



# The Role of Tirunelveli Diocese Trust Association for Promoting Education in Nanguneri Taluk-A Study

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## ARTICLE INFO

## ABSTRACT

Education is the process of helping people learn and acquire knowledge, skills, values, morals, beliefs, and habits. Methods of education include teaching, training, storytelling, discussions, and guided research. Education enhances people's understanding of themselves and the world around them. It provides individuals with the best opportunities to succeed in modern society. Christian missionaries have long been involved in providing education through various institutions. They built many schools across the Tirunelveli district even before the government took serious steps to promote primary education. The missionaries, particularly those from the C.S.I. Diocese, have had the greatest impact in the area of women's education. Christian educational institutions have played a significant role in advancing women's education, increasing the number of female students in primary and secondary schools, as well as in colleges and teacher training programs. The TDTA (Tirunelveli Diocese Trust Association) educational institutions focus strongly on character development. This paper aims to highlight the role of the Tirunelveli Diocese Trust Association in promoting primary education in Nanguneri Taluk, located in Tirunelveli District. Nanguneri is known for its holiness and fertile soil.

**Key words:** Learning – Knowledge – Skills – Values – Beliefs - Christian Missionaries - Tirunelveli District - C.S.I. Diocese - Educational Institutions – TDTA.

## Introduction

This paper Aims to bring out the role of Tirunelveli Diocese Trust Association for promoting Primary Education in Nanguneri Taluk, in Tirunelveli District. Nanguneri, reputed for its holiness and fertility of the soil. Apart from that it also has a another important glorious history in the field of education. Particularly in Thirukurankudi, they Provided Veda padasalai, Education and Gurukula Education. The introduction of English Education by the Christian Missionaries marked the beginning of many revolutionary changes in the region of Nanguneri Taluk. The earliest efforts of Christion Missionaries Society (C.M.S) and S.P.G Missionaries and Private Societies introduced changes in the existing indigenous system. The introduction of Elementary Education by the British Government laid the foundations for the Growth of Education system in the Madras Presidency. It also lead the Educational Growth in the region of Nanguneri. Subsequently the Introduction of compulsory Education leads the Steady Progress In the field of Education. The Church of South India also contributed a lot for the growth of education in Nanguneri Taluk through its association like Tirunelveli Diocese Trust Association, from the year 1935 to 1987. It started many primary Schools in Nanguneri Taluk.

## Location

Nanguneri is located twenty-nine kilometres from south of Tirunelveli. Highways (NH7). It is on the northern bank of the river Nambi. Earlier Nanguneri was surrounded by Four lakes. Nanguneri was also called as Sri-Vara-Mangai Nagar, Sri-Vara-Mangalam, and Thothathri-Shetra. The Vanamamalai perumal temple at Nanguneri is dedicated to Lord Thothathirinathar and is celebrated as the as the seat of

Vaishnavism glorified by the Nammalvar of the seventh century A.D. Nanguneri is the 9th in the series of the 108 Divyadesas dedicated to Lord Vishnu sung by Alwars.<sup>1</sup>

Education is the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, morals, beliefs, and habits. Education methods include teaching, training, storytelling, discussion, and directed research. Education enriches people's understanding of themselves and of the world. Education provides one with the best opportunities to become successful in modern society.<sup>2</sup>

### Early Education

In this region, earlier, there were native Padasalas established by the mutts and brahmins. The languages of education in the conventional system were Sanskrit and the vernacular. Sanskrit education has provided by the Vanamamalai Mutt. Brahmins received free education from the centres.<sup>3</sup> Vedic schools and Gurukula teachings were also available at Thirukurungudi. Evidence of These System existed through inscriptions.<sup>4</sup> For explain in Nanguneri Vanamamalai temples South wall the first Prakara's, inscription of Thiruvananthakravarthi Maravarmam Kulasekharapandiyar, 1268–1312 in mentioned the study of Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda, and Atharveda and also teaching Sastras and recital of the Purnas, they have given the tax gift of land made for education. On these basis in Nanguneri everyone started their education.<sup>5</sup>

