ROLE OF STATE GOVERNMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr.B.Yasodha Jagadeeswari
Assistant Professor, PG & Research Dept. of Economics, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli.

Abstract
The Education especially Higher Education builds capacity in our people. It enables people not merely to subsist, but also provides the basis for a high quality of life. This is the aim of the modern Human Resources Development Index based approach of rating nations. It is an important underpinning of the Millennium Development Goals. The vision of the Government of Tamil Nadu in the realm of Higher Education is to make institutions of higher education emerge as centres of innovation, excellence and development. The major focus is on Quality. The mission is to provide world class quality education, while opening the portals of higher education to students from rural and backward areas and marginalized families. The aim is to develop, recognize and enhance talent and skills in our youth, to equip and enable them to meet the emerging challenges and demands of the century. The emphasis is also on inclusion in higher education.

To uplift the socio-economic status of the people belonging to a specific area, unemployed youth and under employed people are given exposure/training through science & technology inputs. Innovative technologies brought out by academic and research institutions are disseminated through training programs and workshops. The Mission Statement of the state Government is to promote Human Resources Development through self-actualized Institutions, producing high quality ethical professionals in sufficient number to make this State and Country prosperous and to make Tamil Nadu a global hub for University Education.

The Indian higher education system is presently facing several challenges. The challenge of global competitiveness has been added to other demanding tasks such as access, equity, relevance, quality, privatization and internationalization in the face of a resource crunch. This article gives an overview of The Department of Higher Education in Tamil Nadu. An attempt has also been made to discuss in detail about the powers and duties of the officers and employees in the department and the types of students welfare schemes which are available for them. This article explain about the various measures and schemes implemented by the Government in to provide the high quality of education in the Higher Education Sectors.

Keywords:Higher Education, Human Resource, Rural Youth Development, Employment, etc.,

INTRODUCTION

> *Learning is wealth none could destroy*
> *Nothing else gives genuine joy.*
> *Wealth of wealth is listening's wealth*
> *It is the best of wealth on earth.*
>
>   -   **THIRUKKURAL**

A sound higher education sector plays an important role in economic growth and development of a nation. Higher education, in terms of its relevance and importance, enjoys a significant position in the education system as it equips people with appropriate knowledge and skills to be gainfully employed. The general education mainly consists of higher education courses in arts, commerce and science, the technical education on the other hand comprises of programmes of education, research and training in engineering technology, architecture, town planning, management, pharmacy and applied arts and crafts. Professional education includes courses in medical education, law and other specialized fields.

State government's higher education system is one of the largest systems of this kind in the country and is also the

fastest growing sector in the state. With the increasing demand for quality higher education in the state it has become imminent that a consistent plan is laid for the growth and enhancement of quality higher education in the state of Tamil Nadu. The State today is a preferred destination for learning, as it has adequate educational institutions, efficient and committed teachers, strong education policy of the government, and infrastructural facilitates for professional education.

Over the last few years, the scenario of Higher Education in the state has witnessed manifold increase in the educational activities. "Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)" initiative by the central government the state governments to extend their support and help in addressing these issues at the state level simultaneously.The higher education system in Tamil Nadu has fared better over the years in comparison to overall higher education system. For instance, Tami Nadu has the highest number of universities in the country while Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka rank third and fifth, respectively in terms of number of universities in India. Further, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of all states in southern region is better than the national average.

Government of Tamil Nadu is to attain pre-eminence in Higher education along with other sectors and unequivocally establish Tamil Nadu as the numero uno state in India. The State Government has taken all possible measures to augment the much required and treasured human resources. The State Government spreads the light of knowledge among the youth who are the pillars of this Great Nation. The State Government envisages quality education for all, Research, Training, Developing infrastructure facilities, skill Development, Increasing Employment opportunities and training plans for entrepreneurship initiatives in the Higher Education arena.

