Tenkasi is situated within fifty four kilometers to the west of Tirunelveli on the Tirunelveli- Shengottai road in Tamil Nadu. south of Ambasamuthiram and north of Sankarankoil, and at the footsteps of Thirikoodamalai of the western Ghats near the courtallam waterfalls. Tenkasi town is a taluk head quarters of Tenkasi taluk in Tirunelveli district. It is on the northern bank of river sittar or Chitrnanadi.

The Pandya kingdom of which Tenkasi region formed part flourished in Tamil Nadu during the ancient period. Thevara patakas while Muslims were in charge of maktabs and madaras. They were located in the precincts of temples and the choultries and supported by parents of the pupils. Brahmins were chiefly charge of Veda patasalas and notn Brahmins for Thewara Patasalas while Muslims were in charge of maktabs and madasaras.

From the high literary standard of the period as evidenced by the literature works handed downtous. It can safely be inferred that there were rich literary traditions in Tenkasi region while poets symbolised the flourishing state of Tamil literature, the temples in ancient times represented creativity, in the spheres of sculpture, painting, music, Dancing and Jewellery making were patronized under the auspices of the temples. Which were centers of religious and secular learning.

The books in use were written in verse and they were transcribed as palm leaves. The schools for the young which usually taught the three 'R's (reading writing and arithmetic) were located in the precincts of temples and the choultries The Muslim schools were usually attached to mosques. In the vedapatasalas, the subjects like Astronomy, Ethics and logic were taught apart from the vedas and the Thevarams. The instruction in vedapatasalas was in Sanskrit while in the vedapatasalas, it was in Tamil. The Muslim maktabs were engaged in primary education while the Madaras were devoted to higher education.

Tenkasi is bifurcated as Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts and a new post of District Educational Officer at Tenkasi was created and the name of posts of the District Educational Officer. Education plays an important role in shaping and developing society, education makes the society more perfect. So this paper analyze the Genesis and Growth of Education in Tenkasi.
matric were taught in maktabs grammar higher arithmetic, geography etc were taught in Madarasas.

The indigenous school whether the Hindu or the Muslim type was a single teacher one. The difficulty of instruction in a growing school, was overcome by the system of pupil teachers (Sattampillais). This monitorial system of which much was made in England in the early part of the nineteenth century received its inspiration in all livelihood from the village schools of south India Dr.Andrew Bell whose name is associated with the monitorial system in England known as the Bell and Lancaster system was an army chaplain in India and from 1789 to 1796 held the position of super intendant of the maleorphan Asulam in Madras. He was inspired by the system of pupil teachers prevalent in the Madras indigenous schools and later, he took it to England and reoriented it as monitorial system.

Of the galaxy of foreign catholic missionaries who dedicated their lives to education in this region. In 1663 Roman Catholic spread in Tenkasi Mr.Rayappan and Rev.Fr.D.Pruinga and BalDastha khota were the first missionaries took part in this venture. In 1823 Roma Catholic church namely. St.Michel Athithuthar church was built and schools were started by them.

Among the protestant missionaries who came to this region from, England Rev.James Hough and Rev.C.E.Rhenius were the key figures Rev. James Hough from the dated of his arrival 1816 as a Missionary devoted his whole energy to educational work in this region. German Missionary Rev.Fr.Jaenicke (1792 -1800) belong to the S.P.C.K. T.D.T.A started schools in Tenkasi. In 1854 Department of Educational was organized. Provision was also made for a normal school a few provincial schools several taluk schools. In 1911 one Sanskrit school was started at Tenkasi by taluk Board. In 1956 Tenkasi came under the control of D.E.O Tirunelveli west. In 1986 Tenkasi became the one among the four educational divisions of Tirunelveli. The Tenkasi panchyat union has elementary schools at Kandaswamyapuram, keelapattookuruchi, Muthakikudiirrupu, Ayyapuram, Vadakarai Sundarapandipuram, Angayerayankulam, Kamakkerpillavalasai, Tiruchittambalam Kasimajorpuram, Subramaniapuram, Annanagar, Alagappapuram, Vallam panpol, T Meenakshipuram and Municipal Primary schools at Tenkasi. The Municipality runs a Middle school in the 7th Ward in Tenkasi and the Panchay union runs three at Melagaram, Varampudur. Ayyapuram, and karisal Kudiirrupu. In Tenkasi St.Michael Girls Higher Secondary school. A.V.Matriculation Higher Secondary School, M.K.V.K Matriculation Higher Secondary school one situated. Ardulmu senthul Andavar polytechnic was established in 1985. Government industrial Training institute, St.Mary’s industrial training institute six libraries (1961) and Arabic College are situated in the Tenkasi.

In the civinity of Tenkasi parasakthi college for women Sri Ram Nallamani Yadava Arts and Science college, CBSC school, Pharmacy college, Nursing college , Teacher training and Education college, USP Groups polytechnic college, college of Education Metric Higher Secondary school, Daniel Rajammal Teacher Training Institution are situated.

REFERENCES