

CHAPTER II

GROWTH OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu is the southernmost state of India. The population of the State according to 1971 census was 41.2 millions. This population is distributed among fifteen revenue districts covering an area of 1,30,000 sq.kms. Thirty percent of the population lives in urban areas, while seventy percent lives in rural areas. Tamil is the principal language spoken by 34.8 million, i.e., 84.5% of the population. Telugu and Kannada rank second and third with 3.6 million (8.7%) and 1.1 million (2.6%) of the population, respectively. Religion-wise, Hindus constitute 36.7 million (89%), Christians 2.4 million (5.8%), and Moslems 2.1 million (5.1%). The population of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was 7.3 million and .3 million, respectively, i.e., 17.7% and 0.7% of the total population in 1971. The Backward Class and the "Others" (Forward Class) formed 54% and 27.6%, each.

Growth of Institutions of Higher Education

Table II-1 presents the picture of the growth of Colleges (type-wise) from 1970-71 to 1976-77. The basis of reckoning of institutions of Higher Education excludes colleges meant only for Pre-University, Pre-Professional Courses, non-degree Special Education Colleges and Institutions of National Importance devoted primarily to Research. It will be noticed from the Table that from 1970-71 to 1976-77, the growth in the number of institutions for Higher Education in the state has been slow and steady, signifying perhaps that Tamil Nadu has already reached the desired growth in Higher Education.

A detailed break-up of institutions of Higher Education in Tamil Nadu during 1976-77 is given in Table II-2.

The Educational Ladder¹

According to the operative nomenclature in the State, Schools with classes I to V are called Primary or Lower Elementary Schools, those with class I to VIII or VI to VIII are called Middle or Higher Elementary Schools and those with class I to XI or VI to XI or IX or XI are called High Schools.

A child in the state usually starts going to school at the age of 5 plus. But in areas where compulsory education has been enforced, he should be admitted to a recognised school on completion of six years of age.

The bulk of pupils on completion of middle or higher elementary school courses enter the 3-year-high-school,

1 "Educational Administration in Tamil Nadu - A Survey 1977"
National Staff College for Educational Planners and
Administrators, New Delhi-6.

TABLE II-1

GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION IN TAMIL NADU (TYPE-WISE)
1970-71 TO 1976-77

Year	Universities/ Institutions deemed to be Universities	Arts, Science Commerce College	Professional Colleges	Total	Increase in number + -	Percentage of increase + -
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1970-71	3	162	74	236	-	-
1971-72	4	169	77	246	10	4.2
1972-73	4	177	77	254	8	3.3
1973-74	4	181	77	258	4	1.6
1974-75	4	190	77	267	9	3.5
1975-76	4	195	77	272	3	1.1
1976-77	5	196	77	273	1	0.4

Note: The Number of Degree Colleges excludes Pre-University, Pre-Professional and Special Education, Non-degree Colleges.

Source: University Development in India, Basic Facts and Figures, Part I
Sec. A, U.G.C. Publications, New Delhi, 1974, 1976, 1979.

TABLE II-2
DETAILED BREAK-UP OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
IN TAMIL NADU - 1976-77

University/ Institutions deemed-to-be- University	Arts, Science Commerce Colleges	Engineering and Technical	Medicine	Unani/ Ayurveda	Dental	Pharmacy	Nursing	Agricu- lture
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tamil Nadu Agricultural	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Madras	115	7	8	1	-	-	1	-
Madurai	81	2	3	1	-	-	-	-
Total	196	10	11	2	-	-	1	2

TABLE II-2 (CONTD...)

University/ Institutions deemed-to-be- University	Veteri- nery	Law	Teacher Training	Music	Oriental Learning	Physical Education	Total of Professional College	Grand Total
1	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	(216)
Tamil Nadu Agricultural	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Madras	-	2	15	1	15	2	52	167
Madurai	-	1	9	1	3	1	21	102
Total	1	3	24	2	18	3	77	273

Note: The Residential Unitary University of Annamalai Nagar, Bhidambaram, South Arcot Dist., is not included.

