



SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

POLICY NOTE
2023-2024

DEMAND No. 43

ANBIL MAHESH POYYAMOZHI
Minister for School Education

©

Government of Tamil Nadu
2023

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
POLICY NOTE 2023-24
CONTENTS

Sl No	Title	Page
1	Introduction	1
2	Elementary, Secondary, Higher Secondary Education and Samagra Shiksha	5
3	Private Schools	51
4	State Council for Educational Research and Training	59
5	Government Examinations	90
6	Non-Formal and Adult Education	106
7	Public Libraries	111
8	Teachers Recruitment Board	137
9	Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation	142
10	Financial Outlay	153

1. INTRODUCTION

தொட்டணைத்து ஊறும் மணற்கேணி மாந்தர்க்குக்
கற்றணைத்து ஊறும் அறிவு - குறள் 396

“தோண்டத் தோண்ட ஊற்றுநீர் கிடைப்பது போலத் தொடர்ந்து
படிக்கப் படிக்க அறிவு பெருகிக்கொண்டே இருக்கும்.”

-கலைஞர் உரை

The quality of education shapes the citizens of tomorrow and forms the cornerstone of policy formulation. Education is the foundation laid today to shape the tomorrow of our children. Recognising the importance of this service, the Government of Tamil Nadu accords utmost priority to ensure universal and equitable access for all its children to quality, inclusive and holistic education. The government has allocated the highest budgetary provision of Rs. 40,299 crore for 2023-24 for the School Education Department.

The principal objectives of the Government are to ensure that enrolment of all school-age children is sustained; to attain 100% retention of all enrolled children up to the secondary level; to eradicate the incidence of drop-outs, especially those impacted by Covid; to improve the learning outcomes among children and enable them to

attain age-appropriate learning levels with special emphasis on foundational literacy and numeracy skills; to equip children with requisite life-skills to ensure their safety and well-being; to improve the basic amenities in all schools; to capacitate teachers as well as administrators with effective and regular training; to harness technology to improve the teaching-learning processes; and finally to impart new-age life skills to students.

The Department's focus in the past year has been to bridge learning losses among students, which were exacerbated by the shutdown of schools during the pandemic. The ambitious Illam Thedi Kalvi (Education at Doorstep) exhibited substantial outcomes in bridging learning gaps among the marginalised sections of students. The programme has been designed to be integrated with the expansive Ennum Ezhuthum to tackle the loss of foundational skills in reading, writing and Math. Across the initiatives, an overarching emphasis has been placed on helping children achieve their age appropriate learning outcomes.

In today's digital age, technology has been effectively leveraged at scale to develop and deliver curated formative quizzes to students and track their growth in learning. With programmes like Vaanavil Mandram, STEM is being accorded special emphasis to trigger the scientific temperament of students. They visit science centres in institutes of higher education to obtain widened exposure and are instilled with a sense of curiosity.

To provide holistic education to students, extra-curricular upskilling programmes like Kalai Arangam and Kalai Thiruvizha have been launched, much to the delight of children. The regional and state level talent showcased by students has been received with much acclaim by the larger community. Career counselling for high school and higher secondary students has been taken up in a systematic manner ensuring that the child is guided from school to college and onward towards their desired employment opportunities, under the umbrella of the multi-pronged Naan Mudhalvan programme.

All these initiatives are spearheaded by the various Directorates under the Department of School Education - Directorate of Elementary Education, Directorate of School Education, Directorate of Private Schools, Samagra Shiksha, Directorate of Non-Formal and Adult Education - these entities are supported ably by units such as the State Council for Education, Research and Training(SCERT), Directorate of Government Examinations, Directorate of Libraries, Teachers Recruitment Board and the Tamilnadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation.

2. ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY AND HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION

2.1. Introduction

The Directorates of Elementary and School Education are the core of the School Education Department that work in tandem to impart quality education to all children in the age of 6 – 18 years. While elementary education provides formative holistic skills to a child, secondary and higher secondary education equip students to take up higher education and to prepare for the job market.

2.2. Vision

Providing free and compulsory, high quality, inclusive and holistic education to all the children of 6 – 18 years age.

2.3. Mission

Adopting a student centric approach by regulating and building high-quality teacher professional development and learning environments for students thereby enabling students to achieve their fullest potential to

become productive, responsible, ethical, creative and compassionate members of society.

2.4.Objectives

- Sustaining the enrolment and retention of all children of 6 – 14 years.
- Implementing the norms of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 exhaustively.
- Providing quality education to all children.
- Opening of new, and upgrading existing schools to ensure access.
- Providing transport and escort facilities in habitations where new schools are not feasible, particularly in remote, forested and hilly regions.
- Providing an inclusive environment in schools .

- Improving the listening, speaking, reading, writing and arithmetic skills of children.
- Enriching the knowledge of children in scholastic and co-scholastic areas .
- Providing holistic education with planned extra-curricular programmes.
- Enabling students to aspire and achieve top-grade higher education.
- Provide adequate civil infrastructure along with their upkeep and maintenance
- Expand and enable high quality digital infrastructure to enable advanced learning for students.

2.5. Quality Education Initiatives

In order to raise the standard of education of students, flagship initiatives like Ennum Ezhuthum and Naan Mudhalvan have been undertaken along with other initiatives such as self-defense training for students, educational tours, exposure to extra-curricular activities of literary and quiz

competitions, Kalai Thiruvizha and sports competitions. The students are provided with upgraded and updated learning materials through the Learning Enhancement Programme (LEP), STEM sessions along with accessible solutions to clear doubts, counselling opportunities through toll-free telephone, etc., with the aim of improving the quality of learning for students.

2.5.1. Illam Thedi Kalvi

“Illam Thedi Kalvi”(Education at Doorstep) is the single largest post-pandemic educational outreach programme in the country. Launched by the Hon’ble Chief Minister in October 2021, 7.46 lakh volunteers registered across the state from where the close to 2 lakh volunteers have been selected and retained. A three-tier structure has been set up at the State, District & School levels to steer this initiative to ensure that every child is supported to bridge the learning gaps, working in close integration with the Ennum Ezhuthum Mission being driven within the school.

In order to enhance the reading ability and make the habit of reading joyful, the School Education Department in collaboration with

Google Read Along conducted a reading marathon where students read over 263 Crore words in a span of 12 days in the ITK Centres.

A study carried out by Prof. Karthik Muralidharan, Tata Chancellor's Professor of Economics, University of California, San Diego and Abhijeet Singh, Associate Professor of Economics at the Stockholm School of Economics and Mauricio Romero, Assistant Professor of Economics at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), on the impact of COVID-19 on learning in Tamil Nadu, has indicated a recovery of two-thirds of the learning loss caused by the pandemic, with the Illam Thedi Kalvi scheme having a significant role to play in the same.

An annual budget of Rs. 226.27 crore has been sanctioned for the implementation of the programme for the year 2022-23

2.5.2. Ennum Ezhuthum Mission

At the commencement of the mission in the academic year 2022-23, the goal was set to achieve literacy and numeracy among children studying in Classes 1 to 3, and to ensure that

every child is able to read and understand the languages as well as do basic arithmetic with comfort by the age of eight. To attain this goal, the Ennum Ezhuthum Pedagogy is level-based, student-centric, and designed so that learning outcomes are delivered in a customised, engaging manner with enriched learning materials such as singing, dancing, puppetry, and other activities. The approach integrates life skills such as communication, collaboration, wellness, and other holistic attributes to lay a strong foundation for the child's personality.

The mission has created communication channels through regular interactions of the state level officials with all teachers on the Telegram group, voice messages to parents through phone, regular updates of programme activities on social media, and annual Ennum Ezhuthum fairs to showcase student activities at the school. Apart from these initiatives, every month a parent-teacher meeting is conducted in the schools to improve parent awareness and increase their involvement in the mission as well as the progress of their child along with discussions on

programme progress during the School Management Committee Meetings.

Owing to the positive impact and reception among students, teachers and parents, the Tamil Nadu Government has decided to expand the Ennum Ezhuthum Mission to include Classes 4 & 5 with an amount of Rs. 110 Crore allotted for this mission in the academic year 2023-24. The scheme continues to focus on capacity building of teachers and provision of teacher resource material and level-based student learning material. A robust monitoring mechanism is also being put in place to track the performance of each and every child.

2.5.3. Career Guidance & Life Skills

The Naan Mudhalvan initiative launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 01.03.2022 bridges the information asymmetry among the Government School students with respect to higher education and consequent professional development opportunities. The government aims to equip every cohort of approximately 17 lakh students from Classes 9 to 12 with resources to apply the

knowledge gained to make informed higher education and career decisions.

Within this programme, multiple avenues to build student, parent and teacher exposure have been built to deepen the knowledge and skills of the students in preparation for their immediate as well as longer term future after school education. The career guidance portal (Naan Mudhalvan) allows the students to explore the world of over 450 courses, more than 2500 colleges, identify means of financial support from organisations and government schemes, gain real life knowledge from professional experts as well as mentors who are available to answer their queries. Students have been taken on exposure trips to colleges and practical application process content has been circulated among students and parents.

An experiential learning curriculum and syllabus along with a strong teacher and school leadership capacity building delivered through monthly engagement sessions for Classes 9-12 lays the foundation for the programme. A structured mapping plan of 430 colleges with over 19000 NSS volunteers mapped across all schools

has been established for them to mentor students to apply and gain admission into college and courses of their choice. A survey undertaken to understand student preferences and challenges has laid the path for volunteers to initiate engagement.

The Tamil Nadu Government has created awareness among students and parents about the different government schemes like Pudhumai Penn and 7.5% preferential allotment, through counselling workshops conducted in schools to encourage students to persevere in their application process.

2.5.4. Vanavil Mandram - STEM & Science Exhibition

The Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the Mobile Science Lab initiative, Vanavil Mandram on November 28, 2022 at Trichy to enhance Science and Mathematics learning by hands-on and practical work. This programme services 25 lakh government school students across 13,210 Middle, High and Higher Secondary Government Schools across Tamil Nadu. 710 STEM Resource persons have been selected and trained to visit

schools as per a structured schedule along with Science and Math Kits to demonstrate and conduct scientific experiments with students in schools.

In order to stimulate the scientific temper among students, events and competitions are held among interested students from each school and cascaded up at block, district and state level. Over 48,000 students exhibited their understanding and application of science and math concepts with models made from daily use objects during the academic year 2022-23. 152 students selected at the state level have been given the opportunity to meet scientists, visit places of scientific work and research like the Planetarium, Sriharikota Launchpad et al.

2.5.5. Kalaiarangam and Kalai Thiruvizha

The School Education Department aims to emphasise Art for All & All for Art to help break both the barriers as well as negative perceptions of art forms associated with caste, class or religion. The programme envisions introduction of art & culture in schools to build the confidence of students to express, connect and promote a

vibrant, humane & empathetic learning environment.

In order to bring out the inherent talent of the students and connect those skills with traditional culture, classes on various art forms have been initiated in schools during this academic year at a cost of Rs.5.35 Crore. A model syllabus and timetable has been created and implemented in the form of Kalai Arangam with over 3000 local artists across the state roped in to teach and train various art forms to students of Classes 6-9. Competitions are held across the different verticals of Visual Arts, Drama, Music, Dance and Folklore at school, block and district levels to encourage students to participate and identify and groom top performers for national and international events.

206 different forms of Kalai Thiruvizha competitions have been conducted for 28.52 lakh students studying in government schools from Classes 6 to 12. The roll up of students from school level brought 17,038 students to the state level mega event conducted in December 2022. Among these, 1,759 students were celebrated

with the Kalaiyarasan and Kalaiyarasi awards presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

2.5.6. Inculcating Reading Habit

The Department strongly believes that to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark that lights up the child's mind. The library movement has been designed and implemented for each student from Class 1 to 12 to instill the habit of reading that helps build the creativity in the child as well as the information treasure hidden in the books.

In order to bring about a systemic change through atomic habits, library management technology solutions combined with on-ground processes have been implemented to ensure grade-level appropriate books are circulated to the students on a weekly basis. Students are then encouraged to share their reading through written and oratory activities organised from school to state level.

An expert committee has been formed to periodically meet and identify the list of books to be procured and provided to each school library. The books have been procured for all Government Schools (Primary, Middle, High and Hr. Sec. Schools) for an amount of Rs.32 crore during the academic year 2022-23.

2.5.7. Children's Film Festival

The School Education Department has initiated monthly movie screening for all students of Classes 6-9 with the aim of creating exposure for the students to different cultures, languages, people and geographies. Along with the movie screening, children are encouraged to do creative activities like making a poster, alternating the ending of the storyline, writing reviews, enacting scenes from the movie etc.. Such activities instill the values of empathy, respect for other cultures, gender diversity, active listening, observation, and children understand the world around them better, thereby encouraging positive behavior. Eminent film personalities also participate with enthusiasm in these movie screenings at schools.

The week-long Children Film Festival conducted by the School Education Department from March 6 to March 11, 2023 is the first ever such film festival conducted by the Department. 152 students were selected from over 13,000 schools across the state through activities wherein about 35,000 students participated at school, rolling up to 3,400 students at the district level.

The festival included film screenings, discussions with panellists on various aspects of filmmaking and hands-on production of microfilms. Micro films made by the students were judged by a panel of experts who selected the best in all categories like Best Film, Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Music, Best Actor and Actress and Best Editing. The best selected films and artists were felicitated during the closing ceremony held on 11 March 2023.

2.5.8. State and National Level Sports

The Department focuses strongly on the need to nurture the innate sports talent especially among children in Government schools. The Sports programme at schools has been designed with two fundamental objectives - all students

must participate in at least one form of sports and inherent sports talent must be identified and groomed to enable student skill growth and participation in national and international events.

Sports competitions have been conducted at school, regional, district and state levels with transparency enabled through technology solutions to encourage young players. 3,500 physical education teachers across the state have been imparted refresher training on newly introduced sports by SGFI. Investment in outreach and communication resulted in the participation of nearly 20 lakh children from government and government aided schools belonging to Classes 6 to 8 in battery tests across all sports events from regional to national levels.

Over and above this, Tamil Nadu being a pioneer state in India in encouraging and developing the game of chess among students, hosted the International Chess Olympiad. In convergence with the international event, chess tournaments were conducted from school level where 13.29 lakh students participated with over 7400 students going up to district level

competitions. 304 students from Classes 9-12 were selected and invited to observe the International Chess Olympiad Competition and interact with the World Chess Champions.

In continuance, the government has allocated Rs.11.5 crore for the year 2023-24 for this vertical.

