



ADMINISTRATION REPORT
ON THE
WORKING OF THE SUPPRESSION OF
IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND
GIRLS ACT FOR THE YEAR 1958



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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
1959

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Dated 26th May 1959.

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From

SRIMATHI V. T. LAKSHMI, M.A., L.T.,

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF CERTIFIED SCHOOLS

AND VIGILANCE SERVICE,

48/1, ROYAPETTAH HIGH ROAD,

MYLAPORE, MADRAS-4.

P746
30-11-59

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

HOME DEPARTMENT,

FORT ST. GEORGE,

MADRAS-9.

Sir,

[The Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act (since repealed) and Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956—Institutions—Administration Report for 1958—Submitted.]

I submit the report on the working of the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930 which was operative till 30th April 1958 and the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act (Central Act 104 of 1956), which replaced the former since 1st May 1958, and the administration of the institutions established thereunder in this State for the year 1958.

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

2. *Classes of institutions.*—Though the Vigilance Institutions, according to the Central Act, are commonly called as "Protective Homes", the already existing classification of the institutions in the State, viz., "Rescue Homes", "Vigilance Homes" and "Shelter Homes" continued. The three rescue homes, viz., the Government Sri 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, one under the Government 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 satisfactorily during the year.

3. *Admission and discharge of inmates.*—(i) *Government Stri Sadana Rescue Home.*—There were 87 inmates and 4 infants in the Stri Sadana at the commencement of the year. Sixty-six (66) inmates and 3 babies were admitted during the year, making a total of 153 inmates and 7 children. The classification for the 66 admissions is 31 voluntary cases, 11 rescued cases and 24 kidnaped ones. No certified girl was admitted during the year.

Sixty-one inmates and four children were disposed of during the year, leaving 92 inmates and 3 babies at the close of the year. The daily average strength of the Home during the year was 90.5 as against 85 in 1957.

(ii) *Government Vigilance Home, Madras.*—There were 225 inmates and 16 children in the Government Vigilance Home at the commencement of the year and 18 inmates and 2 children were admitted, making a total of 243 inmates and 18 children. Eighty six inmates and 11 babies were disposed of during the year, leaving 157 inmates and 7 children at the end of the period. The daily average strength of the Home during the year was 179.5 as against 227 in 1957.

There were two remand cases at the beginning of the year in the Shelter attached to the Government Vigilance Home; six cases were admitted during the year and all disposed of, leaving none at the end of the year, while the Government Stri Sadana Shelter received 25 pre-enquiry rescued and kidnaped girls.

The After-Care Hostel attached to the Government Stri Sadana was made use of by 15 ex-girls awaiting employment or employed in our Homes or in other City institutions. Its strength at the end of the year was three.

(iii) *Vigilance-cum-Rescue Home, Madurai.*—There were 59 inmates and one child in the Vigilance Home Section of the institution at the beginning of the year. Eighteen inmates and a baby born to an inmate of the Home were admitted during the year and 24 inmates and one child were disposed of, leaving 53 inmates and one baby at the end of the year.

There were 3 inmates in the Rescue Home Section of the institution at the commencement of the year. There was no admission. One inmate was discharged during the year, leaving two at the close of the year.

(iv) *St. Francis Xavier's Rescue Home, Adaikalapuram.*—There were 10 inmates at the commencement of the year.

SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS ACT 3
AND ADMINISTRATION OF INSTITUTIONS.

Fifty-six inmates were admitted and 48 were discharged, leaving 18 at the end of the year. The daily average number of inmates in the Home was 19.

(v) *Shelters (Madurai, Salem, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Tanjore)*—One hundred and seventeen inmates (117) passed through the mufassal Shelter Homes during this year under report as against 284 in 1957. The Abhaya Nilayam of the Madras Vigilance Association helped 163 fresh cases during the year.

The unusual and unprecedented steep fall in the admissions into the Government Vigilance Home and the Government Stri Sadana Rescue Home in Madras is too conspicuous to be ignored. The fall should not be misconstrued as a healthy indication to the corresponding fall in the incidence of sex victimisation, street solicitation or sex crimes in the City of Madras and in the State. It is mainly due to the replacement of the State Act by the Central Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956 which is not put into operation vigorously as yet by the Police for some technical and practical difficulties. On the other hand, the inactive operation of the new Act resulting in a lull in the City and State is feared to have aggravated the situation by increasing the incidence of sex victimisation and street solicitation.

The Government have been apprised of the situation, both by this Department and the Police Department. They are of course considering ways and means to remove the practical difficulties experienced by the executive authorities—the Police.

4. *Period of detention*:— (i) *Government Stri Sadana, Madras*.—Out of the 66 inmates admitted during the year, 11 were rescued cases, 31 were voluntary preventive and protective cases and 24 kidnapped ones. No girl certified for detention under the Madras Children Act was admitted. All these girls would be detained in the Home till they are adequately trained and rehabilitated.

