



Colonial Impact of British Administration in the District of Trincomalee

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ABSTRACT

Colonialism is the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically. The British Colonized the coastal provinces for around 152 years in Sri Lanka. Trincomalee was one part of the colonized Eastern Province during the period and it is the administrative headquarter and a major port city of Eastern Province. It is a picturesque city with a natural harbour, military stronghold, and historical landmark, located by hills and mountains on three sides, and the fourth is protected by a few islands. It was the main base and shore headquarters of the Eastern fleet of the British Royal Navy during the Second World War due to the natural harbour, which is accessible to all types of craft in all weather conditions. Therefore, it is significant to the political and socioeconomic spheres of Sri Lanka, because of its favorable geographical location which could be used for significant economic and military activities in the Eastern region. The great European powers vied for mastery of this harbour. The Portuguese, Dutch, French, and English, each held this harbor one after the other and there had been many sea battles nearby to capture this port. The British had the most extended period of supreme administration among the Europeans in the Eastern province (1802-1948). They introduced major projects and enterprising activities for the modernization of Trincomalee due to the incredible success of their extraordinary accomplishments and achievements in administration. This research explores the significant development and changes among the communities of Trincomalee under the British administration and it also will be a reference for future research.

Keywords: *British administration, colonialism, changes, natural harbour, Trincomalee*

1 INTRODUCTION

‘The island of Ceylon is said to be one of the finest islands that have been discovered up to our times, and the most fruitful under the sun, and which was ‘terrestrial paradise’ stated by the Portuguese (Goonewardena 1958). Sri Lanka had been under Western colonial administration from 1597 to 1948. The Portuguese and Dutch administrated only the coastal areas. Later the British administrated the whole Island since 1815 to 1948.

Trincomalee is the administrative headquarters of the Trincomalee District and a major port city of Eastern Province, Sri Lanka. It is one of the best natural harbour in the world and accessible to all types of craft in all weather conditions (Fernaõ de Queyroz 1916). It is significant from a political and socioeconomic viewpoint because of its favorable geographical location which could be used for significant economic and military activities in the Eastern region.

The British original records have deceased due to poor maintenance and lack of storage facilities in the Kachcheries of Batticaloa and Trincomalee. Hence, this research depends on the original British records of the Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts.

It is based on the significance of Trincomalee, the colonial administration, the cultural, social, and economic changes in Trincomalee during the colonial era, particularly during the British administration, and the impacts of British influences on the present administration as well.

2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This is limited to the British administration due to the absence of Portuguese records and inadequate sources of Dutch records. Therefore, the data was collected from archives and museums in Colombo, Kachcheri of Trincomalee, Naval and Air Force museums,

Government Departments, Schools, and Missionary Institutions. A mixed-method approach was applied, it synthesizes both quantitative and qualitative methods throughout the research process (Jayadeva Uyangoda 2015) with the principles of rational investigation of the British colonial source materials.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Political Impact during British Administration in the District of Trincomalee

It is evident that Trincomalee was a vital strategic position to defend India was acknowledged by the British in their early years of occupation of the island. James Cordiner, writing in 1800, remarked that Trincomalee is considered the seat of government in preference to Colombo. Emerson Tennent remarked that Trincomalee was a grand emporium of oriental commerce, the Gibraltar of India, and the arsenal of the East.

During the early period of British administration, under the English East India Company, Trincomalee was placed under a collector, Mr. George Garrow from 10.1.1797 to 1.7.1797. In July 1797, the collector was changed to Assistant Agent of Revenue, held by Lieut. Tomal Young up to October 1801. The Trincomalee Kachcheri was established in 1799. When Sri Lanka was made a crown colony of the British Empire on 1st January 1802, Mr. Peter Marshall was appointed as the Agent of Revenue for Trincomalee in October 1802. Once again, the name of the Agent of Revenue was changed to the Collector in October 1805 by Governor Mainland and continued until 1833. (200th Year Anniversary of Civil Administration, Trincomalee District:2000).

Government Agent and the Local Bodies:

The district was administered by the Government Agent. He also held

responsibilities, such as the additional district Judge, fiscal, provincial registrar, chairman of the provincial and district road committees, chairman of the local board, chairman of the district school committee, superintendent of prisons, collector of customs, etc. (Canagaratnam 1921).