2.5.9. Inclusive Education

The School Education Department believes in the approach that inclusive education is the foundation for an equitable society. If a student is unable to learn the way teaching is delivered, then it is important to deliver teaching in a way that the students can learn. About 1.4 lakh differently-abled children are provided inclusive education in our schools and at the students' homes as required. Children are identified and enrolled in schools through intensive house-to-house surveys. Medical camps have been conducted in collaboration with disability and health departments to service the medical needs of identified children where necessary surgeries are being performed and aids provided. The children and their guardians are provided with

transport allowances and stipend is provided for differently-abled girls. Home-based education is provided for Children with Disabilities under high support needs.

To look after their overall responsibilities, 2401 special educators work for the students. A sum of Rs. 87 crore has been allocated in the year 2023-24 towards this programme.

2.5.10. Student Club Activities and Foreign Tours

Extracurricular activities help children to develop their social skills and enable students to discover their own talents, interests and grow their self-confidence which in turn boosts their academic performance capabilities.

The Clubs initiative in school has been restructured as engaging programmes with learning activities that are 'fun' for the children while grooming them with life lessons that are often not taught at school through core academic lessons. Valuable lessons on how to accept failure but persevere to achieve is being imparted through such activities. In every school, specific periods were allocated towards Club activities

along with library and sports to enable regular exposure for students across the different categories of literature, art, drama, science, mathematics and general knowledge.

During the academic year 2022-23, the School Education Department initiated the structured extracurricular activities from June 2022 onwards across all middle, high and higher secondary schools for students of Classes 6 to 9. Over 1 lakh students were selected at the school level and encouraged to participate at block and district level. Students would be selected across all competitions to be taken on exposure visits abroad.

A sum of Rs. 13 Crore has been allocated towards this activity in the academic year of 2023-24.

2.5.11. Kodai Kondattam

In order to improve the individual skills of the students and to spend the summer vacation in an engaged manner with social learnings, the Kodai Kondattam special training camp will be conducted in the hilly regions of the state. The

workshops will cover subjects like ecology, leadership, human rights, social justice, women's rights et al apart from a small exposure to academic subjects. A special summer celebration training camp was held at Ooty during June 2022 where a total of 1,200 students participated and benefited from a spectrum of sessions conducted during the training camp. A sum of Rs.50 lakh has been allocated for the continuance of this training camp during academic year 2023-24.

2.5.12. Children and Teachers' Magazine

The School Education Department has designed and implemented programmes like the Children and Teachers' Magazine along with the library movement to promote the reading habit as well as to reveal the innate humanistic creative abilities of the students, Two magazines - *Oonjal* for for the Elementary students of Class 1-5 and *Thensittu* for secondary students of Class 6-9 are being published on a fortnightly basis in the languages of Tamil and English. A monthly journal called *Kanavsariyar* is also published to provide a creative platform for over 3 lakh teachers to exchange best practices on learning and teaching methods.

The magazines have been designed, developed and published at an estimated cost of Rs.7 Crore. In order to ensure the students have ease of access to reading the magazines, special daily time slots have been set around lunchtime in government schools when the magazines are distributed and content is discussed with the students of classes 1 to 9.

2.5.13. School Awareness Week

In the first week of the academic year, an intensive awareness week is conducted across the state for students and parents studying in government and private schools on topics such as mental health, prevention of violence, development of self-confidence, prevention of drug and alcohol addiction, and maintenance of self-cleanliness.

In the first week of the academic year 2022-23, programmes were conducted for students studying in government and aided schools on the topics of mental health, prevention of violence against children, development of self-confidence, prevention of drug addiction, and self-hygiene.

The state government believes that a healthy school environment is required for the physical and mental health of the children laying the foundation for them to succeed in life. Towards this end, *Kannoli Kappom* scheme, RBSK scheme, WIFS scheme have been implemented across all government schools.

Professional medical screening camps and counselling have been conducted to build awareness about physical and mental health needs of students. Awareness has been created in the schools about Government welfare schemes like Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme as well as about the Criminal Justice Act, POCSO Act, Road Safety, Internet Safety, Violence against Children and use of drugs.

2.5.14. Eco-club

Environmental Forums and National Green Forces have been onboarded to educate school students about the environment and its protection. The aim of this forum is to create awareness in the society through activities that the students can undertake to ensure a clean

home, school and community. This programme has been implemented in 11,460 schools in all districts. Students form the National Green Corps and have a clear objective to create awareness among the larger community about environmental protection.

Environmental Forums undertake activities such as tree planting, garden maintenance, undertaking green activities within campuses, spreading awareness about resilience, celebrating World Environment Day, Ozone Day, Biodiversity Day, organizing essay, painting and quiz competitions among school students.

2.5.15. National Service Scheme (NSS)

The prime objective of NSS is to develop the personality of students through community services like assisting in health camps, blood donation camps, environmental awareness camps, programmes and tree planting. 97,650 student volunteers have been organised into 1,957 teams across Higher Secondary Schools in Tamil Nadu. A grant of Rs.1.83 Crore towards regular activities and Rs.1.64 Crore towards the

special camps has been sanctioned under this scheme.

2.5.16. Scouts and Guides

The Scouts and Guides movement has been active in Tamil Nadu through various planned activities like cleaning of the important archaeological places and monuments, planting trees, awareness on general health and hygiene, first aid and regulating traffic et al. The Government has invested a sum of Rs. 2.0 crore to the Scouts and Guides movement as corpus fund to be utilised for various activities of Scouts and Guides all over the State benefitting 3.21 lakh students and facilitated by 12,740 teachers.

2.5.17. Junior Red Cross Society

Junior Red Cross (JRC) units have been set up in Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools across Tamil Nadu. Teachers are trained as counselors and students act as volunteers. This programme enables the potential of children to be realised in doing kind acts to instill humanitarian values. JRC volunteers are trained in Disaster Management, Road safety, First Aid, Fire safety etc., and they help the common public during

festivals and mega events. There are 11,824 JRC units with 4.72 lakh student-members.

2.5.18. Digital Expansion - Smart Classrooms & Hi-Tech labs

In the current digital world that the world resides in, it is essential for the students to be prepared for the digital future. The Government of Tamilnadu understands the importance of providing digital infrastructure and utilises it in a systematic manner to build an appropriate learning environment for the students. From the academic year 2022-23 efforts are being taken to establish Hi-tech Computer laboratories in Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools as well as provide Smart Classrooms in all the Government Primary Schools of Tamil Nadu over the next four years. Weekly formative and monthly summative assessments are being designed for 37 lakh students of Classes 6 to 12 for the academic year 2023-24.

In 2022-23, Rs.150 crore has been allotted as a first phase for 7,500 smart classrooms. In addition, 5,000 smart classrooms and 3500 Hi-tech Labs will be provided at a cost of Rs. 100

crore and Rs. 175 crore respectively during the year 2023-24.

2.5.19. Infrastructure facilities

Infrastructure development and maintenance in schools is critical to providing a conducive environment for teaching and learning activities. As per the announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Program at cost of Rs.7500 Crore over the next five years was launched. 6000 new classrooms at a cost of Rs.800 crore are being constructed in the current year in the Panchayat Union Primary and Middle Schools. Towards this, 30%, i.e. Rs. 240 crore has been allocated in the year 2022-23, to Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department,

High and Higher Secondary School buildings, additional classrooms, computer rooms, laboratories, toilets, drinking water facilities, etc., are being taken up at a cost of Rs.1156 crore during the academic year 2023-24. The maintenance budget allocation has also been increased to Rs. 150 crore in the year 2023-24 from Rs.30 crore two years ago.

2.5.20. School Management Committees

The School Management Committee administers at the school level and comprises parents, representatives of the local community, school teachers, members of the self-financing committee and educators. At the school level, this group plays an essential role to support and monitor the educational performance of the school. SMCs across all government schools in Tamilnadu have been given a fresh lease of life. School Management Committees (SMC) have been reconstituted in all government schools with 23.54 lakh parents participation. Training on SMC Restructuring, Duties and Responsibilities has been conducted for SMC Members and State Contributors in two phases. Awareness training on SMC has been conducted for District Field Officers in all districts.

Restructuring of SMCs has been completed in various phases across all types of government schools with 98% percent completion. A technology solution has been launched for developing school improvement plans. An expenditure of Rs.12.57 Crore has been incurred for the activities of planning, implementation and

evaluation of school improvement plans by school management committee members during the year 2022-23. School Development Plans are being prepared by all the SMCs. Resolutions of the SMCs at their meetings have been sent to the district administration for redressal of grievances and acceding to their requests.

2.5.21. Schools of Excellence

28 schools across the State are being transformed into Schools of Excellence based on the Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement on 7.5.2022 in the Legislative Assembly.

The initiative aims to provide the identified group of schools with required infrastructure, academic and co-curricular inputs that will enhance the learning environment for students and empower them to strive for excellence. These schools will act as platforms that will groom talent, nurture the spirit of sportsmanship and hardwork and provide exposure to internal and external opportunities, thereby broadening the horizons of students and teachers.

Schools of Excellence aim to provide holistic education to the students by grooming their personalities to excellence through exposure to different forms of co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Based on the number of students, additional teaching by specialised resources in areas of Arts, Drama, and Music will be organised. Sports teachers and librarians will also be engaged through the School Management Committee.

In order to further teachers' capacities, the teachers will be encouraged and enabled to undertake courses along with exposure visits to premier institutions of the country.

During the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs.169.4 Crore has been spent towards refurbishment of infrastructure, initiation of civil and digital infrastructure along with resources' recruitment in order to lay the foundation for achieving outcomes over the coming years.

2.5.22. Model Schools

Recognising the severe inequality faced by the students from government schools in gaining

admission to professional courses in premier institutions of higher education across the state and the country. In order to address this disparity, model schools have been set up across the state in educationally backward locations in 10 districts. With the main objective of the creation of model schools being to ensure that government school students have the opportunity to study in the professional fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Medicine – STEAM) in the best educational institutions, efforts are being invested in students to be counselled and groomed to excel across core subjects.

These schools will serve as model schools that set benchmarks for excellence, equity and progressive approaches to the curious, compassionate, multifaceted personality traits that win premier institutions across the country and the world.

The existing 10 district model schools are functioning with Class 12 students from October 2021. In 2022-23, the model schools programme was extended to an additional 15 districts across

the state at a cost of Rs 125 crore. In order to achieve the desired outcomes, model schools students and parents are being provided an involved career guidance programme to develop a deeper awareness of higher education and career opportunities based on their abilities and aptitudes.

In the academic year 2023-24, an amount of Rs. 250 Crore has been sanctioned.

2.5.23. Composite School Grant

Composite School Grant is provided annually to all government schools to improve the learning environment through replacement of non-functioning equipment, internet facility, purchase of learning and teaching equipment, annual maintenance, and repairs to buildings. The unit cost sanctioned for each school is as follows:

Sl. No.	Students' strength in school	Amount of Grant per School (in Rs.)
1	Between 11 and 15	12,500
2	Between 16 and 100	25,000

3	Between 101 to 250	50,000
4	Between 251 to 1000	75,000
5	More than 1000	1,00,000

In the academic year 2022-2023, an expenditure of Rs.119.27 crore has been incurred as school grant.

2.5.24.Hon'ble Chief Minister's Morning Breakfast Scheme

The pioneering and pathbreaking morning breakfast scheme has been introduced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to provide morning food to 1,14,095 students of Classes 1 to 5 in select 1,545 Corporation, Municipality, Rural and Hill areas primary schools in the first phase at a cost of Rs. 33.56 crore. A preliminary survey has found that there has been an increase in attendance at schools where the scheme is being implemented.

2.5.25. Namma School Namma Ooru Palli

Namma School Foundation aims to bring together communities and individuals who want to give back and corporates who want to invest in and nurture a new and aspiring generation, hand-

in-hand with the Government of Tamilnadu. A platform that will conscientiously accept participation and contributions from citizens – both corporate as well as individual, and systematically deploy such resources towards improving the quality of education in the Government schools of Tamil Nadu has been launched during the academic year 2022-23 by Hon'ble Chief Minister. Contributions are being taken to improve the quality of education across the spectrum of school infrastructure, health and hygiene, nutrition, pedagogy, sports and culture, co-curricular activities and upskilling to equip the learners to face and triumph over the challenges of an increasingly modernised and transforming world.

During the year 2022-23, Rs. 68.47 crore has been committed by Corporates and Individuals.

2.6 Equity

With a view to improving the quality of education of children, particularly those belonging to marginalised sections, activities such as opening of boarding schools and hostel facilities for girl children, providing health guidance and

training to adolescent girls, medical facilities/ equipment for children who need special attention are being implemented.

2.6.1. Welfare Schemes

In order to ensure that students coming to Government Schools continue their education well and complete the schooling without any hurdles due to economic and social hardship, the Government is implementing the following welfare schemes :

Sl. No	Welfare Scheme	Classes	No. of Students Benefited (In Lakh)
1	Text Books	1-12	78.95
2	Note Books	1-10	62.20
3	School Bag	1-12	74.60
4	Footwear, Shoes and Socks	1-10	61.98
5	Atlas	6 & 7 to 10 newly joined	9.84
6	Crayon and Colour pencils	1-5	26.35
7	Geometry Box	6&9	14.20

8	Special Cash Incentive	10-12	16.37
9	Uniform	1-8	42.22
10	Bi-cycle	11	5.29
11	Woollen Sweater	1-8	1.17
12	Rain Coats, Boots and Socks	1-8	1.17
13	Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R Nutritious Meal Program	1-10	49.12
14	Bus Pass	1-12	37.08
15	Financial Assistance for students who lose their breadwinning parents	1-12	1,847.00

2.6.2. Out of School Children (OoSC)

The Department has developed an algorithm to identify students as potential dropouts based on the attendance pattern. Based on this, a house to house survey with a geo-tagged mobile application is conducted. Community participation

led by District Collectors to form and monitor school-level, block-level and district-level committees involving government officials, educators, general public and volunteers of the government's special program Illam Thedi Kalvi who work on mainstreaming OoSC children with a special focus on girls/CWSN/transgender children and children of migrant workers, throughout the year. A sum of Rs.8.92 crore has been allocated for the continuance of this programme in the academic year 2023-24.

2.6.3. Financial assistance for students who lose their bread winning parents

Financial Assistance of Rs. 75,000 is deposited in identified Government Financial Institutions for students of Classes 1 to 8 studying in Government and Government aided schools whose bread winning parent (father or mother) expires or becomes permanently incapacitated in an accident. This is planned and conducted in a way that the interest of the amount is invested in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance Corporation as a deposit fund in the name of the student and guardian until the student completes his schooling. In the last academic year 2022-23,

1540 students have benefited from this scheme worth Rs.10.68 crore.

