

SW-TN and GENDER BUDGETING

In the effort of 'Social Watch – Tamilnadu' (SW-TN) to make Social Equity Budgeting a reality in the State and the country, its learning experiences in the sphere of Gender Budgeting have been substantial.

SW-TN has built its advocacy efforts towards gender budgeting in the State, on the following significant initiatives of TNPFS (Tamil Nadu People's Forum for Social Development):

In 2001, on the request of the Tamilnadu Development Corporation for Women, the Forum organized, in collaboration with the Women's Centre, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, Tamilnadu, a major 2-day state level consultation on **"Gender & Governance"**. The Consultation, which brought together more than 100 participants including researchers, bureaucrats, students and activists, developed and presented to the State Government a framework for gender policy concerns.

In the same year, the Forum, in collaboration with the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), YWCA Sahodari Project, the Tamilnadu Women's Rights Movement and the Campaign Against Sex-Selective Abortions, submitted a Memorandum to the Chief Minister of the State, demanding among other things, minimum 33% reservation for women in all public institutions, regulation of sexual harassment at workplaces and strengthening the powers of the State Women's Commission.

In 2002, the Forum, in collaboration with the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Women's Movement Against Poverty and Violence and IWID, Chennai, organized a one-day state-level Consultation on **"Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu"** and submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister, demanding Gender perspectives in the budgetary processes of the State.

During 22-24 September 2003, Fr. Manu, Co-Convener of the Forum, presented a paper on **"Women Component Plan – A Holistic Gender Budgeting Tool"** at the International Gender Budget Workshop, organized by the Women Study Centre, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, India.

The following have been the significant interventions and initiatives undertaken by SW-TN, in its struggle to make Gender Budgeting a reality in the State:

During 24-26 April 2006, Fr. Manu, the director of SW-TN, made a presentation, entitled **"Power and Money to Women – Together for a Better World"**, introducing the theme of Gender Budgeting to the participants of the South Asian workshop on "Political participation of Women", organized by the South Asian Gender Alliance (SAGA), in Colombo, Srilanka.

During 7-9 March 2007, Ms. Kamatchi, Senior researcher of SW-TN, presented a paper on **“Towards Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu – Perspectives for Gender Budgeting at the Provincial (State) level”** at the International Conference on Gender mainstreaming Government Finances in South Asian Countries, organized by the Centre for Women’s Studies, Sri Padmavathi Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

In November 2007, based on the above experiences and inputs, SW-TN prepared a draft monograph on **“Towards Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu”** and invited Tamilnadu Women’s Collective and ‘Initiatives: Women in Development (IWID)’ to join in the task of taking gender budgeting advocacy efforts in the State.

On 1 February 2008, the three organizations, together, organized a **State-Level Consultation in Chennai**, which brought together key leaders of Women’s Organizations, women researchers and activists in the State. The participants, following intense discussion on the contents of the SW-TN’s monograph, “Towards Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu”, were unanimous that Gender Budgeting is a task forward. Significant suggestions towards relating Gender Budgeting to needs of marginalized women in Tamilnadu were also offered.

On 6 February 2008, at the Press Meet on **“State’s Accountability on Rights to Health and Women’s Health Care - Gaps and Challenges”** organized by NAWO-Tamilnadu, SW-TN provided inputs based on its Gender Budgeting research.

In March 2008, SW-TN, incorporating the feedback from the February Consultation, published the revised edition of the monograph, **“Towards Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu”**. One of the key recommendations highlighted in this publication is **“Gender Budget Cells” must be started at the State level, both at the planning and budget departments as well as in every department/ ministry of the State.**

During February-April 2008, in preparation for the on-going 2008-09 Budget Session of the TN Assembly, Ms. Sheelu Francis of “Tamilnadu Women’s Collective” and Ms. Kamatchi of SW-TN lobbied with leaders of the various main political parties and committed bureaucrats towards the demand to initiate Gender Budgeting in the State.

On 14 June 2008, SW-TN presented its findings on “Government Schemes and Affirmative Action – Special Component Plan for dalits and dalit women” at the **“Third Leadership Training Institute for Dalit Women in Tamilnadu”**, organized by the National Federation of Dalit Women (NFDW) at Villupuram, Tamilnadu.

During 7-8 August 2008, SW-TN handed write-ups on SCP and WCP at the **“10th State Level Conference on Dalit Women and Livelihood”**, organized by the Tamilnadu Dalit Women’s Movement at Arakonam, Tamilnadu.

