



A STUDY ON PROGRESS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TAVANCORE UNDER SREE MOOLAM TIRUNAL MAHARAJA

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ABSTRACT :

The year 1885 symbols an era in the history of education in Travancore. When His highness Maharaja Moolam Tirunal ascended the throne, there were besides the college 22 Government English schools including the Sirkar Girls School, the number of Government language schools was and the aided language schools 628 in addition to which there were also 158, schools simply getting inspection without grant. The educational policy pursued by his highness Maharaja Sree Moolam Tirunal is best described in the words of Maharaja spoken on the time of the annual prize distribution in the college. "There is no doubt that education has made great strides Travancore under the wise and liberal policy of my memorable predecessors, a policy of which it has been my serious Endeavour to develop Five periods of progress, the first from 1885-1892, the second from 1892 – 1900, the third from 1901-1907, the fourth from 1908 -1912 and the fifth from 1913 to the present day.

KEYWORDS : Higher Education, Travancore and Sree Moolam Tirunal Maharaja.

1. INTRODUCTION:

During the region of Sree Moolam Tirunal, Schools were opened all over the state and categorized, with education starting at primary level and going on to specialized colleges. Free primary education was arranged to the backward classes. Another step of great outcome was the introduction of free education for the fishing community. The Victoria Medical School with an attached hospital for women was put up in Kollam. A 'Normal School' for girls was experimentally started in 1887-88. The Government Industrial School was thoroughly reorganized. The Sanskrit College, Ayurveda College, Maharaja's College for women, Law College, Arts College, an Agricultural Demonstration farm and school, Survey School etc, were established. Recognition was granted to the Homoeopathic system of treatment in 1928 by the Sree Moolam Tirunal Assembly. Another important act was the setting up of a Reformatory School for juvenile offenders. Many educational rules were passed and salary scales of those in the education department were revised. A number of technical scholarships for studies in European countries were instituted and technical education encouraged. With the sanction of a Chair in History and one in Physics in the Maharaja's College, this institution was raised to nearly the highest level among the educational institutions of the Presidency.

2. THE EDUCATION POLICY OF HIS HIGHNESS OF THE MAHARAJA:

On the ocean of the prize is distribution in the college that year Dr.Harvery addressing His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore. It is now fully 21 years since College began to take up which for the present may be regarded as the full University curriculum, viz the teaching subjects required for the B.A degree. On

the whole history of the college 21 years completed that we have attained excellence. I have no doubt that all that belongs to this institution are on the different, aware of quite enough of imperfection still outstanding. We may however, without undue boasting claim, I that your Highness college has been far from failure and so for the many imperfections that still remain, it must and I trust, will be the earnest work of the future to do our best to get free of them. Twenty – one years ago the whole number of the college was only 39, whereas now it 185 or nearly five times as great. Twenty – one years ago the highest fees charged was one Rupee, where as now it is three and a half Rupees; and the total amount collected was only Rs. 343 a month as compared with Rs. 1391 now. The library contains 2000 volumes of the most valuable English works bearing on the various departments of university, Twenty-one years works in the college has produced 786 Matriculates, 345 I.A.S, 164B.A's 21 B.L's and 5 M.A's.

During this twenty-one year, I am glad to accept the willingness which your Highness Government has always shown to meet the reasonable wants of Teachers, students and pupils, and to make the place where education is received as comfortable as possible. In that year teaching of mathematics was made as an optional subject for the B.A degree, which had fallen into abeyance due to the retirement of Professor Rose in 1888, was reviewed and Dr.A.C.Crighton Mitchell was appointed to the chair. The chemistry laboratory for the college was completed in the year 1891-92. In that year an important change was happened in regard to the administration of the college, was created by the council of a college, consisting of principal and professors were functions similar to those of the council in Madras College. Slight changes were also made such as the amendment of rules in regard to the administration and attendance of pupils, were also introduced. The college received several endowments during this period from private gentlemen.

3. SANSKRIT COLLEGE:

Another important Institution started during the period His Highness Maharaja Sree Moolam in 1888-89 was the Sanskrit college the object being the study of Sanskrit, which was once common in the state to a extraordinary extent, Instruction was arranged to be imparted in the college in the Vedas, Sastras and general Sanskrit literature. The pupils had free education and free get on at the beginning, but later the feeling which was found problematic was substituted by a system of Scholarships. One of the earliest prayers of His Highness was approached on his journey to Madras for receiving the Insignia of G.C.S I in (1888-89) was that relating to the opening of the Sanskrit college. The people of Tinnevely in their address represented. "We beg leave to suggest the attractiveness of establishing on a satisfactorily broad basis a college for the study of Sanskrit literature and philosophy. A Sanskrit college organized and conducted on modern principles is in admitted want in Southern India, and we can look with confidence to your Highness alone for bringing such an improvement and institution early into existence".