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

	1957.	1958.
For two years ..	29	3
For three years ..	32	12
For four years ..	35	3
For five years ..	10	..
Total ..	106	18

5. Religion of Inmates.—

	Stri Sadana.		Vigilance Home.	
	1957.	1958.	1957.	1958.
Hindus	47	52	93	16
Christians	5	7	5	1
Muslims	3	7	8	1
Total ..	55	66	106	18

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

	Stri Sadana.		Vigilance Home.	
	1957.	1958.	1957.	1958.
Below 14 years	3	5	4	..
Between 14 and 18	31	36	42	7
Between 18 and 21	14	21	32	3
Between 21 and 25	7	4	24	7
Above 25	4	1
Total ..	55	66	106	18

7. Education of inmates.—

	Stri Sadana.		Vigilance Home	
	1957.	1958.	1957.	1958.
Literates	42	45	33	4
Illiterates	13	21	73	14
Total ..	55	66	106	18

The Stri Sadana Special School, which is common to both the Government Stri Sadana Rescue Home and the Government Vigilance Home, is located in the building housing the Vigilance Home. The School is a higher elementary one with eight standards. The media of instruction are Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. The method of teaching in the lower classes is based on that of basic-cum-adult education, while that in the higher is planned along the lines of the American "individualistic method". Out of the nine girls presented for the E.S.L.C. Examination in March 1958, six girls came out successful.

One girl passed her S.S.L.C. Examination in March 1958 and she has been admitted in a City College in the Pre-University Class (educational expenses are not borne by the Government). All the five inmates who appeared for the Higher Elementary Grade Teachers' Training this year have passed. One inmate, who appeared for the Teachers' Course in Music also passed. Three girls have been sent for Basic Training in Kasturbagram, Erode. Eleven are undergoing Teachers' Training in outside schools.

SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS ACT 5
AND ADMINISTRATION OF INSTITUTIONS

The Inspectress of Girls' Schools, Madras Circle, inspected the School as usual in July 1958. Her observations are as follow:—

“ This Special School continues to serve a useful purpose and does much not only in the way of giving inmates necessary general education up to the Higher Elementary Standard with useful craft training, but also in teaching them how to live together in a healthy ennobling atmosphere whatever their past lives may have been. They are further trained to take their place in society as useful, self-reliant citizens as the work of rehabilitation is an important part of the programme of the institution. With improved accommodation, further progress will surely be evident. ”

Besides general education, the following vocational subjects are also taught in the School, viz., spinning, weaving, tailoring, embroidery, needle-work and laundrying. A batch of 30 girls is being sent to the Government Match Factory at Perambur daily for piece-work. Another batch of 30 girls is doing work in Tag-manufacturing section. The Vigilance Department supplies an appreciable portion of the requirements of the Stationery Department in tags.

The Meenakshi Sadanam Vigilance-cum-Rescue Home has also a school attached to it with standards I to IV recognized by the Director of Public Instruction this year. The inmates of the institution have been evincing great interest in studies.

Industrial and Vocational Branch—City Institutions—Laundry.—The Laundry Section has had to restrict its services during this year only to the institutions and a very few selected outside customers due to the lean strength of the Homes.

Tailoring and Needle-work.—The Tailoring and Needle-work Section may be said to have been well established with the additional Tailoring Instructress and additional sewing machines. It has successfully executed the orders of the Government Reception Homes, Egmore, Madras Society for the Protection of Children, Madras, and other private agencies. It functioned very busily and turned out tremendous work during the All-India Khadi, Swadeshi and Industrial Exhibition and produced many fancy articles like table-cloths, pillow-covers, kerchiefs, cotton lace-goods, bags of varieties, etc., which found a very great demand at the Exhibition and the same were sold like hot cakes at the sales arranged by the institutions on various occasions.

Weaving.—The Weaving Section also turned out very good work this year and produced fine varieties of towels, napkins and bedsheets. The public appreciated the varied patterns of the products at the All-India Khadi, Swadeshi and Industrial Exhibition. The large sales of the articles of this section contributed much to the increase in the receipts for this year.

As per the suggestion given by the Home Secretary, when he paid a visit to the institutions, to improve this section, proposals have been submitted to Government for the construction of a

separate shed for it to accommodate more number of looms. They are under the active consideration of the Government. If the proposals are approved and sanctioned, it may be possible for the weaving section to expand and along with other industries in the institutions, augment the general receipts of the industrial section to a great extent, so as to meet at least a part of the expenditure incurred by the Government on the institutions.

Index-card and envelope-making.—There had been a fall in the receipts of this section as the City Damodar Envelope Factory could not entrust the Index-card and Envelope-making work to the industrial section of the institution during the year, as their tender for the supply of these items to the Postal and Railway authorities was not accepted. However, the amount realized is something to be welcomed since it is just a case of scoring gain without investment.