The Higher Education Department in Tamilnadu
The Higher Education Department of State Government accordingly takes appropriate measures to provide world class higher education at affordable costs to each and every learner and ensures that a dedicated band of competent work force is created in the process. In order to prepare the youth to ably face the demands and challenges of this century the department focuses on accessibility, inclusivity and excellence in higher education. Striving to meet the noble aim of The State Government the Higher education department has been creating robust opportunities for providing world class Higher education to the rural youth as well as to the socially and economically disadvantaged. The youth are thus sufficiently prepared to face the competition in the national and multinational employment markets with confidence.

The Higher Education Department is headed by the Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu. The Secretary to Government is the administrative head of this Department and principal adviser to the Government on all matters of policy and administration relating to Higher Education. He is assisted by a Special Secretary, two Deputy Secretaries and five Under Secretaries.

Each programme implemented by department has an in built monitoring mechanism. Periodical meetings are conducted by Secretary and Special Secretary of the department to review the progress of the implementation of the Scheme. Sanction of amount for the schemes are done in consultation with the advisory department and the Finance Department and monitoring of the scheme is made regularly and depending on the necessity. Higher Officials from the Government are deputed for verification/inspection of the schemes implemented by the Heads of Departments, whenever considered necessary.

In tune with the changing needs of the society and the student community at large, the nature of duties and functions of this Department, in the field of Higher Education may undergo slight changes with regard to the types/numbers of schemes/programmes taken up for consideration/approval prior to their implementation by the Head of Departments. These details are incorporated in the "POLICY NOTE" of the Department prepared and placed before the Legislature every year, seeking budget provision of funds to meet out the expenditure involved.

Boards, Council, Committees and other Bodies
The following paragraph would give the detailed expiation of the total number of staff in various departments and the allocation of funds for various schemes implemented by this Department and the Budget Estimate for the year 2013-14 is given below:

1. Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education: This Department has Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education was established by an Act of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in 1992 for giving advice to Government or any University/College or institution of Higher Education on matter relating to Higher Education and Research which may refer to the Government and for Co-ordination with University Grants Commission. 2.Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre: Established by Govt. Tamil Nadu in 1983. The Centre has been registered under Societies Act and functioning under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Education, Government of Tamil Nadu. Its main objective is popularize Science and Technology among the general public and students both in urban as well as in rural areas in the State.
2. Science City: Entire Guindy Taramani institutional belt consisting of about 60 educational and research institutions like I.I.T, Anna University, CLRI and Science Centre belonging both Central and State Governments has been declared as Science City with the objective of promoting Science and Technology. Science City is implementing various programmes connected to the development of Science and Technology.
3. Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology: Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology, an autonomous body under Government of Tamil Nadu was established in the 1984. With the objectives of Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology are to popularize Science and Technology among masses and to develop scientific temper among the youth and promote research in science and technology in the State.

Power and Duties of Officers and Number of Employees of this Department
The Secretary is the administrative head of the department and principal adviser to the Minister (Higher Education) on all matters of policy and administration relating to this department, who is a senior IAS Officer. The Secretary is to take steps for the prompt transaction of business in the department. Policy matters and all important matters should be dealt with in consultation with the Secretary who will be over all in charge of the department.

Special Secretary has been delegated to co-ordinate and oversees all the schemes/ sections excluding. He is an officer who acts on behalf of the Secretary.

Deputy Secretary (DS) will deal with cases relating to the subjects allotted and submit to Secretary such cases as may be specified. They can send cases for orders direct to the Minister with reference to the general directions of the Secretary. He can sign and convey the orders in the name of Governor of Tamil Nadu involving financial implication after the approval of competent authority has been obtained.

Under Secretary (US) work come to him from section 2 and 3. He can sign and convey the orders in the name of Governor of Tamil Nadu involving financial implication after the approval of competent authority has been obtained.