2.6.4. Tamil Nadu Rural Students Talent Search Examination (TRUST)

The Director of Government Examinations conducts the "Tamil Nadu Rural Students Aptitude Test" for students whose annual family income is less than Rs.1,00,000/- in rural areas. Students Talent Search Scheme Exam is conducted in each revenue district (except Chennai, 37 districts) to select from among the students studying in Class 9 at present. The students must have secured at least 50 percent of total marks in Class 8 to be eligible for the Scheme. The selected students who pass each year there onwards receive Rs.1000/- per year for 4 years up to Class 12. In the last academic year 2022-23, 3700 students qualified for the scholarship through this examination. An allocation of Rs.1.44 Crore has been made for the year 2022-23 with the amount being distributed to all Chief Educational Officers.

2.6.5. National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)

The National Skill and Income Scholarship Scheme provides scholarships to meritorious students belonging to economically backward classes encouraging them to pursue post-secondary studies. The state government conducts a merit test and selects the students who complete Class 8 with 55% marks for the scholarship. Rs. 12,000/- per annum for four years, that is from Classes 9 to 12, is given to the students who pass the qualifying examination. 5613 students from Tamil Nadu have been selected for this scholarship in the academic year 2022-23.

2.6.6. Student Accident Relief Scheme (SARS)

The state government provides relief to students in case of an unexpected accident at school or during school related activities. This scheme is implemented for students studying in government, government aided and local government schools. Under this scheme, a person who dies in an accident will get Rs. 1,00,000 and

for major injuries Rs. 50,000 and Rs.25,000 for minor injuries to the family of the deceased. In the year 2022-23 Rs. 4.75 lakh had been allocated to the families of 6 students.

2.7. Teachers & Administration Initiatives

2.7.1. Teachers Professional Development

The Teacher Professional Development programmes have been designed and implemented to revitalise in-service teacher education across the three pillars of (a) Strengthening teachers' capabilities as professional practitioners – focusing on building on their content, pedagogical and technological skills (including digital technologies) (b) Designing curricular experiences with resources and approaches for strengthening educational outcomes at the school level and (c) Strengthening professional communities of practice – physical interaction in-person planning & review forums at the cluster and block level and online forums for sharing and learning.

The School Education Department has developed *Payirchi Parvai* technology solution for the observation of training sessions by

administrators to oversee compliance with agenda/guidelines, evaluate the use of TLM, rate facilitator competence, and measure class participation and among other things strengthens the feedback to state.

The programme based training was also provided on a blended basis to ensure specialised upskilling to over 2 lakh teachers for Classes 1 to 12 during the academic year 2022-23. A sum of Rs.454.31 lakh has been allocated towards the continuance of this programme.

2.7.2. Temporary Teachers Appointment

There are Secondary Grade Assistants, B.T.Assistants and P.G.Assistant vacancies in Government/Municipal, Primary, Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools in TamilNadu for the year 2022-23. In order to bridge the period till the direct recruitment process is completed, the Government has issued orders to engage Secondary Grade Assistants at a cost of Rs. 12,000 per month, B.T.Assistants at a cost of Rs. 15,000 per month and P.G Assistants at a cost of Rs. 18,000 per month.

2.7.3. Compassionate Appointments

The Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over appointment orders as Junior Assistants on compassionate grounds to 269 eligible candidates on 13.10.2022.

2.7.4. Restructuring the administrative set up at the field level

The School Education Department has been restructured to create separate leadership for the Elementary, Secondary and Private schools at the district level. 58 District Education Officers (Elementary), 55 District Education Officers (Secondary) and 39 District Education Officers (Private Schools) have been created in 38 revenue districts.

2.7.5. Promotion and Appointment of BEOs

During the academic year 2022, 61 Middle School Headmasters have been promoted to Block Education Officer, through the promotion counseling held on 19.09.2022 and 20.09.2022 from the post of Middle School Headmaster. In addition 95 BEOs were appointed through direct requirement.

2.7.6. Implementation of e-office of files

Office procedures are being implemented through e-office for speedy handling of office files across Directorates of the School Education Department. This will be implemented across all districts in the coming years. Through this process, activities like issuance of Government Orders and obtaining administrative approvals for priority projects as well as internal processing for public requests will be completed with quicker turnaround timelines.

2.7.7. Citizen services

The School Education Department provides online services for citizens like issuance of Conduct Certificate, Bonafide Certificate, Certificate for Persons Studied in Tamil Medium (PSTM) et al that were earlier provided in-person only. The rousing reception of the online services is evidenced by the 1.75 lakh citizens availing the 23 services digitised within 2 months.

2.7.8. Digitisation of Registers

In order to reduce the net workload of teachers and enable their increased focus on

driving learning outcomes for the students, the Hon'ble School Education Minister has announced that all the manual registers will be computerised. The 100 different types of registers have been segmented to be (a) computerised (b) removed and (c) converted to blended mode. During the academic year 2022-23, 45 registers have been digitised and manual practices phased out of schools.

2.7.9. Tamil Nadu Palliparvai

The School Education Department has created and launched a modern governance mechanism rooted in data science assisting the system in evidence-based decision making. The Palliparvai solution follows a nested observation framework from the post of Block Education Officer to Principal Secretary to assess student learning levels accurately and periodically. Officials conduct periodic observations and restructure the role of teacher mentors as well as strengthen collaboration between stakeholders at the block, district, and State level.

Based on the observations, corrective measures and policy decisions are evidence-based

and are driven by data that reflect ground realities accurately. During the first academic year 2022-23 of this programme, about 30,000 administrators have been on boarded to complete 1.8 lakh observations across all 38 districts. Based on the data from these observations, a total of 12 regional leadership reviews have been conducted.

2.7.10. Capacity Building for Headmasters

School leadership impacts all facets of education that includes teacher motivation, shaping the learning environment in which the teaching and learning occurs, and engagement with community and alumni of the school. Given the immense significance of strong leadership in transforming schools, the School Education Department has set up an annual leadership development training programme for Headmasters. 8304 Headmasters of High and Higher Secondary Schools have been capacitated across different aspects of school leadership including articulation of vision and setting measurable self-goals for the school, understanding curriculum needs and managing teaching-learning processes to empower teachers,

improving efficiency in school administration, nurturing purposeful community engagement for the development of the school, building a converged operation with the teaching and non-teaching staff while leading, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of Government's flagship programmes.

A sum of Rs. 10 crore has been allocated towards the continuance of this programme with expansion to Middle School Headmasters.

2.7.11. Capacity Building training for Administrators

It was announced by the Hon'ble Minister of School Education in the Legislative Assembly in 2022 that residential training will be provided to administrators annually in the fields of skill development, leadership and management with the help of the best educationists and experts of the country.

Accordingly, 22 Joint Directors, 38 CEOs, the latest batch of 20 directly recruited DEOs, 87 promoted DEOs, 2009 and 2012 batch, 67 direct recruitment Block Education Officers and 95 Block Education Officers in 2022 batch have been given

training on administrative responsibilities and administrative skills.

The academic and administrative responsibilities training for all cadres of Education Officers from the post of Block Education Officers to Joint Directors will continue to be conducted in collaboration with renowned academic institutions and State Council for Education Research and Training as a residential training during the academic year 2023-24.

2.8. Samagra Shiksha

It is a flagship scheme of Government of India and aims at providing necessary inputs to schools and sets standards on various education related indicators. It also aims at treating school education as a continuum from Classes Pre-Primary to Std XII without any barriers like primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary. It is an amalgamation of erstwhile schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) components of SCERT and is funded jointly by the Government of

India and the State Government with a sharing pattern of 60:40.

Samagra Shiksha emphasizes on quality with a special focus on inclusive and equitable education for children in all school going ages. SS provides quality inputs like creation of audiovisual content and assessment questions that can be accessed by students through QR codes placed in textbooks issued by the department. Samagra Shiksha is the nodal agency in the state for channelizing funds from the Government of India meant for in-service teacher training through SCERT.

2.9. Budget

The Government have made a budgetary provision of Rs.39446.92 crore for Elementary, School Education Directorates and Samagra Shiksha for the financial year 2023-24.

3. DIRECTORATE OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

3.1. Introduction

A new Directorate namely the Directorate of Private Schools was formed in January 2023 to monitor the administration of all private schools functioning under various educational boards.

Private schools, under the proactive guidance of the Government, cater to the needs of students studying in various self-financing schools following the curriculum and syllabus of the State Common Board of School Education / Central Board of Secondary Education /IB/ICSE/ IGCSE, etc.. At present, there are 12,631 such schools imparting education to nearly 56.9 lakh children. These schools are monitored by the Director of Private Schools at the State level and the District Educational Officer (Private Schools) at the Revenue District level.

3.2. Vision

To ensure quality education in a safe learning environment in private schools, by the appointment of fully qualified teachers and availability of good infrastructure facilities.

To ensure the implementation of the provisions of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011 in their true spirit and to regulate the admission process in all private schools through online mode to maintain transparency.

3.3. Objectives

- To ensure the availability of adequate and safe infrastructure facilities in private schools.
- To grant permission to open new private schools.
- To ensure a conducive, safe and secure learning environment for the students of all private schools. To function as the nodal agency for the effective implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009
- To ensure the implementation of all Acts & Rules and Orders issued by the

Government from time to time, relating to the administration of private schools.

3.4. The Tamil Nadu Private Schools (Regulation) Act, 2018

After the enactment of The Tamil Nadu Uniform System of School Education Act, 2010 all private schools were brought under the State Common Board of School Education. In pursuance to this, the Tamil Nadu Private Schools (Regulation) Act, 2018 was enacted. The Tamil Nadu Private Schools (Regulation) Rules, 2023 came into force from January 2023, as per G.O (Ms) No. 14 School Education Department dated 13.01.2023 and it has been notified in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette No. 22 / 2023.

3.5. Roles and Responsibilities

3.5.1. Permission/Recognition

The Directorate accords permission to open new private schools under various managements, upgrade existing private schools and renew the recognition of existing private schools.

During the year 2022-23, 30 new Matriculation Schools were permitted to be opened and 44 existing Matriculation Schools were permitted to be upgraded as Matriculation Higher Secondary Schools. Further, 61 new (other than State Board) schools were permitted to be opened.

3.5.2.Regulatory Compliance

A new Regulatory Compliance portal and Inspection App was inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Minister on 31.12.2022. Using this portal, school managements can apply online for all services, such as opening of new schools, upgradation of existing schools, merging/bifurcating schools etc.. District Educational Officers (Private Schools) can use the Inspection App for inspecting schools. This new system eliminates paper work, brings in transparency and ensures better monitoring of the approval process by senior officers of the department.

3.6.Implementation of Tamil Nadu Tamil Learning Act

The Government had issued orders for ensuring compulsory learning of Tamil language and enacted the Tamil Nadu Tamil Learning Act, 2006. Accordingly, learning of Tamil as first language was made compulsory from Class 1 onwards in a phased manner from the academic year 2006-07. All private school students learn Tamil as first language from Classes 1 to 10.

3.7.Implementation of The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and Tamil Nadu Rules, 2011 is being implemented in letter and spirit. Under section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act 2009, clear guidelines are available for the admission of children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections in all private non-minority self-financing schools in entry level class.

The Director of Private Schools is the State Chief Nodal Officer and Chief Educational Officers at District level are District Nodal Officers for the implementation of the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

To ensure transparency in this process, the application system for admission under Section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009 has been made online. A total of 74,296 children were admitted under this provision during the academic year 2022-23. Rs.364.44 crore have been reimbursed to the schools which have admitted children under this category for the year 2021-22.

3.8.The Tamil Nadu Schools (Regulation of Collection of Fee) Act, 2009

In order to prevent commercialization of education and collection of capitation fees, the Government enacted the Tamil Nadu Schools (Regulation of Collection of Fee) Act, 2009 and framed Rules there under. A Committee namely Private Schools Fee Determination Committee has been constituted for the purpose of fixing fees for the private schools. It fixes the fees to be

collected for all classes and the order is valid for three years.

3.9.Establishment of 39 District Educational Offices (Private Schools) separately for Private Schools.

The regulation of Matriculation Schools was managed by the Inspector of Matriculation Schools and the department restructuring in the year 2018 removed the Inspector of Matriculation Schools posts and the regulatory powers were given to the jurisdictional District Educational Officers and Chief Educational Officers. However, the District Educational Officers and Chief Educational Officers were unable to spare time and effectively regulate the unaided schools and private schools. Therefore, 39 District Educational Offices (Private Schools) have now been established at the district level to manage and meet the needs of Private Schools from 01.10.2022.

3.10.Welfare Schemes for Promotion of Tamil Medium of Instruction in Private Schools.

In order to promote education in Tamil Medium in private schools, the scheme of providing educational kits including textbooks and notebooks, school bags, etc., for students studying in Government Schools, has been extended to students of Classes 1 to 10 in private unaided Tamil medium schools as per Government Order (MS) No.41 School Education (MS) Department dated 16.02.2023. To implement these schemes an amount of Rs.2.81 crore is being spent. A total of 47,661 students will be benefited under this scheme.

3.11. Budget.

The Government has made a budgetary provision of Rs.297.97 crore to this Directorate for the year 2023- 24.

4. STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

4.1.Introduction

The State Council of Educational Research and Training is the apex body in the Department that is responsible for ensuring the quality of school education. It is an academically vibrant entity, providing quality inputs to all the Directorates of School Education on curriculum, syllabus, textbooks, pedagogy, assessment and guidance and counselling etc. The inputs of SCERT are used for reforming and improving the existing system for achieving the vision of the School Education Department.

SCERT constantly strives towards achieving perfection by undertaking research studies in learning, pedagogy, assessment, classroom processes, learning outcomes, adolescent behaviours of students, student absenteeism, health and wellness of students, career guidance etc.

SCERT takes efforts to design pedagogical processes to ensure that children continue to

learn without any mental stress and trauma. SCERT also undertakes digitising of textbooks and learning resources to make them available 24x7 to all the students through digital platforms. Technology is used for enhancing the learning in the classrooms and undertaking assessment through Hi-Tech labs. It prepares a number of learning resources for the students to enhance subject specific skills through the process of learner friendly and child friendly classroom activities. Besides, it undertakes various activities for developing the aesthetic and artistic talents of students. SCERT organises capacity building training programmes for various stakeholders for enhancing their professional skills to ensure the seamless delivery of school education.

