



HOME DEPARTMENT

**REPORT ON THE
WORKING OF BORSTAL SCHOOL
PALAYAMKOTTAI**

**FOR THE YEAR
1958**

©
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
1959

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1959**

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From

SRI M. A. SHERIFF, I.A.S.,
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS, MADRAS-7.

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
HOME DEPARTMENT, MADRAS-9.

SIR,

[Subject.—Report on the working of Borstal School, Palayamkottai, for the year 1958.]

I submit the report on the working of the Borstal School, Palayamkottai, for the year 1958.

2. *Accommodation*.—Accommodation available in the school is for 647 inmates. The daily average population was 441.82 against 435.39 in the previous year. The school was free from overcrowding throughout the year.

3. *Superintendents and medical charge*.—The executive charge of the school was held by Sri Douglas P. Alberts, M.A., throughout the year except for the periods from 12th June to 15th July 1958 and from 20th to 31st December 1958 when the Medical Officer of the School held additional charge of the post of the Superintendent.

The medical charge of the school was held by Dr. P. S. Dorairaja, M.B.B.S., from January to 2nd July 1958 when he was succeeded by Dr. T. Titus, M.B.B.S., who held charge till the close of the year.

4. *Classification*.—There was no change in the method of classification of the inmates.

5. *Education and vocational training*.—The education imparted to the inmates comprises of the ordinary school curriculum up to VIII standard. The inmates are educated in their mother-tongue, viz., Tamil and Urdu. Inmates receive their education in convenient batches and are taught for two hours at a time, i.e., from 8 to 10 a.m., 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1-30 to 3-30 p.m. Boys whose educational standard is above the VIII standard are afforded ample opportunities to improve their knowledge and their services are also utilized for coaching up backward boys during nights in the association wards. Boys in the VIII standard are coached up for the E.S.L.C. Examination. They are specially allowed five hours' study against two hours per day. During the year under report, four inmates appeared for the E.S.L.C. Examination and three came out successful.

The inmates of the school were supplied with Tamil dailies "Swadesamitran" and "Dinamani". Besides the daily newspapers, the following journals were supplied to the inmates :—

Weekly—

Kalki (Tamil),
Jadeed Dilchasp (Urdu)

Monthly—

Health (English),
Nalvazhi (Tamil).

There was no change in the vocational training afforded to the inmates of the school. The selection of inmates to various trades was done according to the special

taste and aptitudes of the inmates. They were trained in the following industries :—

Carpentry, blacksmithy, weaving, book-binding, paper-making, tailoring, masonry and band.

In addition to practical work, theoretical instructions were given to the inmates regularly.

Of the four inmates sent for the Weaving Technical Examination (Lower Grade), one came out successful.

The inmates were also taught agriculture, domestic duties such as cooking, washing and also nursing work in the school hospital.

Sports and games, physical training, Scout Craft, First Aid and Ambulance and religious and moral instruction formed part of the Borstal School education.

There were six houses in the school, distinguished by different colours, viz., green, red, blue, yellow, violet and orange. Each house is divided into groups and is under the charge of a house master. The chief aim of the house system is to inculcate a healthy spirit of rivalry or competition among the boys. Inter-house matches, competitions and group competitions were held during the year.

Court of Honour.—The Deputy Superintendent of the School was the Ex-Officio Chairman of the Court of Honour in the institution. The Secretary was a member of the teaching staff and the Prefects represented the houses while the Court was in session. The Court of Honour system continued to function satisfactorily.

6. *Escapes and recaptures*.—There were eight escapes from the school during the year under report. Of these, five were from inside the school and three from extra-mural gang. One of the escapees is still at large. The officers responsible for the escapes were dealt with departmentally.

7. *Offences and punishments*.—The number of offences committed by the inmates of the school decreased from 40 in 1957 to 23 during the year under report. Of the 23, 16 relate to discipline, 4 to prohibited articles and 3 to escape from lawful custody. The punishments imposed on the inmates were as follows :—

Extra drill	..	..	..	..	12
Reduction in grade	..	..	..	..	7
Warning	..	..	..	..	4
					—
				Total	23
					—

The conduct of the inmates during the year was generally satisfactory.

7-A. *Reversion to crime.*—Of the 1,066 inmates discharged during the years 1954 to 1958, fifteen reverted to crime. Two hundred and sixty-six inmates were under the supervision of the Probation Officers.

8. *Release on licence.*—Three meetings of the Visiting Committee were held during the year for considering cases of release under the scheme. On the recommendation of the Committee, one inmate was discharged on licence under section 15 (1) of the Madras Borstal Schools Act, 1925 (Madras Act V of 1925), against 15 in the previous year.

