### **SOCIAL WATCH - TAMILNADU**

## 2022 Annual Diary

On 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022, Ms.Kamatchi participated in the blended mode meeting on "Publishing for Social Change: Supporting Emerging Writing on Social Work and Youth Work in India" organized by Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development, Sriperumbudur.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. A consolidated recommendation was sent as a joint statement to Director, Social Welfare, Government of Tamilnadu (dsw.tn@nic.in). (Total 47 participants, of which 46 were women)

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.



As a followup Online Discussion on "POLICY and BUDGET for WOMEN in Tamilnadu" held on 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 government 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 Balasubramaniyan 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 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 bureacrats.

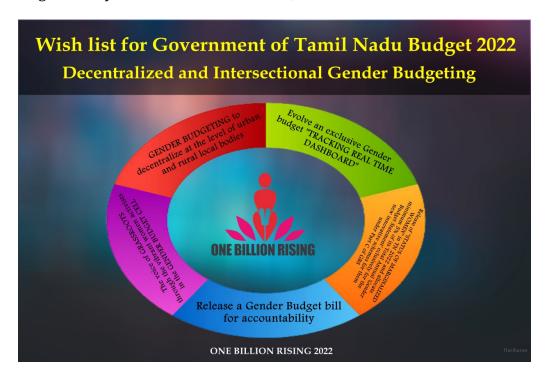
During February 2022, SWTN submitted our Gender Budgeting Recommendations to the collaborative intervention by the TN Civil Society Organizations towards Universal Periodic Review (UPR) IV Tamilnadu State Level Report.

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.



On14th 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)

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

NIRUPAMA VISWANATHAN

ACTIVISTS from across the State have sought decentralised tions based on vulnerability indicators like caste and occupation of women, ahead of the to be presented by the Tamil Nadu government in the budg-

"A general overview of wom-

et session of 2022.

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

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

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 gender budgeting with alloca- tastic tool to uplift vulnerable discussion," added Kamatchi, A statement put forth by the

> activists stated that the budget preparation process should be intersectional and decentral

"With the absence of area "At present, not many, includ-sabhas in urban areas, there is in all departments. en is not enough. For gender ing bureaucrats, are aware that 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

> in bringing social equity Kamatchi. senior researcher,

Social Watch

ised, starting from urban and nity in the gender budget exercises," the statement said. It taluks and panchayats. also sought gender budgeting

en 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 flow of funds across districts,

"The status of expenditure for the previous budget year should Amala Valarmathi of National The statement called for indibe made available in the current Domestic Workers Movement, lates to action.

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 dashboard' in order to track the Collective, Aranga Malika, di-flow of funds across districts, rector of Women Studies Centre in Ethiraj college, Vanessa Peter of IRCDUC, Josephine

cators such as caste, religion, budget session — higher alloca-women with disabilities, wom-tion does not imply higher rate akshi Balasubramaniyan tion does not imply higher rate akshi Balasubramaniyan. 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 be we must ensure that it trans-

Non, 14 February 2022

EXPRESS 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 government the budget session (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h12bU00ziJI)



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)



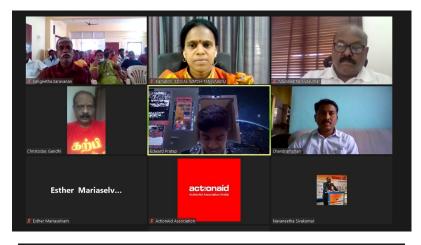
On 15th February 2022, SW-TN and PAALAM jointly organized an Online "Focus Group Discussion on Schemes for Entrepreneurship" for Aadiyar Scheduled Caste; to improve their socio-economic conditions. Dr. Christodas Gandhi IAS (Rtd) presented the information about Tribal Welfare schemes and their Economic Development Programmes. (12 Men & 3 Women participants)



On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Ms. Rajeshwari and Ms. SriLakshmi researchers of SWTN participated the Online Orientation meeting for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe - Tamil Nadu State Consultation on UN Human Rights Mechanism with special focus on UPR & Special procedures; Organised by Mr. Murugappan Ramasamy. The Programmes was coordinated by Ms. Semmalar, Social work Department- Loyola College, Mr. Henri Tiphangne of People's Watch – Tamilnadu gave a brief on Universal Periodical Review, Dr. Krishnan spoke about Rights of Tribes, Mr. Parthasarathy discussed the Rights of dropout

Dalit girls, Mr. Dayalan, Director of Human Rights Commission discussed the Disaster Impact and How Dalit people overcome and finally Ms. Jency & Mr. Karuppusamy Director discussed about the Child and Education Rights.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Social Watch- Tamilnadu and Action Aid Association Organised an online Discussion on "Securing Rights of Scheduled Caste"; Ms. Kamatchi, Senior Researcher – Social Watch- TN presented a session on 'Budgetary Rights of Scheduled Caste 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 Martic Scholarship for SCs and finally Fr. John Kumar, Director of SWTN made a presentation on 'Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)'. [20 Men & 30 Women participants]





On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022, SWTN was part of the collaborative State level Consultation for Aadiyar Tribes to build on future Entrepreneurship" 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 discussants.