Finally, due to persistent lobbying by SW-TN and other groups and the pro-active initiative of **Dr. Ramathal**, the then *Chairperson of Tamilnadu State Women’s*

Commission (TNSWC) and Ms. Qudsia Gandhi IAS, then, Secretary to Government - Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department (also member of TNSWC), the Tamilnadu State Women's Commission organized, on 20 August 2008, a Consultation at the State Secretariate. Secretaries and representatives of various departments of the State, including the Chief Secretary and the Special Chief Secretary and members of the State planning commission took part in the Consultation. Ms. Yamini Mishra, the then Director of CBGA, was a resource person and members of SW-TN, Women's Collective and IWID participated as observers. The final Report of the Consultation, while duly acknowledging the preparatory work done by SW-TN and other organizations, said, "Tamilnadu State Women's Commission has planned to form a small committee with the secretaries of all the departments, members of Planning Commission and representatives from people's movements to effectively implement Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu".

On 26 February 2011, SW-TN presented a session on 'Gender Budgeting' during "**A Course on Gender and Development for Srilanka and TamilNadu Women**" held from 21st February to 2nd March 2011, organized by SANGAT, WERC and EKTA at Madurai.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India and the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme, Government of Tamilnadu, organised a 3-day Workshop on "**Gender Budgeting for officials of Government of Tamilnadu**", during 19-21 April 2011, at Anna Institute of Management, Chennai. And SW-TN was requested to make a presentation on "**Perspective of Civil Society on Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu**".

SW-TN was into a UN WOMEN project on '**Tracking State Budget with Intersectionality Framework for an evolution of Gender Responsive Budget for Dalit Women in Tamilnadu**' for a period of 18 months from October 2011 to April 2013.

On 13 March 2012, Fr. Manu presented a paper on "**Gender Mainstreaming Public Policy Formulations and Budgetary Processes**" at the National Consultation on "**Gender, Sexuality & Development**", organised by PRAXIS at Delhi.

Fr. John Kumar represented SW-TN as a resource person at the session on "**Gender Budgeting and Gender Mainstreaming – Achievements and Challenges**" during the Southern Regional Conference on "**Achieving Convergence for Empowerment of Women**", held during 15-16 March 2012 at Bangalore and organized by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India and the Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation.

Fr. John Kumar represented Social Watch–Tamilnadu as a Resource person to share the state level experiences on '**Gender Budgeting for Dalit Women from the view of Intersectionality**' at the **National Workshop on Gender Budgeting in India** on

August 30, 2013 at Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, Rajasthan organized by Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre (BARC).

SW-TN presents the publication on "[Caste-Blind GENDER BUDGETING & Gender-Blind DALIT BUDGETING - DALIT WOMEN DOUBLY EXCLUDED](#)" during October 2013 to the Central and State governments as well as the civil society and Dalit organizations in the country- as a focal point for informed debates, leading to concerted responses.

SW-TN organized a consultation on "[GENDER BUDGETING AND MARGINALIZED WOMEN IN TAMILNADU](#)" on 4th March 2014 at Pastoral Centre, Chennai.

SWTN brought out a TAMIL Version Publication on "**IRATTAI PURAKANIPUKU AALAAGUM DALIT PENGAL**" of "[DALIT WOMEN DOUBLY EXCLUDED](#)" during September 2014. This was based on the earlier experiences gained through the **UN WOMEN Project** on "Tracking State Budget with Intersectionality Framework for an evolution of Gender Responsive Budget for Dalit Women in Tamilnadu".

SWTN was part of the "**Workshop on Policy Development Framework**" organized by **IWID** during 10th & 11th July 2014 at Asha Nivas, Chennai. The **Objective of the Workshop were:** 1. Enhancing the perspective on Budget/ Policy formulation, 2. Drawing out the principles for policy formulation (Sustainable Development, Good Governance), 3. Identifying schemes and developing inclusive, creative revenue generating schemes, 4. Developing a framework for the policy development. This workshop was towards "**TN Women's State Assembly II**" and eventually towards **India's Women's Parliament II**".

SW-TN joined the planning and organizing Committee of "Womens' Coalition for Change" formed by Tamilnadu dalit Women's Forum to help organizing a state level conference highlighting the issues and concerns of the marginalized women from various sectors (Unorganised women workers, Tribal women affected by Special Economic Zones and Women Domestic workers). The Conference was held in Chennai Anna Nagar on 13th December 2015.

SW-TN was invited for a Discussion by **Ms. Usha, Administrative Officer, Directorate of Social Welfare, Govt of Tamilnadu**. Following the discussion, we framed a draft proposal towards "**Institutionalizing Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu**" on behalf of 'Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme', Government of Tamilnadu during August 2014.

SWTN initiated a discussion on Gender Budgeting with **Ms. Mythili.K. Rajendran, Director, 'Tamilnadu Corporation for Development of Women', Government of Tamilnadu**. The above mentioned proposal was also forwarded to Women Corporation during August 2014.

SW-TN was part of the preparation of CHARTER of DEMANDS for the Union Budget 2015-16. SW-TN contributed the following **demands for the marginalized women**

focusing on Gender Budgeting through the Women Nodal organization 'NORTHEAST NETWORK'.

