

ADMINISTRATION REPORT  
ON THE  
WORKING OF THE SUPPRESSION OF  
IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND  
GIRLS ACT FOR THE YEAR 1957



GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS  
1959

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From .

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29843  
28/2/59

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
HOME DEPARTMENT,  
FORT ST. GEORGE,  
MADRAS-9.

Sir,

[The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act,  
1956—Vigilance Department—Administration Report for  
1957—Submitted.]

I submit the report on the working of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956 and the administration of the institutions established under the Act, in this State, for the year 1957.

I held charge of the Department of Vigilance Service during the year.

2. *Classes of institutions.*—There are three classes of institutions in the Vigilance Department, viz., Rescue Homes, Vigilance Homes and Shelter Homes. The three Rescue Homes, viz., the Government Stri Sadana Rescue Home in Madras, the St. Francis Xavier's Rescue Home, Adaikalapuram, and the Rescue Home under the Social Welfare Association, Madurai, two Vigilance Homes, the Government one in Madras and the other under the Social Welfare Association, Madurai, and six Shelters, Government ones in Madurai, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli and two private aided ones in Tanjore and Madras continued to function during the year.

3. *Admission and discharge of inmates*—(i) *Stri Sadana Rescue Home.*—There were 92 inmates and 2 children in the Stri Sadana at the commencement of the year. Fifty-five (55) inmates and 3 babies were admitted during the year, making a total of 147 inmates and 5 children.

Sixty inmates and one baby were disposed of during the year, leaving 87 inmates and 4 babies at the close of the year. The daily average strength of the Home during the year was 85 as against 96 in 1956.

(ii) *Vigilance Home, Madras.*—There were 242 inmates and 17 children in the Vigilance Home at the commencement of the year and 106 inmates and 9 children including 8 (eight) born in the Home were admitted, making a total of 348 inmates and 26 children. One hundred and twenty-three (123) inmates and ten (10) babies were disposed of during the year, leaving 225 inmates and 16 children at the end of the period. The daily average strength of the Home during the year was 227 as against 253.5 in 1956.

There were 6 (six) remand cases at the beginning of the year in the Shelter attached to the Vigilance Home; 48 cases were admitted during the year and 52 were disposed of, leaving 2 at the end of the year, while the Stri Sadana Shelter received 21 pre-enquiry rescued and kidnapped girls.

The After-Care Hostel attached to the Stri Sadana was made use of by five ex-girls awaiting employment or employed in our Homes or in other City institutions.

The fall in the number of admissions in the City twin Vigilance Institutions should not be taken as an indication to the corresponding fall in the incidence of sex victimization or crimes in the City. For, since June 1957, there was no case put up under the suppression of brothels and consequently no rescued girl was admitted in Stri Sadana; and as for cases under street solicitation, there were only 54 in 1957 as against 192 in 1956. This makes a very good case for the overwhelming activities of the general Police branch, which perhaps found no time for the vigorous operation of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act and it stresses on the immediate need for a separate Police branch for Vigilance Welfare work with an adjunct Woman Police to it.

(iii) *Vigilance-cum-Rescue Home, Madurai.*—There were 40 inmates in the Vigilance Home Section at the beginning of the year. Thirty-seven inmates were admitted during the year and 18 were disposed of leaving 59 at the end of the year.

There were 5 inmates in the Rescue Home Section at the commencement of the year. Only one inmate was admitted making a total of 6 inmates. Three inmates were discharged during the year, leaving 3 at the end of the year.

The daily average number of inmates in both the sections of the Home for the year was 52 and 4.5 respectively.

(iv) *St. Francis Xavier's Rescue Home, Adaikalapuram.*—There were 4 inmates at the commencement of the year. Forty-four inmates were admitted and 38 were discharged, leaving 10 at the end of the year. The daily average number of inmates in the Home was 15.

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(v) *Shelters (Madurai, Salem, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Tanjore).*—Two hundred and eighty-four inmates passed through the four mufassal Government Shelter Homes during this year under report as against 319 in 1956. The Shelter of the Tanjore Vigilance Association at Tanjore did not receive any inmates as the Act was not operated vigorously. The Abhaya Nilayam of the Madras Vigilance Association helped 126 fresh cases during the year.

