

SOCIAL WATCH – TAMILNADU

Two Years Report

Oct 2021 to Oct 2023



Marching on the path of Fr. Manu

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Two Years Report (Oct 2021 to Oct 2023)

Social Watch-Tamilnadu (SW-TN) is a State-level Public Policy Research-cum-Advocacy Centre in the South Indian State of Tamilnadu.

Social Equity is the central concern of SW-TN. And the centre undertakes various research and advocacy initiatives, by interfacing with policy makers, social researchers and Human Rights-cum-grassroots movements in the State and outside, in its efforts to ensure Social Equity by linking public policy with livelihood rights of the socially marginalized sections in the State, such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and children.

SW-TN uses Budget Advocacy as a key instrument of monitoring Public Policy as well as of evolving Alternate Policy formulations. “Social Equity Budgeting” is the over-arching framework of SW-TN.

We are one of the 14 Social Action Centres of “JESUIT CHENNAI PROVINCE”. We align our goals with the universal goals of Society of Jesus, by engaging ourselves in Empowering the marginalized, Preserving & protecting the environment, Providing holistic & integral formation to youth Promoting justice, peace, reconciliation & secular values, Formation our men to be rooted in Ignatian tradition and legacy.

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SCHEDULED CASTES BUDGETING

During 22-23 August 2022, SW-TN, PAALAM along with Co-organizers AKAM and Action Aid organized the 8th **Civil Society Consultation for Scheduled Castes (SC)** at Dhyana Ashram. The members from various Organizations, Political Parties and Government Offices actively participated and highlighted the needs and concerns of SC community. *(There were totally 85 participants; amongst them 26 were women and 59 were men.)*

சான்றோர் குடியமர்வு (Scheduled Caste Civil Society Consultation)

Organised by

SOCIAL WATCH Tamilnadu 	PAALAM 	AKAM 	Action Aid 
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Date : 22nd & 23rd August 2022

Venue : Dhyana Ashram, 25, Madha Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600028





On 6th October 2022 Fr. John Kumar, Director of Social Watch - Tamilnadu along with Dr.Christodas Gandhi IAS (Rtd) had a **meeting with Thiru.T.Anand IAS., Director of Adi Dravidar Welfare at Directorate**, Chepauk. They elaborately discussed about the Post Matric Scholarship, Housing Scheme and other Welfare Measures for the Saandrors/ Scheduled Castes (SCs). On the same day they both met along with the Tribal community representatives; Thiru. S. Annadurai C.L.S., Director of Tribal Welfare Department at Chepauk and discussed the welfare measures and schemes for the development of Aandrors/ Scheduled Tribes (STs).



During 19th - 21st January 2023, Fr.Kumar, SW-TN along with 'Social Awareness Society for Youth (SASY)' and Cornerstone organized a **"3 days EXPOSURE VISIT for TN MLAs to study Telangana's initiatives towards Scheduled Castes Development"**. Mr.Sinthanai Selvan, MLA, Kattumannarkoil Constituency, Floor Leader, VCK Party and Mr. S.S. Balaji, MLA, Tiruporur Constituency, VCK Party actively involved and promised to represent the learnings during the forthcoming TN Budget session.

On 18th July 2023, Fr.John Kumar's Article on "Will Marginalized get Justice through Special Component Plan?" was published in Tamil Hindu Daily Newspaper.

2023.07.18, Tamil Hindu

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தமிழ்நாடு சட்டமன்றத்தில் 2023-24ஆம் ஆண்டுக்கான நிதிநிலை அறிக்கைக் கூட்ட விவாதத்தில் சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர் முயுவல ஜெகன்மூர்த்தி, சிறப்பு உட்குறுத் திட்டம் குறித்த கோரிக்கை ஒன்றை முன்வைத்தார். அதில், 'பட்டியல்-பழங்குடி மக்களுக்கான சிறப்பு உட்குறுத் திட்டம், பழங்குடியினர் துணைத் திட்டம் உருவாக்கப்பட்டதன் நோக்கமே பட்டியல் சாதி மக்களுக்கும் மற்ற சமூகத்தினருக்கும் இடையிலான வளர்ச்சி-மேம்பாட்டு இடைவெளியைக் குறைத்துச் சமன் செய்யவும், அம்மக்களின் சமூகப் பொருளாதார நிலையை உயர்த்தவும், அவர்களுக்கான ஆக்க வளமுடைய சொத்துக்களை உருவாக்கித் தந்திடவும் தனியான திட்டங்கள் கொண்டுவந்து செயல்படுத்துவதுதான்' என்று அவர் குறிப்பிட்டிருந்தார்.



சிறப்புக்கூறுத் திட்ட நிதி: ஒடுக்கம்யட்டோருக்குக் கிடைக்குமா நீதி?

பட்டியல் சாதி-பட்டியல் பழங்குடியினருக்கு மட்டும் நிதியளவைக் குறைவாக ஒதுக்குவதும், அப்படி ஒதுக்கும் நிதியையும் வேறு திட்டங்களுக்கு மடைமாற்றுவதும் தொடர்ந்து நடைபெற்றுக்கொண்டே வருகிறது.

18.07.2023, இந்து - தமிழ் திசை

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தமிழ்நாடு சட்டமன்றத்தில் 2023-24ஆம் ஆண்டுக்கான நிதிநிலை அறிக்கைக் கூட்ட விவாதத்தில் சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர் முயுவல ஜெகன்மூர்த்தி, சிறப்பு உட்குறுத் திட்டம் குறித்த கோரிக்கை ஒன்றை முன்வைத்தார். அதில், 'பட்டியல்-பழங்குடி மக்களுக்கான சிறப்பு உட்குறுத் திட்டம், பழங்குடியினர் துணைத் திட்டம் உருவாக்கப்பட்டதன் நோக்கமே பட்டியல் சாதி மக்களுக்கும் மற்ற சமூகத்தினருக்கும் இடையிலான வளர்ச்சி-மேம்பாட்டு இடைவெளியைக் குறைத்துச் சமன் செய்யவும், அம்மக்களின் சமூகப் பொருளாதார நிலையை உயர்த்தவும், அவர்களுக்கான ஆக்க வளமுடைய சொத்துக்களை உருவாக்கித் தந்திடவும் தனியான திட்டங்கள் கொண்டுவந்து செயல்படுத்துவதுதான்' என்று அவர் குறிப்பிட்டிருந்தார்.



சிறப்புக்கூறுத் திட்ட நிதி: ஒடுக்கம்யட்டோருக்குக் கிடைக்குமா நீதி?

பட்டியல் சாதி-பட்டியல் பழங்குடியினருக்கு மட்டும் நிதியளவைக் குறைவாக ஒதுக்குவதும், அப்படி ஒதுக்கும் நிதியையும் வேறு திட்டங்களுக்கு மடைமாற்றுவதும் தொடர்ந்து நடைபெற்றுக்கொண்டே வருகிறது.

தமிழ்நாட்டும் உயர்த்தி வழங்கினால் இங்குள்ள மக்கள் மேம்பாட்டு பயன்னைப் பெற முடியும்.

ஆனால், தானேயே மூலம் மாறிய வழங்கப்பட்டால் பொதுத்தரண வசிகளோ, தமிழக அரசின்கீழ் இயங்கும் சட்டநாடி வசிக்கோ பட்டியல் சாதி-பழங்குடி மக்களின் முன்னேற்றத்தைக் கருத்தில் கொண்டு அங்குமுடைய தொழில் முயற்சிகளை, வழங்காததை மேம்படுத்துவதற்காக உள் வழங்க முன்வருவதே இல்லை. இவை போன்ற முயற்சிகள் பட்டியலினத்தவரின் பொருளாதார முன்னேற்றத்துக்கு மிகப்பெரியதாய்க்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. அங்குள்ள அல்லலியோது கற்றைக்கை செலவிடப்படும், பணை - நிதியாதாரம் மேம்படுத்தப்படும் என்று அறிமுகப்படுத்தும், அங்கு வசிக்கின்ற பணை மேலே வலியுறுத்தினால், நிதிநிலைக்கைத் தாமதப்படுத்தும் செய்கின்றன.

பொதுவாக, எல்லாத் தரப்பு மக்களுக்காகவும் உருவாக்கப்படும் திட்டங்களின் மூலம், ஒடுக்கப்பட்ட மக்களைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களுக்கு உதவியளிப்பதற்காகத் தொடர்ச்சியான சாதிப் பாதாபுச் சூழலாக் கான முடியாத, கண்டும் கானாது போகும் ஆட்சியாளர்களும், திட்ட வலியுறுத்தும் இயக்கமே செய்கின்றனர்.

மறைத்துப்போன நிதி: சிறப்பு உட்குறுத் திட்டத்தக்கை 2021-22ஆம் நிதியாண்டில், பட்டியல் சாதிகளுக்கு ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட நிதி ரூ.14,387.85 கோடி. இதில், செலவிடப்பட்ட தொகை ரூ.11,969.30 கோடி. ஏற்குமுடிய ரூ.2,418.55 கோடி, அதுவது 16.81% தொகையானது யான்படுத்தப்படாத நிதியாகச் செலவிடப்பட்டால், பொதுக் கணக்குக்குள் கணர்ந்தும் மறைத்தும் போனது 'ஒவ்வொரு நிதியாண்டின் இறுதியிலும், இம்மக்களுக்காக ஒதுக்கப்பட்டு செலவிடப்படாத நிதி, அதற்கு அடுத்து ஆண்டு நிதிநிலை அறிக்கையில், காரணசாரியினை எடுத்துச் செல்லப்பட்ட கோளும் என்கிற நிதிநிலை அறிக்கை-வாசு-மேலும் திட்ட மறு இயக்குதலும், அந்தப் பொறுப்பைச் சிற்பெருகின்ற யாரும் செயல்படுகின்றன. அக்காரியோடு வேடி சாத்திரமாகக் செயல்படுகின்றன.

மேலும், 2022-23ஆம் ஆண்டு நிதிநிலை அறிக்கையில், சிறப்பு உட்குறுத் திட்டத்தில், பட்டியல் சாதிகளுக்கு என ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட நிதியில், ஜனவரி 2023 முடிய 35% நிதியளவு மட்டுமே சிறப்பு உட்குறுத் திட்ட நிதியிலிருந்து செலவிடப்பட்டிருந்தது என்று சில ஆதாரப்பலவரை கணக்காக்கினிருந்து தெரியவருகிறது. மக்களின் நல-மேம்பாட்டு குறித்து அடிப்படையில் தரவாளமும், மக்களின் வழியிலையாதாரத்தும், பிரச்சினைகள்-கேள்விகள்

குறித்துப்பிரிந்து அறிமுகப்படியுள்ளவிரைகளும் இல்லாததே இதற்குக் காரணம். மேலும், துறைகளில் (ஆதிதிரிவிஜ் நலத் துறையிலும்) சரியான திட்டமிடல் இல்லாததால், அவர்களுக்காக வளர்ந்தன்க்கப்பட்ட, சிறப்புக்கூறுத் திட்டமே இத்திட்டம், பட்டியல் சாதிப் பயனாளிகளை முழுமையாகச் சேர்ந்தவர்களுக்காக இல்லாது.

