



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

**EDUCATION OF THE HANDICAPPED
IN KERALA**

BUREAU OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS
TRIVANDRUM

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Government of Kerala
1979

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PREFACE

The problem of the physically handicapped is engaging the serious attention of all civilised nations of the world today. Those who are unfortunately handicapped have a feeling of being unwanted or rejected by society, sometimes by their own kith and kin. The consequential tension when in such families is transmitted to society, often gives rise to social vices like juvenile delinquency, beggary and family maladjustments. So, if these unhappy children are provided with ample opportunity to develop their potential, they will not be a burden to the community.

Education plays a vital role in achieving the above aim. But due to lack of relevant statistics and information about the facilities existing, many of the handicapped children remain within the four walls of their home.

The present work is an attempt to fill these gaps. Sri P. Y. Jacob, Research Officer, presently working in the Directorate of Public Instruction, Kerala has given a picture of the existing institutions providing educational facilities to the handicapped. The various rules and procedure for admission of students, the educational concessions available, accommodation facilities, scheme for the integrated education of the blind and the like, are presented in this volume which I hope will be of much use to the general public, especially to those interested in the uplift of the physically handicapped.

DR. P.A. NAIR,

DIRECTOR,

Bureau of Economics and Statistics.

Trivandrum,
8-1-1979.

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PART—I

Introductory

INTRODUCTORY

With about 15 millions of its total population of 600 millions suffering from blindness, India is in the unenviable position of being the home for one third of the world's blind. It is estimated that about 60,000 people lose their sight every year. This is the problem of the blind alone who constitute only about 20% of the total handicapped in the country. The case of Kerala is also not different in as such as it has about one lakh handicapped population now. According to a survey of the handicapped persons conducted by the statistical unit of the Education Directorate, in 1969 there were 69,499 physically handicapped persons in the State. The blind constituted 14,258 (20.5%) and the deaf and dumb constituted 13,363 or 9.8%. The remaining 69.7% was constituted by the crippled, lame, mentally retarded and the like.

But the problem of the handicapped has not received proper attention of the Government or the Public. Our outlook towards the physically handicapped brotheren is quite callous. We have no real sympathy for these "out-casts". No sincere attempt is done so far to ameliorate the lot of these unfortunate brotheren who toil hard for their existence. It is therefore high time for the Government and our society to do something which will provide substantial improvement in their education and living conditions. It is this fact that might have prompted His Excellency N. N. Wanchoo, the Governor of Kerala to remind the society of its special responsibility towards the poor handicapped persons. He had stated that nothing was more tragic than to see the human mind in ruins. So he exhorted us to place so much emphasis on the alleviation of human suffering and kindness to our weaker brotheren.

In Kerala we have only very few projects for the education and rehabilitation of the handicapped persons. Some charitable institutions provide facilities for the education of the mentally retarded children. The Kerala ecumenical Mission school for mentally retarded children at Lourde's Mount, Neyyattinkara (started functioning in October 1975) is one of such institutions.

For the education of the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb, there are still more facilities in the State. There are eleven special schools for the handicapped in Kerala. Five of them are Departmental schools and six are private institutions. Among the private schools two are unaided and four are aided. All the eleven are upper primary schools.

In all, there are 765 pupils on roll. Out of them 316 are blind and 449 are deaf and dumb. Those who attend these schools are provided with free boarding and lodging. However, those who hail from higher income brackets have to pay the tuition fees and the mess charges.

Those who pass standard VII can continue their higher education in the neighbouring schools under the integrated scheme. Facilities for studying music, dance etc., are also now available.

In spite of these facilities, sufficient enthusiasm is not forthcoming from the public in sending their children to these special schools. This is borne out of the fact that only less than 1% of the total handicapped population or 9.4% of the handicapped population of the school-going-age is attending these special schools. The enrolment ratio of the blind is 0.48 and that of the deaf and dumb is 8.76.

TABLE NO. I

Handicapped population of school going age

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Total blind</i>	<i>No. of blind attending schools</i>	<i>Total deaf and dumb</i>	<i>No. of deaf & dumb attending schools</i>	<i>Total blind and deaf</i>	<i>Total blind and deaf on roll</i>
5-15	1,900	..	3,366	..	5,266	..
15-20	1,115	..	1,758	..	2,873	..
Total	3,015	316 (10.48%)	5,124	449 (8.76%)	8,139	765
All ages	14,258	..	13,363	..	69,449	..

(Source: Monograph Survey on handicapped in Kerala 1969)

Thus even in the case of the blind and the deaf who have greater facilities for schooling, the enrolment ratio is too low (9.4%) to be on a par with the general enrolment ratio which is around 90 for the corresponding age group.

Recent studies have revealed that about 72% of the blind and 74% of the deaf and dumb are illiterates. Please see Table No. 2 given below. It is further observed that among the blind only 28% are literates.