Based on the Ceylon Almanac and Annual Register Report of 1822, native headmen attached to the collector of Trincomalee, especially Mr. Don Joan Nilleritnesegra Cardooweeloo were: the Chief Modeliar of the Province of Trincomalee and Modeliar of the Kachchery, Mr. Supermania Wannian was the Assistant Wanniah of Cottier, Mr. Gaspar Sandrasegra Bood Nalla Mappenan was the Wanniah of Collocolom, Mr. Don Philipoo Rasacaria Tombapulle was the Modeliar of Tanglegame, Mr. Don Joan Annadana was the Maniagara and Mudeliar of the Postal Department and Mr. Cader Sahib was the Assistant Marcuit of the Town of Trincomalee.

Mr. W.H. Whiting, Esq, was the Government Agent and his salary was Rs.1200.00. Mr. J.T. Tranchell, Esq, was the Assistant Government Agent drawing an annual salary Rs.500.00 (Ceylon Almanac 1854).

Mr. W. Morris, Esq, was a Government Agent of the Eastern province. In the district of Trincomalee, Mr. A. Y. Adams, Esq, was Assistant Government Agent, (Rs.225, half salary), Mr. F. R. Sunderr, Esq, Acting ditto, Rs.450 (225 half salary, 225 as Assistant Surveyor), Mr. R. B. Holgale was a head clerk (Rs.150). The following members were the clerks: Mr. G. F. Vanderhoeven (Rs.100), Mr. W. F. Willians (Rs.90), and Mr. Hunter (Rs.75). Further Mr. J. R. Keil was the record keeper and bookbinder (Rs.50), Mr. R. C. M. Miller was chief Mudeliar and Interpreter (18), Mr. S. M. Canegerar Mudaliar was Mohandiran (90), Mr. Don Francis Serewardene was Translator (60) and Mr. Waryewenader Tiliambelam was shroff (72). (Ceylon Almanac 1862).

The particulars of Government Agents in Trincomalee from 1834 to 1932 have been analyzed, and it became evident that the G.A. and the major power of authority was shared among the British, not among the native people. The revenue collection from the people were done by the natives.

Judiciary System and District Court: One of the impacts of British rule in the nineteenth century was the establishment of a system of justice that drew its ideals and inspirations almost totally from Britain. (Silva 1997). The Judicial system worked under the supreme court, the Vice admiralty court, the Queen advocates office, the Deputy queen's advocate office, the Registrar's supreme court, district courts, courts of requests, and Police courts (Ceylon Almanac 1854). Mr. H. E. O'Grady, Esq, District Judge, Commissioner of request, and Police Magistrate of Trincomalee. Under that, Mr. G. E. Colomb was the secretary of the district court and Mr. W. M. Cadergametamby was the native writer, Mr. S. M. Tambapulle was the office clerk as well. Mr. E. H. Burrows, Esq, was the District Judge, commissioner of request, and police magistrate of Trincomalee in the year 1862.

The Police Department and the Prison Department: Under the Police department, Mr. W. Morris, Esq, was the Superintendent, Mr. F. R. Saunders, Esq was the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. L. M. Lopiesz was the clerk, Mr. V. Peter was the Head Constable and two sergeants and twenty-one Constables in the District of Trincomalee in the year 1862. Under the Prison department, Mr. F. R. Ellis was the Director and Inspector General, appointed by the Governor on April 11, 1891, and his annual salary was Rs.10,000.00. Mr. J. W. Hesse (clerk), Mr. J. A. Hunter (Head clerk) and Mr. F. F. Jayasinghe (clerk) worked under him. Based on that, Eastern Province had two prison wardens and eight Guards, especially Mr. I. L. Sansoni, the Jailer of the district of

Batticaloa, and under him had worked four Guards (Blue Book:1892).

3.2 Economic Impact of British Administration in Trincomalee District

In the District of Trincomalee, major economic developments took place in the field of agriculture. The kings who ruled the island in ancient times, Udaiyar, Vanniyar, and other Headmen of the village made significant contributions to irrigation development. Even after the British arrived on the island, they continued to develop the agriculture and irrigation aspects that were already in existence. The British Governor (Sir Henry Ward) also continued undertaking projects for repairing tanks, canals, and bridges were specially mentioned in the Administration report. Coconut cultivation, chena and fruit plantation, traditional handloom weaving, hand-making items, decorative materials, small industry, fishing, dairy farms, poultry, and other odd jobs also functioned without any hindrance through modern and technical methods.

