

## **SW-TN and GENDER BUDGETING (2001 - 2024)**

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

*SW-TN has built its advocacy efforts towards gender budgeting in the State, on the following significant initiatives of TNPFS (Tamil Nadu People's Forum for Social Development) from 2001 to 2003:*

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

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

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

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

**The following have been the significant interventions and initiatives undertaken by SW-TN since 2004, in its struggle to make Gender Budgeting a reality in the State:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SW-TN was into a UN WOMEN project on **“Tracking State Budget with Intersectionality Framework for an evolution of Gender Responsive Budget**

for **Dalit Women in Tamilnadu'** for a period of 18 months from October 2011 to April 2013.

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

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

Fr. John Kumar represented Social Watch-Tamilnadu as a Resource person to share the state level experiences on '**Gender Budgeting for Dalit Women from the view of Intersectionality**' at the **National Workshop on Gender Budgeting in India** on August 30, 2013 at Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, Rajasthan organized by Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre (BARC).

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

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

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

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

workshop was towards **“TN Women’s State Assembly II”** and eventually towards **India’s Women’s Parliament II”**.

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

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

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

SW-TN was part of the preparation of CHARTER of DEMANDS for the Union Budget 2015-16. SW-TN contributed the following **demands for the marginalized women focusing on Gender Budgeting** through the Women Nodal organization ‘NORTHEAST NETWORK’.

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

SW-TN presented a session on **“Towards Social Equity Budgeting” emphasizing the need for CHILD BUDGETING from our experiences on Dalit Budgeting and Gender Budgeting**; for the ‘LITTLES TRUST’ organization based in Madura on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

SW-TN emphasized the need for ‘Budgeting for Dalit Women’ during the **“Consultation to Plan for a Bill for Tamilnadu on SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCSP & TSP)”** held at ICSA on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015; organized by: • *National Coalition for SCSP – TSP Legislation (NCSCSP TSP L)* • *National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ)* – NCDHR • *Human Resource*

*Development Forum (HRDF) • Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation (HRF)*

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

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

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

During 26-30<sup>th</sup> October 2015, Ms. Kamatchi presented a session on “GRB Overview” in the ‘**Advanced Gender Responsive Budgeting ToT Course for Budget Groups**’ Organized by UN WOMEN and NFI at Lonavala.

On 3 December 2015, Ms. Kamatchi was invited as a resource person to present a session on “Intersecting realities: Asking the budget question - DALIT WOMEN’S RIGHT” at the “**Learning Workshop on Gender Responsive Budgeting**” organized by UN WOMEN South Asia at Cochin.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**With all these efforts of SW-TN, the Department of Finance has realized the importance of Gender Budgeting and accepted to take responsibility of being a NODAL AGENCY to implement GB in TN. And a GENDER BUDGET CELL is to be initiated under Finance Department, in association in 'Budget General Miscellaneous' wing with creation of posts.**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Ms. Kamatchi was a resource person on “**Women’s Charter of Demands in the lens of Budget Allocation and Implementation**” during the one-

day consultation on 'Balance for Better: A Stocktaking by Women's Networks in Tamilnadu'; organized by HRF at ICSA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

During 15-19 February 2021, SW-TN co-organized two programmes - “Five Days National Level Online Training Programme (I-Forenoon Programme & II – Afternoon Programme) on **GENDER BUDGETING**” along with Department of Women Studies-Bharathiar University, Tamilnadu State Resource Centre for Women and Ministry of Women and Child Development – Govt of India. Due to our prior network, we brought in resource persons from **United Nations WOMEN and Centre for Budget Governance Accountability**.

During 22-24 February 2021, SWTN participated in the **Online National Workshop on Gender Budgeting, sponsored by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt of India**; Organized by UGC Centre for Advanced Studies in Social Work and Center of Excellence; U.P Higher Education Council, Govt of Uttar Pradesh; Department of Social Work, University of Lucknow.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, Ms.Kamatchi was invited as a Resource Person to handle the session on “GENDER BUDGETING – International, National, State Experiences” during the ‘**State Level Three Days (23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>) Virtual Training Programmes on Gender Budgeting for Officials in the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports**’; Organized by Department of Women’s Studies, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore; Funded by Ministry of Women and Child Development.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Ms.Kamatchi rendered a virtual talk in the Webinar on “**Gender Budgeting and Local Governance**” organized by **Institute of Grassroot Governance**.

