

E. & P. H. (1949) Department.

SERIES.

G.O. NO. RS. 2615. E. & P. H.

closed.

Dated

17-8-1948

Supdt.

14

[Despatch Abstract.]

Schools - Special - Victory Memorial
School for the Blind, Panamalle -
Annual report for the year 1948-49
Papers Recoded.

5. Considering the vast number of the blind population in the Presidency viz., 100,000 and of 15,000 children of school-going age, the number sought admission was small.

6. PROGRESS
Education imparted in this school is of the Elementary Standard, same as in the schools for the sighted children, only the methods being different. A keen desire for higher study was perceptible in the most of the students and it could be arranged for.

7. The Uniform Indian Braille was introduced during the year under report because it was ordered by the Director of Public Instruction. It differed from the adaptation used in the school, and the old students found the new adaptation confusing. An adaptation based on the International system removes so many difficulties necessitated by the new adaptation. International Uniformity which is easily and certainly possible is a most helpful necessity to vouchsafe educational progress of the blind.

8. The Principal had a number of conferences with the teachers, both individual and collective, in order to give them educational guidance and techniques of Braille. A systematic study of these things as applied to the teaching and managing the blind was found to be a want, but regular classes could not be held.

9. With the intelligent assistances of the music teacher, the Principal prepared the ^{Karnatic} musicography in Braille, and Professor P. Sambamurthi, Head of the Department of Music, University of Madras very kindly perfected the arrangements.

10. The great and earnest demand for music was supplied during the year with the appointment of a music teacher but it is physically impossible for one teacher to teach music to all that wanted to learn it. With greater attention paid, Music would turn out to be both an art and a trade.

11. When they completed the V standard, the pupils were transferred to Industrial Section as "Trainees" to learn a trade- Weaving or Cane work. When once they left the Education class, There was no systematic means to prevent them from lapsing into illiteracy, consequent on their devoting all their time for learning and practising the trade. Nor could there be a suitable arrangement for it outside school hours. There were 52 in this class.

12. Such of those that picked up sufficient skill and experience in the trade were transferred to the workshop class where they were given intensive training to enable them to work without guidance. This class required some improvement. The strength of the workshop class continued to be 21.

13. Convention of this school is ~~that~~ "Cane work" for boys and "Weaving Work" for girls. The scope of the Industrial Section was thus limited two trades, and requires to be enlarged by the addition of Sewing and Knitting.

14. Our main and regular customers were

1. M & S.M. Railway, Perambur.
2. The Government House, Guindy.
3. Victoria Technical Institute, Madras.
4. F.I.N.S. Womens' Workshop, Madras.

15. The following articles ^{are} generally manufactured in this school.

Moven Articles.

1. Sarees (colour) in 6, 7 and 8 yards.
2. -do- (white) -do-
3. Face towels (colour)
4. Face towels (white) in different sizes.
5. Bath towels.
6. Colour bedsheets (with designs)
7. Colour bedsheets (Blue plain)
8. Table cloths (white, red and blue)
9. Matty towels. (small size)
10. Duster cloths (red and blue)
11. Photies (Panchas) 2 yards and 3 yards.
12. Swabs.
13. Net twill white and blue.
14. White shirting in different lengths.
15. White bedsheets & etc., etc.,

A

16.

Rattan Articles.

1. Rattan Tables.
2. Cane Morahs very useful for owner-drivers.
3. Boat Club Chairs.
4. Waste paper baskets.
5. Rattan plates (Thattus)
6. Railway Duster basket.
7. Cradle.
8. Tiffin baskets.
9. Cane stools.
10. Picnic Chairs with belts.
11. Lounge Chairs.
12. Mysore type chairs.
13. Sofas.
14. Spencer Harp Chairs.
15. Cud Backs.
16. Cane rings.
17. Flower baskets.
18. Cane correspondence trays. & etc., etc., etc.,.

17.

The stock of manufactured articles on 31-3-48 was valued at about 4,000/- ; it is trusted that they would find sale ere long. Workmanship was considered to be good and the cost reasonable.

STAFF

18.

The Government of Madras was pleased to appoint Sri P.N.Venkata Rau, Specialist in the Department Education of the Blind and the Deaf and former head of the Government Central Institute for the Blind and the Deaf, Mysore as officiating Principal of the school in the M.E.S. Grade.

19.

The other staff sanctioned by the Government were :-

- 3 Secondary Grade Teachers.
- 2 Higher Grade Teachers.
- 3 Industrial Teachers.
- 1 Music Teacher.
- 2 Physical Training teachers.
- 2 Peons and One clerk.

