abolished the junior department of the medical college, as above mentioned and established the school a permanent institution for the education of hospital assistants. The teaching staffs consist of a superintendent and professor of medicine and surgery and five lecturers. The students attending the school are divided into three classes. In 1883-1884 students were receiving clinical instruction in the native infirmary at Royapuram and lying-in-hospital attached to the Monigarchoultry. There were 86 students in this school in 1883-1884. Madras Medical College, in school department was moved to an Auxiliary Medical School at Royapuram in 1882 and until 1887. It was again transferred to Royapuram in 1903 under a new management. Initially, the old bullet factory of the East India Company was used for running this school. Gradually, the school became more and more popular. Those who completed the course got Diploma Licensed Medical Practitioner (L.M.P) and were employed under the designation of sub assistant surgeons. The minimum qualification of S.S.L.C passed for the admission into L.M.P. The first batch with this diploma was passed out in 1911 [6].

Opening of medical schools did not seemed easy for the British. Due to lack of proper and suitable place to start medical schools, their beginning was delayed. In the year 1901, Madras Medical College Principal reported that the new medical schools at Royapuram and Vizagapatam cannot be opened until the needed accommodation. He considers that the necessary repairs should be carried out and the school building handed over to this department by the 1st June. The school may begin work at the commencement of the next session that on 1st July 1902. But this school building was not ready in time period, so postponed the school open to succeeding year. The principal requested the Madras Municipality to open new hospital in Black Town for the purpose of clinical instruction to the pupils of the Royapuram Medical School [7].

In 1916, the Madras Government grants the Countess of Dufferin Fund for the purpose of scholarship to young women studying medicine. The provincial branch of the Countess of Dufferin Fund is more or less an agency for the supply of female medical practitioners for the state-aided, local fund and municipal institutions throughout the presidency [8]. The Dufferin fund provided stipends not only women, but also funds to hospital and dispensaries throughout the presidency. Intake of the students was varied from region to region based on various factors. Mohammad's were very less compare to Hindus throughout the presidency. While Telugu speaking students were more in northern region, Tamils were more in southern region. For instance, in 1922, the Royapuram Medical School published the selection list. The list consisted of 55 Hindus. The Vizagapatam Medical School were filled entirely with Telugus and Royapuram Medical School was with Tamils [9]. People from depressed classes began to enter into medical education towards the third decade. Only 1931, we could see Christians and Depressed classes candidates made it into the selection list. Five Christians and three depressed class qualified candidates selected in the year 1931. Only seven Christian and four depressed class qualified candidates were selected in 1932. Ironically more disqualified candidates were more in these cases were more compare to other castes. Reasons for such disqualification were age, English knowledge and the S.S.L.C examination, and unwillingness [10].

In 1933, extend the age-limit by one year in the case of both males and females. Hence the excess in certain cases of candidates admitted over that of qualified candidates maximum age limit be raised 20 to 21

years male candidates and 21 to 22 years Female candidates. The Medical Education Committee in 1928 appointed by Government reported that the need of Madras is not so much more doctors as for better doctors. They also deprecated the selection by communal representation as detrimental to the quality of the candidates. The aim should rather to be limiting the output of doctors and make that limited output as best possible. So the government extended the age limit of medical education [11]. The Government introduced the five years Diploma in Medicine and Surgery (D.M.S) to bring standards in medical education and to place the diploma holder's professional ladder. Those who qualified by taking the medical diplomas were joining in the royal college in Great Britain for diplomas[12]. In 1934, the Madras Government approved L. M. P. course five years curriculum and course of studies III, IV, and V years syllabus like as practical organic chemistry, bio-chemistry and physiology. This scheme of examination for each year was approved by the committee [13].