மடைமாற்றங்கள்: 2023-2024 ஆண்டுக்கான நிதிநிலை அறிக்கையில் எல்லாத் துறைகளுக்கும் நிதியளவுகளுக்காக ஒதுக்கப்பட்டு, பூதிய திட்டங்கள் உருவாக்கப்பட்டன. ஆனால், பட்டியல் சாதி-பட்டியல் பழங்குடியினருக்கு மட்டும் நிதியளவைக் குறைவாக ஒதுக்குவதும், அப்படி ஒதுக்கும் நிதியையும் வேறு திட்டங்களுக்கு மடைமாற்றுவதும் தொடர்ந்து நடைபெற்றுக்கொண்டே வருகிறது.

பொதுவிழிப்போ முறை உதவியுள் சமூகப்பாதாபு-உணவு உத்தரவா (பொது) திட்டக் கணக்குக்குப் பல ஆண்டு காலமாகப் பொதுவான திட்டத்தின்கீழ் நிதி ஒதுக்கி செயல்பட்டுவந்தது இந்த (2023-24) நிதியாண்டில் பட்டியல் சாதி மக்களின் சிறப்பு உட்குறுத் திட்ட நிதி கணக்கிலிருந்து மாறியத் தொகையில் ரூ.2,310 கோடி, பொதுத் திட்ட நிதி கணக்கில் சேர்த்துக் கொடுத்து மடைமாற்றம் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. அதே போல், பூதிய பொதுத்திட்டமான மகாரி உரிமைத் தொகைத் திட்டத்துக்கு, ரூ.1,540 கோடி சிறப்பு உட்குறுத் திட்ட நிதியிலிருந்து தானவர்க்கப்பட்டிருந்து (பொதுவாக எல்லாத் தரப்பு மக்களுக்கும்) சேர்த்து இத்திட்டத்தின்கீழ் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன மொத்த நிதி ரூ.7,000 கோடி ஆகும்.

மேற்கூறிய இந்த இரண்டு பொதுத் திட்டங்களில் மட்டும், பட்டியல் சாதி மக்களுக்கான, தனித்தவமான நிதித் தொகையிலிருந்து ரூ.3,850 கோடி, பொதுத் திட்டச் செலவியை மடைமாற்றப்பட்டு, ஒதுக்கி செயல்பட்டுள்ளது. இவை இரண்டும் பட்டியல் சாதி

மக்களின் தொகையுமே மேம்பாட்டைக் கற்றெடுக்கின்றன அதுமே சிறப்புக் கூறுத் திட்ட வரையறுப்பில் வகுத்தன்க்கப்பட்ட திட்டங்கள் அல்ல. அம்மக்களின் பொருளாதார மேம்பாட்டுக்கென்ற தனித்தவமான உருவாக்கப்பட்டவையும் அல்ல. இத்திட்டங்களில் பட்டியல் சாதி மக்கள் எல்லாம் பொருளாதார மேம்பாட்டு அடையலியோத்தல்லை. இவற்றால், மற்ற சமூக மக்களுக்கும், பட்டியல் சாதி, பட்டியல் பழங்குடி மக்களுக்கான மேம்பாட்டு இடைவெளி குறைப்படுவதும் இல்லை.

வழிகாட்டும் அளவை மாறியவர்கள்: 2021-22ஆம் நிதியாண்டில் மேற்கண்ட சிறப்பு உட்குறுத் திட்டத்தக்கை ஒதுக்கப்பட்டுச் செலவிடப்படாத ரூ.2,418 கோடி தொகையானது தேவையற்ற நிதியென்று இந்த (2023-24) நிதியாண்டில் நிதிநிலை அறிக்கையில் குறைத்து ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

தாடுகோவில் (TAHDCO) வழங்கப்படும் மாணியத்தில் உள்ள குறையான இன்னொருமும், அந்திப் பிடுகேசும், தேவச்சன மாறியங்களில் தானே போன்ற பொருளாதார மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டங்களைச் செயல்படுத்தும் நிறுவனத்தின் மூலம் வழங்கப்படும் உட்குறுத் ரூ.1 லட்சம் வரை 80% மாணியமும், ரூ.2 லட்சம் வரை 70% மாணியமும், ரூ.2 லட்சத்துக்கு மேல் 60% வரை மாணியமும் வழங்கப்படுகின்றன. ஆனால், தமிழகத்தில் தானே மூலம் ஒரே மாணியமே 30% மட்டுமே வழங்கப்படுகிறது. மேற்கண்ட மாறியங்களில் உள்ள நிறுவனங்களில் மாணியங்களை வழங்குவது போன்ற தானேயிலும் வழங்கப்படும். அன்றைய மாறியங்களின் ஆதிதிரும், கேள்விகளையில் பொருளாதார மேம்பாட்டுக்கான திட்டச் செலவினங்களில், மாறிய அரசின் பங்களிப்பாக முறைமே ரூ.3,331 கோடியும், ரூ.1,784 கோடியும் 2022-23ஆம் ஆண்டில் முறைமே ஒதுக்கப்பட்டன. இவை போன்ற மாறிய அரசின் பங்களிப்பைப் பட்டியல் சாதி-பழங்குடி மக்களுக்குத்

தேவச்சனமையில் 'தனித் பந்த' என்றும் பெயரில் பட்டியல் சாதிகளுக்குள்ள தொழில்-முன்னோடி திட்டம், 2021 ஆகஸ்ட் முதல் செயல்படுத்தப்படுவதாகிறது. இத்திட்டத்தின்படி, அம்மாறியத்தின் உதவியுடன் தரநாட்சிக்கு உட்பட்ட பகுதியில் மட்டும் 21,563 வீடுகள் தேர்ச்செய்யப்பட்டுக் கணக்கெடுப்புத் தட்டப்பட்டு, பணசாரி ஒருவருக்கு ரூ.10 லட்சம் என்கிற நிதியில், வீடு தேடிச் சென்று நிதி வழங்கப்பட்டு மிகச் சிறப்பாகச் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டுகிறது. இத்திட்டத்தின் கீழ் 2021-22ஆம் மட்டும் 18,021 பட்டியல் சாதிப் பயனாளிகள் மேம்பாட்டு அடைந்திருக்கின்றனர்; 2022-23ஆம் மட்டும் ரூ.7,000 கோடி நிதிக்கொடை வழங்கப்பட்டு, பட்டியல் சாதிகளைச் சேர்த்து சுமார் 2 லட்சம் பேர் தொழில்முன்னோடிக் உருவாகியுள்ளனர்.

அரசின் உடமை: தமிழ்நாட்டும் நிலம் வாங்கும் திட்டமே, 2021-22ஆம் சட்டமன்றத்தில் முன்வைக்கப்பட்ட கோரிக்கையில் பெயரில், பட்டியல் சாதி-பழங்குடி மக்களுக்கு நிலம் வாங்கும் திட்டத்தக்கை 2022-23ஆம் நிதியாண்டில் (தமிழக அரசால் வழங்கப்பட்ட 50% மாணியத்தோடு கூடிய திட்டம்) ரூ.10 கோடி திட்டநிதியாக ஒதுக்கப்பட்டது. ஆனால், எதிர்பார்த்த அளவுக்கு இத்திட்டம் சென்றடையவில்லை.

இன்றுவரை, தமிழ்நாட்டும் ஒவ்வொரு நிதியாண்டுக்கும் 100 பயனாளிகளுக்கு குறைவான எண்ணிக்கையில் இத்திட்டம் செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டுவருகிறது. ஆனால், தேவச்சனமையில் செயல்படுத்தப்படும் நில மாணியத் திட்டத்தின்கீழ், அம்மாறியத்தின் 2014-15 முதல் 2022-23 ஆண்டு வரை 6,395 பயனாளிகளுக்கு 7,096 ஏக்கர் நிலங்கள், ரூ.789 கோடி செலவிட்டு மறைமுகம் கொடுக்கின்றன. எனவே, தமிழ்நாட்டும் பட்டியல் சாதி-பழங்குடி மக்கள் பயன்பெறும் வகையில் அக்காரியைத் திட்டங்கள் செயல்படுத்தப்பட வேண்டும்.

On 4th September 2023, SW-TN in Collaboration with Department of Sociology-Loyola College; Organized a One-Day National Seminar on “The Anti-Caste Pedagogy of Dalit Politics” at LS Hall. Dr.Thol.Thirumavalavan, Member of Parliament delivered the Inaugural Address; Followed by sessions by Prof.Soumyabrata Choudhury, Associate Professor, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and by Ms.V. Geetha, Independent Scholar and Activist.



‘Social Watch-TN’, PAALAM and ‘International Ambedkar Mission (IAM) together organized a “Civil Society Dialogue on Recommendations to be made for the proposed **ACT on ‘Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC)’** formerly known as Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan” on 24th September 2023 at IAS

Officer's Mess, SAF Games, Koyambedu, Chennai. The draft kept for deliberation was approved to be sent to the Government. The main features are:

1. The Act should not bear the name of SC or ST on it. Therefore “ஓங்குயர் சட்டம்” in Tamil has been proposed. English version can also use the same terminology.
2. The objective spells out growth orientation and not just a pacifying share in common schemes.
3. In order to usher in innovations year after year, two-way allocation has been recommended.
 - a. One allocation will be on the same formula as existing that will be the proportion based on previous census out of the bundle of welfare schemes.
 - b. The second will be a 3% allocation from the total budget size.
4. Allocation made under 3(b) will be utilized only for the new schemes with Saandror (SC) focus only.
5. All the funds should be routed through Saandror and Aandror Panchayats only.
6. District level disaggregated allocation and utilization should be shown in annual audit.







During September 2023, SWTN and PAALAM released the book on கற்பி - தமிழ்நாட்டிற்கான சமூக ஒப்புரவை வளர்க்கும் தனித்த கல்விக் கொள்கை". [EDUCATE - A Unique Education Policy for Tamilnadu to Promote Social Equity].



தமிழ்நாட்டிற்கான சமூக ஒப்புரவை வளர்க்கும் தனித்த கல்விக் கொள்கைகள் சமூக ஒப்புரவையும், சமூக வளர்ச்சியையும் எடுத்தோடும் வகையில் அத்தகைய சிந்தனை உள்ளவராலும், சமூகக் காவலர்களான சான்றோர்களாலும், (SC பட்டியல் இனத்தவர்) உருவாக்கப்பட்டவை.