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Ms.Kamatchi made two presentations on “Gender Budgeting–International and National Experiences” and “Gender Budgeting: Tools and Techniques State Initiatives” in the ‘**State Level Three Days Virtual Training Programme on Gender Budgeting for Officials in the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports** on 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> March’ Organized by Department of women’s Studies- Bharathiar University, Coimbatore; Funded by Ministry of Women and Child Development-New Delhi.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021, Ms. Kamatchi article on “Pengaluku Thevai Thani Budget” highlighting the ‘**GENDER BUDGETING PROCESS in TAMILNADU** and the way forward towards Budgeting for Marginalized Women in Tamilnadu’ was published in the Tamil Monthly Magazine ‘Pengalin Kural’.

**தொண்டு**

# பெண்களுக்குத் தேவை தனி பட்ஜெட்

வினியம்பு நிலை பெண்களுக்காக உழைப்பதையே முழுநேர வேலையாகச் செய்துவருகிறார் காமாட்சி. 'சமூகக் கண்காணிப்பகம் தமிழ்நாடு' என்கிற அமைப்பில் முதுநிலை ஆய்வாளராக 16 வருடங்களாகச் செயலாற்றிவருகிறார். வினியம்பு நிலை பெண்களின் வாழ்க்கைத்தரத்தை உயர்த்தும் நோக்கில், பாளையன் பட்டினம் குறித்து இவர் தொடர்ந்து கவனப்படுத்தி வருகிறார். இந்தப் புது அரசாங்கம் சமூக நலத்துறையை சமூக நலம் மற்றும் பெண்கள் முன்னேற்றம் என்று மாற்றியிருப்பதை வரவேற்பதாகக் குறிப்பிடுகிறார் காமாட்சி. 'பெண்களின் குரல்' வாசகர்களுக்கு அவர் அளித்த பேட்டி:

கேள்வி: சமத்துவம் பற்றி சமூக வலைத்தளங்களில் பலர் பேசிக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறார்கள். உண்மையில் கள நிலவரம் என்ன?

பதில்: Equality, Equity இரண்டுக்கும் வேறுபாடு உண்டு. Equality என்பது சமத்துவம். எல்லோருக்கும் சம அளவில் பிரித்துக் கொடுப்பது என்று அர்த்தம். Equity என்பது நிகர்நிலை. யாருக்கு அதிகம் தேவைப்படுகிறதோ, அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு படி அதிகம் கொடுப்பது. அதனால் நாங்கள் Equalityயை விட

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On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Ms.Kamatchi was requested to give **suggestions** by Prof.N.Manimekalai for the “**Second Consultative Workshop on Formulation of STATE POLICY FOR WOMEN**”; organized by Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowermen along with UNICEF, UN WOMEN and ‘Inter Agency Expert Group –SDGs’. We shared the key inputs on InterSectionality and Gender Budgeting.

On 22nd September 2021, Ms.Kamatchi participated in the “Second Consultative Workshop on Formulation of STATE POLICY FOR WOMEN”; **organized by Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowermen along with UNICEF, UN WOMEN and ‘Inter Agency Expert Group –SDGs’.**

On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021, SWTN along with EKTA organized an Online Discussion on **“Holistic Policy and Budget for Women in Tamilnadu”** to invite more suggestions from stakeholders – to forward to Government’s Policy Formulation Team. We invited resource persons from United Nations Women for the Discussion.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021)*

On 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021, following the Online Orientation held last month, we invited the ‘Good Shepherd Health and Education Centre – Karamadai & Valparai’ for a **“Training session on GENDER BUDGETING”** at ICSA, Egmore.

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

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 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](mailto:dsw.tn@nic.in)).

On 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 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 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.

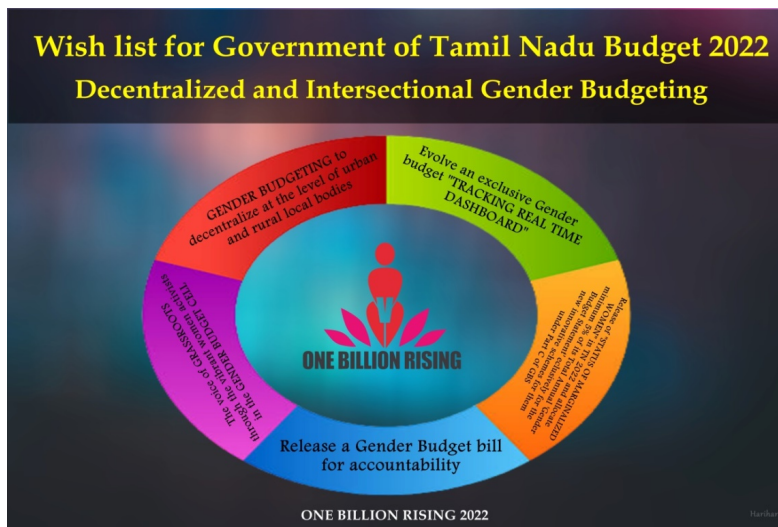
Following the suggestions raised on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 during the Online Discussion on **"Policy and Budget for Women in Tamilnadu"**; we drafted a Recommendations / Wish List for GENDER BUDGETING – for the Tamilnadu Budget session 2022 and circulated for endorsement to take it wider as a JOINT 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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  
@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, taluhs and panchayats.