Table 1: Paddy cultivation details from 1919 to 1926 in Trincomalee District

Years	Gross sown extent (Acres)	Total Production	Average yield (for acre)
1919	12,396	247,920 bushels	20 bushels
1920	15,045	270,810 bushels	18 bushels
1921	18,481	282,101 bushels	15 bushels
1922	15,495	334,312 bushels	21 bushels
1923	16,870	360,846 bushels	21 bushels
1926	18,562	-	-

Source: The Ceylon Blue Book: 1919 to 1926

Table 1 represents paddy cultivation details in Trincomalee District from 1919 to 1926. It includes information on the gross sown extent (in acres), total production (in bushels), and average yield per acre (in bushels) for each year. Analytically, this table provides the average yield per acre experienced variations, but generally, there was an increase in yield from 1919 to 1923, followed by a decline in

1926. This could be influenced by factors such as changes in agricultural techniques, weather patterns, or the introduction of new paddy varieties.

The coir brooms, coir string, earthenwares, wood material, and salted fish were produced. Also, six oil mills and three soda machines were operated in the district of Trincomalee. Also, Rs.195,696.00 worth of salt was manufactured in 1926 and the following fish were caught in Trincomalee waters: shark, seer, sardine, parai, oora, suran, kerameen, poonchakanni, manalai, skate, koduwaa, prawns, turbot, valai, oddi, viral, manna, arukkula, nettali, edivle, oysters, crabs etc.

The British acquired agricultural lands to construct roads, bridges, canals, build tunnels, irrigation work and for transport facilities. These developments provided the British with some means of access to the native population and won their loyalty through a concern for promoting agricultural prosperity and attaining self-sufficiency in food production.

Transport Developments: Mr.T.Skinner, Esq, the Civil Engineer and Commissioner of the Roads, drawing an annual salary Rs.1000.00, under him nine assistant officers were appointed, and also District Officer worked for the road developments. Mr.W.G.Hall, Esq, was appointed to the Trincomalee collecting an annual salary 236.00 (Ceylon Almanac 1854).

The road development details of Trincomalee, was based on the Blue Book 1923,1924 and 1925.

1. Additional improvement of roads of 1st five miles, Trincomalee to Kandy Road was renovated, estimated expenses was Rs.5000.00 on December 1924 but its completing expenses was Rs.4, 594.91 cents.
2. Improving miles 75 to 79 ½, Trincomalee – Batticaloa road was reconstructed, with the calculated

expenses of Rs.5000.00 but the completing cost was Rs.4, 949.66 cents.

3. Statement of expenditure was in respect of works chargeable to Loan under ordinance No 6 of 1921 (Amount of Loan £ 6000,000). According to the statement of the expenditure, out of loan funds, Batticaloa – Maho and Trincomalee Light Railway authorized amount was Rs.17,627,973, and expenditure to September 30, 1923, the amount was Rs.13,916,240.57.

Based on the Ceylon Blue Book 1928, the lengths of some of the principal roads were Colombo to Trincomalee via Kandy, 181.97 miles, and Colombo to Trincomalee via Kurunegala, 170.3 miles.

Postal Department: Mr.G.Lee,Esq, was the Postmaster General of the Post office department. Under the department, each province had appointed a Deputy Postmaster general. Mr. W.H. Whiting, Esq, the Deputy Postmaster General in the Eastern province. Mr.J.W.Winn was the clerk in the district of Trincomalee.(Ceylon Almanac 1854). Further Mr.N.Barton, Esq, Postmaster General, Mr.W.Morris,Esq, was the Deputy Postmaster General in Eastern province, and Mr.D.B.South was the clerk in the district of Trincomalee during the period(Ceylon Almanac 1862).

Trincomalee Harbour: It is situated on the east of the Island of Ceylon, contains a most spacious safe harbor, and with its small bays and coves is perhaps superior to any in India. Every part of the harbour is landlocked and, the anchorage is good for any number of ships (Ceylon Almanac 1850).

The Port and Maritime department, Mr.Guy Stanley Wodeman was a Master Attendant who was appointed on April 10th, 1916 by the secretary of state. Mr.William Manning was a Superintendent of Lighthouse (Rs.1800), under him Mr. T.J. Elton, Mr. I. Manual, Mr. S.G. Chelliah, Mr. T. Suppan, Mr. B.J. Muttiah, Mr.