TABLE NO. 2

**Educational Standard of Handicapped persons in Kerala
(Percentage)**

<i>Type of handicap</i>	<i>Illiterates</i>	<i>Those who can read and write only</i>	<i>Below S. S. L. C.</i>	<i>Passed S. S. L. C. Examn.</i>	<i>Above S. S. L. C.</i>
Blind	71.63	8.98	16.35	1.89	0.65
Deaf & Dumb	74.26	7.73	16.43	1.19	0.39
All types of handi- capped persons	62.18	11.25	22.50	2.92	1.15

of which 9% can just read and write and 16.35% are below S. S. L. C. About 2.5% have passed S. S. L. C. or higher examinations. As regards the deaf and dumb 7.73% can just read and write only while 16.43% are below S. S. L. C. Only 1.58% have passed the S. S. L. C. or higher examinations.

It is therefore a paradox that in a state where 60.42% of its people are literate more than 70% of the blind and deaf people remain illiterate.

A substantial increase in the enrolment in the special schools is therefore an imperative need of the hour. Some comprehensive educational programme to make the common man aware of the size and gravity of the problem and how to make use of the existing facilities is to be chalked out soon. For the formulation of any such programme a survey of the existing facilities is a pre-requisite and accordingly an attempt is made in the succeeding chapters to assess the present functioning of the special schools for the handicapped in Kerala.

The views expressed in the profile are purely my own and have nothing to do with the policies of the Department or Government.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Year	Month	Day	Event	Page
1950	Jan	15	Meeting of the Department	1001
1950	Feb	10	Meeting of the Department	1002
1950	Mar	5	Meeting of the Department	1003
1950	Apr	1	Meeting of the Department	1004
1950	May	15	Meeting of the Department	1005
1950	Jun	10	Meeting of the Department	1006
1950	Jul	15	Meeting of the Department	1007
1950	Aug	10	Meeting of the Department	1008
1950	Sep	15	Meeting of the Department	1009
1950	Oct	10	Meeting of the Department	1010
1950	Nov	15	Meeting of the Department	1011
1950	Dec	10	Meeting of the Department	1012

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 15th day of January, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 10th day of February, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 5th day of March, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 1st day of April, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 15th day of May, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 10th day of June, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 15th day of July, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 10th day of August, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 15th day of September, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 10th day of October, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 15th day of November, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

Meeting of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, held on the 10th day of December, 1950, at 10:00 A.M. in the Department of Chemistry building. Present: [List of names]

PART--II**Rules relating to the education of the Handicapped
Children in Kerala****SCHEME OF INTEGRATED EDUCATION
OF THE BLIND****EDUCATION OF THE ORTHOPAEDICALLY
HANDICAPPED PUPILS**

RULES RELATING TO THE EDUCATION OF THE HANDI-CAPPED CHILDREN

The salient features of the rules regarding admission of students in special schools for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, the conditions prescribing educational concessions etc. are summarised in this chapter. The existing special schools provide facilities for education up to Standard VII.

I. Admission

A. Primary Education

1. Blind, Deaf and Dumb children will be admitted in all Government and recognised schools for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb.
2. All are admitted as free scholars.
3. Admission will be allowed up to one month from the reopening of the schools.
4. *Age for admission to Std. I:*

(i) Lower age limit—Same as for ordinary schools

(ii) Upper age limit—10 years as on first June

B. Higher Education

1. All deserving blind, deaf and dumb pupils will be admitted in academic High schools. But all Deaf and Dumb children will be admitted in Technical schools, School of Arts, Trivandrum, Ravi Varma School of Painting, Mavelikara, Government Occupational Institute, Trichur and the like. Similarly all blind children can get admission in Music Academies. Normal educational concessions such as boarding fees, tuition fees, etc. granted to students in special schools are allowed for the Higher education as well.

2. Similar concessions and special scholarships are available for college and Higher education also. The payment of all these concessions are subject to the rules regarding the satisfactory progress of students, the parental income and like.

II. Class Strength

The minimum strength of a division will be 5 and maximum 10. However the D. E. O. can permit retention of excess strength in a division.

Bifurcation of a division is allowed when the strength exceeds 14, 24 and so on.

III. Educational Concessions

The rate of concessions varies as the annual income of the parents as follows:—

<i>Annual income of parents</i>	<i>Rate of concession</i>	<i>Effective from</i>
1. Rs. 2400 and below	Full concession	From 10-1-1970 as per G. O. (P) 109/70 dated 10-1-1970
2. Above Rs. 2400 but below Rs. 4800	Half the rate	do.
3. Above Rs. 4800	Nil	do.
4. Rs. 6000 and below	Full concession if two or more children of the same parents or guardians are handicapped pupils	

- Note*:—(i) All concessions will be allowed only for two years in each standard.
- (ii) Concessions will be granted only on production of income certificate of parents.

