



CONTRIBUTION OF MUSLIMS TO EDUCATION - WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO 20TH CENTURY TAMIL NADU – A GLANCE

K. ARAVINDHAN, M.A., B.Ed.,
M. Phil., History (PT) Research Scholar

&

M.SIDDIQUE AHMED, M.A., M. Phil., SLET.

Asst. Prof. of History
Islamiah College (Autonomous)
Vaniyambadi
Affiliated to Thiruvalluvar University

ABSTRACT

Acquisition and dissemination of knowledge is one of the primary duties of the followers of Islam. Muslim community has its presence across the globe and has taken notable initiatives for propagation of knowledge as early as the 7th century A.D. As soon as the Muslims entered India they founded many learning centers in many parts of the country. During medieval period several small and big learning centers, called Maktabas and Madrasas were established. These accommodated people of all communities.¹ Under the British regime, in the Madras Presidency many educational associations, societies were founded to establish primary schools, high schools and colleges for educating the masses. The higher educational institutions started by the Muslims of Tamil Nadu have made significant contributions. The research paper aims at studying the contribution of Muslims to higher education in Tamil Nadu in a brief manner.

Article

The main objective of the article is to highlight the contribution of Muslims to education in Tamil Nadu. For this the available primary and the secondary sources were consulted. The paper starts with an introduction on the importance of education in Islam followed by the contribution of Muslims to education and finally the conclusion.

Education is based on the teachings of Islam. During medieval period Maktabas (primary learning centers attached to mosques) and Madrasas (places of learning where Islamic teachings are given) were started. These institutions taught secular subjects along with religious education.

As for as institutions of formal education are concerned, Muslims of Madras presidency started many educational institutions from primary to higher education to serve the society. After independence,

¹. Nazeerudeen S, Educational Status And Empowerment of the Muslims in Tamil Nadu from 1882 to 1967 A.D., 2014, p.12

throughout the state, a large number of educational organizations of all categories have been started by the Muslims.²

Here few important contributions of Muslims to education are listed for the benefit of readers. B.S. Abdur Rahman, was the leading businessman and great philanthropist who founded the Seethakathi Trust. It started the Crescent Engineering College in 1984. It was elevated to Deemed to be University in 2008 and in 2017 it was renamed as B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology as per the advice of UGC. It is a quality leadership institution situated at a sprawling campus in Chennai near Tambaram. This institution offers access to a wide range of academic opportunities. There are 55 programmes, 30 Undergraduate programmes, 25 Postgraduate programmes and Ph.D. (in all the departments), which are grouped under 12 diverse Schools. There are more than 15,000 students on its rolls. This institution has reached greater heights in higher education with promising quality, security and placement. Students from different countries get admission here. The educational programmes are designed to train the learners with essential knowledge that facilitate them to attain what they desire to be and go where they wish to go in the hierarchy of accomplishment. This institution was accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council with a grade of 'A+'. In engineering category of NIRF ranking 2021, the college has been ranked at 112th position.

Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education founded in the year 1989, has been approved as a Deemed-to-be-University by Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education), Government of India under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956, from December 2008.³ This University managed by the Noorul Islam Center for Higher Education (NICHE) Society. Dr. A.P. Majeed Khan is the President of the Society, NICHE and also the Chancellor of NICHE. It is situated in a lush green campus at Kumaracoil, Thuckalay in Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu. It offers 28 undergraduate and 21 post graduate, 8 M.Phil Programmes and Ph.D. in 21 disciplines. There are 285 faculty members and more than 3000 students on its rolls.

The following are the prominent Societies and colleges run by the Muslims in Tamil Nadu. Vaniyambadi Muslim Educational Society was established in the year 1901 which is managing the following higher educational Institutions right from its inception.⁴ Islamiah College in 1919, Islamiah Industrial Training Centre in 1984, Islamiah Women's Arts and Science College in 1997 and Islamiah Skill Development Centre in 2019. There are more than 12000 students studying in these Institutions.

Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society was founded in the year 1918 it manages the following colleges where more than 7000 students⁵ are pursuing higher studies:

- MMES Academy of Architecture
- C. Abdul Hakeem College of Engineering. & Technology
- C. Abdul Hakeem College (Autonomous)
- MMES Women's Arts & Science College

The Society of Jamal Mohamed College manages Jamal Mohamed College which was founded in 1951. There are more than 12000 students studying in this college.⁶

The Southern India Education Trust was founded in the year 1951 by Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed. It started, The Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women⁷ (formerly known as the S.I.E.T Women's College) in 1955. It has 7000 students on its rolls.

² Syed Shahabuddeen, A History of Jamia Darussalam, Oomreabad, University of Madras, Chennai, 1985, Unpublished M. Phil. Dissertation, p.12

^v Naseem Jan S F, Muslims Of Tamil Nadu 712 To 1947 A.D.

A Study, Bharathiar University, 2002, Unpublished Theses, p.38

³ Prospectus, Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education 2017 p,34

⁴ Calendar, Vaniyambadi Muslim Educational Society. 2018 p.29

⁵ Handbook, Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society 2018 p.32

⁶ Prospectus Jamal Mohamed College 2018 p.24

⁷ Annual Report, Southern India Education Trust 2019 p.19

The Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College is located in Uthammapalayam, Tamil Nadu. It was established in the year 1956 by the Late Hajee Mohamed Meeran Rowther.⁸ There are about 2000 students on its rolls.

Tamil Nadu Wakf Board started a college by name Muqyyth Sha Sirguro Wakf Board College in the year 1968, in Madurai. More than 1500 students are studying in various courses in this college.