Name	Permanent	Temporary	Total	Fill up	Vacancy
Principal Secy.,	0	1	1	1	-
Additional Secy.,	1	-	1	1	-
DS	2-	-	2	2	-
US	3	5	8	8	-
SO	8	5	13	13	-

PS	1	1	2	2	-
ASO	18	7	25	24	1
P.A.	2	-	2	-	2
P.C.	2	3	5	5	-
Assistant	4	2	6	1	5
Typist	4	4	8	7	1
Driver	1	-	1	-	1
Record Asst.,	1	-	1	0	1
Daffidar	1	-	1	0	1
Record Clerk	3	1	4	2	2
O.A.	10	6	16	13	3
Total	**61**	**32**	**96**	**81**	**15**

Section Officer (SO) is in-charge of a section of a Secretariat Department. He will be assisted by Assistant Section Officers who work under his direction and control. The training of Assistant Section Officers under him is one of his principal functions. He will be responsible for the dispatch of all communications of the section and Section Officer should take independent actions on issuing reminders, obtaining or supplying factual information of a non-classified nature. He will ensure proper maintenance of registers, office orders ect. Keep them up to date. Assistant Section Officer will maintain the periodical registers, reference books stock files etc. Keep them up to date. He will act according to the orders and direction of the section officer in imparting official duties.
Assistant maintain the prescribed periodical registers and put up reminders.

Typist will type note and drafts and make fair copy of all communication to be dispatched.Personal Assistant/ Private Secretary/ Personal Clerk keep the officer free from the worries of routine nature and mailing correspondence, filling papers, making appointments, arranging meetings and collecting information. He should be skilled in human relation relations. He should be familiar with the persons who come in contact with his officer and to interact as per the directions of the officer.

Number of Colleges Present in Tamil Nadu State
Table-1 explains about the number of colleges in the Tamil Nadu state. There are 1363 colleges in Tamil Nadu out of it 104 were Government Colleges, 162 were Government Aided Colleges, 1097 were Self Financing Colleges.

Table-2 explains about the number of engineering colleges in the Tamil Nadu state. There are 533 colleges in Tamil Nadu out of it 7 were Government Colleges, 3 were Government Aided Colleges, 525 were Self Financing Colleges, 18 were Anna University.

Table-3 reveals about the number of Polytechnic colleges in the Tamil Nadu state. There are 494 colleges in Tamil Nadu out of it 30 were Government Colleges, 34 were Government Aided Colleges, 395 were Self Financing Colleges,5 were are Affiliated colleges in Tamil Nadu State.

The Budget Allocated to each Agency
Various schemes of the Department which are approved for implementation the Heads of Departments every year – both plan and non-plan require funds to meet out the expenditure involved. Their details are required to be placed before the Legislature for final approval, by means of a Policy Note of Higher Education Department under Demand No.20, before they are published or made available for the information of the General Public. This exercise is to be carried out for each financial year.

The allocation of funds for various schemes implemented by this Department and the Budget Estimate for the year 2013-14 is given below:

Sl.No	Name of the HOD	BE.2013-14 (Rs in Lakhs)
1	Directorate of Collegiate Education	4550.62
2	Directorate of Technical Education	74208.07
3	Universities	10690.85
4	Tamil Nadu Archives	10.00
5	Tamil Nadu State Council for Science & Technology	195.00
6	Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre	245.07
7	Science City	147.00
	Total	**90046.61**

Schemes for the Year 2013- 14 (Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl.No	Name of the Scheme	Ultimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)	Cost in (2013-14)
	I - Secretariat		
1.	Computerisation of Department	34.75	34.75
	II - Directorate of Collegiate Education Component – I		
2.	Construction of 7Additional classrooms in Government Arts College, Chidambaram	70.00	70.00
3.	Construction of Victoria Hostel for Men in Government Arts College (Autonomous), Kumbakonam	100.00	100.00
	Total	**170.00**	**170.00**
	III -Directorate of Technical Education		
	Component – I		
4.	Construction of 16 Laboratories in 4 Government Engineering Colleges	120.00	120.00
5.	Establishing smart Classrooms in 5 Government Polytechnic Colleges	50.00	50.00
6.	Establishing Campus wide Networking in 8 Government Polytechnic Colleges	128.00	128.00
	Total	**298.00**	**298.00**
	IV - Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research		
7.	Purchase of Storage Cabinets for Microfilm Unit.	10.00	10.00
	V - Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre Component – II		
8.	Establishment of District Science Centre in Thoothukudi District	50.00	50.00
9.	Modernization of 3D Theatre in Periyar Science and Technology Centre, Chennai.	23.00	23.00
	Total	**73.00**	**73.00**
	VI - Science City		
	Component – I		
10	Installing 10 KW Photovoltaic Solar Panel.	15.00	15.00