### Early Role of the C.M.S. and the S.P.G. Missions

One Rev. John Thomas belonging to Church Mission Society (CMS) preached the gospel at Megnanapuram, Vellalanvilai, and Nalumavadi between 1837 and 1868. From 1846 until 1849, the Rev. Pettitt, Rhenius's successor, was in charge of building new churches at Alwaneri, Dohnavur, and Pannaivilai. One of the noteworthy Missionaries, Thomas Ragland, visited north Tirunelveli in 1845 and carried out gospel work in Virudupatti (today Virudunagar) and Sivakasi from 1854 to 1858. Satchiapuram was created as a result of his committed service. Consequently, the C.M.S. was successful in spreading Christianity throughout the Tirunelveli district. The Diocese of Madras oversaw the operation of every church in the Tirunelveli district.<sup>6</sup> The congregations in Tirunelveli had reached a point of saturation where, in the opinion of the fourth Bishop of the Madras Diocese, Rt. Rev. Frederick Cell, they could now operate as a separate Diocese. He encountered certain challenges in making repeated trips from primary school to Tirunelveli. He therefore desired to cut Tirunelveli off from the Diocese of Madras. Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras were the three dioceses in existence at the time in India. Their affiliation with the Church of England meant that to establish new dioceses in their colonies, only the British Parliament had the authority. This rule caused the bishop's eager endeavour to be delayed. The English Parliament approved an Act in 1874 that granted the ability to Assistant Bishop Primary School would be appointed by India By the year 1898.<sup>7</sup> There are a total of 190 schools in Nanguneri Taluk. 81 schools were established before independence. Following independence, an additional 109 schools came into existence. The Government High School, North Vijayanarayam School, was the oldest school started in this taluk. It was stated in 1898 by the British Government. The total number of literate people in the taluk is 72,140 out of 37,397 who are male and 34,743 are female.<sup>8</sup> He was then free to move forward. Indian Anglican churches gained independence from the Church of England in December 1927. It resulted in the founding of the churches in Ceylon, Burma, and India. The Metropolitan Bishop of Calcutta gained control over them. The majority of the doctrine and ecclesiastical structure were based on the church in England. The Bishopric of Tirunelveli was acknowledged as a self-governing organisation by the Church of India, Burma, and Ceylon General Council, which met in Calcutta in March 1930 and established a constitution for the church. The Diocese of Tirunelveli was given the official name and received a new Episcopal seal.<sup>9</sup>

### Origin of Tirunelveli Diocese Trust Association (TDTA)

The Tinnevely Diocesan Trust Association (TDTA) was created in 1919 by combining forces with adjacent mission, baptist, and presbyterian churches. The Diocese of Tirunelveli, belonging to the Church of South India, is the owner of the registered trust known as the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association. The Tirunelveli Diocese has made significant contribution to education. The Diocese of Tirunelveli is one of the 24 dioceses among the Church of South India. Tamil Nadu is also home to the organisation's headquarters. The diocese has 1,860 members, 687 congregations, and 101 pastors. Holy Trinity Cathedral, which is situated in Palayamkottai, serves as the important cathedral for the Tirunelveli Diocese. The churches in Tirunelveli were initially started by Missionaries from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) and the Church Missionary Society (CMS).<sup>10</sup> Many individuals who were steeped in ignorance and superstition saw improvements in their lives indebted to them. Investigation into the history of Missionaries reveals that more than 15% of Indians receive their education from Christian institutions; their contribution in the sphere of education is significant. Of course, there are few Christian educational institutions in India, but they only make up around 14 to 15% of the total. This is true of Tirunelveli District in general and of Tamil Nadu as a whole. To better understand their service, a study is necessary. Primary, middle, secondary, and even higher educational institutions have been created by the Church of South India. Due to the educational facilities managed by the C.S.I. Diocese, almost one-fourth of the students in this district continue their education. More educational institutions have been constructed by the Tirunelveli Diocese than by any other Christian denomination in the rest of Tamil Nadu.<sup>11</sup>

### **Progress of Tirunelveli Diocese Trust Association**

The Christian Missionaries in Tirunelveli District spread the gospel not just by preaching but also by making consistent efforts to change the locals into a cultural group whose survival would be protected from poverty and armed conflicts. This made it possible for them to have a strong feeling of self-respect and unwavering faith in themselves. Seeing these benefits of worthwhile education as well as others, the Missionaries began their Missionary work by devoting all of their energy to this endeavour. The majority of the inhabitants of the Tirunelveli District during the 20<sup>th</sup> century suffered from illiteracy, neglect, and wilful submission to a brutal social structure that provided protection only to those at the very top of the social hierarchy. The common masses who could read and comprehend the scriptures were the ones who carried out effective gospel ministry that produced abundant fruit. Knowing this to be true, the Missionaries opened educational institutions in Tirunelveli using a well-thought-out plan. As a result, Tirunelveli became one of the most literate regions in Tamil Nadu. In other words, the church and educational institutions worked together.<sup>12</sup>