4. *Period of detention*—(i) *Stri Sadana.*—Out of the 55 inmates admitted during the year, 11 were rescued cases, 25 were voluntary, preventive and protective cases, 15 kidnapped ones and 4 certified for detention under the Madras Children Act. All these girls would be detained in the Home till they be adequately trained and rehabilitated.

(ii) *Vigilance Home.*—The period of detention of inmates in the Vigilance Home as compared with that of last year is shown below :—

		1956.	1957.
For 2 years .. .. .		34	29
For 3 years .. .. .		62	32
For 4 years .. .. .		17	35
For 5 years .. .. .		20	10
Total ..		133	106

5. *Religion of inmates*—

	Stri Sadana.		Vigilance Home.	
	1956.	1957.	1956.	1957.
Hindus] .. .. .	112	47	110	93
Christians .. .. .	14	5	9	5
Muslims .. .. .	3	3	14	8
Total ..	129	55	133	106

6. *Age of inmates.*—The distribution of the inmates according to age, admitted in the Stri Sadana and Vigilance Home, as compared with last year, is given below :—

	Stri Sadana.		Vigilance Home.	
	1956.	1957.	1956.	1957.
Below 14 years .. .. .	9	3	1	4
Between 14 and 18 years.	65	31	45	42
Between 18 and 21 years ..	27	14	50	32
Between 21 and 25 years ..	22	7	30	24
Above 25 years .. .. .	6	..	7	4
Total ..	129	55	133	106

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7. Education of inmates—

	Stri Sadana.		Vigilance Home.	
	1956.	1957.	1956.	1957.
Literates .. .. .	87	42	47	33
Illiterates ] .. .. .	42	13	86	73
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	<b>129</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>106</b>

The Stri Sadana Special School which is common to both the Stri Sadana Rescue Home and the Vigilance Home is accommodated in the Vigilance Home premises. The School is a higher elementary one with eight standards. The media of instruction are Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. The following vocational subjects are also taught in the School, viz., Spinning, Weaving, Tailoring, Embroidery, Needle-work and Laundrying. Besides these, the inmates are trained in Tag-making, Index-card and Envelope making and piece-work of the Government Match Factory also.

Seventy-five inmates of the Stri Sadana Rescue Home and 216 inmates of the Vigilance Home attended school. Of these, 12 girls attended outside schools. Two girls were studying in S.S.L.C. class, 8 girls were undergoing higher elementary grade teachers' training, one girl was undergoing Technical Training in Weaving in the Craft Training Institute, Mylapore, and another girl was undergoing Teachers' Training in Music in the Music Academy. Apart from these, two girls were sent for Basic Training in Kasturbagram, Erode; another girl took up Auxiliary Nurse-cum-Midwife Training in the Kasturba Gandhi Hospital, Triplicane.

All the six candidates of the Stri Sadana, who appeared for Teachers' Training last year, have passed and one of them has been appointed as spinning teacher in the institution itself. Three girls have passed the Midwifery Training and one of them has been appointed as matron in the Stri Sadana. Three girls, who have passed Grama Sevika Training are now employed. One inmate, who appeared for the Craft Training in Bleaching, Dyeing and Printing Course has come out successful. Thirteen girls were sent up for the E.S.L.C. Examination, out of which 11 girls have passed. Two girls were sent up for the Government Technical Examination in Music (one for Higher and one for Lower) and both came out successful. One inmate appeared for the Lower Grade Examination in Needle-work and Dress-making. She has passed the examination.

The Inspectress of Girls' Schools, Madras Circle, inspected the School as usual in August 1957. Her observations are copied below :—

“ Under the direction of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents of the Homes, work is well organized and there is a healthy *esprit de corps* among students and teachers. Social service activities are regularly carried out.

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" Pupils have been taken out in batches on Educational Excursions. The school had its Annual Sports and, in addition, has also participated in Inter-School Sports.

" The inmates look happy and well cared for. Useful occupations are provided and the girls are encouraged to be self-reliant so much so that rehabilitation work is carefully planned out. The school continues in its efficiency and satisfies a felt need of the State."

