

III. General Education

Details of different systems of general education as were in vogue at the time of merger are furnished below :

Medium	Stages	Name of classes	Duration
<i>French</i>	Primary	11ème, 10ème, 9ème, 8ème, 7ème	5 years
	Secondary	6ème, 5ème, 4ème, 3ème	4 years
	Higher Secondary	Seconde, Première, Philosophie or Mathématiques	3 years
<i>English</i>	Primary	Standards I to IV	4 years
	Middle	Forms I to III	3 years
	High	Forms IV to VI	3 years
<i>Tamil</i>	Primary	1ère année upto 7ème année	7 years
	High	Année préparatoire/Cours complé- mentaire 1ère année/2ème année/ 3ème année.	4 years

After merger, efforts were made to provide facilities for education up to the secondary school stage as well as post-matric stage on the pattern in vogue in the adjoining States. The system of education known as **Année préparatoire** and **Cours complémentaires** was done away with. As a result of this, the holding of the examination commonly known as '**Tamil Brevet**' was also stopped. At present education is imparted up to secondary stage in the medium of the regional languages (Tamil in Pondicherry and Karaikal, Malayalam in Mahe and Telugu in Yanam):

Pre-Primary Education :

There were no pre-primary schools anywhere in the territory before 1954.⁹⁶ Soon after merger the administration came forward to sanction an equipment grant of Rs. 400 (non-recurring) and a monetary grant of Rs. 600 (recurring) for every new school opened. In the beginning a lot of private initiative was in evidence.

The growth of pre-primary schools in the Territory since merger should be evident from the following statement :

Year	Government	Private	Total
1956-57 ..	—	7	7
1957-58 ..	—	11	11
1958-59 ..	—	17	17
1959-60 ..	—	17	17
1960-61 ..	—	30	30
1961-62 ..	1	29	30
1962-63 ..	2	30	32
1963-64 ..	3	32	35
1964-65 ..	4	33	37
1965-66 ..	5	40	45
1966-67 ..	6	40	46
1967-68 ..	7	40	47
1968-69 ..	9	40	49
1969-70 ..	11	39	50
1970-71 ..	13	34	47
1971-72 ..	15	34	49
1972-73 ..	18	29	47
1973-74 ..	25	29	54
1974-75 ..	27	29	56

The above statement reveals a marked shift in the growth trend of government and private schools. On the one hand, there is a steady decline in the number of schools under private management, and an increase in the number of schools under government control. However, there is practically no change in the total number of pre-primary schools after 1965.

Primary Education :

As on 1 November 1954 there were 157 schools (both primary and middle) in the Territory. Although soon after merger 45 primary schools and additional classes were opened, no significant progress could be achieved till the commencement of the II Five Year Plan in 1956. During the II Plan period 112 new primary schools including seven basic schools were opened. As against 15,900 pupils on the rolls in primary classes at the time of merger, there were 31,234 pupils at the end of the II Plan period (1961).

Even before merger primary education was free in the French establishments. However the scheme 'Universal and Free Primary Education for the age group 6-11' was introduced during the III Plan so as to secure an additional enrolment of 12,000 pupils. Primary education has since been extended to all villages in the Territory within walking distance.

There were (as on 31 December 1974) 286 primary schools out of which 256 were government sponsored and 30 private with a total enrolment of 63,626 students (36,592 boys and 27,034 girls). The total number of middle schools was 82 (66 government sponsored and 16 private) with an enrolment of 19,434 (12,217 boys and 7,217 girls).

Secondary Education :

The schooling pattern of Secondary Education has undergone several changes after merger. To begin with, the 10-year schooling was introduced during 1956-57 and it continued up to 1962-63. From 1963-64 an integrated 11-year course of secondary education from Standards I to XI was introduced in the Territory.⁹⁷ While this pattern was continued in Pondicherry and Karaikal, the schools in Mahe switched over to the Kerala pattern of 10-year schooling from 1968-69 following its adoption by Kerala. Similarly the schools in Yanam switched over to the ten-year pattern in 1966-67 and the first batch of S.S.C. students appeared for the public examination in 1969.