20.

These were brought on Government scales of pay. The sanction of another music teacher is under correspondence.

21.

As a result of converting two of the four higher grade posts into the Secondary Grade, the services of two higher grade teachers viz., Mrs. Esther Solomon and Miss Glory Murugesan had to be dispensed with. Sri R. Bhagavathi

P.T.O.

GOVERNMENT VICTORY MEMORIAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND
POONAMALLEE CHINGLEPUT DT

A BRIEF REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE GOVERNMENT
VICTORY MEMORIAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, POONAMALLEE FOR THE YEAR
ENDING WITH 31st March, 1948.

The school was being administered by the
Board of Governors of the Madras Association for the Blind,
Madras till 3-7-1948 from which date the administration was
assumed by the Director of Public Instruction on behalf of
the Government of Madras as per G.O.No.Ms.1672, Education dated
30th June 1948, as agents of the Association, pending further
formalities for ^{final} complete transfer. *Completion of.*

2. The year 1948-49 began with 100 pupils,
comprised of 13 boys and 16 girls in the Educational Section
and of 42 male adults and 24 female adults in the Industrial
Section. During the year under report there were 23 admissions
and 6 withdrawals, the year closing with 117, i.e., 17 more than
the previous year.

3. They were distributed as follows:-

Education:-	23 Boys and 16 Girls.	44
Industrial:-	42 boys and 25 girls.	73
Total	1- 70/males and 41 females	117

The average attendance during the year was

115

4.

Of 117, 3 were from outside Madras and 5
outside India as could be seen hereunder.

Chingleput	36	West Godavari.	1
Coimbatore.	13	Tanjore	3
Hellore.	1	Niligiris.	1
Salen.	6	Mangalore.	1
Malabar.	4	Madras city.	13
Madura.	2	Bangalore.	2
Tiruchi.	7	Meerut.	1
North Arcot.	7	Pondichery.	1
Tinnevely.	14	Colombo.	1
Malaya.	2	China.	1

P.T.O.

6.
30. Students' Meetings were addressed by

1. Dr. K. Manjunatha Rai, F.R.C.S., etc.,
2. Srimathi M.V. Nagarathnamma, *former Teacher of Blind & Deaf*
3. Dr. Milton T. Stauffer
4. Dr. Ramaswamy, Health Officer.

31. The Students Association regularly met ;
The Independence Day Eve, the Flag Hoisting Ceremony and the
Telugu New Years' Day were celebrated and the inmates greatly
enjoyed the proceedings.

CONDOLENCE MEETINGS.

32. Condolence meetings were held on the demise
of Dewan Bahadur Sir Gopathi Narayanaswamy Chettiar, Kt., C.I.E.,
President of the Madras Association for the Blind as well as on
the demise of Her Excellency Sarojini Naidu, Governor of United
Province. The first anniversary of Mahatmaji's Death was also
celebrated.

VISITS.

33. The school was a regular attraction and every
man and woman who passed through Poonamallee spent some time in
the school. Distinguished visitors were:-

1. Sir Gopati Narayanaswamy Chettiar.
2. Sri V.R. Ranganathan, Deputy Director of Public Instruction.
3. Sri N.S. Subramanya Iyer, Personal Assistant to Director
of Public Instruction, Madras.
4. Dr. K. Manjunatha Rai.
5. Mrs. L. Rai.
6. Sri D. Sadasiva Reddi (thrice) Director of Public Instruc-
tion, Madras.
7. Professor Humayun Kabir, Joint Educational Adviser
to the Government of India, New Delhi.
8. Dr. Day, former Director of Public Instruction.
9. Sri K. Ramaraja Sower.
10. Sri P.M. Advani, Ex-Principal, School for the Blind, Karachi.
11. Sri Govindaswamy, M.L.A.,
12. Dr. Milton T. Stauffer with Mrs. Stauffer.
13. Sri V.B. Moorthy and Sri C.D. Iyengar, Honorary Secretary
and Editor respectively of the South Indian Teacher's
Union.
14. Dr. Chitnis, Welfare Officer of the Council of Blindness,
Bombay.
15. Sri T.S. Ramchandran, I.C.S., A Life Member

34. Educational visits were paid by the following
school students with their teachers.

1. Secondary Grade Trainees of the St. Christopher's College
Madras.
2. M.Ed. Trainees of the Weston College, Madras.
3. Nurses Under training from Vellore.
4. Health Inspectors under training.