SW-TN also registered the importance of **"Gender Budgeting Perspective" in the implementation of Dalit Budgeting process** – thereby empowering the Dalit Women; during the **"Regional Convention for collating SC/ST Demands for the Union Budget 2015-16 Charter of Demands"**, held at YWCA on 16th December 2014.

SW-TN presented a session on **"Towards Social Equity Budgeting" emphasizing the need for CHILD BUDGETING from our experiences on Dalit Budgeting and Gender Budgeting**; for the 'LITTLES TRUST' organization based in Madurai on 17th December 2014.

SW-TN emphasized the need for 'Budgeting for Dalit Women' during the **"Consultation to Plan for a Bill for Tamilnadu on SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCSP & TSP)"** held at ICSCA on 19th January 2015; organized by: • *National Coalition for SCSP – TSP Legislation (NCSCSP TSP L)* • *National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) – NCDHR* • *Human Resource Development Forum (HRDF)* • *Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation (HRF)*

SW-TN was invited by the **State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Govt of Tamilnadu** to handle a session on **"Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu"** on 27th January for 100 women SHG members & PLF members and on 3rd February for 35 women BDOs; **sponsored by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India**. Following the request of SW-TN, SIRD, Director agreed to make GENDER BUDGETING as one of the training component in their ongoing trainings. Due to the consistent push from SWTN, SIRD agreed to proceed with exclusive training project on Gender Budgeting for all possible cadres of Govt officials and Panchayat Leaders during the year 2015-16.

SW-TN was invited to present a lecture on **"TOWARDS GENDER BUDGETING in TAMILNADU"** on 8th April 2015 by **Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)**, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, GOI.

SW-TN was part of the **GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING - ORIENTATION TOT COURSE for Budget Groups** organized by *National Foundation India, UN Women– South Asia and Centre for Youth and Social Development*, held at Bhubaneswar during 29th to 31st July 2015.

During 26-30th October 2015, Ms. Kamatchi presented a session on **"GRB Overview"** in the **'Advanced Gender Responsive Budgeting ToT Course for Budget Groups'** Organized by UN WOMEN and NFI at Lonavala.

On 3 December 2015, Ms. Kamatchi was invited as a resource person to present a session on **"Intersecting realities: Asking the budget question - DALIT WOMEN's**

RIGHT” at the “**Learning Workshop on Gender Responsive Budgeting**” organized by UN WOMEN South Asia at Cochin.

On 16 December 2015, **SW-TN in collaboration with UN Women and TN State Planning Commission** scheduled an “**Orientation Workshop on Gender Responsive Budgeting**”. Due to heavy flood at Chennai, the workshop is re-scheduled in the month of April 2016.

On 5 January 2016, SW-TN was invited by Mr. Mohan Verghese Chunkath IAS, Director of **Anna Institute of Management** and Director General of Training, Government of Tamilnadu, to provide technical support for the workshop on Gender Budgeting to be organized by Anna Institute of Management during the year.

On 15 January 2016, Ms. Kamatchi briefed Ms. Malathi Helen, Assistant Director, Women Welfare – Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme, Government of Tamilnadu about ‘Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu’; and based on SW-TN inputs, Ms. Malathi Helen presented a paper during the “**Gender Budgeting Workshop for Officers of State Government Departments**”, sponsored by Ministry of Women and Child Development during 18-20 January.

On 18 January 2016, Ms. Kamatchi was interviewed on ‘**Gender Budgeting and Intersectionality**’ by Ms. Morgan Siegel, a student from the University of Freiburg in Germany and an intern with the UN Women, New Delhi.

During July 2016, SWTN took one more effort to organise a workshop on Gender Budgeting for all the Departmental Secretaries, to be co-organised by UN Women, New Delhi, State Planning Commission and SW-TN.; but, due to organisational hurdles at the government level, the effort did not bear fruit.

On 12 July 2016, Ms. Kamatchi was the resource person on GENDER BUDGETING at a training session on Budget Analysis, organized by ‘Peace and Justice Forum of the Presentation Sisters’ in Chennai.

During October 2016, SW-TN reinitiated the conversation with UN WOMEN to trigger the process of GRB consultation with Tamilnadu State Planning Commission.

On 16 November 2016, Ms. Kamatchi was the resource person on GENDER BUDGETING at the **Regional Training of Trainers on ‘Know your Rights: Budgets simplified’** organized by ‘Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation (HRF)’ and ‘National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) on behalf of *Institute on Budget Policy and Advocacy*’ in Chennai.

During 8 - 9 December 2016, Ms. Kamatchi represented SW-TN in the consultation on “**Innovations in Gender Responsive Budgeting: Sharing experiences from the Asia Pacific**” organised by UN Women and National Institute of Financial Management, Government of India held at Jaipur, Rajasthan.