1) ஆரியம், வேதம் சார்ந்த, மரந்தரைக் கவறு போடும் பார்வைகளுக்கு எதிரானது, அவற்றை ஏற்க மறுப்பது.

2) வடவர்களின் வடமொழி / இந்திமொழித் தாக்கங் களைக் கடந்து போவது.

3) யாவர்க்கும் கல்வி வாய்ப்பை உருவாக்கித் தரும் அநே வேளையில் சமூகத்தில் இன்னும் ஆளுமையையும், அதிகாரத்தையும் பெற வேண்டியவர்களாகச் சான்றோர்களையும், (SC பட்டியல் இனத்தவர்) ஆன்றோர்களையும் (ST பழங்குடி) குறிக்கொண்டு அவர்களுக்கான தனித்துவச் செயல் திட்டங்களை வகுக்கும்.

4) பார்ப்பனப் புனிதங்கள் என்று ஒதுப்படுவதை ஒரங்கட்டும்; என்றும் திராவிடக் கல்வி அவற்றை ஓராது (சட்டை செய்யாது).

போன்ற திராவிடம் தழுவிய முன்னெடுப்புகளால் திராவிடக் கல்விக் கோட்பாடுகளையும், நடைமுறைகளையும் உள்ளடக்கியதாக அமைந்துள்ளது.

சமூக ஒப்புரவை வளர்க்கும் தனித்த கல்விக் கொள்கை

கற்பி

தமிழ்நாட்டிற்கான சமூக ஒப்புரவை வளர்க்கும்
தனித்த கல்விக் கொள்கை

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பாலம் PAALAM



Social Watch - Tamilnadu

SCHEDULED TRIBES

On 29th & 30th November 2021, SWTN along with PAALAM, AKAM, ASSET, NAWA, ADIVASI FOUNDATION; organized a 'State Level **CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATION ON TRIBAL SUB PLAN**' at Dhyana Ashram, CHENNAI. The output of the five Separate focus-group discussions were summarized and presented at the end of the two days session.







On 28th December 2021, Ms. Rajeshwari participated in ‘**The Review Meeting on the implementation of Scheduled Tribes and Other traditional Forest Dwellers** (recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006) in the Nilgiris Constituency’ at Thamizhagam, Ooty. Chief Guest - Thiru. A Raja, Member of Parliament, Minister of Adi Dravidar & Tribal Welfare and Collectors of the districts of Nilgiris, Coimbatore and Erode also participated to plan for empowering the Tribal People with Forest Rights Affairs.

On 15th February 2022, SW-TN and PAALAM jointly organized an Online Meeting on “**Discussion on Schemes for Entrepreneurship**” for Aadiyar Scheduled Tribes; to improve their socio-economic conditions. Dr. Christodas Gandhi IAS (Rtd) presented the information about Tribal Welfare schemes and their Economic Development Programmes.



On 5th March 2022, SWTN was part of the collaborative “**State level Consultation for Aadiyar Tribes to build on future Entrepreneurship**”; it was held at All India Catholic University Federation (AICUF). The Consultation was inaugurated by Dr. Christodas Gandhi IAS (Rtd). Ms. Revathy, The Director of Vanavil Service Centre and Mr.Irulapoo Selvakumar, Leader of Irular Federation were key the other discussants.

On 26th March 2022, Fr. John Kumar, Director of SW-TN and Ms. Srilakshmi, Researcher of SW-TN had a **Field Visit to discuss with Tribal Community** at Kottemedu, Guduvencherry. Following the field visit, they participated in the

Women's Day celebration, organized by the ASSET – an organization founded and managed by Irular leaders themselves. Ms. Suseela, Sub-Inspector (SI) – an invitee-dignitary at the function shared her experiences of working with Irular Tribal women at Kottevedu and the important aspects of Adolescent's Welfare and Development. Dr. Sharmila Balaji (The Doctor cum Television serial-Star) – shared the importance of women's health especially during pregnancy importance of Hygiene of Adolescent girls during the Menstruation Period. Fr. John Kumar, Director of SWTN gave a Talk on 'Budgets for marginalized women' and Mr. SS Balaji, (Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi – Tiruporur shared his initiatives about Women Empowerment.

During 29-30 August 2022, SW-TN, PAALAM along with Co-organizers AKAM, Action Aid and Keystone Foundation organized the 8th **State Level Civil Society Consultation for Scheduled Tribes (ST)** at Dhyana Ashram. Representatives from various Tribal Organizations across many Districts and Government Officers of various Departments actively participated and highlighted the needs and concerns of ST People at large. Mr. Annadurai, Director - Department of Tribal Welfare – Government of Tamilnadu joined and noted the recommendations forwarded and submitted by the Tribal Activists. (There were about 30 women and 109 men Tribal representatives – in total 139 participants.)

ஆன்றோர் குடியமர்வு

(Scheduled Tribes Civil Society Consultation)

Organised by

SOCIAL WATCH Tamilnadu 	PAALAM 	AKAM 	Action Aid 	Keystone Foundation 
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Date :	Venue :
29 th & 30 th August 2022	Dhyana Ashram, 25, Madha Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600028







During 2-3 September 2022, Fr. Kumar on behalf of SW-TN and along with Mr. R.C Gandhi - PAALAM organized a training program for Scheduled Tribes' Large Area Multi-purpose (LAMP) Society Presidents'- on imparting skills of **Management** at NATESAN INSTITUTE OF COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT (NICM) at AnnaNagar, Chennai; where about 25 Scheduled Tribal Presidents of Co-operative Societies (1 woman & 24 men) benefited. This was the first training being held at Union Government Training Institute with their collaboration and sponsorship.



On 11th November 2022, Fr. John Kumar and Mr. Christudas Gandhi visited Pulicat (Pazhaverkadu) to have first-hand appraisal of housing conditions, and to assess the need and eventually recommend to the Government of Tamilnadu and Habitat India to build houses with optimum convenience on a raised ground for sustainability and durability for Irular Tribes of Pulicat.



On 3rd December 2022, SWTN, PAALAM and Pazhangudi Irular Peravai jointly organized consultation on “Welfare of Teachers of Eklayva Model Residential Schools (EMRS)” at ICOSA-Egmore, Chennai.





SW-TN along with Paalam had played their role over the years in training Irular Leaders to take up their matters themselves to the concerned Government departments.

Our networking partner Thiru.Irulapoo Selvakumar – President, Pazhangudi Irular Peravai (Assembly of Irular Tribes) had taken up “Cashew Farming” as an alternate remunerative sustainable programme at Kuvagam village.

They had developed negotiating skills and approached the Ariyalur District Collector, ‘Department of Adi Dravidar & Tribal Welfare’ and Forest Department.

Due to their consistent efforts and support from like-minded bureaucrats; this converged programme has come successful with the annual profit of 3.5 Lakhs - contrasting with the regular poverty alleviation programmes. The departments has initiated similar process for getting more 18 such groups. And field work for land identification has been started. Shortly we will have many such groups getting benefitted.

(For more details, refer Indian Express article dated 13.12.2022 on “TN Irulars harvest Cashew & Hope”.

Also watch Sun TV News clipping: <https://fb.watch/h4FbpDE4JR/?mibextid=6aamW6>

TN Irulars harvest cashew & hope

By P Thiruselvam | Express News Service | Published: 13th December 2022 02:30 AM



On 1st March 2023, Social Watch – Tamilnadu along with PAALAM organized a **Consultation for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)** at AICUF, Chennai.



On 6th March 2023, Social Watch - Tamilnadu along with PAALAM had a **Focus Group Discussion with Kaadar & Paliyar Tribes from Vaalparai** - at AICUF, Chennai.

On 9th March 2023, Social Watch – Tamilnadu organized a **Consultation with Irular Tribes from five districts** (*Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, Ariyalur and Krishnagiri*) at AICUF, Chennai - To evolve alternate basket of schemes and to advocate during the forthcoming discussions.



On 30th July 2023, SW-TN along with PAALAM and AKAM organized a Consultation for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups from Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Erode and Tirupur Districts; held at Jeeva Jyothi Ashram, Coimbatore.



International Day of the World's Indigenous People 2023; was commemorated on 19th August 2023 by Adivasi Social Service Education Trust (ASSET), Social Watch – Tamilnadu and Helping Hands; at Nellikuppam.



On 6th September 2023, Mr. Christodas Gandhi IAS (Retd), our Guide was invited as the Guest of Honour by Vanavil Trust and Centre for Social Justice and Equity, MSSW for the Release of the Status of Nomadic Report. Fr.Kumar and Ms.

Rajeshwari participated in this collaborative event. Vanavil Trust along with Praxis and with the support of the 'Research Organization for Social Action' (ROSA) and 'The Empowerment Centre of Nomads & Tribes' (TENT) conducted a comprehensive participatory study of four Nomadic Tribes in Tamilnadu, namely Narikuravar, Boom Boom Maatukarar-Aadiyan, Lambadas, and Kattunayakars, across eight districts. DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi formally released the report to the public.



On 1st October 2023, SW-TN and PAALAM jointly organized the Second 'Micro Level Aandror (ST) Consultation', at IDEAS Centre, Madurai. Aandrors (STs) from Kaniyaar, Paliyar, Kaattunayakkar, Kaanikarar, Narikuravar, and Malaikuravar communities participated. Around 70 Members (15 women) participated including representatives from various civil society organizations and institutes. New strategies and policy proposals were developed.



ஆன்றோர் (ST) அணுக்கத் திட்டமிடல் (MICRO LEVEL PLANNING) கூட்டம் - II



பங்கேற்கும் ஆன்றோர்:

- காணிக்காரர்
- கணியார்
- பளியர்
- காட்டுநாயக்கர்
- நரிக்குறவர்

இடம்: IDEAS மையம், சிந்தாமணி ரோடு
மதுரை,

தேதி: 01.10.2023, காலை 10 மணி.



ஆன்றோர் நலத்
திட்டங்கள், பட்ஜெட்
குறித்த முக்கிய பகிர்வு



SCHEDULED CASTES & SCHEDULED TRIBES

On 2nd October 2021, SWTN along with Mr.Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd Additional Chief Secretary) organized, the fourth Online Discussion with State **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Revenue Officers Association** (TNSC-ST ROA), to prepare Demands to the Newly formed State Government.

On 3rd October 2021, SWTN along with Mr.Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd) organized the **Fifth** Online Discussion on “**SC/ST Issues at Agricultural University**”.

SWTN supported the marginalized school children through **study centres**; coordinated by Abhithi Foundation, Pondicherry and ASSET, Guduvancherry, Chengalpet.