*Industrial and Vocational Branch—Laundry.*—The Laundry Section though continued satisfactorily this year, the receipts were less than those of the previous year. It will be possible to increase the receipts only if it is run with modern equipment, but owing to limited accommodation, the remodelling or expansion of this section with the purchase of the said modern machinery was not found to be feasible and hence could not be considered for the time being.

*Tailoring.*—The Tailoring Section was ever so busy with the additional Tailoring Instructress and additional machines, successfully executing the orders of the Government Reception Homes, Egmore, Madras Society for the Protection of Children, Madras, the After-Care Home for Women, Vellore, and other private agencies. Its fancy articles like table-cloths, pillow covers and kerchiefs found a very good market both at the All-India Khadi, Swadeshi and Industrial Exhibition at Teynampet, University Centenary Exhibition at Guindy and Women's Cottage Industries Exhibition held by Andhra Mahila Sabha as well as at the sales arranged by the institutions on various occasions.

*Weaving.*—The Weaving Section produced fine varieties of towels, napkins and bedsheets and they were largely patronised by the public. Its turnover was appreciable both in quantity and quality and recorded a corresponding increase in the receipts. If facilities are provided for the expansion of the section by sanctioning the construction of a shed and by the purchase of a few more looms, further increase in production can doubtless be vouchsafed.

*Index-card and envelope making.*—This industry proved very successfully profitable during the year. Without any initial outlay or recurring expenditure to Government, this section fetched substantial receipts: It is just a case of making bricks without any straw!

*Doing the work at and for the Government Match Factory.*—This was a new enterprise taken up almost at the end of the year. A batch of 40 girls from both the City Vigilance Institutions have been sent to the Government Match Factory at Perambur to do piece work there. The Factory has also been sending materials to the institutions, where several girls have been attending to the work. This work was undertaken only in October 1957 and the inmates were under training till December 1957. The girls have

taken to this work very kindly and have been evincing great interest. There is no doubt that the girls' proficiency in this craft will benefit them by providing them with employment after they leave the institutions.

*The Tag-making Industry.*—This industry which was only in its infant stage last year has gained firm ground and developed into a recognized industry inasmuch as the institutions have become the supplying agents in tags to the Stationery Department.

*Spinning.*—The Spinning section continued to function satisfactorily both as an instructional and production centre.

The value of Spinning Sections in Correctional Institutions cannot be over-estimated. It is one of the initial methods of reconditioning the wayward inmates with fickle minds. The spinning facilitates their concentration of minds as well as steadiness in purposeful behaviour. It is indeed a praiseworthy occupational therapy.

Forty-eight (48) inmates—18 in the Stri Sadana and 30 in the Vigilance Home—acquired the Certificates of Proficiency from the Charka Prachar Sabha, this year.

*Gardening.*—This vocation is mostly encouraged to serve as a diversional therapy. Most of the girls have taken to it as a hobby as well.

*Physical Education.*—The importance of physical culture was not lost sight of. Despite the institutions in the City having no separate playgrounds, organized games—indoor and outdoor—were conducted regularly and periodical tournaments were also held in the available open space.

The Seva Dal Corps, Girl Guides' Company and Girl Guide Unit functioned satisfactorily during the year.

Terminal Sports were conducted as usual during the year and prizes distributed to the winners on the Annual Day.

*Extra-curricular Activities.*—The literary, dramatic and music societies of the two Homes in the City carried on their activities by rotation, once a week, out of school hours, under the guidance of the Superintendent, her Assistants and the teaching staff. An Inter-institutional Sports Competition was arranged during the year. Four women's institutions in the City, viz., Avvai Home, Service Home, Girls' Certified Schools and Stri Sadana Special School participated and prizes were distributed.

The girls of the two Homes were taken out in batches on excursions of educational value. They were taken to the aerodrome at Meenambakkam, the Exhibition "Family of Man" held in the premises of the University Examination Hall, Handi-craft Exhibition in Rajaji Hall and a few good pictures. They attended the Annual Day Celebrations of various sister institutions in the City.



