

4. MATRICULATION SCHOOLS

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

- Nelson Mandela

4.1 Introduction

Matriculation Schools are self-financing institutions. Initially Matriculation schools were under the control of the Universities of Madras and Madurai. With a separate identity of their own, Matriculation Schools while being affiliated to these two universities were allowed financial as well as functional autonomy. They were brought under the control of Directorate of School Education in the year 1978 for administrative convenience. The number of schools functioning at that time was about 20 only. These schools are governed by the Code of Regulations for Matriculation Schools, 1978. The number of Matriculation Schools increased year by year. Hence, a separate Directorate of Matriculation Schools was formed in the year 2001 for the effective monitoring of Matriculation Schools. At

present there are 4268 Matriculation schools providing education to 39,18,221 children.

4.2 Vision

The Government ensures quality education by monitoring the appointment of fully qualified teachers and provision of good infrastructure in Matriculation schools. It is ensured that the implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE, 2009) and the Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011 in letter and spirit.

4.3 Objectives

To ensure quality education in Matriculation Schools the Directorate functions with the following objectives:

- To ensure appointment of fully qualified teachers
- To ensure good infrastructure facilities in schools for the safety of children

- To ensure effective teaching learning process in a conducive and pleasant atmosphere for joyful learning
- To ensure the implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation for all round development and skill development activities of children
- To grant permission to open new Matriculation Schools and to upgrade Matriculation Schools into Matriculation Higher Secondary Schools.
- To act as State Chief Nodal Officer for the implementation of the RTE, 2009 and the Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011.

4.4 Special Initiatives for Quality Education

4.4.1 Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation

A pathbreaking evaluation procedure called Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) was formulated for classes 1 to 8 in 2012-2013 and

it was extended to class 9 in the year 2013-2014. Matriculation schools are following the CCE pattern to ensure the holistic development of students in scholastic and co-scholastic areas.

4.4.2 Trimester Pattern

In order to reach the goal of quality education and reduce overload of books, a new Trimester Pattern was introduced. All the Matriculation Schools are following the Trimester Pattern to promote meaningful learning of concepts by the students studying in classes 1 to 9.

4.4.3 Library Facility

The State Government is giving much emphasis to ensure that libraries are functioning in all Matriculation and Matriculation Higher Secondary schools. A school library should have wide range of books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, documents, CDs, e-books and other reference books. Library provides physical access to subject related materials and develops the reading habits of children. The

Inspecting Officers ensure minimum 1500 books and 3000 books in Matriculation and Matriculation Higher Secondary Schools respectively through periodical visits and inspections.

4.4.4 Toilet and Drinking water facilities

The State Government has given instructions to provide sufficient number of clean Toilets, drinking water facilities in schools proportionate to the strength of the students. It is ensured that the above facilities are available in all schools.

4.4.5 Issue of Cost Free Bus Pass

The cost free bus passes are being issued to school going students. This provision has been extended to the students studying in Matriculation schools also with a view to come to school without any difficulty. During the year 2016-2017, 3,23,584 students have availed this facility.

4.4.6 Safety of Students during transportation to Schools

The Government has taken steps to ensure safety of school children and have framed 'Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles (Regulation and Control of School Buses) Special Rules, 2012'. To ensure accident free driving of school vehicles, trainings have been imparted at the district level to the drivers and assistants with the help of Transport department officials. Training was given to 23,358 drivers for safety driving and assistants for personal care of children.

4.5 Administrative Responsibilities

4.5.1 Permission to open new schools and upgrade existing schools.

Permission is granted to open new Matriculation Schools and upgrade existing Matriculation Schools into Matriculation Higher Secondary Schools which fulfill the norms and standards fixed by the Government. Permission was granted to open 94 new Matriculation Schools and to