Soon after merger the administration chalked out a programme for providing each commune with a high school. This goal was reached very soon. Except a few schools run by private agencies in urban areas, most of the high schools in rural areas are run by the government. Out of a total of 10,049 students, 7,934 (5,678 boys and 2,256 girls) were enrolled in government schools and 2,115 students (1,217 boys and 898 girls) were enrolled in private schools. The medium of instruction is generally the local language and a few schools impart education in the English medium.

The first Central School in the Territory, provisionally located in the premises of JIPMER, Dhanwantarinagar, started functioning from 1 May 1968. It functions under the control of the Central Board of Secondary Education and imparts education in the media of English and Hindi. The management of the school is left to the care of a State-Level Management Committee.

Collegiate Education :

Collegiate education on the Indian University pattern was not available in this Territory before merger. Those institutions which carried the appellation 'College' were only institutions of higher secondary education in as much as they did not coach up students for university degrees. It was only after merger that collegiate education came to be identified with university education. A phenomenal increase was registered both in the number of colleges in the Territory and in the number of students seeking higher education. As on 31 December 1974, there were four Grade I Government Colleges and three Junior Colleges for General Education, spread over in all the four regions.

The progress of collegiate education in the Territory during the period will be evident from the following statement :

Year	No. of students	No. of Colleges*	Year	No. of students	No. of colleges
1960-61	867	2	1968-69	2,172	5
1961-62	962	3	1969-70	2,552	5
1962-63	947	3	1970-71	3,291	7
1963-64	1,378	4	1971-72	3,937	7
1964-65	1,587	4	1972-73	4,107	8
1965-66	1,726	4	1973-74	4,266	9
1966-67	1,953	4	1974-75	4,384	9
1967-68	1,808	4			

* The number includes the Medical College and Collège Français.

The system of Collegiate Education in the Territory as on 31 December 1974 is shown in the following statement:—

Sl. No.	Name of the final examination	The authority conducting the examination	Medium of instruction	Region in which the courses are available	Stages of education	Courses offered	Duration of the courses
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1.	P.U.C.	University of Madras	English	Pondicherry & Karaikal	Pre-degree	P.U.C.	1 year
2.	Pre-degree course	Calicut University	Do.	Mahe	Do.	P.D.C.	2 years
3.	Intermediate	Andhra University	Do.	Yanam	Do.	Junior & Senior Intermediate	2 years
1.	Baccalauréat	University of Rennes, France	French	Pondicherry	Pre-degree	Seconde Première Terminales (Arts) 'C' (Maths)	3 years
1.	B.A., B.Sc. & B.Com.	University of Madras	English	Pondicherry & Karaikal	Under graduate	B.A./B.Sc./B.Com.	3 years
2.	M.A. & M.Sc.	Do.	Do.	Pondicherry	Post-Graduate	M.A./M.Sc.	2 years

While colleges in Pondicherry and Karaikal follow the pattern prescribed by the Madras University, Mahatma Gandhi College in Mahe follows the pattern prescribed by the Calicut University in Kerala. The colleges in Yanam follow the pattern prescribed by the Andhra University.

The three-year course leading to the Baccalauréat examination (comparable to the pre-degree course) is offered by institutions of higher secondary education, although the examinations are conducted and the diplomas awarded by the University viz. University of Rennes, France.

Tagore Arts College (Laspettai), Pondicherry :

This college was opened on 3 July 1961, the Birth Centenary year of Rabindranath Tagore, following the visit of a seven-member Madras University Commission on 26 April 1961. Pending construction of a permanent building, it was decided to locate the college provisionally in the premises of Collège Calvé. A site was acquired in Laspettai for the construction of buildings. The college moved to its permanent building in 1966.

With the introduction of the Post-Graduate course (in French) in 1965 it became the first institution of Post-Graduate Education in the Territory. The college offers degree courses in Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Economics, Commerce, French, English and Tamil besides Pre-University courses in different branches of science and humanities. The post-graduate courses are offered in Mathematics and Economics besides French. It has a library of more than 20,000 books. To the college is attached a men's hostel capable of accommodating about 60 students.

