

Sasikalamandram :

Sasikalamandram is the oldest extant institution in the Territory devoted to the promotion of Bharathanatyam. Started on 13 December 1956, the affairs of the Mandram are looked after by a Committee. Students who have performed the 'arangetram' are trained to appear for the lower/higher grade examination conducted by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Although the government helps the Mandram with some grant from time to time, it subsists mainly on the fees collected from the students. In the midst of its other activities, the Mandram has also arranged several benefit performances in aid of worthy public causes.

Karaikal Music Academy :

This Academy was started in Karaikal on 9 August 1974 for the promotion of performing arts in the region. The Academy arranged musical concerts, dance programmes and dramas for the benefit of its members. One of its other objectives was to run a music and dance school.

VI. Oriental Schools and Colleges

Institutions falling under this description did not come up in this Territory for various reasons. First, because of the small size of the establishments, there was not much scope for such institutions to flourish here. The administration was biased in favour of French education. Moreover, western type of education was available here since 1703. Those few who preferred oriental education sought the guidance of prominent men of letters in the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu. For instance, Savarayalu Nayagar sought the help of Meenakshisundaram Pillai. Such well known Tamil scholars as Bangaru Pathar and Periasami Pulavar are known to have obtained their *diksha* from Gnanier Adigal of Thirupathiripuliyur.¹¹⁵

As late as in 1957 there was a proposal to open a Tamil College in Pondicherry. As an initial step, night classes for coaching up candidates for Vidwan examination were conducted since September 1957.¹¹⁶ The college however did not take shape.

Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha :

Sometime after merger arrangements were made for conducting night classes for teaching Hindi in the Territory. Hindi teaching centres were started in Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe, Yanam and Villianur. In 1958 the Dakshina

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)		(7)	(8)
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	—	—