On 5th October 2021, SWTN hosted the AKAM Cadres Online Meeting on '**Post Matric Scholarship**'.

On 13th October 2021, SW-TN forwarded a **requisition letter to Dr.JeyaRanjan, Vice Chairperson, State Development Planning Council** (erstwhile State Planning Commission-SPC) and Mr. Deenbandhu IAS (Retd), Member, SPC through Mr. Christudos Gandhi IAS (Retd Additional Chief Secretary, GoTN); and Consultant of SW-TN with following requests:

1. To Organize Collaborative Consultation along with SW-TN on Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP), Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) and Gender Budgeting. SW-TN volunteered to bear the complete expenditure of the consultation. But, we wanted the invite through SPC to all the concerned departments. Thus, we tried to create a pressure across departments to allocate and implement proper utilization of the funds allocated for SCSP and TSP;
2. Initiate Discussions on Issues around the implementation of Post Matric Scholarship;
3. To Suggest an Evaluation of any two departments on Implementation of SCSP/ TSP schemes;
4. To Insist the utilization of SCSP/ TSP fund in Highway Department to be allocated to the SC-ST Panchayats for laying good roads in the SC, ST habitation;
5. To Recommend to increase the State Specific Schemes for SCs and STs in the Department of Agriculture;
6. To Raise a concern on the Reduced Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 3% of SC Students (from 42% to 39%);

7. To Emphasize and to expand the Budget Making Team – To present a Budget without Fiscal Deficit;
8. To recommend a process, where the State can avail loan only after being tabled in Legislative Assembly for gaining the consensus.

On 20th October 2021, Fr. John Kumar, Ms. Srilakshmi and Ms. Rajeshwari along with ASSET team visited three villages: Kalavai, Kolathur, Sembakkam located near Guduvancheri Chengalpat District.

On 6th November 2021, SWTN along with Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd Additional Chief Secretary) organized an **Sixth** Online Discussion on “**SC/ST Issues at Agricultural University**”.

On 7th November 2021, SWTN and AHAL Centre jointly organized a **Youth Empowerment Seminar to the college going Youth of Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram Districts** at AHAL Centre, Kilpennathur to guide the college going youth to avail Government and Private Scholarship; to help with Carrier Guidance Opportunities; to enlighten them to prepare for competitive exams.

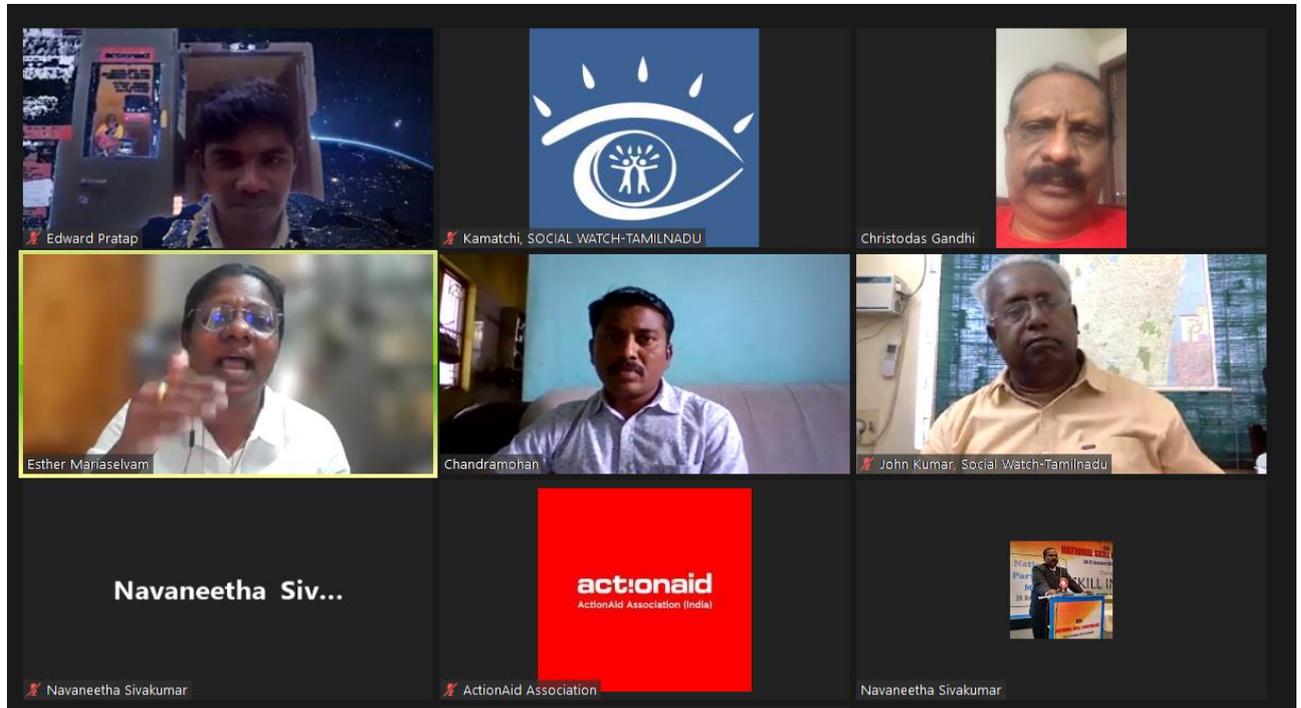
On 14th November 2021, SWTN along with Mr. Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd Additional Chief Secretary) organized 3rd ANNA UNIVERSITY meet for **SC/ST stakeholders**.

On 28th November 2021, SWTN along with network partners associated with Mr. Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd Additional Chief Secretary) – had a meet with **TN SC/ST Commission Members**.

On 4th December 2021, SWTN and Jesuit Migrants Ministry External (JMMEx), Kasthambadi jointly organized the **ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING FOR MIGRANTS** at Vadalur, Cuddalore District.

On 25th February 2022, Ms. Rajeshwari & Ms. Srilakshmi participated in the online Discussion on “**Securing Rights of Scheduled Castes**”. Organised by "Social Watch- Tamilnadu" and 'Action Aid Association'. Ms. Kamatchi, Senior Researcher – Social Watch- TN presented a session on ‘**Budgetary Rights of Scheduled Castes Women**’, Mr. Navaneetha Sivakumar, Founder & Chairman of Confederation of Affirmative Industries made an elaborate presentation on “Entrepreneurship Schemes in Central & State Government for SCs”. Dr. Chirstodas Gandhi, IAS (Rtd) Consultant of SWTN &, PAALAM, conducted the interactive session on SC Entitlements. Then, Mr. G. Chandramohan, State Convener, Ambedkar Kalvi Centenary Movement, shared the Presentation on

Post Matric Scholarship for SCs and finally Fr. John Kumar, Director of SWTN made a presentation on 'Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP)'.



On 29th July 2022, Fr. Kumar gave an orientation **Lecture on Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan** to the staff and animators of the people based organisation - Social Awareness Society for Youth (SASY) at ASHA Nivas, Chennai. During the programme, Mr. Balaji, an auditor from the Accounts General's office of Government of Tamilnadu, spoke on Agriculture budget to the participants.

On 13th August 2022, SWTN along with PAALAM and Mass Movement for Transformation (MMT) convened a Virtual Discussion on **SC/ST Admissions in MBBS**.

Key points of discussion were:

1. Is it 19% (reservations meant for SC-STs) from the overall?
2. How to monitor every year – the reserved seats meant for the SCs and STs?
3. Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) Data 2021-22
4. Is the amount of PMS sufficient to cover full fee charged by institutions?

During December 2022, SWTN along with PAALAM and AKAM organized a series of online meetings to discuss and channelize towards solutions of various SC/ST issues related to Higher Education, Panchayats, Concerns in Revenue Department and Agriculture Department.

On 16th February 2023, 20th year celebration of SOCIAL WATCH – TAMILNADU, we felicitated **Dr. ASHWINI KP, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.** It was great pleasure having our **Rev.Fr.Jebamalai Irudayaraj**, Provincial , **Fr.Ilanko Xavier**, Socius, **Fr.Yesumarian**, Coordinator- Dalit Commission, **Fr.Irudaya Raj**, Coordinator-Communication Commission and **Fr.Justin Prabhu**, House Minister. The celebration was a nostalgic get-together with the legends in the social field: **Ms. A.S.Kumari**, Chairperson, TN State Commission for Women ; **Mr. Henri Tiphagne**, Executive Director, People’s Watch – Tamilnadu; **Ms. Burnad Fatima**, Executive Director, Society for Rural Education and Development; **Mr. Nicholas**, Convener, Dalit Mannurimai Kootamaippu, IRDS, Villupuram; **Ms. Sheelu Francis**, President, Tamilnadu Women’s Collective; **Ms. Virgil D Samy**, Arunodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children; **Ms. Sornalatha**, Director, Adivasi Social Service Education Trust; **Mr.Bernard D Samy**, Coordinator, LISSTAR; **Prof. S. Packiaraj**, Mentor, SW-TN; **Mr. Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd)**, Advisor, SW-TN and Co-Founder of PAALAM. During this celebration, we released a Note on “**I may not get rid of caste; but can stop caste getting rid of me**”.





The same day, we were also part of the Interaction among like-minded IAS officers with Dr.Ashwini, UN Special Rapporteur, at IAS mess.



On 28th February 2023, Fr.Kumar was invited as a panelist for the 'State Level Conference for Civil Society Organisations on the State Legislation for

SCP TSP, Organized by Social Awareness Society for Youth (SASY) at Asha Nivas, Chennai.

As an outcome of joint collaborative advocacy and lobby of 'Confederation on Affirmative Industries', SWTN through R.Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd); achieved the futuristic goal of getting five percent reservation for SC/ST in all tenders of Tamilnadu. First victory in getting the TN Civil supplies MD circular to have been circulated to all 39 locations in Tamilnadu. The first victory is getting the TN Civil Supplies MD circular circulated to all 39 locations in Tamilnadu.

Office of the Managing Director,
Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation,
Head office, Chennai 600 010.

Rc.No.MT10/018188/2023

Dated:02.08.2023.

Circular No.32/2023 (Marketing Section)

CIRCULAR

Sub: TNCSC - H.O - Marketing Section - Appointment of Transport Contractors FCI & Non-FCI, Sugar and PTMGRNMP Movement for the period from June 2023 to July 2025 - e-Tender floated in all 39 Regions - Opening of Price Bid scheduled on 10.08.2023 - Latest amendments of Tamil Nadu Tender Transparency Act 2000 & Rules to be followed by Regional Heads - Certain instructions - Issued - Reg.

"(aaa) domestic enterprise owned by scheduled castes or scheduled Tribes" means.