4.2.Vision

To create a school system which focuses on learning outcomes, holistic and joyful learning based on multiple pedagogy, alternate learning strategies, digital modes of learning and assessment systems for triggering higher order thinking skills of students to transform them into students with competitive spirit and capable of facing the challenges of the new digital era.

4.3.Role and Functions

Framing curriculum, syllabus, developing textbooks, supplementary materials, newsletters, journals, educational kits, multimedia digital materials and other related literature.

- Conducting pre-service training for student teachers
- Imparting training to in-service teachers on professional development.
- Providing Skill Development training to administrative officers.
- Integrating learning outcomes in the classroom transactional processes.
- Undertaking research related to School Education.
- Assessing systems and approaches for quality improvement in School Education and to sustain the interventions with remedial follow-up.

4.4.Objectives

The State Council of Educational Research and Training functions with a number of objectives for ensuring outcome based quality of school education. The most significant objectives are furnished below:

- Revising curriculum, syllabus and textbooks to suit the ever changing school system.
- Innovating on learning processes, use of TLM, electronic gadgets and digital resources for learning enhancement.
- Developing digital textbooks and learning materials for the benefit of students of Classes 1-12.
- Training all academic stake holders on Learning Outcomes in all subjects of all classes to ensure outcome based learning.
- Undertaking research studies and action research studies for removing

the obstacles in the process of teaching and learning.

- Extending support to teachers in pedagogy, assessment and innovations.

4.5. Programme and Activities

4.5.1. Assessment Cell

Assessment is a crucial tool for accurately measuring student learning outcomes and providing valuable feedback to both teachers and students. However, the current assessment practices need to be modified to focus more on application-oriented, and understanding-based assessment. To achieve this goal, students' exposure to higher-order questions needs to be increased. Therefore, it became essential to create a new division for assessment within SCERT to promote effective assessment practices that align with the Tamil Nadu State curriculum, foster critical thinking skills among students, and improve student learning outcomes.

The State Assessment Cell was inaugurated on March 1, 2023 by the Hon'ble Sports Minister

of Tamil Nadu and Hon'ble School Education Minister of Tamil Nadu. The Cell is collaborating with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras to develop digital assessment tools and design effective assessment practices for schools. The goal is to enable all teachers throughout the state to use the question creation tool. Currently, the pilot of assessment tools is underway, and the Cell is assessing the current state of assessment practices in schools, identifying areas for improvement, and educating teachers through workshops. In the long term, the Cell will work with schools to develop teachers' capacity to design higher order thinking questions. Teachers are being trained to move away from rote memory-based questions, book back and chapter level questions, and create knowledge, understanding, and application-based questions. The training given by the State Assessment Cell is improving the teachers' capacity to design high-quality assessments. As a result, questions of higher order thinking are properly curated and distributed to all government school students through Hi-Tech Labs.

4.5.2. Teacher Professional Development Training

Enhancement of the capacity of teachers by providing qualitative training by eminent educationists is a key programme that SCERT has embarked upon.

In response to the COVID – 19 pandemic, the Tamil Nadu State Council of Educational Research and Training initiated a continuous professional development by way of sharing the best practices at cluster and the block levels. These sessions focused on innovative pedagogical methods, new challenges, preparing appropriate Teaching Learning materials for the Learning Outcomes and Remedial plan preparation.

In order to systemise teacher training, a Teachers Professional Development calendar is released at the beginning of the academic year to schedule the training. The Communities of Practice (CRC/BRC) provide teachers with access to shared best practices and engage in peer discussions to enhance classroom effectiveness. Districts have found the TPD program responsive, and their feedback have been incorporated. The

“payirchi parvai” observation of the training sessions conducted by officials helps to oversee the compliance, rate the facilitator competence and measure classroom participation. This has benefitted 83,000 teachers across the state.

The Archaeology training programme has been inaugurated at Keeladi to disseminate the rich Tamil history and civilization, culture, tradition and its significance to students. This training has been organized in 9 zones across the State for 1000 Government school teachers.

4.5.3. Training to Enhance the Professional Skills of SCERT and DIET academic personnel

Enhancing the professional skills of the academic personnel will automatically create an impact on classroom transactions. The State Council of Educational Research and Training created a structured program for academic personnel of SCERT and DIETs. The orientation training focused on enhancing their academic and professional skills, in addition to covering core themes like design and facilitation of various workshops, curriculum development, text book

writing and organising need based training. These training programmes, in turn, will help teachers develop a deeper understanding of the learning process and equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to design and deliver effective classroom management. This training programme has benefitted 450 academic personnel of SCERT and DIETs.

4.5.4. Skill Development Training for officials of School Education

A new initiative of the State Government, aims to capacitate the officials across all levels to bring in effective processes towards achieving the ultimate objectives. The Department recognised the differentiated need for capacity building based on cadre and experience. The 20 Joint Directors who serve as the overseeing officials for designing and implementation of all regular and new initiatives of the department are being capacitated in formulating new policies, analyse and ideate new policies, policy implementation and monitoring. The 38 Chief Educational Officers are capacitated on decision making by leveraging technology solutions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of district administration. For the

District Educational Officers, induction training was provided to 20 direct recruits along with field exposure, and 124 promoted DEOs were trained in various soft skills and data oriented governance based on the roles and responsibilities mapped. The 152 BEOs directly recruited and 664 promoted BEOs were provided training with exposure to a combination of a subset of key academic, administrative and personal development. For the 8033 Headmasters of High and Higher Secondary Schools, the focus was on leadership and school management, which is likely to have a positive impact on the overall functioning of their respective schools.

4.6 Special Initiatives to Mitigate Learning Loss

4.6.1. Ennum Ezhuthum

The Hon'ble Finance Minister made an announcement on the floor of the Legislative Assembly during the budget session for the year 2021-22 that the Ennum Ezhuthum programme will be implemented to ensure that by 2025 all students in Tamil Nadu by age 8 are able to read

with comprehension and possess basic arithmetic skills.

The ability to read and write, and to perform basic operations with numbers, is a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning. Early literacy and numeracy skills are not only foundational for learning but are critical for educational outcomes in later years.

Paradigm shift from grade based approach to level based approach

In order to mitigate learning losses, an alternate approach of teaching at the right level has been adopted for Ennum Ezhuthum based on the expert committee recommendations. Teaching learning happens through child friendly activities including songs, stories, art, craft, participatory games involving physical movements, and providing scope for creativity, imagination, playing with concrete objects, observation, noticing, learning in groups, learning in pairs and

individual learning. The activities have been fashioned in such a manner that it ensures motivation, explanation, reinforcement, assessment and remediation with engagement of children in activities and participation and facilitation of activities by teachers.

Level based TLMs

Students' workbooks for Tamil, English and Mathematics and teachers' handbooks and Ennum Ezhuthum kits for Tamil, English and Mathematics have been developed and provided. Most of the concepts of EVS have been integrated with languages and mathematics and the remaining have been given as projects. These level based teaching learning materials cater to differentiated learning levels of the children.

Establishment of Learning Corners in Classrooms

The establishment of learning corners such as craft corner, song corner, activity corner, reading corner, and story corner has transformed the classroom as a stage for performing arts, a

platform for exhibiting individual talent, a concert hall of music, a story-telling forum, a play field, and a repository for art objects thus making it lively and vibrant at all times.

Inclusiveness

The activities designed for Ennum Ezhuthum are multisensorial, interesting and engaging so that it not only caters to the needs of children with special needs but also provides opportunities to have multiple learning and teaching trajectories which caters to all types of learning such as auditory, visual, tactile and kinesthetic thus ensuring all types of learners are engaged in the learning process.

Child Friendly Assessments

Assessments are carried out in a child friendly manner in both online and offline modes. Formative assessments are carried out once a week and summative assessments once at the end of every term. These assessments help to gauge the achievement of learning outcomes in children and thus understand the improvement in their learning levels.

Capacity building of teachers

The capacity building programmes for teachers handling Ennum Ezhuthum classrooms have been carried out at the beginning of every term. The training was in a participatory mode which made teachers experience classroom transaction activities, understand level based approach, learning outcomes, gain knowledge of appropriate usage of TLMs, learn integration of technology in teaching learning activities and assessments, and understand the purpose of teachers' handbooks and students' workbooks. Based on the feedback from the implementation of the Ennum Ezhuthum programme in the first, second and third terms Ennum Ezhuthum has been aligned to the textbooks and corresponding course corrections have been carried out in the textbooks, teachers handbook and students workbook.

Continuous support and motivation for teachers

In continuation of the teachers capacity building programme, the teachers are continuously supported and motivated through a

platform exclusively for Ennum Ezhuthum teachers where sharing of classroom transaction experiences in the form of audio, video and photos happens which helps teachers across the state to know about best practices; doubts of teachers are clarified by the state resource group, solutions suggested to solve problems in implementation, guidance for implementation given, opportunity provided to interact with subject and pedagogy experts and above all the efforts of teachers are appreciated which enhances the motivation level of teachers.

Model classroom videos and audio are provided in the QR codes of textbooks and teachers' handbooks which help teachers for effective classroom transactions. Kalvi Tholaikatchi programmes exclusively for Ennum Ezhuthum are telecast for the benefit of students and teachers. The digital content videos related to Ennum Ezhuthum are uploaded in the SCERT official YouTube channel for anytime reference and usage.

Effective Monitoring

The monitoring officials at the state and

district levels have been oriented and sensitized on Ennum Ezhuthum. Monitoring has been made effective through app supported classroom observations and review of field officials on regular intervals.

Impact of Ennum Ezhuthum

The classrooms have become democratic, vibrant, interesting, inclusive and effective. It is welcomed by all the stakeholders. The rapport and bond developed between the teachers and students makes them feel as an Ennum Ezhuthum family as evinced from the feedback given by the teachers, students and parents. The achievement of learning outcomes of the students as measured through the assessments indicate that the Ennum Ezhuthum programme is moving in the right direction. 15,89,235 children have benefitted under the programme.

4.6.2. Illam Thedi Kalvi

Illam Thedi Kalvi was the first of the initiatives pioneered by the Government to address the learning losses suffered by school students on account of the long closure of schools

caused by the outbreak of Covid-19. The unique feature of this programme is that instruction is made available to children at their door steps to overcome learning loss. This teaching is done by volunteers hailing from the locality. They have been given necessary training.

The volunteers handle classes with the help of teaching learning materials specially designed by SCERT which emphasize teaching through activities in which students would willingly participate. The teaching learning materials prepared are aligned to the content prescribed under Ennum Ezhuthum (level based pedagogy) for Classes 1, 2 and 3. For classes 4 to 8 the teaching learning materials are prepared based on critical learning outcomes as prescribed in the textbooks. This is to reinforce what they learn in the classrooms. To track the learning levels of primary children the volunteers have been provided with achievement charts to register their progress.

4.6.3. Bridge Course

Covid 19 pandemic and closure of schools for long periods had caused learning loss

especially amongst primary school children. The results of the baseline survey conducted to assess the extent of learning loss amongst children of primary classes revealed that many children of Classes 4 and 5 were below grade level. In order to mitigate the learning gaps, bridge course material was developed in the form of workbooks and provided to all the children who are below grade level. The teachers handling Classes 4 and 5 were oriented on how to effectively use the bridge material. The bridge courses are conducted during school hours.

4.7. State Resource Centre

State Resource Centre will be a full-fledged teaching learning experience facility that will render first-hand experiential training for teachers on the nuances of teaching and learning. SRC expects a paradigm shift in the mode of transaction from chalk & talk to learning through direct experience. The features at SRC would be interesting, engaging and meaningful for the participating teachers to learn, enjoy, transact and to cherish. Therefore, the trainees at SRC will also learn through direct involvement with the

latest in methods, approaches, techniques, tools and in-turn they will apply the same in their classroom transaction at their place of work.

The facility caters to two categories of classes viz: 1-5 and 6-12. For Classes 1-5, Ennum Ezhuthum Mission (EEM) would be at the centre stage and for Classes 6-12 the latest trends coupled with technology will be transacted through demonstration according to the local needs of the teachers and students. Therefore, the facility will have subject wise rooms with all the necessary physical and ICT based tools required within the context of TNCF 2017. SRC provides subject matter with the necessary know-how demos by experts of the particular domain that would provide and promote the unique method of learning that best suits the concepts. The EEM arena at SRC will be the reference model for the trainees in both the ambience and the 'learning corners'; the visiting teachers are expected to set up the same in their respective classrooms.

To provide a wholesome experience, SRC has a Language lab and ICT lab with the latest

software. Visiting trainees will also have best-in-class digital resources at the Digital library. A Do-it-Yourself (DIY) space helps them to improvise a piece of trash into a priceless learning material and a STEM lab as an incubation hub to steam an idle mind to ideate an innovative product. Apart from the major installation exclusive for subjects, it also has ICT enabled fixtures throughout the facility to provide the experience which cannot be given otherwise. Thus, each and every installation at SRC would kindle the knowledge of visitors that provides overall learning; however, it also helps the teachers to create a knowledge society in the long run.

4.8. Research Activities

Research in School Education plays an important role to formulate interventions to resolve the challenges in School Education. SCERT has constituted a State Research Team which reviews the research activities of teacher educators and teachers to undertake educational research based on their feedback through school visits and in-service training programmes. Action Researches have been conducted across the state focusing on specific themes such as Learning

Loss, Effectiveness of Textbooks, Child safety, Health and Hygiene, Emotional well-being, Innovative interventions in scholastic areas to attain learning outcomes.

District Specific Research Projects have been conducted on subject specific areas such as Evaluation, ICT, scholastic / co-scholastic dimensions and social issues. DIET faculty have conducted 298 action researches and 132 research projects in 2022–23 (DIET Krishnagiri has conducted Action Research on usage of mobile app in learning spelling patterns; gaming technology to improve the multiplication skills has been undertaken by DIET Madurai). The findings of the research studies are disseminated through seminars and teacher training programmes. A fund of Rs. 1.5 crore has been sanctioned for the research activities of SCERT. The findings of these educational researches are greatly beneficial to all stakeholders.

4.9. Revamping of Vocational Education

The Hon'ble Minister for School Education made an announcement on the floor of the Legislative Assembly on 26.08.2021 that

vocational education would be revamped in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) so that the students pursuing this education would be enabled to acquire the skill sets in demand in industries and get immediate jobs.

Following this, a 7 member Steering Committee was formed for revamping vocational syllabus and textbooks. The Steering Committee had consultative meetings and recommended the revision of 8 vocational subjects, introduction of internship for vocational students in industries related to their course, alignment of revised syllabi with the course content of National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) recognised by TNSDC for vocational students and introduction of Employability skills subject for all vocational groups.