5.) The untrained teachers should be replaced by trained women teachers. It will be glad if the staff is manned by Secondary grade trained women teachers if available. The post of the Physical training Instructress sanctioned by the Government may be filled in at an early date. At present there is no physical training instructress for the school. There is need for telugu teachers for the school. The strength of the school is 40 distributed as follows:-I-20; II-5; III-5 IV-5 and V-4.

(6) The following classes are combined. IV & V. II and II and this combination is not educationally sound.

(7) Standard I has 20 pupils. It need not contain more than 10 children on its rolls, so that individual attention may be paid to the class.

(8) One of the remarkable things about the school is that most of the inmates of the hostel have been here for a long time under the belief that they are permanent charge until their demise and this attitude has prevented the admission of fresh blind applicants. This wrong notion should go.

(9) The efforts should be made to get more blind pupils into the school as early as possible.

1) The following are the needs of the school:-

(i) Appointment of only secondary grade teachers for the school preferably women.

(ii) Appointment of a Music teacher for the male section.

(iii) Appointment of a Physical Training Instructress for the school.

(iv) Purchase of carpets, and musical instruments as well as Physical Training equipment.

(v) Purchase of benches and chairs.

(vi) Class rooms and two other rooms for music.

(vii) Provision of an additional teacher.

(viii) Repairs to the Residential buildings which are in a bad state.

(ix) Separation of adults from the young section.

I hope the school will have all facilities for efficient work so that the school might serve as a central institution for training the teachers and the pupils.

HOSTEL

39. The Hostel attached to the school had the same strength as of the school, since there were no day-students, viz., 117. But the total months every month fees were 128 including the matron and the cooks.

40. It was an easy time throughout the year except for usual complaints and they were attended to by both the Government Doctor and Dr. N. A. Menon, the school physician. In February 1943 chicken pox broke out, and one after another was attacked. Very mild cases were segregated in one of the buildings at a distance and treated by the local doctors.

9. 8 5
while 5 serious cases were despatched to Corporation Isolation Hospital. All of them returned safe. In the meanwhile all the students and the staff were got inoculated.

41. ^{40.} With the kind permission of Dr. T. E. S. Muthayya a batch of 18 students whose eye-sight showed signs of improvement ^{who} were escorted to the Eye-Hospital, Egmore, ~~every week~~. Three were retained, two of them ran back to the Hostel unwilling to stay there or afraid of an operation. The one whose eye was operated is reported to be progressing satisfactorily.

42. One inmate who was suspected to have been suffering from a kind of heart disease, was sent home where she quietly passed away. She was the second blind in the family to succumb like that.

43. For want of a suitable place, much difficulty was being felt for serving the meal. Absence of electric lights is a great handicap at nights. The dormitory has two separate apartments: one for males and another for females. The segregation of the youngsters from the adults was found to be a need for obvious reasons.

44. ~~Manifester:~~
FEASTS.
44. The following feasts were given in the Hostel

1. Vinayaka Chaturthi.
2. Deepavali.
3. Christmas Day.
4. New Year's Day.
5. Pongal.
6. Telugu New Year's Day.

45. Shri/ah Gandhi Lal was the host at "Poo" and Mr. L. P. A. Abdul Sahiman Sahab of Poonthalloor distributed sweets during Pongal while Sri D. J. A. Sarwala, merchant, Madras distributed fruits.

46. ^{one} Two special dinners were given by Dr. K. Manjunatha Lal and the other by Sri Gopathi Manakiram Chettiar. Monetary contributions were received from

47. The Guild of Service, Madras.
Sri. Parvathi Devi Krishnamurthy,
P.T.O.

Central Christmas Charity Committee;
Sweedish Mission Hospital;
Miss E. James and
Messrs Parry & Company.

As desired by the donors (the Sunday school children of C.S.M. Rajagopal Mint school) two steel trunks were presented to two girls.

48.

BUILDINGS.
No body could be both richer and poorer than this school so far as accommodation was concerned. An imposing appearance of the school building, nearly quarters for both the Principal and the staff and a number of spare buildings, afford abundant accommodation. Each one of them does require modification to be more useful and helpful for the purpose to which they are put.

49.

The saddest factor relating to the buildings is that the condition of all excepting the school building and the Principal's quarters (they too need repairs) is so deteriorated that any further delay in doing effective repairs would entail a heavy loss of property and is likely to hinder the expansion and progress of this school.

50.