9. *Finance.*—The total expenditure of the school for the year under report was Rs. 2,34,504.34 against Rs. 1,82,042.76 in the previous year. The cost per head works out to Rs. 530.78 against Rs. 418.11 in the previous year. The increase in expenditure was due to slight increase in population and abnormal rise in prices of foodstuffs.

10. *Employment of inmates.*—The chief industries taught in the school were carpentry, weaving, tailoring, blacksmithy, binding and paper-making. The percentage of inmates employed on manufactures was 53.39 against 64.35 in the previous year. The gross outturn on manufactures was Rs. 40,927.59 against Rs. 66,670.85 in the previous year. The net profit under manufactures was Rs. 10,108.49 against Rs. 20,888.75 in the previous year.

11. *Vital statistics.*—The number of inmates admitted to hospital decreased from 278 in 1957 to 128 during the year under report. The daily average sick was 10.71 against 7.05 in the previous year. There was no death in the year under report. The health of the inmates was satisfactory.

12. *Weight statistics.*—Inmates were regularly weighed once a fortnight and the weight statistics recorded in their history books. All the 146 inmates discharged during the year gained weight. The comparative figures for 1956, 1957 and 1958 are furnished below:—

Year.	Gained weight.	Lost weight.	Remained stationary.
1956	100.00	..	..
1957	100.00	..	..
1958	100.00	..	..

13. *Sanitary and other improvements.*—The buildings of the school remained in a good state of repairs. The school is run on most hygienic lines.

14. *Visits and inspections.*—The total number of visits paid by official and non-official visitors during the year 1958 was 27 against 13 in the previous year. The number of visits paid by each visitor is furnished below:—

District Collector	5
Sessions Judge	1
District Educational Officer	1
District Magistrate (Judicial)	4
Director of Medical Services	1
District Fire Officer	1
Non-official and State visitors	14
Total	27

The school was honoured by a visit by the Governor of Madras.

The annual inspection of the school was done by me. I also paid a visit to the institution during the year.

15. *General features.*—Nil.

15-A. *Programme of work to be done—*

- (i) Modernization of carpentry workshop.
- (ii) Provision of a pump set in the school garden well.
- (iii) Extension of electrification of the school.
- (iv) Provision of verandahs to blocks 2 to 7.

16. *Concluding remarks.*—The school staff worked satisfactorily and the Superintendent's supervision and guidance were adequate and effective during the year under report.

17. The administration report and the after-care report of the school are submitted for perusal and return.

Yours faithfully,

M. A. SHERIFF,

Inspector-General of Prisons.

STATEMENT No. I.—Statement showing the number of adolescents discharged during the year 1958 from the Borstal School, Palayamkottai.

Name of district.	Number of inmates discharged.			Name of district.	Number of inmates discharged.		
	Casuals.	Habituals	Total.		Casuals.	Habituals	Total.
North Arcot ..	4	3	7	Ramanathapuram.	9	2	11
South Arcot ..	12	2	14	Salem ..	8	6	14
Coimbatore ..	9	7	16	Tirunelveli ..	16	4	20
Chingleput ..	7	1	8	Tanjore ..	19	4	23
Madras ..	5	3	8	Tiruchirappalli.	10	3	13
Madurai ..	6	1	7	Chittoor ..	2	..	2
Nilgiris ..	2	..	2	Pondicherry	1	..	1
Total ..	110	36	146				

STATEMENT No. II.—Statement showing the appointment of probation officers for those released on licence during the year 1958 from the Borstal School, Palayamkottai.

Name of district.	Official.	Non-official.	Total.
North Arcot ..	1	..	1
Total ..	1	..	1

STATEMENT No. III.—Statement showing the various kinds of occupations followed by the inmates of the Borstal School, Palayamkottai, who were discharged during the year 1958.

Name of avocation.	Number of inmates.	Name of avocation.	Number of inmates.
Cooly	5	Tailoring	1
Cultivation	17	Cart driver	1
Weaving	1	Reports awaited ..	62
Reverted to crime ..	2	Mason	3
Petty trade	1	Unemployed	10
Whereabouts are not known.	19	Grocery shop	1
Blacksmithy	2	Carpenter	4
Domestic servant ..	2	Painter	1
Tea-shop	2	Studying	1
Factory	4	Dhoby	4
Government job ..	2	Basket maker .. ..	..
Total ..	146		

STATEMENT No. III-B.—Statement showing the nature of industrial training given in the Borstal School, Palayamkottai, for the inmates under detention during the year 1958.

