

# Government of Madras

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 142, dated 26th January 1928

Report on Public Instruction—Quinquennium ended with 31st  
March 1927—Recorded with remarks.

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**Order—No. 142, Law (Education), dated 26th January 1928.**

The report of the Director of Public Instruction for the quinquennium ending with the 31st March 1927 is a most interesting record of steady educational progress. The large number of schemes which have been successfully developed or initiated during the period under review form the most satisfactory feature of the report. The expansion of elementary education and the application of compulsion, the starting of a provident fund scheme for teachers, the introduction of compulsory medical inspection, the wide development of manual training and practical instruction, the adoption of the vernaculars as the media of instruction and examination, the imparting of religious instruction in schools under public management, the enlargement of the University Training Corps and the establishment of a new University, all represent noteworthy advances. Government notice with special satisfaction the progress that has been made in the education of Muhammadans and of the depressed classes. There has been a very large increase in the number of Muhammadans attending all classes of institutions and Mappilla education has received particular attention. The large increase in the number of pupils from the depressed classes attending schools is indicative of the efforts that have been made to improve the condition of this section of the community. The Government have read with interest and appreciation the Director's account of the difficulties which have still to be overcome in the expansion of elementary and secondary education, in the development of women's education and in the organization of education for Europeans. The Government agree with the Director in his view that the efficiency of existing elementary schools is of primary importance at the moment and that compulsion must be applied

C O N T E N T S.

Madras Departmental Reports.  
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1. Education, 1922-27. (with Supplemental Statistics). pp. 146.
2. Forests, 1926-27. (Vols. 2.) pp. ~~177~~ & ~~230~~
3. Co-operative Societies, 1926-27. pp. 189.
4. Hindu Religious Endowments Board, 1926-27. pp.
5. Working of Indian Emigration Act, 1922 for 1927. pp. 22.
6. Working of Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for 1927. pp. 12.

if children of school-going age are to be retained in school for sufficiently long period to make them permanently literate and the present policy of Government in regard to the expansion of elementary education is being formulated accordingly. With a view to facilitating the rapid spread of elementary education and the introduction of compulsion a Bill to amend the Elementary Education Act has been drafted and will shortly be placed before the Legislative Council. The improvement of elementary education depends to a large extent on the pay and status of the teachers employed in elementary schools and so the rates of teaching grant were raised during the quinquennium and steps have been taken by Government to increase the budget provision so as to meet the demands for the payment of teaching grants in full. Since the close of the quinquennium a further enhancement of the rates of teaching grants involving a recurring expenditure of about Rs. 6 lakhs has been sanctioned. The Director, in referring to the appointment of committees for the consideration of the problems connected with secondary education and to the report of the Special Officer on a survey of secondary education, has indicated the extent to which the need for a reorganization of secondary education and for a revision of the Grant-in-aid Code has been occupying the attention of Government. Government hope to pass early orders on the proposals made in the reports of the Committees and in the report of the Special Officer. The experience gained by the working of the newly constituted District Secondary Education Boards has led to doubts as to whether the Boards have justified the anticipation of Government as to their contribution to the development of secondary education and the question of reconstituting them is under consideration. The chapter in the report which deals with women's education reveals the facts that progress in the development of women's education has not been either as rapid as could be desired or as successful as was the case in the previous quinquennium. This is particularly so in so far as secondary education is concerned and the Government note with satisfaction that the Director is preparing in this connexion a definite programme of expansion. European education continues to present special difficulties. But there is ample evidence from the report to show that a complete investigation of the problems has been undertaken and that it has resulted in the adoption of a sound policy for the future of European schools.

2. The Government desire to place on record their appreciation of the work done by Mr. R. Littlehales and Mr. R. G. Grieve, the permanent and the acting Directors, and by the officers subordinate to them. The Government also desire to commend especially the work of the officers and subordinates attached to the office of the Director of Public Instruction since they are fully aware of the immense increase in work which has had to be undertaken owing to the rapid educational development which has taken place during the period under review. The thanks of the Government are also due to Mr. R. M. Statham for the careful and interesting manner in which he has compiled the report.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education)

P. SITARAMAYYA,  
*Secretary to Government.*

**Editors' Table.**

REPORT ON PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN THE  
MADRAS PRESIDENCY FOR THE YEAR 1926-27  
AND FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL 1921-22 TO  
1926-27.