V. Thampiah, Mr. A.J. Corera, and Mr. A. Chelliah were appointed as Lightkeepers and Mr.V.Thillaiyampalam was appointed as a coxswain in the District of Trincomalee.(Blue Book 1914).

The following chart highlights customs revenue collection of the various ports of the Island of Ceylon during the year 1925 in the Eastern province.

Table 2: Details of revenue collection of Ports

Items	Batticaloa (Rs)	Trincomalee (Rs)	
Cotton manufacture	173.11	80.43	Imports
Grain	1706.79	14719.62	
Spirits & Cordials	581.67	-	
Sugar	614.87	578.97	Exports
Other goods	566.21	3538.60	
Coconuts fresh	238.64	6.80	
Copra	60.00	-	

Source: The Ceylon Blue Book:1925

Table 2 provides details of revenue collection from various items at the ports of Batticaloa and Trincomalee. The data represents the amounts collected in Rupees (Rs) from different categories of imports and exports. In Batticaloa, the major sources of revenue seem to be from grain imports, cotton manufacture, and spirits & cordials. Additionally, substantial amounts were earned from sugar and other goods imports. On the export side, coconuts fresh and copra contribute to the revenue. In Trincomalee, grain imports appear to be the most significant revenue source by a considerable margin. There is also revenue from cotton manufacture, other goods imports, and fresh coconut exports. However, it is worth noting that there is missing data for the category "Spirits & Cordials" in Trincomalee and "Copra" in both ports, which may limit the overall analysis of the revenue trends.

Meteorological Observation: Mr. K.Karunakaran was appointed as a meteorological observer in the district of Trincomalee in Eastern Province: Latitudes

8.34, Longitudes – 81.14, Elevation, 99 in the year 1923.

Customs Department: Mr.W.H.Whiting, Esq was the collector of Eastern province, under him Mr.G.Gun, Esq was the sub-collector and landing surveyor (Annual salary was 225.00), and Mr.J.Higgs, Esq was the Master Attendant of the district of Trincomalee (Annual salary was 400.00).

The collectorship of Trincomalee, Mr. John Downing, Esq was the Collector and Custom Master, under him the following staff had worked: Mr. E. G. Schusz (First clerk), Mr. J. Hatch (clerk), Mr. Canagaritna the Weelayden Mudaliar (Clerk), Mr.Peter De Smitz (clerk), Mr. Arnaselaw Modeliar (Interpreter) and Mr. Ritnesinga Modeliar (shroff) (Ceylon Almanac 1822). Mr. G. W. Templer was the Collector of Customs and was appointed on Feb. 20, 1892. W.A.G. Hood was an Assistant Collector and Landing surveyor in the Trincomalee district. Hence, due to the British administration, the production of the local commodities and natural resources had been exported and the British product had been imported via Trincomalee harbor. The annual revenue collection was recovered under the customs department by means of exploitation policy.

3.3 Social Impact during British Administration in the District of Trincomalee

Before colonial administration, Trincomalee had a unique social structure with the Koneswara temple. It was known as the 'Rome of the Orient' and one of the three great temples as the 'temple of a thousand columns'. The society, tribes, Caste system, and structure gradually transformed based on the colonial power having demolished the Temple.

Details of Population and Ethnicity: The population gradually increased in Eastern Province, based on the Ceylon blue books, from 1892 to 1921, the details are given below.

Table 3: Population details in Eastern Province

Year	Male	Female	Total
1892	77,633	71,094	148,727
1907	90,516	83,086	173,602
1914	94,383	89,315	183,698
1921	97,900	95,047	192,947

Source: Ceylon Blue Books from 1892 to 1921

Table 3 presents population details for the Eastern Province over a span of three decades, from 1892 to 1921. The data includes the number of males, females, and the total population for each year. Analyzing the trends, there is a clear and consistent increase in the population over the years, indicating a growing population in the region during this period. The male and female populations both experienced steady growth, reflecting the overall demographic expansion in the Eastern Province.