On 30 December 2016, Fr. Manu was interviewed on **Gender Budgeting & Intersectionality** by Dr. Diego De Merich, 'Research Associate from Institute for Intersectionality Research and Policy, Canada' and 'LSE Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science'.

On 28 February 2017, forenoon, Ms. Kamatchi and Mr. R.C.Gandhi were the resource persons for the '**Special Address on GENDER BUDGETING**' organized by Centre for Women Studies, Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai.

During February 2017, SW-TN re-initiated the conversation with UN Women – South Asia, towards collaborative Consultation on Gender Budgeting for Bureaucrats in Tamilnadu.

During March 2017, SW-TN printed about 450 copies of "**GENDER BUDGETING HANDBOOK** for Government of India - Ministries / Departments State Governments /District Officials Researchers / Practitioners; By **Ministry of Women and Child Development**; October 2015"; for disseminating amongst the key stakeholders to initiate Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu. We also forwarded the soft copy of the same document to all Department Secretaries, key MLAs and media, Government of Tamilnadu through email.

On 31 March 2017, Fr.Kumar and Ms. Kamatchi actively participated in a "**Discussion on Tamil Nadu State Budget 2017-18**" organized by MIDS, chaired by Mr.S.Krishnan IAS, Principal Secretary, Planning, Development Special Initiatives, Government of TamilNadu. We raised the question on 'when will TN Govt initiate Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu' to Mr. S.Krishnan IAS.

On 26th October 2017, Ms. Kamatchi presented a Session on "Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu" during the 'District Level 3- Days Training Programme on GENDER BUDGETING; organized by Department of Women's Studies, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore; Sponsored by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

SW-TN in collaboration with 'UN Women-South Asia', organized a "**State Level Consultation on Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu**" on 11 April 2017 at Conference Hall, Tamilnadu State Planning Commission, Ezhilagam, Chennai. A heartfelt thanks is extended to Mr. Manivasan IAS, Secretary, Dept of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme for sending an official invite for this consultation to all the officials concerned. This proves the interest of the Social Welfare department to institutionalize Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu. Due thanks is extended to Mr. SenthilKumar IAS, Secretary (Expenditure), Finance Dept, GoTN who initially accepted to chair the consultation; but due to another important appointment, he could not participate; instead he designated an official from his department. [Click here to view the full report of the Consultation.](#)

With all these efforts of SW-TN, the **Department of Finance** has realized the importance of Gender Budgeting and accepted to take responsibility of being a **NODAL AGENCY to implement GB in TN**. And a **GENDER BUDGET CELL** is to be initiated

under Finance Department, in association in 'Budget General Miscellaneous' wing with creation of posts.

Social Watch – Tamilnadu extends an appreciation to Government of TN for this initiative to institutionalize GENDER BUDGETING in the State. Finance (OP-III) Department, Government of Tamilnadu has issued [G.O.\(Ms.\) No.241, Dated 10.08.2017 regarding Formation of a Gender Budget Cell](#)

Social Watch – Tamilnadu extends an appreciation to Government of TN for releasing the first [GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT](#) in its Appendices to Budget Memorandum 2018-19, Budget Publication No: 64. *(Click the above link to view the GBS)*

Social Watch - Tamilnadu shared the recent analysis of the 'Gender Budget Statement of TN Government' to a Journalist, following which a news article on ["A women's Special in the Budget: Gender Budget Statement, a first for Tamilnadu, appears as the last chapter of the document"](#), was flashed in 'The Hindu', dated 16.04.2018.

On 15th November 2018, Ms.Kamatchi was the resource person for the **“Training Program on Gender Budgeting at Tiruppur** during 14th – 16th November 2018”; Organized by 'Bharathiar University – GB Program' with the funding support from Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi; its aim is to integrate gender perspective at all levels of development.

On 13th December 2018, Mrs. Kamatchi was invited as a resource person to deliver lecture to the participants on the topic **“Towards Gender Budgeting for Marginalized women in Tamilnadu”** in the forum of **“Refresher Course in Women Studies- Gender Sensitization”** organized by Human Resource Department of Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore.

On 25th January 2019, Ms.Kamatchi participated as a Resource person for State Level Three Days **Training Program on Gender Budget** at Department of Women Studies, Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore. This training programme is envisaged for urban local body official and few other participants from NGOs, Academics and ICDS with the funding support from Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi.

Social Watch – Tamilnadu is happy to share the second [GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT](#) (GBS) of Government of Tamilnadu; in its Appendices to Budget Memorandum 2019-20, Budget Publication No: 64. *(Click the above link to view the second GBS)*

On 5th March 2019, Ms. Kamatchi was a resource person on **“Women’s Charter of Demands in the lens of Budget Allocation and Implementation”** during the one-day consultation on 'Balance for Better: A Stocktaking by Women's Networks in Tamilnadu'; organized by HRF at ICASA.