The revision of syllabi and textbooks was carried out involving subject experts of the Technical Education Department, Govt ITIs, academicians and book authors. The Employability skills subject focuses on the development of Communication skills, ICT skills,

and Entrepreneurship skills.

The alignment of revised syllabi for vocational education with the course content of NSQF recognised by TNSDC would enable vocational students to not only get the qualification from the School education department but also industry approved skill completion certificate which would be useful for better employment opportunities. The practical assessment for this certificate will be conducted by Sector Skill Councils facilitated by TNSDC in collaboration with the School Education Department.

More than 600 micro, small, medium, large scale industries of both Government and private sectors, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, PHCs, and other Government organizations have been identified for deputing students for internship. In the current academic year, the students have been given internships of 40 hour duration in industrial or government establishments related to their fields of vocation. In the beginning of the current academic year, the capacity building programme and certification for the vocational

teachers handling the revamped subjects was done through TNSDC.

The revised syllabus and textbooks were introduced for Class XI in the academic year 2022-23. The revised syllabus and textbooks for Class XII will be introduced in the academic year 2023-24.

4.10 Counselling Centre for Higher Education, and Employment opportunities

SCERT provides counselling on Higher Education and Employment Opportunities to the students studying in Classes 9 to 12 in Government Schools. In this regard, a counseling centre has been established in every school through "The Naan Mudhalvan" Scheme.

In each High and Higher Secondary School, 2 teachers have been designated as Ambassadors to give counseling to all the students for Higher Studies. Class 11 and 12 students have been provided with a Manual on Higher Education.

Naan Mudhalvan Web Portal

As a part of this scheme, a website titled 'Naan Mudhalvan' (<https://www.naanmudhalvan.tn.gov.in>) has been launched for students to get information on Higher Education. Higher Education is selected according to the wishes of each student and the required higher education course details are uploaded on the 'Naan Mudhalvan' website through the Tamil Nadu Education Management Information System (TN-EMIS). Information on more than 419 Higher Education Courses, more than 2,500 Colleges, Entrance Examinations, information on Government and Private Scholarship Schemes, obtaining Education Loans and how to apply for them has been uploaded on the website of the 'Naan Mudhalvan'. Further, 79,365 students who had passed 12th standard and had difficulties in pursuing higher education due to various reasons have been identified and counseling on Higher Education and Employment has been given in the offices of the District Collectors across the State during the academic year 2021-22. In addition to this, the Department of Higher Education and The Tamil Nadu Skill

Development Corporation (TNSDC) jointly organised a Camp for Private Colleges, Industrial Training Institutes (ITI), Polytechnic Institutes, Aided Institutions to provide spot admission to the students for their higher education. Banks also participated in the Camp to grant Education Loans to the students. In the academic year 2022-23, the Department of Higher Education and Department of Youth Welfare and Sports along with the help of NSS students and alumni of Government and Arts Colleges guided the students to apply online for Medical and Technical Higher Education Entrance Examinations for students studying in Class 12. The website of the 'Naan Mudhalvan' listed out the relaxations available in Higher Education Admissions to students who win medals at the State and National levels in the field of sports.

The 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme is being implemented with the objective of ensuring that every Government School student gets Higher Education and Employment as per the student ability and preference. Through this scheme, the Website of 'Naan Mudhalvan' is functioning in such a way that all the information in

Higher Education and Career Opportunities is compiled in one platform. So far, 13,19,742 students have benefitted from the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme.

4.11. Creation of Language Lab

In the academic year 2023–24, the 6029 High tech labs functioning at High School and Higher Secondary Schools will be transformed as Language Labs to enhance Tamil and English Language proficiency of Government School Students studying from 6th to 12th. The Language Lab will serve as a tool and a platform for the students which remove the fear to speak English fluently, to respond, and to discuss and to pronounce the words appropriately and read with comprehension.

A wide variety of activities like stories, incidents, activities, conversation asking questions kindle the students' learning interest. Students can record dialogues, enact situations or just respond orally to a conversation trigger.

The fear of making mistakes generally prevents a child from speaking in English.

Language Lab is designed in such a way where the students can check his word utterance and pronunciation with the help of inbuilt Artificial Intelligence facilities. At every stage of learning self-evaluation is available.

This Language Lab benefits 35 lakh students studying in Classes 6th to 12th in Government Schools.

4.12. Exemplary Digital Content Creation

Digital Education is the way forward to learning and gaining knowledge through the means of technology and digital devices. The emergence of the internet and ever-evolving technology have made learning interactive, engaging, motivating, and handy. Education is not anymore limited to textbooks and classrooms; it has become an amalgamation of technology, innovative learning, and digital content. SCERT is in the process of developing digital content. It involves two distinct steps – script writing and digitization. 107 Post Graduate teachers identified and trained in script writing in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, History, Commerce, Accountancy and Economics have

developed 8000 scripts. These scripts have been reviewed by 70 experts from various colleges across the state. The School Education Department prepared supplementary readers as “Puthaga Poongothu” for primary school children. As part of digitizing “Puthaga Poongothu”, 30 videos have been developed for Primary classes. SCERT is also engaged in translating quality digital content from English. SCERT has also brought out the Energized Teacher Handbook for Ennum Ezhuthum with 139 videos embedded.

4.13. Kalvi TV

Kalvi TV transmits educational e-content on all subjects of Classes 1 - 12 on a 24 x 7 basis. This took on the role of the schools when they remained closed during COVID-19 pandemic. The class wise and subject wise videos have been telecast by Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable and where its reach was not there, the support of private channels, direct to home (DTH) and multi service cable operators (MSO) has been enlisted.

Kalvi TV has undertaken the task of video shoot, edit and telecast of 338 videos for Illam Thedi Kalvi programme and 232 videos for Ennum

Ezhuthum programme. Kalvi TV has undertaken the production and telecast of videos for other Government Departments. Nearly 1024 videos of half an hour duration have been produced and telecast for the Department of Employment and Training. Kalvi TV produced and telecast the awareness programme on pollution among school children with regard to the Meendum Manjappai Initiative programme produced by the Pollution Control Board. Kalvi TV has produced the live video shoot and editing of 56 videos of Porunai Ilakkiya Thiruvizha, 86 videos of Chennai Ilakkiya Thiruvizha, 44 videos of Siruvani Ilakkiya Thiruvizha and will continue its support for Kaveri Ilakkiya Thiruvizha and Vaigai Ilakkiya Thiruvizha. Kalvi TV has supported the live shoot and edit of 4 videos of TN talk programme. Kalvi TV has created video films and editing for Nan Mudhalvan programme, Vanavil Mandram, Kalai Thiruvizha, Namma School programme, Nam Palli Nam Perumai programme, and Maaperum Tamil Kanavu programme.

Apart from the existing programmes SCERT has planned to develop new programmes not only related to subject content but also for activities

like art, storytelling, drawing, handwriting, singing, dance, sports programmes, best practices in schools, science experiments, quiz, counselling, guidance, exhibitions, book fairs, guidance for competitive exams like NTSE, TRUST, NMMS etc. Programme development is under progress and would be telecast in the forthcoming academic year.

4.14. Budget

The Government has made a budgetary provision of Rs.194.72 crore for this Directorate for 2023-24.

5.GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS

5.1. Introduction

The Directorate of Government Examinations has the onerous responsibility of conducting the State Board Examinations for SSLC (Class 10), HSE First Year (Class 11) and HSE Second Year (Class 12). Since its formation in 1975, the Directorate has adopted various innovative measures and embraced transparency and digitization to enhance the standards of conducting examinations. This Directorate also conducts various scholarship examinations such as National Talent Search Examination (NTSE), National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS), Tamil Nadu Rural Students Talent Search Examination (TRUST) and Tamil Language Literary Aptitude Test.

5.2. Objectives

- To conduct all the examinations in a transparent and fair manner.
- To undertake reforms in question paper setting with the aim of

promoting critical thinking skills among students.

- To carry out end to end digitization from the process of receiving applications from candidates till the publishing of results.
- To publish the results and issue relevant certificates to the candidates within the stipulated time so that students can pursue their higher studies without hassles.

5.3. Functions

The Directorate has the paramount responsibility of conducting around 35 examinations of various kinds. Besides the preparation of question papers the Directorate adopts a secure system with maximum transparency in the conduct of examinations, result publication and issue of certificates to candidates.

5.4. Online Facilities

A web portal **www.dge.tn.gov.in** has been created for the benefit of the student community, parents and educational institutions which enables easy access to the following facilities.

- Results
- Provision for downloading Provisional Certificates
- Provision for downloading Hall Tickets
- Online payment of examination fee
- Preparation of Nominal Roll of Regular / Private students
- Previous years' question papers / Sample Question Papers
- Genuineness of Mark Certificates
- Examination notifications
- Examination time tables
- Application forms

- Examination fee structure
- Instructions to candidates
- Application for Duplicate Mark Certificate
- Application for Certified copy of Mark Certificate (CCM)
- Application for Migration Certificate

5.5. Students Welfare

5.5.1. Arrangements for Children with Special Needs (CWSN)

Children with Special Needs, who appear for SSLC and Higher Secondary Examinations, are provided with:

- Ground floor seating arrangement.
- Any one language paper exemption.
- Separate room provision for visually impaired candidates.
- Scribe Facility(eligible and qualified, relevant subject BT/PG teachers are appointed as scribes).

- Additional one hour time.
- Permission for usage of calculators.
- Practical examination exemption for Children with Special Needs studying in Secondary Classes (Class 10).
- Lab Assistant appointment for Practical Examination, for Children with Special Needs studying in Higher Secondary Classes (Class 11 and 12)
- Based on a candidate's request, instead of attending the practical examination for Physics/Chemistry/Biology subjects, a questionnaire with Multiple Choice Questions related to the practical examination is provided.

5.5.2. Exemption of Examination fee for Tamil Medium Candidates

All Candidates appearing for the SSLC and Higher Secondary Examinations in Tamil medium are exempted from paying examination fees. For the academic year 2022-23 the following number

of candidates have been exempted from paying examination fees.

SL. NO	CLASS	Candidates Exempted From Paying Examination Fees
1.	SSLC	4,61,415
2.	HIGHER SECONDARY FIRST YEAR	3,83,775
3.	HIGHER SECONDARY SECOND YEAR	4,42,888

5.6 Public Welfare

5.6.1. DigiLocker

DigiLocker helps to download certificates as an E-certificate. The candidates, who have appeared for the Higher Secondary and SSLC examinations and signed up for a DigiLocker account with their Aadhaar (UIDAI) number, can download their Digital Mark Certificate from the repository of the Directorate of Government Examinations. From the year 2016 till the year 2022, marks of 1,23,44,021 candidates have been uploaded onto DigiLocker by the DGE.

5.6.2 E-attestation of Mark certificate

This Government has facilitated the online e-attestation of Students Mark Certificates for the benefit of students aspiring to go abroad for higher education or employment. For the academic year 2022–23 till date 579 Mark Certificates have been e-attested.

5.6.3 Services provided at nearby Government e-service centres

Measures have been taken to provide the following services provided by this Directorate at Government e-service centres.

- Persons Studied In Tamil Medium Certificate
- Duplicate Certificate
- Certified Copy of Mark List
- Correction in mark certificates
- Migration Certificate (for pursuing higher studies in other states or abroad)
- Downloading of Answer Scripts

- Re-valuation/Scan copy application
- Downloading of Provisional Certificates

5.7. Examination Centres in Prisons

Board examinations are being conducted for inmates within the premises of prisons itself to promote their educational pursuits which would enable them to gain a livelihood after their correctional period. For the academic year 2022-23, 264,125 and 90 inmates from Classes 10, 11 and 12 respectively have applied for the March/April 2023 Board Examinations.

5.8. Conduct of Supplementary Examinations

Every year the supplementary examination is conducted immediately after the results are declared for the SSLC and Higher Secondary (First and Second Year) Board examinations so as to enable candidates to pursue their higher studies in the same academic year itself.

5.9. Scholarship Examinations

5.9.1. Tamil Language Literary Aptitude Test:

In order to improve the Tamil language literary skills of school students, from the

academic year 2022 -23, the Tamil Language Literary Aptitude Test has been introduced by the government. 2,50,732 school students studying in Higher Secondary First Year (+1) have appeared for the first examination held in October 2022. A total of 1500 students including 750 government school students and 750 government and other private school students were selected and they would be given a monthly stipend of Rs.1500/- for two years.

5.9.2.Examination for National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS)

Students, who have passed Class 7 from Government and Government aided schools and are studying in Class 8 and whose parental annual income does not exceed Rs.3,50,000 are eligible to appear for the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Examination. The selected students will get a sum of Rs.12,000 as scholarship per annum (at the rate of Rs.1000 per month) from Classes 9 to 12. This scheme provides scholarships to 6,695 students in the State every year. 2,22,985 students have appeared for the NMMS examination which was held in February 2023.

5.9.3. National Talent Search Examination (NTSE)

The Directorate acts as the nodal agency for National Council of Educational Research and Training in conducting this examination. Students, who are studying in Class 10 in the State/Central Board Schools during the academic year, are eligible to appear for this examination. After the publication of results of Level I conducted by the Directorate, the Level II examination is conducted by the NCERT at the national level. The Scheme provides scholarship to meritorious students selected from Level II conducted by NCERT every year. The selected students are awarded scholarship of Rs. 1,250 per month for Classes 11 and 12 and Rs 2,000 per month at the graduate level. Scholarship is provided as per the recommendation of University Grants Commission for Ph.D level for a maximum period of 4 years.

5.9.4. Tamil Nadu Rural Students Talent Search Examination (TRUST)

Students from rural areas who are studying in Class 9 and whose parental annual income does

not exceed Rs.1,00,000 are eligible to appear for the Tamil Nadu Rural Students Talent Search Examination. 50 girls and 50 boys are selected from each district and a scholarship amount of Rs.1000 per annum is granted for a continuous period of four years. 91,484 students have appeared for the TRUST exam held in December 2022.

5.10. Conduct of other Examinations

5.10.1.Eighth Standard Examination (Private Candidates)

The Directorate conducts the Eighth Standard Examination for direct private candidates in order to provide minimum educational qualification of Eighth Standard. 4027 candidates appeared for the ESLC Examination (Private Candidates) conducted in October 2022.

5.10.2.Diploma in Elementary Education Examination

The Directorate conducts the examinations for Diploma in Elementary Education. 6,636 candidates appeared for the DEE Examination conducted in August 2022.

5.10.3. Conduct of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)/Staff Selection Commission (SSC) Examinations

The Directorate acts as the Nodal Agency for conducting Union Public Service Commission/Staff Selection Commission Examinations for the Chennai centre every year.