	Component – II		
1 1	Production of Electricity / Power from Alternate Sources (Wind Energy)	10.00	10.00
1 2	Production of Electricity / Power from Alternate Sources – (Hydro power)	15.00	15.00
	Total	**40.00**	**40.00**
	Grand Total	**625.75**	**625.75**

Welfare Schemes
The following student welfare schemes are available for students studying higher Education.

Empowerment of Women
Free coaching is offered exclusively for women students appearing for All India Civil Services and other Central Services Examination at Queen Mary's College, Chennai and Arulmigu Meenakshi Government College for Women, Madurai.

Special Coaching to SC/ST and MBC Students
Special coaching is provided to students studying in Government Colleges belonging to SC/ST and MBC communities who face certain initial difficulties in subjects like English, Maths and Science. The special coaching classes are held after class hours and during weekends to help students gain confidence. Students Welfare Schemes implemented by Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology
Student Projects Scheme.

Final year students of UG/PG courses in Engineering/ Medicine/ Agriculture/ Veterinary Sciences and P.G. Students of Sciences are provided with a maximum assistance of Rs.10,000/- per project for carrying out socially relevant projects under their curriculum so that student talent in our State is utilized for the development of Science and Technology. 275 projects will be supported with a budget of Rs.25.00 lakhs for 2013-14.

Young Student Scientist Programme
To expose talented young students of IX std., to science and technology so that they take up science and research as their career in future. Students from various districts are given this exposure in a reputed college/ university with facilities and resource persons for twenty days in the month of May. 800 students from 20 districts have been trained at a cost of Rs.30.

Steps Taken by the Government to Bring Knowledge Economy
In order to provide quality higher education, Government of Tamil Nadu has taken the following steps:-
  i)   Qualified teachers have been appointed in Government Arts and Science Colleges on regular basis. One month induction training on teaching methods was imparted to the newly recruited teachers. This is first of its kind in India.
  ii) Choice Based Credit System was introduced in Arts and Science Colleges in order to enhance the Quality of Education.
  iii) Audio Visual Facilities were provided to all Government Arts and Science Colleges at the cost of Rs.1.15 crores.
  iv) A sum of Rs.409 lakhs has been provided to establish language labs in 63 Government Colleges. A substantial number of students from rural areas benefit from these facilities.
  v)   67 Additional Science laboratories have been constructed in Government Arts and Science Colleges at the cost of Rs.11.40 crores.

vi) The Government has established 21 Language Laboratories in Government Polytechnic Colleges and 5 Digital Libraries in Government Engineering Colleges.

Implementation of Various Schemes

The Twelfth Five Year Plan aims at multiple interventions articulating the need for expanding educational facilities and improving quality of education. In line with Vision 2023 of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, the following schemes are being implemented in the Higher Education sector:

