



SCHOOL EDUCATION

POLICY NOTE 2013-2014

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SPORTS AND YOUTH WELFARE

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Government of Tamil Nadu
2013



POLICY NOTE 2013-2014

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SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

I. POLICY

கல்வி சிறந்த தமிழ்நாடு-புகழ்க்
கம்பன் பிறந்த தமிழ்நாடு-நல்ல
பல்விதமாயின சாத்திரத்தின்- மணம்
பாரெங்கும் வீசும் தமிழ்நாடு

- மகாகவி பாரதியார்

The Hon'ble Chief Minister with the noble cause of providing quality education to all the children in the State of Tamil Nadu has magnanimously provided a sum of Rs.16,965.30 crores in the budget of 2013-2014 towards School Education, which is 16.57% higher than the budget of the year 2012-2013.

Many successes have been achieved since the previous year in terms of quality of education, implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education, increased enrolment of children particularly girl children, out of school children, differently abled children, bridging of the social and gender gap, appointment of teachers etc.

Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in the introduction of the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) System of education combined with the Trimester pattern. This has obtained appreciation at the National

level and has become a role model for many States to emulate. This system has sought the appreciation of the three important stakeholders namely the students, the teachers and the parents. Enthused by this success, the CCE and the Trimester pattern will be extended to the 9th Standard in the academic year 2013-2014.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has fulfilled all the promises made to the students studying in Government and Government aided schools of Tamil Nadu by ensuring the implementation of the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation System and the Trimester pattern for quality enhancement, supply of four sets of uniforms, laptops, textbooks, notebooks, school bags, educational kits, footwear, atlas and special cash incentive for the children. School Education Department has ensured that all the benefits have reached the students before the end of the academic year 2012-2013.

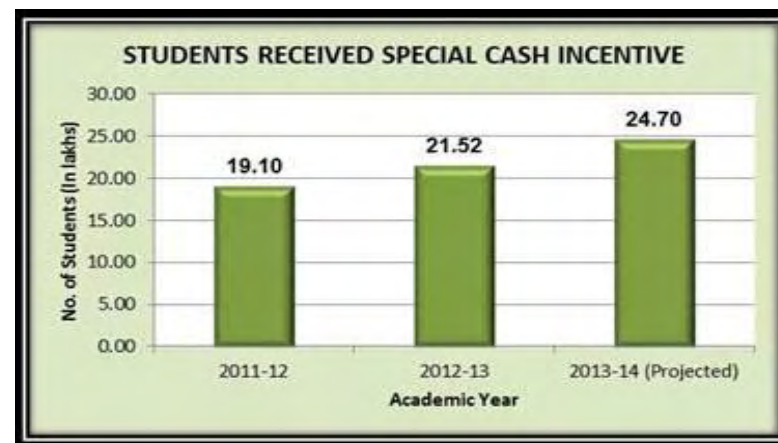
The children who live in hilly areas have to attend schools during inclement weather and very cold conditions. The Hon'ble Chief Minister being seized of

this condition of the children, who live in hilly areas, has been kind enough to sanction woollen sweaters to 10.30 lakh children at a cost of Rs.4.12 crores. Being first of its kind, this scheme will be implemented in the current academic year itself.

The present Net Enrolment Ratio at the primary level and the upper primary level stands at 99.69% and 99% respectively which is an increase over the Net Enrolment Rate in the year 2010-2011 when it stood at 99.60% and 98.84% respectively. The Hon'ble Chief Minister's decision to sanction teaching posts of 49,369 in the year 2011-2012 and 13,756 in the year 2012-2013 has helped to reach the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 1:26.70 in the primary sector and 1:27.28 in the upper primary sector. This is a remarkable jump over the position as of 2010-2011 when the PTR stood at 1:28.18 in the primary sector and 1:35.20 in the upper primary sector. It is of pride for Tamil Nadu to be much above the norms prescribed at the National level which is 1:30 for primary and 1:35 for upper primary.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister in her "**Vision Tamil Nadu-2023**" has laid emphasis on secondary education

and has announced the Special Cash Incentive to reduce drop out at the secondary level. In the year 2011-2012, 19.10 lakh students have benefited with an allocation of Rs.313.13 crores. This has increased to 21.52 lakh students in 2012-2013 with an allocation of Rs.353.56 crores. This year an amount of Rs.381 crores has been allocated to benefit 24.76 lakh children (Graph 1).

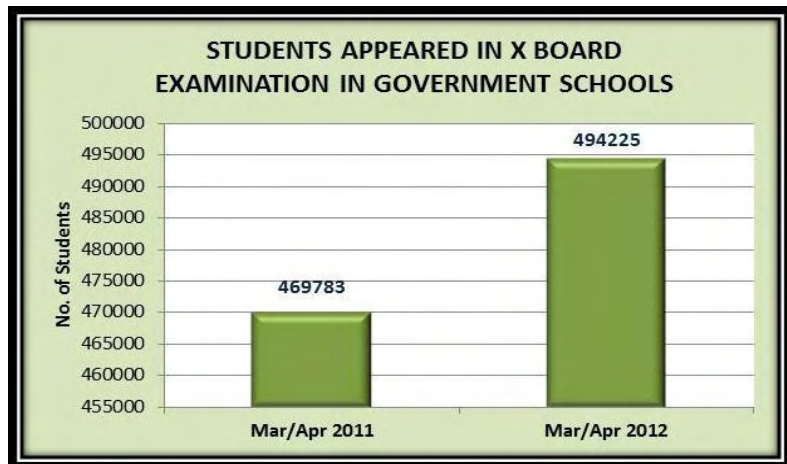


Graph 1

Source: Directorate of School Education

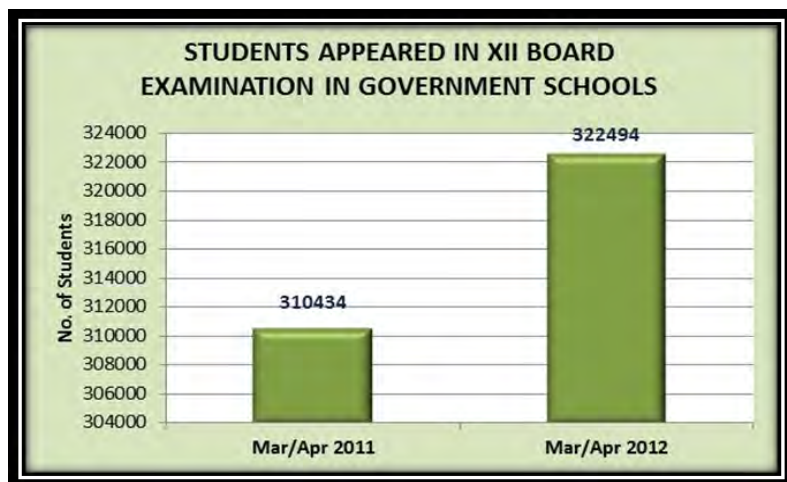
The number of students who appeared in the recently held X and XII board examination is proof enough that there has been a remarkable increase in the continuance of secondary education as compared to the past. In March/April, 2012, in Government schools

4,94,225 students appeared in the X board examination as compared to 4,69,783 in March/April, 2011. (Graph 2).



Graph 2

Source: Directorate of Government Examinations



Graph 3

Source: Directorate of Government Examinations

In the year Mar/Apr 2012, in Government schools, 3,22,494 students appeared in XII board examination as compared to 3,10,434 in March/April 2011. (Graph 3).

Under the able guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, there is no doubt that the School Education Department would shortly become an E-School Education Department with the Geographical Information System (GIS) of mapping. This system of mapping will indicate clearly the location with latitude and longitude of all the schools, the distance from the nearest habitation, infrastructure facilities within the school, road connectivity, rail connectivity etc. This mapping has taken the School Education Department to a much higher level in planning for the future.

The GIS mapping clubbed with the Education Management Information System (EMIS) will help the department to keep a track of not only the schools but also every school going child. The pilot programme initiated in five schools in Tiruchirappalli District by the Hon'ble Chief Minister will be scaled up to the whole State in the current year thereby making Tamil Nadu to

be the first State in the Country to integrate the GIS mapping with the Education Management Information System (EMIS). The database of every child (Government, Government Aided, Private schools) is being stored in the central server of the School Education Department. This will help to track the school going and out of school children, control drop out, analyse the reasons for gender / social gap. This will ensure that the required interventions are made by the State.

The GIS mapping has helped to assess the gap of availability of schools near habitations as prescribed by the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. Based on which, in a phased manner, new primary schools, high schools and higher secondary schools will be provided to ensure 100% enrolment.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered for providing functional toilets and potable drinking water in all the schools in the State. The School Education Department in coordination with Rural Development

and Panchayat Raj Department, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department has initiated steps for providing the facilities in the 2733 Government schools without toilets and 702 Government schools without safe drinking water.. An amount of Rs.50 crores has been allocated under NABARD assistance to fill any gaps so as to ensure 100% coverage of all schools with functional toilets and safe drinking water. This would no doubt provide toilets and safe drinking water in all the Government schools in this academic year itself.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister with her fervor to provide education to all, notified the Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011 and has followed it by forming Monitoring Committees at the State and District level. To ensure implementation of 25% reservation in admission in neighbourhood schools for the weaker section and disadvantaged categories, formats have been prescribed for admission for the academic year 2013-2014. Mother's Clubs have been formed in addition to the School Management Committees in all schools for

carrying out social audit and preparing School Development Plans.

Understanding the need for quality teachers to ensure imparting of good education, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has not only sanctioned 49,369 teaching posts in the year 2011-2012 and 13,756 teaching posts in the year 2012-2013 but also ensured recruitment of 51,757 teachers till date. The record achievement of distribution of 20,920 appointment orders to teachers on one single day by the Hon'ble Chief Minister has created history at the National level. As non-teaching staff are required in the schools, 18,176 posts were sanctioned in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, of which 7,275 have been appointed.

With a view to improving the quality of education to a much higher level many studies had been taken up to assess the reading and writing skills of the school going children. Suitable interventions have been planned to improve the reading and writing skills commensurate to the age of the child. The focus would be to help the child acquire knowledge and think

analytically which would be achieved by improving the content of the textbooks to make it age appropriate, with linkages from one class to the other. The lessons in the textbooks would be presented in a manner to make the child think and analyse rather than to rote. The State Council of Educational Research and Training along with a group of dedicated teachers are in the process of rewriting the textbooks to equalize the schools of Tamil Nadu with the higher boards in the country.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has recently announced inclusion of a lesson on Casteless Society and Cyber Safety at the elementary level. To fulfill this it is proposed to include a lesson each on Casteless Society and Cyber Safety in the current year's text books of classes VI, VII and VIII. This initiative will no doubt go a long way in inculcating good values in the minds of the children.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has left no stone unturned to achieve her vision of providing the best quality education for the children in the State of Tamil

Nadu. The School Education Department will strive hard to achieve the endeavours of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and to place Tamil Nadu in the World School Map.

II. FINANCIAL OUTLAY

The outlay for School Education in 2013-2014 in Demand No.43 is Rs.16,965.30 crores. Of this Rs.2832.19 crores is under Plan Schemes.

Budget Estimate 2013-2014				
		(Rupees in Lakhs)		
	Head of Account	Plan	Non-plan	Total
Revenue Section				
2059	Public Works	--	4042.00	4042.00
2202	General Education			
	01 Elementary Education	117665.35	703649.36	821314.71
	02 Secondary Education	121990.32	696801.86	818792.18
	04 Adult Education	600.00	133.35	733.35
	05 Language Development	2.52	1222.77	1225.29
	Total - General Education	240258.19	1401807.34	1642065.53
2204	Sports and Youth Services	501.18	204.47	705.65
2205	Art and Culture	0.01	6315.70	6315.71
2225	Welfare of SC & ST and Other Backward Classes	12975.47	56.32	13031.79
2235	Social Security and Welfare	--	342.65	342.65
2251	Secretariat-Social Services	--	517.14	517.14
	Revenue Section Net Total	253734.85	1413285.62	1667020.47
Capital Section				
4202	Capital Outlay	29484.60	--	29484.60
	Capital Section Total	29484.60	--	29484.60
Loan Section				
7610	Loans to Government Servants	--	4.91	4.91
7615	Miscellaneous Loans	--	0.49	0.49
	Loan Section Total	--	5.40	5.40
	Grand Total	283219.45	1413291.02	1696510.42
	ADD – Recoveries (Under Revenue Section)			19.81
	Grand Total for Demand No. 43			1696530.28

PART – II SCHEMES FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014

Component I

Sl. No.	Details of the Scheme	Allocated outlay (Rs.in lakhs)
Secretariat - School Education Department		
1.	Computerisation of School Education Department	10.00
Elementary Education		
2.	Construction of buildings for four AEEOs	88.00
3.	Purchase and replacement of 2 jeeps to the DEEOs	12.00
4.	Purchase and replacement of 1 jeep to the DEE	6.00
5.	Management Information System in DEE	6.00
Elementary Education / School Education		
6.	Collaborative Learning through “Connecting Classroom” across Tamil Nadu	13.50
School Education		
7.	Provision of 1 Digital Duplicator and 3 Fax Machines for Directorate of School Education	5.50
8.	Provision of Laptops for 7 State Level Officers	3.00
9.	Provision of New Telephone Cables, Operator Board, EPABX Board to Directorate of School Education	10.00
10.	Provision of photo copiers for 26 DEO Office	19.50

Government Examinations		
11.	Purchase of 2 printers for the use of DGE	3.40
12.	Purchase of 3 scanners for the use of DGE	0.60
13.	Construction of own building for the Office of the Regional Deputy Director of Government Examination, Cuddalore	80.00
Public Libraries		
14.	Purchase of Laptops to 32 District Library Officers	16.00
State Council of Educational Research and Training		
15.	Purchase of 2 smart boards for training programme with Wifi and 2G	2.50
Matriculation Schools		
16.	1 new vehicle to Director of Matriculation Schools in lieu of replacement of old vehicle	6.00
17.	3 new vehicles to Inspectors of Matriculation Schools in lieu of replacement of old vehicles.	18.00
TOTAL		300.00

PART – II SCHEMES FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014

Component II

Sl. No.	Details of the Scheme	Allocated outlay (Rs. in lakhs)
Elementary / School Education		
1.	English Education in the State of Tamil Nadu	38.60
2.	Collaborative Learning through “Connecting Classroom” across Tamil Nadu	10.56

3.	Implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) for IX and X Standard .	98.00
4.	English Language Development Programme for rural children	119.90
5.	Strengthening "Maths Learning" in Upper Primary Schools	128.00
State Council of Educational Research and Training		
6.	Operationalisation of Educational Channel	100.00
TOTAL		495.06

III. POLICY AND SCHEMES

1. WELFARE SCHEMES

1.1. Introduction

Universalization, 100 percent enrolment and retention and quality education have all been made achievable by the welfare measures announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The programmes announced with respect to welfare schemes of children in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 have all been successfully implemented. This will surely go a long way in improving the enrolment in Government schools.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has sanctioned continuance of the welfare measures in the academic year 2013-2014 also. This will benefit 92 lakh children across the state.

WELFARE MEASURES TO STUDENTS

1.2. Supply of Four Sets of Uniform

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has increased the number of uniforms to be given to the children from one set to two sets in 2011-2012 and to four sets from 2012-2013. The four sets of uniform were distributed to 47.07 lakh students at a cost of Rs.329.88 crores by

December 2012. All necessary steps are being taken to distribute the four sets of uniforms for the academic year 2013-2014 in the first quarter of the year itself. A sum of Rs.353.22 crores have been provided for the benefit of 53.53 lakh students in the year 2013-2014.

1.3. Special Cash Incentive to reduce drop out

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has introduced a Special Cash Incentive Scheme to reduce dropout at Secondary level. A sum of Rs.313.13 crores and Rs.353.56 crores for the academic year 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 respectively has been invested in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., benefitting 19.10 lakh students in 2011-2012 and 21.52 lakh students in 2012-2013.

A sum of Rs.381 crores have been provided for the benefit of 24.76 lakh students in the year 2013-2014.

1.4. Supply of Laptops to Students of Class XII

The main flagship programme of the Hon'ble Chief Minister is providing Laptops to the students of XII Standard. This scheme has become a model for the Country and many other States have emulated this

programme. Under this programme, 5,30,729 students benefitted in the academic year 2011-2012 at a cost of Rs.739.78 crores. In the academic year 2012-2013, 5,35,247 students will benefit at a cost of Rs.898 crores. This scheme will be continued in the year 2013-2014 also, 5.50 lakh students will benefit at an approximate cost of Rs.925.01crores.

1.5. Supply of Footwear

With barefoot, Children may be susceptible to certain contagious diseases, which will affect the health of the children, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced to provide a pair of footwear without cost to all school children studying in Government / Government Aided schools from Standard I to X.

In the year 2012-2013, footwear was provided to 78,82,813 students at the cost of Rs.104.15 crores. A sum of Rs.8.47crores has been provided for the benefit of 6.10 lakh students who would be newly enrolling themselves in the year 2013-2014.

1.6. Supply of Educational Kits

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced to provide educational kits consisting of school bag,

geometry box, crayons/ colour pencils and atlases to make the learning process meaningful, easy and child friendly. The details of the students benefitted and the financial outlay for the academic year 2012-2013 are given below.

Item	Standards	Number of Students (In lakh)	Amount (Rs.in crores)
School Bag	I to XII	92.00	127.78
Geometry Box	VI to X	46.00	16.37
Crayons	I, II	11.77	1.97
Colour Pencil	III to V	19.68	3.20
Atlas	VI to X	46.00	13.57

A sum of Rs.33.72 crores have been provided for the benefits of the students freshly enrolling themselves in Government and Government aided schools for the academic year 2013-2014 as shown below.

Item	Standards	Number of Students (In lakh)	Amount (Rs.in crores)
School Bag	I to XII	13.00	19.79
Geometry Box	VI to X	9.67	3.38
Crayons	I, II	33.63	7.70
Colour Pencil	III to V		
Atlas	VI to X	9.67	2.85
Total			33.72

1.7. Supply of Note-books

Notebooks were supplied to 81.02 lakhs students studying in Standards I to X at a cost of Rs.102.69 crores in the year 2012-2013. A sum of Rs.110.96 crores has been provided for the benefit of 86.71 lakh students in the academic year 2013-2014.

1.8. Supply of Text books

Textbooks were provided to 92 lakh students studying in Standards I to XII at a cost of Rs.257.41 crores in the year 2012-2013. A sum of Rs.217.22 crores has been provided for the benefit of 97.70 lakh children in the academic year 2013-2014.

1.9. Providing of Woollen Sweaters

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced during the Collectors' Conference that Woollen Sweaters will be provided to the students in hilly areas who are enrolled in the Noon Meal Programme. 10.30 lakh children in hilly areas will benefit at a cost of Rs.4.12 crores.

1.10. Supply of Bi-Cycle

Bi-Cycles were distributed to 6.31 lakh students studying in standard XI in Government, Government Aided and Partly Aided Schools at a cost of Rs. 194.20 crores in the year 2012-2013. This scheme will be continued in the academic year 2013-2014 also. A sum of Rs.200.98 crores has been provided for the benefit of 6.30 lakh students.

1.11. Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme

Free Noon Meal Under Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme is being given to students studying in classes I to X. Under this scheme 48.63 lakh students benefitted in the academic year 2012-2013. 53.40 lakh students will be benefitted in the ensuing academic year 2013-2014.

1.12. Bus Passes

Bus Passes are being given to the students from Standard I to XII studying in all schools to enable them to access school. Under this scheme, 14.02 lakh students will be benefitted in the academic year 2013-

2014. An amount of Rs.323.70 crores has been allocated for this scheme.

1.13. Financial Assistance for students who have lost their bread winning parents

This scheme is meant for the students whose bread winning parent (father or mother) dies in an accident or is rendered permanently incapacitated. The Government is keen to ensure that the children of such parents are not affected under these unforeseen dire circumstances. The students studying in I to XII Standards of Government, Government Aided Schools will get Rs.50,000 and the amount will be deposited in the name of the student in a public sector undertaking. 2410 students have benefitted under this scheme in 2012-2013.

1.14. Introduction of Chess Game

As announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, facilities for playing Chess have been set up in schools for all students, under the guidance of Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu. Training has been imparted to the teachers to coach students to face national and international tournaments. This game will

enhance the concentration capacity and problem solving skill in the students.