On 5<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Fr. John Kumar, Director of SW-TN and Staff Members (Ms. Sophia, Ms. Sri Lakshmi and Ms. Rajeshwari) had a field visit to Makkal Mandram at Senkodiyur, Kanchipuram District. Ms. Mahesh and Ms. Jessy shared their work and field experience and life experiences. Their focus is on building egalitarian, equity, equal opportunity, social justice, Earth care, people, liberation, and struggle.





On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Fr.John Kumar, Director of SW-TN with researchers Ms.Rajeshwari and Ms. SriLakshmi along with Fr.William, Director of Jesuit Migrant Society (JMS) had a field visit at Tiruvallur and Tiruttani (JMJ Convent and Presentation Convent). The Visit included following places:

- ➤ Narayanapuram Irular Colony Street to meet Irular people and Mr. Gunasekaran from "Tamizhaga Irular Munnetra Sangam".
- ➤ Tekkalur To build network JMJ (Jesus Mary Joseph). Sr. Lisina Mary and Sr. Sagaya Vinnarasi and Fr. Arulraj.
- ➤ Nedumbaram Presentation Convent Sr. Sudha shared her field work experience of working for the Rights of Irular people.





On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Fr.John Kumar - Director of SW-TN with researchers Ms.Rajeshwari and Ms.SriLakshmi along with Mr.Shivakumar, had a field visit at Kulathumedu, Pazhaverkadu. The Schedule of Visit:

- ➤ Kulathumedu Village Visit; Meeting with Ms. Mutha and Village Committee Members (Irular Community).
- > Meeting with Mr. Bernard, Chief Executive of Thiruvallur District Fishermen Sangams Federation.





On 26<sup>th</sup> 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. Then participated in the Women's Day celebration, organised by ASSET organization. Ms. Suseela, Sub-Inspector (SI) shared her experience of working with women at Kottemedu and the important aspects of Adolescent's Welfare and Development. Dr. Sharmila Balaji (The Doctor cum Actress) – 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, MLA Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Kachi – Tiruporur shared about Women Empowerment.

On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Social Watch Tamilnadu & Good Shepherd Health Education Centre jointly organized a <u>State Level consultation on "Schemes for SC / ST women</u>" 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. [34 women and 6 men participants]



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 the Chairperson responded to our key demands. [91 women and 9 men participants]



On 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 12th April 2022, Fr. Kumar, as member of the commission, participated in the online meeting convened by Dalit Commission of Jesuit Chennai Province, organised by Fr. A. Selva SJ, and added suggestions and recommendations to empower SCs and follow-up the students we admit in our Jesuit Institutions.

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 Defense, 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.

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The Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had launched the TN State Policy for Children 2021 on 20<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 key Recommendations on CHILD BUDGETING to be included in the Action Plan of Child Policy of Government of 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 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022, as a follow-up of 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 'Women Policy and Budget Consultation', the key demads from stakeholders were consolidated department-wise and forwarded to Honourble 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 focusing on issues of women and children of the deprived urban communities.

On 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Social Watch – Tamilnadu and South Vision Books jointly organized the E-Book Launch Event through zoom meet: "**Fr. Stan Swamy: An Anti-National or A Martyr?**" (Both English & Tamil kindle version).





On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022, Fr. John Kumar Ms. Rajeshwari and Ms. Srilakshmi participated in the **Protest to eradicate the corrupted fake ST community certificate issues** at Chennai District Collector Office.





On 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Ms. Rajeshwari, researcher, participated in online book release event of Fr. Stan Swamy - **"If not now, when? Disquieting Feminist Questions"**; organized by 'Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES) South Asia' and *Samanvay – The Platform for Harmony.* 

On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Fr.Kumar, Director of SW-TN participated in the protest against SanghPariwar; organized by **Tamil Nadu Platform for People's Unity** (TNPPU)



On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the webinar on "**Paths to Progress in Open Budget Survey 2021** –Unveiling the Results"; Organized by International Budget Partnership.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Ms. Kamatchi was invited for the focus group dialogue on **WEALTH INEQUALITY** to discuss, plan collectively to take forward a campaign for holding financial institutions accountable; jointly organized by Financial Accountability Network India, Centre for Financial Accountability, HRF, Consumer Action Group, People's First and Madras School of Social Work at Egmore, Chennai.