Doing the work at and for the Government Match Factory, Perambur.—Though this work was taken up only at the fag end of last year (1957), the girls gained proficiency in record time and took to the work very gracefully. A batch of girls go to the Factory and do piece-work there, while another batch works with the materials sent to them by the Factory in the institution itself. A portion of the receipts from the Factory is given as remuneration to the inmates by the Government as a sort of incentive, so that they may have the satisfaction that their labour is remunerative to some extent. It is hoped that the girls' proficiency in this cottage craft will help them easily to procure employment, main or subsidiary, when they are resettled in life and provide them with income, principal or supplementary, to lead a self-respecting life.

The Tag-making industry.—This industry has been a recognised and stabilised one in as much as the City Government Vigilance Institutions have become the supplying agents in tags to the Stationery Department. Approximately, fifty per cent of the receipts during the year flowed from this section only, as can be seen elsewhere in the report.

Spinning.—The inmates continued to do spinning compulsorily every day and it occupies an important place in the correctional field as an occupational therapy, in that, through spinning the digressing thought-currents of the deviant girls and women get converged or focussed at one point. When this is achieved as they gain proficiency in spinning, their minds are rendered more and more responsive to the institutional discipline and treatment. This is what is required.

Gardening.—Though this has not been serving as a source of income, yet its value has been great in the correctional work as a diversional therapy. This also has been serving as a natural laboratory for the practical work of the inmates in nature-study

SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS ACT 7
AND ADMINISTRATION OF INSTITUTIONS

Industrial Sections in the mufassal institutions.—(i) *Meenakshi Sadanam Vigilance-cum-Rescue Home in Madurai.*—Hand-pounding of paddy, spinning on Kisan and Ambar Charkas, sewing, embroidery and allied fancy work are the major crafts taught to the inmates of the institutions. They are set purely on an instructional basis, although their simple turn-over find a sale among the patrons of the Homes. The inmates have taken to these crafts kindly.

(ii) *St. Francis Xavier's Rescue Home, Adaikalapuram.*—In spite of the fact its inmates have been of delicate state of health and their stay in the institution has been of short duration, they have been engaged in doing simple handicrafts like hand-pounding of paddy, manufacture of jaggery, etc.

Stri Sadana Special School Library.—The Stri Sadana Special School has a good library containing 759 books. Of these, 6 books were new additions during the year under report. The inmates who are studying in IV to VIII Standards are given books weekly to study in their leisure hours. The staff also make use of the library for reference books on various subjects. The number of books will be increased gradually year by year.

A beginning has been made in the organization of a school Museum with the collections of curios.

Physical Education.—“A sound mind in a sound body”—Agreeably to this saying, the importance of physical education was not lost sight of and this forms part of the curriculum. Though the institutions in the City have no separate playgrounds, organised games—Indoor and Outdoor—were conducted regularly and periodical tournaments were also held in the available open space, thus not only keeping the team spirit alive in the inmates, but also offsetting the evil effects of their gloominess and pent-up energy.

The Seva Dal Corps, Girl Guides' Company and Girl Guide Unit functioned satisfactorily during the year. The Girl Guides of the Stri Sadana Special School were sent on a three-day camp to the Besant Camping Centre at Adyar along with their captains.

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. These fostered in the inmates creative faculties as well as brought forth their hidden talents. An Inter-institutional Debate Competition was arranged during the year. The Participants were Avvai Home, Service Home, Girls' Certified schools and Stri Sadana Special School. The debate was conducted under the Presidentship of Smt. Sarojini Varadappan. Smt. Indira Ramadorai, Smt. Gopalaratnam and myself were the judges. Prizes were distributed to the various winners of the institutions.

The girls of the two Homes were taken out in batches on excursions of educational value as usual. They were taken to Mahabalipuram, Thiruporur and Thirukhazhikunram. The girls of the Sixth and Seventh Standards were taken to the Madras Harbour and were also very kindly permitted by the authorities to go abroad a ship. They attended the Annual Day celebrations of various sister institutions in the City.

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

Moral instruction.—All possible facilities are afforded to the inmates in both the institutions to pursue their respective religions. They were regularly sent to their respective houses of worship and were allowed to observe their communal festivals with feasts and festivities. Fortnightly talks on moral topics were continued to be given by Swami Venkateswara-nanda, Head of the Arogya Asramam, Adyar, Madras, and others regularly.

Teachers' Union.—The union of the teachers and instructresses of the Stri Sadana Special School continued to be active and functioned satisfactorily during the year. Their inaugural and valedictory meetings were addressed by eminent educationists.

8. *Discipline.*—Discipline in the City Government Vigilance Institutions is that which helps their inmates' thoughts, words and deeds to be controlled voluntarily and integrated spontaneously so that they may exert their efforts purposively and with a self-directed orderliness. Its initial motive is to help the inmates to shed their unwholesome habits and behavioural crusts, but its ultimate object is to equip them with a well-balanced integrated adjustment in life. The orderliness of conduct that it aims to bring about among its beneficiaries is not through repression, restriction or retribution but by positive environmental and educative factors of therapeutic value.