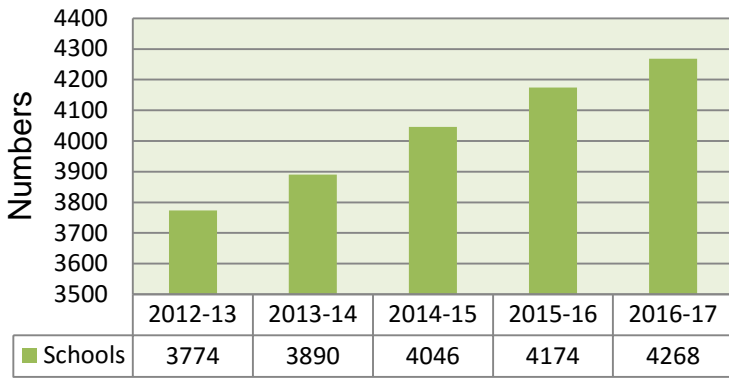
upgrade 100 Matriculation Schools into Matriculation Higher Secondary Schools during 2016-2017.

4.5.2 Recognition

Initial recognition is being granted to schools which were accorded opening permission and continuance of recognition is also being granted for every three years ensuring the compliance of stipulated norms and standard.

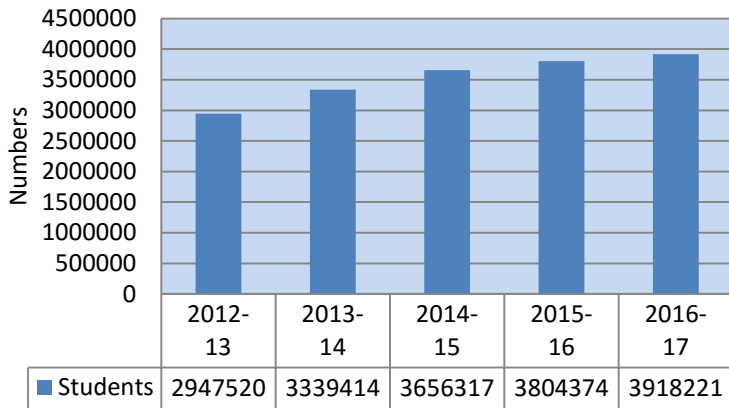
The number of Matriculation/ Matriculation Higher Secondary Schools under the Directorate and number of students enrolled in these schools in the last five years are as follows:

Schools



Year

Students



Year

4.5.3 Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009

RTE, 2009 is implemented in the State of Tamil Nadu in letter and spirit. The Government of Tamil Nadu framed the Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011.

Specifically mentioning about section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009, Government Order was issued with clear guidelines for effective implementation of 25% reservation for children belonging to disadvantaged group and weaker section in all private non-minority self-financing schools. The following number of children have been admitted under this category from the year 2013-2014.

Year	25% of intake capacity	No. of children admitted	Percentage
2013-2014	1,07,157	49,864	46.5
2014-2015	1,16,004	86,729	74.7
2015-2016	1,17,232	94,811	80.6
2016-2017	1,19,043	97,506	81.9

Consequent upon the special efforts taken by the Government, the number has substantially increased year by year.

The Central and the State Government have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for carrying out the provisions of the Act. The State has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 221.99 crore towards the reimbursement of the fee for the children admitted during academic years 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 for the welfare of the children belonging to the disadvantaged group and weaker section.

4.5.4 Application through online

Government has issued additional guidelines to implement the RTE, 2009 in letter and spirit and to see that the provision of 25% reservation availed by deserving children belonging to the weaker sections and disadvantaged groups. To make the admission process transparent, Government has ordered online admission process from the academic year 2017-2018.

4.5.5 Private Schools Fee Determination Committee

The Government of Tamil Nadu enacted the Tamil Nadu Schools (Regulation of Collection of Fee) Act, 2009 to regulate the collection of fee in private self finance schools. A Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of a Retired Hon'ble High Court Judge. The Committee fixes fee for the private self-financing schools. The Committee is also enquiring into the complaints received against private self-finance schools regarding collection of excess fee and issue appropriate orders.

4.6. Budget

An amount of Rs. 8.10 crores has been allotted to this Directorate for the financial year 2017-2018.

4.7. Conclusion

Under the able guidance of the Government, the Directorate monitors the effective functioning of Matriculation Schools, ensures protected learning environment, and all round development of children.