

Educational Endeavours of the Salvation army in Tirunelveli District in Tamilnadu

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The proposed paper “Educational Endeavours of Salvation Army in Tirunelveli District is an attempt to explore the educational efforts of the Salvation Army and its services towards the poor, especially the people of the Sambavar community, Among the Christian missionaries in South India, the Salvation Army made tremendous services towards the uplift of Sambavar people in the country. It opened several schools in different parts of the Tirunelveli region and opened the eyes of the people through instigating educational awareness among them and made them supreme in the society by abolishing superstitious belief. The low caste people were not allowed to go to school; education was forbidden to these people, The high caste people did want these people to be educated. ‘If they are educated they want be Slaves for them’ was their strong idea. They told the low caste people that they should learn their own trade. The agriculture coolie should be a coolie forever. The Palmyra climber should be a Palmyra climber, a Barber should be a Barber. Totally, the low caste people were blind though they had eyes.

Even in the Government Schools low caste people were not admitted. In this situation, the Salvation Army which started village schools educated the low caste people, to have community development educational work helped very much.

During 1920 when the Army work was started in Radhapuram and Valliyoor area, of Tirunelveli District schools were also started at Sanganeri (1940), S.S. Puram (1941), Manichakamputhoor (1937), Vagaikulam (1940) Naibiaradaaiappu (1940), Ervadu (1938) Senbagaramanallur (1946), and Thandayarkulam, Valliyoor, Ervadi Nambithoppu Priyammalpuram and Vagaikulam are the village schools still prevailing Valliyoor School was upgraded High school and Nambithoppu school was upgrade in Middle school here schools are playing a vital role in the social life of low caste people.

During 1920 when the Army launched its evangelical work in Valliyoor area, it also started primary schools. In 1970 during the time of Lt. Colonel N.J Samuvel, the Valliyoor primary school was upgraded as Middle school in 1970. In the year 1978 when Colonel N.J. Samuvel was the territorial commander, with the support of Mr. Mohamed usufull, the state minister, the school was upgrade as High school, Mr. Shanmugam was appointed as the first Head Master of the High School From Dr. Noble Edna Trust, a new building was constructed. Presently, Mr A. Benjamin is the Head Master of the shool.

Nearly 360 Children are studying in the school, 10 teachers and 2 non teaching staffs are working there. This school also supports the poor and needy children through child Development Ministy. In the year of 2000 april S.S. L.C Public Examination the school produced 100% pass. The Head Master as well as the teacher are working very hard for good result. From January to March every year, they are conducting extra study time in the school upto '9' o clock in the night. This school also encourages its students in sports. The N.S. Group of the school ishighly commendable. From the year of 1925 onwards, a primary school was functioning at that village in the time of commissioner V. Suganantham, in 1985 this school was upgraded as a Middle school. Mr. Muthaiah is the Present Head Master.

Now it has a strength of 153 children studying in this School , 5 teachers are working in this school. As per the Govt, Order No L. Dis/Ci/5651 (81) 46 10.10. 1940. In 1940 Salvation Army Primary school started at Vagaikulam in RajakkalMangalam area by Colonel TIG. Sundaram, Territorial Commander. Nearly 121 students are studying in this school 3 teachers are working there. In the year 2001 Mrs. R. Jayakkai, the teacher of this school was getting award for good teacher from Tamilnadu Government. This school in situated within the area of 4900 sq.feet. Mrs. J. Chandra is the present Head Mistress.

As per the G. O. No. L. Dis No. 2345/38 dated 28.07.37 Manickamputhoor Salvation Army primary school started at Manickamputhoor in Dhanakkarkulam area. On 28.07.1937, Nearly 36 students are studying in this school 2 teachers are working there. This school is situated within the area of 1578 sq. feet. M. Pusparani is the present Head Mistress. As per G. O. No. L. Dis. No. 8 dated 27.10.1938, Ervadi Salvation Army Primary school started at Ervadi within the 516 sq.ft area by Wi. Col. David S. Desai. Nearly 36 students are studying in this school and 2 teachers are working there. Mrs. M. Mariammal is the present Head Mistress. As per the. O. No. L. Dis. 1A2. 143 dated 04.10.1941, Sivasubramaniapuram (Kudankulam post, Radhapuram Taluk) Salvation Army Primary School started by Colonel T. G. Sundaram. This school is situated within the 4454 sq. ft. 51 students are studying in this school and 2 teachers are working there. Mrs. S.I. Sornam is the present Head Mistress.

