



## **Documentation of Jaffna Hindu Ladies College**



**NOOLAHAM FOUNDATION**

<b>Project Title</b>	Documentation of Jaffna Hindu Ladies College
<b>Project Number</b>	NF/PG/2024/0009
<b>Place</b>	Sri Lanka
<b>Project Duration</b>	2024 June - 2025 December
<b>Reporting duration</b>	2024 June - 2025 December
<b>Executive Organization</b>	Noolaham Foundation
<b>Project Budget</b>	1,800,000.00 SLR

## 1. Introduction

The *Documentation of Jaffna Hindu Ladies College* project was initiated with the noble objective of preserving the rich institutional memory and heritage of one of Jaffna's most respected educational institutions. The project aimed to systematically collect, digitize, organize, and provide open access to historical documents, photographs, publications, and oral histories related to Jaffna Hindu Ladies College for the benefit of future generations of students, researchers, and the wider community.

This project holds a very special significance as it was initiated and generously supported by the Old Girls of Jaffna Hindu Ladies College themselves. Their commitment to preserving the legacy of their alma mater stands as a remarkable example of gratitude, responsibility, and love towards the institution that shaped their lives. Noolaham Foundation is deeply honored to have been entrusted with this responsibility.

## 2. Project Objectives

The primary objectives of the project were:

- To identify and collect historically valuable documents related to Jaffna Hindu Ladies College.
- To digitize fragile and rare materials for long-term preservation.
- To create structured metadata for each item to enhance research usability.
- To provide free and open online access to these resources through the Noolaham digital library.
- To record oral histories from former teachers, principals, and distinguished alumni.

### 3. Overall Achievement Summary

During the project period, the following collections were successfully documented and made accessible:

Category	Number
Personal Profiles (Aalumai)	33
Oral Histories	18
Photographs	195
Events	1
Organizations	39
Books	104
Reports	22
Short-term Documents	127
<b>Total Items Documented</b>	<b>539</b>

All materials were carefully digitized, catalogued with standardized metadata, and uploaded to the project portal, ensuring long-term preservation and global accessibility.

### 4. Extension Period and Completion

The project was originally planned to conclude by July 2025. However, with the gracious approval of the donors, the project period was extended until December 2025 in order to:

- Locate and digitize a small number of important but previously inaccessible school records.
- Collect additional oral histories from former teachers and alumni residing in different districts and abroad.
- Complete institutional histories related to school organizations and associations.

This extension enabled the project team to complete the documentation with greater depth, accuracy, and completeness.

## 5. Key Outputs and Contributions

The project successfully produced the following major outputs:

### 5.1 Documentary Collections

- Annual school reports and institutional records spanning several decades.
- Examination results compiled into structured datasets.
- Administrative histories including lists of principals, founders, mottos, and institutional traditions.

### 5.2 Oral History Archive

- Oral histories from former teachers, distinguished alumni, and association members.
- These recordings preserve personal memories, institutional culture, and untold narratives that cannot be found in written sources.

### 5.3 Institutional Histories

- Documentation of the Old Girls' Association and its branch activities.
- Records of school societies, clubs, and organizations.

### 5.4 Digital Access

All completed materials are now freely available through the Noolaham digital portal, allowing students, historians, and the global community to explore the legacy of Jaffna Hindu Ladies College.

## 6. Financial Summary

Category	Amount (LKR)
Total Approved Budget	1,568,900.00
Total Funds Received (as of Feb 2025)	1,600,000.00
Total Expenses Incurred	1,417,418.42
Remaining Balance	182,581.58

### **Extension Period Expenses (Sep – Dec 2025):**

- Travelling & Accommodation: 104,000.00
- Staff Salaries: 205,000.00
- **Total Required for Extension Period: 309,000.00**

All expenditures were carefully monitored and utilized strictly for project-related activities, ensuring transparency and accountability.

## **7. Learning Outcomes and Reflections**

Through the course of the project, several valuable lessons were learned:

### **7.1 Importance of Early Administrative Approvals**

Delays in initial permissions affected the early phase of documentation. Future projects will allocate additional lead time for administrative processes.

### **7.2 Alignment with Academic Calendars**

School holidays and examination schedules significantly influenced access to materials. Early coordination with school calendars will be prioritized in future initiatives.