The lethargic habits of the new-comers and their simple acts of defiance to authority and misdeeds are soon corrected, sublimated by the good examples of their reconditioned sisters in the institution. The Prefect System, obtaining in the institutions inculcates in them a sense of self-reliance, duty and responsibility and pave the way to the preparation for healthy citizenship. It also gives them sufficient recognition and importance. The Courts of Honour not only cultivate in their inmates the unique habits of self-repentance and self-correction but instil in them a positive virtue of doing the right and an inmate desire to avoid doing the wrong. In short, the inmates' daily programme is so planned as not to be drab but to be varied and interesting that the inmates'

SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS ACT 9
AND ADMINISTRATION OF INSTITUTIONS

time is wholly engaged and they have no time left to think of any impulsive or aggressive acts. Very few were instances which called forth some serious telling from the institutional authorities. The prevailing institutional discipline is something that any one may be proud of.

It is, indeed, very gratifying to record that, during the year, the authorities of the Government Vigilance Institutions did not face any "Boarding Home" problems in respect of their wards, thanks to the vigilant care and supervision of their custodial staff.

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 khadi clothing, besides personal equipment like steel trunks, plates, mugs, etc., were given to them as usual.

10. *Health (vital statistics).*—The medical administration of the Correctional Institutions in the vigilance welfare field is well planned. Most of the inmates of the Government Vigilance Home are invariably found to be infected with one or the other of the varied types of venereal diseases because of their having led an indiscriminate promiscuous life; while only a very small percentage of the inmates of the Government Stri Sadana are detected to be suffering from them. Careful medical examination of the inmates forms the primary step in the reconditioning programme undertaken by the authorities of the institutions. The inmates, as soon as they are admitted, are segregated, as far as facilities afford for such segregation. The Medical Officer (Part-time), who is a specialist in venereal diseases, takes personal interest and observes each inmate individually, diagnoses the diseases, prescribes such medical treatment programme that will bring her malady under control. Only when the new girls are declared to be non-infectives, they are allowed to mix freely with others and attend educational and industrial classes. Thus, the institutions also serve as clinical and observation centres of venereal diseases. Besides the treatment given in the dispensary attached to the two institutions, the inmates are also admitted in Government Hospitals in the City for intensive treatment, if such hospitalisation is found absolutely essential.

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

	<i>Stri Sadana.</i>		<i>Vigilance Home.</i>	
	1957. PER CENT.	1958. PER CENT.	1957. PER CENT.	1958. PER CENT.
Healthy	92.73	85	61.4	72.3
Unhealthy	7.27	15	38.6	27.7

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

Fourteen inmates of the Stri Sadana and 74 of the Vigilance Home were admitted during the year as in-patients for treatment in outside hospitals as against 9 and 17 respectively, last year, and almost all of them were discharged cured. There was only one death during the year in the Government Vigilance Home. The inmate, who was admitted in the Kasturba Gandhi Hospital, Madras, died of avitaminosis. Two babies also died due to premature delivery. There was no case of death in the Government Stri Sadana. The daily average number of inmates treated as out-patients in the dispensary was 33 and that in the outside hospitals 9, as against 26 and 13 respectively, in the previous year.

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

	Number discharged.		Number remained stationary.	
	1957.	1958.	1957.	1958.
Stri Sadana	60	61	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Vigilance Home	123	86	3.33	3.28
			4.88	4.65
	Number gained weight.		Number lost weight.	
	1957.	1958.	1957.	1958.
Stri Sadana	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Vigilance Home	96.67	96.72	Nil.	Nil.
	90.24	94.2	4.88	1.15

The statistics are comparatively better than those of last year as revealed by the percentages of "gained weight" and "lost weight."

11. *Psychological study of inmates.*—The psychological study of inmates in the Correctional Institutions like the Government Vigilance Institutions is as necessary as their medical examination. While taking care of the wood, the trees are not in any way neglected. Despite the absence of Psychiatrists and Psychologists on the staff of these institutions, this most significant work of conducting an analytical psychological study of the inmates of the Government Stri Sadana, based on their case histories, is safe in the hands of the Assistant Superintendent of the said institution. By personal contacts, a realistic appraisal of each inmate's assets as well as liabilities is made by her, so as to assign to them correct institutional treatment-programme in respect of their daily life, duties in the Home, schooling, vocational training, games and other related matters. By a day-to-day follow-up study, she indirectly gets the inmates' minor behavioural disorders corrected. It is only by constantly adjusting and re-adjusting various treatment plans in the institution and through giving the inmates love, care, encouragement and their due recognition that she helps each and every individual inmate to re-start a "new life" of sex-purity and womanly dignity.

**SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS ACT II
AND ADMINISTRATION OF INSTITUTIONS**

Problem cases are continued to be referred to the Madras Juvenile Guidance Bureau and with the advice of and instructions from the Honorary Adviser and his Assistants, their personal problems, often offshoots of their emotional immaturity, are tried to be solved.