IV. Allowance for various stages of studies

<i>Type of allowance</i>	<i>L. P. School</i>	<i>U. P. School</i>	<i>H. S. & other stages</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1. Boarding allowance (Rs. per annum) only to those who stay in hostels)	60	60	60	With effect from 1-1-1975
2. Dress allowances (Rs. per annum)	40	40	40	
3. School requisite allowance (Rs. per annum)	10	20	40	
4. Travelling expenses:	(i) Actual expenses for journeys to and from home once a year for Deaf and Dumb and 1½ times the actual expenses for blind pupils			
	(ii) For Deaf and Dumb pupils who are below the age of 10 years as on 1st June, 1½ times the actual expenses.			
5. Medical Aid:	Free Medical aid			
6. Fees (Games, Examination)	Free			
7. Materials for games, excursion etc.	Rs. 5 per annum			
8. Excursion	Free trip for pupils if the annual income of their parents is less than Rs. 1500.			

V. Income Certificate

- (i) Pupils have to produce an income certificate showing the income of their parents or guardian.
- (ii) The certificate should be from the local Tahsildar, M. L. A., Municipal Commissioner or Panchayat President.
- (iii) Fresh certificate should be produced at the beginning of each year.

VI. Scheme of Integrated Education of the Blind

With a view to bringing a substantial number of Blind Children to schools an integrated courses of education from Standard VIII onwards is introduced in selected schools in the state. They are eligible for all the concessions allowed to students in the special schools. (vide list of Educational concessions). Boarding facilities for these students are provided in the hostels attached to the respective special schools for the handicapped.

Following are the schools which provide this facility at present:—

- (i) S. M. V. High School, Trivandrum.
- (ii) Government High School, Kudamalur, Kottayam
- (iii) Government High School, Mankada
- (iv) Government High School, Kunnankulam.

Proposals for introducing the scheme in more schools are under the active consideration of Government.

VII. Education of the Orthopaedically handicapped pupils

The various rules and concessions summarised in the foregoing paragraphs were applicable to the Blind, Deaf and Dumb students in Special schools, High schools, Arts or Technical schools and Colleges, Music Academies etc. There are no special schools for the education of the orthopaedically handicapped children who have to seek admission in ordinary schools in the normal way. However, they are eligible for various educational concessions depending on the income of their parents or guardians. These concessions take the form of:—

- (i) Exemption from payment of all kinds of fee.
- (ii) Boarding charges Rs. 60
- (iii) Dress allowance at Rs. 40 per year
- (iv) An annual allowance for purchase of school requisites (Rs. 10 in L. P. School, Rs. 20 in U. P. S. and Rs. 40 in High schools)

The students will have to produce the income certificate, medical certificate etc.

PART III

The Special Schools for the Handicapped in Kerala

(i) **School for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, Trivandrum**

The school for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, Trivandrum, is a residential institution run by the Government of Kerala. It is situated at Jagathy near the Directorate of Public Instruction and the All India Radio Station, Trivandrum, and is about 3 km. east of the Government Secretariat, Trivandrum.

The School was started with two children on 9th November 1942 at Thycaud, Trivandrum by late Sri J. Devanesan. Since then the roll strength rose to 8 at the end of the 1st year, 17 at the end of the 2nd year, 25 at the 3rd year and 30 at the 4th year, 38 at the 5th year and 41 at the end of the 6th year when the admission had to be restricted due to limited accommodation facilities. The school could attain such a spectacular achievement as a result of the real and devotion evinced by the founder Headmaster Sri J. Devanesan. It was first started for the deaf and dumb children only and was an aided institution managed by a committee. This was surrendered to the then Government of Travancore, in 1951. Under the second Five Year Plan about 3 1/4 acres of land was allotted for starting a school for the Blind in Bhaktivilas compound where the present school buildings were constructed. The school for the Blind was thus started in 1957 and the school for the Deaf and Dumb was shifted to the present campus. Attached to the school for the Blind a Training Centre for the teachers of the Blind was also sanctioned in 1958-59.

The September 1960 both these schools were brought under the control of one Headmaster and classes were conducted for the Blind and the Deaf in separate sections.

Sri J. Devanesan (since expired) was in charge of the school for the Deaf and Dumb upto 1960. Shri David Joseph who was the Headmaster of the Blind school since 1957 hold the post of the Principal of the Training Centre also upto 14-4-1971. Sri P. K. Hassan Rawther who took over charge as Headmaster of the school on 26-11-1971 is still continuing.

Seven years of Primary Education commencing from Std. I through Std. VII is provided to the pupils admitted to the school. The very same syllabus meant for the ordinary schools is followed in the Blind Section. But an entirely different syllabus is followed for the Deaf in view of their general and mental backwardness.