4. PUBLIC LECTURE COMMITTEE:

The third institution of public utility brought into existence during the early years of His Highness reign was the public lecture committee. The scheme was to inaugurate a course of lectures in the college open to the public, the lecturer receiving an honorarium out of the sanctioned fund. The committee was appointed in 1886-87 and under its auspices 13 lectures on a popular basis were delivered in (1887-88) variety of topics including physics, Astronomy, Botany, Zoology, Agriculture, general literature. The Government undertook a portion of the cost of printing and publishing of the lectures were specially approved by the committee. In 1893, a change was introduced in the system of management of the Sanskrit college, the Director of Vernacular Education was relieved from the charge of the institution, and the same was brought under the direct control of the government. A Board of Examiners were appointed under the presidency of the late Valia Koil Tampuran and three examinations viz, the Mahopadyaya, Upadhyaya and Sastri tests, were held during (1894-95).

5. ARCHEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT:

With a view to collection of data is relating to the political and economic history and ethnology of the country. It was started in (1895-96) and appointed Rai Bhadur P.Sundaram Pillai, professor of Philosophy in his Highness the Maharaja's college as honorary in charge of the department without prejudice to his duties in the college. Sundaram Pillai, who had already been doing original work in the field of Travancore epigraphy from (1891-92) was in every way competent to be the Government Archaeologist but unhappily he died within the one year of his appointment. Archeological monuments preservation Act which was passed during the vicerealty of George Methaniel (1899-1905).

6. THE PUBLIC LIBRARY:

The third institution established during the period of His Highness the Maharaja Sree Moolam was the public library. The library has been in existence at the capital since 1847-48 but it was brought under the control of the Government only after the Diamond Jubilee for Her majesty the late Queen Empress Victoria in (1896-97). A well- stocked and furnished reading and will be opened here at Government cost. The library had no substantial accommodation until (1902-03) when the present handsome and commodious building was completed and institution located in it. The people's Library; which was another important institution and it containing a vast number of rare books and manuscripts on Indian subjects, purchased and added to it. The library is one of the most charming and deservedly popular institutions of the town.

Any person who resident in Travancore may become a member of the library or payment of an entrance fee Rs. 10 an a monthly subscription of Rs 2 subscribers have privileges and per a monthly subscription of 8 or as 4 according to the number of books taken out at a time. Readers were given free tickets for admission to the general reading room, for the use of which a large variety of news papers and periodicals both Indian and European are added. The total number of volumes in the library at the end of (1915 – 1916) was 20, 179, the number taken out during the year being 11, 940.

7. COLLEGE REFORMS:

Collegiate education followed the lines chalked out by the University which till the passing of the Indian Universities Act of 1904 was a mere examining body, under the new regulations, the college was affiliated to the Madras University in 1906-07 for Mathematics, Physical science, Chemistry, History and Economics. The new physical laboratory completed and fitted up. The improvements suggested by the University Commission after inspection of the college. In 1904, were taken in hand and the library was improved. The Girls College was also affiliated to the University under the new Regulation for the Intermediate Examination in Arts. Fees were to be levied from the pupils of the institution from January 1907, the rates being half applicable for male students. These rules were also applicable to the female students prosecuting their studies in college intended for males.

8. TEACHER'S COLLEGE:

'No great forward movement' it has been said, "is feasible without a greatly reinforced army of teachers; no forward movement will be of real avail without an army of trained teachers'. In 1904 there were 8 training schools in the state of which 6 were departmental and 2 private. The local normal school for male teachers could not by itself, cope with the increasing demand, and further it was not capable to trained graduate teachers. His Highness the Maharaja Sree Moolam Tirunal therefore sanctioned the opening of a fully organized Teacher's college at Trivandrum, affiliated to the madras university in the degree of License in teaching and the college began its work in (1910-11) with a staff, consisting of a principal, vice-principal and four Lectures in the training branches. For the training of teachers for the elementary schools, His highness sanctioned the opening of several training schools in mofussil centres. Two such schools are opened in 1910 and two in 1911, while the female teachers were trained separately in the Normal school attached the Girls College at Trivandrum.

9. REORGANIZATION OF THE PUBLIC LECTURE COMMITTEE:

The public lecture committee was reorganized in 1909 and revised rules were passed in regard to its working. The lectures delivered in previous years were confined to the capital and the subjects treated in them were not of practical character. These defects were removed by extending the scheme of the lectures to the mofussil and ruling that they should be of a popular nature and on useful subjects, besides being as far as possible illustrated. It was also ruled that discussions should be allowed after the lectures and that important lectures should be printed and distributed to the public gratis.

10. CONCLUSION:

This study concluded that education and its expansions are of much importance in human-rights perspective. This was fully accepted in theory and practical application by the Sree Moolam Tirunal Maharaja of Travancore. Kerala emerged as the first state in India with a claim to cent percent literacy standing on the foundation laid by the Maharaja's rulers of Travancore. The contributions of rulers of Travancore are of great importance in the reorganization of our present system of higher education.

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