Under the direction of the Superintendent, the extension of a similar programme to the Government Vigilance Home will soon be implemented, now that the institution has a permanent Assistant Superintendent.

12. *Finance.*—The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 2,48,500 as against Rs. 2,60,200 in 1957. The decrease in expenditure was mainly due to fall in the strength of the inmates.

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. 647.26 as against Rs. 617.28 in 1957. The increase in the average cost was mainly due to the steep-fall in the daily average strength of inmates in the Government Vigilance Home, Madras.

A sum of Rs. 18,947.87 was derived as receipts from the industrial sections of the Government Stri Sadana Special School as against Rs. 9,217.81 during 1957. The other receipts including the arrears of maintenance charges recovered on account of the Kerala inmates from the Government of Kerala during the year amounted to Rs. 26,879.29, as against Rs. 3,491.59 last year. The industry-wise details are given below:—

<i>Industrial receipts.</i>		1957.		1958.	
		RS.	NP.	RS.	NP.
1 Laundry section		515	16	109	32
2 Tailoring and needle-work section ..		2,037	88	4,236	12
3 Weaving section		810	91	1,328	72
4 Index-card Labelling and envelope-making.		3,109	35	2,249	87
5 Match factory work		280	74	1,672	33
6 Tag-making		24	52	9,118	51
7 Spinning section		2,439	25	233	00
	Total ..	9,217	81	18,947	87
<i>Other receipts.</i>					
		1957.		1958.	
		RS.	NP.	RS.	NP.
Boarding charges		994	44	680	17
Maintenance charges of inmates of other States.		2,277	15	25,665	96
Miscellaneous		220	00	533	16
	Total ..	3,491	59	26,879	29
	Total receipts ..	12,709	40	45,827	16

NOTE.—The receipts in the Tailoring Section exclude stitching charges clothing of the inmates of both the Homes.

It is very gratifying to record here that the vocational sections have, as per expectations, proved to be productive centres by showing over cent per cent increase over the receipts of last year. This is a matter for immense satisfaction that within a period of only two years of intensification of the industrial sections, the receipts have been doubled. This was in no small measure due to the wholehearted endeavours of the inmates under the zealous and sincere guidance of their enthusiastic instructors of the respective vocational classes. It is no exaggeration if I say that when the weaving section is expanded, there will definitely be a further increase in the receipts. Thus, it has been proved that the amount sanctioned by the benign Government towards the purchase of additional equipment and raw materials for various industrial sections have not proved to be a waste.

13. *Accommodation.*—There was no change in the location of the Government twin Vigilance Institutions in the City this year. The Government Stri Sadana Rescue Home and Shelter continued in the buildings "Rahmat Bagh" and "Tower House" in Santhome High Road, Madras and the Government 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 through the "Everest". Since the year recorded unprecedented fall in the daily average strength of the Government Vigilance Home, there was, of course, no heavy overcrowding. The question of construction of buildings for these Homes has had to be dropped this year, as there was no vacant site available in and around Madras City to meet our requirements. But, the benign Government have, however, accepted my proposal to purchase buildings for the Homes in the City at a cost not exceeding Rs. 2.0 lakhs. It is earnestly hoped that the day when we may be able to purchase a suitable building is not far off.

14. *Rehabilitation and re-settlement of discharged inmates.*—(i) *Government Stri Sadana.*—Of the 61 inmates discharged during the year, three were given away in marriage, three were sent for Pre-basic Teachers' Training, three admitted into the After-Care Home for Women, Vellore, 44 restored to parents, husbands or other guardians and 8 taken on to the establishment of the Government Vigilance Home and Government Stri Sadana.

(ii) *Government Vigilance Home.*—Of the 86 inmates discharged, three were given away in marriage, 27 were restored to their relatives after the expiry of their term, five released on licences, two were sent out on service, four admitted to the Government Stri Sadana as voluntary preventive cases at their own request, to enable them to continue their studies, one admitted in the After-Care Home for Women, Vellore, 26 transferred to Rescue Home at Ponnakulam, Kerala State, two taken on to the establishment of the Home, six escaped, four were transferred to the State Jail for Women, Vellore, one died in the Kasturba Gandhi Hospital, Madras, and five were released on appeal.

**SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS ACT 13
AND ADMINISTRATION OF INSTITUTIONS**

(iii) *Vigilance-cum-Rescue Home, Madurai.*—Of the 24 inmates shown as disposals, during the year, two were given away in marriage, 16 restored to parents or relatives on expiry of their terms, two sent to After-Care Home, Vellore, 1 released on licence, two escaped and one died of Tuberculosis.

(iv) *St. Francis Xavier's Rescue Home, Adaikalapuram.*—Of the 48 inmates, disposed of during the year, 17 were discharged on marriage and 31 restored to parents or relatives. There were 58 cases of delivery during the year of which four were sent to Government Hospital at Tiruchendur.