The Blind are taught under the Braille system by specially trained teachers and the deaf by the oral (lip-reading method) and manual methods. Malayalam, English, Hindi, Mathematics, General Science and Social Studies are taught to all students. In addition practical training in Rattan work is given to the Blind, and in Book Binding, Drawing and Cutting and Tailoring to the Deaf.

Facilities for indoor and outdoor games are also provided. The blind students run their own literary associations, Arts clubs and Radio clubs. The deaf students too have their own clubs and meetings.

The school has a total strength of 206 pupils. In the blind section there are 36 boys (including 8 high school going students) and 20 girls (including two girls attending high schools). In the deaf section there are 97 boys and 53 girls (including 33 day scholars). All of them got free education and lodging facilities. Excepting a very few who are playing boarders all are free boarders.

Some of the blind students who have passed the VII standard, from this school are admitted to High school classes under the integrated scheme which envisages the education of the Blind with normal students. During this year 8 boys and two girls were attending High school classes. Every year a few of them are admitted in the Music College, Trivandrum. Deaf students after passing Std. VII from this school are admitted in the "School of Arts, Trivandrum" where they study Drawing, Painting, Ivory work, Rattan work etc.

While a few of the old students of this school have already taken Post-graduation, a good number of them are at present doing their graduation and post-graduation in various colleges.

Shri Suresh, one of the old Blind students of this school is now a lecturer in a college in Tamil Nadu. Another old student after his post graduation, is running a tutorial college. While a good number of the old students are employed as teachers in schools for the Blind in the State, a few are working in spinning mills and other factories. Persons who have taken to Painting, Photography, Tailoring and the like are also not rare. Yet some others are now in Government service. The institution and the members of the staff feel proud of these achievements.

(ii) **Government School for the Blind, Olessa (Via) Kottayam**

This is an educational institution meant exclusively for the blind children and is run by the Education Department. The school is situated at Olessa in Aymanam Panchayat of Ettumanur Block in Kottayam Taluk. It is about 8 kms. north west of Kottayam Town.

This school started functioning on 16-8-1963 as a Third Five Year Plan programme with 2 boys and a girl in Std. I. Sri V. Sadanandan was the first Headmaster of the school. Smt. K. M. Sathyabhama who succeeded him continued in office upto 13-11-1976. Sri V. Gopinathan Nair is presently the Headmaster of the schools.

Even though the school was started in 1963 actual academic instruction commenced only in 1964-65. It became a completed U.P. School with Std. VII in 1970-71.

As many as 33 blind pupils (24 boys and 9 girls) attend the school. There are seven teachers (6 men and a woman) besides a clerk and 6 other staff. The music teacher who himself is blind finds his vocation a blessing in disguise. The blind children are taught through Braille script.

It is a residential school and all the students are free boarders. The school site extends over an area of 2.5 acres. Separate dormitories are provided for boys and girls. In addition to free boarding and loading the pupils are paid annually a cash allowance for school requisites and dress.

After passing Std. VII, pupils can continue their High School education in the nearby Government High School at Kudamaloor under the integrated scheme. They can continue to stay in the hostel attached to the Blind School. The Headmaster will be the local guardian. Twelve blind children of this hostel continue their High School Education under the integrated scheme.

(iii) **Government School for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb,
Kunnamkulam, Trichur**

The pioneer institution of its kind in Kerala, the school for the blind, deaf and dumb, Kunnamkulam was established on 30th August 1934. The school is situated in the heart of Kunnamkulam Town, on the northern side of kunnamkulam-Trichur Road. It was started with one blind boy and a teacher, by Shri K.T. Mathew B.A. & B.L., in a portion of the Y.W.C.A. Buildings situated near the A.R.P. Press at Kunnamkulam. In the third year of its inception the Dumb section was also started. Subsequently the music and craft sections were also started.

In 1945 the school was shifted to Trichur Town. But it was again shifted back to Kunnamkulam on 29-1-1948 by the sincere efforts of Shri C.T. Itty Mathew, the then Headmaster of the school.

After independence the Government of Cochin took over the administration of the school. Till 1961 the school had no Headmaster of its own as the school functioned as a part of the Government Boys' High School, Kunnamkulam. But it was separated in 1961 and Sri K.T. George was appointed Headmaster of the school. After his retirement in March 1963, Kumari Mary Joseph, Sri K.M. Chakkunni, K.I. David, T.K. Chathukutty Achan, K. Chandran Pillai and P.K. Hassan Rawther held the post of the Headmaster, successively.

A total of 110 pupils consisting of 79 boys and 31 girls attend this School. Among them 20 are blind and 31 are deaf and or dumb.

Out of the 20 teachers including the Headmaster, 8 are working in the blind section and 11 are working in the dumb section. Four teachers are blind.

The school has its own hostel with 8 rooms. As many as 103 pupils reside in the hostel. Of the inmates, 90 are free boarders.