AWARDS / BENEFITS TO TEACHERS

1.15. Dr.Radhakrishnan Award

Tamil Nadu Government has been giving the 'Best Teacher Award' since 1960. From 1997, the name of the Award has been changed as 'Dr.Radha Krishnan Award' and is being given on the 5th of September every year. In the year 2012-2013, 364 teachers have been recognized and awarded with cash prize of Rs.5000, a silver medal and a Certificate of Appreciation.

1.16. National Award for Teachers

The National Award for teachers has been instituted by the Government of India for the best teachers from all over India. In Tamil Nadu, 22 teachers from Primary, Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools are being given this award. The teachers selected by the Government of India are given the National Award by the President of India on the Teachers Day at New Delhi. The National Award

consists of a cash prize of Rs.25,000, a Silver Medal and a Certificate of Appreciation.

1.17. National Foundation for Teachers' Welfare

National Teachers Welfare Foundation was established in 1962. The Hon'ble Minister for School Education is the Ex-officio Chairman of the Foundation. It functions under supervision of the Director of School Education who acts as its Ex-officio secretary. The expenditure for implementing the Teachers Welfare Scheme is met from the sale of Teacher's Day Flag.

1.18. Medical Assistance for Teachers

Under this scheme, Rs.50,000 or 75% of the total expenditure whichever is less, is sanctioned as financial assistance to teachers or their dependents afflicted with serious ailments. Two teachers benefitted in the Academic Year 2012-2013.

1.19. Educational Assistance to Children of Teachers.

A stipend of Rs.5,000 and Rs. 2,500 respectively is given for the children of teachers, who pursue professional degree course or diploma course. An amount of Rs.12.60 lakh was disbursed towards

Education Assistance to 262 students for the year 2012-2013.

1.20. Parent Teacher Association

The objective of forming Parent Teachers Association in schools is to enroll all the school going children in the nearby schools, prevent dropouts and help schools to enhance the quality of teaching and learning process. Question banks, Booklets and Model Question papers for Standard X and XII are printed and distributed by the State Parent Teachers Association. All the High and Higher Secondary Schools which show 100% pass percentage in March / April Government Examinations have been given certificates by the State Parent Teachers Association.

The persistent efforts of the Directorate of School Education / Directorate of Elementary Education with the constant support of the Government will certainly improve enrolment of students and reduce dropouts in all classes and enhance the achievement levels of the students, especially in 10th and 12th standards.

2. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

2.1. Introduction

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is universally acknowledged as an important catalyst for social transformation and national progress. This scheme is a window of opportunity to the learners in the schools of India to bridge the digital divide.

The Government has laid out an ICT road map for developing the basic skills and concepts of ICT as a part of the core of school education alongside reading, writing and mastering other subjects. The purpose of providing the above ICT package is to establish an enabling environment in the school to promote the use of computers so as to help the children to think analytically and use self-learning skills for understanding the subjects. The online facility enables the students to assimilate information from various sources for better understanding.

The Government have also trained the teaching faculties to learn the use of ICT tools and various applications so as to help the students to access

information on various subjects, to prepare students at the secondary and higher secondary level and to enable the students to master in computer literacy and basic computer skills. The above objectives of using ICT and IT enabled services for imparting good quality education has led to the implementation of ICT based schemes like ICT @ Schools, ICT in Schools, Smart Schools, Educational Management Information System and Smart Card.

2.2. ICT @ Schools

The Hon'ble Chief Minister under Rule 110 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules had announced that a new scheme of ICT @ Schools will be conceived, through which the contents of the textbook of all classes will be computerized and provided in the class rooms.

This scheme will be implemented during the academic year 2013-2014, on a pilot basis in Villupuram District, at a cost of Rs.10.03 crores by providing computers, LCD projectors and other peripherals and by establishing a separate ICT room in

1329 primary schools. 95,470 students will benefit by this scheme.

2.3. ICT in Schools

Information and Communication Technology in Schools is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme shared by Centre and State Government in the ratio of 75:25. 4340 Government High / Higher Secondary Schools will be provided with Information and Communication Technology facility through Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) Model over a period of 5 years commencing from the year 2013-2014 at a total cost of Rs.277.75 crores. This scheme is expected to benefit 27,94,829 students.

2.4. Smart Schools

In Smart Schools, the emphasis would not only be on the use of Information Technology but also on the use of skills and values that will be imparted in the next millennium. It is expected that such smart schools will help the students to perform better with the use of ICT.

In the year 2012-2013, 5 smart schools have been sanctioned by the State Government at a total cost of Rs.1.25 crores. It has been proposed to

implement Smart Schools in Thiruchendurai, Aylapettai, Ettarai, Somarasampettai and Inamkulathur Government Higher Secondary Schools in Tiruchirappalli District.

Five other Smart Schools have been sanctioned under Centrally sponsored scheme during 2012-2013 at a total cost of Rs.1.25 crores. Government Higher Secondary Schools at R.Puthupalayam in Namakkal District, Periyakulam in Theni District, Veeracholan in Virudhunagar District, Palani in Dindigul District, Melur in Madurai District will be covered under this scheme. Preliminary work is under process to implement the scheme under Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) Model for 5 years.

2.5. Educational Management Information System (EMIS)

Currently, the School Education Department operates with the help of the National Informatics Centre for communication and website. This Department with such a vast network and database surely requires a portal by itself. With this in mind, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced creating of an Educational Management Information System (EMIS).

The pilot of the EMIS was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and is now operational. It is proposed to scale up the same to all the schools in 2013-2014. The database of 1.35 crore children is being entered in the EMIS. It has an exclusive portal with the address www.tnschools.gov.in. The entire database of schools, teachers, students, officials are being collected and will be made available in the portal. The portal / website, the Education Content Server (ECS), Intra-Departmental Communication etc., have already been activated. The entire data base of all the schools will be uploaded into the EMIS making it available to all users. This will surely improve the quality of communication and data and will help in data analysis, data mining and effective planning.

2.6. Education Content Server (ECS)

Having provided Laptops and Computers to the Children it is essential to provide relevant content to help them perform better. The EMIS server would have e-versions of various contents and resources that would help the teaching, learning process for both curricular and co-curricular activities. The unique feature of this

ECS would be that contents could be updated online on a regular basis.

2.7. SMS Based Attendance

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced that in order to monitor the proper functioning of teachers a Short Messaging Service (SMS) based application will be developed for monitoring the attendance of the teachers. This application has been developed and has been integrated as a part of the EMIS. This application was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and will be scaled up to all the schools in the academic year 2013-2014. The pilot project is functional in 5 Government Higher Secondary Schools in Tiruchirappalli district.

2.8. Smart Card

A unique identification of every child is very essential in order to monitor the migration of the child, drop outs from schools, health status etc. The Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced that a Smart Card will be issued to all students to track the educational progress of each student. (Picture1). This Smart Card will consist of all the details pertaining to the child and the same will



be stored in the central server. This has been taken up as a pilot project at 5 schools in Tiruchirappalli District. On 05.09.2012, the Hon'ble Chief Minister launched this scheme in five Government Higher Secondary Schools viz., Ayilapettai, Thiruchendurai, Somarasampettai, Ettarai and Inamkulathur. Steps are being taken to provide Smart Cards, to all the children studying in standards 1 to 12 in the Government and Government Aided schools in 2013-2014. Integration of Aadhaar Unique Identification (UID) number with the biometric of every child will ease the process of student management in future. Integration of the smart card with Aadhaar UID is implemented as a pilot project in Ariyalur district by the School Education Department in coordination with the Aadhaar UID authorities. This Smart Card will help to implement the students welfare schemes effectively and to track the children.

2.9. Computer Aided Language Learning Laboratories (CALL LAB)

Under the CALL LAB component it is proposed to set up a Comprehensive English Language Laboratory and Training Centre in Tiruchirappalli district

to provide high quality training to the English Teachers and to the students at a cost of Rs. 25.00 lakhs.

2.10. Geographical Information System (GIS)

The Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computer-based system for the storage, retrieval, manipulation, analysis, and display of geographic data.

- Geographic data includes spatial and descriptive data
- Spatial (map) data deals with location, shape, and relationships among physical and human features.
- Descriptive (non-map) data deals with the characteristics of the features (attributes)

GIS is an effective tool to manage and monitor School related activities in the schools of Tamilnadu, where in the focus is the children and the facility provided to them in schools. If a click of a mouse could open up an entire range of data on school in remote area of Tamilnadu, planning would become better and program could be initiated to take necessary action.

The most important component of GIS mapping is school mapping. This exercise would help in the following:

- to ensure that all children who cannot access school for social, cultural and economic reasons, are enabled to do so.
- to determine the changes necessary in schools, including infrastructure, teachers, and equipment.
- to view, understand, question, interpret, and visualize data in many ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends in the form of maps, reports, and charts.
- to answer questions and solve problems by looking at our data in a way that is quickly understood and easily shared.

The GIS database for the entire state has been completed. This is one of the major achievement of the School Education Department which will help in better planning for the future.

2.11. Software Tracking through Online

An Exclusive software for tracking the status of out of school children is done through online. Three categories of information are available. One is the child profile, second is the monitoring report and third is the assessment report.

For the year 2013-2014, Rs.16.88 crores have been recommended for special training interventions to cater to the needs of 51,447 children who are out of school.

The ICT initiatives taken up by this department will help in better management of the schools and thereby will ensure effective planning and implementation of the schemes / programmes.

3. ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

3.1. Vision

The vision of our Hon'ble Chief Minister for the children in the age group of 6 to 14 is to provide good quality education with universal access.

To achieve this vision, the Directorate of Elementary Education in convergence with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has implemented many schemes in the academic year 2012-2013. These schemes would not only train the young minds to think, solve problems and face global challenges but would also enhance the creative capacity of the child and provide opportunities 'to draw out' the best from within.

In order to ensure that all children between the age group of 6-14 years are enrolled in the schools, the Government of Tamil Nadu have passed the Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011. In addition to the enrolment, the State considers that it is its prime duty to provide necessary quality input and infrastructure facility for primary and upper primary education.

3.2. Objectives

The Directorate of Elementary Education would be chalking out its road map for reaching its vision by laying down the following objectives.

- To assess the gap in access to primary and upper primary schools and to provide the required number of primary and upper primary schools in a phased manner within 1 km and 3 km radius respectively from the habitation. This would ensure access to all eligible habitations and would help achieve not only 100% access but also 100% enrolment.
- To ensure that the children so enrolled are retained in schools and do not dropout from the system.
- To enhance the quality of Elementary Education in all the schools.
- To enrich the knowledge of the children in scholastic and co-scholastic areas.
- To improve the reading, writing and listening skills of the children.

- To lessen the mental and physical stress of children by reducing the book load and change in the assessment methodology.
- To enhance the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation to assess the all-round development of the child.
- To focus on children with special needs and to mainstream them so as to achieve 100% Inclusive Education.
- To cover Out of School Children (OoSC) especially children of migrant labourers, street children, school drop outs etc.
- To specially focus on bridging the gap due to gender and thereby focus on education of girl children.
- To speed up the completion of infrastructure facilities in all schools.
- Ensure timely completion of all the welfare schemes being given to the children.
- Implement and strictly adhere to the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011.

- To improve academic achievement and smooth administrative functioning by means of effective monitoring.

3.3. Access in Elementary Education

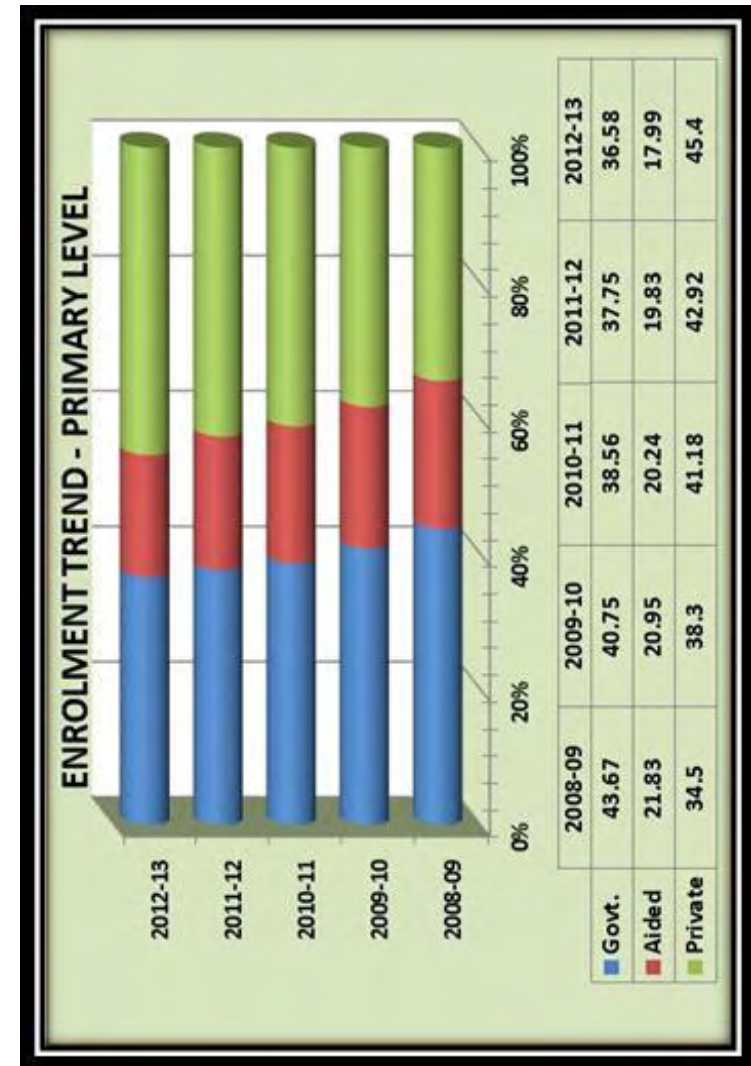
New Primary Schools are being opened every year and Primary Schools have been upgraded into Upper Primary Schools to ensure access to all habitations. Primary Schools are opened within a radius of 1 km and Upper Primary Schools within a radius of 3 km from the habitation with a population of 300 and 500 respectively. With a view to ensure that all habitations have access to schools, GIS Mapping was carried out in the State. Based on which, the number of schools required for 100% coverage has been assessed as 732 Primary Schools and 330 Upper Primary Schools. This Government would embark to provide the required number of schools in a phased manner.

3.4. Enrolment

The enrolment of children in primary schools and upper primary schools is very encouraging and is at 99.69% and 99 % respectively. All efforts are being

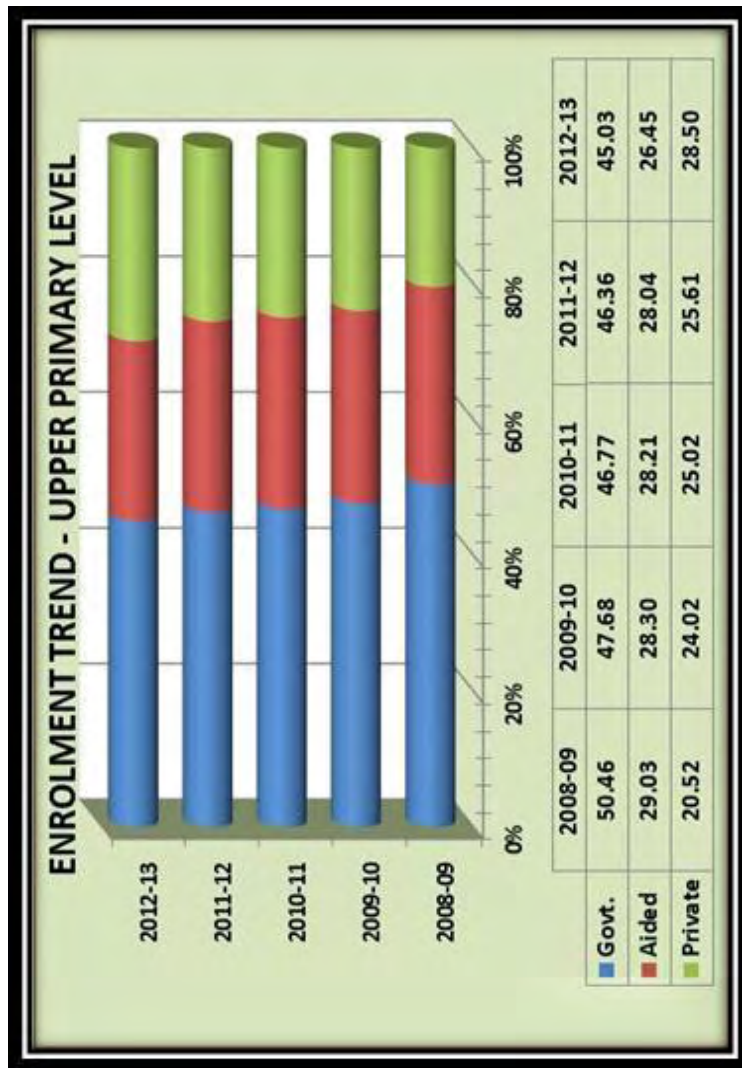
taken to improve this to 100%. Many innovative schemes are being introduced by the Government to encourage the children to enrol in the Government schools. The smart card scheme introduced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister has gone a long way and has helped to enumerate not only the number of children but also the movement of the children from the Government to the private sector and vice versa.

It is of concern to the Government that there is a decrease in the enrolment in Government schools and the shift is in favour of private schools. The bar diagram indicates this clearly (Graph 4 and Graph 5).



Graph 4

Source - DISE



Graph 5

Source - DISE

This trend was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. An analysis of the reasons for the same was discussed and this resulted in the following new schemes being announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to encourage children to enrol in Government Schools

- a. Note books,
- b. 4 sets of uniforms,
- c. School bags,
- d. Crayons,
- e. Colour pencils,
- f. Atlas,
- g. Geometry box,
- h. Foot wear,
- i. Introduction of English Medium in the Government schools in the Academic Year 2012-2013. As a first step 10 schools in each district were covered providing 640 English medium sections.

Due to the implementation of the above welfare schemes, it is ensured that the Government schools in the rural areas will attract more children. The Directorate is taking all efforts to reach the message of the Government to the last mile. Thereby it is very

confident that the enrolment in the Government and Government aided schools will be improved in the academic year 2013-2014.

3.5. Enhancement of Quality of Education:

Ensuring quality education to children in the age group of 6-14 is a matter of great concern to the Government along with attaining the quantitative target of enrolment.

As stated in Hon'ble Chief Minister's "**Vision Tamil Nadu - 2023**", the State Government is committed to the cause of improving the Quality of Education. Landmark initiatives like Trimester system, Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation have been introduced for quality improvement by the School Education Department, from the academic year 2012-2013 for classes I to VIII. The Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation system will not only enable the children to think analytically but would also help them to improve their problem solving skills, life skills and will result in their holistic development, which will equip them to take the challenges at the national and international level in a more competent manner.

An internal base line study was conducted by the School Education Department in the academic year 2012-2013 to assess the prevailing achievement levels of children in standard I – VIII in the following three scholastic areas.

1. Tamil reading and writing skill
2. English reading and writing skill
3. Basic arithmetic skill

The study was conducted in 412 blocks across the State covering 5 schools per block, 2047 Primary sections and 2048 Upper Primary sections were covered. Nearly 2.5 lakh students were assessed.

3.6. Findings

1. Students are performing best in Tamil, better in Mathematics and not so good in English.
2. Girl students are performing better than the boys in a class.
3. Children's attainment level in Math and English is a matter of concern. NCERT's mid-term assessment for class III and end-term assessment for class V have also shown the need for improving the attainment level of children in Language,

Mathematics and Science. To address this issue the Government has formulated special initiatives to enhance the quality of learning of Mathematics and English by proposing to take up the following activities in 2013-2014.

- (a) Establishing Mathematics Laboratory in select two schools in each district on a Pilot basis to make learning of Mathematics simple and joyful for children. This scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.1.28 crores in the year 2013-2014.
- (b) An innovative technique of using an English package (a series of well planned modules) using DVDs will be introduced in 50 schools in each district at a cost of Rs.38.60 lakhs on pilot basis during the year 2013-2014.
- (c) It is proposed to develop radio lessons in English language for a duration of half an hour for the benefit of students of upper primary level, prepare English work sheets in order to provide the students enriched learning activities. This programme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.1.20 crores in the year 2013-2014.

- (d) Capacity building of teachers is an integral part of the whole exercise. The English and Mathematics teachers will be trained intensively in order to enable them to translate the concept and logic in a better fashion to improve the skills of the students at a cost of Rs.69.44 crores.
- (e) The children should be empowered to think scientifically and increase their inquisitive capacity. It is proposed to conduct Science exhibitions at the School level, Block level and District level for Middle School children. Mobile Science vans are to visit schools to strengthen the knowledge of science. Field trips will be arranged for children to get hands on experience.
- (f) 'Reading maketh a full man'. In order to inculcate reading habit in children library corners will be set up in classrooms. Mobile libraries will be utilized for this purpose. Story books will be given to increase the moral and ethical values of children. Children's corners will be set up in select libraries.

