

NAWAB SAHIB AS AN EDUCATIONIST WITH REFERENCE TO C. ABDUL HAKEEM COLLEGE

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Abstract:

Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem Sahib was considered one of the best and successful traders in Tamil Nadu. He had a vision to serve the Muslim community through the weapon of education. That's why we see that he established a Muslim Educational society through which he provided education to each and every youth of the region irrespective of caste, colors and creed. The aim of this paper is to shed a light on the role and contribution of Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem Sahib to the upliftment of South Indian Muslim community in the field of education. At the same time, it will highlight the Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem College, it's vision, purpose, academic activities and ongoing courses in different schools, institutions etc.

Key words:

Establishment, Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem College, Vision & purpose, ongoing courses, other activities, Salient features, opinions, conclusion etc.

Introduction

The period of early 20th century was a very pathetic for the entire Muslim community across the globe. Because, the most horrible incident of the first world war came to an end in the end of 1918. The only one Muslim dominant and administered country of those days' Turkey fell most miserably into the hands of those people who could not tolerate Islam as a religion. The Muslim scholars, intellectuals, Ulamas across the Indian subcontinent became so worried and panic. They were very serious to revive a new spirit of Islamic teachings. They preferred and chosen the weapon of an education to all other privileges of the world. they paid a great attention towards the upliftment of Muslim community through education nothing else. Some intellectuals and traders took attempt to establish a different kind of modern and Islamic cultural learning centers, schools, colleges and universities across the country specially in Tamil Nadu State. One of them was the fabulous jewel of Madras presidency, Janab Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem Sahib, who was considered one of the best and respected natives of Melvisharam region and prince among traders, merchants and one-time Sheriff of Madras presidency. He cherished a golden dream of transforming his own town into splendid seat of great learning to cater to the educational, social and cultural needs of the Muslim community. That's why we see that he established a Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society to the promotion of Modern Education, culture, welfare and reformation in 1918. Nawab Sahib became the first president of this institution in 1919. He worked for its growth to spread the umbrella of education, culture in these parts of Vellore district Tamil Nadu state- INDIA.

A Glance at The Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society (M.M.E.S):

If we look back into history, we find that a number of incidents happened in the beginning of twentieth century. The first incident was the first world war which was a global conflict fought between two coalitions: the Allies and the Central powers. It was started in July 1914 and came to an end in November 1918. The second incident was Jallianwala Bagh massacre which was most gruesome and barbaric incident in Indian history. This incident took place in April, 1919. The responsible person of this incident was the British Officer General Dyer who ordered his army to fire at all the people gathered inside the Jallianwala Bagh indiscriminately. The only Muslim ruled and administered country of those days' turkey, fell most miserably into the hands of those who could not tolerate an Abrahamic monotheistic religion Islam, which had been come for the salvation of entire community on the earth. At that time, the Indian Muslims were very afraid and they were seriously bent upon rejuvenating their Islamic culture and civilization. They preferred the education to all other privileges of the worldly life. So, they started establishing Madrasas, Mahads, Schools, Colleges and Universities across the country to the upliftment of the Muslim ummah. The intellectuals, educationist, academicians' and reformers believed that it was the weapon by which they could take their society to a land of prosperity and plenty. Despite being hated with English language at that time, it was included as a compulsory subject in different schools and colleges across the country. The Jamia Millia was the first University which adopted and continued education in English language under the leadership of Maulana Sheikh Mahmudul Hasan Deobandi, Mukhtar Ahmed Ansari, Hakim Ajmal Khan and Maulana Mohammed Ali Jauhar Sahib.

