

PREFACE

The purpose of this thesis, “**CONTRIBUTION OF THE CATHOLICS TO THE CAUSE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN MADURAI DIOCESE**”, is to present the meritorious services of the Madurai Diocese rendered in the realm of education.

The Madurai Diocese has always been a model and a trail blazer. The Old Madurai Mission was a harbinger and a pioneer in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, not only for the missions in India but also for the whole society and the Church. This is because the newly founded propaganda not only approved the innovative methods of De Nobili, but also propagated it as the authentic missionary approach anywhere in the world.

The New Madurai Mission too was a model and a trendsetter for the society and the Church in India in other fields. Realising that education was the key to self-assertion, growth and development of any human growth, the pioneer missionaries of the New Madurai Mission promoted the cause of primary, secondary, tertiary and technical education.

It is interesting to know that the present Madurai Diocese began as a mission way back in 1608 with Robert de Nobili as the founder, followed later by other well known Jesuits including St. John de Britto and Constantine Beschi.

Among the great works of Madurai Diocese are colleges of national and international fame like the Arul Anandar College, Jayaraj Annapackiam College, Fatima College, St.Justin’s College of Education, the teacher training institutes like St.Theresa Teacher Training Institute, St.Stanislaus Teacher Training Institute, technical institutions like Don Bosco Technical Institute, Loyola Institute, Archbishop Marianus Arockiasamy Industrial and Training Institute and many higher secondary schools also. All these institutions have been given the highest possible rating by the people.

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