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

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

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

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

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

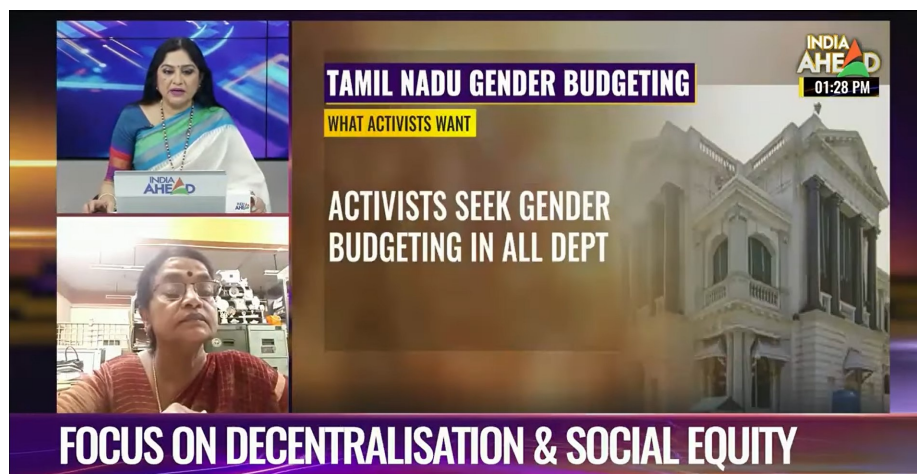


Mon, 14 February 2022

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



On 14<sup>th</sup> 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=h12bUOQziJI>)



On 15<sup>th</sup> 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ-EJck2eV8&ab_channel=ThanthiTV))



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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022, as a follow-up of 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Kollolikal 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 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.

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

திருவள்ளூர்ஆண்டு 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 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.

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)



**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 21st February 2023, Ms.Kamatchi was invited by the Ministry of Women and Child Development – Govt of India for the ‘**National Stakeholder Consultation on the Gender Budget Statement**’ at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

On 11<sup>th</sup> 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)



On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, SWTN organized an Online meeting with key Women Leaders to create a push to the Government to Finalize the State Women Policy Draft 2021. As a follow-up, we filed a RTI demanding the release date of the final policy and to get the revised policy for public opinion. With 92 endorsements from various stakeholders, we have escalated the issue to all 234 MLAs, Minister and Secretary of Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, GoTN. We have restarted the discussion with Chairperson of TN State Women Commission. The same was reflected in Indian Express and DT Next newspaper, dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

As a success to our joint efforts, on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024, Tamil Nadu Cabinet approves Policy for Women; and promised constitution of a State-level committee headed by Chief Secretaries and district-level committees headed by Collectors to monitor the implementation of the policy and to address any issues of discrimination.

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Ms. Kamatchi shared to women leaders - a key information on “Government’s orientation programme towards formation of Gender Budget cell across all departments” . This served as an alert to submit our department wise ALTERNATE BASKET OF SCHEMES to the respective department's Gender Budget Cell (GBC) - to both existing and to be formed GBCs.

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Ms. Kamatchi filed ‘Right To Information’ - RTI requesting:


1. Details of Officers in-charge of Gender Budget Cells of respective departments
2. How the “assumed sector-wise 30% in PART-C of Gender Budget Statement will be audited based on performance.

On 19<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, Ms. Kamatchi was the facilitator in the **Thoduvanam** series - a capacity-building initiative, intended for women who work in the social sector. The online workshop on “**Understanding Gender Budgeting**” was organized by Prajnya.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Ms. Kamatchi was invited as a Guest Speaker to deliver a lecture on “**Women Policy and Gender budgeting connecting Sustainable Development Goal 5**” ; during the ONE-WEEK INTERNATIONAL ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMME ON GENDER DISCOURSE IN SOCIETY; organized by ‘Asha Paras for Peace and Harmony Foundation - India’ & Centre for Women’s Studies - Pondicherry University.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, Ms. Kamatchi presented a session for TN Government Officials during the ‘Workshop on Gender Responsive Budgeting’ Organised by “Arun Jaitley

National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) - (Nodal Centre at Central Level for Women Development & Gender Studies, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India”; In Collaboration with Anna University; at Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Anna University, Chennai.