(iv) **Government Deaf-mute School, Ottappalam**

Established in 1960, the school is situated at Chunangad about 8 kms. away from Ottappalam. Sri V. Chakrapani Warriar was the first Headmaster. Sri K. C. K. Raja became the Headmaster in 1963 and he continued in office till his retirement in 1970 when Smt. K. N. Rugmini the present incumbent, took over as Headmistress.

Coaching is provided upto Std. VII and for want of accommodation admission is now restricted.

The present hostel provides accommodation for 70 persons only. There are 67 pupils and 11 teachers in the school. Out of the 67 students 55 are free boarders, eight of them are paying full charges and 4 are paying half the hostel charges.

The students evince special interest in drawing, tailoring and gardening.

(v) **Government School for the Blind, Kasaragod**

The school was established in 1950. It is a residential institution imparting instruction upto Std. VII.

Kumari Leela Paul was the first Headmistress of the school. She was in office from 7-10-1950 to 24-12-1953. Shri T. K. Chathukutty Achan held the post from 25-12-1953. to 3-12-1965 and Sri K. Kunhikannan from 1-1-1966 to 7-8-1967. Sri Chathukutty Achan once again held the post from 10-8-1967 to 10-4-1972. The school did not have a separate Headmaster since 10-4-1972. During the periods from 10-4-1972 to 7-2-1975 and from 8-2-1975 to 13-3-1975 Messrs. K. V. Prabhakaran and R. Krishna Moorthy Nair respectively were in charge of the post. From 14-3-1975 Shri A. Narasimha Bhat, Headmaster, Government B.T.S., Maipady is holding additional charge of the post.

All the thirty students are residing in the school hostel. There are 7 teachers in the school including one braillist and one teacher each for craft and music. Two posts of teachers and the post of the Headmaster are vacant.

(vi) **School for deaf children, Thiruvalla, Kerala**

The school for the Deaf children at Thiruvalla is a residential institution managed by the "Handicapped Children's School Society". The biggest school for Deaf children in Kerala, it is one of the oldest of its kind in the State.

Established in 1938, it is situated on the side of the M. G. Road, about 2 km. south of Thiruvalla.

The school was first started at Pallom near Kottayam in 1938 with 5 pupils and a teacher. With the steady increase in the number of students the necessity for a more spacious and convenient building was keenly felt. Accordingly in 1941, the school was shifted to a rented building in Thiruvalla. In 1952 it was again shifted to its present site where new buildings were created on a three-acre plot donated by the C.S.I. Diocese.

The school was recognised by the State Education Department in 1958 as a special school for the handicapped. The school received financial assistance from Government since 1961-62.

The school is housed in a very spacious building with 24 rooms having a total area of about 1000 sq. metres. Every facility for a comfortable homely life is provided here. Separate hostels are provided for boys and girls. All 200 students are residing in these hostels.

Out of the 200 pupils who are deaf and or dumb, 122 are boys and 78 are girls. About 50% of them are christians. Pupils belonging to Hindu (forward classes), Ezhavas, Muslims, Xian converts and scheduled caste communities constitute the remaining 50%.

As many as 21 specially qualified teachers (9 men and 12 women) work here. Of them two women teachers and a male teacher are deaf in both ears.

Besides the coaching under the general curriculum upto the VII Std. the school also provides "Parents Guidance and Vocational Training" for the Deaf children. This Vocational Training Centre was opened in 1975 and training in Tailoring is imparted here since then.

Mr. A. C. Koshy was the first Headmaster of the school. He was in office from 1938 to 1947. Mr. P. C. Chacko succeeded him and continued upto 1966. Mr. George Varki who took over in 1966, is presently the Headmaster of this institution.

(vii) **School for the deaf and the blind, Assisi Mount, Neerpara**

The school for the deaf and blind, Assisi Mount, Neerpara, Vadakara P.O., via Thalayolaparambu is in Vaikom Taluk (Kaduthuruthy Block) of Ernakulam District. It is under the management of the social service guild of Assisi sisters—a charitable association registered under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act XII of 1955.

The school was started in 1968. It was accorded permanent recognition in 1972 when it completed Std. IV. At present, it is a complete U.P. 3 school with 112 students consisting of 69 deaf (35 boys and 34 girls) and 43 blind students (25 boys and 18 girls). The deaf section consists of 8 divisions and the blind section 7 divisions. These 15 divisions are managed by 15 qualified teachers. Besides them there are three specialists who handle music, drawing and various craft subjects.

In addition to the general curriculum prescribed for normal schools—auditory training programme is one of the special features of the school. Out of the 69 deaf children, 32 use individual hearing aids regularly. Specially trained hands give auditory training through 'Speech Trainers' which possess higher frequency than the individual hearing aids. This facility attracts many deaf children to this school. The All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, let alone the many E.N.T. Specialists, therefore recommends deaf students for education in this school.