(v) *Shelter Homes in the mufassal*—Though the Shelters at Madurai, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli continued to function satisfactorily, still, it is felt that they were not fully made use of by the Police Officers of those towns. The Abhaya Nilayam continued to serve the cause of the stranded and young women in distress.

The private Vigilance Rescue Shelter at Tanjore admitted 29 inmates during the year and 22 were discharged. The Association arranged for the marriage of two inmates during the year.

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

(1) Hon'ble Sri. C. Subramaniam, Minister for Finance and Education, Government of Madras.

(2) Sri S. K. Chettur, Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home Department.

(3) The Minister for Industries and Commerce, Transports, Jails, Relief and Rehabilitation, Bihar.

(4) Mrs. Juna S. Silverio, Social Service Officer, E. C. A. F. E.

(5) Mr. and Mrs. Lester B. Granger, Vice President of the International Conference of Social work.

(6) The President, Y. M. C. A., Colombo.

(7) Mrs. Premavathi Thapar, Adviser (for After-Care Programme) Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi.

(8) The Study Team of Social Welfare.

(9) The Delegates to the Decennial Session of the Indian Conference of Social Work, Madras.

(10) Dr. G. D. Boaz, Honorary Adviser in Psychology to the Department of Certified Schools and Vigilance Service, Madras.

(11) Mrs. O. C. Srinivasan, Member of the National Committee on Women's Education.

16. *Important events during the year.*—The most important event during the year under report was the holding of a Conference of officials and non officials connected with the correctional

work in the State under the presidentship of the Honourable Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Home, on the 1st of March 1958. Several important subjects were discussed at the Conference on Juvenile Delinquency, Suppression of Immoral Traffic, Probation of Offenders and Re-organization of the Educational and industrial classes of the Government Certified Schools. So far as the Vigilance Welfare is concerned, it is gratifying to note that the Conference resolved to start a small Women Police Unit in the Madras City, to start with and to set apart women probation Officers in the City, mainly to deal with girls and women of the Vigilance Institutions and Certified Schools. The Government have been pleased to sanction recently the formation of a Women Police Unit as an experimental measure in the Madras City. Their duties comprise mainly patrolling areas where undesirable women may frequent, rescuing of young girls found homeless and exposed to moral danger, and accompanying the Police on Immoral Traffic Act raids. This long pending dream of Woman Social Workers of the State has been at last realized. By the re-distribution of the jurisdiction of the Probation Officers in the City of Madras, the Women Probation Officers are dealing with the girls and women in the institutions under the Department of Certified Schools and Vigilance Service in the City.

The following also are some of the events of importance during the year:—

(1) Participation of the Superintendent of the Government Vigilance Institutions in the City in the Decennial Anniversary Session of the Indian Conference of Social Work in Madras:

(2) The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents of the Government twin Vigilance Institutions in the City attended the In-service Training conducted by the Honorary Adviser in Psychology in April 1958.

(3) Enforcement of the Central Act, viz., Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, in the State in May 1958 in the place of the old Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930.

(4) The purchase of a 16 m.m. Film Projector for the Government Stri Sadana during the year was a boon to the inmates of the Government twin Vigilance Institutions in the City, inasmuch as it served as an important Audio Visual Aid to education, besides proving to be a welcome medium of entertainment.

List of proposals sanctioned or pending final orders of Government, under consideration or likely to be considered during 1959.—

(1) Purchase of private buildings in the City for the Government Vigilance Institutions at a cost not exceeding Rs. 2.00 lakhs.

(2) Opening State Rescue (Protective) Home at Tiruchirappalli.

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

(3) Opening of a Vigilance Reception Centre at Nagercoil.

(4) Improvement to the weaving industry by providing additional looms and construction of separate weaving block.

17. *Conclusion.*—It is with satisfaction and not with complacency that I state that the vessel of Vigilance Institutional Welfare in the State during the year has been steered to a further port of success and usefulness, in spite of several whirlpools on the way. It is not indeed, within the scope or objective of the Vigilance Service, as some think, to directly carry on any crusade for the suppression and much less for the elimination of the long tolerated evil of traffic in human flesh or of commercial service. Its prevention is the allotted task of the enlightened public and welfare agencies, while its control and suppression through legislation is the assigned duty of the police, the custodians of law and order. So, the laudable aim and object of the Department are only to provide in its Care, Correctional and After-Care institutions, timely shelter, advice, care, protection and correctional training, preparatory to the socio-economic rehabilitation of the hundreds of the helpless "dumb-driven cattle" of gullible girls and deprived women, exploited by the anti-social wolves of society and rescued by the Police or voluntary welfare agencies from the jaws of commercialized vice.

