

Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha (Tamil Nadu) established a branch in Pondicherry. The Sabha is a recipient of teaching grant from the Pondicherry Administration. The Sabha also gets from the Central Government 75 per cent of the total expenditure for approved schemes like conducting teachers seminars and for the award of prizes for students. There is a branch of the Sabha in Karaikal also.

VII. Education for the handicapped

Government School for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, Pillaichavadi, Pondicherry :

The School for the Blind was opened on 17 July 1963 and the School for the Deaf and Dumb was started on 22 June 1964. Both the institutions are located within the same campus at Pillaichavadi. A site measuring 1.73 Ha. was donated for building the school by Hamsa Valliammal, the heiress of Anandarangapillai. The institution which is provided with facilities for 50 blind students and 50 deaf and dumb has a complex of four buildings, two for running the schools and two for the residential accommodation of the inmates. Children between the ages 6 and 12 from all over Tamil Nadu are admitted in the institution. The blind children are taught up to VIII standard after which they are sent to the Government Blind School, Poonamallee, Madras for further studies. The deaf and dumb students are educated up to V Standard. Orphans are not admitted. The inmates are sent home during vacations. The inmates are taught music and craft. The health of the inmates is taken care of by the Medical Officer at the Primary Health Centre at Kalapet.

Details of the inmates of the institutions are furnished below :

Year	Blind section		Deaf & Dumb section		Total	No. of blind students sent to Poonamallee for higher studies	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		(6)	(7)
1963-64	6	3	—	—	9	—	—
1964-65	10	3	9	8	30	—	—
1965-66	15	6	8	8	37	—	—
1966-67	14	5	8	7	34	—	—

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1967-68	14	5	7	6	32	—	—
1968-69	13	5	8	3	29	—	—
1969-70	15	4	5	3	27	—	—
1970-71	11	5	9	2	27	4	1
1971-72	8	1	17	2	28	7	2
1972-73	5	2	20	8	35	1	1
1973-74	6	1	16	9	32	1	1
1974-75	8	2	18	7	35	—	—

VIII. Adult Literacy / Social Education

The Adult Literacy Programme was launched in the Territory only in 1956 as part of the Community Development Programme. Two years hence the Directorate of Harijan and Social Welfare entered the field to be followed by the Directorate of Public Instruction in 1961. Between 1956 and 1971 i.e. within a period of 15 years, 14,800 adults were made literate. The number of adult literacy centres run by the various departments varied from year to year.¹¹⁷

IX. Audio-visual education

Although the Audio-Visual Education Unit was set up in 1960 to form part of the Teachers' Training Centre, Pondicherry, it started functioning independently only in 1965, when it came to be placed under the control of an Audio-Visual Education Officer. A film library was organised in the Unit and placed under the care of an Assistant Librarian. As on 31 December 1974, the film library had 343 films, 351 film-strips besides slides, long playing records, etc. all of educational value. In 1970 a mobile unit was added to this unit for conducting regular film shows in urban as well as rural areas. The unit also imparts training to teachers on the preparation of visual aids as well as in handling equipments like film-strip projector, epidiascope, etc. Similar units are to be set up in Karaikal and Mahe under the Fifth Plan.