With the increase in the number of hostel inmates, the present building is found to be inadequate. A new building at an estimated cost of six lakhs rupees is now under construction.

Sri. R. Ramachandran Nair, Director of Public Instruction, Sri Jacob Cherian, Joint Director of Public Instruction, Sri Paul P. Mani, Hon. Minister for Food, Kerala and His Eminence Cardinal Joseph Parecattil, Arch Bishop of Ernakulam are some of the dignatories who had visited the institution.

Sri Goma Francis was the Headmistress of the school ever since its inception and Smt. K. K. Rosy, who succeeded her is continuing as the headmistress.

(viii) **Kerala School for the Blind, Mankada, Pallippuram**

The Kerala School for the Blind is an aided residential institution of Upper Primary stage. It is situated in Mankada. It was established in 1955 by the Kerala Blind Welfare Association a registered charitable organisation. Shri A. K. Chandrasekharan Nair who himself was blinded in world war II was the founder and the first Manager-cum-Headmaster of this school. When he expired in 1967, Sri. K. A. Ali become the Headmaster for a short while. As he was not fully qualified he was replaced by Sri M. P. Narayanan Nair.

The School which started functioning in a rented building with a couple of students, has subsequently grown into a full fledged U.P.S. of its present position with 19 members on the staff and 60 children on the rolls. The teaching staff consists of 8 general teachers (two blind and 6 sighted), 3 craft teachers and a brailist who is blind in both eyes. All the 60 students live in the school hostel.

The school got permanent recognition in the year 1957. Till 1966, the institution received only matching grants to meet the boarding charges and the payment of salary of staff. But since 1966, the system of direct payments was introduced and the hostellers are now paid boarding grant at the same rate as admissible to pupils of Government schools.

(ix) **Light to the Blind, Varkala**

"Light to the Blind" an unaided residential institution for the handicapped is a recognised school run by the "Charitable society of South Kerala Diocese. It is located at Sreenivasapuram, Varkala in Chirayinkil Taluk of Trivandrum Revenue District and is about 2 km. from Varkala Railway station.

The present school campus and the buildings were originally purchased and built by the London Missionary Society for running a training school for V.S.L.C. people. This course was subsequently stopped and in July 1968 the late Rt. Rev. William Vachalan started the school for the blind

with 11 blind pupils hailing from different communities. Now there are 63 blind students (38 boys and 25 girls) in the school. This complete U.P. school, along with the Industrial section for weaving and craft work is really a happy place for the blind.

Mr. D. P. Godwin was the Superintendent of this school from July 1968 to June 1970. After him, Mr. J. George was appointed as Headmaster and Warden, in 1971 when Mr. George was sent to Poonamallee for special training, Mr. David Joseph held the post of Headmaster. Mr. George resumed charge of the school and the hostel on completion of the Training course.

Among the many dignitaries who had visited the institution specific mention may be made of the following: Shri B. Wellington, Health Minister, Kerala, Mr. A. David, University of Birmingham, Great Britain, Dr. Thankavelu, Principal, Medical College, Trivandrum, Rt. Rev. P. Solomon, Bishop of Dornakal, Messrs. R. Theodor and Karl Bocker of Christoffel Blind Mission, West Germany; Miss Anne Cook of S.H.N. England and Dr. S. S. Menon.

Among the teachers (4 men and 7 women) three are blind (one man and two women). There are separate hostels for boys and girls. All the 63 students are free boarders of the hostel.

Every year Independence Day, children's day and Republic Day are celebrated by the inmates. They do participate in the "Cleaning Programme" and "labour week" also. They have been in the forefront in helping the needy in any part of the world. This year, the blind pupils, by forgoing their evening coffee, raised a sum of R. 101 which they had contributed to the Chief Ministers' Flood Relief Fund. They are looking forward to a better tomorrow for which they are led by the "Kindly Light".

(x) **School for the Blind, Alwaye-6**

Located at Kuzhimad, near Alwaye the school is housed in a two storeyed building completed in 1972. The school was started in June 1962 in response to a call by the Kerala Christian Council. An adhoc committee consisting of Rev. K. Thomas, W.O. George and C. I. Mathunni, was responsible for the planning of the project. Bishop Benjamin became its Chief Promoter. A small building near the Alwaye settlement was taken on rent and 10 blind children were admitted to class I. The management was able to get late Mr. Paul Sridharan himself a blind person, but well qualified, to be the teacher. When Mr. Sridharan passed away, Mr. N. M. Kurian was appointed in the vacancy. In 1963, Mr. V. J. Kuriakose was appointed Headmaster of the school. Shri M. D. David, B.A., B.Ed., was the Headmaster from September 1970 to June 1971 when Mr. Kuriakose was away in U.S.A. for specialised training. The Kerala Blind School Society which is running the institution, was registered in 1964 under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act. The school is yet to be recognised by the State Government.