1. Smart Classrooms with Video-Conferencing facilities have been established in 10 universities at a cost of Rs.2 crore. This has improved class-room teaching with hi-tech support.
2. Foreign language laboratories have been established in 10 Universities at a cost of Rs.1.5 crore for enhancing language skills of students in English, Chinese, Japanese, German etc., enabling them to compete in the world market.
3. Entrepreneurship cum Skill Development Centres have been established at a cost of Rs.2 crore in 10 Universities, to develop the entrepreneurial skills in students for establishing enterprises, to trigger creativity in them and to help in securing decent employment commensurate with the needs of the job-market.
4. The scheme of inviting foreign professors of repute has been introduced in 10 Universities at a cost of Rs.1 crore. The students and teachers of our institutions are exposed to international strategies of teaching and learning as well as gaining from the sharing of expertise.
5. Curriculum Development Cells have been established in 10 Universities at a cost of Rs.10 crore, to restructure curricula to be on par with global standards to build a workforce underpinning demands of the industry and other business organizations.
6. In an epoch making move, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the opening of 11 Arts and Science Colleges during 2011-12 in Srirangam, Harur, Pappireddipatti, Sattur, Thiruthuraipoondi, Vedaranyam, Nannilam, Thiruppathur, Kallakurichi, Nagalapuram and Nemmeli and 11 Arts and Science Colleges during 2012-13 in Edapadi, Kanniyakumari, Vedasandur, Modakurichi, Thirumangalam, Thiruvottiyur, Paramakudi, Kadayanallur, Aruppukottai, Nagapattinam, and Arakkonam.
7. Likewise, in the arena of technical education, 10 Polytechnic Colleges, at Srirangam, Gandarvakottai, Sankarapuram, Perunthurai, Ariyalur, Uthangarai, Jolarpet, Usilampatti, Andipatti, and Chekanoorani and 2 Engineering Colleges at Sengipatti, Thanjavur District and Chettikkarai, Dharmapuri District are to be opened. One Engineering College at Bodinayakanur has already been opened during 2012-13 and is functioning with 267 students.
8. University Business Collaboration Centres have been established in 6 Universities viz., University of Madras, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Bharathiar University, Bharathidasan University, Madurai Kamaraj University and Alagappa University which would act as agencies for co-ordinating Universities, leading Industries and other business organizations in Tamil Nadu, India and abroad. Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education is to act as a Nodal Centre.
9. Study Abroad Programme for Faculty and Students has commenced with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education with British Council in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister. This has come as a boon to the students and faculty especially from economically, under privileged classes in rural areas and has received wide acclamation from administrators, educationists, students, teaching community and general public. 25 students and five faculty members have been selected to study one semester in the Universities in United Kingdom from September 2013 to January 2014.
10. Centers for Technical and Academic Writing have been established in 9 Universities viz., University of Madras, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Bharathiar University, Mother Teresa Women's University, Bharathidasan University, Madurai Kamaraj University, Periyar University, Alagappa University and Thiruvalluvar University. These Centres would develop the skills of students in writing academic reports and drafting other forms of written communication.

11. Incubation and Technology Transfer Centres have been established in 9 Universities viz., University of Madras, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Bharathiar University, Mother Teresa Women's University, Bharathidasan University, Madurai Kamaraj University, Periyar University, Alagappa University and Thiruvalluvar University. The focus of these centres would be "incubation activities" transfer of innovative technology for practical purposes among communities and converting creative ideas into commercially viable products.

12. Centre for Multimodal Material Production for the Differently-Abled have been established in 10 Universities viz., University of Madras, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Bharathiar University, Mother Teresa Women's University, Bharathidasan University, Madurai Kamaraj University, Periyar University, Alagappa University, Thiruvalluvar University and Tamil Nadu Open University. These Centres will produce Braille books with or without tactile graphics in various topics or subjects in English as well as in Tamil languages, as required by the students. These Centres will be equipped with heavy duty Braille Printer (Embosser) for high speed production and with Personal Computers for creating a data bank to feed the equipment. Multimedia based computer assisted package will be developed to help students with learning disabilities.

13. Post Graduate Centres of Excellence in 10 Universities viz., University of Madras, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Bharathiar University, Mother Teresa Women's University, Bharathidasan University, Madurai Kamaraj University, Periyar University, Alagappa University, Anna University and Thiruvalluvar University have been established with High Tech Laboratories.

14. Anna University and Science City will network all libraries in Engineering Colleges and Universities which will enable students to access books, journals and reference materials through internet. This will be an advanced technology for making knowledge and information easily accessible.