The Vigilance Institutions or Protective Homes under the administrative control or supervision of this Department are throwing all their resources in the "all-out" effort to marshal all forms of therapeutic assistance to help their beneficiaries to shed their unhealthy traits and habits, unaccepted behaviour and inability to cope with the social codes of morality. An experimental method, evolved out of long years of experience, is being adopted to aid them in a helpful and genial atmosphere to cultivate belief in God, to develop a rational and personal outlook on life and to lead a dharmic family life, all of which will not only integrate the individual inmates as well as sustain social harmony but will also set up an effective security in them against any sexual breakdowns in future. Thus, the wards of the institutions are those who craved for all things that might enrich their lives materially with the least effort, but the institutionalization regenerates their personality and behaviour development, so as to enable them to enjoy all things in life and be benefited not only materially but ethically and sociologically.

Reviewing the achievements of the Vigilance Institutions in the City and State, during the year under report, one feels that although they are not spectacular, they are quite satisfying under the circumstances. That 118 girls, who would have been leading a life of shame and disease, were happily restored to their relatives, 27 marriages were performed for those who would otherwise have been deprived of social security, and that for 15 were f—

employment of different types, who, but for this, would have been in need of economic independence is, indeed, a record to be proud of.

As regards the results in the arts, professional and technical public examinations, the girls of the Government Stri Sadana Special School have done creditably. For the first time in the annals of the history of the Government Vigilance Institutions, one of the girls joined a City College for further studies. Fourteen girls are undergoing Teachers' Training. The on rush for admissions of voluntary preventive and protective cases into the Government Stri Sadana throughout the year is a proof direct not due merely to the congenial atmosphere of and parental care and supervision exercised in the institution but chiefly to its ex-inmates carrying on propaganda among those in need of institutional help. The timely services rendered by the Rescue Home at Adaikalapuram for 48 unmarried mothers or women with illegitimate pregnancies are something commendable. It is, therefore, to call a spade a spade to state that the socio-economic rehabilitation of the inmates of the Vigilance Institutions has qualitatively improved and quantitatively augmented.

Especially in the case of a non-developmental department like the Department of Vigilance Service, on which the benign Government spends about two and half lakhs of rupees annually, it is but natural that, notwithstanding its moral contribution to the national advancement, people look forward to its financial returns, however small it may be! That a sum of Rs. 18,948 has been derived this year as against Rs. 9,218 of last year from the Industrial Sections of the Government Vigilance Institutions in the City—not to speak of the amount of Rs. 26,879 realized this year, in the form of "other receipts" against Rs. 3,492 of last year, since it will be of oscillating type—will be agreed to on all hands to be an achievement in itself. This over cent per cent increase in receipts over those of last year is wholly due to the voluntary interest with which the inmates of the institutions have been learning and doing the trades so well and skillfully as to make them commercially beneficial. In this connection, I wish to pay an appreciative tribute to the Superintendent, her Assistants, Instructors, Matrons and Teachers for the pains that they have taken in the intensification of the industries and thereby in furthering the progress of the same. It is trusted that they will not rest on their oars till they see that the receipts realized from their industrial sections cover at least fifty per cent of the total expenditure incurred by the Government on their institutions.

A word is due to explain the steep fall in the number of statutory admissions in the Protective Homes in the State in general and in those in the Government Vigilance Home in the City in particular. This decrease in the number of admissions does not unhappily denote any corresponding minimization of the

immoral traffic in women and girls or commercialised vice. Whatever may be the reasons, the fact remains that due to the new Act not being enforced in right earnest, the vice has been let loose, and is flourishing under several guises and in different forms usually camouflaged, but at times openly too. This sets us a-thinking! Whether every hour the Act is inactive, scores of young women and girls are not entering the gate of purgatory, without any rescue-help being given to them! There is yet another matter for graver concern! Promiscuous life having close relation with venereal diseases and the incidence of the latter therefore being pretty high in our State, the largest percentage of cases suffering from these dismal diseases are those who are caught in the snares of traffickers and commercialised vice. Therefore, owing to the delay in the enforcement of the Act, for almost one year in the State, hundreds of women and girls, suffering from these contagious maladies were denied the opportunity of getting themselves treated and cured in the Correctional Institutions, which also play, as has been noted elsewhere in the report, as the health-centres. There is however a silver lining visible around the hovering clouds: The State Government are fast taking steps to provide extra personnel and a unit of Women Police as well to the Police Department in the City to start with so as to facilitate the smooth and successful operation of the Act. Notwithstanding this temporary frustration that the Vigilance Institutions feel about the full benefits of their services not being made use of by many more women and girls in need of such help, they have still the gratification of fulfilling their duty by those beneficiaries who have sought their shelter and protection.

The Protective Homes, especially the Government twin Vigilance Institutions in the City, continued to serve as a pilgrimage centre for many a distinguished visitor and savant in social service. Mrs. Juna S. Silverio, Social Service Officer, E.C.A.F.E., observed: "Never have I seen institutions of this type anywhere, which all of us only visualise in hundreds to serve the long neglected cause of the fallen women! Your institutions play the roles of home, school, church, and society. I pay my homage to the monumental services they render." No higher tribute can ever be paid to the honest work put in by my colleagues in planning the institutional set-up and care in such a praiseworthy manner. Recently, when a highly placed officer's attention was drawn by a friend of mine to the exemplary manner in which a batch of Government Stri Sadana girls carrying themselves and rendering useful help at a function he seemed to have unreservedly exclaimed: "What a real service the Government Vigilance Department is doing! How splendidly these girls are transformed to move in society without being distinguished from the rest!" This officer's verdict will allay the misgiving of some, who still doubt the value of Correctional Institutions and regard the expenditure thereon as a colossal waste.