The school depends for its existence on the generous contributions from the public and various organisations like Rotary Club, Alwaye, the National Christian Council and the Kerala Christian Council, Local schools, Colleges, Arts and Cultural organisations, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., and the like. His Excellency Shri N. N. Wanchoo, Governor of Kerala who opened the 1st floor of the school buildings on 12th August 1973 has donated Rs. 500 to the school.

Till 1963 the roll strength was only below 20. But with increased roll strength larger accommodation had to be provided. With the liberal aid, received from the Common Wealth Trust, Calicut and with the local contributions the ground floor of the present building was completed at Kuzhimad, near Alwaye. The school which was then functioning in a rented building was shifted to the new building on 2nd October 1969. The school building was subsequently raised to a two storeyed one. A workshop was also constructed with the aid received from the Christoffel Blinden Mission, West Germany. This Mission has donated a bus also to the school which is used for taking the school children to the hospital, to work-sites and to other schools where they will study with sighted children.

Girls could not be admitted till 1972 for want of proper accommodation. As soon as sufficient facilities were provided for their stay, girls were also admitted. Now there are separate hostels for boys and girls. The school buildings are put up on a spacious plot of about 6.25 acres.

The school has at present, standards I to VII and 12 teachers (9 men and three women) and seven other staff. Three men teachers are blind. The present roll strength is 53 consisting of 31 boys and 22 girls. Of these, 10 belong to scheduled castes, and 12 to other backward class communities. Christian students number 14, muslims 5 and Hindus 12. All these students along with two other students attending the neighbouring schools live in the school hostel.

Students who pass VII Std., are sent to the Settlement High School Alwaye. Besides the normal curriculum, music and crafts, cloth-weaving and kora-mat weaving are also taught by specialised teachers. All old students who are willing to work in the school workshop are provided with work here. Those who work here earn about Rs. 60 per mensem.

(xi) **Rahmaniya School for the Handicapped, Calicut-8**

This is an aided institution under the Muslim Corporate Management. The school came, into existence on 4-8-1974 and Stds. I and II are conducted at present in a rented building. There are 37 pupils consisting of 5 blind, 18 deaf and 14 dumb children. One of the three teachers is deaf in both ears.

Shri N. Mohammed was the first Headmaster of the school. He was in office from 4-8-1974 to 15-7-1975. Shri P. I. Jacob is the Headmaster since 15-7-1975.

Out of the 42 inmates of the hostel (37 students and 5 members of the staff) 30 students are free boarders.



PART IV

Some Suggestions

SOME SUGGESTIONS

Parents are either ignorant of the existing facilities or indifferent to send their wards to school. A comprehensive educational programme to make the common man aware of the size and gravity of the problem of the handicapped should be evolved urgently.

2. Facilities for higher education (ie. education beyond Std. VII) are meagre at present especially for the deaf and dumb. There should therefore be an expansion of the existing facilities.

3. It is learnt that in other States there is at least one Residential High School for the Blind whereas in Kerala we do not have any High School, let alone the Residential type, for the blind. The integrated system of education is found to be suited to the average or above average students whereas this system is an additional handicap to the below average who are greater in number. Moreover, a residential high school, if established will serve as a model school for other schools in the matter of providing expertise, technical services, workshop facilities for teachers and the like.

It is therefore suggested that two Residential High schools, one for the blind and another for the deaf and dumb may be opened at Trivandrum and Kozhikode respectively.

4. More avenues for vocational training to be opened.

5. At present the same curriculam as that followed in ordinary schools is adopted in the special schools also. The curriculam should better be more job-oriented. The curriculam can be moulded in the pattern of that meant for the Junior Technical schools.

6. A Physical Education teacher is a must in all special schools. But there is no sanction for it at present. Till a post is sanctioned in these schools the services of the Physical Education Teacher of the neighbouring school may be utilised.

7. *Non-Availability of teaching appliances for the Education of the Blind.*

Braille, Arithmetic slates, Embossed maps, etc., are in short supply. Though the present curriculam gives much importance to teaching of algebra, none of the equipments required for teaching Algebra is available in India, it is complained.

8. A Malayalam Braille Press is the felt need of the hour. Scarcity of Malayalam Braille books now poses much problems.

9. Till the establishment of such a press (preferably attached to a Blind School) in Kerala, arrangements are to be made to print the Braille texts and paper in sufficient number in the Regional Braille printing press, Poonamale, Madras.

10. The school requisites allowance should be enhanced considerably (pay to Rs. 100) as the present allowance of Rs. 40 a year is too meagre to purchase even the braille texts.

11. Auditory programme should be introduced in schools. Lip reading and auditory training should go hand in hand. Residual hearing should be stimulated through amplifying system such as individual hearing aids, Group hearing aids-system, loop system, sound proof system etc. This is necessary for establishing oral methods in the deaf schools. Establishment and maintenance of these systems involve heavy investment. Further, non-availability of servicing facilities for these appliances is a major impediment in establishing the Auditory systems.