5.10.4. Government Technical Examinations

To provide technical qualifications for employment purposes, Government Technical Examinations are conducted for subjects such as Drawing, Sewing, Agriculture, Printing, Music, Handloom and Weaving etc.

5.11. Computerisation of the Directorate

The entire examination process starting with the preparation of nominal roll right until the publication of results has been made online. This was enabled by large-scale computerisation of the Directorate.

5.12. Government Examinations Service Centres

252 Examination Service Centres are functioning in selected school premises. These

service centres facilitate private candidates to apply online for all examinations conducted by the Directorate in an easy and hassle free manner.

5.13. Publication of Results

Results are communicated to the candidates through SMS instantly to the Mobile numbers registered at the time of enrolment. The publication of results is done online through three websites created for this purpose viz., <https://tn.results.nic.in>, <https://dge1.tn.nic.in>, <https://dge2.tn.nic.in>. An online facility to download Tabulated Mark List (TML) by the respective schools has been created. Online application for seeking scanned copies of answer scripts for Higher Secondary Examinations is also available. Scanned copies of answer scripts of the candidates are uploaded on the website on request, thereby enabling students to demand a re-totalling of their marks or a revaluation of their answer scripts.

5.14. Issue of Certificates

5.14.1. Provisional Mark Certificate/ Statement of Marks

SSLC, Higher Secondary First year and Second year candidates can download their Provisional Mark Certificate and Statement of Marks respectively, from the website (<https://dge1.tn.nic.in>) from the day after the publication of the results.

5.14.2. Issuance of SSLC/ Higher Secondary Mark Certificates with security features

Candidates who have passed all subjects in First year and Second year of Higher Secondary Examinations are issued with separate Mark Certificates with salient security features. Statement of Marks are issued to failed candidates as well. A Consolidated Mark Certificate is issued to candidates who pass the SSLC/Higher Secondary Examinations in more than one attempt.

5.14.3.Certified Copy of Mark List and Duplicate Mark Certificate

On request, a Certified Copy of Mark List (CCM) as well as Duplicate Mark Certificate are issued to candidates. These applications are available on the Directorate website. In the year 2022-23, 4,140 CCM and 11,199 Duplicate Mark Certificates have been issued.

5.14.4. Migration Certificate

Migration Certificates are issued within 5 days from the date of receipt of application to candidates who have passed SSLC and Higher Secondary Examinations and desire to continue their higher studies in other states. In the year 2022-23, 7,010 Migration Certificates have been issued.

5.14.5.Verification of Genuineness of Mark Certificates

Verification of genuineness of Mark Certificates is carried out on request by higher educational institutions as well as the employers and appointing authorities. In the year 2022-23, 2,38,356 Mark Certificates have been verified for genuineness.

5.15. Budget

The Government have made a budgetary provision of Rs.127.63 crore for this Directorate for the year 2023-24.

6. NON-FORMAL AND ADULT EDUCATION

6.1. Introduction

Adult education helps adults who have not had the advantage of formal schooling to learn basic knowledge and skills essential for meeting day-to-day requirements of life. Non-formal and adult education aims to organise systematic and sustained learning activities to help an illiterate adult gain new forms of knowledge and life skills. The primary objective is to enable these individuals to gain confidence by providing them with a basic education that may help enhance their earning capacity.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been implementing a series of Adult Education programmes continuously through the Directorate of Non-Formal and Adult Education from the year 1976 with the avowed aim of eradicating illiteracy in the state.

6.2. Vision

Achievement of total literacy in the state by providing basic literacy, basic education, vocational education and life-long learning to

illiterate adults above the age of 15 through a comprehensive program.

6.3. Objectives

- To impart basic literacy and numeracy to all illiterate adults
- To provide opportunity for neo-literates to continue their learning beyond basic literacy and acquire equivalency to formal education.
- To organize training in vocational skills thereby improving their earning capacity and standard of living.
- To provide opportunities to neo-literates for lifelong learning and continuing education.

6.4. Special Adult Literacy Programme in Aspirational Districts

A Special Non-Formal and Adult Literacy Programme has been successfully implemented in the Aspirational districts of Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts at an estimated budget of Rs.6.23 crore from the year 2019-20 to 2022-23.

The prime aim of this programme is to provide Basic Literacy and Numeracy to 1,68,716 illiterate adults in the age group of 15 years and above. Of them, 67,968 were in Ramanathapuram district and 1,00,748 were in Virudhunagar district.

A noteworthy number of 1,68,945 learners have attained basic literacy and got benefitted through this 100% state funded programme. Of them, 68,092 and 1,00,853 learners belong to Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts respectively. On the whole, a number of 4064 adult education centers were established in these districts and the services of 4064 volunteers were utilised to achieve the goals of this programme. The details of number of learners benefitted under this programme are given in the table below:

Ramanathapuram District			Virudhunagar District		
Block	No. of Centers Established	No. of learners Benefitted	Block	No. of Centers Established	No. of learners Benefitted
Ramanathapuram	114	5282	Virudhunagar	290	11815
R.S. Mangalam	124	5050	Sathur	197	7913
Nainarkoil	84	3565	Kariyapatti	170	6847
Thiruvadanai	167	6807	Aruppukottai	175	7071
Mandabam	189	7525	Narikudi	162	6495

Thirupullani	138	6007	Thiruchuzhi	164	6564
Kadaladi	256	10585	Srivilliputhur	201	8105
Paramakudi	121	5487	Rajapalayam	285	11616
Bogalur	69	2976	Sivakasi	419	17110
Kamuthi	173	8462	Vembakottai	255	10386
Muthukulathur	141	6346	Watrap	170	6931
Total	1576	68092	Total	2488	100853

Source: DNFAE

6.5. Puthiya Bharatha Ezhutharivu Thittam 2022-27

Based on the Census 2011 data, a new scheme "Puthiya Bharatha Ezhutharivu Thittam 2022-27" is being implemented in all the districts of the state on a 60:40 fund sharing pattern between the Union and State Governments respectively. The prime aim of this programme is to provide Basic Literacy to 4.80 lakh adult illiterates in the age group of 15 years and above during the year 2022-23 and this scheme will be implemented as a 5 year programme upto the FY 2026-27.

So far, 28,848 Learners' Literacy Centers have been established and 5.28 lakh learners have enrolled under this programme. The

teaching and learning process is being facilitated by utilising the yeoman services of volunteers at these centers.

An amount of Rs.9.83 crore has been approved for the FY 2022-23. Out of this, an amount of Rs.7.38 crore has been sanctioned as the first instalment to the Tamilnadu Literacy Mission Authority for the implementation of this scheme during the FY 2022-23.

6.6. Budget

The Government has made a budgetary provision of Rs.13.42 crore for this Directorate for the year 2023-24.

7.PUBLIC LIBRARIES

7.1.Introduction

Public libraries are the gateways of knowledge and promote the cultural development of individuals and social groups. They provide free and equitable access to information sources and enable the nurturing of quality human capital. Technology has enabled the development of public libraries into key knowledge and learning centres.

7.2. Vision

Create, strengthen and provide an information platform to all sectors of society for their personal, social, cultural, economic, literary and intellectual development.

7.3. Objectives

- To provide technology-based quality information to people of all age groups through public libraries.
- To digitize and preserve old and rare books.

- To provide library facilities in every village.
- To ensure availability of updated reading materials such as audio books, e-books and Braille books for differently abled individuals.
- To ensure immediate availability of quality and currently published books.
- To ensure and to install technology-based library facilities in all remote villages.
- To provide and ensure good infrastructure facilities in all public libraries.

7.4. Public Libraries in Tamil Nadu

The Directorate of Public Libraries has taken significant efforts to provide efficient library and information services to the people of Tamil Nadu by setting up different categories of Public Libraries from the Connemara Public Library (State Central Library), Anna Centenary Library, 32 District Central Libraries, 1,926 Branch

Libraries, 1,915 Village Libraries, 14 Mobile Libraries and 771 Part Time Libraries totaling to 4,660 libraries. Apart from this, Thanjavaur Mahararja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library and Research Centre at Thanjavur, Dr.U.Ve.Sa Library and Maraimalaiadigal Library at Chennai, which receive aid from the Government are also functioning in Tamil Nadu.

7.4.1. Connemara Public Library

The Connemara Public Library, the State Central Library of Tamil Nadu was started in 1896. Being one of the four national depository libraries in India, Connemara Public library receives a free copy of all books, newspapers and periodicals published in India free of cost in accordance with the Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954. This library has 9,32,079 books on various subjects.

There are various sections functioning in this library such as Rare Books Section, TextBook Section, Reference Section, Language Section, Periodicals Section, Civil Service Center, Indian Language Books Section and Children's Section. Nationalized books and Tamil books published

before 1950 have also been digitized and preserved considering their enormous historical and utility value. The total current membership of the Connemara Public Library stands at 1,47,947. All information about this library can be found in the website www.connemarapubliclibrarychennai.com.

Connemara Public Library, holds special significance in Tamil Nadu as it is an integral part of the history of Chennai city - it has completed its 125th anniversary in 2021. In order to preserve the heritage value of the library, the old library building of the Connemara Public Library has been renovated at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore and electrical infrastructure has been repaired and modernized by the Public Works Department at a cost of Rs.3.19 crore.

7.4.2. Anna Centenary Library

Anna Centenary Library, the second largest public library in South Asia is located at Kotturpuram in Chennai. The library which was built at an estimated cost of Rs. 197.43 crore is housed in a massive complex with 9 floors comprising a total area of 3.75 lakh square feet.

Anna Centenary Library was opened to the public on 15th September 2010 by the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Muthamizh Arignar Kalaingar Dr M.Karunanidhi. The library has over 6,23,189 books, spanning various subjects and caters to the needs of large and different sections of readers.

The library has well stocked sections such as periodicals, children's books, books for the visually challenged, e-books, Tamil and regional language books, manuscripts, competitive examinations' books alongside an Own books study section.

The library has an integrated library management system, which enables the library users to search the books available in the library from anywhere using Web OPAC. The security of the resources available in the library is ensured through Radio Frequency Identification (RFID).

The conference hall, seminar hall and auditorium in the library plays host to many government functions, arts and cultural performances, university graduation ceremonies, national and state-level professional conferences,

seminars by top academics and researchers, and government-sponsored events at rental rates set by the Government.

The Anna Centenary Library, is a modern state library housing intellectual treasures of the State - to maintain the library, building and electrical repairs have been undertaken and outdated hardware and software in this library have been replaced, and new technical equipment has been installed at a cost of Rs.37.82 crore by the Government of Tamil Nadu through the Public Works Department.

Anna Centenary Library, which houses some of the best books published both nationally and internationally, is used by hundreds of students and the public every day. With a view to update the vast collection of books and expand it, the Government has sanctioned the purchase of e-books, e-journals and e-research journals for this library at a cost of Rs.6.50 crore and the procurement work is in progress.

7.4.3.Saraswathi Mahal Library and Research Center

Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswathi Mahal Library and Research Centre, one of the most ancient and renowned libraries in India was established in the 16th century by Nayak Kings in Thanjavur. It possesses an immensely valuable repository of cultural antiques and rare books, painting and manuscripts. This library was brought under the administration of the District Collector of Thanjavur from 1918.

This knowledge hub houses 47,334 manuscripts, of which 24,165 are on palm leaves and 23,169 are paper manuscripts in Tamil, Sanskrit, Marathi and English languages besides a collection of 45,000 books, maps and paintings on all aspects of literature, art and culture. The Government of Tamil Nadu provides a 75 lakh rupees annual maintenance grant for the welfare of the staff and the development of the library. The oldest and most precious rare books, manuscripts and palm leaves have been digitized

and preserved for use by regular readers to researchers.

7.4.4. Marimalai Adigal Library

Marimalai Adigal library was established on 24th August 1958 to honour Marimalai Adigal, the father of “Thanithamizh Iyakkam”. The library is functioning in the premises of Connemara Public Library. It consists of significant ancient literature collections such as Sangam Literature, Thirukkural, Grammar, Journals, Life History, Naladiyar, Thiruvagasam, Dictionaries and books related to medicine. The Government of Tamil Nadu provides Rs.1.00 lakh as an annual grant for the maintenance of this library.

7.4.5. Dr.U.Ve.Sa Library, Chennai

This Library was established in 1943 in memory of the eminent Tamil scholar and researcher, Dr.U.Ve.Sa, affectionately called Tamil Thatha. The library houses an invaluable collection of 2,200 palm leaves in Tamil including Pathupattu, Ettu Thogai, Pathinen Keezh Kanaku Noolgal, AgaporulVilakam, Agarathi Nigandu, Arichandarapuram, Ellakiya Villakam, Neminatham, Sekizhar Puranam, Thonnul, Veera

Chozhiyam, Tholkappiyam, Panjakathai, Ramayanam, Mahabharatham, Bhagavad Gita, Periya Puranam, Ellakkana Kotthu, and more than 3000 letters received by Dr.U.Ve.Sa. from renowned Tamil scholars as also the diaries of Dr.U.Ve.Sa. from 1893 to 1939. The Government of Tamil Nadu has provided a grant of Rs.24.40 lakh to this library in the financial year 2022-2023.

7.5. District Central Libraries

District Central Libraries were established under the Tamil Nadu Public Library Rules 1950. These libraries are doing a stellar job of providing quality information to the readers. The government has embarked upon a programme of gradually digitising these district libraries. E-books for the convenience of readers, especially for school/college students and research scholars to gain access to old and rare books have been introduced. These libraries possess a huge collection of more than 70 lakh books and magazines on various fields in its sections viz., Periodicals, References, competitive examinations including civil services and internet surfing services. District Central Libraries have

13,26,589 members and 14,58,036 readers benefited by these libraries.

7.6. Branch Libraries

With a view to extend the coverage of library services across large sections of the populace, branch libraries have been set up in urban and rural areas with populations between 5,000-50,000. At present, there are 1,926 branch libraries including 314 full time branch libraries functioning across the State. Various programs are conducted in these libraries for the benefit of children, students, women, working people and senior citizens. A total number of 5,99,87,898 books have been placed in these libraries for use by readers. 64,02,699 members have been enrolled and 1,70,96,724 visitors have benefited from these libraries during the financial year 2022-23.

7.7. Village Libraries

The Village Libraries have been functioning in Tamil Nadu since 1996. Rural libraries provide great value to the community and serve as meeting places for social, cultural and intellectual interaction. Village libraries have been upgraded

with computerized facilities using new information technology. During the year 2022-23 1,01,74,926 readers were benefited and 21,85,384 members were added. There are 2,20,60,472 books housed in these libraries.