3.7. Stress Free, Joyful Learning

The concern of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to provide stress free learning to the children resulted in the announcement of the Trimester and Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system at elementary school level and was successfully implemented in 2012-2013 for classes I to VIII. This pattern will be extended to the secondary level as a first step to class IX in the year 2013-2014.

Tamil Nadu stands number one in the country in the implementation of CCE there by pioneering joyful learning without stress and fear of exam. This system with three text books per year has brought down the heavy load of books carried by children and their minds are also less burdened. Children are assessed by the CCE system in the Scholastic and co-scholastic areas and teachers are given training in this system of evaluation. Activities to develop creative thinking and skills are integrated in the text books.

3.8. Simplified Activity Based Learning

The need for restructuring ABL methodology had been felt with the introduction of the new syllabus. The

modified ABL cards integrated with the text book, new ladder system for classes I to IV was implemented successfully in 2012-2013 in all Government and Government aided schools.

3.9. Pupil–Teacher Ratio

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced the appointment of 7625 number of Secondary Grade Teachers and 3541 Graduate Assistants to strengthen the Pupil - Teacher Ratio (PTR). This has resulted in Tamil Nadu setting an example by moving ahead of the ratio set at the national level. The State PTR in the Primary Level is 1:26.70 against the requirement of 1:30 and in the Upper Primary level it is 1:27.28 against the requirement of 1:35. This positive ratio gives better opportunity for a 'one to one' contact with the students. The teacher can enhance the all-round development of the child providing scope for drawing out the best from the child.

3.10. Methodology of Appointment

With the intention of recruiting quality teachers with a right attitude and aptitude our Hon'ble Chief Minister has introduced a competitive written exam for

recruitment of teachers as envisaged in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. Teachers are appointed based on Teacher Eligibility Test. Out of the sanctioned Secondary Grade Teachers and Graduate Assistants posts, 9,692 Secondary Grade teachers and 1073 Graduate Assistants have been filled up in 2012-2013. The remaining posts will be filled up in the academic year 2013-2014. Apart from this, 75 Telugu, 14 Urdu, 13 Malayalam, Secondary Grade Teachers and 6 Telugu, 8 Malayalam, 6 Kannada, 7 Urdu, Graduate Assistant Teachers were also appointed in the academic year 2012-2013.

3.11. Part-time Teachers

Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation is based not only on scholastic subjects but also on co-scholastic activities. For this, 16,549 part-time teacher posts were sanctioned and 15,169 have been appointed for the first time in various areas such as physical health education, art, sewing, horticulture, communication skills, computer application etc. This will enable the teachers to identify and bring out the

latent talents in the children and provide opportunities to excel in different areas.

3.12. Capacity Building

Enriching and empowering the teachers is essential for improved performance. To equip the teachers in both scholastic and co-scholastic activities, training will be given in convergence of the resources available in State Council of Educational Research and Training and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The success stories of the previous years will be of great motivation for the future years. These will be shared in the training sessions. Innovative methodologies will be developed based on the earlier experience. Special training will be given for English language skills and to make the teachers more confident so as to prepare the students to face global challenges.

Educational CDs are to be supplied to the schools and are to be used in the class-rooms on regular basis. Teachers are to be made skillful in using the modern gadgets and the technology available in schools. Guidance and counselling is the need of the hour and hence teachers are to be equipped in that

area also. Orientation on the personal safety and security of children are to be given to teachers.

3.13. Monitoring

Monitoring is an important tool for the effective implementation and quality enrichment. Supervision, school visits, inspections, analysing sample surveys and evaluation are to be undertaken regularly. Realising the need for man power for this work, 34 Assistant Elementary Education Officers (AEEOs) have been recruited through Teachers Recruitment Board. 2 AEEOs in Malayalam are also to be appointed for supervising the Malayalam medium schools. Capacity building programmes will be conducted for the officials in administration and monitoring.

3.14. Infrastructure

Adequate infrastructure facilities can draw more children to Government Schools. Keeping this in mind steps are being taken to provide infrastructure required for schools with the assistance from SSA, such as rooms for headmasters, class rooms for new schools and additional class rooms as per the strength of children, drinking water, kitchen sheds, compound walls

and toilet facilities are provided. Specialised infrastructure facilities such as ramps, modified toilets are also being provided for the comfort of the children with special needs.

It is proposed to achieve 100% target in functional toilets and safe drinking water facilities in coordination with Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department and SSA. Priority has been given to provide functional toilet facilities in 2,733 schools and drinking facilities in 702 schools in rural areas to fill the gap to achieve 100%. For providing these facilities, activities have been commenced by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department.

In the Budget for 2013-2014 an amount of Rs.50 crores has been allocated under NABARD assistance to fill the gap of safe drinking water facilities and functional toilets if any.

The Directorate of Elementary Education is leaving no stone unturned to achieve the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to elevate the State not only in

quality of education but also in infrastructure, 100% enrolment and retention.

3.15 Budget Provision

This Directorate has received a budgetary allocation of Rs.6402.60 crores during the year 2012-2013 and the budgetary provision is now increased to Rs.7618.36 crores for the year 2013-2014.

The Elementary Education is the foundation for Secondary Education. In order to enhance the standards of education and achieve the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Directorate of Elementary Education is embarking on a multipronged approach for the benefit of the children.

4.SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

4.1. Introduction

Education is a key tool for development and an invaluable means of addressing structural inequality and disadvantage. Providing free and quality education to children reflects the fact that every child is entitled to fundamental human rights and is to be treated with dignity. Primary education provides children with life skills that will enable them to prosper later in life. It equips children with the skills to maintain healthy productive and resourceful and socially active adults. Education also transmits more abstract qualities such as critical thinking skills, healthy living, resilience and self-confidence amongst the school going children.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is an attempt to improve the capabilities of all children through provision of community owned quality education in a mission mode. It is a programme designed to universalize elementary education within a timeframe. Arduous efforts have been made in Universalization of Elementary Education in Tamil Nadu. As a result of the interventions, there has been considerable progress in ensuring access to

primary education and increase in enrolment, retention, improvement in school attendance and generation of strong demand for education specially for girls.

Tamil Nadu is one of the leading States in terms of achieving Universalization of Primary Education due to its remarkable achievements in access, enrolment, attendance and completion.

Our Hon'ble Chief Minister's "**Vision Tamil Nadu-2023**" is a manifestation of the ambition to put Tamil Nadu in the vanguard of progress. This includes empowerment through education among many other areas of development as indicated earlier. Education has been accepted as the most powerful tool for empowerment. It should reach the door steps of the poor, especially economically deprived and socially depressed. In view of the above, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu introduced welfare schemes exclusively for school going children to ensure quality enhancement in education. To increase enrolment and reduce dropouts at the elementary level the Tamil Nadu, all efforts have been made.

Necessary funds for the State for effective implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 has been sanctioned under the 13th Finance Commission, viz. an amount of Rs.126 crores in the year 2011-2012 and Rs.141 crores for the year 2012-2013. Further it is expected to receive an amount of Rs.157 crores for the year 2013-2014.

Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011, issued by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, has been made it possible to bring equality in education of the children belonging to the neighbourhood by reserving 25% for economically weaker and disadvantaged children out of the strength of the total children at entry stage in private unaided schools. The prime object of this initiative is to ensure 100% enrolment and enhance access to quality education in the State.

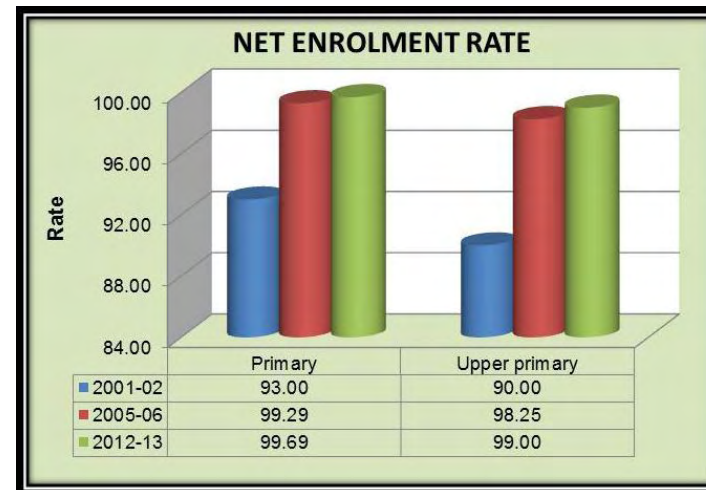
4.2. Vision

Creating a congenial atmosphere amongst the children and school environment which is extremely effective in ensuring Universalization of Elementary

Education by providing free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 and ensure 100% enrolment in schools without social and gender gaps.

4.3. Educational Indicators

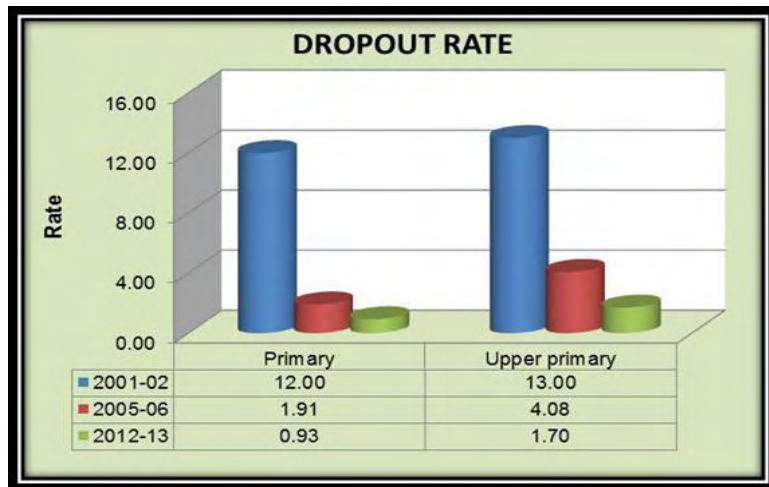
The State has made significant improvements in educational indicators. A lot of progress has been made not only in educational indicators but also in collection and maintenance of data, validity, sharing and dissemination. Tamil Nadu is considered at National level as a State with exemplary data keeping, validation and dissemination practices.(Graph 6 to 8)



Graph 6

Source – DISE & EER

- At primary level, the Net Enrolment Rate (NER) has increased from 93 % in 2001-2002 to 99.29% in 2005-2006 and at present is 99.69%
- At upper primary level, the Net Enrolment Rate has increased from 90 % in 2001-2002 to 98.25% in 2005-2006 and at present is 99 %.



Graph 7

Source - Cohort

- At primary level, the dropout rate has decreased from 12 % in 2001-2002 to 1.91% in 2005-2006 and at present is 0.93%
- At upper primary level, the dropout rate has decreased from 13 % in 2001-2002 to 4.08% in 2005-2006 and at present is 1.70%.



Graph 8

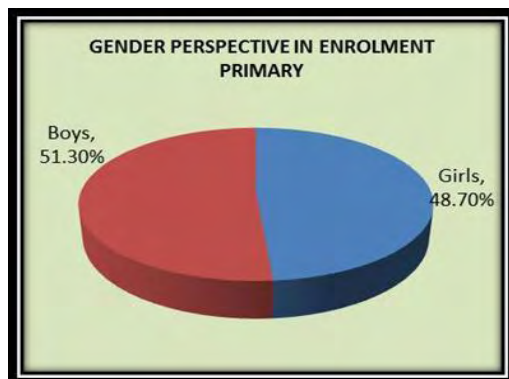
Source - Cohort

- At Primary Level, Completion Rate (CR) has increased from 64% in 2001-2002 to 86.55% in 2005-2006 and at present 97.73%.
- At Upper Primary Level, CR has increased from 68% in 2001-2002 to 88.57% in 2005-2006 and at present 93.83%.

Gender Perspective in Enrolment

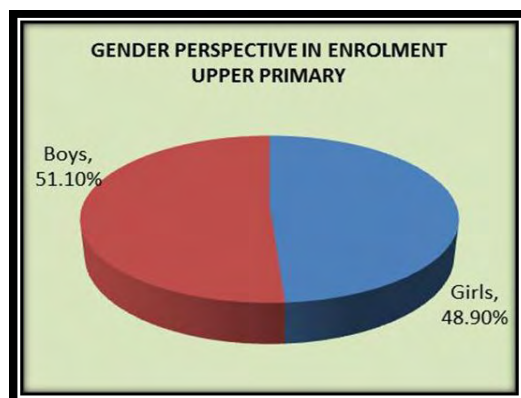
In Primary level, the percentage of enrolment of boys and girls is 51.30% and 48.70% respectively (Graph 9). At Upper Primary level, the percentage of enrolment of boys and girls is 51.10% and 48.90%

respectively (Graph 10). If both Primary and Upper primary sections are taken into consideration, the enrolment of boys and girls in terms of percentage is 51.20% and 48.80% respectively.



Graph 9

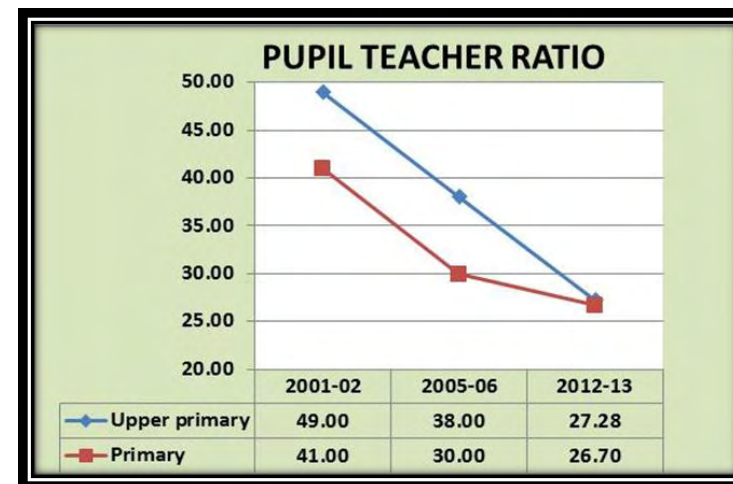
Source – DISE



Graph 10

Source - DISE

The Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) at primary is 1:26.70 and at upper primary level is 1:27.28 (Graph 11)



Graph 11

Source - DISE

4.4. The milestones of SSA

A radical reconstruction in both primary and upper primary education on the broad lines which will involve

- Transformation of the system to relate it more closely to the life of the children.
- Continuous effort to expand educational opportunity.
- Sustained and intensive effort to raise the equality of education at all stages.

- An emphasis on the development of science and technology.
- Importance given on the cultivation of moral and social values.

4.5. Objectives of SSA

- To ensure 100% enrolment at primary and upper primary level and in specific to cover Out of School Children (OoSC).
- To ensure no exclusionary practices are followed in all schools based on sex, caste, creed, gender and special needs.
- Special Training to children and continuous support to the children admitted in regular school to enable them to integrate with the class socially, emotionally and academically.
- To ensure the enrolment of children who are out of school, the urban deprived and children without adult protection.
- To provide residential facilities to children in sparsely populated areas.
- To provide transport and escort facilities to children in remote habitations

- To give emphasize on girls education, support measures like transport, escort facilities, guidance and counseling.
- To provide Residential schools exclusively for girls and socially vulnerable groups.
- To provide quality inclusive education to every Child With Special Need (CWSN) irrespective of kind, category and degree of the disability.
- To provide basic infrastructure for all primary and upper primary schools.
- To provide value based training to the teachers for improving the quality.

4.6. Activities of SSA

The activities of SSA for the year 2013-2014 will involve:

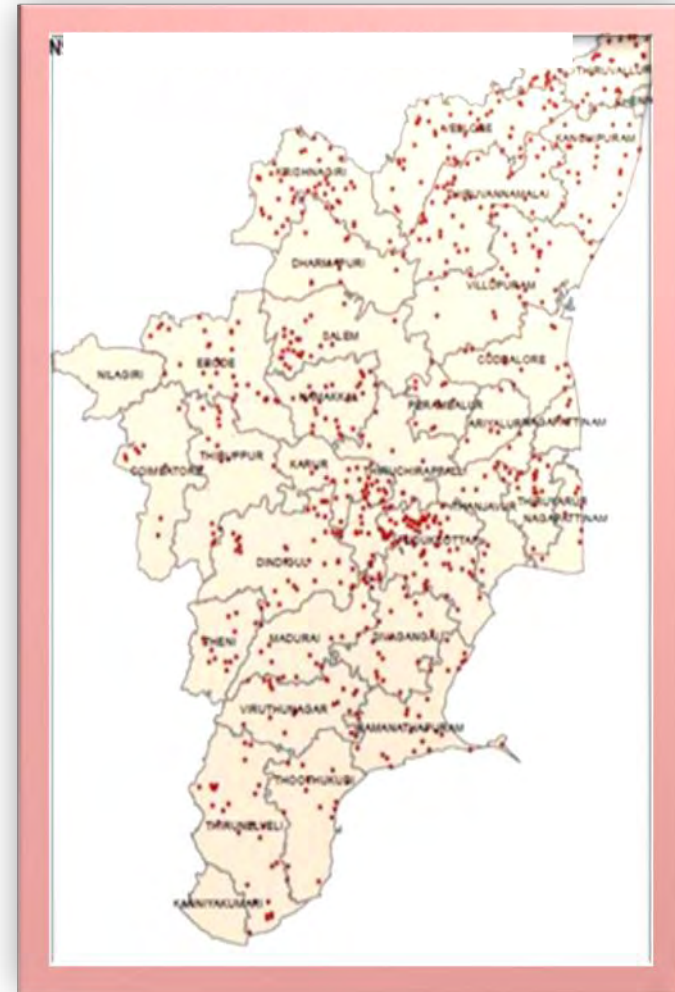
- Access
- Retention
- Enhancing Qualities
- Bridging Gender and Social Gaps
- Infrastructure for schools
- Annual Grant

4.7. Access

The State has undertaken a comprehensive school mapping exercise making use of the modern technology GIS. The analysis of the GIS database revealed that there are 2928 habitations unserved with primary schools and 732 among them are eligible for opening new primary schools to accommodate 39,342 school age children (Picture 2). It is also identified that 330 primary schools are eligible for upgrading into upper primary schools to accommodate 24,428 school age children (Picture 3).

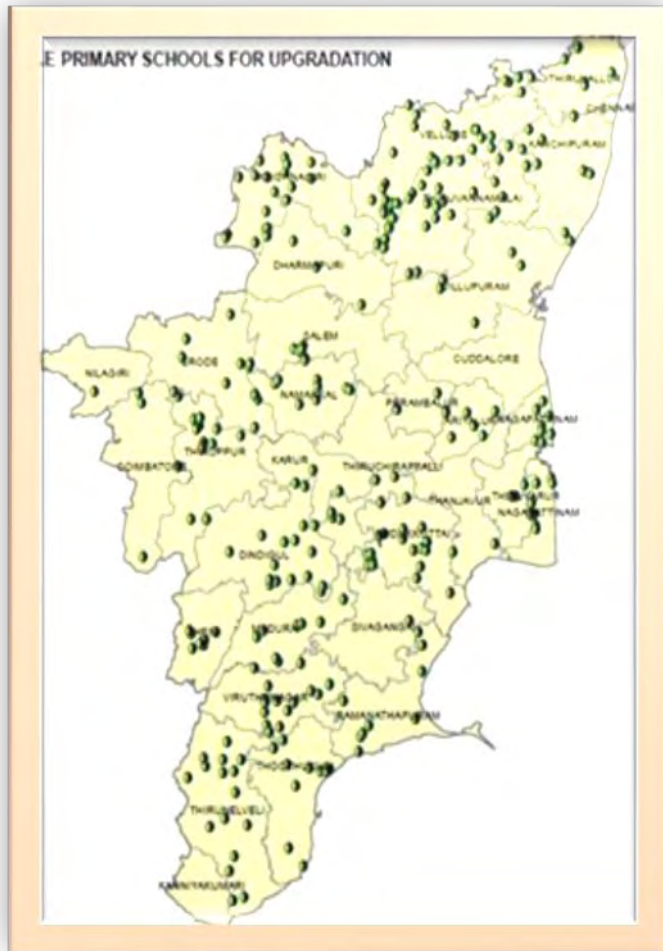
The GIS database helped to identify locations for opening Residential schools taking into account the number of children in the selected habitations and the distance from the existing Residential schools (Picture 4). The GIS database also helped to arrive at the eligible number of children and habitations from where transportation and escort facilities need to be provided.

**HABITATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR OPENING
NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS**



Picture 2
Source - GIS school Mapping

ELIGIBLE PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR UPGRADATION INTO MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Picture 3
Source - GIS school Mapping

LOCATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR OPENING RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



Picture 4
Source - GIS school Mapping

Further to retain the children residing in remote / hilly / densely forested school less habitations with sparse population, transport and escort facilities has been provided to 4857 children in 8 districts to ensure 100% enrolment of children. This facility will be further extended in 2013-2014 for the benefit of 15,485 students.

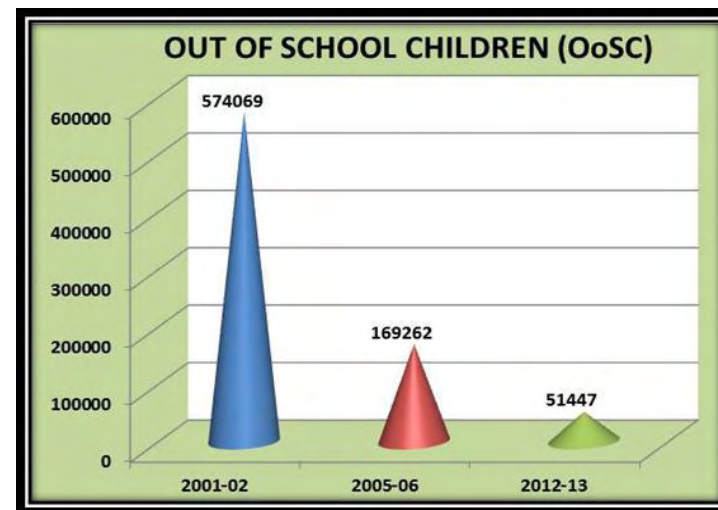
4.8. Retention

4.8.1. Special Training Interventions

The State has succeeded in a good measure in bringing down the number of Out of School Children which was more than 5.74 lakhs in 2001-2002 is brought down to 51,447 in 2012-2013 (Graph 12). In the last year, 53,832 Out of School Children identified and 47,684 have been covered under various interventions through Residential and Non-Residential mode.

The Out of School Children identified in 2012-2013 are first enrolled in nearby neighbourhood formal schools in age appropriate class as per the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009. Such children are provided special training through

Residential and Non-Residential method. After the period of 6–12 months, these children are inducted in the same school in the appropriate class.



Graph – 12

Source EER & MRF

SSA Project Officials have been involved in the Gramasabhas to create awareness among public on hundred percent enrolment in each habitation and identification of Out of School Children, inclusion in schools and providing quality education.

4.8.2. Inclusive Education

During the year 2012-2013, 1,46,282 differently-abled children have been benefitted. 417 camps have

been conducted. Assistive devices have been provided to 12,317 children. Home based care and training has been given to 26,263 children. 8211 severely disabled children have been benefited through 392 day care centers. Modified toilet facilities have been provided to 4226 schools, Ramp facility to 1858 schools and child-friendly toilets have been provided to 60 resource rooms. Surgeries have been done for 375 needy children. 894 children have benefited through 24 Special Residential Bridge Course Centres. 86 children have benefitted by the Cleft palate surgery. For the year 2012-2013, training on dyslexia was given to 1,78,351 teachers.

For the academic year 2013-2014, low vision assessment will be conducted in convergence with sight savers organization in all the districts. Identification of children suffering from Japanese Encephalitis will be done in 5 districts. An amount of Rs.25.36 crores has been proposed for this year.

4.8.3. State Resource Centre (SRC)

The Hon'ble Chief Minister under Rule 110 of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules, had

announced setting up of a State Resource Centre (SRC) to provide special interventions for the children with learning difficulties, Autism and Down's syndrome and to provide counseling, specific aids and appliances in co-ordination with the institutions like National Institute for Persons with Multiple Disability (NIPMED), National Institute for Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Directorate of Public Library and Directorate of Medical Services. A well-equipped State Resource Center is being established at Chennai in Santhome.

4.8.4. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

The first six years of a child's life have been recognized as the most critical ones for optimal development. Since the process of human development is essentially cumulative in nature, investment in programmes for the young children in the range of 0-6 years has begun to be accepted as the very foundation for basic education and lifelong learning and development. Over the years, the field of childcare, inspired by research and front-line experiences, has

developed into a coherent vision for early childhood care and education.

The systematic provision of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) helps in the development of children in a variety of ways which include:

- Improving group socialization,
- Inculcation of healthy habits,
- Stimulation of creative learning processes and
- Enhanced scope for overall personality development.

Thus, ECCE must be promoted as holistic input for fostering psycho-social, nutritional, health and educational development of young children. For children belonging to underprivileged groups and for first generation learners in the society, ECCE is essential for countering the physical, intellectual and emotional deprivation of the child from the perspective of the community.

During the year 2012-2013, 4800 upgraded anganwadi centers were provided child friendly materials at a cost of Rs.3.81 crores to support learning process.

4.9. Enhancing Quality

4.9.1. Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)

Our National policies on education imply that the evaluation system should incorporate both scholastic and non-scholastic aspects and should spread over the total span of instructional time. This has stirred up the State to look at its own educational policy and has demanded certain reforms in the evolution and implementation of evaluation system that would test knowledge and application of knowledge along with various life skills. The Hon'ble Chief Minister in order to improve the quality of education in the State and to bring the children to the National level has ordered implementation of CCE for the classes I to VIII from the academic year 2012-2013 and for the classes IX from the academic year 2013-2014.

CCE is a system of school-based evaluation. In an effort to ease the stress and anxiety involved in the completion of a course of study, CCE has been evolved to evaluate a child in a free environment. It is child-centered and activity based learning, promotes

cognitive abilities and a variety of skills in the formative ages. It aims at a holistic development of a child with a focus on communal harmony, co-existence, growth and development.

Evaluation has been built sensitively into the teaching-learning process. This leads to enhancement of quality of pedagogy, permits diagnosis and remediation. Continuous evaluation reveals the strengths and weaknesses of learners periodically and helps the learners to improve their learning and teachers to modify teaching strategies. It encompasses both formative and summative assessments.

4.9.2. Trimester

“Today’s plan of Tamil Nadu is tomorrow’s plan for whole India”

Studies already conducted Nationally and Internationally have recommended that the load of school bags should not be more than 10% to 15% of the body weight of the child.

Our Hon’ble Chief Minister has announced on 26.08.2011 in the floor of State Legislative Assembly that the Trimester Pattern will be introduced in all

Schools from the academic year 2012-2013 for the Classes I to VIII, so as to reduce the burden of books for school children.

4.9.3. Simplified Activity Based Learning

Based on the revised Text books on Trimester pattern, SABL cards have been simplified and redesigned for 1st to 4th standards. The activities are structured to bring the expected outcomes of the revised syllabus. The activities in the cards are designed in co-ordination with the activities in the Text books, hence the number of cards are reduced. The logos are designed to be more relevant to the activities. Most of the logos are common for the five subjects. Few logos are subject specific. Previously subject-wise logos and class-wise colours were given in the cards. Now subject-wise colours for all classes are given to the cards. They are;

Tamil	Blue
English	Pink
Maths	Maroon
EVS	Green
Social Science	Orange

According to National Curriculum Frame Work 2005, children of age group 5 - 6 have the same cognitive development. So 1st & 2nd standard ladders and 3rd & 4th standard ladders have been combined. Since one or two competencies have been combined together, the number of milestones has been reduced in the ladder. Side ladder activities have been included in the milestone itself. Continuous numbers are given to the milestones and logos from I to IV standards. Emphasis is laid on the inbuilt evaluation system in the ABL cards through activities.

For the year 2013-2014, 2025 additional sets of ABL cards, 1000 sets of English medium cards, 900 sets of cards in minority languages (Telugu, Urdu, Kannada and Malayalam) will be provided.

4.9.4. Training

In-service teachers training

For the year 2013-2014, an outlay of Rs.6.26 crores for the In-service training of teachers has been proposed. Cluster Resource Center (CRC) level training to the teachers on the basis of findings of the baseline survey done by NCERT has been planned to

enhance the reading, writing, basic arithmetic skills of children. Block Resource Center (BRC) level training has been planned to fulfill RTE and to enhance the methodology and content, on the topics such as child protection, sexual abuse, positive discipline, social equity, social awareness, cyber safety, Simplified Activity Based Learning (SABL), Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) and content enrichment.

Head master and CRC/BRC personnel training

To enhance team building and internal supervision for Head masters and CRC/BRC personnel, training has been planned in the following topics; Personality development and soft skills, Guidance and counseling, Computer training, internal supervision and finance management.

4.9.5. Computer Aided Learning

The State established 8645 centres with 23,168 computers and other peripherals. Need based training is given to teachers through Microsoft and other agencies. 1,23,228 teachers have been trained so far. In the year 2012-2013, 23,642 teachers have been

trained on basic computer skills and 2,91,118 students have been benefitted. A special content enrichment DVD namely 'TOON MASTI' has been provided to all Primary and Upper Primary schools.

To create ICT friendly environment amidst primary school children, the educationally backward district Villupuram has been chosen to accomplish the pilot study with the provision of computers, LCD projector with an exclusive room with adequate infrastructure facilities.

4.10. Bridging Gender and Social Gaps

4.10.1. Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidhyalaya (KGBV) Residential Schools

KGBV scheme is exclusively for providing an opportunity for out of school girls in the age group of 10 to 14 especially in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB). A block with rural female literacy lower than National average (46.13%) as well as with gender gap more than national average (21.59%) based on census 2001 data is considered as Educationally Backward Block.

61 KGBV residential schools in 44 EBBs in 12 districts, viz Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Karur, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, Perambalur, Salem, Sivagangai, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Virudhunagar are functioning across the State. 31 Model-I comprising 100 girls and 30 are Model-II accommodating 50 girls. Through these 61 schools, 4461 out of school girls are benefitted. In the year 2012-2013, an amount of Rs.15.43 crores (Non-recurring grant – Rs.74.14 lakhs and Recurring grant – Rs.14.69 crores) has been approved. Two Model-I KGBVs (One in Kallakurichi - Villupuram District and other in T.N. Palayam – Erode District) have been upgraded.

For the year 2013-2014 an amount of Rs.9.77.crores is proposed as non-recurring grant and an amount of Rs. 18.11 crores is proposed as recurring grant (Total Rs. 27.88.crores).

4.10.2. National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL)

NPEGEL is being implemented in 37 Educationally Backward Blocks in 11 districts namely Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Karur, Krishnagiri,

Namakkal, Perambalur, Salem, Sivagangai, Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram. Bridging the gender gap in enrolment, aiming at 100% retention of girls in schools and ensuring quality education to girls are the prime objectives of the scheme. This is a special intervention for the education of school going girls in the age group of 6-14 in EBBs. Under this scheme 1,08,440 girl students in the age group of 6-14 years have been benefitted in the present academic year. 937 Model Cluster Schools (MCS) have been established, clubbing 3-4 schools with each MCS. Project Approval Board (PAB) has approved an outlay of Rs 4.86 crores for the year 2012-2013. An amount of Rs.5.95 crores is proposed for undertaking activities under NPEGEL programme for the year 2013-2014.

4.10.3. Girls Education

To achieve 100% Net Enrolment among girls and to retain them in schools, the special initiatives such as Exposure Visit and Life Skills Training were arranged. Under this scheme 48,000 girls were benefitted in the year 2012-2013.

4.10.4. Education for SC/ST Children

To reduce the gender gap and bring social equity among SC/ST children, Exposure visits, training on English communicative skills and Life Skill have been arranged and 63,000 upper primary children have been benefitted.

4.11. Infrastructure

SSA fulfills the needs of Department of Elementary Education by providing new schools, additional class rooms, Headmaster rooms, drinking water facilities, compound walls, common toilets, separate girls toilets, modified toilets for children with special needs, kitchen sheds, major and minor repairs. Furniture and play elements have also been provided by SSA.

During the year 2012-2013, an amount of Rs.45 crores has been spent towards the construction of 1423 common toilets, 1468 separate girls toilet and provision of drinking water facility for 810 schools.

For the year 2013-2014, an amount of Rs.39.98 crores has been allotted towards the construction of 1681 common toilets and 2317 separate girls toilets.

The provision of infrastructure facilities to schools is planned in convergence with other departments. The GIS mapping done in the year 2012-2013 is being used to find the need for the infrastructure development.

4.12. Annual Grant

The SSA provides School Grant and Maintenance Grant. These grants are endowed to improve the quality of the school, capacity building of the teacher and better maintenance of the operation of SSA. An amount of Rs.57.09 crores has been proposed for 2013-2014 for the above mentioned grants.

4.13. School Management Committee (SMC)

School Management Committee (SMC) have been formed in all Government and Government aided schools. The role of this committee is to design School Development Plan (SDP) to enable the school to transform into an RTE complainant school. It is felt that necessary trainings have to be offered to SMCs. Capacity building training for 2,29,074 SMC members have been given at the cost of Rs 7.03.crores in the year 2012- 2013 . An amount of Rs 4.00 crores, has

been proposed for capacity building of SMC members for the year 2013- 2014.

4.14. Social Audit

Social audit has been executed in 6 districts of Tamil Nadu to ensure availability of facilities in the schools as per RTE norms, such as provision of protected drinking water, toilet facility with readiness of water, availability of playground, pollution free environment and child friendly environment.

4.15. Annaiyar Palli Paarvai Kuzhu

In a view to ensure the child rights / safety, the basic amenities such as toilets, drinking water, laboratories, provision of adequate computers, library, playground and classroom infrastructure, a five-member committee consisting of mothers (Annaiyar Kuzhu) have been formed in Government Aided and private schools. This committee is to visit the school once in a week and inspect the facilities. The inspection should be carried out on working days. The observations will be recorded to improve the facilities and to redress the problems identified.

All the above efforts taken by the SSA has enabled and ensured the improvement of infrastructure and quality of education in the primary and upper primary section.

4.16 State Budget

This project directorate has been allocated a sum of Rs.700 crores for the year 2012-2013 as the State budgetary support and now the allocation for the year 2013-2014 is Rs.700 crores.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is coordinating with the Directorate of Elementary Education will ensure that the children between age group of 6 to 14 years will get the necessary infrastructure and good quality education.

5. SECONDARY AND HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION

5.1. Introduction

Quality Secondary and Higher Secondary Education to all students appropriate to their age aims at developing their innate potential and ensuring their all-round development namely, physical, social, emotional and intellectual. Employability skills envisaged in Hon'ble Chief Minister's "**Vision Tamil Nadu - 2023**" forms the cornerstone of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education curriculum.

"**Vision Tamil Nadu-2023**" identifies maximum possible reach of human resource development as the larger objective for Education sector so that Tamil Nadu will be India's leading State in social development and will have the highest Human Development Index (HDI) amongst all Indian States.

5.2. Vision

Providing Universal Access to Secondary Level Education by 2017, i.e., by the end of 12th Five Year Plan and achieving Universal Retention by 2020, coupled with quality improvement and removal of

imbalances of gender, disability and socio-economic factors.

5.3. Objectives

- To improve access to Secondary Schooling to all children of the age groups of 11 to 18, High Schools within 5 kms and Higher Secondary Schools within 8 kms from the habitations
- To provide free transport to all and residential facilities wherever required
- To ensure that all Secondary Schools have required infrastructural facilities
- To provide Graduate Assistants and Post Graduate Assistants as per the norms of Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR). Enable capacity building for teachers so appointed for imparting quality education
- To ensure that no child is deprived of Secondary Education of satisfactory quality due to gender, socio-economic, disability and other barriers
- Disseminating health awareness education among students in schools

- Curtail dropout and thereby achieve cent percent Retention (enrollment) of students in Secondary and Higher Secondary classes
- Provision of quality and life related education and vocational skills to empower the students to face real life situations and improve employability
- Achieve improvement in performance of students in the Board examination by special initiatives
- Implement and strictly adhere to the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011

In order to meet the challenge of Universalization of Secondary Education (USE), there is a need for a paradigm shift in the conceptual design of Secondary Education. The Guiding Principles in this regard are *Universal Access, Equality and Social Justice, Relevance and Development of Curricular and Structural Aspects.*

5.4. Strategies

5.4.1. Access

- Up-gradation of Upper Primary Schools based on micro planning exercise with all necessary infrastructure facilities and teachers
- Up-gradation of Secondary Schools to Higher Secondary Schools based on local requirements
- Opening of new Secondary Schools / Higher Secondary Schools in un-served areas based on the school mapping exercise
- All school buildings will be made differently abled friendly

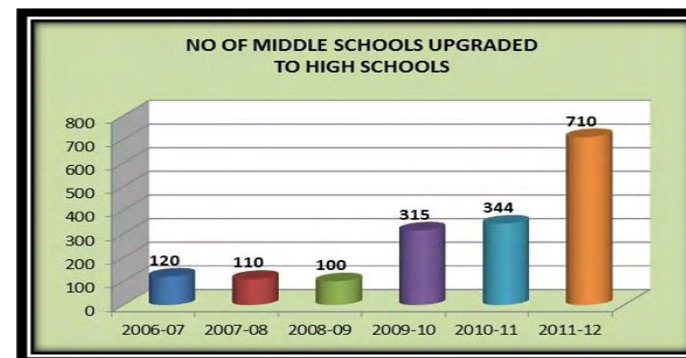
5.4.2 Achievement Tests

The objective of the achievement tests is to assess the learning capabilities of 9th and 10th standard students in Government and Government Aided schools. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan has been conducting the achievement tests on a pilot basis in 5 schools selected randomly in the Districts. The tests focus on understanding the basic concepts of arithmetic, writing skills in Tamil language, sentence construction, spelling and pronunciation in English. The test, besides improving the student's proficiency in

English and Tamil and arithmetical skills, also increasing the role of Teachers in imparting quality education to the pupils. There is very good response from the students to the achievement tests.

5.4.3 Upgradation of Government Upper Primary Schools into High Schools.

There are 95,000 habitations in the State. Of these, 73,101 habitations have access to High Schools within 5 km radius. Only, 989 Upper Primary Schools were upgraded during the period from 2006-2011 and there was a wide gap in the access to High Schools and with little attention. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has seized of this matter and has announced upgradation of 710 Upper Primary Schools into High Schools in 2011-2012. (Graph 13).



Graph 13

Source : DSE

By this landmark announcement, 37,550 students have accessed to schools within a radius of 5km and have been benefitted in 2011-2012.

5.4.4. Upgradation of Government High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools.

There was a considerable increase in the drop-out of students in rural areas after 10th examination, prior to the year 2011. Though, a cause of concern for the State, this area remains neglected during 2006-2011. The Honble Chief Minister has taken stock of the situation and to enable the rural students to pursue Higher Secondary Education has ordered for upgradation of 100 High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools each in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. This magnanimous act of the Hon'ble Chief Minister has enabled 12,000 students to continue the Higher Secondary Education. Further, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered introduction of Science and Arts groups in the newly upgraded Higher Secondary Schools from the year 2011-2012 and sanctioned 1 post of Headmaster and 9 posts of Post Graduate

Assistant for each of these upgraded Higher Secondary Schools for the welfare of the rural students.

5.4.5 Supply of Lab Equipments

Lab equipments are provided to 100 upgraded Government Higher Secondary Schools at a cost of Rs.1 crore during the year 2012-2013. The supply of lab equipments has enabled the students to acquire and enrich practical knowledge in the emerging and expanding field of science. This has benefitted 80,735 students.

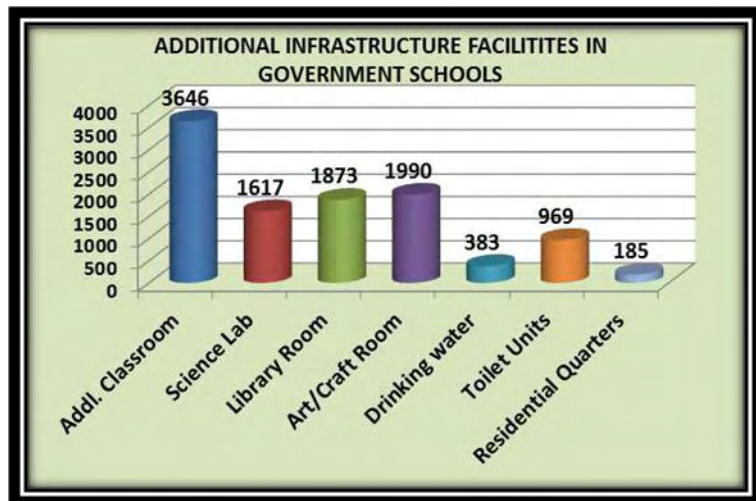
5.4.6 Library Facilities

The Libraries are repositories of knowledge and plays an important in moulding the career of students. Taking these into account, the Government have sanctioned Rs.40 lakh to improve the facility of Libraries in 100 Government High Schools and 100 Government Higher Secondary Schools during the year 2012-2013. This has benefitted 1,46,335 students.