Name of avocation.	Number of inmates.	Name of avocation.	Number of inmates.
Tailoring	14	Band	2
Paper-making	4	Mason	11
Binding	9	Agriculture	21
Blacksmithy	11	Cook	1
Weaving	47	Nursing orderly ..	1
Carpentry	25		
Total ..	146		

STATEMENT No. V.—Statement showing the standard of education of inmates admitted and discharged during the year 1958.

(1) Admitted during the year—

	Direct committals.	Recaptured.	Total.
Literates	92	..	92
Illiterates	65	1	66
Total ..	157	1	158

(2) Discharged during the year—

	On admission.	On discharge
Literates	58	145
Illiterates	88	..
Total ..	146	145



HOME DEPARTMENT

G. O. No. 2303, 11th August 1959

Administration Report—Jail Department—Borstal School, 1958—Review.

READ—the following paper :—

From the Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras, dated 24th April 1959, Pdl. No. 38/SI/59.

Order—No. 2303, Home, dated 11th August 1959.

The Government have considered the Administration Report of the Borstal School and it is recorded with the following remarks :—

1. *Statistics.*—The Government find that there is accommodation in the school for 647 inmates. However, the daily average population during 1958 was only 441. The Government hope that greater use will be made of the specialized course given by the Borstal School and that the committals to the Borstal School would increase in preference to Jail sentences.

2. *Escapes.*—There were 8 escapes during 1958, 5 from inside the school and three from a gang working outside the school. The Government note with satisfaction that persons whose negligence led to these escapes were dealt with departmentally. The Government also consider that technologies of good custody should be taught to the members of the staff to enable them to tackle the question of escapees. One of the escapees is still at large and efforts should be made for capturing him.

3. *Offences and punishments.*—The Government are glad to note that the number of offences committed by the inmates of the Borstal School decreased from 40 in 1957 to 23 during 1958. The Government believe that this is an indication of the improvement in the tone of discipline.

4. *Recidivism.*—The Government find that out of 1,066 persons discharged from the Borstal School only 15 persons reverted to crime. This is less than 1.5 per cent and this is an indication of the reformatory value of Borstal training. During 1957, 493 discharged inmates were under the supervision of the Probation Officers but in 1958 the number declined to 266. This fall is mostly due to the lesser number of inmates discharged from the Borstal School. Since follow-up supervision is for ensuring that the effect of the Borstal training does not wear off, the contacts between the Probation Officers and the discharged inmates should be more frequent and more intimate.

5. *Education.*—Education continued to be on the same lines. Theoretical classes were held regularly and four inmates were coached up for the E.S.L.C. Examination. Proper emphasis was laid on vocational training also and training was given in carpentry, blacksmithy, weaving, book binding, paper making, tailoring and masonry. Pupils were also trained for the technical examinations in the

various crafts. Extra curricular activities were organized and competitions were held for games and sports.

6. *Industries.*—The Government find that the net profit from the industries was Rs. 10,108.49 as against Rs. 20,888.75. There has thus been a fall in the profits earned. The Inspector-General of Prisons is requested to look in to the reasons for the short-fall in the profits. The Government attach great importance to the developments of the industrial section as one of the chief aims of Borstal training is the acquisition of new skills and development of sound work habits which will give the inmates something to live by when they are discharged.

7. *Health and sanitation.*—The buildings of the school have been in a good condition and have been neatly maintained. The Government are glad to note that the school is run on most hygienic lines. The number of inmates admitted into the hospital decreased from 278 in 1957 to 123 during 1958. The health of the inmates has been in general satisfactory.

8. *Inspections.*—The Governor of Madras visited the institution during 1958. The Inspector-General of Prisons conducted the regular annual inspection. A number of officials and non-officials also visited the school. The Government also appreciate the interest taken by a number of non-official ladies and gentlemen who also paid visits to the school and made valuable suggestions.

9. *Expenditure and receipts.*—The total expenditure on the school for 1958 was Rs. 2,34,504.34 as against Rs. 1,82,042.76. The cost of maintenance per head amounted to Rs. 530.78 in 1958 as against Rs. 418.11 in 1957. The Government find that the total expenditure has gone up, as also the cost of maintenance per head. The Inspector-General of Prisons has explained that the increase in expenditure is partly due to a slight increase in population and partly due to the abnormal rise in the prices of food-stuffs. The Government hope that greater economy will be exercised and that the cost of maintenance will be brought down.

10. *General.*—The Government are glad to note that the staff of the Borstal School discharged their duties satisfactorily and that they received adequate guidance and had effective supervision. The Government consider that the administration of the Borstal School was satisfactory.

(By order of the Governor)

S. K. CHETPUR,
Secretary to Government.

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