Converted to Christian Community in Trincomalee: Rev.Fr.L. Zaleski, through a propaganda statement: ‘The conversion of the Muslim is out of the question for the present. As for the Tamil, who are idolaters, their conversion is undoubtedly more difficult than that of the Sinhalese in the province of Galle, but not more difficult than that of Tamils in India and Jaffna’. In the year 1893, as regards the language spoken and ethnic group, Tamil – 60%, Sinhalese- 7%, and Muslims – 33% in the district of Trincomalee.

The Hindu community of the Trincomalee had been gradually converted to Christianity due to the low caste. Rev. Fr. F. X. Heimburger’s letter to Rev. E. Peulties on 13th March 1896 mentioned that ‘At Kottiar we have 250 Catholics, at Penetsuinur there are 17 families asking to be baptized (Perniola 2006).

According to the Ceylon Blue Book 1907, 1914, 1915, and 1917, details of the ten years of missionaries, Marists brothers, Nuns, Churches, Chapels, and the total Catholic population of the Diocese of Trincomalee are given below.

Table 4: Catholic population of the Diocese of Trincomalee

Year	Missionaries	Marists Brothers	Nuns	Churches	Chapels	Total Catholic Population
1907	18	-	5	11	10	8,454
1914	24	5	10	20	17	10,032
1915	25	3	10	20	17	10,409
1917	21	-	10	20	17	10,677

Source: The Ceylon Blue Book 1907-1917

Table 4 presents data on the Catholic population in the Diocese of Trincomalee over a period of ten years, from 1907 to 1917. The table provides information on the number of missionaries, Marist Brothers, nuns, churches, chapels, and the total Catholic population for each year. Analyzing the data, it is evident that the Catholic population in the Diocese of Trincomalee experienced consistent growth during this period. The number of missionaries and nuns remained relatively stable, while the presence of Marist Brothers fluctuated over the years. The number of churches and chapels increased steadily, indicating the expansion of religious infrastructure to accommodate the growing Catholic community. The total Catholic population saw a gradual rise from 8,454 in 1907 to 10,677 in 1917, signifying an increase in the number of followers within the Diocese.

Depending on the details, the Catholic population had increased gradually, also according to the Ceylon Blue Book of 1922, the total number of followers of Roman Catholic, were 368,499 in all the nine provinces, and the District of Trincomalee had the following catholic churches: St.John’s Mankanai, St.Anthony’s Muttur, St.Josep’s velvery, Nilaveli, Sacred Heart’s Pachanur, St.Mary’s Cathedral, Trincomalee and Seven Dolours, Trincomalee. Further, in the same year, 17,345 had followed under the Wesleyan Mission in all nine provinces, and especially in Trincomalee, there were three churches, such as Muttur, Nilaveli, and Trincomalee. The following chart reveals the details of missionaries.

Table 5: Details of missionaries in Eastern Province

Missionary	Batticaloa	Trincomalee
Church of Ceylon	03	01
Methodist Mission	12	03
Roman Catholic Church	30	16
Salvation Army	03	-

Source: Ceylon Blue Book:1934

Table 5 provides details of the number of missionaries present in the Eastern Province, specifically in Batticaloa and Trincomalee. The data includes the count of missionaries from different religious organizations in each region. Analyzing the table, it is evident that there were four major missionary groups operating in the Eastern Province during the specified period. The "Church of Ceylon" had a small presence with three missionaries in Batticaloa and one in Trincomalee. The "Methodist Mission" was more prominent, with twelve missionaries in Batticaloa and three in Trincomalee. The "Roman Catholic Church" had a significant missionary presence with thirty missionaries in Batticaloa and sixteen in Trincomalee. On the other hand, the "Salvation Army" only had a presence in Batticaloa, with three missionaries. The data suggests that the Roman Catholic Church had the most extensive missionary network in both regions, indicating its significant influence and efforts in propagating its religious beliefs.

Ethnic group of Burghers and Kaffir: Due to the Colonial impact, the Europeans had mixed among the Lankan natives. Based on the census report on March 21, 1921, the Burghers and Eurasians of the whole island had 14,587 males and 14,945 females and total was 29,532. (Blue Book 1938). Trincomalee Kaffier have assimilated with the Tamil communities in Palayootru, Trincomalee (Field Visit).

English Law and Legal System: Many different systems of law have affected the development of the law in Sri Lanka. Turning to our law we will first examine the provisions of the Roman-Dutch Law, which is the Common Law and then consider statutory provisions modelled on English Law.