5.5. Infrastructure

There are 25,786 class rooms available for 9th and 10th Standards in Government Schools. Infrastructure facilities such as additional class rooms,

science lab, library room etc., are constructed at a cost of Rs.1256.62 crores for the year 2012-2013(Graph-14).



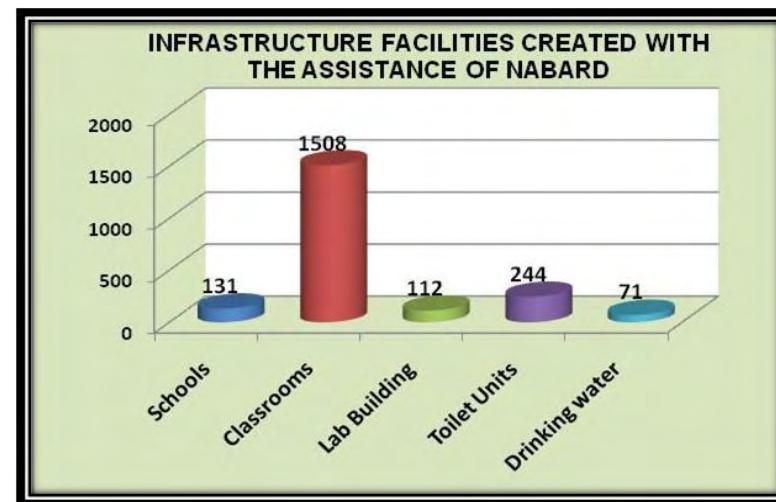
Graph 14

Source DSE & DEE

These infrastructure facilities will create a good environment for education and thereby the quality of education is enhanced.

The Government with assistance of NABARD is providing infrastructure facilities such as class rooms, science labs, toilets, drinking water facilities, providing necessary furniture and science lab equipments for the Government High and Higher Secondary Schools.

In phase XI during the year 2012-2013, Rs. 152.73 crores has been allotted for 131 schools. This includes the Sainik school at Amaravathi Nagar. The infrastructure facilities provided in the Schools are shown in the graph. (Graph 15).



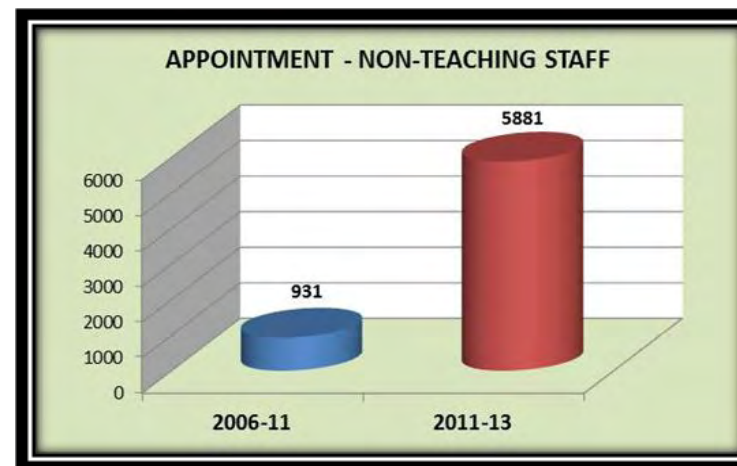
Graph 15

Source : DSE

Further under this scheme, furniture at a cost of Rs. 8.26 crores will be provided to the 845 additional class rooms constructed in 377 Government Higher Secondary Schools and lab equipments at a cost of Rs.3.09 crores to 309 science labs in 309 Government Higher Secondary Schools.

5.6 Recruitment of Teachers

The Hon'ble Chief Minister with her resolve to provide quality teachers who are capable of imparting good quality education to the children has not only sanctioned new posts for the Government High and Higher Secondary Schools but also ensured the recruitment of teachers. Besides, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered for redeployment after a period of 20 years after which 8,025 teachers have been redeployed. This has ensured the availability of the required number of subject-wise teachers in all the Government High and Higher Secondary Schools. In addition, 5,128 Post Graduate Assistants, 12,642 Graduate Assistants are recruited during 2011-2013. Further, 5881 non teaching staff are recruited during 2011-2013 which is much higher than the recruitments made during 2006-2011.(Graph 16). Besides, 1591 additional Post Graduate Assistant posts have been sanctioned for Government/Municipal Higher Secondary Schools.



Graph 16

Source : DSE & DEE

5.7 Capacity Building of Teachers

To attune the students to the requirements of the contemporary University Education System, life skills, vocational skills, etc, it is imperative to train the Teachers adequately. The State Council of Educational Research and Training is adopting a multi-pronged strategy in imparting training to the teachers i.e., Induction training for the newly recruited teachers, subject-wise specialized training, training for imparting Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation system, soft skill training and other wide ranging training to provide quality education to all children.

5.8 Continous and Comprehensive Evaluation and Trimester to be extended to Class 9 in the Academic Year 2013-2014

The CCE and Trimester pattern were introduced for classes 1 to 8 in the academic year 2012-2013. This system has evoked overwhelming response from the stake holders such as students, parents and teachers. Encouraged by this response, the Trimester pattern would be extended to class 9 in the academic year 2013-2014.

5.9 Incentive Scheme for Girls.

This scheme is launched with the twin objective of enhancing enrolment and retaining the continuity of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe girl students studying in Government and Government Aided Schools. Under this Scheme, Rs 3,000 is deposited in the name of the student and after completing 18 years of age and after passing 10th standard, the deposited amount with interest will be disbursed to them. Rs.25.92 crores has been allotted for the year 2011-2012 for the benefit of 86,414 students.

5.10 Vocational Education in Higher Secondary Schools.

Based on the report of the High Level Committee on Vocational Education, Vocational Education has been revamped. 12 vocational courses were taught from the year 2010-2011. The total number of students benefitted are 1,86,094. The Government plans to introduce new vocational courses in the ensuing years.

5.11. Cash Prize for Top Rankers

The Government have launched cash prize scheme to encourage talented students to pursue their higher studies. Under this scheme, the first three top-rankers at State level in the 12th Board Examination / 10th Board Examination who have studied Tamil as first language are awarded cash prizes as follows:-

	12 th Board Examination	10 th Board Examination
First Rank	Rs.50,000	Rs.25,000
Second Rank	Rs.30,000	Rs.20,000
Third Rank	Rs.20,000	Rs.10,000

Likewise, at the District level, the Government is bearing the expenditure for the higher studies of the first three rank holders in the 12th Board Examination and giving Rs.1,500 for the first three rank holders in the 10th Board Examination for pursuing higher studies.

The selection of schools is as follows:

Classification of Schools	No of students selected
Government High / Higher Secondary School	1
Government Aided High / Higher Secondary School	1
Anglo Indian / Matric / Self-financing High / Higher Secondary School	1

Also subject-wise first rankers at the State-level in both the 12th and 10th Board Examination are given cash awards by the Government every year.

5.12 Mobile Counselling Centre

Mobile Counselling Centre at a cost of Rs.2 crores will be launched in 10 Regions in the State to strength and maintain the psychological well-being of the students. 10 counseling vans will be engaged for

counseling the students. The main motto of the scheme is to prepare the students against the common problems like mental stress, exam-phobia and various stresses inside the classroom or in the society.

5.13. Special Initiatives taken up for Differently Abled Children

Efforts were taken to enroll all 8th passed out differently abled children in 9th Std. The differently abled children who are studying in 9th -12thstd, are given free books & stationeries, uniforms and hostel facilities through Inclusive Education for the Differently abled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) scheme. Efforts were taken to issue special books called “Braille Books” for visually impaired Children. Assistive devices like hearing aids, canes, calipers, etc. were given free of cost for needy students. Medical assessment camps were organized to issue national identity cards for the differently abled children in the age group 14-18 years. Special Programme like career guidance is given to differently abled children and thus helping them to select a successful pathway after 12th Standard.

5.14. Yoga

Yoga is a system of exercise that synchronizes the union of mind, body and spirit. The secrets of Yoga are inwardness, concentration, and purification of mind and body with cleansing thoughts and food. In the contemporary stressful society, Yoga is essential and hence Yoga is taught for school children. One period is allotted exclusively for Yoga among 2 periods allotted for Physical Education.

5.15. Scouts and Guides

In Tamil Nadu, the Scouts and Guides Movement is functioning in schools. Cleaning temple premises, planting trees, regulating traffic and First Aid training are some of the activities. The Government is allotting Rs.7 lakh every year to Bharath Scouts and Guides. **Rajya Purashkar Award** is given by the Governor of Tamil Nadu to outstanding Scouts and Guides since 1998-1999. For this award, Rs.5 lakh is being sanctioned every year by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

5.16. ECO – Club

- The aim of ECO- Club is to create environmental awareness among students

- 1869 Schools have been covered under this scheme. Rs.1250 is given to each school through the Department of Environment and Forest
- National Green Corps Scheme is functioning in 7500 schools. Each school is sanctioned Rs.2500 through the Department of Environment and Forest
- ECO – Club and National Green Corps are involved in planting trees, farming gardens and other activities

5.17. Junior Red Cross Society

The Junior Red Cross Society is functioning in High and Higher Secondary Schools in Tamil Nadu. The District Collector is the patron of the Junior Red Cross Society. Teachers are trained as Counsellors and students as volunteers. This programme helps in bringing out the potential of children such as leadership quality besides imbibing humanitarian values.

5.18. Young Talent Scheme

In this scheme, the hidden talents of the students are brought to the limelight by conducting competitions

in Oratory, Essay Writing, Drawing, Quiz, Music, Poetry Writing, Bharathanatyam, Folk Dances, Playing Instruments, Acting, Mono Acting, Drama, Musical Competitions every year at School Level, Educational District Level, Revenue District Level and finally at the State Level. The State level winners are given special prizes.

5.19. Tamil Nadu Rural Talent Scheme

Every year to encourage rural students of Government and Government Aided schools studying in 9th Standard who have passed 8th standard with the aggregate of 50% marks, the Directorate of Government Examinations conduct examination in the month of September and select 50 boys and 50 girls from each district and Rs.1000 is given to each student for 4 years from 9th to 12th standards. Every year a fund of Rs.1.10 crores is being allotted and distributed through Chief Educational Officers. To get this assistance, the parent's annual income should not exceed Rs.1 lakhs.

5.20. National Service Scheme (NSS)

The aim of the NSS is to create personality development through community services like organizing health camps, blood donation camps, conducting awareness programmes and focusing on welfare schemes for the Public. In School Education Department, there are 97,000 student volunteers from 1940 units of Higher Secondary Schools. A grant of Rs.11,000 for regular activities and a grant of Rs.11,250 for special camp per unit is being given.

5.21. Issue of Community, Income and Residential Certificates

Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced to issue Community, Income and Residential certificates to students of 6th standard in schools from the year 2012-2013 onwards. 8.60 lakh students were benefited under this scheme. The above efforts by the Directorate of School Education will surely achieve the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to provide an opportunity to all children to get access to quality Secondary Education.

5.22 Budget

This Directorate has been allocated a sum of Rs.6936.80 crores for the year 2012-2013 in the

budgetary provision and it has been increased to Rs.8056.72 crores in the budgetary provision for the year 2013-2014. Due to the efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to improve the Secondary Education there has been a remarkable improvement in the same.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister vision to enhance secondary education of high standards in the State by 2023 will be the road map for the Directorate of School Education.

6. RASHTRIYA MADHYAMIK SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (RMSA)

6.1. Introduction

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's vision is to improve secondary education to the highest level in the next decade. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) programme is dovetailed along with the Directorate of School Education to substantiate it by providing the necessary schemes for the fulfillment of the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The scheme focuses on the quality development of IX and X Standards and to motivate students to continue their secondary education after the completion of elementary education. A society has been established in Tamil Nadu for operating the RMSA programme. This society concentrates on the upgradation of middle schools into high schools in order to provide universal access to all the school going children and enhance quality of secondary education by ensuring the availability of all the required infrastructure facilities, appointment of teachers and capacity building

of teachers. The society also focuses on establishing model schools and girls hostels in educationally backward blocks for providing an opportunity to all children particularly girls in these areas to pursue their secondary education.

6.2. Vision

To ensure access and providing good quality secondary education affordable to all school age children in the age group of 14-18 years.

6.3. Objectives

- To establish secondary schools within 5 kilometre radius and higher secondary schools within 7-10 kilometre radius from the habitations. Through GIS Mapping it has been ascertained that 546 habitations are yet to be covered. Hence, efforts will be taken to bridge this gap by providing schools in a phased manner and to achieve the target of universal access of secondary education by 2017 (Net Enrolment Ratio of 100%) and universal retention by 2020
- To provide access of secondary education to all especially to the economically and educationally

weaker sections of the society, girls, differently abled children and other marginalized categories like SC, ST, OBC and minorities

- To upgrade Middle Schools into High Schools and to provide more opportunity to students to pursue secondary education
- To strengthen the existing secondary schools with necessary infrastructure facilities to create conducive learning environment in schools
- To specially focus on secondary education for girls by providing residential facility in the form of hostels in the educationally backward blocks
- To bring about equality among all, model schools are being provided in the 44 educationally backward blocks. This would ensure an equal opportunity to the children in these blocks as compared to the children in the other blocks

6.4. Activities

The important schemes carried out by the RMSA in coordination with the Director of School Education are as follows:

- (a) Upgradation of middle schools to high schools

- (b) Providing girls hostels in the educationally backward blocks
- (c) Providing model schools in the educationally backward blocks
- (d) Capacity building for teachers
- (e) Infrastructure to the upgraded high schools

6.5. Upgradation of Middle Schools to High Schools

The Hon'ble Chief Minister with the prime objective of enhancing secondary education, sanctioned 710 middle schools have been upgraded to high schools in 2011-2012. This has benefitted large number of rural students to pursue secondary education. Even-though the Government of India has not been considering sanctioning of upgradation of schools since 2012-2013, this Government is determined to ensure 100% access. However, there exists a gap of 546 schools. All efforts will be taken in the forthcoming years to cover the gap in a phased manner.

6.6. Providing Girls Hostels in the Educationally Backward Blocks

Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered to expedite the Girls Hostels programme which was in a passive

state since 2009-2010. This scheme will provide residential facilities to 4400 girl students in 44 educationally backward blocks of 13 districts. These girls in the rural areas will not only get an opportunity to pursue their higher education but would become standing examples for other such girl children in the rural areas.

6.7. Providing Model Schools in the Educationally Backward Blocks

SC/ST dominant blocks and blocks with low women literacy rate have been identified and declared as Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB) by Government of India based on 2001 Census. The Model Schools are established in the 44 educationally backward blocks to increase access in Secondary Education to the children studying in these blocks.

The RMSA programme has earmarked a budget for the construction of model schools in the 44 educationally backward blocks in 13 districts but due to the insufficient fund allocation by Government of India

the construction activity could not be commenced in 2012-2013.

The State Government is taking all efforts to address this issue in the interest of providing secondary education facilities to the most needy children in the educationally backward blocks.

Sl. No.	District	Educationally Backward Blocks
1	Ariyalur	Ariyalur
2	Cuddalore	Nallur, Panruti, Mangalore
3	Dharmapuri	Pennagaram, Karimangalam, Palkodu
4	Erode	Ammapettai, Nambiyur, Sathiyamangalam, Thalavadi, Anthiyur
5	Thirupur	Moolanur, Kundadam
6	Krishnagiri	Shoolagiri, Kelamangalam, Thaly, Vepanapalli
7	Perambalur	Veppur
8	Salem	Edappadi, Kadayampatty, Konganapuram, Nangavalli, Sankagiri, Veerapandi, Pethanayakanpalayam, Tharamangalam, Kolathur, Magudanchavadi, Panamarathupatti, Yercaud.
9	Thiruvana mallai	Jawadhu Hills
10	Villupuram	Thiyagadurugam, Rishivandhiyam, Kallakurichi,

		Thirukoilur, Thirunavalur, Thiruvannainallur, Sankarapuram, Ulundurpet
11	Namakkal	Kolli Hills, Mallasamuthiram
12	Karur	Kadavur
13	Sivagangai	S.Pudur.

6.8. Capacity Building

In order to empower the Headmasters to identify the various strategies and interventions to enhance the pass percentage of students studying in the Government High and the Higher Secondary Schools in the Board Examinations, training programmes were organized at the State Level and Regional Level for 946 Headmasters.

Training of 23,706 School Management Development Committee members was conducted to facilitate them become aware of fund allocation and their responsibilities towards schools. Academic experts from Universities, Professors from IIT and faculty from SCERT, were involved in providing leadership training to 915 School Heads. A Collaborative programme on School leadership with experts from National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA)

and National College for School Leadership, United Kingdom was provided to Headmasters of select High and Higher Secondary Schools. To ensure continuous professional development of teachers, subject specific training was given to 7847 Graduate Assistants.

Induction training was given at the cost of Rs.154.53 lakh to the newly appointed 8217 Graduate Assistants working in the Government High and the Higher Secondary Schools. It has been proposed to conduct in-service training to 29,176 teachers handling IX and X classes at the cost of Rs.4.37crores.

6.9 Enhancing Quality at Secondary Level

In-service training programmes organized by RMSA influence the quality of classroom process paving the way for child-centric experiential learning. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan identified low performing schools in public examination and their Headmasters were given special training to improve the performance. The students from KGBV have smooth transition to secondary school as Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan's Girls Hostel shelters them. With the support of Hon'ble Chief Minister's Girl's incentive

scheme, the students shall continue their secondary education successfully.

6.10. Infrastructure facilities

To fulfill the Hon'ble Chief Minister's vision of providing the best infrastructure services in India in terms of Universal Access to Education, RMSA is taking all efforts to provide necessary infrastructure facilities at Secondary level. The details of various Infrastructure facilities are being provided as follows:

- Provision of potable drinking water facility in 213 schools at a cost of Rs.1.06 crores.
- As the lack of toilet facilities is one of the major reasons for the drop out in secondary level, toilet facilities in 474 schools would be made available at a cost of Rs.4.74 crores.
- In 879 existing high and higher secondary schools, additional classrooms / buildings will be constructed at a cost of Rs.157.98 crores.
- A total fund of Rs.28.35 crores has been spent as the school grant of Rs.50,000 to each of the 5,670 Government High and Higher Secondary Schools

to procure science laboratory equipments, teaching learning materials, library books and newspapers.

- A fund of Rs.25,000 has been granted to each of the 4,092 Government High and Higher Secondary Schools to carryout simple maintenance activities like providing toilet facilities, repair of floors, doors, electrical items and rewiring activities. The total cost for this activity is Rs.10.23 crores.
- 28,235 members of School Management Development Committee were given training at the cost of Rs. 84.71 lakhs.

6.11. Budget Allocation

A sum of Rs. 461.75 crores has been approved by the Project Approval Board for RMSA programmes and activities for the year 2012-2013.

The Project Directorate of RMSA, in its quest to achieve Universalization of quality Secondary Education is well on its way to materialise the “**Vision Tamil Nadu-2023**” of Hon’ble Chief Minister of our State, providing quality infrastructure universal access, equity, quality at secondary and higher secondary level in Government Schools.

6.12 State Budget

A sum of Rs.300 crores has been allocated for the activities under this project for the year 2012-2013 as a budgetary support of the State. This amount has been enhanced now to Rs.366.57 crores in the State budget provision for the year 2013-2014.

The special initiatives taken up by this program will not only help the children to access secondary school but would also pave the way for getting good quality education thereby creating an opportunity for them to take up higher education.

7. MATRICULATION SCHOOLS

7.1. Introduction

In 2001, a separate Directorate of Matriculation Schools was established for effective monitoring of English medium Matriculation Schools under self-finance stream.

At that time there were 2983 schools with enrolment of 11,68,479 children. The Matriculation Schools showed a steady growth and the enrolment increased threefold over the period from 2001. Now there are 3,774 schools with an enrolment of around 33,39,414 Children.