VOLUME I.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

PARA.	PAGE
1. Introduction ... ..	1
2. The chief events of the quinquennium ... ..	1
(1) Educational Finances ... ..	1
(2) The Legislative Council and Education ... ..	1
(3) Elementary Education ... ..	2
(4) Reorganization of the Inspecting Agency ... ..	2
(5) Conferences and Committees ... ..	2
(6) University Development ... ..	4
(7) The Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Scheme ... ..	4
(8) Special Schools ... ..	4
(9) District Secondary Education Boards ... ..	5
(10) Manual Training and Practical Instruction ... ..	5
(11) European Education ... ..	5
(12) Education of Muhammadans ... ..	6
(13) Women's Education ... ..	6
(14) Medical Inspection ... ..	6
(15) The Provident Fund Scheme ... ..	6
(16) Religious Instruction ... ..	7
(17) Changes in the Grant-in-aid Code and in the Madras Educational Rules ... ..	7

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

3. General Statistics of Institutions ... ..	7
4. Institutions and scholars by districts ... ..	8
5. Institutions according to managing agencies ... ..	8
6. Education in relation to population ... ..	8
7. Scholars according to classes of community ... ..	8
8. Scholars studying English ... ..	8
9. Scholars unprotected from small-pox ... ..	8
10. Relative extent of Education in Municipal and non-Municipal areas ... ..	9
11. General Statistics of receipts and charges ... ..	9
12. Provincial receipt and charges ... ..	11
13. Grants-in-aid ... ..	12
14. Miscellaneous charges ... ..	12
15. Average cost and average fee ... ..	13

## II.—CONTROLLING AGENCIES.

PARA.	PAGE
16. Direction ... ..	13
17. Inspection ... ..	13
18. Personnel ... ..	15
19. Improvements in conditions of service ... ..	17

## III.—UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE EDUCATION.

20. Universities ... ..	17
-------------------------	----

## A.—THE MADRAS UNIVERSITY.

I. University Organization ... ..	17
II. The Senate ... ..	19
III. The Syndicate and the University Officials ... ..	20
IV. The Academic Council ... ..	21
V. University Regulations, Courses of Study and Examinations ... ..	21
VI. University Research ... ..	24
VII. University Lectures ... ..	27
VIII. Constituent and Affiliated Institutions ... ..	29
IX. Miscellaneous ... ..	30
X. Finance ... ..	33
XI. University Library ... ..	35

## B.—THE ANDHRA UNIVERSITY.

I. The Andhra University ... ..	37
II. The Senate ... ..	38
III. The Syndicate and the University Officials ... ..	39
IV. The Academic Council ... ..	40
V. Affiliated Institutions ... ..	42
VI. The University Library ... ..	43
VII. Finances ... ..	43
21. The Madras University Training Corps ... ..	44

## C.—ARTS COLLEGES.

22. Number of Colleges ... ..	45
23. Accommodation and equipment ... ..	46
24. Number and distribution of students in Arts Colleges ... ..	46
25. Staff ... ..	47

## D.—COLLEGES OR DEPARTMENTS OF COLLEGES FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

*Law.*

26. The Law College, Madras ... ..	47
------------------------------------	----

*Medicine.*

27. The Medical Colleges ... ..	48
---------------------------------	----

*Engineering.*

28. The Engineering College, Guindy ... ..	49
--	----

CONTENTS

*Teaching.*

PABA.	PAGE
29. The Teachers' College ... ..	50

*Veterinary.*

30. The Veterinary College, Madras ... ..	51
---	----

*Forestry.*

31. The Forest College, Coimbatore ... ..	51
---	----

*Agriculture.*

32. The College of Agriculture, Coimbatore ... ..	53
---	----

IV.—SECONDARY EDUCATION.

33. Character and Scope of Secondary Education ... ..	54
34. Admissions ... ..	57
35. Promotions ... ..	58
36. Fees ... ..	58
37. The Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Scheme ... ..	58
38. Staff ... ..	62
39. Accommodation ... ..	64
40. Equipment ... ..	65
41. Methods of Teaching ... ..	65
42. Manual Training and Practical Instruction ... ..	67
43. Moral and Religious training ... ..	68
44. Parental Control and discipline ... ..	69
45. Physical Education, Hygiene and Medical inspection ... ..	69
46. District Secondary Education Boards ... ..	71
47. Number and strength of Secondary Schools ... ..	72
48. Expenditure on Secondary Schools for boys ... ..	72
49. General ... ..	72

V.—ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

50. Number of Schools and Managing Agencies ... ..	73
51. Strength of Elementary Schools ... ..	74
52. Distribution of pupils among standards ... ..	74
53. Compulsion ... ..	78
54. Curriculum and methods of teaching ... ..	78
55. Vocational Education and Manual Training ... ..	79
56. Inspection of Elementary Schools ... ..	79
57. Staffing of Elementary Schools ... ..	80
58. Accommodation ... ..	81
59. Equipment ... ..	82
60. Expenditure on Elementary Schools for boys ... ..	83

VI.—SPECIAL EDUCATION.