### **7.3 Field-based Oral History Collection**

Personal visits were essential to capture meaningful oral histories, especially from elders residing outside the district. This reinforced the importance of adequate time and resources for field documentation.

### **7.4 Community Awareness**

Early awareness sessions for contributors will be integrated into future projects to clarify consent, publication policies, and long-term access plans.

## **8. Research Significance and Historical Insights**

Beyond preservation, this project holds exceptional scholarly and educational value. As one of the oldest and most respected girls' schools in Northern Sri Lanka, Jaffna Hindu Ladies College reflects broader transformations in women's education, institutional governance, curriculum development, and social leadership over more than a century.

### **8.1 Understanding Institutional Change Over Time**

The collected records allow researchers and future students to trace:

- The evolution of school administration, leadership structures, and governance models.

- Changes in curriculum, examination systems, and academic priorities.
- Shifts in student demographics, access to education, and opportunities for young women.

This longitudinal perspective reveals how the school continuously adapted to social, political, and educational changes while preserving its core values.

## **8.2 Women's Education and Social History**

The archive provides a rare and valuable lens into:

- The role of girls' education in shaping professional women, community leaders, and educators.
- The contribution of alumni to education, public service, medicine, arts, and social development.
- The institutional culture that nurtured discipline, leadership, and civic responsibility.

These materials form an important source base for future research on women's education in Sri Lanka and South Asia.

## **8.3 Oral Histories as Living Memory**

The oral history collection enriches the written record by preserving:

- Personal narratives of former teachers, principals, and alumni.
- Memories of classroom life, school traditions, wartime experiences, and educational reforms.
- Institutional values transmitted across generations.

These voices transform the archive from a static repository into a living history of the school.

## **8.4 Educational Value for Future Generations**

For current and future students of Jaffna Hindu Ladies College, this archive:

- Strengthens institutional identity and pride.
- Provides role models through biographies and life stories of distinguished alumnae.
- Encourages historical awareness, research skills, and engagement with heritage.

The documentation thus becomes a pedagogical resource, not only a historical record.

## **8.5 Foundation for a Printed Commemorative Booklet**

This final report and the underlying archive form the scholarly foundation for a future printed booklet and commemorative publications. The systematically organized materials enable:

- Preparation of an illustrated institutional history.
- Thematic chapters on leadership, academics, alumni achievements, and school traditions.
- Use of verified data, photographs, and oral testimonies to produce an authoritative narrative.

The present documentation ensures that any future publication will be accurate, dignified, and academically sound.

## **9. Sustainability and Continuation Plan**

To ensure long-term continuity of documentation, the following mechanisms are proposed:

- 1. Appointment of a School Documentation Coordinator**  
A designated teacher or librarian will coordinate annual document transfers to Noolaham Foundation.
- 2. Annual Archiving Visit**  
A yearly visit by the Noolaham team to collect new records and photographs.
- 3. Strengthening Alumnae Networks**  
Continued collaboration with the Old Girls' Association to expand oral history and biographical documentation.
- 4. Maintenance Grant**  
A small annual fund to support digital storage, platform maintenance, and equipment upkeep.

## **9. A Note of Gratitude**

This project would not have been possible without the extraordinary generosity and vision of the Old Girls of Jaffna Hindu Ladies College. Their decision to initiate and personally fund this documentation effort reflects a profound sense of gratitude and responsibility towards their alma mater.

Noolaham Foundation expresses its deepest appreciation to each donor, contributor, former teacher, and alumna who shared their memories, documents, and trust with us. This project stands not only as a digital archive, but also as a living tribute to the enduring legacy of Jaffna Hindu Ladies College and the remarkable women it has nurtured.

## **10. Conclusion**

The *Documentation of Jaffna Hindu Ladies College* project has successfully preserved a valuable segment of Sri Lanka's educational and social heritage. Through careful documentation, digitization, and open access, the project ensures that the history, achievements, and memories of the institution will continue to inspire generations to come.

With heartfelt gratitude, we submit this final report as a testament to a shared commitment to memory, heritage, and education.

## **11.Documentation of Jaffna Hindu Ladies College portal link**

[Documentation of Jaffna Hindu Ladies College](#)