7.8. Mobile libraries

Mobile libraries are serving 14 districts of the state with CDs, books, films, maps and periodicals to fulfill the library needs of poor people living in hilly, remote and inaccessible areas and to promote the book reading habit among school students of these areas. 34,073 members and 36,200 readers have been benefited by these mobile libraries.

7.9. Part Time Libraries

Part Time Libraries have been set up with the idea of reaching grass root levels with public library services. 3,40,805 members have been enrolled and 16,71,753 visitors have benefited through these libraries.

7.10. Source of Fund (Library Cess)

The library cess, collected from the local bodies at a rate of 10 paise per rupee from the

property tax in accordance with Section 12(1)(a) of the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act, 1948 is the primary source of income for the Local Library Authorities. The expenditure relating to purchase of books, periodicals, magazines, construction of buildings and their maintenance, purchase of stationery items, forms and registers, carrying out of repair works of the existing buildings, purchase of consumer articles, special time-scale pay of part-time sweepers, consolidated pay of the part time librarians, daily wages salary and other activities etc., of the Local Library Authorities are being incurred only from the Local Library Authority fund. The library cess collection of the Local Library Authorities in 2022-23 (upto February, 2023) is Rs.138.00 crore.

7.11. Library Infrastructure

In Tamil Nadu, out of 4,660 Public Libraries 1,781 libraries are functioning in their own buildings, 2,552 libraries are functioning from rent free buildings, and 313 libraries are functioning out of private rented buildings.

7.12. Computerization

The Connemara Public Library (State Central Library) and all the District Central Libraries have been computerized with facilities including internet and e-mail to enhance the quality of library services.

7.13. Civil Services Study Centre

In the larger interests of the student community, Civil Service Study Centres have been set up in Connemara Public Library, all District Central Libraries and libraries located in district head quarters, municipalities and in 289 libraries functioning in small cities. Books, newspapers, periodicals and magazines connected to these competitive examinations are procured and kept for use by young aspirants of various competitive examinations.

7.14. Readers Forum

Readers' Forums have been constituted in each library consisting of educationists, writers, members of the library and local residents to promote people participation in the library

activities. The forum ensures the comprehensive utilization of the libraries, promotes better reading habits, conducts various library activities, identifies new writers and books and fosters cordial relationships among the users by inter-linking books with users through the libraries.

7.15. Library Patrons and Donors

Amounts donated to public libraries by Patrons, Great Patrons and Donors of Rs.1,000, Rs.5,000 and Rs.10,000 respectively are invested in banks and the interest earned is utilized for the development of public libraries.

7.16. Achievements

7.16.1. Compassionate Appointment

Appointment orders on Compassionate Grounds for the posts of Librarian Grade III, Record Clerk and Lower Divisional Clerk have been given to 27 legal heirs of the deceased employees who served in the Public Libraries under the Directorate of Public Libraries according to their educational qualifications during the year 2022-23.

7.16.2. Creation of Transfer Policy

A new transfer policy has been formulated to provide transfer to the employees in Directorate of Public Libraries and Local Library Authorities and based on this Transfer Policy, 75 employees working in the Local Library Authorities in the post of Inspector of Libraries, Grade-I Librarian, Stock Verification Officer, Librarian Grade-II, and Librarian Grade-III have been given transfers on their choice.

7.16.3. Anna Centenary Library and Local Library Authority employees who were receiving salary from library fund is now being paid from government fund

To effect statutory deductions like Family Benefit Fund, Special Provident Fund, New Health Insurance Scheme and Contributory Pension Scheme Subscription and to provide all the attendant benefits, 83 employees who were being paid from the library fund at the Anna Centenary Library and 551 librarians Grade III and 353 Village Librarians who were paid from the library fund at the Local Library Authorities, now receive salaries from Government fund since 2022.

7.17. Revamping of the procurement mode of Dailies and Periodicals

An expert committee has been set up to eliminate the shortcomings in procurement of newspapers and periodicals for the public libraries and according to the report of this Committee, selected dailies and periodicals are being purchased and supplied to public libraries.

7.18. Digitization

Many efforts at digitisation have been taken up by the Directorate of Public Libraries. So far, 21,043 books (over 30 lakh pages) and 2,54,694 manuscript pages of rare books in the Connemara Public Library, Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department Library, Tamil Nadu Archive Library, University Libraries, College Libraries and Private Libraries have been digitized and uploaded on the website. Also, more than 29,000 books (more than 40 lakh pages) have been digitized and preparation of Meta data is in progress. It will be uploaded on the website and made available through the website <https://tamilnadupubliclibraries.org> for public use at earliest.

7.19. Union Catalogue for Public Libraries

To maintain a complete catalogue of all Public Libraries in Tamil Nadu which is capable of providing the bibliographical details of the holdings of each library, the Directorate of Public Libraries has created a Union Catalogue for 32 District Central Libraries, Anna Centenary Library and other Government Aided Libraries in Tamil Nadu. All the catalogues of the said libraries are standardized based on MARC 21 and AACR2 standards and this union catalogue has been uploaded in Koha Open Source software. Initially, the details of 7 lakh books have been standardized and uploaded in the union catalogue and made available for public access through the website <https://tamilnadupubliclibraries.org>. Further, 28 lakh books will soon made available for public use.

7.20. Employment News Mobile App and Website

Job seeking candidates have to search different newspapers, periodicals and websites to find information about the various competitive exams and placements they need. To overcome

these difficulties, the Directorate of Public Libraries is implementing a program called "Ungal Noolagam Ullangaiyil". Under this project, "TN Employment News" (Mobile App) and the website www.tnemployment.in have been created and a huge number of students / young people who are looking for jobs are benefiting from it.

7.21. Virtual Reality Library

Virtual Reality Library facilities have been established with 152 virtual technology tools at 76 libraries in 38 Districts at an estimated cost of Rs.57.20 lakh to benefit about one lakh students using public libraries.

7.22. Book fairs in Districts

Book reading plays an important role in uplifting the society's intellectual level - to make this a people's movement, book fairs are being conducted in all districts of Tamil Nadu on the lines of the Chennai Book Fair, and a fund of Rs.4.96 crore has been allocated by the Government for this purpose. Book fairs have been conducted in 32 districts successfully and speedy action is being taken to complete the book fairs in the remaining districts.

7.23. Literary Festivals

With a view to celebrating the literary traditions of our rich Tamil language, Vaigai, Kaveri, Porunai, Siruvani and Chennai literary festivals based on river civilization traditions in Tamil Nadu are being organised. These Literary Festivals are planned to be conducted every year. The literary festivals Porunai in Tirunelveli District, Chennai at Anna Centenary Library in Chennai and Siruvani in Coimbatore District Kaveri in Thanjavur and Vaigai in Madurai were conducted successfully and a large number of literature aspirants, book lovers and book readers have participated with enthusiasm in these festivals.

7.24. Chennai International Book Fair

With the aim of global exchange of knowledge, to take our rich Tamil literary works to the whole world, and to create many new works in Tamil by acquiring the works of the best international scholars and writers, the Government of Tamil Nadu has successfully conducted the Chennai International Book Fair from 16th January 2023 to 18th January 2023 at an estimated cost of Rs.6.00 crore.

24 countries participated in the very first edition of this International Book Fair - Britain, USA, Germany, France, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Azerbaijan, Israel, Uganda, Armenia, Argentina, Canada, Turkey, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Georgia, Indonesia, Tanzania, Oman and Botswana.

Close to 30 foreign publishers / vendors, publishers from neighbouring states and Tamil Nadu publishers who participated in this exhibition were facilitated to exchange copyrights focusing on Tamil literature. This has resulted in closer interaction and ties with the publishing industry worldwide. An unprecedented number of MOUs were signed for translation of 90 titles from Tamil to other foreign languages, 60 titles from Tamil to other Indian languages, 170 titles from other languages to Tamil and 45 titles from other languages to another language.

7.25. Ongoing schemes

7.25.1. Procurement of new books for public libraries with transparency

A Committee has been formed to ensure transparency in every stage of book procurement

by making appropriate amendments to the existing procurement policy for purchase of books to Libraries and steps are being taken to procure books accordingly.

7.25.2.High Level Committee on amendments to Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act and Rules

In order to consider making amendments to the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act 1948 and Rules 1950 to suit the current work environment and to improve the functioning of libraries in the State a High Level Committee has been formed consisting of 6 members and 3 special invitees including experts and legal advisors under the chairmanship of Dr.M.Rajendran, former Vice-Chancellor of Tamil University, Thanjavur. As per the report submitted to the Government by the High Level Committee, steps will be taken to carry out appropriate reforms in public libraries.

7.25.3. e-Library facility in Village Libraries

With a view to providing e-library service to public libraries in rural areas for the benefit of readers of public libraries and competitive examination aspirants, work is in progress to

provide Wi-Fi internet facility in 500 libraries in the first phase.

7.25.4. Friends of the Library

With a total of 12,500 volunteers in 2,500 libraries in Tamil Nadu, a new scheme called Friends of Library has been introduced at an estimated cost of Rs.56.25 lakh to benefit about 15 lakh readers in rural and urban areas where library services are not available. In the first phase, this scheme has been started with volunteers in Dindigul District.

7.25.5. TN talk

In order to disseminate the knowledge of experts in various domains to all library users and common public, a unique series of talks in the name "TN Talk" has been initiated by the Directorate of Public Libraries at a cost of Rs.1.50 lakh each and 25 programs will be held under this scheme. These events with eminent specialists from different fields are being conducted in Anna Centenary Library, Chennai.

7.25.6. "Senthamizh Sirpigal Arangam" at Anna Centenary Library

In order to honour the writers and Tamil scholars who have contributed immensely to the Tamil language and to showcase them as role models for the younger generation, and to exhibit their photographs, manuscripts and works of Tamil writers who have received prestigious awards like Sahithya Academy Award and Gnanapith awards etc., and to organize programs based on the works of award winning authors to stimulate the creativity of the young generation, arrangements are underway for a hall of fame named "Senthamizh Sirpigal Arangam" to be established at Anna Centenary Library at a cost of Rs.40.00 lakh.

7.25.7. A modern Kalaignar Centenary Library of international standards

A modern library of international standards in memory of the Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar is coming up at a cost of Rs.114 crore in Madurai. This Library will be an intellectual and literary beacon for all sections of society like students, academics,

researchers, writers, literary aspirants, young people preparing for competitive exams and school children. The work on procurement of books, e-books, research journals and e-research journals is underway.

7.25.8.Dr.S.R.Ranganathan Memorial Library

In memory of the Father of Libraries in India Padma Shri Dr.S.R.Ranganathan, who played an important role in the creation of the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act, a library consisting of Dr.Ranganathan's works with rare books, research facilities, children's section and internet facility will be established at his birth place Sirgazhi in Mayiladuthurai District, where he was born at a cost of Rs.1.32 crore and the work is in progress by Public Works Department.

7.25.9. New Library building in the name of "Senna Pulavar A.Karmeganar"

In appreciation of the services rendered by Senna Pulavar A.Karmeganar, who authored many books such as Arivu Nool Thirattu, Kannaki Devi, Epic Stories, Moovar Ula Research, Tamil Mozhiyin Marumalarchi, Nallisai Pulavargal, a new building is under construction at a cost of

Rs.40.00 lakh for the branch library at Abiramampuram in Ramanathapuram District.

7.26. Library Events

Every year, on the 12th August, "Librarians Day" is celebrated to pay homage and tribute to Dr.S.R.Ranganathan, Father of Library Science. "Library Day" is celebrated annually on 22nd May. "National Library Week" is celebrated every year from 14th to 20th November to create awareness among the public about libraries and to recognize the best contributions of dedicated professionals; 23rd April is celebrated as "World Book Day".

7.27. Library Awards

"Dr.S.R.Ranganathan Award" is conferred to honour the librarians for their outstanding services. The award consists of a silver medal and a cash prize of Rs.5,000. Best Library Award is conferred to motivate and encourage libraries which provide outstanding service. Library Activist Award comprising a shield worth Rs.5000 each with a certificate is conferred on the presidents of the best performing Reader's Forum.

Further, in order to motivate children and to nurture writers among them, the 'Kavimani' award for the best children's writers is awarded annually to three best young writers below 18 years of age and they are conferred with Rs.25,000/- cash, a shield and a certificate.

7.28. Budget

The Government has provided a budget allocation of Rs.196.32 crore for the Directorate of Public Libraries in the financial year 2023-24.

8.TEACHERS RECRUITMENT BOARD

8.1. Introduction

The Teachers Recruitment Board was established in the year 1987 and entrusted with the task of recruitment of Teachers for the School Education Department, Higher Education Department and Directorate of Legal Studies. Teachers Recruitment Board has recruited more than 1,68,624 Teachers and Assistant Professors for Government Schools and Colleges from the date of its establishment. The Board is also the designated nodal agency for conducting TNTET.

8.2. Objectives

The primary objective of the Teachers Recruitment Board is to select eligible teachers based on the requirements of user departments. TRB conducts all recruitments in a transparent manner by integrating the latest technology with the technical support of TNeGA.

8.3. Recruitment of Teachers

- Teachers Recruitment Board recruited 96 Block Educational Officers in the

year 2022 and the Directorate of Elementary Education has issued appointments to them.

- 1030 Lecturers for Government Polytechnic Colleges were recruited in the year 2022 and appointments were made by the Directorate of Technical Education.
- Teachers Recruitment Board also recruited 3043 Post-graduate Assistants / Physical Director Grade-1 / Computer Instructor Grade-I for the Commissionerate of School Education, Directorate of Backward Class and Most Backward Class and Denotified Communities, Directorate of Adi Dravidar & Tribal Welfare, Corporation of Chennai, Corporation of Coimbatore and Corporation of Madurai.

8.4.Tamil Nadu Teacher Eligibility Test (TNTET)

The Tamil Nadu Teacher Eligibility Test Paper-I for the year 2022 was conducted from 14.10.2022 to 19.10.2022 through computer

based test (CBT) and the results have been published.

The Tamil Nadu Teacher Eligibility Test Paper-II for the year 2022 was conducted from 03.02.2023 to 14.02.2023 through CBT mode as well.

8.5. Information Centre

An Information Centre has been functioning in the Teachers Recruitment Board from the year 2015. In order to speed up the issue of clarifications for the doubts of the candidates, a toll free number (18004256753) has been introduced. Moreover, the Teachers Recruitment Board established a new website <http://trb.tn.gov.in> for all recruitment related information.