7.2. Main Role

The main role of the Directorate is to grant Permission / Recognition to Matriculation schools / Matriculation Higher Secondary Schools under the Code of Regulations for Matriculation Schools and the rules and regulations issued by Government from time to time. The Directorate of Matriculation Schools controls and monitors the functioning of Matriculation Schools through 15 Inspectors of Matriculation Schools at the field level.

7.3. Regulation of Fee for all Private Unaided Schools

A Committee headed by a retired Judge of High Court, has been constituted as per the Tamil Nadu Schools (Regulation of Collection of Fee) Act, 2009 to determine the fee to be levied by the private unaided schools based on the infrastructure, administrative expenses and all other expenses incurred towards the development of the students. Initially, the Committee fixed fees for three year period from 2010 – 2013 for 10,500 schools. Now, the process of fixing fees for the next three years is in progress and it is expected to be completed by the end of June, 2013.

District level Committees have been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Educational Officer of the district concerned to look into the complaints on excess fee collection and the committee, after enquiry will recommend to the respective Director for necessary action.

7.4 Appointment of Chief State Nodal Officer for RTE.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, in order to ensure that the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education is achieved, notified the Tamil Nadu Right of Children for Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011, for implementation of RTE Act,2009. As a follow up of which, the Director of Matriculation Schools has been designated as the Chief State Nodal Officer at State level along with the Joint Directors from the Directorate of School Education, Directorate of Elementary Education, Directorate of Matriculation Schools as members along with representatives from School Education department. The following duties and responsibilities are assigned to the Chief State Nodal Officer.

1. To address all issues relating to implementation of RTE Act,2009
2. To conduct enquiry into any complaints relating to RTE Act and evolve suitable redressal mechanism
3. To Co-ordinate with the SCERT in training and other academic activities.

4. Any other issues that may arise from time to time.

This Committee will closely monitor the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Right of Children for Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011 in its true spirit.

7.5. Safety of students in Schools

The Hon'ble Chief Minister is committed to ensure safety of students studying in all types of schools. Accordingly Orders have been issued enlisting various safety norms such as buildings, school premises, toilets and safe drinking water facilities, laboratory, infrastructure facilities, etc. Further the order resulted in the formation of "Annaiyar Kuzhu" which provides social audit by the parents.

Its salient features are:

1. A team of 5 mothers of the students studying in Primary / Middle/High/Higher Secondary School classes is formed.
2. The team is allowed to visit the school on a particular day of the week and oversee all the facilities available in the school such as classrooms,

lab, library, toilet / safe drinking water, transport facilities etc.,

3. The team records their observations in a register. This register has to be perused by School Management and Inspecting Officers every month so as to take necessary remedial action.

This mechanism would ensure continuous social audit by the parents namely the mothers.

7.6. Provision of Toilet / Safe Drinking water facility

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered to provide required number of toilets and safe drinking water facilities in all private schools. This has been done keeping the interest of the students in mind.

7.7. Admission Procedure to be followed in the Private Un-Aided Non-Minority schools

RTE Act mandates 25% of seats at the entry level to be reserved to the students belonging to weaker section / disadvantaged group. To ensure the implementation of 25% reservation, formats have been prescribed for the admission for the academic year 2013-2014 and this will be monitored by the State level and District level Committee.

7.8. Constitution of High Level Committee

The Government have prescribed minimum land area for Matriculation / Matriculation Higher Secondary Schools. The details are as follows:

Areas	Minimum land requirement
Corporation	6 grounds composite land
District Head quarters	8 grounds composite land
Municipality	10 grounds composite land
Township	1 acre composite land
Rural	3 acres composite land

The Government have directed the management of Matriculation schools to satisfy the minimum land area requirement. Initially they were granted 4 years time and since some of them have not complied with the minimum land requirement they were given additional time of 3 years.

Even after this extension of additional time, some of the management of Matriculation schools has not satisfied the land norms. In order to regulate the functioning of Matriculation schools, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered constituting of a High Level Committee. The Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Director of School

Education. The Committee shall take up a detailed study and suggest to Government regarding the minimum land area to be made available to schools in the light of the existing rules and regulations.

7.9. Regulations for Swimming Pools in schools

After the tragic accident resulted in the death of a private school student in a swimming pool, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has taken immediate steps by constituting a Committee of Experts to frame Rules and Regulations for Swimming Pools in schools. Accordingly, Government constituted a Committee to conduct feasibility study of functioning of Swimming Pools in schools and to suggest suitable rules and regulations to be evolved for regulating the functioning of Swimming Pools in Schools. The Committee has submitted its report to Government and the process of framing rules regarding regulations of Swimming Pools is under process.

7.10. Safety of Students in School Transportation

Government have taken steps ensuring safety of students and constituted a Committee to frame necessary Rules and Regulations for vehicles

transporting children. Accordingly, Government framed Rules namely 'Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles (Regulation and Control of School Buses) Special Rules 2012' and the same has been notified.

The Directorate of Matriculation keeps the interest of children with respect to their safety and security as its prime objectives while regulating the private schools.

7.11. Budget Provision

This directorate received a sum of Rs.4.28 crores as a budgetary support for the year 2012-2013 and the allocation has now been increased to Rs.4.37 crores in the Budget provision for the year 2013-2014.

The close monitoring of the Matriculation schools by the Directorate pave the way for the implementation of the schemes introduced by the Government like Trimester pattern, CCE, RTE Act, Fee Regulations, Safety measures etc., along with providing quality in education.

8. NON FORMAL AND ADULT EDUCATION

8.1. Introduction

The Department of Non Formal and Adult Education was formed in 1976 during the Fifth Plan Period with the sole aim of providing literacy to adult non-literates above 15 years. The Department has been the pioneer in the field of provision of adult literacy in the name of Arivoli Iyyakkam and won the UNESCO award for achieving the Target fixed for Arivoli Iyyakkam. In appreciation of the excellent work done by the department in the year 1982 UNESCO has given a Platinum Medal with a certificate and Rs.67,000. In appreciation of the performance in 1983 and 1984, Government of India has extended a grant of Rs.50.00 Lakhs.

During the course of the implementation of Adult literacy programmes, Government of India have sanctioned Saakshar Bharat Scheme during the Eleventh plan period and the same has been launched on 08.09.2009. The grant authorized for implementation of the plan during the entire Eleventh plan period from 08.09.2009 – 31.03.2013 is Rs.48.09 crores. Further, it

will be continued up to 31.03.2017. The prime aim of the scheme is to identify the revenue districts in India where the female literacy rate is 50% or less as per the 2001 census. In Tamil Nadu, the Women literacy rate is less than 50% in Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Salem, Dharmapuri and Erode Districts. Therefore, these 7 districts of Tamil Nadu have been selected for the implementation of the Saakshar Bharat Scheme. In Tamil Nadu, the scheme is called “**Karkum Bharatham**”

8.2. Vision

- To increase the women literacy rate to 100% in these 7 Districts through the conduct of Basic Adult Literacy programme by following both conventional and modern methods in teaching and learning.
- To improve the reading skills of the adult learners to enable them to learn the habit of continuous reading and motivating them to pursue their learning to higher levels like VIII Standard, SSLC etc.,

- To impart Vocational skills to adult learners in order to help them to take up a simple vocation that suits them to earn a livelihood for their family.
- Encouraging successful adult learners in the field of Vocational skill development to become tiny entrepreneurs.

8.3. Goals and Objectives

- Bridging the gender gap in the Basic Literacy before the end of Eleventh Plan period i.e. 31.03.2013.
- Provision of basic literacy to all women above 15 years on or before 31.03.2013 in the selected seven districts and to inculcate the habit of life-long learning in order to become an average citizen of the democratic India.
- Encouraging the best learners to become tiny entrepreneurs in the local rural areas as trend setters among rural women.

8.4. Conduct of Classes

The curriculum for the conduct of Basic functional literacy programme includes teaching of

basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills for 300 hours in order to prepare them for basic literacy assessment test to be conducted in August and March every year. So far, in Tamil Nadu 19.30 lakh neo literates have written the examination and 17.26 lakhs of them have passed the examination.

8.5. Model Adult Education Centres

Besides conventional method of teaching, 40 Model Adult Education Centres have been established as announced by the Minister for School Education in 2012-2013 budget. These model centres teaches adult learners using computer, LCD and pre-loaded software on basic functional literacy programme. National level appreciation has been received for the initiative of the department stating that Tamil Nadu is the only state which has implemented the programme in its true spirit.

8.6. Strategies

The above goals and objectives shall be realised through the implementation of the Saakshar Bharat Programme (in Tamil Nadu, it is called Karkum Bharatham) by the Department of Non-formal and Adult

Education with the coordination of the National and State Literacy Mission authorities.

The scheme is implemented in Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Salem, Dharmapuri and Erode districts where women literacy rate is less than 50% as per 2001 census.

The scheme was started on 08.09.2009 with the appointment of District and field level staff in the 3152 Gram Panchayats of the above said Districts and a field level survey was conducted by these staff in order to identify the non-literates. A list of 20.5 lakh non-literates have been prepared and uploaded on the Saakshar Bharat web-portal against the target of 17.46 lakhs fixed by the Government of India as per 2001 census.

8.7. Creating learning environment

Awareness campaign and motivational meetings were conducted at the Gram panchayat level in close coordination with the elected representatives of local Community, Teachers and Volunteers. This has helped to motivate non-literates of the Grama panchayats to turn towards Adult Education centres. To

pursue Basic Literacy programme in the centres all the required materials have been provided free of cost. Vocational skill development programme is also conducted in Adult Education Centres in all 3152 Grama panchayats. Under vocational skill development programme, soap powder making, artificial jewellery making, candle making and tailoring are taught to all the adult learners. After under going the training some of them have become successful self employed entrepreneurs.

8.8. Basic Literacy Assessment Test

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) conducts Basic Literacy Assessment Test twice in a year in August and March and issues a certificate which is equivalent to Standard III. In Tamil Nadu 17.26 Lakh illiterates have become literates and certificates have been issued to them by NIOS. Vocational Skill Training have been given to 79,660 learners and few of them have become successful tiny entrepreneurs.

This programme has helped to improve the literacy status of the 7 identified districts.

8.9 Budget

This directorate has received a budgetary allocation of Rs.6.32 crores during the year 2012-2013 and the budgetary provision for the year 2013-2014 is increased to Rs.7.33 crores.

This Directorate has been playing an important role of improving the literacy rate of the State of Tamil Nadu.

9. GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

Directorate of Government Examinations has been entrusted with the responsibility of conducting all Board Examinations of school education department and other Government examinations of public importance.

9.1. Vision

Introduction of modern technologies in different spheres of examination and utilisation of human resources for attaining the set goals of speed, accuracy and fulfilling the reasonable anticipations of student community without causing any additional manpower or financial burden to the Government and to usher in a new era in the conduct of examinations.

9.2. Responsibilities

Conducting of school final public examinations and releasing the results in time are the prime duty of the Directorate of Government Examinations. This directorate conducts 31 different kinds of examinations every year. Among these, Higher Secondary Public Examinations, SSLC, Diploma in Elementary Education and ESLC Examination are the major ones.

Every year examinations are conducted for Higher Secondary / S.S.L.C. in three sessions i.e., March / April, June / July and September / October. Other examinations are conducted once in a year.

There are Seven Regional Deputy Directors of Government Examinations in the State viz. Chennai, Vellore, Cuddalore, Trichy, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli. The Regional Officers oversee the receipt of applications for secondary examination of all candidates. They also monitor the distribution of stationery materials and contingency funds to the respective examination centres, under their jurisdiction.

9.3. Mark Certificate with Photo and Additional Security Features

As per the 110 announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the candidates appeared for the Higher Secondary and SSLC Public Examinations are given mark certificates with photo, 2D bar-code and additional security features from March 2012 examinations onwards. By this 18,07,386 candidates were benefited.

For the first time, since March 2012, the examination related documents such as Nominal roll, Admission certificate (Hall ticket) and Attendance certificate have been prepared with photo of the candidates. The attendance certificate contains the details of name of candidate, register number, subjects to appear and the examination centre allotted. The introduction of these new documents has controlled impersonation while writing the Public Examination.

9.4 Special Supplementary Examinations for all the Subjects

Prior to 2012, candidates who have appeared and failed in March/April session were eligible to write the exam if they have failed in maximum of three subjects. This rule has been revised based on the announcement made by the Minister for School Education. According to the revised rule, irrespective of the number of subjects failed the candidates are allowed to write the June/July supplementary examination from 2012 onwards. This has been a great help to the students as they are now able to join the universities for higher study without wasting an academic year.

9.5. Candidates Pass Percentage

As compared to March 2011, when the result percentage in SSLC was 85.30% and in Higher Secondary was 85.90%, there has been an increase in the performance in March 2012 when the result percentage in SSLC was 86.20% in Higher Secondary was 86.70%.

An analysis was taken up in 2011, which revealed that the performance in the northern districts was much lower vis-à-vis the southern districts. The reason for this was that there was direct correlation between the vacancy of teachers and performance. This was taken to the notice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The same was considered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and immediately the required numbers of teacher posts were sanctioned. With the required number of teachers in place, the performance of the students is expected to get better in 2013.

9.6. Resumption of Eighth Standard Public Examination (Private)

In order to impart minimum general educational qualification and for employment, promotion at basic level and for getting driving license, the ESLC

examination has been resumed and is being conducted since April, 2012.

9.7. Issue of Duplicate Mark Certificate and Certified Copy of Mark Certificates

In order to enable the candidates, who have lost their Public Examination certificates issued by the department, duplicate copy of the Certificate / Certified Copy of Mark Certificate is issued on payment of prescribed fee.

9.8 Issue of Migration Certificate

Migration Certificates are issued to candidate who have passed 10th / 12th standard examination from this State and desires to continue higher studies, elsewhere.

9.9 Mark Certificates

The mark certificates of Higher Secondary/ S.S.L.C. Public examinations are printed and issued to candidates in bilingual format viz. Tamil and English.

9.10 Results of Examination

The results of Higher Secondary / SSLC public examinations are made available through the websites specially created for this purpose. Moreover, facilities

have also been made to view the results online in their respective schools, district central and branch libraries and to get the result by way of SMS.

9.11. Re-totalling of Marks / Re-valuation of Answer Scripts

Re-totalling of answer scripts is permitted for all the candidates appearing for Higher Secondary / S.S.L.C. and Diploma in Elementary Education Examinations. 'ONLINE' system has been introduced for applying retotalling of marks and revaluation of answer scripts from the June/July 2012. Candidates, who desire, may apply for photocopies of answer scripts before they go for revaluation. This system is applicable only for Higher Secondary Examination.

9.12. Tamil Nadu Rural Students Talent Search Scheme Examination (TRUSTS Examination)

Tamil Nadu Rural Students Talent Search Scheme Examination is conducted every year in the month of September to promote the rural students and to avail benefits offered by the Government. The Students from rural areas and those who are studying in 9th standard during the current academic year, and

whose parental income do not exceed Rs.1 lakh are eligible to attend the Examination. 50 Girls and 50 Boys are selected from each district and a scholarship of Rs.1000/- per annum, is granted for a continuous period of four years.

9.13 National Talent Search Examination

The Department acts as a Nodal Agency for National Council for Educational Research and Training, in conducting the National Talent Search Examination at Level I. Students, who are studying in X standard, in the State / Central Boards during the academic year, and secured 60% and above marks in IX standard are eligible for this examination. 1st Level examination is conducted every year November.

After the publication of results of Level-I, the Level II examination is conducted by the National Council for Educational Research and Training at National level followed by interviews. The selected students are awarded Scholarship from XI standard upto Ph.D level. This scheme provides Scholarship to 40 candidates of Tamil Nadu each year.

9.14. Conduct of Examination for National Means cum Merit Scholarship

The Directorate of Government Examinations conducts the National Means Cum Merit Scholarship Examination and the candidates will be selected based on the marks and rule of reservation. Candidates who have passed 7th standard from Central/State Government Schools /Government Aided Schools, (55% of marks for other candidates, 50% of marks for SC/ST) and studying in 8th standard, and whose parental income do not exceed Rs. 2.50 lakhs will get a sum of Rs.6000 as scholarship per annum (at the rate of Rs.500 per month) from 9th standard onwards upto 12th standard. This scheme provides scholarships to 6695 candidates of Tamil Nadu each year. The NMMS examination has been delinked from the NTS examination from the year 2012.

9.15. Conduct of Union Public Service Commission / Staff Selection Commission Examinations

This Department acts as a Nodal Agency to conduct all Union Public Service Commission / Staff Selection Commission examinations at Chennai centre

every year. The Civil Services Examination is the most prestigious one among them. This department also assists Teachers Recruitment Board in carrying out certain confidential work for the written examinations.

9.16. Medium of Instruction specified in the Mark Certificate

Medium of Instruction is printed in the Mark Certificates of the candidates, of Higher Secondary / S.S.L.C. examination and Diploma in Elementary Education Examinations.

9.17. ONLINE Application

The candidates applying for the examinations hitherto have been using manual applications which are supplied through various officers of the School Education Department. In order to avoid hardship to the candidates in getting the applications, the system of "ONLINE" submission of application has been introduced in the following areas:-

To apply for

- 1) Higher Secondary Public Examination
- 2) SSLC Public Examination

- 3) Revaluation and re-totalling of Marks for Higher Secondary Public Examination.
- 4) Photostat copies of answer scripts for revaluation for Higher Secondary Public Examination
- 5) Retotalling of SSLC Marks

Downloading of applications is allowed in the following areas:-

- 1) Application for Science practical classes for SSLC private candidate
- 2) Trust Examinations
- 3) NTS Examinations
- 4) NMMS Examinations
- 5) Migration, Duplicate certificate and other forms

9.18 Digitalization of Records

Digitalization of Tabulated Mark Register from October 1972 for SSLC Public examination and from March 1998 for Higher Secondary examinations is being carried out. Electronic Corporation of Tamil Nadu is implementing the scheme. An amount of Rs.10 lakhs has been allocated for the same in the year 2012-2013.

9.19 Online Verification of Mark Certificates

The Government Examination is the verifying authority for issuing genuineness for the SSLC and Higher Secondary certificate. We are receiving number of request from the appointing authority, educational institutions and other agencies to verify their certificates. While doing the process there is a delay. To minimize the delay online verification scheme is to be implemented with the co-ordination of Government Data Centre, National Informatics centre and State Data Centre. Necessary training is being given to the staff of the Department and Educational institution to verify the genuineness of certificates through online.

9.20. Conduct of Examination

The most important examinations conducted by the Directorate of Government Examination are the S.S.L.C. and Higher Secondary. Every year lakhs of students took up the examinations. The entire processes are organizing the examination centres, setting up of question papers, identifying custodian

points, valuation centres is being done by the Directorate.

The process of transporting the answer sheets to the valuation centres is entrusted to the postal department. This system has inherent defects and recent incidents have caused concern to the Government. A detailed study will be taken up to minimize the interventions from other agencies and to ensure that the answer sheets are safely transported to the valuation centres as is being done in the case of transporting the question papers from the custodian points to the examination centres.

To conduct the examination, in a fair and efficient manner, the District Collectors are empowered to set up a committee at the district level and to monitor the examination centres and take all measures to avert the tendencies of malpractice. The Professors of Anna University, Chennai, are deputed to the districts to have a watch and ward over the examination centres for the core examinations. Similarly, the Directors and the Joint Directors under the control of the Department of School Education are deputed to the districts and to report then

and there about the smooth conduct of the examinations besides making surprise visit to the examination centres and custodian points. Apart from the above, the Chief Educational Officers, District Educational Officers, DIET Principals and Lecturers form flying squads and standing squads to monitor the examination centres.

9.21. Website

A Web portal with the address "www.tn.gov.in/dge" is available and details such as, timetable, application form, fee for duplicate certificate and Certified Copy of Mark Certificate (CCM), migration certificate for the benefit of the student community. Also, previous year question papers of Higher Secondary and S.S.L.C Public Examinations, and Model Question Papers for the S.S.L.C. Examination, application and instructions for candidates, appearing for Science Practical Classes are also available in the website.

9.22. Budget

This Directorate received a budgetary allocation of Rs.76.30 crores during the year 2013-2014.

The Directorate of Government Examinations is in the process of modernizing its function so as to provide better services to the students online with minimum human intervention and speedy delivery.

10. PUBLIC LIBRARIES

10.1. Introduction

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's statement - "The holistic development of children and the youth is my personal desire. We need to provide adequate opportunity for every child to learn to have good health and joyful childhood. We need to transform every child into a valuable asset of the society." Bearing these noble ideals in mind, the Public Libraries of the State nurtures reading habit among children, youth and the common public.