(i) any domestic enterprise located in the state, which is owned by any person belonging to Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribes; or

(ii) any domestic enterprise, which is a firm or limited liability partnership, having its registered office and place of business in the state, where not less than three-fourths of the partners belong to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes; or

(1) more than fifty per cent of the ordinary shareholdings pertain to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes; and

Successful Outcomes of our Lobby & Advocacy

1. 32 Adhiyar Tribes got admitted in higher education (10 BE admissions). This can be claimed as direct outcome of advocacy meetings held with adhiyars at Kallakurichi, Nagalapuram, Nagapattinam, Vadalur and Ginjee; along with other online zoom meetings.
2. A Separate WhatsApp group has been formed to coordinate and organize Adhiyar Tribes
3. Aadhiyar girls got admitted in Chettinad Dental College in BDS without insistence of any upfront payment.
4. Road Formation in 7 places. (Eg. Two km Thar Road – Kannagi Mundu Ooty; 6 km Road in Javadhu malai, Thiruvannamalai – got flashed in

newspaper as well)

5. 62 units of modern flats allotted to Irulars in Kayarampedu (First of its kind in country – unique scheme for Irulars– 400 sqft, 1+3 flats, gated community with all basic amenities, mosaic flooring)
6. Eklavya school established in Chengalpattu districts.
7. As an outcome of liaison with Thiruvallur Member of Parliament and MLA Mr.Balaji → A Irular leader Mr. Gunasekaran has been appointed as Member of Rural Development Monitoring Committee.
8. Crucial needs of Irulars were discussed with MLA Mr. Balaji and the same has been approved by the Govt.
9. Constant interaction with Irulars and Tribes, they have gained confidence in administration both locally and at National level.
10. President of India has given a special invitation to Tribes for a personal meeting both at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi and at Raj Bhavan, Chennai.
11. Separate Association for ST entrepreneurs – Confederation of Affirmative Industries (CAI-ST), has been formed under the leadership of Mr.Irulapoo Selvakumar.
12. Four business loans have been obtained.
13. Two startup grant worth more than 1 Crore have been sanctioned to Erode & Kothagiri – under ‘TN StartUp – SC/ST Scheme’.
14. As an outcome of joint collaborative advocacy and lobby of ‘Confederation on Affirmative Industries’, SWTN through R.Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd); achieved the futuristic goal of getting five percent reservation for SC/ST in all tenders of Tamilnadu. First victory in getting the TN Civil supplies MD circular to have been circulated to all 39 locations in Tamilnadu. The first victory is getting the TN Civil Supplies MD circular circulated to all 39 locations in Tamilnadu.
15. SC /ST மாணவ மாணவிகளுக்கான MBBS /BDS மருத்துவ படிப்பு சேர்க்கையில் மருத்துவக் கல்வி சேர்க்கை தேர்வுக் குழுவில் இருந்த சில குளறுபடிகள் அதனால் மாணாக்கர்களுக்கு ஏற்படும் பாதிப்பு பற்றியும் அகம் & SWTN சார்பாக 07.08.2023 அன்று காலை ஆதிராவிட நலத்துறை செயலர், மற்றும் இயக்குனர்கள் கவனத்திற்கு கொண்டு சென்றோம்.

WOMEN RIGHTS & GENDER BUDGETING

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 22nd November 2021, Ms.Kamatchi was invited as a Resource Person to present an **Overview of GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING** – as part of the 8-Week Online Induction Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers; Organized by ‘Andhra Pradesh – Human Resource Development Institute’.

On 27th November 2021, SWTN supported PARAN to organize a hybrid programme on ‘**Budget Rights for Women**’.

On 6th January 2022, Ms. Kamatchi was invited as speaker for the ‘Online Discussion on TN State New Policy for Women 2021 (Draft); organized by Department of Women’s Studies-Bharathidasan University and ‘Regional Association for Women’s Studies’, Tiruchirapalli.

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 was sent as a joint statement to Director, Social Welfare, Government of Tamilnadu (dsw.tn@nic.in).

On 2nd February 2022, Ms.Kamatchi was invited as a Resource Person for the **Discussion on "Gender, the Marginalized and Union Budget 2022-2023;** Organized by Department 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

Organizes
A Panel Discussion on



02:30 PM

"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 the key stakeholders, we submitted to the Government and Circulated the same among other Civil Society Groups. **Our demands were highlighted in the National 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 grassroots 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.

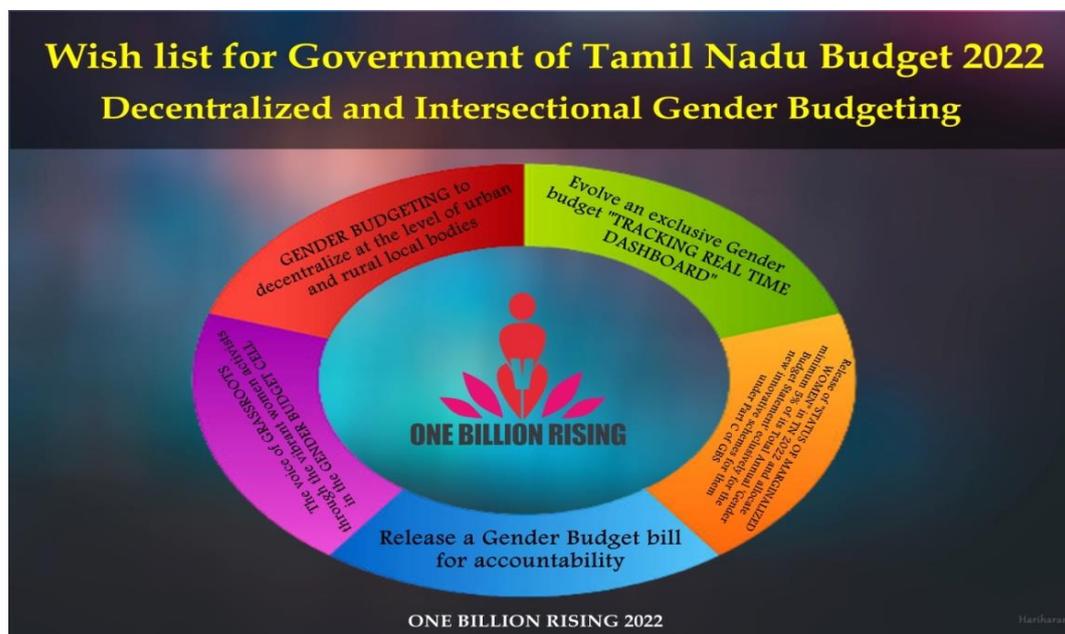
Following the suggestions raised on 22nd January 2022 during the Online Discussion on **"Policy and Budget for Women in Tamilnadu"**; we drafted a Recommendations / Wish List for GENDER BUDGETING – for the Tamilnadu Budget session 2022 and circulated for endorsement to take it wider as a JOINT REPRESENTATION. 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/tamilnadu/2022/feb/14/gender-budgeting-activists-from-tamil-nadu-want-focus-on-decentralisation-and-social-equity-2419090.html>)

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, Assumphtha 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."

INDIAN EXPRESS 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.



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 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 department-wise and forwarded to Honourable Minister Social Welfare Tmt.P.Geetha Jeevan, Thiru.Shambu Kollolikar IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and Tmt.A.S.Kumari, Chairperson Tamilnadu State Women Commission; with the request for a **PRE-BUDGET GENDER DISCUSSION** 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".

On 29th April 2022, based on the invite from Ms.A.S. Kumari, Chairperson TN State Women's Commission, Ms. Kamatchi of SWTN met her and discussed together and drafted a letter to the Finance Secretary to revise the 'Assumed allocation stated in Part-C of the Gender Budgeting Statement' to the Specific Schemes for the marginalized women in Tamilnadu across all departments.

On 6th May 2022, Ms. Kamatchi, Senior Researcher participated in the webinar on "**GENDER RESPONSIVENESS OF POLICY RESPONSES TO COVID ACROSS SELECT COUNTRIES**"; jointly organised by 'Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA)' and 'Feminist Policy Collective (FPC)'.

On 3rd and 4th June 2022, Ms.Kamatchi was invited for the webinar on “**Building Feminist Architecture for Gender Transformative Policy and Finance**”; Organized by Feminist Policy Collective.

On 8th June 2022, Ms. Kamatchi was invited by the Joint Director, Directorate of Social Defence, Government of Tamilnadu – to present a session to their team on GENDER BUDGETING – as a model to **take forward Child Budgeting in Tamilnadu**; at Purasaiwakkam, Chennai.



On 12th June 2022, SWTN invited ‘Ms. Shamim, Technical Coordinator – UN Women – Tamilnadu chapter’ to discuss at our office to take forward an Intersectional and Decentralized Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu.

On 8th July 2022, as an outcome of our collaborative efforts, **Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department**, Govt of Tamilnadu issued Government Order G.O. (Ms) No.38 - on Formulation of **GENDER BUDGET in all DEPARTMENT**; This G.O is annexed with "**GUIDELINES, FUNCTIONS and Terms of Reference OF GENDER BUDGET CELL**".



Abstract

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department - Announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister - Formulation of Gender Budget in all Department to make separate Gender budgeting in Tamil Nadu - orders - Issued.

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment [SW2(2)] Department

G.O. (Ms) No.38

Dated: 08.07.2022

சுபகிருது. சித்திரை 22

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2053

Read:

1. Announcements made by the Hon'ble Minister in the floor of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 21.04.2022.
2. From the Director of Social Welfare, Letter.No.5633/SRCW/2022, dated:10.05.2022.

On 18th July 2022, Ms. Kamatchi handled a session on "**GRB Tools & Overview**" in the Two Day Training Programme on " Gender Budgeting" in association with UN Women & Ministry of Women and Child Development; Organized by Andhra Pradesh Human Resource Development Institute (APHRDI) at Regional Centre Srikalahasti. (There were 40 Officers, of which 36 were women)



Andhra Pradesh Human Resource Development Institute
(Government of Andhra Pradesh)

Lr.No.: AP HRDI/DG/MWDCW/01/22

Date: 14.07.2022

Smt Kamatchi Sundaramurthy
Senior Researcher
Gender Budgeting
Chennai.

Sub: AP HRDI - Request to take sessions- 2 Day Training Programme on " Gender Budgeting" - 18 & 19 July,2022 - Srikalahasti,Regional Centre- reg

Dear Mam,

Greetings from AP HRDI & MWDCW!!

As you are kindly aware Andhra Pradesh Human Resource Development Institute (AP HRDI) is the apex training Institute of the Government of Andhra Pradesh meant to train Government Officials. AP HRDI has three Regional Centres at Guntur, Srikalahasti and Visakhapatnam.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has sanctioned 34 programmes under state category and 3 programmes under Trainer Development Programmes for the year 2022 - 23 to AP HRDI.

