

IV. Professional and Technical Education

It was Desbassyns de Richemont who cleared the way for the introduction of professional education in the French establishments through his ordinance of 10 August 1826. The law course was introduced as early as in 1838. A course in medicine was introduced in 1863. Attempts made since 1872 to set up a technical school did not succeed until 1907. Although facilities were available even prior to merger for professional training in the territory, they were in no way adequate or diversified enough to satisfy the requirements of all-round development. The **Ecole de Médecine** was upgraded into a Medical College after merger and raised to the status of an institution of post-graduate medical education and research. A school of nursing was started in 1960. Although the **Ecole de Droit** ceased to function in 1958, a Law College was started in 1972. A polytechnic was started in the year 1961. The School of Arts and Crafts which continued to function till 1966 was replaced by the Junior Technical School. The Industrial Training Institute, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra and the Pre-Vocational Schools are all post-merger institutions. Commercial Institutes which train candidates in shorthand and type-writing and teach book-keeping and accountancy are almost entirely run by private agencies.

The growth of professional and technical institutions in the Territory between 1956 and 1974 will be evident from the following statement :

Institutions	1956-57	1960-61	1965-66	1968-69	1973-74
Law College	1	—	—	—	1
Medical College	1	1	1	1	1
School of Nursing	—	1	1	1	1
Teachers' Training Centres	1	1	1	2	1
Polytechnic for boys	—	1	1	1	1
School of Arts and Crafts	1	1	1	—	—
Junior Technical School	—	—	—	1	1
School for embroidery, needle work and dress-making for girls	1	1	1	1	1
Industrial Training Institute ..	—	—	—	1	1
Pre-Vocational Centres	—	—	—	4	4
Krishi Vigyan Kendra	—	—	—	—	1

Government Law College, Pondicherry :

Although the Law College in Pondicherry is of very recent origin, the beginning of law education in the Territory may be traced to 1838 when by the **arrêté** of 5 June, the **Procureur Général** was authorised to start a course on laws. The course which was conducted by the judicial officers was free and open to all. Successful candidates were awarded a certificate of proficiency known as '**Brevet de Capacité**'.

It appears that the course, discontinued after some years, was revived in 1867 with some modifications. But it was the **arrêté** of 24 February 1876, which actually brought into being the **Ecole de Droit** (School of Law). This **arrêté** invested the course with some distinction by increasing its duration to 3 years as in France with an examination at the end of each year. The Roman Law and Administrative Law were also added to the curriculum. Steps were also taken simultaneously to seek the recognition of Universities in France for the course. The **décret** of 1 July 1880 modified by the **décret** of 17 May 1881 entitled students who completed the course in Pondicherry to obtain the degree of '**Licence en Droit**' from any one of the Faculties of Law in France subject to certain conditions. Economics was included as one of the subjects of study. The Hindu Law continued to be taught as a special subject.

The recognition process was completed by the **décret** of 14 May 1920 which made it possible for a student to migrate even while mid-way through the course. A student having completed the first year of study in the School of Law was allowed to continue his second year in any Faculty of Law in France without sitting for any qualifying examination. Those who completed two years of study were allowed to take the degree of **Baccalauréat en Droit** after a special examination consisting of oral tests. The course was next reorganised in 1918.⁹⁸ Since then the course ceased to be free and the Professors came to be paid some honorarium. Muhammedan Law was introduced as an additional subject in the curriculum. Students in the outlying settlements as well as natives of French India residing in Indo-China were allowed to get registered in the School of Law and to sit for the examination. **Baccalauréat** was prescribed as the minimum qualification required to get registered for **Licence en Droit**. For the benefit of those who did not possess the **Baccalauréat** another course known as **Capacité en Droit** was introduced. The passing of this course made one eligible for selection as '**notaire**', '**huissier**' and '**commis greffier**'.

Later the *arrêté* of 4 October 1923 allowed lawyers, especially those with five years experience, to teach in the school. All the different enactments relating to the school of law were consolidated by the *arrêté* of 21 July 1935. This with some minor modifications continued to be in force till *de facto* merger. Although soon after merger it was decided to close down the school, students half way through were allowed to complete their studies.