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The inmates of both the Homes celebrated the Pongal, the Republic Day, the Independence Day, the Dasara, the Deepavali, etc., with feasts and amidst festivities and under the presidency of distinguished personages.

The Seva Dal girls of the Stri Sadana took part in the non-stop spinning and Bhajan held in connection with the Sarvodaya Day in the Rajaji Hall.

The Girl Guides participated in the sales of flags in connection with the Independence Day Celebrations and Ex-Servicemen's Day during the year.

These various extra-curricular activities were planned with an eye for providing maximum scope for ability, creative activities and recreative diversions to the inmates' monotonous routine and institutional discipline.

All possible facilities were afforded to the inmates in both the institutions to pursue their respective religions. Fortnightly talks on moral topics were continued to be given by Swami Venkateswarananda and others regularly.

The Union of the teachers and instructresses of the Stri Sadana Special School continued to be active and functioned satisfactorily during the year.

8. *Discipline.*—Discipline prevailing in the City Vigilance Institutions is constructive rather than punitive, positive rather than negative, permissive rather than restrictive. It motivates rather than forces the inmates to act in the right path by shedding their delinquent traits.

The inmates of the two Homes are divided into groups and senior girls are made prefects to be in charge of discipline and duties of their respective groups. The Courts of Honour under senior girls' presidentship continued to function well as Panchayat Courts. No serious breach of discipline was found among the girls and corporal punishments were seldom meted out. Except for the transfer of five inmates of the Vigilance Home to the State Women's Jail, Vellore, because of their unruly behaviour and the escape of three inmates of the same Home who could not be traced, the behaviour of the inmates was more than what one could expect in Correctional Institutions.

9. *Food and clothing, etc.*—The inmates of the Stri Sadana and Vigilance Home continued to get good nutritive food within the sanctioned scale and with varied and wholesome menu. Adequate kadhi clothing, besides personal equipment like steel trunks, plates, mugs, etc., were given to them.

10. *Health (vital statistics).*—The majority of inmates admitted into the Vigilance Home were found to be suffering from venereal diseases due to their indiscriminate and promiscuous life. But, only very few cases of venereal diseases were found in the Stri Sadana. During the quarantine period, the inmates were carefully examined by the Part-time Lady Doctor of the institutions and were sent to the local Government hospitals for treatment. With the best medical aid provided for, no girl was sent out without a clean bill of health. Thus, the two Homes continued to serve as important health centres for the type of girls they took charge of and the service rendered to the inmates in this regard was really commendable.

The following statistics would speak to the state of health of the inmates admitted during the year in both the Homes, as compared with last year :—

	Stri Sadana.		Vigilance Home.	
	1956.	1957.	1956.	1957.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Healthy .. ..	87·3	92·73	21·8	61·4
Unhealthy .. ..	12·7	7·27	78·2	38·6

The common dispensary attached to both the Homes afforded valuable medical aid to the inmates of the City twin Vigilance Institutions.

Nine inmates of the Stri Sadana and 67 of the Vigilance Home were admitted during the year as in-patients, for treatment in outside hospitals as against 24 and 134 respectively, last year; and almost all of them were discharged, cured. *There were no deaths of inmates during the year in both the Homes, except three babies in the Vigilance Home who died of infantile diseases.* The daily average number of inmates treated as out-patients in the dispensary was 26 and that in the outside hospitals 13, as against 38 and 20 respectively, in the previous year.

11. *Weightment.*—The weight statistics of the discharged inmates of the Stri Sadana and Vigilance Home are as follow :—

(1)	Number discharged.		Number remained stationary.		Number gained weight.		Number lost weight.	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
			PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Stri Sadana ..	126	60	30·5	3·33	69·5	96·67	Nil.	Nil.
Vigilance Home.	177	123	1·2	4·88	96·8	90·24	2·0	4·88

The percentage of "gained weight" in the Stri Sadana increased this year and that of "lost weight" was "Nil", whereas there was slight decrease in the percentage of "gained weight" and

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increase in the "lost weight" in the Vigilance Home. This was due to the "Asian Flu" epidemic.