The syllabus which was followed by Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi, was for the first time introduced in institution of higher learning managed by Majlise Salah-e- Darain, an educational and cultural society which was established by some prominent Muslim intellectuals such as Janab S M Safiullah Sahib and Janab Pakthinin Yaqoob Sahib and some other dignitaries. They were very serious towards the education of Muslim younger girls and boys simultaneously. They established a very prominent and well-established Madrasah under the banner of this society which syllabus was according to Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. This Madrasa was very famous among the Muslim community in the region. This was first of its kind in 1000 years in Indian history in the fields of Arabic language, theology and Islamic sciences. The syllabus which was prescribed for it was very innovative and astonishing. After some time, this Madrasa was taken over by the Melvisharam Muslim Educational society founded in 1918. For its further growth, Janab Pakhthini and Janab Yakub Saheb, the then General secretary, left no stone unturned in making the school an exemplary model for other such school in and around Melvisharam region of Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The philanthropists, reformers and the other important people of the city were very happy with the successful functioning of the school. They were eagerly willing to accept to take over the reins of its administration. Of course, that was the story of the glorious birth of reputed Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society which was established in 1919.

We must be aware that Aali Janab Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem Sahib was the first man who was elected as the first dynamic and visionary president of the society, and the credit of being the first secretary of the school goes in reverential honor to Janab Vavathar Abdul Wahab Sahib, who tried his level best to make this

institution to the top level. It is worth mentioning that The Madarasa-e- Falahul Muslimeen which was very famous became the sister of this school. At that time, he was reluctant to run the administrative machinery as per rules and regulations was sought from the provincial Government of Madras presidency. As luck could have it, the school grew bigger and bigger day by day in its strength and stature, and richer and richer in its tastes and stronger and stronger in the financial resources. That was the reason the school became a high school in 1930 and in 1978.¹

After the sudden demise of Nawab C Abdul Hakeem Sahib, Janab Pakthini Haji Bashan Sahib took over as the president of the Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society. He became the president of this brilliant institution for years and after his passing away almost in 1939, Janab Pakthini Abdul Khader Sahib assumed the office of the institution and he proved himself a best administrator. He corrected many things and improved the financial resources of the educational institutions on a large scale. When he died almost in 1938 at the same time Janab Mr. Malakku Mohammad Ibrahim Sahib was made the General Secretary of the Society, who took the responsibility of the society and worked hard for the educational, social and cultural upliftment of the society. He struggled day and night for the smooth functioning of the entire institutions in the region just as a talented captain that steers his vessel safe to its port. Janab Pakthimni Abdul Khader sahib breathed his last and Janab Al Haj S.M Abdul Jameel Sahib who had an incredible ability and extra ordinary talent to cut through haze, became the president of the prestigious society by thinking that he could do a better

¹ Fabulous Jewel of Madras Presidency, Published by Melvisharam Muslim Education Society- Tamil Nadu.

contribution in his own capacity as the General secretary of the society. He handed over the resignation to the chair of the organization and became the General Secretary of this society in 1961 with redoubled vigor, enthusiasm and zeal. And after Janab C. Fakir Ahmed Sahib, it was the hon'ble turn of Alhaj V Md. Khaleelur Rahman Sahib who had to preside over the Managing Committee of the society.

Ongoing Prominent Schools and Colleges under the M.M.E.S Society:

We know that The Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society (M.M.E.S), was established by some prominent Muslims scholars and thinkers for promoting the education, culture, welfare and reformation of the entire Muslim society in 1918, Which was first of its kind in 1000 years in world history in the field of education and training. Now a days, there are many ongoing prominent schools, institutions and colleges which are being taken care of the Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society on a large scale. There are seven prominent Schools and Four distinguished Colleges which are most efficiently maintained by M.M.E.S Society have gained an unprecedented popularity and earned an everlasting goodwill of students, parents and other stakeholders of the state. These institutions which are continuously running are as follows:

- Islamiah Boys Higher Secondary School
- Islamiah Girls Higher Secondary School
- Hakeem Matriculation School
- Islamiah Boys Primary School
- Islamiah Girls Primary School

➤ F.M. Primary School

➤ R.A. Primary School

There are four well reputed and very famous colleges, which are continuously growing day by day educationally and culturally. These are as follows:

➤ MMES Academy of Architecture

➤ C.Abdul Hakeem College of Engg. & Tech.

➤ C.Abdul Hakeem College (Autonomous)

➤ MMES Women's Arts & Science College

Now, we would like to shed a light on the history of establishment and the ongoing courses in Nawab C Abdul Hakeem colleges. So that, we could aware about the contribution of Janab Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem Sahib (R) in the field of education.