AP HRDI is conducting a 2 Day Training Programme on " **Gender Budgeting**" in association with UN Women & MWDCW i.e., from 18 & 19 July,2022 at Regional Centre Srikalahasti.

We request you to kindly make an sessions on "**GRB Tools & Overview**" in a 2 Day Programme on "Gender Budgeting" **on Monday (2:00-3:30hrs), 18th of July, 2022**



On 31st July 2022, Ms. Kamatchi was invited for the **Public meeting at Dharmapuri** on “**Women and Gender Budgeting**”; Organized by TamilNadu Women’s Collective as part of their ‘27th Annual State Conference – a gathering of 500 Women across all districts in Tamilnadu’.



During 5-6 September 2022, Ms.Kamatchi, SW-TN represented TN CSO voice in the **'Lateral Learning Programme on Gender Responsive Budgeting' – South Zone** (Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands); Organised by 'Department of Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens, Andhra Pradesh' & UN WOMEN; In Collaboration with 'Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India' at Vishakhapatnam.



On 4th November 2022, Ms.Kamatchi sent the “Budget & Policy Recommendations for empowering Single Women in Tamilnadu” and participated along with Ms. Rajeshwari for the ‘State Level Consultation on Single Women’; Organized by Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation at Vestin Park, Chennai.

On 15th November 2022, Ms.Kamatchi received a request from Lead-Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), UN Women-South Asia regarding the input on Exercises/Case Studies on Intersectionality & GRB. After a thorough discussion with Mr.Christudas Gandhi, we presented a write-up on “Validating SC-ST Women: Why SC-ST women focus on feminism”; with deeper understanding of their issues and solutions.

On 8th December 2022, Ms. Kamatchi had a detailed discussion with Mr. Javits Rajendran, TN State Technical Coordinator –Gender, UN Women to share our wish list on Gender Budgeting and the ‘Department-wise consolidated demands on Gender budgeting’ – towards PRE-BUDGET GENDER DISCUSSION. And we did plan for a stakeholder meeting for a participatory Gender Budgeting.

On 6th January 2023, SW-TN organized an E-Meet on “**Pre-Budget GENDER Discussion 2023**”. We created connect with the Key Women Leaders in Tamilnadu and Mr.Javits Rajendran, State Technical Coordinator – TN, UN Women – who provides technical advisory to the GoTN on integrating gender in planning, budgeting and auditing & strengthens coordination and implementation of State Women’s Policy and Government of Tamil Nadu’s initiatives to promote gender equality. Each organization shared their inputs on alternate basket of schemes for the forthcoming TN Budget and shared their ideas for the three year action plan for UN-Women in Tamilnadu.

On 12th January 2023, Ms. Kamatchi highlighted the Demand on **PARTICIPATORY GENDER BUDGET CELL** during the ‘Stakeholders Consultation on **ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS – Finalize Wishlist for TN Budget 2023-24**’; organized by Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC) held at ICSA, Chennai.

On 30th January 2023, Ms. Kamatchi and Ms.Sophie completed the **Online survey on the roles and responsibilities of women working with the Society of Jesus**; conducted by the Women’s Commission and IPC Research Team through Jesse Claudio, a researcher from the Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines.

On 21st February 2023, Ms.Kamatchi was invited by the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the ‘**National Stakeholder Consultation on the Gender Budget Statement**’ at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

On 25th March 2023 - ASSET, SW-TN and Udhavum Karangal jointly celebrated the **Women’s Day for Irular Women** at Sembakkam.

On 28th March 2023, Mrs.Kamatchi was invited to render special address on 2023 Theme for International Women’s Day: “**DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality**”; Organized by Good Shepherd Health Education Centre, Coimbatore.

On 11th May 2023, Ms.Kamatchi handled a **session on GENDER BUDGETING for Elected Representatives** during the Refresher Training Programme; Organized by State Institute for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamilnadu, Maraimalainagar. (50+ Women Panchayat Leaders across various districts in TN)



CHILD RIGHTS & BUDGETING

On 12th April 2022, Ms.Kamatchi was invited for the “Regional Consultation seeking inputs from stakeholders for preparation on **Implementation Plan** for TN State Policy for Children” by the Director of Social Defence, Government of Tamilnadu.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEFENCE

From
Tmt.S.Valarmathi, I.A.S.,
Director of Social Defence,
No.300, Purasawalkam High Road,
Kellys, Chennai – 10.

To
Ms.KAMATCHI.S
Senior Researcher,
SOCIAL WATCH - TAMILNADU
202 Shopping Complex,
Chitra Avenue,
No. 9, Choolaimedu High Road,
Chennai - 600094.

No.15778/D1/2021-12, dated.07.04.2022.

Sir/Madam,

Sub: Children Welfare – Department of Social Defence, Chennai – 10 – Field level consultations for seeking inputs from stakeholders for preparation of implementation plan for TN State Policy for Children 2021 – Reg.

Ref: G.O. Ms. No 86, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department of Government of Tamil Nadu dated 20.11.2021.

The Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had launched the TN State Policy for Children 2021 on 20th November 2021. In this regard, the Director of Social Defence has been entrusted with the preparation of action plan for implementation of the said policy in letter and spirit.

A preliminary meeting of state level stakeholders chaired by Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department was conducted on 8th February 2022 at Secretariat, Chennai.

In continuation to that, it has been decided to have five regional level consultations across the state to seek suggestions and feedback from field level officials and other stakeholders (NGOs). The consultations are also expected to have good representations across districts so as to discuss specific issues/requirements for effective implementation, integration of various services, improved coordination with various stakeholders.

Accordingly, it is proposed to conduct a regional consultation at **Chennai on 12th April 2022 from 10:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M at Vestin Park, 39. Montieth Road, Egmore, Chennai- 600008.** .

In this regard, you are requested to participate in the above consultation and share your valuable feedback and suggestions.

We presented the following key Recommendations on CHILD BUDGETING to be included in the Action Plan of Child Policy of Government of Tamilnadu.



Social Watch - Tamilnadu

A Public Policy Research cum Budget Advocacy Centre

07.04.2022

Recommendation on 'CHILD BUDGETING' *-To be included in Action Plan: TN State Policy for Children*

'Child Budgeting' represents an important policy analysis tool that can help us take stock of our development investments for children and identify glaring gaps in resource investment and utilisation. 'Child Budgeting' is not a separate budget; it is an attempt to disaggregate from the overall budget, the allocations made specifically for programmes that benefit children.

Child Budgeting process was started in South Africa (1994), then in Brazil (2001), followed by Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania in 2005. In India, "**Child Budget Statement**" is being released from the year 2008. The National Plan of Action for Children 2016, MWCD recommends atleast 5% of the Union Budget for schemes/programmes related to children.

Child Budgeting at States began as a trial in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa. Subsequently it spread across many other States in India: Jharkhand (2005); Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam in 2006; Bhopal (2008), Meghalaya (2012), Delhi (2012), Nagaland & Tripura (2015),

At this juncture of evolving 'Plan of Action' for the TN State Policy for Children – we recommend the SW&WE Department to **seek advice from Expert** Groups like Centre for Budget Governance Accountability (CBGA) and HAQ Centre for Child Rights to **initiate Child Budgeting in Tamilnadu** – as a fundamental step towards Action Plan for Child Policy.

We also recommend an '**Annual PRE-BUDGET Consultation with CSOs working for Child Rights evolving Alternate Basket of Schemes across departments**' to be organized by SW&WE department and Finance Department – coordinated by State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

On 10th February 2023, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the **State-level Consultation and Release of the Study Report of "A study on Children on the Move"**- to enrich our recommendations and to advocate for policy-level changes and necessary actions to be taken by the government of Tamil Nadu for protecting the rights of the Children on the Move; Organized by Centre For Child

Rights And Development (CCRD). The suggestions given by Social Watch – Tamilnadu on “Budgeting for Children on Move” was well received by the “TN Child Rights Watch’ Coalition.

On 20th February 2023, Ms. Kamatchi met Ms. Akila, Social Policy Specialist and Mr.K.L.Rao, Chief-Social Policy at UNICEF office; to discuss about strategies towards CHILD BUDGETING in Tamilnadu.

On 24th February 2023, Social Watch–Tamilnadu and Arunodhaya jointly organized the ‘**Consultation on INTERSECTIONAL CHILD BUDGETING in TN**’ at Madras School of Social Work – with the Online Inputs from Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability and special address by Dr.K.L. Rao, Chief- Social Policy, UNICEF Office for TN & Kerala.



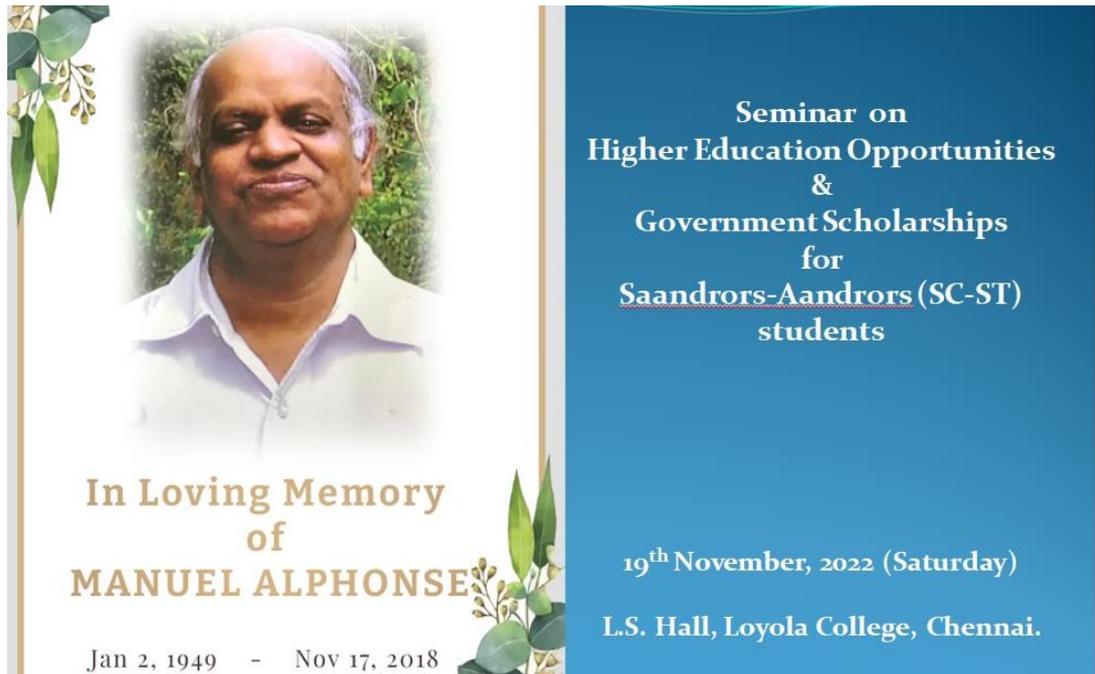
INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

On 5th January 2022, SWTN hosted the Virtual Planning Discussion on "**Addressing DIGITAL GAP for the marginalized children**"; jointly organized along with L3IC, Palavai & Paran as part of Social Action Commission intervention.