In 1938, three significant events took place: the closing down of the Lady Willington Medical School, cancellation of D.M.S diploma in view of persistent demand of the Licentiates in the professions and the up-gradation of the Stanley Medical School to College [14]. In 1939, Stanley Medical College principal proposal for the post lecturer in pharmacology was approved. As a result, K. Venkatachalam appointed pharmacology unit in Stanley Medical College and may be raised to the status of lecturer in Therapeutics and Physician [15]. In the same year, the Government promoted two failed 1st year students provisionally to second year L.M.P class and allow them to appear for the first L.M.P examination in Oct 1939 [16]. The Madras Government sanction order the second M.B.B.S examination corresponds to the third L.M.P Board examination, which consists of the subjects of Pathology, Hygiene and Pharmacology at the end of third year and study of pathology at the end of the fourth year. According to the existing rules, the candidates who have failed in any of the subjects of third L.M.P examination could not be permitted to proceed to the final or fifth year L.M.P class. But the university candidates enjoyed the privileges. Hence the Government approved fourth year students permitted to proceed to final year class and examination in April 1940 [17].

In 1939, The Madras Government was encourage Government Philanthropist medical education and private Philanthropist grant communal medals and prizes different discipline in given below:

- *Medals and Prizes open to Stanley Medical College*
- *The Lady Willington Prize, Sri S.S. Krishnan, Midwifery.*
- *Dr. C.B. Rama Rao Prize, Sri R. Natarajan, Clinical Surgery.*
- *The Maharaja of Travancore Prize, Sri R. Natarajan, Medicine.*
- *The Maharaja of Travancore Prize, Sri R. Natarajan, Surgery.*
- *The Maharaja of Cochin Prize, Sri H. Sripadha Rao, Physiology.*
- *Dr. Maharaja of Cochin Prize Sri. W. K. Shanmugasundaram, Ophthalmology.*
- *Dr. N. Radhakrishna Iyar, Prize, Sri. S. S. Krishnan, Gynaecology.*
- *The Lord and Lady Willington Reception Committee Prize, Miss Louise Tellis, Clinical Medicine.*
- *Lt. Col. R. B. Foster Memorial Medal, Sri R. Natarajan, Best Student of the College.*
- *Prizes and medals open to women students of the Stanley Medical College*
- *The Travancore Maharani Regent's Prize, Miss Y. Rajeswari, Best Women Student.*
- *Dame Mary Scharlieb Gold Medal, Miss Y. Rajeswari, Midwifery and Gynaecology.*
- *The Louise Bernard Memorial Prize, Miss Louise Tellis Diseases of children.*
- *Lady Willington Scholarship, Mrs. P. Rema Bai, Best student of the second year class[18].*

TANJORE MEDICAL COLLEGE

The Prince Wales Medical School was established entirely with the money generated from the public subscription. Initially, it was started as Raja Mirasidar Hospital in Tanjore in 1879. The cost of the building amounted to nearly Rs. 66,000. It was opened in November 1880. The hospital was maintained by contributions from provincial municipal and chattram funds, supplemented by allotments from the general

revenues of the District Board. Later this hospital attached to the Prince Wales Medical School for the purpose of practicing of students taken training.

In 1880, the Prince Wales Medical School was founded by the public subscription. In 1875, the Prince of Wales visited the south India. As a commemoration this school was named after prince. The government supported the hospital by providing funds from the district Board Funds and it was also maintained by the government. The purpose of opening the medical school was to make medical subordinates more efficient and train them as capable medical subordinates. This school taught western medicine and initially fifteen students joined. The course of instruction and the Board of Examiners are the same for this school as for those in Madras and Vizagapatam [19].

In these schools, subjects like Anatomy, Material-Medica, Pathology, Physiology, Chemistry, Medicine and Surgery were studied for the duration of two years. Later, the course was extended one more year and finally extended five years. The courses were under went several changes in duration and also in designation. Finally the Diploma holders were allowed to affix the letters L.M.P (Licensed Medical Practitioner) and were employed under the designation of sub-assistant surgeons. From 1915, S. S. L.C or First Arts was made as minimum qualification of for admission to the course [20]. In addition to the Royapuram Medical school there are four other medical schools devoted to the training of sub- assistant pupils situated in the presidency one each at Tanjore, Vizagapatam, Madras and Calicut. The British government had conducted competitive entrance examinations, those who are passed the examination and they studied with stipends [21].