Source: University Development in India, Basic Facts & Figures, 1972-76, Part I, Sec.A-Pages 66 and 70, U.G.C. Publication - New Delhi 1979.

while a small segment join the technical high school, which again is of three years' duration. Some middle school leavers, who prefer technical or vocational training, join the ITI's and take a two-year course in some trade like fitter, machinist, welder etc., After the regular high school course, the students have to take the one-year pre-university course to get admission to the three-year-degree-course leading to the degree of B.A., B.Com., or B.Sc., Those who take to teaching, can join teacher training schools directly after secondary-school-leaving-certificate examination which is conducted at the end of the three-year high-school course.

Some students on successful completion of the pre-university course join a medical college for the M.B.B.S. degree. Those who wish to pursue engineering courses, join the one-year-pre-technology course instead of the Pre-University Class. Candidates possessing secondary school leaving certificate as well as those coming out of the technologically-oriented courses offered by polytechnics and technical high schools are also eligible to join the engineering colleges. Master's degrees are awarded on completion of two-year courses after the first degree as is the practice everywhere else in the country. The one-year B.Ed. and one year M.Ed., are, however, exceptions to this rule.

Ordinarily, a student who goes through his/her school and graduate studies in college without any failure or repetition, is expected to complete his/her graduation in Arts, Science or Commerce at 19+ and in Medicine (M.B.B.S.) or Engineering (B.E.) at 21+.

Faculty-wise Enrolment

Tables II-3 and II-4 show the faculty-wise enrolment during 1970-71 to 1976-77 in India and Tamil Nadu, respectively. During the six-year period the enrolment in Higher Education in India increased from 19.4 lakhs to 24.3 lakhs, that is, by

25.3%, while in Tamil Nadu during the same period enrolment increased from 1.3 lakhs to 1.6 lakhs, that is, by 23.1%. The annual compound rates of growth were 4.7% for India and 4.3% for Tamil Nadu. As compared to the earlier period of 1950-51 to 1969-70 when all over India the enrolments in Higher Education have been known to be increasing at the rate of 8 to 9 percent per annum, this represents a definite slackening in the rate of growth. The population of India is increasing at the rate of about 2.2 percent per annum. The significance of this slackening in the rate of growth of Higher Education, therefore is that, Higher Education which accounts for only 3.2 percent of the relevant age-group in Tamil Nadu would still continue to account for a very small fraction of the relevant population for quite some time to come. The other interesting point brought out by the tables is the relative pre-ponderance of General Courses such as Arts, Science and Commerce in Tamil Nadu as well as in India. Nearly 4/5ths of the students enrolled in Higher Education pursued these courses. Only 1/5th of the students took up Engineering, Medicine and other Professional Courses in Tamil Nadu and in India. In Tamil Nadu, enrolment in Science Courses was much more prominent as compared to India as a whole. Enrolment in Science Courses formed 32.9% in Tamil Nadu as against only 18.2% in India, in 1976-77.

Enrolment of Women

In 1976-77, the enrolment position of women was as follows:

ENROLMENT OF WOMEN

	Total Enrolment	Enrolment of Women	Women's Enrol- ment as Percen- tage of total Enrolment
India	24,31,563	6,27,346	25.8
Tamil Nadu	1,63,902	46,199	28.2

TABLE II-3

FACULTY-WISE ENROLMENT - ALL INDIA
(1970-71 TO 1976-77)