After the extension of the Indian laws to this Territory in 1963, attempts were made to start a Law College providing instruction on the Indian pattern leading to the B.L. degree. As the minimum qualification for the study of law was a degree of an Indian University, it was found necessary to strengthen the base of the degree colleges in the Territory to start with. The Law College was inaugurated on 17 August 1972 on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of India's Independence. The college which had a sanctioned intake of 220 was affiliated to the University of Madras. It offers the III Year B.G.L. course.

Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research :

This Institute is again the progeny of *Ecole de Médecine* which was started as early as in 1863. The small number of French surgeons here were found inadequate to cope up with the problem of health in all the establishments. Hence the administration decided to train the natives as compounders to assist the surgeons especially during epidemics. This, it was thought, would also put an end to the prevalent quackery. It must be noted that even prior to the establishment of this school, natives were trained as *Aides-Médecins* (otherwise called *Maistries*) so as to help in rendering medical relief to the people. Some of them were trained as vaccinators or assistant vaccinators to be engaged in cholera control work. Official recognition was granted to the school at the instance and initiative of one Dr. Beaujean, under the *arrêté* of 13 April 1863. Since then several reforms were carried out in the school with a view to attracting intelligent young men to the profession. The medical officers, after three years of service in the hospital, had to sit for an examination. Successful candidates were awarded diplomas which authorised them to practise medicine in all the French establishments in India.⁹⁹

In 1890, the duration of the course was increased from three years to five and the qualification for admission was prescribed as *Brevet de Capacité* or *Diplôme de Grammaire*. The same year some posts of *Externes* and *Internes* were created.¹⁰⁰ Since then several changes designed to improve the standard

of medical education and also to attract the educated youth were introduced but 'the small number of students taken for the course, the inadequacy of the teaching equipment and the rather rudimentary nature of the hospital' seems to have hampered its progress.¹⁰¹ The *arrêté* of 12 September 1898 provided for the training of *sage-femmes* (midwives) besides *officiers de santé* and *vaccinateurs*.¹⁰² In an attempt to attract more students, the minimum qualification was reduced to *Brevet Élémentaire* or *Certificat de l'enseignement secondaire* (1903). In 1926, a dissection hall was established in the local hospital to improve the teaching of anatomy and surgery. The next year medical education was declared free while *Externes* and *Internes* were made eligible for salary. Four chairs, each headed by a Professor, were established.¹⁰³ A research laboratory was also set up.

The duration of the course was again reduced from five years to four in 1931. Even books were supplied free of cost to the students.¹⁰⁴ A separate cadre of *Médecin Local* was created so as to take in all those who passed out of the school. In spite of all these incentives, number of admissions was still very small. In 1934 and 1935 the school had only one student. In 1934, the school turned out two *Officiers de Santé* and in 1935 two *Médecins Locaux*. This was so because the candidates of *Médecins Locaux* were neither assured of a bright future nor professional advancement. The fact that members of *Médecin Local* were not allowed to practise medicine in France and that all those who passed out of the school could not be absorbed into the cadre had a dampening effect. Those few who ventured to have private practice had to face competition from quacks and practitioners of indigenous medicine.

The situation was sought to be remedied on the one hand by reducing the duration of the course here and enabling the students to complete their studies (for obtaining the degree of *Docteur en Médecine*) in France. But negotiations with the authorities in France in this regard did not succeed.¹⁰⁶ In the meanwhile the *Conseil Général* expressed its serious concern about the fate of *Ecole de Médecine* and wanted the government to take immediate action to improve the standard of medical education in the school by increasing the duration of the course from four years to five. As a consequence the duration of the course was once again increased from four to five years in 1937 and on completion of studies here, those who succeeded in obtaining scholarships for higher studies in France had to start afresh the first year course to get the French State Diploma of *Docteur en Médecine*.¹⁰⁷ The state of affairs of this school remained more or less the same even at the time of merger.