(Goonewardena 1960). Especially in the North and Eastern Provinces, Thesawalamai Law, Mukkuwa Law, and Islamic Law existed based on the community. The Trincomalee community had implemented the Customary Law. Later due to colonial influences, Roman-Dutch Law and English Law were mixed in the Legal System.

Education, Library, and Publication details in Trincomalee: The education system which was existing before the British period was traditional. The Portuguese and Dutch had been involved in the promotion of education in general but their main intention was to spread their religion among the people of Sri Lanka. The Catholic and Protestant Missionaries as well as the Americans made a great impact on establishing and strengthening the educational system through religious propagation.

The British government was subject to pressure not only from politicians but also from Christian missionaries and their Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim rivals, all of whom saw education as a means of gaining sectarian advantage. With increased provisions for education, the number of pupils reached 494,000 of the population in 1926 (Silva 1997).

The form of education and the weight of foreign influence bifurcated Ceylonese society, separating the English educated Ceylonese from their indigenous background and leading them to adopt Western criteria- a process in which the Sinhalese socio-cultural structure is said to have been more vulnerable than that of the Tamils. (Roberts 1975).

The Institution of Education, the Central School Commission had run under the Hon'ble C.J. MacCarthy, Esq, Colonial Secretary. Under that, the committee members, and the Subcommittee were administrated. Especially Mr. W.H. Whiting, Esq, Mr. J.T. Tranch, Esq, Mr. W.G. Hall, Esq, Mr. H.E.O. Gray, Esq, and Mr. Capt. Higgs were appointed in the District of Trincomalee. Based on the Ceylon Blue Book for 1914, Mr. John Harward (M.A) was

the director of Education. The following details refer to the Boy's Vernacular Schools of Trincomalee of Eastern province.

Table 6: Details of Boy's Vernacular Schools of Trincomalee

Boys' Vernacular Schools in Trincomalee	Name	Salary (Rs)
Kiliveddy -Master	K.Kanagasabai	240
Komarankadawai-Master	R.V.D.Banda	240
Madawachchiya- Master	H.M.Wannihami	240
Periyakinniya- Master	M.Vyramuttu	240
Periyakinniya- Assistant	E.Asaipillai	180
Pulmoddai- Master	S.Sapapathy	420
Toppur-Master	S.Sinnappoo	480
Toppur-Assistant	K.Subramaniam	180

Source: Ceylon Blue Book 1914

Table 6 provides details of Boy's Vernacular Schools in Trincomalee, including the names of the schools, the names of the masters and assistants, and their corresponding salaries in Rupees (Rs). Analyzing the data, it is evident that there are several vernacular schools catering to boys in the Trincomalee area. Each school has a designated master responsible for teaching the students, and in some cases, an assistant supports the master in his duties.

The salary information indicates that the masters' salaries are consistent at Rs 240 for most schools. This suggests a standard pay scale for the headmasters across these institutions. However, there are some exceptions; for instance, the master at Pulmoddai school receives a higher salary of Rs 420, and the master at Toppur School receives the highest salary of Rs 480.

During the period, established libraries and reading rooms were supported to educate the communities. Fort Library of Trincomalee had 600 books as the reading materials (Ceylon Almanac 1854).

During that time, the Ceylon United Service Library had functioned under the honorable Major General P.Bainbriggess, C.B, nine members of the committee, Mr.G.Vane, Esq (Honorary Secretary and Treasurer),

Mr. Michael Jordan (Librarian) with 123 members. The number of volumes in the Library were 10,176. Further, the said Institution was established on November 1st, 1850 with Patron of His Excellency the Governor, Vice Patron of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Colombo, President of the Honble C.J. MacCarthy, Esq. Trincomalee had Two Libraries: Trincomalee Pettah Library and Fort Library.

Table 7: Details of the Pettah and Fort Library in Trincomalee

Details	Trincomalee Pettah Library	Trincomalee Fort Library
President	Joseph Higgs, Esq	Lieut. Colonel Milman, 37th Regt
Treasurer	Mr. J.A. Gibson	Lieut. Parsons, C.R.R
Secretary	W.F. Redlich	Bt. Major Wingfield
Trustees of the Library	Rev. S.O. Glenie, A.N, Colonial Chaplain of Trincomalee	-
No. of Books	424	480
No. of Subscribers	34	14

Source: Source: Ceylon Blue Book: 1915

Table 8: Details of the Library in Trincomalee

Libraries - Trincomalee District	Members	Contribution
Library	45 Members	By subscriptions
Friend in Need Society	91 Members	By public subscriptions & Government grant RS.300 per annum.
St. Vincent de Paul Society	25 Families	By subscriptions from the public in cash in kind
St. Joseph's Convent Orphanage	85 inmates	By Government grant the charity from the convent fund and contribution from parents.