12. Adequate provision in the budget for special schools is to be made for conducting medical check up of students more frequently.

13. *Education of the Blind to be a part of the Welfare of the Blind.*

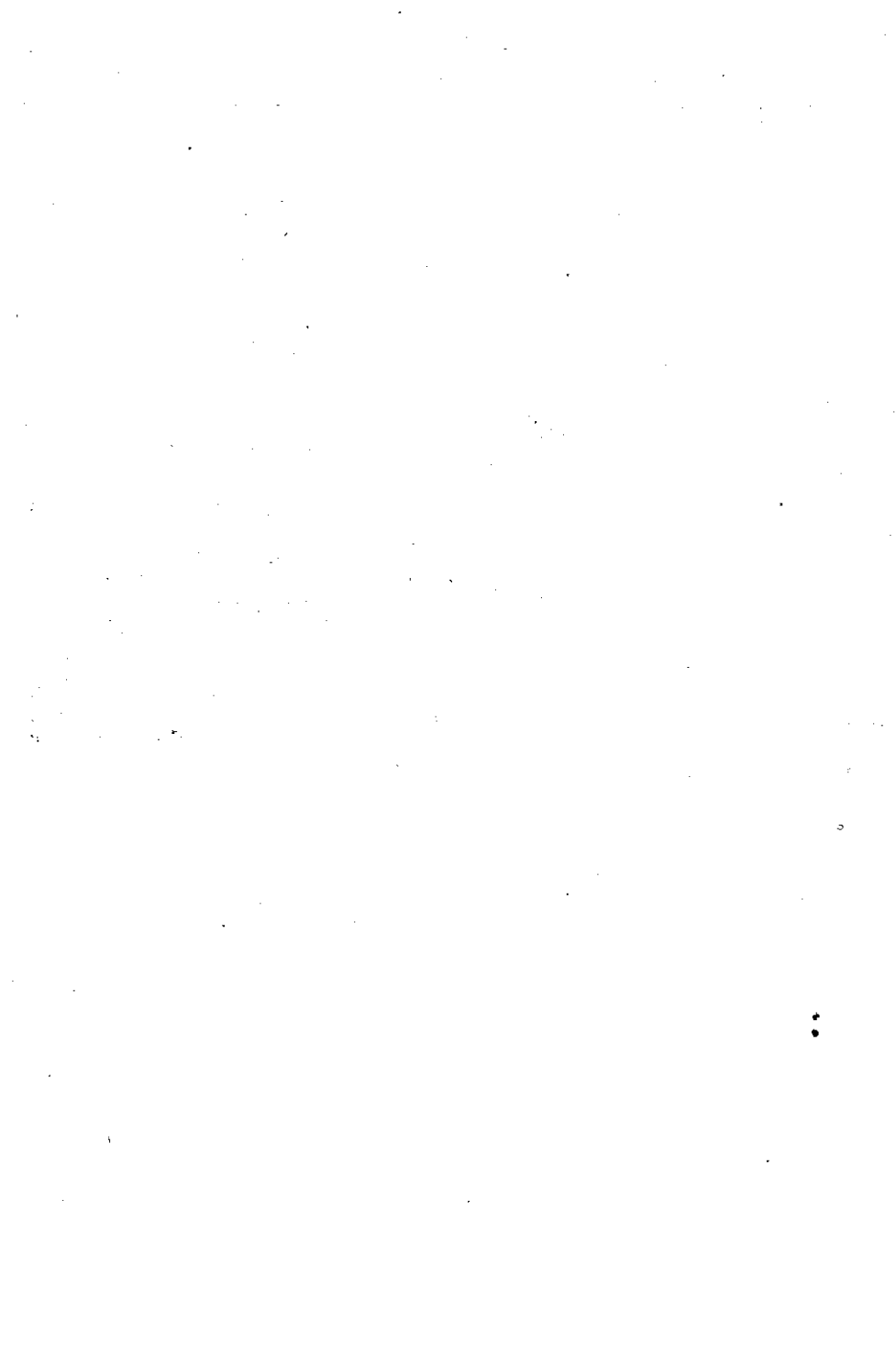
The whole approach towards the various aspects of the Blind welfare should undergo a radical change if the money, time and energy we spend for them are to be of real use. At present education of the blind is treated as a part of general education. It is felt that if the education of the blind is treated as a part of the welfare of the blind, the amount spent on them will have greater utility.

14. Eye banks have to sent up in greater number.

15. The incurably blind have to be rehabilitated by providing them with useful training and gainful employment.

16. A fund to be constituted to aid the handicapped.

17. Rehabilitation centres to be opened at least at all District headquarters. At present the Medical Colleges at Trivandrum and Kozhikode only are having such centres.



APPENDIX

Strength of Schools for the Handicapped