8.6. Annual Planner 2023-24

Teachers Recruitment Board has released a tentative annual planner for the year 2023-24 in which, 4000 Assistant Professors are proposed to be recruited for the Government Arts and Science Colleges and Educational Colleges, 6553 Secondary Grade Teachers, 3587 Graduate

Assistants, 267 Post graduate Assistants for Government Schools, 129 Assistant Professors for Government Law Colleges, 97 Assistant Professors for Government Engineering Colleges, 493 Lecturers for Government Polytechnic Colleges and 33 Block Educational Officers totalling to 15,159 Teachers. In addition to the above, the Teachers Recruitment Board has also planned to conduct a Teacher Eligibility Test for the year 2023-24.

8.7. Computer Labs in Government Schools for Competitive Examinations

Government have issued orders to establish Computer Labs at a cost of Rs.30.00 crore in Government Schools for conducting Competitive Examinations by this Board. The Board is also authorised to utilise the Computer Labs in the Government schools when there are no school examinations. As per the orders, tenders have been floated under ICT & Digital Initiatives scheme by the Tamil Nadu Text-Book and Educational Services Corporation for establishing these labs.

8.8. Restructuring of Teachers Recruitment Board

Government have issued orders restructuring the Teachers Recruitment Board to make the recruitment process more effective, vide G.O. (Ms.) No.01 School Education (TRB) Department dated 03.01.2023. In the Government order, one post of Controller of Examinations in the cadre of Indian Administrative Service, one post of District Revenue Officer, one post of Joint Director, two posts of Deputy Director, three posts of Deputy Collector, one post of Deputy Director (Technical), three posts of Senior Programmer, six posts of Junior Programmer, two posts of Data Analyst, four posts of Data Administrator, one post of Assistant Accounts Officer and 46 posts of ministerial staff totalling to 71 posts have been additionally created by the Government. Necessary steps have been taken to fill up the sanctioned posts.

8.9. Budget

The Government has made budgetary provision of Rs.10.30 crore to this Board for the year 2023-24.

9.TAMIL NADU TEXTBOOK AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CORPORATION

9.1. Introduction

“The Bureau of Tamil Publications” was established to translate and publish Higher Education books of other languages into Tamil in 1961. The Bureau was named as “Tamil Nadu Textbook Society” in 1970 and was subsequently re-named “Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation” in 2013, in keeping with its new mandate of procuring and distributing of various educational kits to the children in Government and Government aided schools, in addition to printing & supplying of textbooks. The corporation renders additional services like digitalization and re-printing of higher education and rare books and co-publishing of selected Tamil literary titles in English with leading national and international publishers.

9.2. Objectives

- Printing of Textbooks with energized contents for all three terms for students studying in Classes 1 to 7

and annual textbooks for students studying in Classes 8 to 12.

- Functioning as the procuring entity for supply of Educational Kits such as School Bags, Shoes etc., for students studying in Government and Government Aided Schools.
- Translating Higher Education books on Humanities, Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary Science, Ecology, Law, Literature, Siddha Medicine, Fisheries and Physical Education from English to Tamil, printing & co-publishing the same.
- Translating Tamil Literature into English and other South Indian languages.
- Re-publishing rare and old Tamil books and ensuring their availability in the market to students, research scholars and the reading community at large.

- Participating in various book fairs across the State and supplying re-printed books on art and science to various government colleges in the State.
- Funding various literary cultural and heritage events from time to time as per the orders of the government including the Chennai International Book Fair – 2023.

9.3. Infrastructure

The Corporation has its Head Office at the Perasiriyar Anbalagan Campus (formerly known as DPI Campus), on E.V.K.Sampath Maligai, Chennai. It has 22 Regional Offices across the State.

9.4. Printing of Textbooks

Text Books for all students in Classes I to XII are printed by the Corporation in 80 GSM elegant Printing paper and 230 GSM Aura Fold Blue board for wrapper with lamination. All textbooks have QR Codes (Quick Response) to enable easy access to related audio visual content and online

question banks.

9.5. The details of textbooks printed for the year 2022-23 are as follows:

Details of Textbooks	No. of books Printed (in lakh)	Tentative Value (Rs. in Crore)
Textbooks for students of Classes 1 to 12 in Government and Government aided schools.	219.02	297.97
Textbooks for students of Classes 1 to 12 in self-financing schools.	201.06	289.85
Tamil Textbook for Classes 1 to 10 for schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education.	13.34	13.75

9.6 Supply of Textbooks

Free textbooks are provided to all students

studying in Government & Government aided schools. Sale copies are provided to private schools as well as to the general public through online mode and through sales counters functioning in DPI Campus, Anna Centenary Library and Adyar Godown. The facility of online sales has also been extended through TACTV centers at Taluk Offices.

9.7. Other Books

The Corporation also undertakes the printing of various other books based on the requirement of Departments such as Samagra Shiksha, ICDS, Directorate of Non-formal and Adult Education, Department of Archaeology, DoTE, SCERT, Parents Teachers Association, Adi Dravidar & Tribal Welfare and BC, MBC & Minorities Welfare department. 489.17 lakh books have been printed in 2022-23 for the above departments at an approximate value of Rs.6.05 crore.

9.8. Digitalisation & Re-Print of Rare Books

When Higher Education was introduced through Tamil medium, TNTB & ESC (then, Tamilnadu Textbook Society) had published nearly 900 books during the period of 1968-78. The

Government have decided to digitize and re-print those books for the benefit of research scholars, students, rare book collectors and general readers. Among these books, the Corporation has so far digitized 875 titles through Tamil Virtual Academy and brought out 635 titles as documentation editions. Also, Rs.1.18 crore worth of these books have been printed and sold to researchers, rare book collectors, professors, competitive exam aspirants, general readers and colleges through various modes of sales (book fair, online and sales counter), thus far.

Documentation editions of these titles have been supplied to many institutions such as Anna Centenary Library, Connemara Library, TNPSC, All India Civil Service Coaching Centre at Anna Institute of Management, Anna University, Tamil Virtual Academy, District Central Libraries and Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL) for the benefit of the student community. At the 46th Chennai Book Fair held during January 2023 books worth Rs.9.13 Lakh were sold.

9.9. New Initiatives

Three new schemes titled 1.Nationalised

books for next generation 2.Publishing documentation editions of Kalaikalanjiyam and Sirar Kalanjiyam edited by Periyasami Thooran and 3.Works of centenary writers were announced by Hon'ble Minister of School Education Department during the 2022-23 Demand for the Grants.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister released 6 joint publications titles of TNTB & ESC including The Cilapatikaram:The tale of anklet (Penguin Random House) and Katha Vilasam (Routledge) on 16.02.2022 at the Chennai Book Fair 2022; further, 2 books translated into Telugu were released on 15.03.2022 and 5 books translated into Malayalam were released on 05.05.2022.

To commemorate the celebration of the 150th birthday of V.O.C, all the books written by him were edited by Prof.V.Arasu as "Pannool Thirattu" and V.O.C's commentary on the Thirukkural were published by TNTB & ESC last year. These books were already released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in 2021 and the 3rd and 4th volumes of the VOC series were released by Hon'ble Chief Minister on 6th January 2023. Along with these

more than 100 books prepared by TNTB & ESC under various schemes of Corporation were released at Chennai Literary Festival by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

At Chennai International Book Fair which was organized by TNTB & ESC with the Directorate of Public Libraries. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu released 5 international books on Medicine which were brought out as co-publication with global publishers of medicine books like Elsevier, Routledge, etc. With this venture, Tamil language successfully started its competition with global languages in the field of translation of medicine books.

Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation provided Rs.2,20,35,398/- for the purchase of English periodicals and Rs.1,19,98,974/- for the purchase of Tamil periodicals to the Directorate of Public Libraries to promote reading habits, general knowledge and creativity among students.

TNTB & ESC funded Rs.95 lakh for Tamil Cultural Heritage Campaign titled "Maperum Tamil

Kanavu" organized by Tamil Virtual Academy. Apart from implementing schemes announced by TNTB & ESC, new schemes announced in budget, Backward Classes Welfare Department and Tamil Development Department are also taken up by the Corporation. These projects include 'Periyar's thoughts in 21 languages', a book on 'Social Justice' and publishing Sangam Literature with commentaries and Dravidian Encyclopedia, Tamil Indo-Europe Etymological Dictionary. A sale counter in the name of Perasiriyar Anbazagan was opened on the ground floor of TNTB & ESC.

9.10. Other Activities

In commemoration of the birth centenary of Prof. K. Anbazagan, Rs.85 lakh have been provided by TNTB & ESC for the construction of a decorative entry arch at the entrance of the Directorate of School Education. TNTB & ESC has released Rs.18 lakh for Tamil Nadu Government's Independence Day and Amutha Peruvizha celebrations. As per the Government order Rs.2.29 crore has been given to the State Council of Educational Research and Training for the preparation of Minority Language Textbooks for Higher Secondary Courses.

9.11. Translation of Scientific and Literary Books into Tamil

TNTB & ESC is successfully running two translation projects. The first one titled 'Thisaidhorum Dravidam' is for translating Tamil fiction and non-fiction into English and other Dravidian languages in order to enhance the reach of Tamil antiquity, tradition and contemporaneity and enrich world literature and to also translate significant literary voices from other Dravidian languages into Tamil. The second translation scheme titled 'Muthamizharignar Mozhipeyarpu Thittam' is also a continuous mission of translating technical and humanities books into Tamil by signing agreements with leading publishers. Higher Education Entrance Examination (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) Question Banks edited in 6 volumes prepared in collaboration with Pearson India Pvt. Ltd., at a cost of Rs.3.15 crore have been provided by this Corporation to Government Training Centers.

9.12. Ilanthalir Ilakiya Thittam

In order to make available the best children's books, the Corporation is implementing the

“Ilanthalir Ilakiya Thittam”. 59 stories have been released last year.

9.13. Procurement Activities

Educational Kits with 11 items are provided to the children studying in Government and Government aided schools in Tamil Nadu to fulfill their educational needs and to improve their performance at a cost of Rs.260.02 crore for the year 2022-23.

The Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation has been providing educational services to both school children as well as the larger public in adherence to the objectives set for it by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

10.FINANCIAL OUTLAY

The outlay for School Education in 2023-24 in Demand No.43 is Rs.40299.33 crore.

Budget Estimate 2023-24					
(Rupees in Lakh)					
Head of Account		State Expenditure	Schemes shared between State and Centre	Total	
Revenue Section					
2051	Public Commission	Service	1030.47		1030.47
2059	Public Works		16705.00		16705.00
2202	General Education				
	1	Elementary Education	1718961.50	256701.44	1975662.94
	2	Secondary Education	1847177.17	73111.62	1920288.79
	4	Adult Education	251.75	1090.00	1341.75
	5	Language Development	2287.71		2287.71
		Recoveries	9348.37		9348.37
	Total-General Education		3578026.50	330903.06	3908929.56
2204	Sports and Youth Services		227.30		227.30
2205	Art and Culture		19570.42		19570.42
2225	Welfare of SC & ST and Other Backward Classes		22222.06		22222.06
2235	Social Security and Welfare		203.00		203.00
2251	Secretariat-Social Services		1163.61		1163.61
Revenue Section Total			3639148.36	330903.06	3970051.42

Capital Section				
4202	Capital Outlay	59841.26		59841.26
Loan Section				
7610	Loans to Government Servants	40.00		40.00
Grand Total		3699029.62	330903.06	4029932.68
Grand Total for Demand No. 43				4029932.68

Under the able leadership, long term vision and guidance of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Government of Tamil Nadu has embarked on a transformational path for school education. With the competent and active collaboration of our teachers and administrators, educational reform has been undertaken through robust and comprehensive initiatives designed and implemented for students as well as parents, supported by real-time intensive data-driven governance to ensure students attain age appropriate learning outcomes.

Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi
Minister for School Education



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin inaugurated the 2 lakhth centre of Illam Thedi Kalvi at Aranchi Village in Tiruvannamalai District on 08.07.2022.



Government school children playing chess on a chartered flight from Chennai to Bengaluru. The flight was flagged off by the Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru.Udhayanidhi Stalin on 27.07.2022.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin launched the “Ennum Ezhuthum” project at the Panchayat Union Middle School Azhinchivakkam in Thiruvallur District on 13.06.2022.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin having breakfast with the students of Corporation Adimoolam Primary School after the launch of the pioneering Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme at Madurai on 15.09.2022.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin presented Kalaiyarasan and Kalaiyarasi awards to four boys and girls respectively at the grand "Kalaithiruvizha" held at Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai on 12.01.2023.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu presided over the exchange of an unprecedented 355 MOUs between publishers from Tamilnadu with National and International publishers at the valedictory event of the widely acclaimed International Book Fair held at YMCA, Chennai on 18.01.2023.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin inaugurated the "Chennai Ilakkiya Thiruvizha - 2023" at Anna Centenary Library in Chennai on 06.01.2023 and released 108 new books brought out by the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin inspected the Government Adi Dravida Welfare Boys Higher Secondary School, Vadakarai in Thiruvallur District on 13.06.2022.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin inspected the progress of construction work of the Kalaingar Centenary Library at Madurai on 07.06.2022.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M. K. Stalin received a cheque of Rs. 1,29,15,000 from the Hon'ble Government Chief Whip in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for School Education. Hon'ble Ministers and MLAs have contributed a month's salary towards the "Namma School Namma Ooru Palli" initiative launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 19.12.2022.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin laid the foundation stone for various school buildings being built under the "Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme" during an event held at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Katpadi in Vellore District on 01.02.2023.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin presided over the distribution of bicycles to school students of the Corporation Higher Secondary School, Nungambakkam in Chennai on 25.07.2022.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin inaugurated the 'Kalluri Kanavu' programme under the "Nan Mudhalvan" scheme at Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai on 25.06.2022.



School inspections by the Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi in various districts across Tamilnadu.



The Hon'ble Minister for School Education along with 67 Government school children on a visit to Dubai in November 2022; Interacting with finalists of the Movie Club activities and conducting various school inspections.



Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin inaugurated the Language Lab on 16.03.2023 at Government Model Higher Secondary School, Kuthalam, Mayiladuthurai District in which Perasiriyar Anbazhagan had studied.



Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin inaugurated Assessment Cell at Perasiriyar Anbalagan Educational Campus on 01.03.2023.



The Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi distributing certificates to the Chief Educational Officers for their commendable work during the monthly Departmental review meetings.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin interacting with the students at the inaugural function of the mental well-being programme held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar in Chennai on 27.07.2022.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin inaugurated the 46th Chennai Book Fair held at YMCA grounds in Chennai on 06.01.2023.

Govt. Central Press, Chennai - 600 001.