Year	Arts	Science	Commerce	Engineering	Medicine	Others	Total	Percentage increase over the previous year
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1970-71	8,39,002 (43.2%)	5,12,357 (26.4%)	2,54,506 (13.1%)	84,903 (4.4%)	89,438 (4.6%)	1,62,721 (8.4%)	19,42,927 (100%)	8.8
1971-72	9,02,888 (43.9%)	5,04,941 (24.5%)	2,89,946 (14.1%)	80,423 (3.9%)	89,781 (4.4%)	1,89,244 (9.2%)	20,57,223 (100%)	5.9
1972-73	9,63,044 (44.4%)	4,94,599 (22.8%)	3,18,888 (14.7%)	82,674 (3.8%)	99,643 (4.6%)	2,09,259 (9.6%)	21,68,107 (100%)	5.4
1973-74	10,03,375 (44.9%)	4,73,685 (21.2%)	3,40,392 (15.2%)	86,665 (3.9%)	1,02,242 (4.6%)	2,28,026 (10.2%)	22,34,385 (100%)	3.1
1974-75	10,56,077 (44.6%)	4,63,441 (19.6%)	3,89,504 (16.5%)	90,585 (3.8%)	1,06,340 (4.5%)	2,60,494 (11.0%)	23,66,541 (100%)	5.9
1975-76	10,79,990 (44.5%)	4,63,841 (19.1%)	4,14,946 (17.1%)	96,067 (4.0%)	1,05,140 (4.3%)	2,66,125 (10.9%)	24,26,109 (100%)	2.5
1976-77	10,78,967 (44.4%)	4,43,013 (18.2%)	4,30,387 (17.7%)	1,00,040 (4.1%)	1,13,151 (4.6%)	2,66,005 (10.9%)	24,31,563 (100%)	0.2

Note: a) Col.(7) 'Others' - Education, Agriculture, Vet. Science, Law & Others

b) Excludes - Pre-University, Inter-mediate, Pre-Professional and Institutions of National Importance.

Source: 1) University Development in India-Volumes - 1970-71 to 1976-77 - U.G.C. - New Delhi

2) Third All India Educational Survey - Higher Education - 1973-74, U.G.C. New Delhi

TABLE II-4

FACULTY-WISE ENROLMENT - TAMIL NADU
(1970-71 TO 1976-77)

Year	Arts	Science	Commerce	Engineering & Technical	Medicine	Others	Total	Percentage increase over the previous year
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1970-71	48,829 (37.8%)	45,704 (35.4%)	8,121 (7.1%)	8,370 (6.5%)	9,931 (7.7%)	7,243 (5.5%)	1,29,198 (100%)	10.2
1971-72	53,050 (37.9%)	48,026 (34.3%)	11,124 (7.9%)	8,845 (6.3%)	9,927 (7.1%)	8,989 (6.5%)	1,39,961 (100%)	8.3
1972-73	57,032 (37.1%)	52,152 (33.9%)	16,008 (10.4%)	8,934 (5.8%)	10,960 (7.1%)	8,551 (5.6%)	1,53,637 (100%)	9.8
1973-74	61,282 (38.9%)	52,898 (33.6%)	14,869 (9.4%)	8,759 (5.6%)	10,325 (6.5%)	9,437 (5.9%)	1,57,570 (100%)	2.6
1974-75	62,213 (38.8%)	52,260 (32.6%)	15,302 (9.5%)	9,561 (5.9%)	10,624 (6.6%)	10,246 (6.4%)	1,60,206 (100%)	1.7
1975-76	58,471 (35.9%)	53,578 (32.9%)	18,725 (11.5%)	12,187 (7.5%)	10,075 (6.2%)	9,698 (5.9%)	1,62,734 (100%)	1.6
1976-77	56,022 (34.2%)	53,998 (32.9%)	20,789 (12.7%)	12,279 (7.5%)	11,287 (6.9%)	9,527 (5.8%)	1,63,902 (100%)	0.7

Note: a) Col.7 "Others" - Education, Agriculture, Vet.Science, Law and others.

b) Excludes - Pre-University, Intermediate, Pre-professional and Institutions of National Importance

Source: University Development in India - Vols. 1970-71 to 1976-77 - U.G.C. New Delhi
Third All India Educational Survey - Higher Education - 1973-74 - U.G.C. New Delhi