The Dr. Zakir Husain College Society manages, The Dr. Zakir Husain College situated at Ilayangudi, Tamil Nadu. This college was established in 1970. There are about 2200 students studying in this college.

The Sadakathullah Appa Educational Society established the Sadakathullah Appa College in the year 1971, in Tirunelveli. It has more than 2000 students on its rolls.⁹

The Mohamed Sathak Trust was established in 1973 It was registered under Societies Registration Act by Mohamed Sathak Family of Kilakarai, Ramnad District in Tamil Nadu.¹⁰ It has founded and managing the following higher education institutions at Chennai.

- i. Mohamed Sathak A.J. College of Engineering
- ii. Mohamed Sathak College of Arts and Science
- iii. Mohamed Sathak A.J. College of Nursing
- iv. Mohamed Sathak A.J. College of Pharmacy
- v. Mohamed Sathak A.J. College of Physiotherapy
- vi. Mohamed Sathak Matric. & Higher Sec. School
- vii. Mohamed Sathak Teacher Training College
- viii. Mohamed Sathak A.J. Academy of Architecture
- ix. Sathak Institute Of Information
- x. (SITECH)

It has founded and managing the following higher education institutions at Kilakarai, more than 20000 students are studying in all these institutions.

- a. Mohamed Sathak Engineering College
- b. Syed Hameedha Arts & Science College
- c. Mohamed Sathak Polytechnic College
- d. Mohamed Sathak I.T.I
- e. Syed Hameedha Arabic College

The Aalim Muhammed Salegh Trust was established in the year 1990. Alhaj. Dr. S. M. Shaik Nurddin is its founder.¹¹

- (i) Aalim Muhammed Salegh College of engineering - started in the year of 1990
- (ii) Aalim Muhammed Salegh Industrial Training Institute, located at Muthapudupet, Avadi IAF, Chennai 600 055, started in the year of 1993.

The Rajagiri Dawood Batcha Educational and Charitable Trust was established in the year 1997.

It manages the following higher educational institutions at Rajagiri, Tamilnadu.

RDB College of Arts & Sciences

- i. RDB School of Nursing
- ii. RDB Institute of Management
- iii. RDB College of Education

More than 3000 students are pursuing higher education in these institutions.¹²

⁸Handbook, Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College 2019 p.15

⁹Annual Report, Sadakathullah Appa Educational Society p.23

¹⁰Calendar, Mohamed Sathak Trust p.41

¹¹Annual Report, Pernambut Muslim education society, 2011 p.9

¹²Annual Report, Pernambut Muslim Educational Society, Pernambut, 2018. P.39

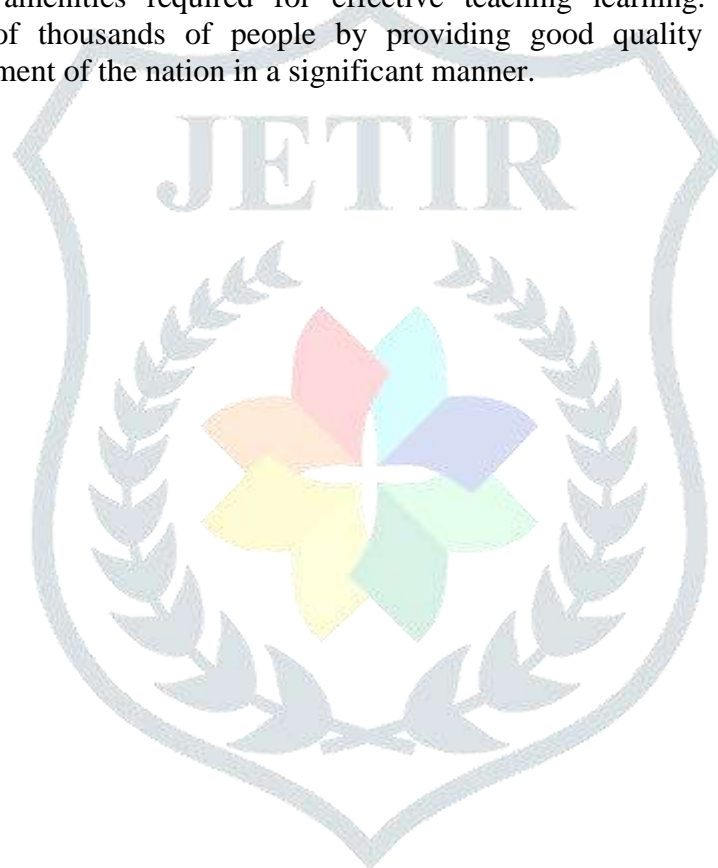
Syed Ammal Trust started Syed Ammal Engineering College at Ramanathapuram in 1998. More than 500 students are studying in this institution.

AIMAN Education and Welfare Society established AIMAAN College of Arts and Science for Women in the year 2000, in Tiruchirapalli. Current strength of the college is 1131.¹³

CONCLUSION:

Muslim educational associations and societies in Tamil Nadu have started more than 100 institutions of higher education which admit students from all communities without any discrimination on any basis. More than 50000 students are graduated from these institutions every year. Majority of these graduates are from other communities. Muslims of Tamil Nadu have made significant contribution to higher education by establishing good number of institutions of higher education during the study period.

In most of the above institutions, majority of the students studying are belonging to other communities. Admissions are made as per the norms of government of Tamil Nadu. The students are provided with all the amenities required for effective teaching learning. These institutions have transformed the lives of thousands of people by providing good quality higher education. Thus, contributing for development of the nation in a significant manner.



¹³Annual Report, AIMAAN Education and Welfare Society. P.16