Bharathidasan Government College for Women, Pondicherry :

This has the distinction of being the first women's college in the Territory. A four-member University Team which visited Pondicherry recommended its affiliation to the University in 1968. Apart from Pre-degree courses, the college offers degree courses in Tamil, English, Home Science and Mathematics. The sanctioned strength of the college in 1974 was 464. The hostel attached to the college provides accommodation for about 25 students. The library had a modest collection of about 6,500 books.

Arignar Anna Government Arts College, Karaikal :

This was started in the year 1967 as a Junior College for offering Pre-degree courses for students in the region. It functioned in the premises of **College Moderne** to begin with. It was upgraded into a degree college in 1968 with the introduction of degree courses in Economics, Mathematics and Chemistry. In December 1969 the college was rechristened as Arignar Anna Government Arts College. In 1970 a site was acquired in the vicinity of Karaikal town for the building complex of the college.

The college which had a sanctioned strength for 580 students was provided with a hostel capable of accommodating about 35 students. The college library was well equipped with more than 16,000 volumes.

Avvayyar Government College for Women, Karaikal :

This college started functioning in 1972 (formally inaugurated on 17 August 1972). To begin with, only Pre-University courses were conducted. Subsequently, degree courses in English and History were started from the year 1974-75. The college which had a strength of 84 students as against the sanctioned strength of 146 during 1974-75 was provisionally housed in the T.T.C. building at Talatteruvu in Karaikal.

Mahatma Gandhi Government Arts College, Mahe :

The lack of facilities for collegiate education in Mahe region impeded the spread of higher education there. Admission to colleges in the neighbouring State of Kerala was also relatively more difficult for students of this region. Further, because of the 10-year pattern of high school education students in the region could not join colleges in Pondicherry and Karaikal which admitted students after the 11-year schooling as per the Madras University pattern. It was against this background that a proposal for starting a college was mooted in the year 1961. The following year the college was opened with facilities for coaching up students for P.U.C. Subsequently in 1973, degree courses in Economics and Chemistry were introduced. As a temporary measure the college was accommodated in the premises of Jawaharlal Nehru High School. As on 31 August 1974 the college had 397 students as against the sanctioned strength of 424.

Government Junior College, Yanam :

With the conversion of the higher secondary school in Yanam into a high school of ten-year schooling to conform to the pattern in the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh it became necessary to provide facilities for higher education in Yanam

region. Hence in 1970 a Junior College with a two-year Intermediate course was opened. It started functioning in the premises of the Government High School, Yanam. This Junior College is affiliated to the Board of Secondary Education, Andhra Pradesh.

Government Degree College, Yanam :

According to the pattern in vogue in Andhra Pradesh, colleges offering degree courses alone fall within the ambit of the University. In view of this, and in order to fall in line with the pattern in vogue in Andhra Pradesh, a separate degree college affiliated to the Andhra University was started in the year 1973. This college was also located in the premises of the Junior College. The college offers courses in Economics.

Lycée Français :

Le Lycée Français de Pondichéry is the progeny of **Collège Royal** which was started as early as in 1826. The history of this institution has already been dealt with elsewhere. It will suffice to add here that at present classes are conducted from Kindergarten level upto Baccalauréat. English is taught here as second language and Tamil as an optional language. This college is affiliated to the University of Rennes in France. The students who pass out of this institution take up advanced studies in different subjects in French Universities.

Evening Colleges :

The introduction of evening colleges in the Territory may be described as part of the effort to provide facilities for out of work study for self-improvement for inservice personnel. The first evening college meant, to coach up students for a two-year Pre-University course went into operation during 1970-71. Subsequently a four-year degree course in Economics was introduced.

In 1970 an Evening College was started in Karaikal where coaching was offered for a two-year Pre-University course. The Principals of the respective colleges and the Heads of the Departments of the subjects concerned are placed in charge of the evening colleges.