As pre the G. O. Res. No. 41/40 dated 20.09.1940 Sanganerri Salvation Army Primary school started at sanganerri in Radhapuram Taluk by Colonel T. G. Sundaram with in the area of 300.32 sq.ft. 109 students are studying in this school. 3 teachers are working there, Mr. Muthuraj M.A., B.Ed., is the

present Head Master. As per the G. O. Re. No. 6 (33)40 Salvation Army Nobel Memorial Primary school was started at Vallioor by William Booth on 19.06.1940 with in the area of 2 acres and 333 sq.ft. Nearly 267 students are studying in this school. 6 teachers are working there Mrs. E. Snekalatha M.A., is the present Head Mistress. Salvation Army is also running Primary school at Thandiyarkulam and Priyammalpuram. To give better education to the poor is the preliminary aim of the Salvation Army. It is fulfilling its will and pleasure through the educational field.

Salvation Army Noble Memorial High School (Tamil Medium) was started at Valliyoor by Colonel T.G Sundaram with in the area 5 acre. 360 students are studying in this school and 9 teachers are working there. Mr. A. Benjamine, M.A., B.Ed., is the present Head Master. Nearly 360 children are studying in this school 10 teachers and 2 non teaching staff are working there. As per the P.C.No 1-5 Permanent L. Dos. C2 (560) 40 dated 10.10.40, 6-7 temper continuity Nakadeeo Tvy 11191/A5/03 22.12.03, Salvation Army Middle school started at Nambiaradaippu by commissioner suganatham, territorial Commander within the area of 4345 sq. feet, 150 students are studying in this school 5 teachers are working there, Mr. Y. Vedhamuthu B.Sc., B.Ed., is the present Head Master. This school received the best school award shield from Director of Elementary Education of Tamil Nadu.

As per the Res. No. L. Dis C3 (28) 46 dated 02.04.1946, Salvation Army Primary school was started at Senbagaramanallur in Nanguneri by Colonel T.G. Sundaram T.C with in the area of 11420 sq.feet. 57 students are studying this school. 2 teachers are working there. Mrs. K. Kasthuribai is the present Head Mistress.

During 1992 English medium schools were started in various places. At first it was started in Palayamkottai at the motherless Babies' home premises. Colonel Girubadas the then Territorial, Commander started the school and appointed the capt. Annal Peter as the school in charge. Lt. Ruby Stella also was appointed as a teacher in the school. A par from the motherless Babies, regular students were also admitted in the schools. Now as it cannot compete with other schools, only the motherless babies Home Children are studying in this school. This school also was started during the tenure of Colonel Girubadas. This English medium school is more useful to the surrounding village people. Now it has a strength of 231 students and 10 teachers and four staffs are working there.

From the year 1925 onwards, a Primary school was functioning in that village. In the time of commissioner Suganatham, in 1985 this school was upgrade as a middle school. Mr. M. Y. Muthaiah is the present Headmaster. Now it has a strength of 153 children studying in this school. 5 teachers are working in this school. Vagaikulam, Thandiyarkulam, Manickamputhoor. Vallioor, Priyammalpuram, Sankaneri and S.S. Puram in all these places Salvation Army is running Tamil Medium Primary schools. During June 2003 a Tamil Medium primary school was started by Colonel Yohannan to avoid encroachment of land. It is a feeding school to the higher secondary school. The Salvation Army is doing

not only formal education. It is also doing informal education. Now it has a strength of 50 students and 3 teachers and 1 non teaching staff working there. It is giving medical awareness education, HIV/AIDS education and social living education to the community. To give better education to the poor is the preliminary aim of the Salvation Army. It is fulfilling its will and pleasure through the education field.

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