



NOOLAHAM FOUNDATION
நூலக நிறுவனம்

Documentation of Driberg College - Chavakachcheri 2024



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Project Title	Documentation of Drieberg college -Chavakachcheri
Project No	NF/PG/2024
Project Location:	Sri Lanka
Project Duration:	2024
Project Budget:	LKR 3,123,106.00
Implementing Organization:	Noolaham Foundation
Main Stakeholders	Drieberg college -Chavakachcheri

Noolaham Foundation

Noolaham Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization (GA 2390) founded to provide enhanced access to information sources and foster knowledge-based development in Sri Lanka. It maintains an online digital library, facilitates information preservation programmes, provides financial assistance and technical guidance for digitization initiatives, and actively participates in awareness-raising campaigns. It also co-ordinates a range of fund-raising activities and collaborates with other [organizations](#) and individuals. The free Internet library [www.noolaham.org] and Archive [www.noolaham.media] maintained by the Foundation serves as a learning center incorporating local knowledge and enabling social interaction with a view to achieving constructive social outcomes. It functions as a repository for various institutions, and fulfills the information needs of students, researchers, historians, activists and the public. Volunteers of Noolaham Foundation participate in the activities of Noolaham globally and have established Noolaham chapters in their respective countries to achieve the mission of the Foundation.

History of Drieberg college -Chavakachcheri

Drieberg College, Chavakachcheri, is one of the oldest schools in the Jaffna District and it is the first school in Thenmaradchi. It is situated in the heart of Chavakachcheri town and was founded in 1875 by American Missionaries.

Drieberg College was started in 1875 with the help of James Steward Drieberg, a philanthropist and a Judge of the Magistrate Court of Thenmaradchi during the British colonial period. The man behind the whole scene of this remarkable effort was the Rev. T. P. Hunt. The historic institution was mainly funded by the Judge and therefore, it came to be

named as ‘ Drieberg English School’. It was under the governance of the American Ceylon Mission, until it was taken over by the Government of Sri Lanka in 1962. To start with as a government school, there were 77 students, two teachers and the classes were up to Grade Five. R. S. Muthiah Nicholous was the first Headmaster of the institution.

The school progressed well and in 1913, E. S. Abraham became the headmaster and established classes up to ESLC -English School Leaving Certificate. There was a student population of 308 out of which 36 were girls. In 1931 the Drieberg English School was upgraded as ‘Drieberg College’ and there were classes up to senior school certificate (SSC) and London matriculation. In the same year K.S. Saravanamuththu took over as the college principal. He was proud to present 18 students for the London Matriculation Examination, 16 of them got through and was ranked first in the Jaffna district in the year. The College became very popular and began to grow from strength to strength. By 1940 there were 535 students and 19 teachers. Owing to its popularity, students from Vanni, Upcountry and Southern Province lined-up to join the College.

With the advent of Independence, the college showed rapid growth in curricular and cocurricular activities and the number of students went up to 1049 and 44 teachers were employed to cater to their needs. During this period the Library and the Science Laboratory came into existence to the benefit of students of the college as well as the other schools in this area.

In 1956, A. K. Sabapathippillai took charge of the college, giving it a new look. Five years later, due to the national policy on education, Drieberg College was taken over by the Government. The former principals J.V. Thambinayagam , M .Sabanayagam , K . Bala Chandran and M. Nagenthirarajah, gave their maximum efforts to lead Drieberg College towards its vision.

In 2000, due to the civil war many were displaced from their own places and Drieberg College was completely destroyed. In 2002 the College came back to its own premises. Since 2002 the college has gradually moved to achieve their targets.

At present, Drieberg College has 1000 students and 50 teachers. K. Arun Thavabalan the present principal of the college dedicates himself to guide the college to achieve many honors. Annually a certain number of students enter higher education such as University, College of Education and Advanced Technical College from Maths, Science, Commerce and Arts streams. They have secured many places at co-curricular competitions in District, Provincial and National levels.

Ever since Drieberg College was established in 1875 to the present; the College has produced several outstanding personalities to the nation. Along with perfect discipline and ideal guidance the journey continues unabatedly.

Project Summary

The Noolaham Foundation is working on a number of projects to document and archive the writings of the Tamil-speaking populations of Sri Lanka. In that respect this school bears witness to a very long history of Sri Lanka. In 2000, due to the civil war many were displaced from their own places and Driberg College was completely destroyed. In 2002 the College came back to its own premises. Since 2002 the college has gradually moved to achieve their targets. So Through this project it is very important to document the school and preserve this school's documents.

Goal

Documenting and preserving the overall history of the school by locating and documenting school related documents and identifying personalities associated with the school's history and recording their oral histories .

Objectives

- Identification and documentation of documents in the Driberg college and exchange them across two institutions (Noolaham Foundation and Driberg College).
- Identify school-based personalities and record their oral histories.

Challenges

- The fundamental challenge of this project is that it lacks its own digitization equipment. To carry on the project effectively, there is a need to buy an A4 scanner.
- Most of the oldest documents belonging to the school were destroyed during the Civil War. Identifying and collecting them now will be a challenge.

Recommendations:

- Allocate the funds to buy equipment for this project (A4 scanner and camera).
- Creating a comprehensive list of the documents and digitization methods for Driberg College books and materials.

Conclusion.

The Documentation of Drieberg college -Chavakachcheri Project should be completed as a completed project by documenting and preserving the overall history of the school by locating and documenting school related documents and identifying personalities associated with the school's history and recording their oral histories .

Budget

Details of Expenditure	Unit cost	Unit	Quantity	Total	Noolaham Foundation Contribution	Donor Contribution
Human Resource				1,270,416	550,416	720,000
Field Researcher	60,000	Staff	12	720,000		720,000
Digital Preservation Officer 2 Numbers	37,280	Staff	12	447,360	447,360	
Programme Manager 10%	8,588	Staff	12	103,056	103,056	
Equipments				1,559,950	0	1,559,950
A4 Scanner	255,600	Nos	1	255,600		255,600
Camera	279,900	Nos	1	279,900		279,900
Hard disk	55,450	Nos	1	55,450		55,450
Laptop	315,000	Nos	1	315,000		315,000
Computer	290,000	Nos	1	290,000		290,000
Scaled Tripoard	280,000	Nos	1	280,000		280,000
Battery	12,000	Nos	2	24,000		24,000
Memory card	15,000	Nos	1	15,000		15,000
Recorder	45,000	Nos	1	45,000		45,000
Sub Total				2,830,366	550,416	2,279,950
12% Admin Cost				537,740	537,740	
Grant Total				3,368,106	1,638,572	2,817,690