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE
SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND GIRLS ACT
AND ADMINISTRATION OF INSTITUTIONS

Politically, people believe that democratic social way of life is the most suitable for the human progress. Socially, they contend that the economic equality is the only solatium for all socio-economic injustice in the society. Religiously, they propagate the preservation of spiritual values so as to foster the wholesome integration of human mental development. But, at this time of the country's history, when moral values appear to be at their lowest ebb, it should be remembered by everyone that unless the moral solidarity of every individual, family and society is upheld and fostered, the country's progress in any other direction will not be stable or successful.

My sincere thanks are due to the Departments of Police, Jail and Probation as well as to voluntary social welfare workers for their unstinted advice, co-operation and help rendered at all times and on all occasions in discharging my duties.

Our benign Government have been graciously kind to extend my service to the cause of Vigilance Welfare in our State for one more year. During this year, it shall be my bounden duty to dedicate my wholehearted and selfless service to the cause of my less fortunate sisters, for whose uplift, correction and rehabilitation I have honestly toiled for the last twenty years and more.

Yours faithfully,

V. T. LAKSHMI,

Chief Inspector of Certified Schools and Vigilance Service.



HOME DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1861, 30th June 1959

Act—The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956—
Vigilance Department—Administration Report for 1958—Recorded with remarks.

• READ—the following paper :—

From the Chief Inspector of Certified Schools and Vigilance Service,
dated 26th May 1959, No. Pdl. 4/A-1/58, Vig. Ser.

Order—No. 1861, Home, dated 30th June 1959.

The report on the working of the Vigilance Department for the year 1958 submitted by the Chief Inspector of Certified Schools and Vigilance Service in her letter cited is recorded with the following remarks :—

2. *Admission and discharge of inmates in Vigilance Institutions.*—There has been an unusual and unprecedented steep fall in the admissions in the Vigilance Institutions in the City and the State. This is mainly due to the coming into force of the new Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, which could not be put into operation vigorously by the Police on account of some technical and practical difficulties. The Government have since proposed to appoint more Police officers solely to attend to the enforcement of the Act. The employment of an Assistant Commissioner of Police in the City of Madras solely to attend to the enforcement of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, as an experimental measure for a period of six months, has recently been sanctioned. The question of appointing more Police officers will be considered after watching the result in the City of Madras. The Government consider that with the appointment of Police officers solely to enforce the provisions of the Act, there will be definite improvement in the admissions to the Vigilance Institutions in the City and in the mufassal.

3. *Education of inmates in the City Vigilance Institutions.*—Out of the 9 girls presented for the E.S.L.C. examinations in March 1958, 6 girls came out successful. One girl has passed her S.S.L.C. Examination during the year and has been admitted in a City College. All the five inmates who appeared for the Higher Elementary Grade Teachers' Training have come out successful. The inmate who appeared for Teachers' Course in Music has also passed. Three girls have been sent for Basic training in Kasturbagram, Erode, and eleven are undergoing Teachers' Training in outside schools. The Government note with satisfaction that the Vigilance Institutions in the City have shown very good progress in Education and Training.

No. 1861, HOME, 30TH JUNE 1959

4. *Industries.*—Besides general education, the following crafts are also taught to the inmates, viz., spinning, weaving, tailoring, embroidery, needlework, laundrying, match manufacturing and tag manufacturing.

The tailoring and needle-work section functioned very busily and turned out tremendous work during the All-India Khadi, Swadeshi and Industrial Exhibition held during 1958 and produced many fancy articles which found a very great demand at the Exhibition.

The receipts from the Industrial Sections during the year under review have increased from Rs. 9,217-81 nP. in 1957 to Rs. 18,947-87 nP. in 1958. The Industrial Units have made commendable progress during the year.

5. *Health of the inmates in the City Vigilance Institutions.*—During the year under review, the percentage of inmates who gained weight has increased. The percentage of the number of inmates who lost weight in the Stri Sadana is 'nil' and in the Vigilance Home, it has decreased from 4.88 per cent in 1957 to 1.15 per cent in 1958. Thus, the health of the inmates in the City Vigilance Institutions has been generally satisfactory.

Rehabilitation of inmates.—The rehabilitation of the inmates discharged from the City Vigilance Institutions has been satisfactory.

Discipline.—The discipline of the inmates in the City Vigilance Institutions had been quite satisfactory. The Government note with satisfaction that the Prefect System and the Courts of Honour obtaining in the Institutions had worked successfully.

(By order of the Governor)

S. K. CHETTUR,
Secretary to Government.

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