Every person has a fundamental need for education. All children between the ages of 6 and 14 are entitled to free public education under the Indian Constitution. In an effort to achieve the universalisation of primary education, primary education is being expanded. The biggest basic education system in the world is found in India. In India, there were 209,671 primary schools during 1950–1951, and in 1992–1993, that number greatly increased to 565,786. All primary and middle schools in the diocese have chairman, who are chosen by the bishop. Since the first of June 1996, Rev. Monsingh has served as the middle and primary school principal at Tirunelveli Diocese Trust Association. The manager serves as the T.D.T.A. corporate management for middle and primary schools' principal executive officer. The list of applicants for teacher appointments is sent to the Church Council's Primary Education Subcommittee by the Pastorate Chairman. The list of applicants for teacher appointments is sent to the Church Council's Primary Education Subcommittee by the Pastorate Chairman. The church council accepts suggestions from the chairman of the pastorate or from the inter-pastoral transfer of teachers. Transfers between pastorate levels are handled by the management. The Diocesan Council appoints members to the primary education standing committee. This committee's duties include promoting primary education in general, approving the opening of new primary schools, and reviewing church council resolutions pertaining to primary education.<sup>13</sup>

### **Primary Goals of TDTA**

To support and advance the work of the Church of South India in the District of Tirunelveli. The T.D.T.A has many goals yet, it gave more importance to promoting education. T.D.T.A wanted to Provide Quality Education as an affordable cost for those Children who have no facility for the same. T.D.T.A purpose is to bridge. The relationship between the education experience and the Christian life. It also Insist on the Quality academic Program integrated with Biblical principles. It equities the Students with the essential Skills to be Successful. Accordingly it constructed and opened, Schools, Colleges, Hostels etc.<sup>14</sup>

### **The Standing Committee on Education**

The Education Standing Committee of TDTA was comprised of the Bishop, the Diocesan Council's office holders, the chairmen of the three church councils, the principals of the diocesan colleges, one correspondent from each of the secondary schools, special schools, and training schools, three headmasters or headmistresses, and two teaching staff members, as well as five members of the Diocesan Executive Committee and two bishop-nominated individuals. The Committee had broad influence over the institutes of higher learning. Each college's governing board was fully empowered to oversee the relevant institutions of the diocese. The committee made no adjustments to their choices. About the potential for expanding higher education to various locations within the diocese, surveys were performed. It created and sent the annual budget to the diocesan treasurer each year. It suggested moving the teaching staff, clerical staff, headmasters, and headmistresses to the manager. Depending on the committee's recommendations, the manager had the authority to transfer or appoint any institution staff members. In agreement with the correspondent, he could dismiss the institution's head. The Committee had the authority to create a commission to investigate the overall state of an institution and to counsel the management and correspondent.<sup>15</sup>

### **Establishment of T.D.T.A Primary Schools**

T.D.T.A. Schools came into existence from the Palayamkottai Region. In 1935, T.D.T.A. Stated established Schools at Alwaneri and Thazhaikulam. Of Nanguneri Taluk T.D.T.A wanted to start primary Schools in the Southern part of Tamil Nadu. It had villages with poor education. These schools were established by Christian Missionaries. T.D.T.A. was formed as a charitable Organisational development in the southern region. Accordingly, Till 1987 T.D.T.A. Stared 34 schools in Nanguneri Taluk. The last T.D.T.A. school was formed at Kamaraj Nagar, Parapadi. Thus Children Received School Education through These T.D.T.A. Schools.<sup>16</sup>

### **T.D.T.A Schools in Nanguneri**

There are thirty-four T.D.T.A. schools in Nanguneri Taluk. These schools are classified into two types. They are 31 primary schools and 3 middle school. All thirty-four schools are located in the villages of Nanguneri Taluk.<sup>17</sup>

**List of Schools administered by TDTA in Nanguneri Taluk. Since 1935 are as follows.**

S. No	Name of School	Year of Establishment.	Location /Village
1.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1935	Alwaneri
2.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1935	Thazhaikulam
3.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1939	Alagappapuram
4.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1939	Ittamozhi
5.	T.D.T.A MIDDLE SCHOOL	1939	Meenakshinathapuram
6.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1939	Puthaneri
7.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1939	Maruthakulam
8.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1939	Pillaikulam
9.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1939	Kadankulam
10.	T.D.T.A MIDDLE SCHOOL	1939	Kazhuvur
11.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Perumbanai
12.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Pudur
13.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Arampoondarkulam
14.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Koothankulam
15.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Kusavankulam
16.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Melachettikulam
17.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	A.Sathankulam
18.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Keerankulam
19.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Perumpathu
20.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Sadaneri
21.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Kandihaiperi
22.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Illayanainaarkulam
23.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1940	Pappankulam
24.	T.D.T.A MIDDLE SCHOOL	1941	Parappadi
25.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1941	Alankulam
26.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1941	Subramaniapuram
27.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1942	Iraniankudiruppu
28.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1943	Yamankulam
29.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1953	Perianadarkudi
30.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1953	Karunkannankudirupu
31.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1958	Puthukurichi
32.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1979	Mankulam
33.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1985	Kadankulam
34.	T.D.T.A PRIMARY SCHOOL	1987	Kamarajanagar. <sup>18</sup>