12. *Psychological study of inmates.*—Even in the absence of a Psychologist on the staff, a systematic analytical study of various types of inmates admitted in the Stri Sadana was made during the year by its Assistant Superintendent under the guidance of the Honorary Advisor in Psychology. By close personal contacts, she noted the girls' divergent and distorted behavioural problems and carefully observed the maladjusted factors in their emotions and attitudes. Then, she evolved a judicious programme of giving full scope for the individual initiative in every girl to understand her own personal problems and seek the care-taker's co-operation in solving them. Its application proved effective in helping several girls to realize the value of sex-purity and dignity of womanhood. The hardened types of girls were, however, sent to the Juvenile Guidance Bureau for clinical observation and treatment. Most of them were remarkably benefited. This programme of psychological study of inmates would be extended to the Vigilance Home in due course. For, service rendered in this direction in the case of Stri Sadana during the year produced encouraging results.

13. *Finance.*—The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 2,60,200 as against Rs. 1,99,900 in 1956.

The average cost per head per annum in respect of the inmates of the Government Stri Sadana and Government Vigilance Home worked out to Rs. 617-28 as against Rs. 531-11-8 in 1956. The increase in the average cost was mainly due to the fall in the daily average strength of inmates in both the Homes.

A sum of Rs. 9,217-81 was derived as receipts from the Industrial Sections of the Stri Sadana Special School as against Rs. 2,541-10-5 during 1956. The other receipts during the year were Rs. 3,491-59 as against Rs. 2,109-8-5 last year. Thus, a sincere attempt was made to convert and intensify the vocational sections, which were previously intended mainly for instructional purposes, into productive and paying centres with the available limited facilities and resources. The details of receipts are given below:—

	1956.			1957.	
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	NP.
Laundry Section .. .. .	531	7	3	515	16
Tailoring Section .. .. .	999	11	5	2,037	88
Weaving Section .. .. .	584	3	9	810	91
Index-card Labelling and Envelope-making .. .. .	331	0	0	3,109	35
Match Factory Work .. .. .				280	74
Tag-making .. .. .	4	12	0	24	52
Spinning Section .. .. .	90	8	0	2,439	25
	<u>2,541</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9,217</u>	<u>81</u>

*Other receipts—*

	1956.			1957.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Boarding charges	968	9	0	994	44	
Maintenance charges of Andhra inmates	1,140	15	5	2,277	15	
Miscellaneous				220	00	
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	2,109	8	5	3,491	59	
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
Total receipts	4,651	2	10	12,709	40	

*N.B.*—The receipts in the Tailoring Section exclude stitching charges for the clothing of the inmates of both the Homes.

For the splendid achievement of the Industrial Sections during the year, which brought in receipts, showing a record three-fold increase on that of the previous year, not a little was due to ever enthusiastic efforts of the inmates of the institutions, under the never-tiring guidance of their Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, teachers, instructresses and matrons. While appreciating their commendable services, the same loyalty and abiding interest are always expected of them.

14. *Accommodation.*—The Stri Sadana Rescue Home and Shelter continued in the buildings "Rahmat Bagh" and "Tower House" in Santhome High Road, Madras, and the Vigilance Home at "Everest", Kutchery Road, Mylapore, Madras, during the year under report. The Stri Sadana Special School which is common to both these Homes, continued to be run in the "Everest". The year recorded a slight fall in the daily average strength of the two Homes but yet the problem of overcrowding and congestion still remained unsolved, taking into consideration the accommodation available in the two institutions. All our efforts to find out additional buildings to relieve the overcrowding in the Homes met with failure. So long as the Homes are located in rented buildings which are not constructed for the purpose, the problem of overcrowding will ever remain unsolved. It is very gratifying to record in this report that the Government, knowing full well this problem, resolved at last to construct buildings for these Homes and have decided to consider this as a Part II Scheme for 1959-60.

The Meenakshi Sadanam Vigilance-cum-Rescue Home, the four Government Shelters, the private Shelter at Tanjore and the Abhaya Nilayam in Madras functioned in rented buildings, while the Rescue Home at Adaikalapuram is housed in its own building.