On 17th July 2019, Mr. Christudoss Gandhi along with Ms. Kamatchi made a presentation on **Gender Budgeting** to Ethiraj College students.

On 12th August 2019, Ms. Kamatchi facilitated the '**Workshop on Gender Responsive Budgeting**' organized by Social Watch – Tamilnadu and Abhithi Foundation at Pondicherry.

During 30th September to 3rd October 2019, Ms. Kamatchi presented a session on '**Gender Budgeting**' under the theme of '**Reimagining Local Governments and Human Rights – Human Rights Cities**'; programme organized by 'World Human Rights Cities Forum' at the Kimdaejung Convention Center in Gwangju, South Korea.

On 23rd January 2020, Ms. Kamatchi was invited as a resource person for the "**The State Level Training Programme on GENDER BUDGETING to Police Personnels**"; Organized by Department of Women's Studies, **Bharathiar University**; In Collaboration with 'Inservice Training Centre', Coimbatore; Funded by **Ministry of Women and Child Development** (MWCD), New Delhi.

The third [GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT](#) (GBS) of Government of Tamilnadu; in its Appendices to Budget Memorandum 2020-21, Budget Publication No: 64. *(Click the above link to view the second GBS)*

On 27th June 2020, Ms.Kamatchi was invited as the Resource Person as the Voice of Community Advocates to share the way forward for GENDER BUDGETING; in the programme on "**KURAL 2020- The Voice of Tamilnadu Changemakers**" organized by Yein Udaan and AuxoHub.

On 18th November 2020, Ms. Kamatchi, SWTN was invited as a Resource Person for the Webinar on '**Gender Budgeting – Planning and Allocation for Gender Needs**' organized by **Tamilnadu State Development Policy Council, Government of Tamilnadu**; to present a **session on "Gender Budgeting for marginalized women in Tamilnadu"** to the Key Bureaucrats in Tamilnadu including the Vice Chairperson of Tamilnadu State Development Policy (SDPC) and Secretaries of Department of Finance, Government of Tamilnadu.

Tamilnadu Government has released its Fourth '[GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT](#)' (GBS) in its Budget Publication No:64, Appendices to Budget Memorandum 2021-22, Annexure XXII.

On 1st September 2021, Ms. Kamatchi's article on "Pengaluku Thevai Thani Budget" highlighting the 'GENDER BUDGETING PROCESS in TAMILNADU and the way forward towards Budgeting for Marginalized Women in Tamilnadu' was published in the Tamil Monthly Magazine 'Pengalin Kural'.

On 20th September 2021, Ms.Kamatchi was requested by Prof.N.Manimekalai to give suggestions for the "Second Consultative Workshop on Formulation of STATE POLICY FOR WOMEN"; organized by 'Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment – Government of Tamilnadu' along with UNICEF, UN WOMEN and 'Inter Agency Expert Group –SDGs'.

On 25th September 2021, SWTN along with EKTA organized an Online Discussion on "Holistic Policy and Budget for Women in Tamilnadu" to invite more suggestions from stakeholders – to forward to Government's Policy Formulation Team (tnstatepolicy@gmail.com).

On 22nd October 2021, Ms. Kamatchi sent an RECOMMENDATION MAIL to Drafting committee of State Women Policy, Govt of Tamilnadu on the title "Intersectional Planning and Programme for Women". *(Most of the suggestions placed were incorporated in the draft policy released on 15th December 2021)*

On 25th November 2021, following the Online Orientation held on 19th October 2021, we invited the "Good Shepherd Health and Education Centre (GSHEC) – Karamadai & Valparai" for a Training session on GENDER BUDGETING at ICSA, Egmore.

During end of December 2021, Tamilnadu State Government released "TN State Policy for Women 2021 (Draft)" for public opinion. We circulated this draft policy to all stakeholders to initiate a discussion.

On 22nd January 2022, SW-TN, EKTA Resource Centre for Women and TN Women's Collective together invited all the TN Women's Groups together for an Online Discussion on "POLICY and BUDGET for WOMEN in Tamilnadu"; with the objective to make all stakeholders submit suggestions for revising the "Draft 2021 TN State Policy for Women of Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment" by 31st January 2022. A consolidated recommendation as '[CSOs Suggestions on TN Women Policy Draft](#)' was sent as a joint statement to Director, Social Welfare, Government of Tamilnadu (dsw.tn@nic.in).

On 2nd Feb 2022, Ms.Kamatchi was invited as a Resource Person for the Discussion on "Gender, the Marginalized and Union Budget 2022-2023; Organized by Dept of Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Trichy.




DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN STUDIES
BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY
(Accredited with A+ Grade in the Third Cycle by NAAC)
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, TAMILNADU, INDIA

 **02 FEB 2022**  **02:30 PM**

Organizes
A Panel Discussion on

**"GENDER, THE MARGINALISED
AND
UNION BUDGET 2022-2023"**

SPEAKERS

 **Prof. N. Neetha**
Professor
Centre for Women's Development
Studies (CWDS), New Delhi.

 **Dr. Sona Mitra**
Principal Economist
IWWAGE in LEAD KREA University
New Delhi

 **Ms. Kamatchi Sundaramurthy**
Senior Researcher
Social Watch Chennai

 **Prof. Ishita Mukhopadhyay**
Professor
Department of Economics
Calcutta University

 **Dr. Nirmala Padmanabhan**
Dean of Extension and Incubation,
Research guide in Economics,
St. Teresas college, Ernakulam

Join us on  **Google Meet**

As a followup **Online Discussion on "POLICY and BUDGET for WOMEN in Tamilnadu"** held on 22nd January 2022; after getting endorsements from key stakeholders, we submitted to the Government and Circulated the same among other Civil Society Groups. Our demands were highlighted in the Daily Newspaper 'The Hindu' on 3rd Feb 2022.

(<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/activists-demand-extension-of-time-for-providing-feedback-on-womens-policy/article38367268.ece>)

Activists demand extension of time for providing feedback on women's policy

Appeal for more clarity on policy implementation

STAFF REPORTER

CHENNAI

A group of activists belonging to different organisations across the State has appealed to the government to extend the window for providing feedback on the draft Tamil Nadu State New Policy for Women released in the last week of December.

Pointing to the delay in releasing the draft version of the policy, they said that it was necessary to obtain feedback from a wider section of the population.

Welcoming the release of such a policy and lauding many of its aspects, the activists, however, stressed the need to articulate clearly the aspects of implementation with time-bound targets,

verifiable milestones, and independent monitoring mechanisms. The activists have also submitted their detailed feedback to the government on the policy.

Highlighting the importance provided to the welfare of rural women through interventions in programmes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), their feedback stressed on similar focus on urban women, women with disabilities and gender non-conforming persons.

They pointed out to the mention of 'transgender' persons in the English version of the draft while the Tamil version only mentioned 'Thirunangai', which referred to transfeminine persons. They said that the Tamil version can instead use the term 'Thirunar,' which

can refer to both transfeminine and transmasculine persons.

Support for researchers

Appreciating the proposal to support 1,000 women researchers every year in the STEM fields, they said that support must be extended to researchers in other fields such as law, medicine and social sciences.

The draft policy said that social, economic, political and emotional will be the four pillars upon which the guiding principles of the policy would be based. The activists suggested the inclusion of the cultural aspect and rephrasing emotion to psychological.

They demanded changes in the configuration of the High-level Women Empowerment Committee, which they said had included only representatives from the go-

vernment and international organisations such as the United Nations and the World Bank. They said that the committee must include representatives from grass-roots organisations.

Similarly, they said that the policy must also suggest adequate representation of women in all the committees constituted by different departments of the government for various purposes.

The team of activists included Bimla Chandrasekhar of Ekta Resource Centre for Women, Sheelu Francis of Tamil Nadu Women's Collective, Vanessa Peter of Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities, Kamatchi of Social Watch - Tamil Nadu, Meenakshi Balasubramanian of Equals, Josephine Amala Valarmathi of Domestic Workers Movement and few others.