➤ ***The Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem College***

The Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem College was established in the year 1965. It is a government aided private college for arts and science located in Melvisharam Tamil Nadu state- India. It is one of the oldest colleges in Ranipet district affiliated to Thiruvalluvar University the National assessment and Accreditation council has conferred A grade. Currently, it offers 31 courses at Under- Graduate level, 6 course at post Graduate level and PhD programs. It was granted autonomous status by UGC with effect from 2014.

A brief history of the college:

The Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem College was established in the year 1965 by the Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society (MMES) which was founded in 1918 by Late Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem sahib. He was a businessman, philanthropist one of the natives of Melvisharam and one time Sherif of Madras presidency. MMES started off with Primary, Secondary and Higher Education for people irrespective of caste, colour, creed, community or social status. Presently, MMES manages 11 institutions from kindergarten school to a first-grade college with five postgraduate departments and three research departments. They include M.M.E.S. arts and science college for women and C. Abdul Hakeem College of Engineering & Technology. The college was instituted in the year 1965 with just Pre-University Course, in the local orphanage buildings. Subsequently, the M.M.E.S. acquired a site of more than 67 acres (27 ha), on the eastern outskirts of the town, on the Chennai-Bangalore Trunk Road, and constructed buildings to house the college and the hostels.

The college campus:

When we look at the campus of the college, we know that it is spread over an area of about 21 acres (8.5 ha). The college has a double story building with different blocks which accommodate all the class rooms, office rooms, principal's chambers, separate staff rooms for various departments, laboratories, toilets, etc. Although there are sizable number of academic departments, the facilities are mostly shared. There is an auditorium which is also used for social, cultural, academic and government sponsored programs. A branch of the Centurion Bank with ATM facility is located in the nearby campus of the engineering college

run by the same management. A sub-post office is functioning in the college campus. Although the institution is four decades old, the open land is to be fully converted into gardens or other useful building. Significant amount of rainwater is harvested using rainwater harvesting facility.

Different courses offered by the College:

This prestigious college offers so many courses. Some of them are government aided courses and some of them are self- financing courses, which are as follows for example:

- Bachelor of Arts in History
- Bachelor of Arts in Commerce corporate secretaryship
- Bachelor of science in Mathematics
- Bachelor of Science in Physics
- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
- Bachelor of Science in Zoology
- Master of Science in Mathematics
- Master of science in Zoology
- Master of Science in Chemistry
- Master of Commerce

Student life in the campus:

This college has basically three National Service Scheme (NSS), units with 155 cadets. These NSS units are subjected to community development, social work, health and hygiene awareness, medical camps, adult education and literacy,

blood donation camp Aids awareness environment awareness etc. three villages have been adopted for executing extension activities. The extension activities are planned and executed in collaboration with government organizations including the district collectorate, District Employment office, District Industries centre, Public Health Department police department, pollution control Board, town panchayaths and NGOs. the student of different sections of the college have participated and won in several academic competitions and sports events. A number of other student's clubs also exist to engage students in extracurricular and co- curricular activities such as Tamil Association, English Association, Computer Association, Mathematics Association, Physics Association and Commerce and Accountancy Association etc.

Unique features of the College:

We must be aware that every society as well as trust consists of different types of institutions and these institutions are generally social, cultural, welfare and reformation in the nature. They are established within a society and affect different aspects of the social life. As far as this institution is concerned, it was established to uplift the Muslim youths of the region socially, religiously, financially and culturally. The key features of the institution as we find out were as follows:

- To groom the new coming generations with firm and deep knowledge with piousness
- To provide students with a solid foundation in Islamic studies, covering areas such as Quranic Studies, Hadith, Islamic Jurisprudence, Theology and the history of Islam.