A.—TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

61. Chief characteristics of the quinquennium ... ..	83
62. Number of institutions ... ..	85
63. Accommodation and Equipment ... ..	86
64. Staff ... ..	86
65. Strength, Stipends and Admissions ... ..	87
66. Manual instruction ... ..	87
67. Examinations and Certificates ... ..	87

## B.—LAW SCHOOLS.

PART.	PAGE
68. Law Schools .. .. .	88

## C.—MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

69. Medical Schools ... .. .	88
------------------------------	----

## D.—TECHNICAL, INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND ART EDUCATION.

70. Technical and Industrial Education ... .. .	89
71. Government Trades School, Madras ... .. .	90
72. Railway Branch School, Perambur ... .. .	91
73. The Leather Trades Institute, Madras ... .. .	92
74. The School of Arts and Crafts, Madras ... .. .	93
75. The Government Textile Institute, Madras ... .. .	94
76. Government Industrial Institute, Madura ... .. .	96
77. Aided Industrial Institutions ... .. .	97
78. The Agricultural Schools ... .. .	101
79. The Institute of Commerce, Madras ... .. .	102
80. The School of Commerce, Calicut ... .. .	102
81. Do. Vizagapatam ... .. .	103
82. The Engineering School, Trichinopoly ... .. .	103
83. Do. Vizagapatam .. .. .	103
84. The Reformatory Schools ... .. .	103

## VII.—WOMEN'S EDUCATION.

85. Expansion and Control ... .. .	104
86. Staffing of Girls' Schools ... .. .	105
87. Expenditure on Girls' Schools ... .. .	107
88. Medical inspection ... .. .	107
89. Moral and religious instruction ... .. .	108

*Collegiate education.*

90. Collegiate education ... .. .	108
-----------------------------------	-----

*Secondary education.*

91. Number and strength .. .. .	109
92. Accommodation and equipment ... .. .	111
93. Curriculum ... .. .	112

*Elementary education.*

94. Number and Strength ... .. .	113
95. Accommodation and equipment ... .. .	114
96. Curriculum ... .. .	114
97. Inspecting agency ... .. .	115

## VIII.—EDUCATION OF EUROPEANS.

98. The chief features of the quinquennium ... .. .	115
99. Number and strength of institutions ... .. .	119
100. Special Subjects Training Centre ... .. .	119
101. Staff and Training ... .. .	120
102. Examinations ... .. .	121



## IX.—EDUCATION OF MUHAMMADANS.

PARA.	PAGE
103. Progress of Muhammadan Education... ..	121
104. Secondary schools ... ..	122
105. Girls' education... ..	123
106. Special schools ... ..	124
107. Education of Mappillas ... ..	124
108. Education in the Laccadives ... ..	126
109. Employment of Muhammadans in the Department ... ..	126
110. Expenditure on Muhammadan Education ... ..	126

## X.—EDUCATION OF BACKWARD AND OTHER SPECIAL CLASSES.

111. Depressed classes ... ..	126
112. Criminal Tribes ... ..	129
1. Settlements ... ..	129
2. Kallars ... ..	130
113. Aboriginal and Hill tribes ... ..	131
114. Convict schools ... ..	131
115. Children employed in Factories and on Estates ... ..	132

## XI.—EDUCATION OF THE BLIND AND OF DEAF MUTES.

116. Education of the Blind and of Deaf Mutes ... ..	132
--	-----

## XII.—EDUCATION OF INDIAN CHIEFS AND NOBLEMEN.

117. Education of Indian Chiefs and Noblemen ... ..	133
---	-----

## XIII.—PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

118. Classification of institutions .. ..	133
119. Maktabas (Quran Schools) ... ..	134
120. Mulla Schools (Arabic Schools) ... ..	134
121. Tols (Sanskrit Schools) ... ..	134
122. Patasalas ... ..	135

## XIV.—SCHOLARSHIPS.

123. Scholarships ... ..	135
--------------------------	-----

## XV.—HOSTELS.

124. Hostels ... ..	136
125. Expenditure on hostels ... ..	137

## XVI.—BOOKS.

126. Government Oriental Manuscripts Library ... ..	138
127. The Text Book Committee ... ..	138
128. Registration of Books ... ..	139

## XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

PARA.	PAGE
129. Education in Cantonment Areas ... ..	139
130. Provident Funds ... ..	140
131. Bulletins ... ..	140
132. Educational Associations and Reading Rooms ... ..	140
133. Schoolmasters as Postmasters ... ..	141
134. Service Registers and inventories of valuable stock ... ..	141

## GENERAL EDUCATIONAL TABLES.

(1) General summary of educational institutions and scholars ... ..	145
(2) General summary of expenditure on education ... ..	146
(3) I. Classification of educational institutions ... ..	147
(4) II-A. Distribution of scholars attending educational institutions for males ... ..	148-149
(5) II-B. Distribution of scholars attending educational institutions for females ... ..	150-151
(6) III-A. Expenditure on education for males ... ..	152-155
(7) III-B. Do. do. females ... ..	156-159
(8) IV-A. Race or creed of scholars in institutions for general education of males ... ..	160
(9) IV-B. Race or creed of scholars in institutions for the general education of females ... ..	161
(10) V-A. Race or creed of scholars in institutions for the vocational and special education for males ... ..	162
(11) V-B. Race or creed of scholars in institutions for the vocational and special education of females ... ..	163
(12) VI. Men Teachers ... ..	164
(13) Women Teachers ... ..	165
(14) VII. European education ... ..	166
(15) VIII. Examination results ... ..	167-168
(16) Scholars by classes and ages ... ..	169