15. Special care will be provided for slow learners / below average students, especially the first generation learners in Government Arts and Science Colleges to prevent dropouts and to enable them to be on par with others, academically.

16. Soft Skill Centres have been established in 30 Colleges under 5 Universities viz. University of Madras, Bharathiar University, Bharathidasan University, Madurai Kamaraj University and Thiruvalluvar University. These centres would provide training programmes to teach life skills to students and to develop their personality traits.

17. Tamil Nadu Open University will establish Community Colleges in all 32 districts. In the first phase, 5 Community Colleges have been established at Chennai, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madurai and Tiruchirappalli during the year 2012-13. These Community Colleges will provide Vocational Education programmes and Employment opportunities for the local communities.

18. Zonal Centres of Tamil Nadu Open University have been established at Srirangam and Coimbatore to facilitate students to access information and learning materials, close to their place of residence.

19. Orders have been issued for the opening of PG Extension Centres in Perambalur, Erode, Kanniyakumari, Dharmapuri and Virudhunagar Districts through Universities concerned. These Centres will offer PG Courses and help students to pursue research with advanced technology. Rural students will be greatly benefitted by this scheme and these students will achieve the desired levels of competence like their counterparts in urban areas. These Centres with High Tech Laboratories ensure access to Post Graduate Courses and quality research to the rural and economically weaker students.

20. During the year 2012-13, 299 new courses have been introduced in 51 Government Arts and Science Colleges and 841 posts of Assistant Professor have been sanctioned for a period of three years from 2012-13 to 2014-15. About 5500 students have benefitted.

21. The process of distribution of priceless Laptop Computers to the students studying in Government, Government Aided Arts and Science Colleges / Polytechnics / Engineering Colleges is in progress. 3, 35,086 priceless laptop computers were distributed to the students. This scheme is being implemented to ensure that the youth will enjoy the benefits of the best standards in education and make the State progressive to transform the exalted vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, into reality.

22. The ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu has trained 1352 teachers in Higher Education who in turn prepare their students to become "industry-ready" and employable.
23. Legislation for merging the Anna Universities of Technology with Anna University, Chennai has been enacted and has come into force with effect from 1.8.2012. All the engineering colleges in the State have now come under one umbrella for co-ordinate and integrated development of technical education.

In keeping with the growth of "Knowledge economy", the governments have adopted strategies to make higher education inclusive and meet the aspirations of young men, women and the public. The policy reform of Government of Tamil Nadu in higher education is well within the emerging architecture of global trends in the field and the national agenda of access, equity and quality. The shift is from mere expansion to enrichment of quality ensuring excellence in higher education, while making provision for academic inputs from foreign education providers.

A holistic approach to target, under represented sections of society, while at the same time consolidating and improving quality aspects, is at the root of all the schemes. With these new schemes and focused action in key areas, a vibrant higher education system is in place in Tamil Nadu. " document which will "impact the lives of the common citizens in the most direct manner possible – substantial increases in income through generation of fruitful employment; improvement in the quality of life through provision of high quality infrastructure and services; focused growth of sectors where the State has a competitive advantage and above all peace, prosperity and protection of the vulnerable."

Conclusion
There is an increasing demand for Higher Education in the growing Indian economy. The growing economy indeed raised the aspirations of people of diverse background and it is necessary that government should respond by expanding access to accommodate these aspirations. The growing economy also needs highly educated manpower in large numbers. This article clearly explains varies initiatives taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu to achieve the demand for higher education in the state. The department formulated polices, laws regulations and various programmes based on the needs of the society now and then, Technical education were given for the youth mainly from poor families and it also popularize Science and Technology among the students in both urban and rural areas of the state. The Government introduced many more job-oriented courses in Arts and Science Colleges, so that it provides more access to higher education for large segment of population. the Government has improved the quality of the existing institutions and also increase the number of new institution in order to make the State of Tamil Nadu, the foremast state in the country in the field of Higher Education.

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