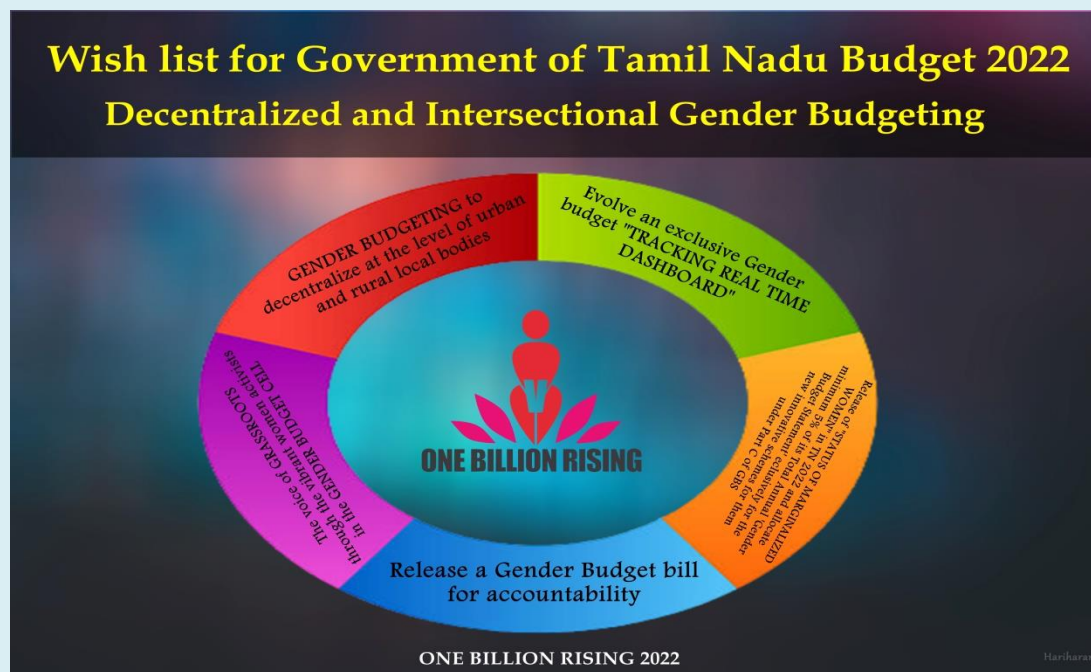
Following the suggestions raised on 22nd Jan 2022 during the Online Discussion on "Policy and Budget for Women in Tamilnadu"; we drafted a [**Recommendations / Wish List for GENDER BUDGETING –for the Tamilnadu Budget session 2022-23**](#) and circulated for endorsement to take it wider as a JOINT REPRESENTATION. This joint statement was widely disseminated across all stakeholders in CSOs, academicians, MLAs, MPs, Political Parties and bureaucrats.

During February 2022, SWTN submitted our Gender Budgeting Recommendations to the collaborative intervention by the TN Civil Society Organizations towards Universal Periodic Review (UPR) IV Tamilnadu State Level Report.

On 12th February 2022, through Prof.Aranga Mallika (Ex-Director, Women Studies Centre, Ethiraj College), we submitted our “Wish List for GENDER BUDGETING –for the Tamilnadu Budget session 2022” to **Honorable Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of Government of Tamilnadu.**



On 14th February 2022, we released our ‘Gender Budgeting Demands’ Poster during **"One Billion Rising Campaign 2022 - Rise for the bodies of all Women and Girls and the Earth"** Organized by OBR Committee-Madurai, Tamilnadu.



'Wish List for GENDER BUDGETING –for the Tamilnadu Budget session 2022' were reflected in the daily Newspaper "The Indian Express" dated 14th February 2022.

(<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2022/feb/14/gender-budgeting-activists-from-tamil-nadu-want-focus-on-decentralisation-and-social-equity-2419090.html>)

04

CHENNAI

MONDAY 14.02.2022

newindianexpress.com

Gender budgeting: Focus on decentralisation & social equity, urge experts

NIRUPAMA VISWANATHAN
@Chennai

ACTIVISTS from across the State have sought decentralised gender budgeting with allocations based on vulnerability indicators like caste and occupation of women, ahead of the fifth gender budget statement to be presented by the Tamil Nadu government in the budget session of 2022.

"A general overview of women is not enough. For gender

budgeting to be successful, it has to concentrate on marginalised sections of women and help in bringing social equity. Gender budgeting can be a fantastic tool to uplift vulnerable women," said Kamatchi, senior researcher, Social Watch.

The State's gender budget statement outlines the probable outlay for women during the fiscal. The first such statement was presented in 2018.

"At present, not many including bureaucrats, are aware that

gender budgeting is a part of the Appendices to Budget Memorandum. There is a need to make this aspect more publicly visible so that it can initiate discussion," added Kamatchi.

A statement put forth by the activists stated that the budget preparation process should be intersectional and decentralised, starting from urban and rural local bodies.

"With the absence of area sabhas in urban areas, there is a need to engage the commu-

"A general overview of women is not enough. For gender budgeting to be successful, it has to concentrate on marginalised sections of women and help in bringing social equity"

Kamatchi, senior researcher,
Social Watch

nity in the gender budget exercises," the statement said. It also sought gender budgeting in all departments.

The statement called for indi-

cators such as caste, religion, women with disabilities, women engaged in vulnerable occupations or facing residential vulnerabilities to be taken into consideration while preparing the gender budget statement. It also stressed the need for a 'gender budgeting tracking dashboard' in order to track the flow of funds across districts, taluks and panchayats.

"The status of expenditure for the previous budget year should be made available in the current

budget session — higher allocation does not imply higher rate of expenditure. There is a need to evolve a 'gender budget bill' to ensure accountability and a gender audit to assess the expenditure," it said.