It was this **Ecole de Médecine** which was taken over and converted into a regular Medical College in November 1956 by the Government of India. It functioned temporarily from the premises of the old Tribunal building. (now the Legislative Assembly) and the old D.C. power house building. In 1958, an area measuring 65.6 Ha. of land was acquired in 'Gorimedu' about five kms. away from Pondicherry for the construction of the college and hospital buildings.

The college was recognised by the Medical Council of India in 1961 when the first batch of students passed out of the institution. The new college complex at Gorimedu, renamed as Dhanwantarinagar was inaugurated by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then President of India, on 13 July 1964. The same year the college was raised to the status of an Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research.

The hospital wing which started operating from 3 April 1966 was formally declared open on 24 April 1966. An additional area of 10 Ha. adjacent to the present campus was acquired later to provide for future expansion.

The Institute, affiliated to the University of Madras, offers instructions for the under-graduate M.B.B.S. course, Post-graduate degree or Master of Science in the Faculty of Medicine for non-medical science graduates in the subjects of Anatomy, Physiology, Bio-Chemistry, Pharmacology and Microbiology, Degree of Master of Surgery for medical graduates in the subjects of Anatomy, Surgery and E.N.T., Degree of Doctor of Medicine for medical graduates in the basic medical science subjects of Pathology, Microbiology, Physiology, Pharmacology and Bio-Chemistry and in the clinical subjects of Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Anaesthesiology and Dermatology. Diploma courses are available in Paediatrics (D.C.H.), Obstetrics and Gynaecology (D.G.O.), Pathology (D.C.P.), Ophthalmology (D.O.), Anaesthesiology (D.A.), E.N.T. (D.L.O.), Ortho-Surgery (D. Otho.) and Radiology (DMRD). Candidates also register for Ph.D. degree in many specialities under the guidance of senior professors. The number of admissions to the under-graduate course is limited annually to 65.

The Institute's expansion programme included the opening of several more departments viz. the Department of Neurology, Neuro-Surgery, Urology, Uro-Surgery, Paediatric Surgery and Endocrinology and Metabolism besides introducing post-graduate degree courses in such specialities as Thoracic Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery on the clinical side and on Community Medicine on the Institute side.

Research formed an integral part of the Institute's activities. The different departments of the Institute and hospital have undertaken several research schemes supported by I.C.M.R. Grants, P.L. 480 Funds and other agencies. Under a collaboration programme with the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada and JIPMER, experts from Canada in the field of Radiotherapy, Anaesthesiology, Pharmacology and Neurology visited JIPMER for periods ranging from three months to six. As part of the collaboration programme, the Canadian Crossroads International sponsored six medical students from the University of Western Ontario for training in JIPMER for a period of eight weeks each.

The buildings in the campus comprise the main four-storeyed institute building with its ancillaries, workshop and animal house, a four-storeyed hospital building, out-patient department, kitchen and store blocks, infectious diseases block, laundry block, a separate library building, three hostels for 556 men students and one hostel for 144 women students, a hostel for 130 nurses, a hostel to accommodate 50 house surgeons and 305 staff quarters of different types.

The main institute building is designed on the scale of a modern medical institution with four well furnished air-conditioned lecture galleries with audio-visual aides, a spacious anatomy dissection hall, separate post-mortem block, a set of eight laboratories with ancilliary rooms, four museum halls for different departments and Seminar rooms in each of the floors in addition to adequate accommodation for the different faculties.

The general lay-out with attractive lawns and avenues adorned by busts and statues of illustrious scientists adds a touch of charm and orderliness to the atmosphere in the campus. Replicas of important paintings from the pages of history of medicine are inspiringly displayed throughout the hospital and the institute. The campus is provided with all essential amenities for its residents with its own water supply and sanitary arrangements (See also Chapter XVI).