On 11<sup>th</sup> 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)

# தமிழகக் கல்விக் கொள்கை எதை நோக்கி? அடித்தள மக்களின் தேடலும் பரிந்துரையும் சூகக்கண்காணிப்பகம் பாலம் அகம் புண்பாட்டு உரையாடல் மையம் வ டி சி ஆர் 11 இன் 2022 களையோனா சனிக்கிழமை





On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the online Gender Talk by Economist Ritu Dewan on PANDEMIC, POLICY AND PATRIARCHY; organized by Prajnya.

On 12<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Fr.Kumar, Director partcipated in the Consultation on the Theory of 'WE - For the people, Of the people, By the people' and Book Release on 'Education and Democracy in the prism of Constitution of India'; Organized by State Platform for Common School System, intitiated by Educationist Mr. Prince Gajendran; and Dr.Thol.Thirumavalan presented the keynote address at Devaneyar Pavanar Arangam, Chennai.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, Ms. Kamatchi extended solidarity to the Online 'Consulation on Rights of Single Women' organized by Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Ms.Kamatchi participated in the Founder's Day Lecture on 'Gender Discrimination, Competition and Efficiency'; Organized by Madras Institute of Development Studies.

In the beginning of July Fr. Packiarasu S.J. (former director of PARAN, Makkampalayam, from western districts of our state) joined in formally Social Watch-TN as a part-time staff, as he has been primarily assigned to migration ministry, who would also assist in our policy concern, budget advocacy work; His active involvement and willing generous collaboration seem to add value to our work.

During July 2022, Ms. Yazhini and Ms.Subhalakshmi, MSW students from Anna Adarsh College did their internship in SWTN. We gave them orientation into understanding the significance of Policy-based budget advocacy for the marginalised groups 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.



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 திருவள்ளுவர்ஆண்டு 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 Director Welfare, the Social of Letter.No.5633/SRCW/2022, dated:10.05.2022.

On 9th July 2022, Fr. Kumar participated in a seminar on 'Dravidian Models' of development strategies, by introducing and releasing three booklets on Social and Economic development of Tamilnadu state; The author of the books, Mr. Naganathan was a renowned economist and former professor of Madras University; a host of speakers from various fields lauded the author; organised by Loyola Institute of Social Sciences Training and Research (LISSTAR).

On 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Ms.Kamatchi participated in the webinar on '**Family Planning and Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights** – Linkages within and beyond the Health Sector'; Organized by World Health Organization and IBP Network.

During 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Ms Srilakshmi visited field at Narayanapuram at Tiruvallur District and Sister's Convent Nano Nagale School at Tiruttani, "Rapport Building with children's and interaction with staff, Principal, and Head Mistress to understand the learning of children and performance at the schools and detail information of Drop outs".





On  $14^{th}$  July 2022, Ms. Rajeshwari visited the field at Sembakkam and Thiruporur - AavaramPoo, Kattumalli and ThazhamPoo Irular Women's Self-Help Group along with the support of ASSET, Guduvancherry.







On 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the Founder's day Online Discussion on "Implementation of The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 – The role of Human Rights Defenders; Organized by Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation.

On 18<sup>th</sup> 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)



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

Date: 14.07.2022

Smt Kamatchi Sundaramurthy Senior Researcher Gender Budgeting

Sub: AP HRDI - Request to take sessions- 2 Day Training Programme on "Gender Budgeting" - 18 & 19 July, 2022 - Srikalahasthi, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022, Fr. Kumar, Director SW-TN participated in a conference organised 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-organised conferences exposing the dangers of the destructive 'Hindutva Politics'.

On 27th July 2022, Fr.Packiaraj and Ms.Rajeshwari extended solidarity to Jesuit Refugee Service by handling a discussion on 'Team Building and Motivation Ideologies to start Entrepreneur Initiatives' for the Tamizhkodi SHG women in Sri Lankan Rehabilitation Camp at Gummidipoondi.





On 29th July 2022, Fr. Kumar gave an orientation **Lecture on Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sup-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 Govt. of Tamilnadu, spoke on Agriculture budget to the participants.

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'.







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% overall?
- 2. How to monitor every year?
- 3. Post Matric Scholarship Data 2021-22
- 4. Is the amount of PMS sufficient to cover full fee charged by institutions?

During 17-18 August 2022, SW-TN team participated in **General Body Meeting 2022 (GBM) of Social Action Commission** – Chennai Province, at Dhyana Ashram. (There were totally 54 participants; of them 9 were women and 45 were men)

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.)