Source: Ceylon Blue Book 1938

Table 8 provides details of various libraries and societies in Trincomalee District, along with the number of members and their respective contributions. The data showcases the presence of various organizations with different missions and funding structures, all contributing to the community's well-being in Trincomalee District. These institutions play crucial roles in promoting education, welfare, and support services, catering to the diverse needs of the local population.

Table 7 provides details of two libraries in Trincomalee: the Trincomalee Pettah Library and the Trincomalee Fort Library. The table includes information about the respective presidents, treasurers, secretaries, trustees, the number of books, and the number of subscribers for each library. The data suggest that both libraries are established institutions in Trincomalee, providing access to books for the local community. The number of books indicates that libraries offer a reasonable range of reading materials. However, the difference in the number of subscribers might suggest that the Trincomalee Pettah Library is more popular among the locals, attracting a larger user base.

Based on the Ceylon Blue Book of 1917, the Eastern province had two Libraries, one was in Batticaloa while the other was in Trincomalee. Colonial Government donated Rs. 150 annually for each library. The Trincomalee library had 76 members and the colonial government granted Rs.100 and private contributions according to the Ceylon Blue Book of 1922.

The return of principal publication issued including newspapers and reviews and their circulation, under that, Parameswari printing works published a monthly issue titled "Isabel and Ishwari" in the district of Trincomalee with a unit price for the sale was Rs.0.30 cents and with a monthly circulation of 300 units (Blue Book 1925). During the British rule, the English language influenced Eastern Tamil society.

Charitable Institution in Trincomalee: The Charitable Institution had run the Trincomalee Friend in Need Society which was instituted on 23rd March 1840. The officers were the President (W.H. Whiting, Esq), Treasurer (J.A. Gibson, Esq), and Secretary (W.H. Hall, Esq). Further, Mr. Covington was the Superintendent of the society's hospital and Dispensary, and Mr. A.G. Maetsenz was Medical Attendant and Dispenser. The number of subscribers was 52, and 26 Pensioners. Also, the society hospital had admitted 58 patients from 1st October 1852 to 1st October 1853 (Ceylon Almanac 1854).

Friend in Need Society had been supported by monthly subscriptions of residents of the town of Trincomalee, with the occasional liberal contributions of officers of the navy visiting the station, and further by an annual grant of £20 from the Government. Further, the society established a substantially built and commodious hospital with 12 beds in which the indigenous sick were gratuitously treated, fed, and clothed. There was a general Dispensary (established June 1846) closer to the hospital in which medicines of the society and medicines are further sold to the community at large, for a barely remunerative profit on their cost price at Apothecaries hall, London, from which establishment fresh supplies had been annually received.

Under the charitable and friendly institution functioned each district during the colonial period. Especially district of Trincomalee had four, such as the library, and had 70 members supported by private contributions and a government grant, Friend in Need Society had 41 members supported by subscriptions and the government, great St. Vincent de Paul Society had 68 members supported by contributions, and St. Joseph's convent orphanage had 31 inmates supported by government donation and Roman Catholic Mission (Blue Book 1925).

Medical Officer: The Medical attendant and Dispenser occupied the hospital's premises and made themselves available to all hours of the

day and night. Based on the Ceylon Blue Book-1892, Mr. A.G. Martensz was the Medical Officer of Toppur who was appointed on 1st June 1889 and his salary was 600.00. Mr. E. Cathiramatamby was appointed as a Health Officer on June 7th, 1908, under the Governor and his annual salary was Rs.240. Under him worked one cooly, and his salary was Rs.180.