- To give the priority to train the Muslim young generations to learn about their own culture, civilization and religion.
- To focus on promoting understanding and tolerance between different religious communities, it may engage in dialogue and outreach programs to foster harmony and mutual respect.
- To play a key role in preserving Islamic culture, traditions and heritage, ensuring that young generation remains connected to their religious and cultural roots.
- To digest the main source of classical or early Islamic philosophy and modern Islamic Sciences
- To promote the decisive qualities of leadership and promote the Islamic brotherhood across the country.
- To learn and follow the life and mission of the ideals cherished by the last Messenger Prophet Mohammad Sallallahu alaihi wasallam.
- To teach fundamental and basic concept of Islam orally and practically.
- To teach the students community in both Arabic and English languages simultaneously.
- A large number of Teacher fraternity would be from the Muslim Community and they all would follow the rules and norms of the institution at a large scale.
- Student as well as teachers' community are expected to wear Islamic attire and maintain a proper Islamic manner which gets reflected in the rest of their lives.

- The teacher fraternity would create an Islamic environment in the classroom and outside the premises.
- There would be a very less peer pressure to indulge in any unislamic behaviour in the classroom as well as outside.
- The students will obey the teachers and on the other hand the teachers will also maintain the dignity of the institutions
- Both students and teachers will contribute to academic research in the field of Islamic studies. They may publish scholarly works, host conferences and support research endeavours to advance knowledge in various Islamic disciplines.

Vision, Mission and Goals of the College:

C. Abdul Hakeem College is one of the best governments aided private college for arts and science located in Melvisharam, Tamil Nadu state. To become a world class and one of the best highly acclaimed innovative competitive and most successful higher education institution in the region which offers many values added and socially relevant courses to serve all sections of the society. The vision of the college is absolutely clear which is as follows:

- To provide a unique experience which will enable each one student to realize his inmate potential and mould his overall personalities
- To provide a cost-effective modern system of integrated education for all and gain higher level of intellectual abilities.
- To provide access to education for empowering the underprivileged and socially and economically disadvantaged sections of the society.

- To inculcate spiritual and moral values by Imparting training in productive service
- To promote academic excellence in the college's classed and its own premises
- To provide career opportunities and provide jobs to the entire students in different field of the world.
- To provide high quality education training and research facilities in Arts, science, engineering and technology under graduate, post graduate and doctoral degrees under recognized affiliating bodies and pave ways for useful innovation
- Creating socially responsible citizens who contributed in making India economically, socially and financially advanced.

Furthermore, I would like to shed a light on some other prominent institutions which are being run under the distinguished M.M.E.S Society, these are as follows:

➤ ***M.M.E.S Academy of Architecture***

The M.M.E.S Academy of Architecture has been established in the year 2017 in the C. Abdul Hakeem College Campus, The Academy has the approval of the Council of Architecture, New Delhi and Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai. The Academy at present, has been sanctioned a student strength of forty. The number will increase as the calendars roll by. The academy has the facility of functioning in its own palatial building raised in an area of nearly 2.5 acres. tie on the eastern outskirts of Melvisharam Town of the state of Tamil Nadu, on the Chennai-Bangalore National Highway. It is about 110 kms. from Chennai Airport (Anna International Airport / Kamaraj Domestic Terminal), 20 kms. ahead of Vellore

and 4 kms. from Arcot the capital of Nawabs, who ruled one-fourth of South India. Walaja Road and Katpadi are the nearby Railway Stations to the College and it is well connected with various bus routes. It is a few minutes 'drive from Rani pet industrial town. The Institute is managed and guided by Prof. N. Altaf Ahmed, Director of MEASI Academy of Architecture and his team of highly qualified, talented and experienced faculty.

➤ ***Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem College of Engineering & Technology***

C. Abdul Hakeem College of Engineering & Technology (CAHCET), Vellore was established in 1998 under Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society (MMES). It is affiliated to Anna University, Chennai and approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. It is an ISO 9001:2008 certified institute and accredited by National Board of Accreditation (NBA). The college is located at a distance of 100 kms from Anna International Airport, Chennai and at 4 kms from Arcot, the capital of Arcot Nawabs who ruled one-fourth of South India.