The intelligence of every citizen, thinking skill, individuality and values become the foundation for the development of the society. State Government is taking many initiatives to develop a knowledge society and to enhance human resources in conformity with the ideals ingrained in "**Vision Tamil Nadu-2023**". To make the people of Tamil Nadu efficient, Department of Public Libraries has taken all proactive steps to open libraries in villages and render an excellent service to the society. Of all nature's creations, man alone has got primacy and special status. Man knows to think. Man

craves to generate ideas to suit his novel thoughts and acquire education relevant to the new thoughts. Libraries are the primary sources and Treasure houses for learning.

Keeping in mind the role of Public Libraries in the social development, Public Libraries are established as per the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act 1948 with the noble objective of providing excellent reading facilities at a very cheap cost for the first time in India. Such libraries are being established continuously in Tamil Nadu.

10.2. Objectives

- To transform the library movement into people's movement and a social movement
- To provide library facilities in every village where the population is above 1000
- To create excellent basic facilities in the libraries
- To purchase quality books, newspapers, dailies and periodicals in a way that benefits the readers
- To computerize all the libraries in order to enhance the quality of the library services

- To preserve ancient and rare books by taking digital copies of them
- To develop the District Central Libraries and the Revenue Taluk libraries to respond to the learning needs of the educated youth who aspire for the competitive examinations.

10.3. Activities

- To open a part time library in every village with a population of above 1000 people, in order to reach the goal of library for all and to develop the efficiency of the people in the villages
- To construct new building for all needed libraries and distribute new books, newspapers , periodicals and furniture to all libraries
- In accordance with the recommendation of the National Knowledge and Information Commission to convert all libraries into knowledge and information centres
- To create additional facilities in Civil Service Study Centres in public libraries

- To ensure fastest and easier library service to all the members by integrating all the libraries with internet
- To preserve ancient and rare books by copying them digitally
- To organize book exhibition with the support of book publishers and book sellers in order to expand the library services
- To increase reading habit and writing skills among the students, distribute books to Government Schools and collect essays (book reviews) from the students and conduct district level and state level competitions and award prizes to the students
- To create study centers for the competitive examinations and training centre to prepare young aspirants for competitive examinations and Civil Services examinations
- To create book bank facilities for college going students in the District Central Libraries

10.4. Library Movement in Tamil Nadu

After the enactment of the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act 1948, in order to enhance public library services many libraries have been opened in villages also. In 1972, to accelerate the process of development, the Directorate of Public Libraries was established in 1972. At present 4,093 libraries are functioning under the Directorate of Public Libraries.

The details are furnished below.

Sl. No	Libraries	Number
1.	District Central Libraries	32
2.	Branch Libraries	1765
3.	Village Libraries	1885
4.	Mobile Libraries	10
5.	Part time Libraries	399
6.	Connemara State Central Public Library	1
7.	Anna Centenary Library	1
Total		4093

In addition to this, Government aided libraries are also functioning in Tamil Nadu. The most popular and ancient are Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji Sarasvati

Mahal Library, Thanjavur, Dr.U.Ve.Swaminatha Iyer Library, Chennai and the Maramalai Adigal Library, Chennai. Ensuring the best library services to people, new libraries are opened, required books, dailies, periodicals, journals and furniture are provided. Besides, new libraries buildings are being constructed, patrons are being accepted to promote the participation of the general public and to generate awareness on libraries among people and to keep the library movement live and vibrant. The library service has become useful to educated youth and young children. Efforts are being taken to sustain the interest of young learners in reading books.

10.5. Connemara Public Library turns a centenarian

Lord Connemara laid the foundation for Connemara Public Library in 1890 and library was inaugurated on 5th December 1896. This library has the prestige of having many feathers in its cap such as the Depository of the Publications of the United Nation Organization, Depository of the Publications of Asian Development Bank, National Repository Library, the First Public Library and the State Central Library of the

State. In this Library, there are 7.5 lakh of books and 3,500 titles of periodicals for the use of general public. This library functions with many divisions such as rare books section, reference section, periodical section, bibliography section, civil services study centre, Indian Languages section and Children's section.

The nationalized, ancient and rare Tamil books are digitally preserved in compact discs for the use of future generations.

3.9 lakh readers have benefitted in the year 2012-2013 through this library. 1.34 lakh members have been enroled in this library. Rs.35 lakhs has been earmarked by the Central Government under the plan scheme for the year 2012-2013. Rs.30 lakhs has been allotted for this library under the plan scheme by the State Government.

All the activities of the Connemara Public Library have been computerized and facilities have been made available to access details of the books in the library through the website www.connemarapubliclibrarychennai.com

10.6. Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur

This library was started in 1535 when Nayaks ruled the state. From the year 1918, this library was brought under the control of the District Collector. In this library, there are approximately 46,000 manuscripts in Tamil, Telugu, Sanskrit, and Marathi languages. There are books in the form of oriental palm leaves and manuscripts. At present, steps are being taken to transform Maharaja Serfoji Sarasvati Mahal Library and Research Centre into a Central Digital Library on par with International Standards. His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu has announced in his speech to increase the Government grant from Rs.40 lakhs to Rs.75 lakhs for this library. In 2012-2013, 12,784 visitors have visited this library.

10.7. Maraimalai Adigal Library, Chennai

This Library is functioning in the premises of Connemara Public Library and it receives a grant of one lakh rupees every year. More than 1000 research Scholars are using the rare and ancient Tamil periodicals and books. In 2012-2013, 4,500 readers

including 1,200 research scholars have utilised this excellent reference library.

10.8. Dr.U.Ve. Swaminatha Iyer Library, Chennai

In this library, 28,500 ancient Tamil books, 2,128 palm leaf books are preserved every year. This library receives a grant of Rs.4.71 lakhs from the State Government in 2012-2013. This library has been used by more than 3,000 research scholars.

10.9. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkatta

Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation is an institution functioning under the Central Government's Department of Art and Culture. This foundation provides matching and non-matching grant to libraries every year all over India. The foundation gives grant every year to the Directorate of Public Libraries for conducting seminars, training programmes, constructing new library buildings, creating children's section, purchasing new books, to Computerize system, to purchase steel book rack and basic infrastructure development initiatives etc. In 2011-2012, Rs.6.63 crores matching grant has been received from this foundation and utilized for the development of the

public libraries. Moreover in 2012-2013, Rs.6.58 crores matching grant has been received from this foundation and is being utilized for the noble cause of development of the libraries.

10.10. Source of Fund

Library cess is the main source of finance for carrying out the developmental activities of the libraries such as the purchase of books, dailies, periodicals, construction of library buildings and purchase of furniture. Moreover, the other expenditure such as pay and other allowances of the employees are met only from the library cess. As per the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act, 1948, ten paise out of one rupee collected from the property tax levied by the local bodies such as corporations, municipalities, town panchayats and village panchayats are collected and the collected fund is given to the District Local Library Authority

In the financial year 2012-2013, the District Local Library Authorities have received Rs.70.26 crores as Library cess. In the financial year 2012-2013, Rs.165 crores has been spent for providing library services and maintaining libraries. In 2013-2014, it is estimated that

the State may have to incur an expenditure of Rs.198 crores for the above purposes.

10.11. Opening of New Libraries

In order to fulfill the objective of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to make Tamil Nadu a leading State in all the departments, part - time libraries are opened in villages where more than 1,000 people live. In the financial year 2012-2013, 36 part- time libraries have been opened.

10.12. Library Infrastructure

There are 4,093 public libraries in Tamil Nadu. Among them, 286 libraries function in the rented buildings. The vision of the Library Department is to house all the libraries in their own buildings. Corresponding to this vision, it is proposed to construct new library buildings at the cost of Rs.25 crores and to carry out major repairs at the cost of Rs.10 crores in the year 2013-2014.

10.13. Procurement of Books

Books Selection Committee selects books to the tune of Rs.15 crores every year for public libraries. In 2012-2013, 4,269 titles (books) have been purchased

at a cost of Rs.21.02 crores. It is proposed to purchase books to the tune of Rs.25 crores in the year 2013-2014.

10.14. Computerizing Libraries

All the Public Libraries of Tamil Nadu are being computerized with the noble objective of realizing Hon'ble Chief Minister's goal of transforming the State into a knowledge society and information technology enabled State. Moreover facilities are already being made connecting Connemara Public Library with all the other District Central Libraries through INTERNET facilitating the access of books in all the libraries. Efforts are being taken to computerize the libraries in revenue taluk capitals also.

Steps have been taken to scan rare books and convert them to digital books for the use of all the District Central Library readers.

A digital library is being constructed in Erode district at an estimated cost of Rs.1.43 crores.

10.15. Distribution of Laptops

In tune with modern information and technology, Hon'ble Chief Minister is giving primacy to

e-Governance to realize her dream of creating paperless offices. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has distributed laptops to 32 stock verification officers on 22.11.2012. Now the stock verification process has been simplified and accelerated.

10.16. Civil Services and Competitive Examination

There is a steep increase in the number of the young people who aspire for competitive examinations and civil service examinations. Now TNPSC conducts many competitive examinations and provides employment opportunities to many young people. In the larger interest of young people who face such competitive examinations, Connemara Public Library, District Central Libraries, 150 libraries located in Municipalities and 50 libraries located in small cities provide reference facilities. In 233 libraries have civil services competitive examination study centers. In these centers, books, Newspapers, and periodicals connected to these competitive examinations are procured and made available for the benefit of all young people. Besides, efforts are being taken to provide internet facilities and air conditioning facilities also for

them. In addition to providing such facilities to young people it is proposed to start training centers in 3 district Central Libraries in the first phase in order to prepare the young people for the competitive examinations. Such training centers will be created in all the District Central Libraries in a phased manner.

10.17. Capacity Building of Librarians

In 2012-2013, 320 librarians were provided in service training in 8 centers at a cost of Rs.8 lakhs utilising matching grant received from Raja Rammohun Roy Library foundation, Kolkatta. Seminars were conducted in 9 centers for the benefit 900 librarians at a cost of Rs.9 lakhs. It is proposed to organize such seminars in 2013-2014 also. Moreover, in the Directorate of Public Libraries, efforts are being taken to establish library research and training centres.

10.18. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan Award

Every year Dr. S.R.Ranganathan Award is being conferred on librarians who involve themselves in the noblest mission of linking the readers with books. Till the year 2011, the award was being given under the name "Best Librarian Award". The Hon'ble Chief

Minister in the year 2012 renamed the good librarian award as Dr.S.R.Ranganathan Award to honour the Father of India Libraries for his great contribution in the field. This award is being given every year to those who are identified as the best serving librarians. The selected librarians are given a silver medal and cash award of Rs.2000 each.

10.19. Shield of Honour

It is no doubt that such activities increase the number of readers, utilization of library and increase in the patrons for the library. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has instituted special shield from 2012 to encourage the service of librarians to change the public library movement into a people movement, those librarians who excel in getting more members, patrons and donations for the library (furniture, vacant sites, plots, buildings) will receive the shield of honour on behalf of their respective libraries.

10.20. Prison Library

Public libraries distribute books among the prisoners who are housed in District and Taluk Capital jails.

10.21. Library Section for the Differently Abled Children

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced many welfare measures for the benefit of the differently abled children. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced a separate section for differently abled children in Coimbatore District Central Library at an estimate cost of Rs.50 lakhs. This facility will be gradually expanded to other District Central Libraries also.

10.22. Enrolment of Patrons

Those who donate Rs.10,000 in libraries functioning under public library department are called donors. Those who donate Rs.5,000 are called great patrons and those who donate Rs.1000 are called patrons. Thus, the donors and patrons take part in the development of public libraries positively. In Tamil Nadu, a total number of 65,282 donors, great patrons and patrons support the activities of libraries.

10.23. Readers' Forum

A readers' forum has been constituted in each public library. It consists of very important personalities such as writers, the library members and educators.

This readers' forum organizes various sensitization programmes such as Quiz Competitions, Essay Competitions, Elocution Contest, Book Exhibition, Literary talks, introduction of books with the purpose of increasing the habit of reading among people.

10.24. Festivals

Every year between 14 and 20th November, National Library Week is celebrated to create awareness among the people about libraries. Libraries also celebrate world book day and women's day. In order to honour the Father of libraries Dr.S.R.Ranganathan, his birthday 12th August is celebrated as "Librarians day" every year. Libraries do the great service of linking books, the readers and all people.

10.25. Your Library in Your Home

To create book distribution points at places where an association or Non Governmental Organization centre who offers to provide rent - free building under the scheme "Your Library in Your Home".

10.26. Budget

This Directorate received a sum of Rs.49.63 crores as a budgetary support for the year 2012-2013 and now it has been increased to Rs.63.16 crores in the budgetary allocation for the year 2013-2014.

The use of public libraries is great in the social development of the country. Public Library movement is transformed into people's movement. Infrastructure facilities and modern technical facilities are made available in public libraries to enable readers of all ages, to learn and to read books throughout their life time on their own. The Public Libraries Department is functioning effectively to enhance public library movement into a social movement and to development people's reading habit and to facilitate emergence of the greatest literature.

11. STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

11.1. Introduction

The State Government evolves policies from time to time to allow professional development to play an effective part in educational reforms. The policies support the need to create new structures and institutional arrangements that support the role of teachers as lifelong learners. To realise this, the State Government has already upgraded the Directorate of Teacher Education, Research and Training to State Council of Educational Research and Training on 26.03.2012 in compliance with Hon'ble Chief Minister's visionary and insightful decision to expand the capacity building of teachers, research and development to enhance quality in School Education.

There has been a paradigm shift in evaluation thanks to Hon'ble Chief Minister's landmark decision to implement Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) from 2012-2013 for classes I to VIII and for IX in 2013-2014. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has accelerated the process of reform in reducing the load of learning

and comprehension by introducing the trimester system. The small sized books combined into just two volumes have enthralled school children more than ever before.

The State Council of Educational Research and Training is headed by a Director, 4 Joint Directors, 1 Deputy Director, 21 Assistant Professors and 47 Ministerial staff. SCERT proposes to expand its research activities and conduct state level research studies, surveys and studies to facilitate the state to take decisions which would influence the quality of learning in the years to come. A revised structure with Division of Curriculum Studies, Division of Teacher Education and Foundation, ICT Division, Division of Special Needs, Division of Library and Documentation is envisaged. SCERT will carry out research work on par with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Under the administrative control of SCERT, there are 30 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), 9 Government Teacher Training Institutes with

722 members of teaching faculty and 508 non-teaching staff. SCERT effectively monitors and supervises 42 Aided, and 544 Self-Financing Teacher Training Institutes. In all, there are 625 Institutes offering two year Diploma in Elementary Education Programme with annual intake capacity of 43,000 students.

11.2. Vision

- To facilitate quality learning among children from pre-school to XII Standard through planning
- Creating Tamil Nadu Curriculum Framework, child-centric teaching, syllabus and text book, child-friendly continuous and comprehensive evaluation,
- Quality teacher preparation through meticulously developed pre and In-service training programmes
- Practice-based researches, innovation, sharing of best practices
- Exchange of experiences through national conferences and seminars

- Research and Analysis for upgrading and enhancing the quality of education in Tamil Nadu.

11.3. Objectives

- To facilitate the Directorate of Elementary Education, Directorate of School Education, SSA and RMSA to make every school a resourceful learning organization where every child is welcome and his / her learning needs and emotional needs are met.
- To design child-centric curriculum, syllabus for Standard I to XII, reframe Teacher Education curriculum, syllabus and existing teaching pattern in response to the welcome changes in the system.
- To sensitize all the Educational Officers on the rights of children to free and compulsory education and give them the required technical and resource support to implement them.

- To herald qualitative changes and development at all levels of education reflecting the ideals of the State Government.
- To provide academic monitoring support services, professional support in terms of academic research and extension services to all the stakeholders in the field of education.
- To help all the Directorates of education to implement the developmental policies and welfare measures of the State Government to nurture the holistic development of the personality of children.
- To facilitate school heads to become instructional supervisors and ensure quality learning at all levels of schooling.
- To help schools guarantee Universalization of Elementary and Secondary Education to all students who join Government and Aided schools.

- To provide quality training to teachers to ensure equity and social justice of children from all walks of life.
- To build the capacity of DIETs to function as District Resource Centres and extended training centres and research organizations of SCERT.
- To provide resource support to SSA and RMSA in designing training programme and providing training to District level trainers and teacher educators.
- To forge linkages with institutions of Higher education, to promote curricular changes in Teacher Education based on National curriculum Frame Work of Teacher Education, 2009.
- To revise Teacher Education source books at the elementary level incorporating the latest state guided reform in evaluation (i.e.,) Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE).

- To enhance the rapport with National Research Academic Organizations such as NCERT, Regional Institute of Education (RIE), National University for Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA), Ekalaivya (Madhya Pradesh), Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai, Homibaba Institute of Science, Mumbai, and Ramanujam Institute of Mathematics, Chennai and use the expertise gained in updating the professionalism of SCERT faculty, DIET faculty and practising teachers at large.
- To scout the outstanding class room processes and disseminate the best practices among all the teachers
- To assist teachers, through DIET, BRCs and CRCs in undertaking action researches and find unconventional solutions to classroom issues.
- To evolve ICT based training data management to record individual teacher profiles and provide need based academic support to influence

lasting changes in knowledge, skills and attitudes.

- To serve as a disseminating centre of Educational Research and Innovations.

11.4 Constitution of the Expert Committee

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced that the existing educational system would be revamped. Subsequently, the Government have constituted a 9 member Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister for School Education and deliberated the measures to improve the existing school education. As an important measure, the Expert Committee constituted 3 sub committees.

1. Tamil Nadu School Curriculum Framework Committee,
2. Syllabus Revision Committee for Higher Secondary Course
3. Examination Reforms Committee

11.5. Educational Reforms and Training Activities of SCERT

In Compliance with the Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement in the State Legislative Assembly in a bid to reduce the load of books and eradicate stress, the Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to take forward the following educational reforms.

11.5.1. Trimester Pattern

In order to reach the State's goal of quality education, SCERT has taken up many initiatives including the introduction of Trimester System. Through this innovative system, the Hon'ble Chief Minister's vision of reducing the load of books and burden of learning has been accomplished. In 2012-2013, the text books of Standard I to VIII have been divided into three parts and language books have been clubbed together in one volume and core subjects Mathematics, Science and Social Science (Environmental Science for standard I and II) have been combined into a volume. It is proposed to divide IX standard books for trimester in 2013-2014.

11.5.2. Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation

The State Government is committed to the cause of providing quality education assurance in School Education. To enhance the skills of teachers in CCE, the State Council of Educational Research designs training programme for teachers handling classes I to IX. 1,14,402 primary teachers and 82,492 Middle School, High School and Higher Secondary teachers handling VI to VIII classes have already been trained in the process of implementing CCE.

11.6 Enhancing the Quality of Textbooks

The SCERT is entrusted with the responsibility of enhancing the quality of the existing textbooks. A series of workshops were organized to identify spelling errors, mistakes in sentence construction and conceptual errors. A group of eminent teachers and experts of respective subjects were involved in this process. At the end, the enriched term-wise text books have been revised.

11.6.1. Inclusion of Casteless Society and Cyber Safety in Text books

Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced that a chapter will be added on Casteless society and another on the cyber safety in the text books. SCERT has developed the material for the same and it will be incorporated in the text books in the academic year 2013-2014.

11.6.2. Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011 related training

In 2012-2013, SCERT organized awareness training on Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011 for all the stake holders. 1,92,958, Headmasters, Teachers, PTA members, District Level and Block Level Education Officers have been provided this training. This training has empowered the officers to prevent violation of children's right to education. 60 Police Officials and 64 BRC Supervisors have also been imparted RTE training to deal effectively with complaints or cases against

violation of the Right to Education. SCERT developed a training manual incorporating “Right of children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009” and Tamil Nadu Rules, 2011.

11.6.3. Training on the Prevention of Child Abuse

The Hon’ble Chief Minister is deeply concerned with the safety and protection of children. In a historic move in the direction of protecting the rights of children, and preventing sexual abuse or harassment of young children, the State Government have ordered to punish erring teachers to the extent of compulsory retirement, removal or dismissal from service including cancellation of their educational certificates. The administrative officers of the Districts viz 32 CEOs, 15 IMS and 32 selected DEEOs and DEOs were given training to effectively implement the order keeping in mind the safety and security of the children.

11.6.4. Induction Training to Newly Recruited AEEOs

The State Government is keen in supervising the implementation all the student welfare measures in Government and Government Aided schools. In this

context, it becomes mandatory to sensitize the newly recruited AEEOs in all the Government schemes, evaluation and monitoring mechanisms. Hence, SCERT organized an Induction Training to the 34 newly recruited AEEOs. This will definitely bring about a change in the quality of the work carried out by the block level officers.