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15. *Rehabilitation and resettlement of discharged inmates—*  
(i) *Stri Sadana.*—Of the 60 inmates discharged during the year, two were given away in marriage, two were sent for Pre-basic Teachers' Training, five admitted into the After-Care Home for Women, Vellore, 40 restored to parents, husbands or other guardians and nine taken on to the establishment of the Vigilance Home and Stri Sadana, one was sent out as domestic help and one was employed outside as teacher.

(ii) *Vigilance Home.*—Of the 123 inmates discharged, four were given away in marriage, 71 were restored to their relatives after the expiry of their term, ten were sent out on service, nine admitted to the Stri Sadana as voluntary preventive cases, at their own request, to enable them to continue their studies, three admitted in the After-Care Home for Women, Vellore, nine escaped (out of whom six were recaptured subsequently), 11 transferred to other institutions, one taken on to the establishment of the Home and five were transferred to the State Jail for Women, Vellore.

(iii) *Vigilance-cum-Rescue Home, Madurai.*—Of the 18 inmates shown as disposals, 11 escaped, one transferred to the State Jail for Women, Vellore, one discharged on marriage, one on expiry of detention period and the rest were restored to parents or guardians.

(iv) *St. Francis Xavier's Rescue Home, Adaikalapuram.*—Thirty-eight inmates were disposed of during the year after delivery, including one died of fits and convulsions. Five were attended to in Government hospitals and the rest in the Home itself by the nurse.

(v) *Shelter Homes in the mufassal.*—The Shelters at Madurai, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli continued to function satisfactorily. The one at Tanjore awaits admissions from the Police authorities. The Abhaya Nilayam continued to serve the cause of the stranded and young women in distress.

16. *Visitors.*—The following distinguished personages visited the Homes during the year under review :—

(1) Mrs. Indumathi Chinmlal, Minister for Social Welfare, Bombay, accompanied by two officers of Social Education, Delhi.

(2) Mrs. Woodsmall of New York.

(3) Mrs. Macdonald (wife of the High Commissioner for United Kingdom in India) along with Mrs. Wakely and Srimathi Clubwala Jadhav.

(4) Mrs. Leavell of Cambridge Community Service.

(5) Major Ranga, Deputy Director of Small Industries.

(6) Mrs. Mary John, wife of the late Governor of Madras, accompanied by the Sheriff Mrs. Clubwala Jadhav.

(7) Sri C. P. Tandon, Inspector-General of Prisons, Uttar Pradesh, accompanied by the Chief Probation Superintendent.

(8) Miss Vyas, Research Officer, Indian Adult Education Association, New Delhi.

(9) Dr. Ulrich Van Bayma, Representative of the World Council of Churches and Church World Service.

(10) Probation Officer trainees.

(11) A batch of students of the Baroda School of Social Work.

(12) The Inspector-General of Prisons, Bihar.

(13) Sri Mustafa Badsha, Assistant Secretary, Home Department, Government of Madras.

(14) Delegates from the other States who had come to attend the Social Workers' Conference, Madras.

The Board of Visitors constituted under rule 9 of the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Rules, 1952, met thrice during the year. Apart from this, the official and non-official members of the Board, visited the Home periodically, as per roster arranged for them. They evinced keen interest in the working and progress of the institutions.

17. *Important events during the year.*—The following are the important events in the institutions during the year :—

(1) The opening of an After-Care Home for Women dischargees of Correctional Institutions at Vellore during the year fulfilled a long-felt need in providing a place for the destitutes among the dischargees of the Vigilance Homes and Rescue Homes, who wish to stay on for a further period to complete their training in some useful crafts and thereby become full-fledged craftsmen to eke out their livelihood. But, full advantage of this new Home could not be fully availed of in the absence of its industrial unit—a scheme that still awaits implementation. Five girls from the Sri Sadana and three from the Vigilance Home were sent to this new Home during the year.

(2) The City Vigilance Institutions continued to be used for a second year as Centres for practical field work and case study by the second batch of trainees in the Social and Moral Hygiene Course of the Madras School of Social Work.

(3) A preliminary survey of the working of the City Vigilance Institutions and a general study of the types of inmates thereof were undertaken by the Honorary Advisor in Psychology.