# Social Watch Date: 22nd & 23rd August 2022 PIGO TIT GLUIDIT AL Organised by AKAM Action Aid Venue: Dhyana Ashram, 25, Madha Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600028







During 24-25 August 2022, Fr. Kumar participated in the meeting organised by National Level Jesuit Forum - Social Justice Ecological Secretariat (SJES) at Indian Social Institute (ISI) Delhi, where South Asian Level Jesuit Social Action co-ordinators participated sharing about their Social Action Ministry in their respective provinces.

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













During 2-3 September 2022, Fr. Kumar on behalf of SW-TN and along with Mr. R.C Gandhi - PAALAM organised Scheduled Tribes' LAMP Society Presidents' Management Training programme at NATESAN INSTITUTE OF COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT (NICM) at Annanagar, Chennai; where about 25 Scheduled Tribe Leaders (1 women & 24 men) benefited. This was the first training being held at Union Government Training Institute with their collaboration and sponsorship.



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.



During 12-13 September 2022, Ms. Rajeshwari and Ms. Srilakshmi actively participated in the programme on Curriculum Introductory Training on CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS for Children; Organized by Vaan Muhil and CCCV - Constitutional Rights Education at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai.



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.





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.

# 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

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

others.

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

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 development 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 22-23 September 2022, Ms.Kamatchi participated in the a two-day regional consultation on 'Increasing risks and vulnerabilities of women and girls due to Covid-19 pandemic'; Organized by Ekta Resource Centre for Women in collaboration with Swechha-We for Change Foundation and Girls Count; Supported by UNFPA at Chennai.

On 6<sup>th</sup> 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).



On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Ms. Rajeshwari and Ms. Kamatchi participated in the National Seminar on **"Philosophy Beyond Boundaries: The existential struggle for space"** organized by 'Satya Nilayam Research Institute for Philosophy and Culture' at Thiruvaniyur, Chennai.

On  $8^{th}$  October 2022, all the staff members from Social Watch - Tamilnadu along with the director had an organizational visit at ARCALI and interacted with the Director In-Charge Fr. Theo.

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Fr. John Kumar and Ms. Rajeshwari took part in Social Harmony Human Chain Movement which was aimed at exposing the hate campaigns of communal forces which are trying to create communal conflict and sectarianism. To prevent that from gaining ground in the State, the forum held a demonstration at 4pm near the Periyar statue in Anna Salai, Chennai.





During 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Fr. John Kumar presided over inaugural ceremony of All India Catholic University Federation (AICUF) State Council at AICUF, Chennai and rendered an orientation speech to student leaders.



On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Fr. John Kumar as a coordinator of Social Action Commission (SAC) participated in Ecological Commission online meeting; organized by Fr. Maria Packiam, the Commission coordinator, Jesuit Chennai Province.

During third week of October, we indirectly provided information about Status of Gender Budgeting in Tamilnadu – for the compilation done by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India – through UN Women.

On 18<sup>th</sup> October, Fr.Yesumarian SJ, province delegate representing procurators' congregation, Rome visited our office Social Watch - Tamilnadu and had an elaborate discussion on the roles and functions of SW-TN, work process, collaborating strategies with province and thoughts on Loyola college becoming university.



On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Fr. John Kumar and Ms. Rajeshwari participated in online planning meeting to create awareness on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) IV process. It is to disseminate knowledge on live telecast and to ensure participation of the people online for the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review IV scheduled on the 10th of November 2022 for India from 7: 00 pm to 10: 30 pm [IST]. It was coordinated by Dr. V. A. Ramesh Nathan, Executive Director, Social Awareness Society For Youth (SASY).

On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the hybrid seminar on "Women and the Future of Work" by Sabina Dewan, President and Executive Director of JustJobs Network; Organized by IWWAGE - an initiative of LEAD at Krea University.

During 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Fr. John Kumar participated in Province Dalit Commission General Body Meeting for discussing implementation strategies for Dalits at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai

On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022, Fr. John Kumar participated in an online meeting, regarding drafting recommendations to be submitted to the members of State Education Policy, being evolved by Government of Tamilnadu.

On 3rd November 2022, SWTN team extended solidarity to the 'TN State SDG 6th Annual Convention" organized by SDGWatch-TN in association with Human Rights Advocacy Research Foundation (HRF), Action Aid India and Madras School of Social Work at Egmore.