On 11th June 2022, SWTN along with PAALAM-AKAM and Institute of Dialogue with Cultures and Religious (IDCR) organized a '**Civil Society Dialogue on Evolving STATE EDUCATION POLICY**' at Loyola College, Chennai. (About 25 men and 30 women participated)



On 19th November 2022, in fond memory of Rev.Fr.Manu Alphonse SJ on his 4th Anniversary, SWTN organized the “Seminar on Higher Education Opportunities and Government Scholarships for Saandrors-Aandrors (SC-ST) students” at L.S. Hall, Loyola College, Chennai. We launched the new webpage to create more awareness on Post Matric Scholarship, Overseas Scholarship and Ph.D scholarship among SC-ST students. ([https://www.swtn.org/swtn/Saandror-Aandror%20\(SC-ST\)%20Scholarship/800](https://www.swtn.org/swtn/Saandror-Aandror%20(SC-ST)%20Scholarship/800))



The poster features a portrait of Rev. Fr. Manuel Alphonse SJ on the left. To the right, a blue box contains the seminar title: "Seminar on Higher Education Opportunities & Government Scholarships for Saandrors-Aandrors (SC-ST) students". Below the title, it states the date "19th November, 2022 (Saturday)" and the location "L.S. Hall, Loyola College, Chennai." At the bottom left, it reads "In Loving Memory of MANUEL ALPHONSE" and "Jan 2, 1949 - Nov 17, 2018".





Discussion on Post Matric Scholarship for Saandrors (SCs) & Aandrors (STs); Organized by Social Watch – Tamilnadu (SW-TN) and PAALAM on 14th March 2023, 10 am to 4 pm at AICUF, Chennai. The programme was felicitated by Rev.Fr.Jebamalai Irudayaraj SJ, Provincial and Rev.Fr.Ilanko Xavier SJ, Socius Jesuit Chennai Province. The resource team comprised of Mr.Marimuthu Bharathan, State Organizer, Ambedkar Kalvi Centenary Movement (AKAM) and Ms. Sabaritha, Naan Mudhalvan Scheme. Special Address was rendered by Mr.Akila Radhakrishnan, UNICEF Office for Tamilnadu & Kerala. We had participants from Jesuit Social Action Centres : PALAVAI, AHAL, PARAN, ARCALI, AICUF, LIFT, LokManch, IDEAS. We had representatives from Child Rights Organizations : CCRD, Arunodhaya, Thozhamai, Hope, SRED and Action Aid.



On 19th April 2023, Ms.Rajeshwari presented a session on **Career Guidance and Government Scholarship** for around 300 students; Organized by Loyola Students Support Services (LSSS), Chennai.



On 28th April 2023, Ms.Rajeshwari presented information about **Post Matric Scholarships for 110 SC/ST students to the folk artist children's camp**; organised by Alternate Media Centre at the Corporation School Office in Mogappair West, Chennai.



On 15th May 2023, Fr.Kumar and Ms. Rajeshwari along with Mr. R.C. Gandhi Retd IAS met Justice. Murugesan (Retd), Chairperson - State Education Policy Committee to present the Recommendations to implement 'State Education Policy' effectively.



On 16th May 2023, SW-TN along with Christodas Gandhi IAS (Rtd) organized a meeting to submit a delegation to the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu by the group of senior retired officers to smoothen the functioning of Post Matric Scholarship (PMS); held at SAF Games IAS Mess.



On 7th July 2023, SWTN and AKAM presented DEMANDS ON PMS to Tmt. Lakshmi Priya IAS, the newly posted Secretary for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamilnadu.

On 8th July 2023, Fr.John Kumar and RC Gandhi presented their demands on “Rejuvenating Post Matric Scholarship in Tamilnadu” to Thiru Sibi Adhithya Senthil Kumar IAS, Secretary to Government (Expenditure), Finance Department and to Thiru. N. Muruganandam, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister & Development Commissioner, Secretariat, Chennai.

On 7th August 2023, SWTN through R.Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd) along with AKAM raised concerns on the ‘issues of MBBS/BDS admission process for SC/ST candidates in TN’ to the attention of Secretary of ADTW & Director of ADW. As an outcome of this discussion, on the same day evening, the Director of ADW sent the directions on ‘Exemption of initial payment of Tuition fee for all SC/ST/SCC candidates’ was sent to Directorate of Medical Education and Directorate of Indian Medicine. The directions were accepted and the response communication was sent within two days.

Directorate of Adi Dravidar Welfare		MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT	
From	To	From	To
Thiru.T.Anand, I.A.S., Director, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Chepauk, Chennai - 05	1. Director, Directorate of Medical Education, Kilpauk, Chennai - 10 2. Director, Directorate of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Arumbakkam, Chennai - 106 3. The Secretary, Selection Committee, Directorate of Medical Education, Kilpauk, Chennai - 10	Dr.R.Shanthimalar..MD.DA. Director of Medical Education and Research Kilpauk, Chennai - 600 010.	Thiru.T.Anand, I.A.S., Director, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Chepauk, Chennai - 05.
R.C.No. L1/6969/2023-3, Dated: 07.08.2023		<u>Ref.No.3423/SCS1(1)/2023, Dated.09.08.2023</u>	
Sub: ADW - 2023-2024 academic year - medical admissions - exemption of initial payment of Tuition fee for all SC/ST/SCC candidates who are eligible under Post Matric Scholarship schemes - requested - Reg		Respected Sir, Sub. Selection Committee, Directorate of Medical Education and Research - SC/ST/SCA candidates exemption fee - Reg., Ref. 1. Your Letter ref no.R.C.L1/6969/2023-2 Directorate of Adi Dravidar Welfare Dated.07.8.2023.	

On 16th August 2023, SWTN presented a fervent appeal to Thiru.Shivdas Meena IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Tamilnadu to:

- i. Ensure Post Matric Scholarship be released by the ADTW Department before the end of the academic year;
- ii. Entrust an exclusive Secretary for STs;
- iii. Enact necessary rules for appointing only STs in Tribal Schools.

Social Watch - Tamilnadu along with 'Ambedkar Kalvi Centenary Movement (AKAM)' organized the Consultation on "**KARPI - New Education Policy for TN's Social Equity**"; on 28th October 2023, at St. Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai, Thirunelveli. About 30 professionals from teaching fraternity along with social activists evolved action plans towards inclusive education.







கற்பி

தமிழ்நாட்டிற்கான சமூக ஒப்புரவை வளர்க்கும்
தனித்த கல்விக்கொள்கை

நாள் : 28.10.2023 சனிக்கிழமை காலை 10 மணி

இடம் : தூய சுவேரியார் கல்வியியல் கல்லூரி
பாளையங்கோட்டை, திருநெல்வேலி.

சமூக ஒப்புரவையும், சமூக வளர்ச்சியையும்
எடுத்தோம்பும் வகையில் அத்தகைய சிந்தனை
உள்ளவர்களாலும் சமூக காவலர்களான
சான்றோர்களுக்காகவும் (SC பட்டியல் இனத்தவர்)
உருவாக்கப்பட்டவையா தேசிய கல்விக்கொள்கை,
தமிழ்நாடு கல்விக்கொள்கை ஆய்ந்து
பார்க்க வேண்டிய அவசியமுள்ளது.

பேராசிரியர், ஆசிரியப் பெருமக்களே,
சமூக கல்வி அக்கறையாளர்களே வாருங்கள்!
கூடிப்பேசலாம்! வாங்க...

நிகழ்ச்சி ஏற்பாடு :

அம்பேத்கர் கல்வி நூற்றாண்டு இயக்கம் (அகம்)
சமூக கண்காணிப்பகம் - தமிழ்நாடு.

தொடர்புக்கு : 9444045215, 9443117665, 9677758358

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) &

DISCUSSION ON Good GOVERNANCE & BUDGET

On 9th April 2022, Fr. Kumar was invited to give resourceful input to the Panchayat Leaders during the capacity building training program organised by Social Awareness Society for Youth (SASY) at Cuddalore.

On 14th September 2022, Ms.Kamatchi was invited as resource person in the Seminar on 'Adopt and Strengthen Policies and Enforceable Legislation for Gender Equality' (SDG 5.C); organized by Tamilnadu State Commission for Women at Amma Maaligai Conference Hall, Greater Chennai Corporation.



All TN depts to have gender budgets

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR @Chennai

THE Tamil Nadu government has released an order to formulate gender budgets in all departments in the State. This was done based on the announcement regarding the same in the Tamil Nadu Assembly by the Social Welfare Minister.

The GO states that the departments can depute one or two existing staff from the budget cell to the gender cell with additional responsibility and they may be sensitised to gender budgeting. The gender cell should identify three to six largest programmes in terms

of budget allocation and the major sub-programmes to analyse gender issues addressed by them. They will collect data to identify the impact of the programme, take initiatives to facilitate or improve access to services for women and their active participation in decision-making process at various levels among others.

Under the terms of reference, the GO also states that all the new schemes should pass through the gender checklist and be classified as gender transformative, responsive, neutral and blind. Those that

are blind should be rejected and those that are neutral need to be suitably modified.

Wait for women policy continues

While welcoming the GO at an event organised by the women's commission, Kamatchi, senior researcher at Social Watch, welcomed the move and said that the government should release the state women policy soon. "It has been more than nine months since the draft women policy was released, following which major civil service organisations working for the de-

velopment of women gave their suggestions. However, the revised policy or the final policy is yet to be released," she said. She also added that the women's commission has no role in the draft policy and they should be included in the high-power committee mentioned in the policy and the civil service organisations should be included while formulating the action plan.

AS Kumari said the commission is planning to conduct events regarding sustainable development goals (SDG) related to women and ways to achieve them in various places.

Indian Express, 17.09.2022

During the above seminar, the information I shared to the gathering about the recent Government Order G.O (Ms) No.38, on "...Formulation of GENDER BUDGET in all Departments..."; by the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Government of Tamilnadu; dated 08.07.2022; annexed with the Guidelines and Terms of Reference. This information was flashed in the Indian Express Newspaper along with our demands to release the 'New State Policy for Women 2022' and to include the TN Women's Commission in the High Level Women Empowerment Committee of the TN Women's Policy.