11.7. Capacity Building Training Programmes

11.7.1. Generating Awareness on Environment among Upper Primary and Primary Class Teachers

In a collaborative venture with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, SCERT organized an environmental awareness training programme.

Ninety teachers from 30 Districts underwent the Key Resource Persons Training. This training would enable all the upper primary students to understand the Environmental issues and enable them to take well informed decisions in future. The training was extended to 1,40,000 Primary School Teachers through CRCs.

11.7.2. Training on Inclusive Education to Key Resource Persons

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has instructed the State Education Department to provide inclusive education and take all measures to address the learning needs of children especially with special Education needs. Besides, Hon'ble Chief Minister has also recommended special attention to be given to children with learning disabilities. Special focus has been given to autism, mental retardation and other learning disabilities such as dyslexia and dyscalculia. 31 Special Educators, 30 BRTEs and 30 DIET faculty members had undergone this training. The expert support will be continuously provided to teachers through special teachers to sustain the elementary schools. SSA shall continue to give assistive devices to differently abled students. Teachers shall also be given training round the year to ensure equal learning opportunities to all the differently abled children.

11.7.3. Simplified Activity Based Learning Method

After a series of interactive workshops involving various stake holders like DIET personnel, BRC

personnel, practicing teachers and SCERT personnel the number of ABL Cards and large number of complex logos were reduced to minimum to ensure that children do not feel the burden of learning. The most advantageous change in the revised cards is that they retain a scope for incorporation of higher order thinking skills and developing a flair for experiential learning through mini projects, paired projects and group projects. As there is a harmonious integration of SABL with CCE, there are immense possibilities for fostering the reading and listening skills of students at the primary level. State level Key Resource Person's training on SABL was organized by SCERT and 256 BRTEs and DIET personnel participated in it. The district level training benefitted 1,45,000 primary teachers.

11.7.4. Training on Science Practical for Elementary Teachers

Sweeping changes take place in the teaching learning processes across the globe. Science teaching cannot be done with conventional "Chalk and Talk" methods anymore. Children by nature are inquisitive

and hence hands on learning will only promote scientific thinking, analytical thinking and scientific attitude. To facilitate Upper primary teachers in the use of Simple Science Practical, a training was organized in collaboration with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, 123 persons participated in this interactive training programme. This practically useful training was carried forward to 1,45,000 teachers at the elementary level.

11.7.5. Training on Art Education and Work Experience

The value of Art Education and Work Experience was realized by experts of basic education even before independence. The neglected work experience and Art Education are gaining importance in recent times across the State as Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation is being effectively implemented in classrooms at the elementary level. SCERT organized a state level training for key resource persons on art education and work experience in which 128 persons participated. This has been successfully taken forward to 4000 teachers all over the State. It is believed that

this would nurture the creative capabilities of young learners.

11.7.6. Training for Primary and Upper Primary School Heads

The performance of a School depends very much on the leadership skills of the school head. Seniors are promoted to Head Master post by sheer virtue of seniority. They are forced to learn the work on the job. They don't have direct access to Human Resource Management courses and strategies to enhance their administrative skills. Hence, SCERT, in collaboration with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, designed a 10 days residential training for primary and upper primary school heads. The key resource persons training was conducted in an interactive mode spiced up with case studies of Primary, Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools. The outstanding practices of schools which had good practices were shared. Sessions on instructional supervision, mobilizing local resources and garnering parental support and School based planning and management were also discussed.

This training will empower 45,000 school heads with the requisite management skills.

11.7.7. Residential Training for Head Teachers of Primary and Upper Primary Schools.

SCERT organized a two day residential programme for 123 Key Resource Persons representing DIETs, BRCs and AEEOs. The training was interactive in nature and case studies of successful Head teachers from Primary, Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools were discussed. Most of the participants shared the outstanding strategies which enabled them to produce good learning achievement among learners. The participants were sensitized on the strategies of internal supervision. More than 3000 BRTEs and DIET faculty were trained.

11.8. Other Activities and Research

11.8.1. Integration of ICT in School Education and Teacher Education

The advent of electronic information sharing system has witnessed an extraordinary growth of information base and revolutionary development in

technology. In modern times, knowledge is doubling every three years. In a decade or two, virtually every job in the country will require some skill in information processing technology. So, children of today must be ICT literates if they are to live productive lives and participate effectively in the work place. To make children tech-savvy, it is imperative to train teachers in ICT. Hence, the main responsibility of SCERT will be to integrate ICT in the classroom processes. The digital content to be developed by SCERT, in collaboration with tech wizards in the field, will be hosted in SCERT and School Education websites for children to have a free access.

11.8.2. Life Skill Education Programme

Adolescent Children studying in High and Higher Secondary Schools are subjected to tremendous peer pressure. Besides, the impact of mass media exposes them to many ideas. Hence, they need to develop life skills to protect themselves. They need to develop their life skills in such a way as to become strong enough say 'no' to unacceptable behaviours from peers and

adults. Hence SCERT, in collaboration with Tamil Nadu AIDS Control Society, organizes life skill Education programme. SCERT has meticulously screened the material for explicit content and designed the training manual. The CCE introduced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister has an inbuilt life skill component giving an opportunity to the young children in the schools to attain valuable life skills from an early age.

11.8.3. Diabetes Training Programme.

Realizing the State Government's deep-seated concern for the health and hygiene of young learners, SCERT organized a training on Diabetes in collaboration with Indian Diabetic Research Foundation. The main objective of the programme is to create awareness on Diabetes and promote healthy life style practices among children at the Secondary level. The programme was piloted in two districts viz Chennai and Thiruvallur. In all, 500 High School Science Teachers from Chennai City (urban) and 450 Science Graduate teachers from High Schools of Thiruvallur districts were given this training. The programme also had the hidden

agenda of raising the awareness on prevention and control of Diabetes and its complication among students and through the students to their family members too. Each trained teacher is expected to bring welcome changes in the life style of 95,000 students in Chennai and Thiruvallur districts and the ripple effect of this venture can be assessed through impact study.

11.8.4. Modified School Health Programme

Children in their formative years need to be physically fit and mentally stable in order to learn, think and act. Due to malnutrition and lack of personal hygiene and preventive health care, children get affected by many health issues. The present Government has mandated convergence of Rural Health Mission and School Education to ensure sensitization of children on dental care, Health and Personal Hygiene. The Modified School Health Programme aims at curbing health problems of young students through preventive measures and including health behaviours. The Key Resource Training of 594 persons including faculty from DIETs, BRTEs and

members from the Health Department was conducted in 6 Regional Centers of Health Department in Chennai, Madurai, Pudukottai, Villupuram, Salem, Tiruvallur in collaboration with SCERT. It was further imparted to 28,503 teachers at the District level. This would invariably help all the students.

11.8.5. Education Television Studio

With the objective of telecasting quality teaching learning programmes SCERT and SSA jointly select the teachers who have adopted best teaching learning activities. A rehearsal at the State level and the recording 5 lessons each for Mathematics, Science and Social science, have been undertaken. Totally 15 programmes have been recorded. The selection of content, rehearsal and recording are done by the faculty members of DIETs, BRTEs and Teachers. The students can learn better by getting experiential learning through these telecast.

11.8.6 .Best School Selection

A novel practice of selecting one best school in each and every month from each and every district of

Tamil Nadu has been launched by SCERT. The details of selected schools with its salient features are being published in the 'Parent Teacher Association Magazine' in order to motivate other schools in improving their quality. The faculty of DIETs and block level officials visit the schools of the selected block and grade according to the identified parameters.

11.8.7. National Service Scheme

SCERT and the Directorate of Collegiate Education jointly organize 34 National Service Scheme (NSSs) units in DIETs and Government TTIs in all districts. In 2012-2013, special camps were organized in 34 adopted villages in the 3rd week of January. Besides, other planned activities are organized throughout the year. Totally, 1700 Student Volunteers and 34 Project Officers are involved in the national service scheme activities.

11.8.8. National Population Education

The National Population Education Project (NPEP) is the programme implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India

through NCERT. The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Chennai has been implementing the programme in Tamil Nadu.

As Co-curricular Activities, Poster Competition, Role Play Competition and Folk Dance Competition are conducted for the students studying in Government High and Higher Secondary Schools. The Poster Competition is conducted on the themes related to Population Education, Adolescence Education, Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH), Gender Equity and Empowerment of Women, the Family and the socio-economic factors for the students of IX to XII studying in Government High and Higher Secondary Schools. The Role Play Competition on the situations prescribed by NCERT is conducted for the students of class IX studying in the Government High and Higher Secondary Schools. These competitions are conducted at various levels and the winners and the participants are facilitated. Under training activities, training materials are developed on the concepts of Population Education and training is organized for the teacher trainers of the State.

11.8.9. Research

SCERT has a serious responsibility of carrying out educational researches. It involves in measuring outcomes on the initiatives of the state, interpreting the results, reporting and giving a rationale for making relevant changes in the State's educational policies. All the stake holders of education need to be supporters and consumers of educational research because only the SCERT can make teachers more reflective professionals, administrators more effective and also establish benchmarks of standards for the State. SCERT shall train teachers to carry out practice-based researches which would make them reflective practitioners. Research articles will be invited and presented in the conferences and the National Seminars organized by SCERT. Utilizing the MHRD funds, teachers will be trained in the methods of Action Research and Collaborative Action Researches will be carried out in lab schools. The findings of District level researches will be shared in the District level seminars organized at DIET in every district.

11.9. Budget

A sum of Rs.63.46 crores has been provided as the budget for SCERT, towards salaries, programmes and activities, faculty development for DIETs and for the Training Component at SCERT for the year 2012-2013. This allocation has now been increased to 65.21 crores for the year 2013-2014.

The services of the SCERT in capacity building of teachers, quality enhancement of students and schools will go a long way in improving the standards of education in Tamil Nadu.

12. TEACHERS RECRUITMENT BOARD

12.1. Introduction

Teachers Recruitment Board was constituted in 1987 with the objective of recruiting able and talented teachers for Government Schools and Colleges. Various recruitment procedures are adopted by the Board to select teachers. The Board has selected 1,03,351 teachers till March 2012. 33,705 teachers were recruited through open procedures within a short spell of time from April 2012 to December 2012. Hence 1,37,056 teachers have been selected for appointment in various Departments by the Board.

12.2. Objectives

Selection of Teaching personnel for School Education, College Education, Technical Education, Legal Education, and other Departments of Government of Tamil Nadu by adopting transparent recruitment procedure using upto-date modern computer technology. Further the Teachers Recruitment Board is stepping towards the total implementation of online processes in all recruitments

to ensure speedy and accurate results within the stipulated time schedule.

12.3. Teachers Eligibility Test

Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 enacted by the Government of India has been implemented from 01.04.2010. As per Section 23, Sub-section (1), the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in its Notification dated 23.08.2010 has announced the minimum qualification for teachers to be appointed for standards I to VIII of Elementary Education. Accordingly teachers recruited to the Schools defined under Sub-section (2) (n), should have passed the Teacher Eligibility Test conducted by an agency approved by the Government.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister designated the Teachers Recruitment Board as the Nodal Agency for conducting Teachers Eligibility Test.

Teachers Recruitment Board as per its Notification No. 4/2012, dated 07.03.2012, conducted Paper I (Secondary Grade Teacher) and Paper

II(Graduate Teacher) of Teacher Eligibility Test 2012 on 12.07.2012 throughout the State. The details are as follows:

Sl. No	Teacher Eligibility Test Paper	No of Candidates Appeared	No of Candidates Passed	Pass Percentage
1.	Paper I	305405	1735	0.57%
2.	Paper II	409121	713	0.17%
Total		714526	2448	0.34%

The Government of Tamil Nadu directed the Teachers Recruitment Board to conduct a Supplementary Teachers Eligibility Test to enable the candidates who could not get 60% without any additional examination Fee.

In accordance with the direction of the Government, Supplementary Teacher Eligibility Test Paper I and Paper II were conducted on 14.10.2012 in 1024 centres in Tamil Nadu by the Teachers Recruitment Board. Fresh applicants were also given an opportunity to write this test. The details are as follows:

Supplementary TET Examination				
Sl.No.	Paper	No of Candidates appeared	No of Candidates Passed	Pass Percentage
1.	Paper I	278725	10397	3.7%
2.	Paper II	364370	8864	2.4%
Total		643095	19261	2.99%

All efforts are being taken by the Teachers Recruitment Board to conduct the required examination for recruiting the remaining Post Graduate teachers, Graduate Assistants and Secondary Grade Teachers.

12.4. Transparency in Recruitment

The Recruitment process is totally computerized at all levels to ensure transparency and accuracy. The application forms are scanned using the Optical Mark Reading (OMR) Technology to extract the applicant's data within a short period of time. Further the answers of the Candidates on Optical Mark Reading (OMR) Sheets are also scanned and the results are prepared quickly and precisely and published immediately.

As and when a Candidate finishes writing any TRB Examination, a Carbon Copy of the answer sheet is being issued for his/her reference.

The Question Setter's Key Answers are released in the TRB website and responses from the Candidates are collected. If there are objections, the Key answers are put to scrutiny by Subject Experts and a Final Key is prepared. Marks are awarded on the basis of the Final Key.

Every step in the examination process and the results are released in the official Website of TRB <http://trb.tn.nic.in>, so that the candidates and the general public can see the results easily.

12.5. Modernization of Teachers Recruitment Board

The Teachers Recruitment Board has taken necessary steps to computerize the recruitment processes, create facilities to apply for various recruitments and pay the examination fees in Nationalized Banks online.

The Teachers Recruitment Board has been able to function efficiently and effectively due to modernizing its processes. Due to which, the recruitment of all categories of teachers will not only be done within a short span of time but also in a transparent manner.

12.6 Budget

Teachers Recruitment Board received a sum of Rs.1.38 crores as a budgetary support for the year 2012-2013 and the allocation has now been increased to Rs.2.11 crores for the year 2013-2014.

As the recruiting agency of the Government, the Teachers Recruitment Board has been playing a vital role in filling the sanctioned post.

13. TAMILNADU TEXT BOOK CORPORATION

13.1. Introduction

The Tamilnadu Textbook Society was formed as a Society on 4th March 1970 and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. This Society was renamed as Tamilnadu Textbook Corporation in 1993. The Corporation is engaged in printing and distribution of textbooks to students studying in Government schools and Government aided schools, besides selling of textbooks at reasonable price to the self-financing private schools. The Corporation is administered by a Board of Governors. The Managing Director of the Corporation is assisted by a retinue of officers and staff in administering the affairs of the Corporation.

13.2. The Task

The task of the Tamilnadu Textbook Corporation is to print quality textbooks based on the materials given by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and distribute the textbooks to the students. The Hon'ble Chief Minister introduced the Trimester pattern in June 2012. Under this system of Education, the textbooks are divided into three volumes

for the three terms in an academic year for standards I to 8 and annually for standards 9 to 12. From the academic year 2013-2014, Standard 9 will also follow the trimester system. This is an effort towards reducing the burden of loads of book for the students to a greater extent. This has solicited an overwhelming response from the student fraternity. The Tamil Nadu Textbook Corporation has printed 6.62 crores of textbooks for standards I to 12 and distributed the textbooks to the students on time during the academic year 2012-2013. In addition, 2.68 crores of textbooks of all standards were printed and sold to students of self-financing private schools at a reasonable price. Thus, during the academic year 2012-2013, 9.30 crores of textbooks were printed and distributed including textbooks printed in minority languages such as Telugu, Urdu, Kannada and Malayalam and readers for Sanskrit and Arabic. This has benefited 1,35,14,218 students. The Government has expended an amount of Rs.305.96 crores for extending this benefit to children in Government and Government Aided schools.

The Tamilnadu Textbook Corporation also undertakes job work for printing of guides, Question bank, Solution books, Model question papers, Financial Literacy Books, Activity Based Learning (ABL) cards, Science Laboratory Manuals for students of 9th and 10th standards and Polytechnic Text Books for other Departments. In the academic year 2012-2013, the Corporation has printed 1.60 lakhs of guides for 10th and 12th standards for students studying in Adi-Dravida Welfare schools, 13.82 lakhs of guides for 10th and 12th standards for Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes students, 6.75 lakhs of question banks for 10th and 12th standards for Parents-Teachers Association, 6.32 lakhs of financial literacy books for 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th standard students, 7.56 lakhs sets of ABL cards for the 1 to 4th standard students for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 2.44 lakhs of Science Laboratory Manual for 9 and 10th standard students for Rashtriya Madhiyamik Shiksha Abhiyan(RMSA) and 73,000 textbooks for Polytechnic colleges.

13.3. Hon'ble Chief Minister's "Atlas Scheme"

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced distribution of Atlas to all students in classes VI to X in Government and Government Aided schools. The Tamilnadu Textbook Corporation has been entrusted with printing of Atlas. It has printed 46 lakh copies of Atlas in both Tamil (41.50 lakhs) and English (4.50 lakhs) and distributed to the students of classes 6 to 10 free of cost. The Government has spent Rs.14.27 crores and implemented the Atlas scheme. This Atlas has catered for the needs of the student's community to a large extent. Since the contents in the Atlas are syllabus oriented, handy in size and colourful, they are preferred by the students than the Atlas marketed by the private publishers and there is a growing demand for the Atlas. To meet the students demand, the Corporation is set to print 11.85 lakh copies of Atlas for students of 6th standard for the academic year 2013-2014. This will cost Rs.3.50 crores to the State exchequer.

The Tamilnadu Textbook Corporation is also supplying textbooks free of cost to Tamil students in

other states such as Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Kerala and Andaman Nicobar under the orders of the Government. The value of textbooks supplied for the academic year 2012-2013 is Rs.19 lakhs.

The Tamilnadu Textbook Corporation has diversified its activities from printing of textbooks to printing of guides, manuals, cards and Atlas. Presently, the work on printing of progress cards for students under SSA is on the anvil.

13.4. Quality in Printing

There are 134 printers empanelled with the Tamilnadu Textbook Corporation for printing of Textbooks for a period of two years ending 14.12.2013. The printers are of two types, viz. Sheet-Fed printers and Web-Offset printers. The majority of printers are located in Chennai, Sivakasi in Virudhunagar District and Hyderabad in Andhra-Pradesh. The textbooks are printed by using latest printing technology such as Computer to Plate (CTP) in sheet fed and web offset in single and multi- colour. The paper for printing of textbooks is purchased from the Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL). The paper supplied by the

TNPL is high-tech map litho 80 GSM (Grams per square meter), possessing high brightness, strength, stiffness and all these are indices of a good quality paper. Good quality wrapper is used for the textbooks. Message to protect the Environment is printed on the backside of the textbooks to create awareness among the school students on environment. The printing of textbooks using TNPL supplied paper and strict quality control in printing of textbooks by the printers enforced by the Technical personnel of the Corporation has resulted in production of good quality textbooks for students.

13.5. Timely Distribution

The Textbooks printed are sent to the 64 nodal centres in the State directly from the printing presses for distribution to the schools. For the 1st term of the academic year 2012-2013, 4.82 crores of textbooks were printed and distributed to the students in May 2012. Likewise, 2.3 crores and 2.18 crores of textbooks were printed and distributed to the students on time for the 2nd and 3rd terms of the academic year 2012-2013. The sale copies of textbooks are sent to the 22

Regional Offices in the State and sold to the self financing private schools. Besides, textbooks valuing Rs.6 crores were sold to the approved retailers in the State for selling in the market. The total number of retailers in the State is 1097.

13.6. Textbooks Online

The textbooks published by the Tamilnadu Textbook Corporation are also available in the website www.textbooksonline.tn.nic.in. This facility is a boon for the student community since they can download the texts in times of need.

13.7. Printing of Textbooks 2013-2014

The Tamilnadu Textbook Corporation would be printing 10.47 crores of textbooks for the academic year 2013-2014. For the 1st term, 5.33 crores of textbooks are to be printed and this is in progress. The printing of textbooks for 1st term will be completed and delivered to the nodal centres before 25th May 2013. 5.14 crores of textbooks will be printed for the 2nd and 3rd terms, respectively and will be distributed on time. The Tamil Nadu Textbook Corporation will open 4 sales counters in Chennai and will be operated through Directorate of

School Education to facilitate students to purchase textbooks without any hurdles.

The Tamil Nadu Textbook Corporation with its network of printers and well established logistical facilities has been catering for the needs of the students by supplying the textbooks and Atlases to student on time.

***Dr. Vaigaichelvan
Minister for School Education,
Sports & Youth Welfare***