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 4th November 2022 forenoon, Fr.John Kumar participated in the programme organized by Social Justice Ecology South-Asia (SJES)

On 9th November 2022, Fr.John Kumar discussed with 'Fr.M.K.George, Assistant to Fr.General, Rome' about Social Watch - TN and as co-ordinator about 'Social Action Commission of Jesuit Chennai Province' at Loyola College, Chennai.

On 6th November 2022, SWTN organized a 'Discussion with Mr.Jawahar Nesan, Member of TN State Education Policy' to highlight issues related to Saandror-Aandror (SC-ST) students; at IDCR, Loyola College, Chennai.





On 10th November 2022, SWTN team participated online in the 41st Session of the Universal Periodic Review-IV for India; organized with vernacular translation by 'Human Rights Defenders' Alert – India'.

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.



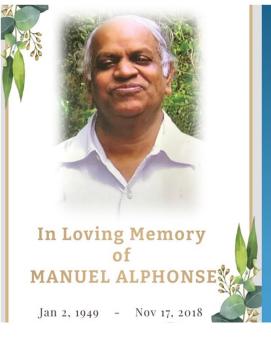
On 15th November 2022, Ms.Kamatchi received a request from Lead-Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), UN Women-South Asia regarding the input on Exercises/Case Studies on Intersectionality & GRB. After a thorough discussion with Mr.Christudas Gandhi, we presented a write-up on "Validating SC-ST Women: Why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

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

organization.



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-Aandros (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)



Seminar on
Higher Education Opportunities
&
Government Scholarships
for
Saandrors-Aandrors (SC-ST)
students

19<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 (Saturday)

L.S. Hall, Loyola College, Chennai.







During 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Fr. John Kumar had a field visit to Harur, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts (Western Region of Jesuit Chennai Province) and did a field study in Dharmapuri.

On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 forenoon, Ms. Kamatchi participated in the virtual launch of 'Gender Violence Report 2022' organized by Prajnya.

On 25th November 2022 afternoon, Ms. Kamatchi extended solidarity to "The 16-Day Activism Program Series in Commemoration of 'International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women- 2022 with the Theme: "UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls"; organized by Bharathidasan University Dept Of Women's Studies; Indian Association Women's Studies (IAWS); All India Women's Studies Students' Forum (AIWSSF) and Regional Association For Women's Studies (RAWS).

On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 evening, Ms.Kamatchi participated in the virtual study circle on 'Registering Migrant Workers in Local Government and access to Basic Rights – Best Practice by Peace Trust' organized by Institute of Human Rights Advocacy and Research.

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







On 26th November 2022, Ms.Kamatchi and Fr.Packiaraj participated in the Commemoration of Constitution Day and Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Constitutional Protection for Domestic Workers; Organized by TN State Human Rights in Collaboration with TN Domestic Worker's Welfare Trust and Action Aid Association at SHRC –Auditorium. Key demands of the Domestic Workers were presented to Honourable Speaker-TN Legislative Assembly, Chairperson of SHRC & SCW and the three MLAs.





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





On 29th November 2022, at 10.00 am Fr. John Kumar participated in the Ecological Commission Meeting at Entomology Dept. Hall, Loyola College. And at 11.30 AM, he had a visit to Jesuit Migrant Service (JMS), as a coordinator for assessing their work.

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.





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





## SW-TN along with <u>Paalam</u> 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 <u>Arivalur</u> District Collector, 'Department of <u>Adi Dravidar</u>. & 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





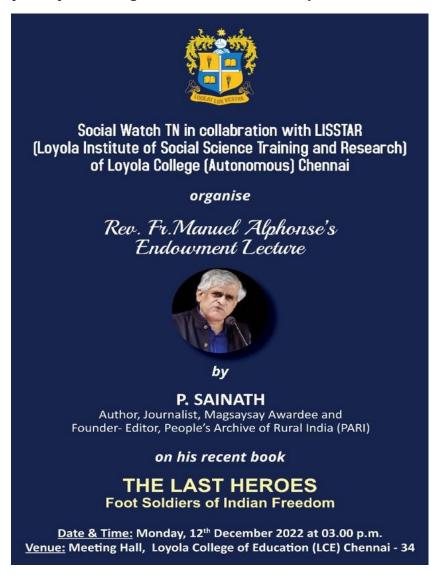






On 8th December 2022, Ms. Kamatchi had a detailed discussion with Mr. Javits Rajendran, TN State Technical Coordinator –Gender, UN Women to share our wish list on Gender Budgeting and the 'Department-wise consolidated demands on Gender budgeting' – towards PRE-BUDGET GENDER DISCUSSION. And we did plan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

On 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 participants along with friends of Fr.Manu.)













On 14th December 2022, Rev. Provincial Father visited Social Watch - Tamilnadu.



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 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.



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.

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