**T.D.T.A Primary School Alwaneri**

It was established in 1935, at Alwaneri. It is situated in a rural setting. The school has students from standards 1 to 5, it has co-educational school system. The Schools Timing Starts from 9:30 to 3:30 p.m. The medium of instruction in this school is Tamil. This School is for owed the Rules and regulations of Government of Tamil Nadu two classrooms. It other than teaching. Headmaster and teachers each have their own room at the institution. One working female restroom as well, and one playground at the T.D.T.A. provided all infrastructure success as, Electric Facility, Compound wall water facilities etc. Library it has 132 books. To access classrooms, the School has disabled students do not require a ramp at the school. At present these are 32 students are Midday meals are offered by the school, which also prepares them there. Learning their primary school Education<sup>19</sup>

**T.D.T.A Primary School at Thazhaikulam**

It was established in 1935, at Thazhaikulam. It is situated in a rural setting. The school has students from standards 1 to 5, It has co-educational school system. The Schools Timing Starts from 9:30 to 3:30 p.m. The medium of instruction in this school is Tamil. This School is for owed the Rules and regulations of Government of Tamil Nadu two classrooms. It other than teaching. Headmaster and teachers each have their own room at the institution. One working female restroom as well, and one playground at the T.D.T.A. provided all infrastructure success as, Electric Facility, Compound wall water facilities etc. Library it has 230



books. To access classrooms, the School has disabled students do not require a ramp at the school. At present these are 30 students are Midday meals are offered by the school, which also prepares them there. Learning their primary school Education.<sup>20</sup>

### 1939's

T.D.T.A schools in Nanguneri Taluk received a good response from the parents and society. As a result, parents were reluctant to send their children to school. The T.D.T.A administration has planned to started more schools. In 1935 these schools were started at 8 Nanguneri Taluk in 1939 for the educational benefit of the students of the villages. They began to provide the necessary assistance to those schools through the church itself. All of them were primary schools. The T.D.T.A were started schools at Alagappapuram, Itamozhi, Meenatchinathapuram, Puthaneri, Maruthakulam, Pillaikulam, Karkulam, and Kazhuvur.<sup>21</sup>

### T.D.T.A. School, Alagappapuram

T.D.T.A. Primary Schools Alagappapuram was started in 1939 Aided. It's situated in a remote region. There is a Separate building at the school. For educational reasons, it has two classrooms. Every classroom is in wall established shape. The school uses functional tap water as its supply of drinking water. There is one functioning lavatory for boys and one functional lavatory for girls at the school. The school has a playground. 211 Books are be found in the school's library. Children with disabilities can enter classrooms without the need for a ramp at the school. There are no computers at the school for use in instruction or learning. At present these are 35 students are Midday meals are offered by the school, which also prepares them there. Learning their primary school Education.<sup>22</sup>

### 1940's

The year 1940 can be said to be a treasured year for the rural areas in Nanguneri Taluk. Because it was only in 1940 that the TDTA schools were started by the Tirunelveli Diocese Trust Association Church in 13 villages of the region. Therefore, the Tirunelveli Diocese Trust Association. Church is the most important reason for the development of education in Nanguneri Taluk. Perumbani, Pudur, Arampoondankulam, Koonthankulam, Kusavankulam, Melachettikulam, and A. Sathankulam, Keerankulam, Perumpathu, Sadaneri, Kandihaperi, Ilayanainarkulam, and Papankulam. TDTA schools were started in villages like It is noteworthy that primary education was developed in Nanguneri Taluk. This All T.D.T.A Schools academic year at this school begins in April.<sup>23</sup>

### T.D.T.A. Primary School, Pudur

It was established in 1940, at Pudur. It's situated in a rural region. It is situated in a rural setting. The school has students from standards 1 to 5. There is no separate pre-primary division at this co-educational institution. The medium of instruction in this school is Tamil. There is an all-weather road that leads to this school. There is a private building at the school. For educational reasons, it has two classrooms. Every classroom is in good shape. Two more rooms are available for uses other than instruction. The headmaster and teacher of the school have their own rooms. There isn't a border wall at the school. There is an electrical connection at the school. The school's well provides a functional supply of drinking water. There is one functional restroom for girls and zero for boys at the school. The school features a play area. There is a library at the school with 285 books. There are no computers at the school for use in instruction or learning. There isn't a computer-aided learning lab at the school. Midday meals are prepared and served by the school on school property. At present these are 20 students are Midday meals are offered by the school, which also prepares them there. Learning their primary school Education.<sup>24</sup>