A. Rajasingham (M.B.C.M) was a Provincial surgeon in Eastern Province appointed by the Governor and his annual salary was Rs.5400.00. Also, a medical officer and apothecary of the District of Trincomalee and Batticaloa worked during the year 1916. Especially Mr. T. Nallatamby was appointed as an Apothecary and his salary was Rs.1320.00. Mr. V. Culandavelu was an apothecary in charge of the Tiriyaï dispensary. Mr. F.E.R. Bartholomeus (L.R.C.P, & S. Edin, L.F.P & S. Glas) was the medical officer, Mr. S.M. Moses was an Apothecary and Mr. E. Cathiramatamby was an additional apothecary of the Trincomalee hospital in the year of 1917. According to the Ceylon Blue Book 1925, 41 cholera cases were admitted and number of deaths reported were 19 in the district of Trincomalee.

Veterinary Department: Based on the Ceylon Bluebook 1914, under the Veterinary department, George William Sturgess (M.R.C.V.S) was the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon whose annual salary was Rs.7,875.00. D.de.Alwis Seneviratne was the veterinary stock Inspector of Trincomalee, who was appointed on March 29th, 1913 and his annual salary was Rs.540.00.

Savings Bank branches and Co-operative Society: British encouraged society to save at the savings Banks and Cooperative societies implemented during the British period. Mr. J. Iligges, Esq was appointed at the principal stations of Trincomalee of the island to receive and remit deposits (Ceylon Almanac 1854).

Sowing and reaping the different Grains and the Measurement details: following details refer to periods of sowing and reaping the different grains throughout the district of Trincomalee. The main crop was paddy which was sown in October and December and reaped in February and April. in addition, the Tamblegam Paddy was sown in July, and reaped in October. Dry grain was Warrego, Semie, and Tanna, sown in November, and repeated in January. Gingley was sown in January and reaped in April (Ceylon Almanac 1822).

Table 9: Native Dry and land Measures in Trincomalee

Places	Dry Measure	Land Measure
Trincomalee	12 quarts= 1marakkal 2 ½ lavanam = 1 bushel 10bushels=1avanam	12quats= 1 marakkal 6marakkals=1acre 4acres=1avanam
Tampalakamam	2 ½ quarts=1nali 15nalis=1 peddi 8 peddis=1avanam 1 avanam=10bushels	15nalis=1 peddi or chundu 8 peddi= 1 avanam 1 avanam= 5acres in Tampalakamam =4 acres in Kantalai = 3acres in Kinniyai
Koddiya puram	3measures=1nali 15nalis=1 peddi 8 peddis=1avanam 64marakkal=1avanam 1avanam=12 bushel	15nalis=1 peddi 2peddis=3bushels
Kaddukkulam	6 measures=1 marakkal 10marakkal= 1pahala	-
Tamil Villages	24 marakkals = 1avanam 1avanam = 9 bushels	2 1/2 marakkals =1 bushels 2 ½ bushels= 1 acre
Sinhalese Villages	4 peddis=1avanam	-

Source: Ceylon Blue book:1920

Table 9 provides a brief overview of the native dry and land measures in various places in Trincomalee.

Thus, the British colonial influences have been identified in relation to the names, religions, languages, ethnic groups, cuisine, building complexes, war hero cemetery, churches, and other architectural monuments that are visible in the community presently. Those are the

colonial influences in the society. Therefore, British colonialism changed the social structure of Trincomalee and introduced Western style and concepts into all aspects of society.

4 CONCLUSION

Colonialism is a form of temporally extended domination by people over other people and as such part of the historical universe of forms of intergroup domination, subjugation, oppression, and exploitation (Horvath 1972). The British colonial domination triggered profound changes in the political, economic, and social structure in Sri Lanka. British colonialism and political domination took a different form than the Portuguese and Dutch. Further, they economically had control over production and trade, the exploitation of natural resources, and the development of the infrastructure.

Trincomalee is the heart of the Eastern province by virtue of its geographical significance. Consequently, it was captured by the British because the Harbour of Trincomalee was strategically a suitable entry point to any Western invaders from India during the colonial era. As a result of the colonial influence, Trincomalee has been transitioned in abundant characteristics including matters of state, economy, and society.

These were brought to multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multireligious not only in Sri Lanka but also in Trincomalee. Even today, the influences of European powers exist in that place. Looking back, the history of the British administration in Trincomalee generates mingled feelings of pride and regret. Though the colonial governments invested in infrastructure, developments, and trade and disseminated medical and technological knowledge, and sowed the seeds for democratic institutions and systems of government were destroyed the unique culture, tradition, and

customs that distinguished the district of Trincomalee.

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