**Workshop On**  
**Gender Responsive Budgeting Organised by**  
**Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM)**  
 (Nodal Centre at Central Level for Women Development & Gender Studies,  
 Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India)

In Collaboration with  
**Anna University, Chennai**  
**On**  
**(February 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024)at**

**Venue: Sivalingam Hall, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Anna University, Guindy Chennai-25**

**Inaugural Session**  
**Minute to Minute Programme: Day 2**

Day 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024
	<b>Technical Session- III</b>
09:45 AM – 10:30 AM	<b>Topic:</b> Role of State Officials in the GRB Space (Online session). <b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Sanghamitra Dhar, Programme Lead – Gender Responsive Budgeting, UN Women.
10:35 AM – 12:15 PM	<b>Topic:</b> Gender Budgeting in Tamil Nadu; Achievements and wayforward <b>Speaker:</b> Ms. Kamatchi Sundaramurthy, Assistant Director, SocialWatch, Tamil Nadu

During 5-7 February 2024, Ms. Kamatchi was invited for a session to represent People’s Response on “Gender-Sensitive Performance and Outcomes” to all departments’ officials, Gender Specialists - State Hub, One Stop Centre Officers and CSO representatives. The Gender Budgeting Workshop was organized by Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Government of Tamilnadu; in Collaboration with Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.



From,  
Tmt.V Amuthavalli IAS,  
Commissioner of Social Welfare,  
Commissionerate of Social Welfare,  
Kamarajar Salai,  
Chennai – 600 005  
Roc.no.05633/SRCW/2022

To,  
Ms.S.Kamatchi,  
Social Watch

Date 29.01.2024

Sub : Social Welfare & Women Empowerment - State Hub for Empowerment of Women- To organize 3 days training/workshop programme on Gender Budgeting for the year 2023-24 – regarding.

Ref : 40. Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi Ref. No.GB- 21/1/2022-O/o DD(E-98782) Gol, dated 21.03.2023  
41. Social Welfare & Women Empowerment, Director of Social Welfare, Roc.No.10639/SRCW/2023, dated 20/04/2023  
42. Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi Ref.GB- 12/1/2023 – Gender Budgeting [Comp.No.108422] dated 18/12/2023

The undersigned is directed to state that the Ministry of Women and Child Development being the nodal Ministry for Gender Budgeting has been providing financial assistance to organize training programmes and workshops to facilitate capacity building of Government officials on Gender Budgeting at State level. The purpose of the Gender Budgeting Schemes is to provide grand-in-aid- for training of various stakeholders including officials of Central and State Government, PSUs, Corporate sector, PRIs and NGOs

On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024, SWTN organized a core group meeting with Women Organizations to strategize our demands on “Intersectional, Decentralized, Participatory and Outcome-based Gender Budgeting in TN”. We received nearly 115 endorsements for the Joint Statement and the same was reflected in the Indian Express dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The same was sent as Voice of Women in TN to all MLAs, TN Women’s Commission and concerned line departments.

Tamil Nadu

## Women groups demand outcome-based gender budget from TN govt

The statement also called for the release of a 'status report of marginalised women in Tamil Nadu 2024' by the gender budget cell, in collaboration with the state planning commission.



Image of a calculator used for representational purposes onlyPexels

### Express News Service

Updated on: 12 Feb 2024, 10:50 am

1 min read

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/Feb/12/women-groups-demand-outcome-based-gender-budget-from-tn-govt>

CHENNAI: Women's groups and organisations, in a joint statement, have urged the Tamil Nadu government to prioritise an intersectional, participatory, decentralized, and outcome-based approach to gender budgeting in the state.

On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024, Ms. Kamatchi's view on TN Gender Budget Statement 2024-25 was flashed in **Indian Express Newspaper** in the title "**Part-C of gender budget statement inflated amount spent on women's welfare**".

### 'Part-C of gender budget statement inflates amount spent on women's welfare'

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR  
@Chennai

THE gender budget statement released on Monday stated that ₹1.22 lakh crore was allocated for welfare of women under various schemes in which the women beneficiaries ranged from 30-100%.

This includes ₹27,915 crore under Part A - schemes that are targeted only for women, ₹1,571 crore in Part B - schemes where the women beneficiaries

range from 40-99% and ₹55,739 crore in Part C - schemes in which at least 30% beneficiaries are women. However, no list or details about the schemes under Part C were mentioned.