In 1920, the British government was appointed three permanent servants and fixed scale. The new building under construction provided four class rooms necessary, further two attendants each for the chemistry, physiology and pathology laboratories are practical classes [22]. During the year 1922, students were admitted broadly in two religious categories: Mahammadans and Non-Mahammadans. There was one Muhammadan and 91 Non-Muhammadans admitted (Brahmans-33, Non-Brahmans-36, Indian Christian-15, Muhammadans-2, European & Anglo Indians-5). Later, the depressed class students were admitted [23]. In 1931-32, the British government published the list of selected candidates of the Tanjore Medical School candidates according to merits. Selected students were divided on region basis such as Tamil, Telugu and Coastal. In the Tamil districts, the number of applications for admission was 108, out of which 73 qualified and 31 were admitted. In Telugu districts 75 applications were received, 42 were qualified but not a single one admitted. In the West coast districts, 47 applications were received, 40 were qualified and 9 were admitted. In the cause of reduce admitted candidates medical school followed age relaxation of rules, maximum age raised to 22 in case of males and 23 in the case of females [24].

Then on, the school became more and more popular and more students joined in it. Between 1900 and 1920 the government started medical at Calicut, Vizagapatam and Tanjore with a view to train more men and provide thereby for cheaper and more widespread medical relief. But later the government thought the in efficient and ill-equipped institutions should be abolished. In consequence of this policy all such schools were abolished except the one at Royapuram [25].

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE VELLORE (1918)

The first medical missionary to work in India, the Reverend Dr. John Scudder Sr., was also the first medical missionary ever deputed by the American Board of Commissioners for foreign missions. The medical mission were in need of a new structure of support if there was continue. It trained students to privilege elitist in intent positioning a professional class of medical doctors as managers of the field. Nurses were in a secondary subordinate position [26]. Dr. Ida Scudder a granddaughter of the first American Medical Missionary in India, with a group of medical women founded this institution in 1918 as a medical school for women. The Christian Medical College Vellore began as the one- women dispensary of his granddaughter, Dr. Ida Sophia Scudder in 1900. Dr. Scudder was the first principal of the school. The students were trained for the four years course received Diploma in L.M.P. in 1942 the school was raised to the status of a

university college and the first batch of 25 women students were admitted to the M.B.B.S course. Dr. Scudder retired in 1944 and was elected Principal Emeritus. In 1947 the syndicate of the Madras University sanctioned the admission of 10 men students in addition to 25 women. In January 1950 the university granted the college permanent recognition. The college is also recognized for the training of post graduates for the M.D and M.S degree and for the Diploma in Tuberculosis.

LADY WILLINGTON MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR WOMEN MADRAS (1923)

It is a government institution open only for women students. It was opened by H.E Lady Willingdon in 1923. It commenced its first session in July 1923 with 20 students in the Victoris Buildings Egmore, Madras. In 1927 a house next to Victoria buildings was rented and in 1933 the school was transferred to Laxmi Villa. Clinical instructions is imparted twice a week at the Royapetta Hospital. Candidates are selected on the basis of their educational qualifications the minimum qualification required being a pass at the matriculation examination of the madras university or an equivalent thereof. The annual examination are in April every year. Those who fail to pass these examination in April undergo a further course of study in the subject or subjects concerned and appear at the board examination in October. Those who are completed fourth year received L.M.P (Licensed Medical Practitioner) [27].

CONCLUSION

Institutionalization of Medical Education in colonial India paved a way to better development of medical education in India even it was started with the different intentions and it helped to construct the Indian traditional medical treatment systematic. Comparatively colonial Tamil Country was rich in medical system. In the British government's priorities, medicine did play a significant role. In fact, protecting the European from the diseases of the tropical weather setup has immensely continued to the overall performance of the colonial government. Therefore, government had started medical facilities, imported professionals, provided medical care through military camps, slowly civil medical facilities have also began to emerge. In the process of creating institutional facilities in the colony to provide education and medical care, not only government made serious efforts but also encourage the private philanthropists to contribute. The Madras Medical School, Royapuram Medical School were founded by British government exception Tanjore Medical School. The Prince Wales Medical School was founded by public; Later this school maintained the government. The British government not only developed western medicine in urban city but also supported the rural areas. Penetration of medical institutions into non-urban areas to serve local peoples was due to the public demand and health crises.

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B. Chitra

Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of History, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.