The clerical work was found to be exceedingly heavy for one clerk, and the Principal had to do some of it lest the work should fall into arrears.

51.

The full complement of staff could not be secured. Since the co-operation of the existing staff was not lacking, the work of the school was on the whole satisfactory, though it fell short of the expectations of the Principal.

52.

Finance
The total expenditure on running the school and the Hostel attached to it during the year under report was Rs 53,809-13-11 while the receipts amounted to Rs 11,003-12-6. Of the deficit the Association paid Rs 11,498-5-4 the Government having met the balance of Rs 31,307-12-1.

53.

URGENT NEEDS.
Propaganda to educate people to send their young blind children to school.

P.T.O.

11.

(2) Special Training for the teachers.

(3) Repairs and improvements to the buildings.

(4) Purchase of furniture and equipments.

(5) Separation of the school and the workshop.

This would be the nucleus of an after
care institution which in turn fits them to society and to the
amenities of life.

To. Mr. V. V. Rao
14/5

DATED:- 4 April, 1949.

PRINCIPAL
GOVT. VICTORY MEMORIAL BLIND
SCHOOL POONAMALLEE

C.F. 32 (a).

Education Department

Received Registered

From (Name)

To

Designation The Director of Public
Instruction,
Station Madras.

The Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Dept.
Madras.

Enclosures: Roc. No. 1746-K4/48 dated 36-5-1949.

Sir, Sub:- Govt. Victory Memorial School for the Blind -
Poonamallee - Annual Report for 1948-49.



I submit herewith for the information of
Government a copy of the Annual Report for 1948-49 of
the Govt. Victory Memorial School for the Blind, Poonamallee.

Yours faithfully,

For Director of Public Instruction.

MS 28/5

28/5
28/5

13 11
2+11 (13.1)

W
32
11/6
School. Special. Victory Memorial School for the
Blind - Poona - Annual report for 1948-9

From the D.D. C.O. 1746 K.4/48 330.5.49

10/6/49
Memo. No. 41756 B, /49-1 Edn d/10.6.49.

The D.D. is requested to report how
many pupils can be accommodated in the
existing buildings of the Victory Memorial
School for the Blind without extension and
whether enrolment of pupils is made to the
maximum capacity

In para 49 of the report, the Principal
of the Victory Memorial School for the Blind has
pointed out the necessity for carrying out

14
repairs to the existing school buildings & quarters.

~~The DP is requested to carry out the repairs and to~~
~~control the necessary repairs carried out.~~ The Director
is requested to call for an estimate of cost of carrying
out the repairs which are immediately necessary and
obtain the requisite sanction for carrying out these repairs.

3. The Director is also requested to report in
what stage the question of effecting a legally valid
transfer of the assets of the school to Govt stands
at present and whether any recovery has so far
been effected in respect of the expenditure incurred
from Provincial funds on the maintenance of the school

HR
9-6-49

10/10/49

HR
10/10/49
To be done

15
Education Department.

From

The Director of Public Instruction,
Madras.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department,
Madras.



13
12
Rec.No.1746 K4/48 dated 1-8-1949.

Sub: School - Special - Government Victory Memorial
School for the Blind, Poonamallee.
Annual report for 1948-49.

Ref: Government Memo No.41756-B1-49-1 Edn., dated
10-6-1949.

59166
HR

p 13 ante

With reference to para 1 of the Government
Memorandum cited above, I have the honour to state that
50 more pupils can be admitted without extension to the
buildings.

p 14 ante

2. The Principal has addressed the Executive
Engineer, Chingleput Division for an estimate for the repairs
to the building and the same will be submitted on receipt
for favour of necessary sanction.

p 14 ante

3. In regard to the transfer of the assets
of the school and recovery of the net expenditure due to
Government the Principal, Victory Memorial School for the Blind,
Poonamallee, stated that the Board of convenors of the Associa-
tion has passed a resolution to the effect that the amount
due to Government would be paid by selling some of its
securities since it has no fluid cash. The amount to be
recovered will be fixed as soon as the audit of the
accounts of the school for the period prior to 3-7-1948
is completed and the teaching grant due to the institution
is assessed.

The question of effecting a legally valid
transfer of the assets of the school has not yet been
decided. It is reported that the Court is appointing
shortly a Commissioner to elect a Board of Governors
for the present year, and that Board has to call a General
Body Meeting and ask for its approval or otherwise.

Yours faithfully,

R. S. Hanumanth

for Director of Public Instruction.

KHR.2-8.

