

Preamble

The Tamil sage Poet Thiruvalluvar says that Education has two facets – the one is learning thoroughly and the other is living in accordance with what one has learnt. Amartya Sen rightly points out that, “Education makes human beings more articulate. It transforms people. You can think differently about the world. It makes it possible for you to get jobs. It makes a dramatic difference. It generates a social equity that we need.” Hence, Education occupies an important place in the lives of people and it necessitates planning for a futuristic education. Such a plan has to fulfil the twin aspects – educating the children and defining the goals for their future life.

The annals of history show that Tamil Nadu has a well-knit educational structure for long. The School Education Department has taken initiatives in developing the Curriculum, Syllabus and Textbooks to meet the challenges of the present day. The Curriculum and the Position Papers on various subjects have set clear goals and strategies for an equitable and affordable education for the children of the state.

The comprehensive Position Paper relating to the Curriculum of Tamil Nadu spells out the Education Policy of the State. It contains the content and methodology of teaching and learning of various subjects and languages. It lays emphasis on the two-language formula, the Mother Tongue and English, giving importance to learning through the Mother Tongue. The Position Paper for each subject reflects on the formulation of the Syllabus and the Curricular areas which will be part of the textbooks.

The Curriculum aims at developing and nurturing the children to face the challenges of their future life, understanding the socio-cultural aspects of the society

through education. It spans through the Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary levels. A student passing out of the school after twelve years of education, completing the Higher Secondary Course in a science stream may pursue her / his Higher Education in any subject i.e., Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Zoology and Biology. The option is open for the students at the Higher Secondary level to choose either the Science Subjects or the Subjects under Humanities. There are Vocational Subjects also to enable the students select an appropriate course to equip their work skills and seek a better job. Thus, one may become an architect of the Socio-Economic Development of the Society in future.

The Position Papers on the languages and subjects explain the aims and objectives of teaching each of them in the schools. The teaching of Tamil stands for the inculcation of the culture and heritage of the State apart from the teaching of the language itself. The Position Paper on teaching Tamil encompasses the objectives, language competencies, methods and approaches. The Position Paper on teaching English says that the learners will be engaged in meaningful experiences of the language by exploring and doing. It also explains the scope of using technology appropriately in learning the language.

The Position Paper on Mathematics Curriculum envisions that the central goal of mathematics is to *mathematize thought* in the learning child. It aims to provide plenty of opportunities for the child to train the mind to think logically, abstractly, critically and creatively. The Position Paper on Science Curriculum asserts that the central goal of science education is to provide not only a factual and conceptual understanding of natural phenomena, but also a fluency in *working with the material world*. The Position Paper on

Social Science says that the society has enormous faith on this subject as it has the potential to nurture values and form attitudes in the children.

The development of the curriculum resonates the rich cultural, social, economic and political history of Tamil Nadu. It lays emphasis on celebrating the cultural diversity and helping the child understand the secular character of early Tamil Society, which will lead the child to understand the cultural heritage of the State and the social issues of the present day. It advocates equitable education for all, to realise the aspirations of Poet Bharathi, who has said that “If we maintain parity among men and women, the world will cherish with knowledge enriched.” This enables all the stakeholders to formulate the ways to establish the society of equals as envisioned in the Preamble of the Constitution of India “.... Constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic and to secure to all its citizen: Justice, Social, Economic and Political”.