Teachers' Training Centres :

The earliest Teachers' Training Centre known as **Centre Pédagogique** was started in Pondicherry by the **arrêté** of 9 April 1884 which was closed down when the demand for trained teachers was met. Arrangements were subsequently made for the training of teachers only when there was demand for

teachers. After merger the first Teachers' Training Centre for training secondary grade teachers was started in Pondicherry in October 1955 when a short-term course was introduced to train teachers before posting them in schools. In order to meet the increased demand for trained teachers, consequent on the opening of as many as 300 additional classes during the III Plan, another Training Centre with an annual intake of 40 trainees was opened (1960) in Karaikal. The capacity of the T.T.C. in Pondicherry was doubled from 40 to 80. The Karaikal Teachers' Training Centre was closed down the next year only to reopen again in 1969. The Karaikal Centre then functioned for three years and was closed down once again thereafter. Since then the Teachers' Training Centre in Pondicherry alone is in operation. As on 8 July 1974, out of a total of 1,670 secondary grade teachers working in government schools in the Territory only nine were not duly qualified.¹⁰⁸

As there is no Teachers' Training College anywhere in the Territory, graduate teachers who pass out of the training colleges in Madras, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are recruited to fill up posts of teachers in the Territory. Untrained graduate assistants already employed in government schools are deputed to attend the Summer School-cum-Correspondence Courses for B.Ed. Degree conducted by the Regional College of Education, Mysore. It may be added that out of a total of 246 School Assistants (Grade I) as on 6 July 1974 only five were unqualified. The number of qualified and unqualified (Grade I) School Assistants was 49 and one respectively.¹⁰⁹

School of Nursing, Pondicherry :

Although prior to 1954 there was no separate institution in the Territory for the training of nurses, midwives and nursing orderlies, the *Ecole Médecine* trained candidates as *vaccinateurs* and *aide-médecins, sages-femmes* and *infirmiers-vaccinateurs*. Soon after merger, the administration met with some difficulty in securing the services of trained nurses to man its dispensaries and hospitals. In order to overcome this difficulty, it was decided to start a nursing school in Pondicherry. Although the Nurses' Training School was sanctioned in 1959 the courses could not be commenced immediately for want of qualified staff. However, subsequently with the assistance extended by the Tamil Nadu Government, the course with an intake of 20 students was started on 25 July 1960 within the premises of the General Hospital. The institution was affiliated to the Nursing Council, Madras. The building for the nurses' hostel sanctioned in 1960, was ready for occupation in 1971. During this period the student nurses were accommodated in rented buildings located in different parts of the town.

Vocational Agricultural School, Mathur :

Since 1964 young farmers in the Territory used to be given training on improved agricultural practices in the Experimental Research Farm at Pondicherry and in the State Seed Farms at Pondicherry and Karaikal.¹¹⁰ A Vocational Agricultural School was however started at Mathur village in Karaikal region on 1 July 1967. A farm is attached to this school. A one-year course of practical training in agricultural and allied subjects is provided for about 20 students every year. Each student is paid a stipend of Rs. 50 besides pocket money.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra-cum-Research Centre, Pondicherry :

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra-cum-Research Centre, which began operating on 25 March 1974 was formally inaugurated on 9 September 1974. Conceived as an Institution of training and research, the 80 Ha. Research Centre-cum-Farm proposed to be developed in Villiyannur Commune will form the base for its research and training activities. The management of this Kendra which is a constituent unit of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, vests in the Managing Committee headed by the Vice-Chancellor of that University. The Principal of the Kendra functions as its member-secretary.

In July 1974, the Kendra launched the first of its training programmes on water management for the Extension Officers and a Refresher Course of Intensive Rice Cultivation for the Agricultural Assistants and Village Level Workers. Besides this, a Pilot Research Testing-cum-Field Laboratory on Water Conveyance Systems and Canal Lining was also launched.

During the Fifth Plan period the Kendra proposed to carry out more than 45 farm-oriented, rural-based and production-oriented Research Projects in the Territory. The estimated outlay of Rs. 96 lakhs for the Kendra under the Fifth Plan is to be shared by the Pondicherry Administration, the ICAR and the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

Junior Technical School, Pondicherry :