HR
10/10/49

R.O.C.NO.1746-K.4/48



Office of the
Director of Public Instruction,
Madras, Dated 11-8-1949.

From The Director of Public Instruction,
Madras.

To The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department.

Sir,
Subject: School - Special - Government Victory Memorial
School for the Blind, Poonamalle - Annual report
for 1948-49

62251
5/11/49
put up in main file
Submitted Separately

R e f: 1. Government Memo.No.41756-B.1/49-1 Edn dated
10-6-49.
2. This office letter ROC.No.1746-K.4/48 dated
1-8-1949. ---

In main file

In continuation of para 3 of this office letter cited
above, I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the
letter of the Principal, Govt. Victory Memorial School for the
Blind, Poonamalle, No.A.103/632/49 dated 3-8-1949 regarding the
legal transfer of the building of the school.

Yours faithfully,

E. Sankaran 12/8
for Director of Public Instruction.

X 12/8
RVR 12/8/-

Copy of letter No.A.103/632/49 dated 3-8-1949 of the
Principal, Govt. Victory Memorial School for the Blind, Poona-
malle.

With reference to last para of my letter, I have to
submit that, because, perhaps, of our lawyer's services are
not available (as Sri W.S.Krishnaswamy Naidu has been
appointed a Judge of the High Court) Dr. Samuel withdrew
his assent to the Court's appointing a Commissioner to conduct
an Annual General Body Meeting of the Association and to
elect a fresh Board of Governors. So, the suit will have a
regular trial hereafter. As it is one of 1948, it is not
known how long it will be dragged on.

(True Copy)

E. Sankaran 12/8
for Director of Public Instruction.

* Submitted Separately
on 12/8/49
X 12/8

May be added to the main file after perusal.

E & P. H. (B.)

C. No 41756 B1/49.

Schools - Special - The Victory Memorial School for the Blind, Poonamalle - Annual Report for the year 1948-49.

From the D.P.G. Rec. No. 1746 K4/48 d/30.5.49.

The Director of Public Instruction has forwarded a copy of the annual report for 1948-49 of the Victory Memorial School for the Blind, Poonamalle. The remarks of the distinguished visitors ^{are} ~~extracted~~ at p 7 of and the annual inspection report of the D.E.O at pp 7-8 of.

2. The annual report calls for no ~~other~~ ^{further} remarks.

The papers may be recorded after perusal by

Sr. O. No. 1672 Edn
30.6.48

H.M. (Edn). The school is now managed by Govt on behalf of the Board of Governors and it has ^{set} ~~become~~ a regular Govt institution.

1682
3.6.49

Have we received any proposals in respect of the urgent needs mentioned at pages 10 and 11 of the report?

While there may be justification for increasing the enrolment of the school in view of the blind population of the province, the question is whether this should be encouraged without proper provision for buildings and staff. Is it known in office how many can be accommodated in the existing building without extension?

submitted that no proposals have been received.

2. There is no information as to how many can be accommodated in the existing buildings.

with out extension. The Director will have to be consulted. The question of extension can be considered only after the assets of the school are legally conveyed to govt and the institution becomes a regular govt institution. In the meantime, the D.P.D. may be asked to have the necessary repairs carried out. / B

WOK
8-6-49

Address Director on A + B

18/8

A draft memo is submitted below for approval.

WOK
8-6-49

[Memo No. 41756 B/49-1 Edn. d/10-6-49]
C.No. 59166 From the D.P.G. Roc. No. 1746 K4/48 d/1-8-49.

H 13-14 cf.
p 15 of

The D.P.D. has reported that fifty additional students can be accommodated in the school without any further extension of the existing building. He may perhaps be requested to take steps in consultation with the Principal of the Victory Memorial School for the Blind Poonamalle, to give publicity to the school so that it may attract more students at least from the next school year.

p 15 of

2. The estimate for the repairs to the buildings of the school may be awaited. The proposal may be considered as a Part II scheme for 1950-51. No further action seems called for on the administrative report of the school at p 10-11 of.

p 15 of



The report may be recorded after perusal

and by H.M. (E.T.) as suggested overleaf.

WOK
4-8-49

WOK
4-8-49

The papers may now be

Order No
Ms

2615

Edn. dated 17-8-49

"RECORDED"

Sub:-

Schools - Special - Victory Memorial

School for the Blind, Poonamalle -

Annual report for the year 1948-49 -

Papers recorded.

WOK
27/8

17

16

17.8

3.12

1.12

1.12

1.12

1.12

1.12

1.12