On 20th December 2022, Ms. Kamatchi was invited as a Resource Person by EKTA & JAGORI to present a session on 'SDG and Women Policy' during 10 days residential Tamil Course: "SANGAT - 15th Feminist Capacity Building on Gender, Governance, Sustainable Development and Women's Empowerment" at Palloti Centre, Madurai.



On 27th & 28th June 2023, SWTN as Knowledge Partner trained 28 participants from 8 districts during the two days workshop on “TN State Budgets for Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Resilience & SC/ST Rights”; Organized by National Dalit Watch-Swadhikar/ NCDHR; in Collaboration with COSCO Tamilnadu.

OTHER KEY EFFORTS

During 7-10 October 2021, Ms.Kamatchi virtually participated and extended solidarity to the “**11th World Human Rights Cities Forum**” held as hybrid event at Gwangju, South Korea for productive discussion on how to overcome challenges such as climate crisis and Pandemics by finding solutions based on Human-Rights Approaches.

On 7th November 2021, SWTN along with South Vision Books released writings of Fr.Kumar on “Kizhaku mugavaiyin 200 varuda varalaaru’ in Kindle.

On 20th November 2021, Remembering Fr.Manu with Gratitude, SWTN organized the Third (Memorial Service) Ninaivendhal through zoom meet.

On 4th April 2022, Fr. Kumar along with Fr. Provincial addressed the Regional Conference of Lok Manch (Peoples’ Forum) with a felicitation speech appreciating the grassroots work accomplished by Social Centres units of Chennai Province, at ICSA Centre.

During April 2022, SWTN in collaboration with South Vision Publishers translated the English Book by Fr.Prakash Louis on “**Fr. Stan Swamy: An Anti-National or A Martyr?**” to Tamil - vernacular language. The title of the book denotes the meaning ‘ Fr. Swamy – a hero who led a life-long journey filled with series of justice-based moral-struggle to safe guard the life and livelihood rights of the Indigenous people.

On 16th July 2022, SW-TN along with ‘All India Catholic University Federation – TN (AICUF)’, and ‘Institute of Dialogue with Cultures and Religions’ (IDCR) organized the Discussion on ‘**WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA**’ - to spread awareness about the Constitution of India and the current status of Indian people especially the marginalized people; at Loyola. *(Of total 60 participants, 35 were women)*



On 23rd July 2022, Fr. Kumar, Director SW-TN participated in a conference organized by TamilNadu People's Platform for Unity (TNPPU) as an active member of TNPPU; in view of condemning the religious fanaticism and dangers of religion-based politics, leading the country towards communal frenzy and religious-fundamentalism; The key address was given by the former Finance Minister Mr. P.Chidambaram and present day Member of Parliament, Mr. Thirumavalavan. It was one of the well-organized conferences exposing the dangers of the destructive 'Hindutva Politics'.

On 15th November 2022, Ms. Sandra and Fr. Xavio from Alboan-Spain visited our organization.



On 26th November 2022 forenoon, SWTN along with ASSET & 'Helping Hands' jointly celebrated the 'India Constitution Day -2022' at Sembakkam, Chennai.

யுழங்குமுயினர் என்பதில் பெருமிதம்கொள்வோம்! இணைந்தே பல சாதனைகள் செய்வோம்!

ASSET

HELPING HANDS FOUNDATION

இந்திய அரசியலமைப்பு தினம் - 2022

— ஒருங்கிணைப்பு —

ஆதிவாசி சமூகசேவை கல்வி அறக்கட்டளை (ASSET) - மேல்கல்வாய்
சமூக கண்காணிப்பகம் தமிழ்நாடு (SWTN) சென்னை
உதவும் கரங்கள் (Helping Hands) - காயரம்பேடு

நாள் : 26.11.2022 சனிக்கிழமை இடம் : கன்னியம்மன் நகர் - செம்பாக்கம்

ASSET



On 26th November 2022 evening, Ms.Rajeshwari, Researcher was invited as Chief Guest on Constitution Day by the Chennai Corporation and Loyola Shelter Homes at Arumbakkam.



பெருநகர சென்னை மாநகராட்சி
மற்றும்
இலயோலா தொண்டு நிறுவனம்
இணைந்து நடத்தும்

CONSTITUTION DAY
இந்திய அரசியலமைப்பு தினவிழா
நவம்பர் - 26
சிறப்பு விருந்தினர்
செல்வி.ராஜேஸ்வரி,MSW
தமிழ்நாடு சமூக கண்காணிப்பகம்

நேரம் : 6 pm
இடம் : இலயோலா இரவு காப்பகம் அரும்பாக்கம்



On 1st December 2022, Ms.Rajeshwari, Researcher of SWTN was invited as Chief Guest on Constitution Day by the Chennai Corporation and Loyola Shelter Homes at Chepauk.



The poster features the logos of the Government of Tamil Nadu and Loyola College on the left and right respectively. The central text in Tamil reads: 'பெருநகர சென்னை மாநகராட்சி மற்றும் இலயோலா தொண்டு நிறுவனம் இணைந்து நடத்தும் CONSTITUTION DAY இந்திய அரசியலமைப்பு தினவிழா சிறப்பு விருந்தினர் செல்வி. ராஜேஸ்வரி, MSW தமிழ்நாடு சமூக கண்காணிப்பகம்'. Below the text is an illustration of an open book with a wooden gavel resting on it. At the bottom, the event details are listed: 'TIME - 7:00 PM DATE - 01.12.2022' on the left and 'PLACE- LOYOLA SHELTER HOME LOCK NAGAR, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 05' on the right.



On 12th December 2022, SWTN and 'Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research (LISSTAR)' organized "Fr.Manu Alphonse's Endowment Lecture" by P.Sainath, Author and Journalist: On his recent book "The Last Heroes - Foot Soldiers of Indian Freedom" at Arrupe Auditorium, Loyola College for Education, Chennai. (About 200 students participated along with friends of Fr.Manu.)



**Social Watch TN in collaboration with LISSTAR
(Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research)
of Loyola College (Autonomous) Chennai**

organise

*Rev. Fr. Manuel Alphonse's
Endowment Lecture*



by

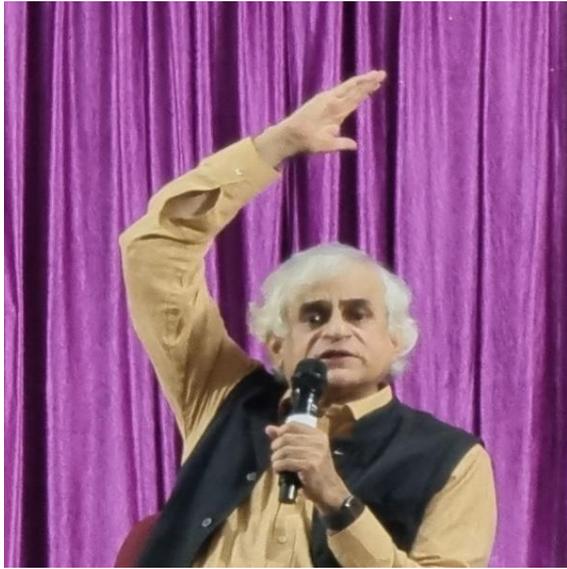
P. SAINATH

Author, Journalist, Magsaysay Awardee and
Founder- Editor, People's Archive of Rural India (PARI)

on his recent book

THE LAST HEROES
Foot Soldiers of Indian Freedom

**Date & Time: Monday, 12th December 2022 at 03.00 p.m.
Venue: Meeting Hall, Loyola College of Education (LCE) Chennai - 34**





On 14th December 2022, Rev.Fr.Jebamalai SJ, Provincial visited Social Watch – Tamilnadu.



On 27th December 2022, Fr.John Kumar and Ms.Kamatchi shared about our research and advocacy work to the college students (to be MaaManidhargal) of Gurukula Oli – Madurai; at AICUF House, Chennai.



On 7th January 2023, Safai Karamchari Andolan, Social Awareness Society for Youth (SASY) along with Social Watch-Tamilnadu and other network partners... jointly organized a 'STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION and **Release of the Study Report on the Status of the implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013** in Tamilnadu; held at Asha Nivas, Chennai.

On 30th January 2023, Fr.Kumar was invited as resource person to extend solidarity to the Commemoration of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Day as DAY AGAINST BIGOTRY (மகாத்மா காந்தி நினைவு தினம் - மதவெறி எதிர்ப்பு தினம்); Organized by 'Tamilnadu Platform for People's Unity (TNPPU - தமிழக மக்கள் ஒற்றுமை மேடை); at Press Club, Chepauk.

On 25th April 2023, SW-TN collaboratively organized **Commemoration of 86th Birthday of Fr. STAN SWAMY**; at Sauliere Hall, Students Hostel, Loyola College, Chennai.





On 9th June 2023, SW-TN team had a discussion with Fr.Maurice from France and Fr.Maria Joe Mahalingam; discussed about our budget research and Advocacy work.



On 27th August 2023, Along with Social Action Movement, SWTN co-organized the “Voter Awareness Trainer Workshop” at AV.Arangam, St.Joseph College Trichy.



வாக்காளர் விழிப்புணர்வு பயிற்றுனர் பயிலரங்கம்

நாள் : 27-08-2023, ஞாயிறு

நேரம் : காலை 10 மணி

இடம் : A.V. அரங்கம்,

தூய வளவனார் கல்லூரி, திருச்சி

நிலைமை

திரு. A. ரெங்கநாதன்

மாநில முதன்மை அமைப்பாளர், சமூக செயல் பாட்டு இயக்கம்

சிறப்புரைபாளர்கள்

அருட்திரு. போஸ்கோ, ஐதராபாத்

முஹம்மது ஆரிஃப், ஐதராபாத்

அருட்திரு. அலோசியஸ் இருதயம், மதுரை

அருட்திரு. குமார் சமூக கண்காணிப்பகம் சென்னை

இணைந்த ஏற்பாடு

சமூக செயல்பாட்டு இயக்கம்

தமிழ்நாடு & புதுச்சேரி

சமூக கண்காணிப்பகம், சென்னை



COLLABORATION

We are happy to be involved in this collaborative venture of reaching out to the marginalized through our research and advocacy work. As a team SW-TN assures that we shall be committing ourselves by achieving in the sphere of social monitoring and state accountability and indeed grateful to all our network partners to take its mandate of Social Equity Budgeting much forward.

TEAM

Fr. John Kumar, Director

Mr. R.Christudas Gandhi IAS (Retd), Guide

Ms. Kamatchi Sundaramurthy, Assistant Director

Ms. Sophia Dass, Accountant cum Administrator

Ms. Rajeshwari Palani, Researcher

Ms. Josephine Vanitha, Research Assistant

Ms. Megala, Office Assistant

CONTACT :

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Director**

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