➤ ***M.M.E.S Women's Arts and Science College***

M.M.E.S Women's Arts and Science College is a Minority institution established in 2007, with the aim to translate every ideal into an ideology. The College is ISO certified and is affiliated to Thiruvalluvar University. M.M.E.S, houses 12 under graduate, 07 post graduate disciplines 2 Research departments. The college offers an ambience to provide excellence in education knowledge and training in skills for students. M.M.E.S has the honor of sheltering over 2050 students and 92 highly qualified and motivated work force. Due to its location, well -built infrastructure and dedicated staff, the College is among the most

preferred educational institutions in Vellore. The college provides remedial coaching for slow learners, students counselling programme. The career Guidance and Placement Cell has assisted students in obtaining placement in reputed companies. M.M.E.S Women's Arts and Science College is included under the section 2(f). The institute has a very strong Institute Partnership Cell. The Institute has signed MoU with Gondar University, Ethiopia. In addition to the regular programmes the Institute offers Add on programmes like NCVRT, DMLT & Tally ERP 9 and Value-added courses in several disciplines. The Institute has digital library with more than 7000 titles and 50+ Journals, including E-Journals. The college has active student cell such as NSS, YRC, RRC & CCC to support issues of social concern. The institute has well equipped multi-gym, indoor and outdoor sports complex. Our students have been doing exceedingly well in the University and state level competitions.

The opinion of some prominent scholars about the institution:

Once upon a time Maulana Sulaiman Nadwi sahib was the guest of honor at the school on 2nd October 1927, where he expressed and wrote what he felt about the institution in the visitor's Book as he said " I deem it my proud privilege to have an opportunity of visiting the Islamiyah High school at Melvisharam. Present with me were two of my good friends and admirers, C Abdul Hakeem Sahib and Jamal Mohammad Sahib. I met students of some classes and posed questions to them. I was delighted to find them to be well informed in their field. To my best satisfaction they answered my questions on the life and teaching of prophet Muhammed (PBUH) and Diniyath. Provision is there in the syllabus for English, Arabic, Urdu, Mathematics, Geography, Physics and other Arts subjects. This indeed is the right education that caters more to the needs of Muslim brothers.

The exemplary services of Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem Sahib are note-worthy. He should be highly appreciated for his untiring efforts to the cause of education and for his noble services to the town of Visharam, in particular. May Allah help this institution to grow and my He bless the members of the Managing Committee with health and goodwill"¹. We can guess by these words the importance of this institution which foundation was laid by most visionary man Nawab C Abdul Hakeem Sahib. This institution was a great center of education in Melvisharam town, where hundreds of students are getting education in different courses of the institution.

Conclusion:

It is known to all that Nawab C. Abdul Hakeem Sahib was a great and distinguished Muslim trader from Madras Presidency, who had a deep knowledge of ups and downs of the Muslim ummah. He served India specially Tamil Nadu extensively in various capacities. He has been equally remembered for his great social work what he had done as a trader and as a modern educationist. He set up a tannery in 1907 and emerged as a prosperous business serving as the president of the Southern Indian Chamber of Commerce. He founded the Melvisharam Muslim Educational Society (M.M.E.S) in 1918 with a golden dream of transforming his town into a splendid seat of great learning center to cater to the educational needs of Muslim young generations of the region. His visionary leadership was instrumental in making India economically advanced, lying as a solid foundation for the country's prosperity and growth. The main objective of his deep thought and struggle as we find was as follows:

¹ Fabulous Jewel of Madras Presidency, Published by Melvisharam Muslim Education Society- Tamil Nadu. Page No. 15

- To groom the new young generation with firm and deep knowledge with loyal, devoted and piousness.
- To blossom into an internationally renowned institute.
- To empower the younger generations through best quality and value-based education
- To promote professional, social, religious and political leadership and entrepreneurship
- To achieve numerous excellences in all its endeavor to face the global challenges.
- To provide an excellent ambience for the science, technology and language development.
- To network with global institutions of excellence, business industry, marketing industry and research organization as well.
- To teach positive thinking and attitude to the youths of the all community irrespective of cast, creed, religion and region.
- To contribute to the development of the nations through scientific and practical knowledge.
- To mold the new generations of the entire country into united, secular and disciplined citizens of the nations.
- To provide to the younger generations an ideal platform to showcase their talents and potential in nation building.

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