### T.D.T.A Primary School Kamaraj Nagar

It was established in the year 1987. It is situated in a rural background. The school has admitted the students from standard I to IV. It is a Coeducational Institution, does not have a separate pre-primary division. The medium of instruction in this school is Tamil. For educational Development, it has two classrooms. It features two more rooms for uses other than teaching. The source of drinking water in the school is Bore well Water. The school has a Very good playground. The school has a library it contains 297 books. At present there are 40 students are Midday meals studying and received. This Scheme helped the rural students for learning their primary school Education.<sup>25</sup>

### T.D.T.A Schools in the contribution of Development

In the early 20th century, T.D.T.A. schools were started in rural places. At the time, children were really enjoyed to go school and studying. They were learning and gained the basic knowledge. Their parents also come from a poor background and supported their children to get knowledge. Apart from these a lot of girl children came to school and gained their basic knowledge. T.D.T.A. schools weekly conducted sports day and trained their students, so a lot of children's are interested in participating in sports like ko-ko, kabadi, etc. T.D.T.A. schools conducted an annual day in every year for those who studied well. They will give prizes and motivate their students when they participate in sports. It leads them to participate in other events

competitions district sports which offered by the schools or Sports authorities. Many Students were received medicals.<sup>26</sup>

In T.D.T.A. schools are opened in the morning at 9:30 am. The first bell was a prayer bell. Every morning, 15 minutes of assembly prayer, they sing the national anthem, read the Bible, and sing one Thirukural with an explanation. They read one or two important current affairs from the newspaper. After completing the first two hour classes, There is an another interval break for Teen minutes. Every day afternoon, 12:30-1:10 pm, is a time for time for lunch. Students eat their lunch and share it with their friends. Most of the students come to the school by walk and Bi-cycle some primary schools Classes are Closed at 3 p.m.<sup>27</sup>

### Conclusion

The Christian Missionaries had been providing education through the institutions. They had built Many Schools all over the Tirunelveli district even before the government gave serious attention to primary education. The area of women's education is where the Missionaries of the C.S.I. Diocese have had the most impact. The Christian educational institutions has played a significant role in the advancement of the women Education. It increased the enrolment of female children in primary and secondary schools, as well as the number of female students in colleges and teacher Education. TDTA educational institutions place a greater emphasis on character development. They strengthened value people's inherent dignity. The cornerstones of a democratic government are human freedom and uniqueness. Essentially, these are Christian ideas. They spread these concepts among the pupils that come through their doors. The Diocesan Council created Standing Committees. The Standing Committee on Education which includes The Bishop, the Office Bearers of the Diocesan Council, the Chairman of the three Church Councils, the Principals of the Diocesan Colleges, one Correspondent each from the Training Schools, Special Schools and Secondary Schools, three Headmasters or Headmistresses and two teaching staff, five members of the Diocesan Executive Committee and two persons nominated by the Bishop formed the Education Standing Committee. Through this TDTA Standing Committee Decision the TDTA educational institutions in Nanguneri area have been steadfastly working to preserve and advance human dignity. In the most isolated villages, impoverished rural communities. The Diocese of Tirunelveli is providing more educational facilities. By establishing numerous educational institutions and making education as accessible to all, Christian Missionaries significantly altered this scenario. The lacklustre lives of the blind and the deaf are brightened by the special schools for the visually impaired and the deaf and dumb. The Diocesan Primary School gives pupils the ability to work for themselves in this cutthroat environment. Regardless of caste or creed, these diocesan institutions spread useful knowledge to the People of Nanguneri. Most of the TDTA Schools are comes under the category of Government Aided Institution. TDTA Schools are adopted many Government Schemes and policies Such as Midday meals. Scheme, Free Uniform, Buss pass, supply of free Note books, Scholarship etc. TDTA has Administrating 323 primary Schools in Tirunelveli District. Among the 323 Schools. TDTA established 34 primary Schools in Nanguneri Taluk. These Schools really helped the pupils of Nanguneri for setting their Basic Education. It leads their further Development contributions for promoting education. In Nanguneri Taluk witnessed the socio-economic and cultural development of the people of Nanguneri.

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