Here it may be appropriate to trace briefly the history of technical education in the Territory. It was Desbassyns de Richemont who gave a start to technical education by providing an elementary and practical course for surveyors required by the **Service des Ponts et Chaussées**.¹¹¹ Training in industrial

arts and crafts like weaving and spinning was provided in the **Atelier de charité** which was organised to train the children of indigent Europeans and Topas.¹¹² In 1872 an attempt was made to establish a technical school under the administrative control of **Service des Ponts et Chaussées**. This proposal did not however materialise. In 1879 another effort was made to open a small technical school as an annexe to the P.W.D. Workshop. This too did not take shape for want of accommodation. In 1897, a technical wing was opened in **Collège Calvé**.¹¹³ The **Société Progressiste**, a voluntary organisation in Pondicherry, is reported to have provided some funds to **Collège Calvé** for starting the Technical Wing. The Unit functioned for sometime under the care of an old student of **Ecole des Arts et Métiers** in France. In 1897, the **Société** is said to have provided a further grant of Rs. 150 for its maintenance and subsequently a grant of Rs. 200 for the purchase of a drilling machine. The **arrêté** of 17 May 1899 constituted a committee to tender advice on all matters relating to the installations in the school, introduction of new technical courses and measures to streamline technical education keeping in view the requirements of local industries. Another **arrêté** of the same date also provided for the award of **Certificat d'aptitude professionnelle** to those passing out of the institution. But a regular school known as '**Ecole des Arts et Métiers de Pondichéry**' was actually founded only by the **arrêté** of 15 January 1907 which simultaneously abolished the industrial wing attached to **Collège Calvé**.¹¹⁴ The school was placed under the administrative control of **Service des Travaux Publics**. The institution provided training in such fields as blacksmithy, carpentry, wood carving, goldsmithy, fitting, turning, etc. Some more changes were brought about by the **arrêté** of 31 May 1918 and that of 28 September 1922 which continued to govern the administration of the school even at the time of merger.

In 1966 this school was upgraded into a Junior Technical School and affiliated to the Board of Technical Education and Training, Tamil Nadu. Facilities are now available for courses in turning, machine shop, electric wiring, welding, automobile and radio mechanism, fitting, moulding, pattern making and sheet metal works. The school has a sanctioned intake of 70 students per annum. Students are eligible for a stipend at the rate of Rs. 20 per month during the first two years of study and Rs. 30 during the third year of study.

Motilal Nehru Polytechnic, Pondicherry :

The first Polytechnic School in this Territory was started in the year 1961. Housed temporarily in the premises of the **Ecole des Arts et Métiers** in rue Bussy, it moved into its own building at Laspettai in 1966. To begin with, the polytechnic had a sanctioned strength of sixty seats and offered a diploma course in Civil Engineering. Courses in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering were introduced the very next year with an additional intake of 40 seats for each course, taking the total to 140 seats. The intake was however reduced to 120 in 1968. In 1970 a three-year diploma course in commercial practice with an intake of 30 seats was introduced. The next year i.e. in 1971 a three-year diploma course in Electronics was introduced with an intake of 15 students within the sanctioned intake of 120. The intake was subsequently increased to 140 in 1973 i.e. 90 seats for engineering courses and 50 for commerce. A hostel with facilities for 90 students was attached to the Polytechnic.

Pre-Vocational Training Centres :

The Pre-Vocational Training Centres came to be established in the Territory under a centrally sponsored scheme started with UNICEF assistance during the III Five Year Plan. To begin with, in 1964, two Pre-Vocational Centres were started, one in Pondicherry and another in Ariyankuppam. The next year i.e. in 1965, two more Pre-Vocational Training Centres were opened in Muttirapalayam and Villiyannur. Training in basic fitting and turning, smithy, carpentry, sheet metal work, moulding and gas-welding is imparted to those undergoing the course which is of three years duration. Trainees who are in the 6-11 age group are not only paid a stipend of Rs. 10 p.m. but are also supplied with books free of cost. The Pre-Vocational Centres placed under the care of Career Masters, are attached to the High Schools at Villiyannur, Ariyankuppam, Muttirapalayam and Tirunallar.

