



REPORT OF  
THE COMMITTEE  
ON  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION  
IN MADRAS  
1953

ISSUED BY  
INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY  
DEPARTMENT OF MADRAS

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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
1 INTRODUCTION .. .. .	iii
2 CHAPTER I—Elementary Education in Madras State in and prior to 1951-52 with a short historical survey .. ..	1
3 CHAPTER II—The Modified Scheme .. .. .	9
4 CHAPTER III—Three Hours' School .. .. .	11
5 CHAPTER IV—Increase in the number of pupils .. ..	31
6 CHAPTER V—The out-of-school programme .. .. .	49
7 CHAPTER VI—Recommendations .. .. .	59
8 APPENDICES—	
(1) <i>Appendix No. 1</i> —(A) Persons from whom written memoranda were received .. .. .	65
(B) Persons who were interviewed .. .. .	66
(2) <i>Appendix No. 2</i> —Scale of grants to teachers .. ..	67
(3) <i>Appendix No. 3</i> —Basic Education in the State ..	69
(4) <i>Appendix No. 4</i> —Taking help of the older pupil—“The Madras System” .. .. .	72
(5) <i>Appendix No. 5</i> —A Note on Literacy in the Madras State .. .. .	74
(6) <i>Appendix No. 6</i> —Administrative set-up .. ..	76
(7) <i>Appendix No. 7</i> —Teachers' Associations .. ..	78

## INTRODUCTION.

1. *Appointment of the Committee and terms of reference.*—Our appointment as a Committee and the terms of reference to us are contained in G.O. No. 1988, Education, dated 20th August 1953, of the Government of Madras (Composite); the following is the relevant part of the Government Order :—

“ In order to examine the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education and to make recommendations thereon, the Government have constituted a Committee of the following gentlemen :—

(1) Professor R. V. Parulekar (*Chairman*), Director of the Indian Institute of Education, *Bombay*.

(2) Dr. B. B. Dey, retired Director of Public Instruction, *Madras*.

(3) Sri M. Mujeeb, Vice-Chancellor, *Jamia Milia, Delhi*.

(4) Sri S. Govindarajulu Nayudu (*Member—Secretary*), Director of Public Instruction.

The Committee will—

(i) examine the system of elementary education as it prevailed in the State till last year and the manner in which the quality of that education can be improved and the number of pupils receiving education can be increased.

(ii) examine the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education and its working particularly in relation to the objects stated in item (i) in all its implications, and make recommendations on the subject to Government.”

2. We met in Madras between the 31st August and 5th September, 24th September and 30th September and 14th October and 2nd November 1953. During this period we received memoranda from several individuals and organizations, we also interviewed and discussed informally with representatives of Teachers' Associations and several other persons. (See Appendix I.) We had discussions with departmental officers, Divisional Inspectors and a few Deputy Inspectors. We invited for interview some teachers and managers of elementary schools from the mufassal. We also visited a few schools. We are grateful to all who gave their help and co-operation.

3. "The Modified Scheme of Elementary Education—A Guide Book" (hereafter referred to as the Guide Book) published by the Department of Education and the Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, Re. No. 603-B-1/53, dated 12th April 1953 and 12th July 1953, were the main documents which enabled us to comprehend what the Modified Elementary Education Scheme is, what its aims and objects are and how these are sought to be implemented. We were supplied with copies of voluminous press cuttings which were full of opinions for and against the scheme. We were also supplied with all the information that we wanted from the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, for which we express our thanks. All these proved very useful in our discussions.

4. We did not see many schools at work with a view to understand how they were functioning under the New Scheme. From our visits to a few schools around Madras we found that the schools were only beginning to understand the implications of the Modified Scheme and were trying to adjust themselves to the new programme. We thought, therefore, that no useful purpose would be served by going round the

State and visiting many schools at this stage. We believed that the best thing we could do in the circumstances was to examine the Modified Scheme on its educational and practicable aspects and base our conclusions and recommendations on our experience and knowledge of educational theory and practice and not so much on what was actually being done in the schools.

5. We may point out here that our report refers to the Composite State of Madras as it stood before the partition. We began our enquiry more than a month before the partition took place and it was not found feasible to refer to the two States separately in our report.

6. We had the assistance of Sri N. D. Sundaravadivelu, Deputy Director of Public Instruction in charge of Elementary Education and of Dr. M. D. Paul, his successor in that office. Mrs. O. C. Srinivasan, Director of Public Instruction, Madras, was also available for consultation and discussion after she assumed charge of that office. To all these officers we express our sincere thanks. Sri G. Ramachandran, Educational Adviser to the Government of Madras for Elementary and Basic Education, gave us his unstinted assistance and our work was greatly helped by his co-operation. We offer our special thanks to him.