The statement is endorsed by Sheelu Francis, TN Women's Collective, Aranga Malika, director of Women Studies Centre in Ethiraj college, Vanessa Peter of IRCUDC, Josephine Amala Valarmathi of National Domestic Workers Movement,

Burnad Fatima of SRED, Meenakshi Balasubramanian, founder of Equals, consultants Geetha Narayanan and Beulah Azariah, Esther Mariaselvam of ActionAid, Assumptha of Social Equity Alliance and Sundari of TN Resources Team.

Bimla Chandrasekaran of Ekta Resource Centre for Women told TNIE, "The goal is to ensure that no woman is left behind. The intention is good but we must ensure that it translates to action."



Mon, 14 February 2022

<https://epaper.newindianexpress.com/c/66234489>



On 14th February 2022, India Ahead News Channel showcased our Gender Budgeting Demands: Activists from across the State have sought decentralized gender budgeting with allocations based on vulnerability indicators like caste and occupation of women, ahead of the fifth gender budget statement to be presented by the Tamil Nadu government in the budget session of 2022. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h12bU0QziJI>)



On 15th February 2022, the above news was also discussed in Television News Channel THANTHI TV in vernacular language.

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ-EJck2eV8&ab_channel=ThanthiTV)



On 5th March 2022, Ms.Kamatchi actively participated in the Online Discussion on Women's Commissions – A Closed group discussion on the purpose, role, opportunities and constraints of Women's Commissions, National and State with the Objective to pool experiences and thoughts to contextualise the current discussion, identify what we want done and what we might do; organized by Prajnya.

On 8th March 2022, celebrating Women's Day, Ms.Kamatchi was invited as resource person to present key recommendations on Women Policy and Gender Budget to the Chairperson Ms. A.S.Kumari, Tamilnadu State Women's Commission during the programme on "Women towards Equality" organized by Tamilnadu Women's Movement at Chennai.



Tamilnadu Government has released its Fifth '[GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT](#)' (GBS) in its Budget Publication No:64, Appendices to Budget Memorandum 2022-232, Annexure XXII.

On 28th March 2022, Social Watch Tamilnadu & Good Shepherd Health Education Centre jointly organized a [**“State Level Consultation On “Schemes For SC / ST Women”**](#) at ICSA, Egmore, Chennai. Expertise in the field of entrepreneurship development, resource identification and mobilization, post metric scholarships and scope for overseas education were assigned to handle the sessions to give both inputs and share hands on experiences.



On 29th March 2022, Social Watch-Tamilnadu & Good Shepherd Health Education Centre; In collaboration with Tamil Nadu Women’s Collective and EKTA Resource Centre for Women; jointly organized a [**State Level Consultation on ‘POLICIES and BUDGETS for WOMEN’ with Tamilnadu State Commission for Women**](#) at Chennai. The consultation was rich with 100+ participants from various field: Researchers from Social Watch, Tamilnadu, development professionals from Good Shepherd Health Education Centre, Empower Trust- Trichy, Native Medical Charitable Trust, Coimbatore, Uthagamandalam Social Service Society, Ooty, AECOM Network, Puducheri, Social Equity Alliance, Tamilnadu Women’s Collective and its sister concerns from Theni, Kancheepuram, Thoothukkudi, Chengalpattu and Thiruvallur districts, , EKTA Resource Centre for Women, Women’s Wing- December 3 Movement, MPWC- Mullaipakkam, National Domestic Workers Movement, Kalanjium Women Farmers Sangam, Thenkasi, Action Aid, Society for Rural Education & Development, Arakkonam, PADHAI, AGAL, Urutunai, CWDR, Chennai, HRF, Chennai, Dept. of Tamil Ethiraj College, Chennai, Voice of Tamil and

Pennurimai Iyakkam, Chennai along with independent researchers and development consultants. All the Speakers had shared their key recommendations prior to the consultation and we gave space for the Chairperson to respond to our demands.



On 19th April 2022, as a follow-up of 29th March 2022 'Women Policy and Budget consultation', the [Key DEMANDS from Stakeholders were CONSOLIDATED DEPARTWISE](#) and forwarded to Honourble Minister Social Welfare Tmt.P.Geetha Jeevan, Thiru.Shambu Kollolika IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and Tmt.A.S.Kumari, Chairperson Tamilnadu State Women Commission; with the [Request for a PREBUDGET GENDER DISCUSSION \(Tamil\)](#) in the month of August 2022.

On 22nd April 2022, following our advocacy efforts on decentralized Gender Budgeting; our recommendation was reflected through a social activist in media – Times of India Newspaper: "We aspire Chennai City that initiates participatory decentralized budget process focussing on issues of women and children of the deprived urban communities.

SW-TN makes a collaborative efforts to achieve a decentralized and Intersectional GENDER BUDGETING in Taminadu. And SW-TN will continue its advocacy efforts towards 'Gender Budgeting for the marginalized in the State', mainly focusing on issues of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and disabled women in the State.

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