"The gender budget statement of the central government as well as several other state governments has only parts A and B. The Part C introduced by the Tamil Nadu government only inflates the amount spent on the welfare of women in the state without re-

flecting the reality, as it is much higher than the first two parts," said S Kamatchi from Social Watch, Tamil Nadu.

Endorsing the view, Binia Chandrasekaran, director of Ekta Resource Centre for Women, said gender budgeting serves no purpose if one of the major sections does not have any specifics and is used just to inflate numbers.

Activists have also demanded the government to release an

exclusive document for the gender budget statement which is now part of the appendices to the budget memorandum.

Across the country, at least 11 states have been releasing it as a separate document.

"They also want the state government to make a performance-oriented statement with details on the number of women beneficiaries to ensure schemes are not added to categories without

any basis. Earlier this month, more than 87 activists signed a joint statement pressing for these demands.

According to the standard operating procedure released by the central government for gender budgeting, the government has to conduct situational analysis of women in the state, following which the departments have to conduct pre-budget consultations with the stakeholders to bring out a performance-based gender budget

statement.

Recently, the Comptroller and Auditor General had advised the Kerala government to bring out performance-based gender budgeting statements, failing which the objective of gender budgeting would be defeated.


However in Tamil Nadu, the government is yet to form gender budgeting cells in many departments which are responsible for analysing the schemes. Despite a government order re-

leased in July, 2022, only five including the social welfare department out of more than 40 departments have gender budgeting cells, as of December, 2023, according to an RTI reply.

However, the women's groups have welcomed the move to include the accounts, budget estimates and revised estimates of 2023-24 in the statement as the previous six statements had only the budget estimates of that single financial year.

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Ms. Kamatchi was invited to handle two technical sessions on Application of Gender Budget Techniques and Gender Budget Statement during the **State Level Two Day Training Programme On "Gender Budgeting"**, Organized by **Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Puducherry** in Collaboration with **Centre For Women's Studies-Pondicherry**

University; Funded By Ministry of Women and Child Development; held at Puducherry.



**CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY  
PUDUCHERRY**  
*Organises*  
**STATE LEVEL TWO DAY TRAINING PROGRAMME ON  
"GENDER BUDGETING" (26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2024)**  
*Funded by*  
**MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, PUDUCHERRY**

**To**  
**Ms. Kamatchi Sundaramurthy**  
Assistant Director  
Social Watch, Tamilnadu

Dear **Ms. Kamatchi Sundaramurthy**,

Greetings from Dr. Kamalaveni, Associate professor, Centre for Women's Studies, Pondicherry University. The Centre for Women's Studies Pondicherry University is organising State Level Two Day Training Programme on "GENDER BUDGETING" for the Government officials in decision making position at Puducherry on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. I am happy to invite you as resource person for the technical session VII and VIII on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Indeed, it's our privilege and honour that you accepted our invitation to serve as subject expert. I would like to inform you that we are expecting around 50 government officials to take part in the training programme. We also request you to send us the PPT presentation in advance to avoid the technical difficulties. Once again, I extend my heartfelt thanks for accepting our invitation. We look forward for your presence.



On 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Ms. Kamatchi's recommendations were incorporated in *The Hindu* Newspaper article on "**Gender budgeting requires more robust and intersectional process**".

## **Gender budgeting requires more robust and intersectional process, finds study**

February 29, 2024 12:32 am | Updated 11:52 am IST - Chennai

MEGHNA M.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/gender-budgeting-requires-more-robust-and-intersectional-process-finds-study/article67896608.ece>

The Gender Budget Statement (GBS) released by the Tamil Nadu government shows a need for an intersectional and decentralised gender budgeting process, according to a fact file on the statement conducted by the Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC). ... ..

Drawing a parallel to the Punjab government's Gender Budget, which also includes a Part C, S. Kamatchi, assistant director, Social Watch said "The Punjab government's gender budget, which has a Part C, has scheme-supported narration. How can Part C in the Tamil Nadu GBS be more when compared to the other two parts?"...

Women's group activists also pointed out that pre-budget consultation, sectoral reviews, gender performance audit or analysis of previous GBS to assess adequacy of estimation. "There needs to be a way for the civil society organisations to be part of the discussion so that beneficial schemes can be formulated. Further there is also a need for a decentralised gender budget which can address issues regarding women from all classes," added Ms. Kamatchi.

Citing the example of the Punjab government where the Finance Department and Social Security, Women and Child Development Department prepare the GBS, she further added the departments could work together where the Social Welfare department could implement the scheme.

**And SW-TN will continue its advocacy efforts towards 'Gender Budgeting for the marginalized in the State', mainly focusing on issues of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and disabled women in the State.**

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