Industrial Training Institute, Tirumalarajanpattinam :

The Industrial Training Institute was started in Karaikal in August 1968 under the Craftsmen Training Scheme. Candidates in the 18-25 age group are selected for training as fitter, turner, machinist, wireman, welder and building constructor. In all 25 per cent of the seats are reserved for candidates hailing from scheduled castes/tribes and 5 per cent for repatriates from Burma and Sri Lanka, migrants from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and five seats for ex-servicemen.

Apart from the fact that no fee is charged for training in the institute, one-third of the candidates are offered stipend at the rate of Rs. 25 per mensem. Members of the scheduled castes/tribes and repatriates are eligible for stipend at the rate of Rs. 45 per mensem. In addition to these incentives, the trainees are provided free hostel accommodation, free medical care and free workshop clothing during the entire period of their training. The Institute which started functioning in the workshop sheds within the campus of the Rural Industrial Estate, Kottuchcheri, moved to its own premises later.

Schools for embroidery, needle work and dress-making :

In the matter of technical education, Karaikal and Pondicherry regions fall under the jurisdiction of the Board of Technical Education, Tamil Nadu. Pondicherry town alone is recognised as an examination centre and the examination is supervised by the Deputy Inspector of Schools.

St. Antony's Girls' Technical School : Started in 1947, this institution was recognised the next year by the Board of Technical Education, Madras. The institution coaches up students in embroidery, needle work and dress-making and presents them for the technical examination conducted by the Board of Technical Education, Tamil Nadu. The first batch of students appeared for the examination in 1952. The course is of two years duration, one year for the Lower Grade and another for the Higher Grade. According to the existing regulations, students with a minimum qualification of VIII standard alone are eligible for the course. This requirement is however waived in the case of S.S.L.C. holders who may appear straight for the Higher Grade examination after proper coaching. Apart from coaching up students for the above courses, the institution also provides training in wire-bag knitting, beads knitting and doll-making. These courses however do not qualify for recognition.

Sacred Heart of Jesus' Middle School, South Boulevard, Pondicherry : This institution also gives training in embroidery, needle work and dress-making. On account of its proximity to the muslim quarters, a good number of the students in this institution are from the muslim community.

Commercial Institutes :

Several institutions have sprung up in the Territory to coach up candidates in technical fields such as shorthand and typewriting in English, Tamil and French and present them for the Government Technical Examinations conducted

by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Some of the institutions also provide facilities for the study of such subjects as Book-keeping, Accountancy, Commercial practices and translation.

The following are the Commercial Institutes functioning in the Territory :

1. St. Mary's Commercial Institute, Pondicherry.
2. The Typewriting Bureau, Pondicherry (1916)
3. The Commercial Institute, Pondicherry.
4. Saraswathi Technical Institute, Karaikal (8 November 1972).
5. The School of Commerce, Karaikal (17 January 1962).
6. Progressive Commercial Institute, Karaikal (1 May 1970)
7. Sree Balan's Institute of Commerce, Mahe (15 March 1962)
8. Sreejeth Technical Institute, Pandakkal (2 January 1975)
9. Sri Venkateswara Type Institute, Yanam (1960)
10. Sri Ramalingeswara Type Institute, Yanam (1968)

The institutes in Pondicherry and Karaikal function with the approval of the Board of Technical Education, Tamil Nadu. The institutes in Mahe and Yanam are under the control of the Board of Technical Education of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh respectively. The Progressive Commercial Institute used to coach up students for the Drawing Examination conducted by the Government Arts School, Kumbakonam. While Pondicherry is recognised as an Examination Centre for holding the examination, students in Karaikal go to Nagappattinam. The candidates from Mahe and Yanam go to Tellicherry and Ramachandrapuram respectively.

V. Schools for Fine Arts

Pondicherry Fine Arts Academy :

The Pondicherry Fine Arts Academy was started through the initiative of some private individuals some time in September 1970 as a registered body. To begin with, the Academy confined itself to arranging cultural programmes for the benefit of its members. The Academy opened a music school on 17 October 1972 where vocal and instrumental music was taught. Facilities exist for teaching veena, violin and mridangam and gadam. The Academy received some financial assistance from the Sangeetha Nataka Sangham for running the music school. According to the memorandum of association, the administration of the Academy is carried on by a body of elected office-bearers.