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*List of proposals pending final orders of Government under consideration or likely to be considered during 1958—*

- (1) Construction of Government buildings for the City Vigilance Institutions.
- (2) Starting of two After-Care Shelters in Kancheepuram and Karaikudi for the temporary stay of the girl and woman dischargees respectively from the Correctional Institutions.
- (3) Opening of State Rescue Home at Tiruchirappalli.
- (4) Opening of Vigilance Reception Centres in the districts.
- (5) An in-service training that the Honorary Advisor in Psychology is contemplating to hold for the workers of Stri Sadana and Vigilance Home.

*Conclusion.*—The year under report has witnessed one more year's useful service rendered by the Department of Vigilance Welfare with conscience within and God above. Its work is the most significant national re-building of the damaged personalities of hordes of girls and women, who are unwittingly victimised or exploited by the hydra-headed ancient vice in its modern cloak. Its rare contribution to the country may not be assessable in terms of rupees and nava paise but in the inestimable number of the neglected members of the opposite sex reclaimed from their erstwhile life of sin and shame, disease and devastation and re-created to become self-respecting and useful citizens of the country by a patient process of commonsensical treatment of sympathy, love and discipline.

The record of rehabilitation of 7 girls by marriage, 21 girls having been employed in different capacities as teachers, midwives, matrons and domestic helps and 14 having been deputed for training in teaching, midwifery, weaving, tailoring and music, not to speak of the restoration of hundreds of them to their relatives is one of credit. That there was no death of inmates in any of the Vigilance Institutions in Madras and Madurai is a testimony to the nutritious food they get, the disciplined life they lead and the robust health they enjoy. The rush for the admissions of voluntary cases in Government Stri Sadana in the City is not a little due to the propaganda done by its ex-inmates among those on the verge of ruin. The yeoman service rendered to 38 unmarried mothers and those with illegitimate pregnancies by the Rescue Home at Adaikalapuram deserves a very special mention.

With the intensification of the existing industries like Spinning, Weaving, Tailoring, Laundry work, etc., and introduction of new productive ones such as index-card labelling, envelope-making, tag-making and piecework given by Madras Government Match Factory,

Perambur, the Government Vigilance Institutions in the City have fast become the production centres of the State Government by their increased turn-over through their inmates' trained and skilled labour. The receipts from the Industrial Sections for the year 1957 are Rs. 9,218 as compared to Rs. 2,542 in 1956. This increase in the receipts is due partly to the placement of industries—the object of which was hitherto purely instructional on commercial basis and partly to the zealour interest evinced in the progress of the industries by the girls and workers themselves.

The year was unique in having attracted more than the usual number of visitors, most of whom were foreigners who came and saw especially the Government Vigilance Institutions in the City and were so impressed that they expressed in unmistakable terms their deep appreciation for every aspect of their administrative set up and treatment programme. "It is amazing how you and your staff have established such a perfect cordial rapport between you and the girls that gained their confidence and affection", exclaimed Mrs. Macdonald, wife of the High Commissioner for United Kingdom in India. Srimathi Indumati Chinanlal, the then Minister for Social Welfare, Bombay, in the course of her talk to me, said: "The Vigilance Welfare Work carried on in your State is so unique and successful because you have converted your Care Institutions into real homes for these homeless and you, your colleagues and your girls have formed into a happy family." "How have you been doing this specialised work so thoroughly without a Psychologist or Psychiatrist on the staff", was the surprise of Mrs. Leavell of Cambridge Community Service. "Had I not been informed of the nature of these institutions, I would have taken these for residential schools for girls. Their cheer and orderliness struck me," was the verdict of Hon'ble Sri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries, Madras State.

As one who has grown with the vigilance work and its vicissitudes in the City and State for the last twenty years and as one who has closely been associated with the preventive, prohibitive, custodial, curative and rehabilitative aspects of this work more in the field than at mere desk, I regard the observations of these visitors as invaluable tributes to the hard work that I and my loyal colleagues have put in with matchless zeal, devotion and loyalty. It is my only earnest hope that this sacred national work will at all times bask in the sunshine of the benign Government's care and attention. Our State is a pioneer in this field and may it not yield its first place to any other! May it see that the identity of this specialized branch of social welfare work is not lost or be treated as one among those "who also ran." This is as prayerful pleading of a valiant soldier of Vigilance cause.



SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS ACT 15  
AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS

We may build dams, launch Hydro-electric Projects, construct Fertilizer Plants in our country, but unless we simultaneously direct our persevering efforts to the moral stability of the builders of our homes and save for the society thousands of deviants among them from the path of morality by humanising their anti-social traits, all the material gains we hope to get would prove only to be houses of cards. The prosperity of any nation depends mainly on the sanctity of human relations and the standard of high moral value it attaches to the conduct of men and women. But, how many of us realize that the real threat to this programme comes mainly from the deterioration of moral values owing to which many thousands of girls and women are swept along by the swirling tides of socio-economic and environmental factors and hurled into the dismal abyss of prostitution, individual and commercialized, without being helped to discipline themselves to decent ways of living. The constructive national planning which aims at the formation of a new economic society with the social amelioration of its members is no doubt of paramount importance. But, it is only preventive in its aspect, and the results of which can be enjoyed only by the future generation. But, can we afford to neglect the reconstructive national programme of reclaiming, re-educating, reforming and rehabilitating the socially maladjusted and distressed women? They form a huge section of the population of our country and any further neglect shown towards their reorientation and re-assimilation in society will definitely lead to a large human wastage, while the continuance of this section will prove to be a perpetual menace to the progress and welfare of our country. This curative aspect of the national programme warrants, therefore, immediate implementation on a nation-wide basis inasmuch as it aims at the consolidation of the homes, society and nation with its regained citizens for the benefits of the families and immediate service of our country.

Yours faithfully,

V. T. LAKSHMI,

*Chief Inspector of Certified Schools and  
Vigilance Service.*



HOME DEPARTMENT

**G.O. No. 3092, 7th November 1958**

Act—The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956—Vigilance Department—Administration Report for 1957—Recorded with remarks.

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READ—the following paper :—

From the Chief Inspector of Certified Schools and Vigilance Service,  
dated 17th June 1958, No. Pdl. 4/A1/57.

Order—No. 3092, Home, dated 7th November 1958.

The report on the working of the Vigilance Department for the year 1957 submitted by the Chief Inspector of Certified Schools and Vigilance Service in her letter cited is recorded with following remarks.

2. *Admission and discharge of inmates in the Vigilance Home and Stri Sadana.*—It is disturbing to note that there was a fall in the number of admissions in the Vigilance Home and Stri Sadana Rescue Home during the year under review and that no case was put up under the "Rescue Sections" of the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act during the period from June 1957 to December 1957. There were only 54 prosecutions for street solicitation in 1957 as against 192 in 1956. All this shows that this important branch of work which devolves on the Police has been neglected. The Inspector-General of Police is requested to take steps for the vigorous enforcement of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956.

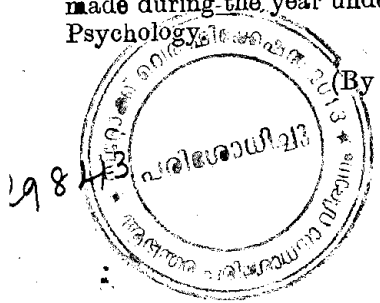
3. *Industrial and Vocational Branch.*—Forty girls from the City Vigilance Institutions were sent to do piece work in the Government Match Factory, Perambur. The Factory also sent materials to the Vigilance Institution where several girls were employed in attending to the work. It is noted with satisfaction that the girls have taken up the work willingly and have evinced keen interest in it. The proficiency that they acquire is expected to benefit them and provide them with employment, after they leave the institutions.

The Chief Inspector is requested to submit proposals to provide a shed and a few more looms for the weaving section of the Stri Sadana Special School.

4. *Psychological study of inmates.*—It is also gratifying to note the success of the psychological study of the inmates of the Stri Sadana made during the year under the guidance of the Honorary Adviser in Psychology.

(By order of the Governor)

S. K. CHETTUR,  
Secretary to Government.

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- To the Chief Inspector of Certified Schools and Vigilance Service, Madras (35 copies).
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  - „ the Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras.
  - „ the Public (Information and Publicity) Department (14 copies).
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