

# IMPACT made through SWTN interventions

- I. Enabling Stakeholders form their own formations in order to pursue their own affair
- II. Governmental Action evinced through release of G.Os or Notifications
- III. With Civil Society
- IV. Impact of educational meetings
- V. Gender Budgeting
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## **I. Enabling Stakeholders form their own formations in order to pursue their own affair**

Due to our continuous training and capacity building programme to grassroot leaders, several SC / ST Associations were formed since 2010.

1. 'Ooty Pandaiya Pazhangudi Peravai' Federated body of the six PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) tribes in Ooty - Thodar, Koththar, Kurumbar, Paniar, Irular, Kaattunaikkar - Six independent bodies of the above Six tribes respectively.
2. Nilgiris Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Federation
3. Irular Tribal State-Level Federation
4. Vaalpaarai Muduvaar Association
5. Aanaimalai Malaithodar Mudhuvaar Munnetra Sangam
6. Confederation of Affirmative Industries – CAI for SCs as well as STs (was initiated to train and encourage entrepreneurship)
7. AKAM -Ambedkar Kalvi Nootraandu Iyakam (started to promote PMS widely to all districts of Tamilnadu)
8. SHEROES – Saandror Women Champions (to help articulate freely and with the intense focus on issues and concerns of women and girls)
9. Tribal Friends Educational and Charitable Trust.
10. CONCLAVE OF SOUTHERN STATES on “Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan” (to widen awareness on SCSP & TSP)

## **II. Governmental Action evinced through release of G.Os or Notifications**

1. TN Govt issued a G.O making ADTW Secretary as its Nodal officer under SCSP.
2. Government of India added a new Annexure in its Union Budget for SCSP/TSP.
3. TN Budget ultimately started providing the full component of proportionate budget allocation for SCSP/ TSP since 2006.
4. State Planning commission in conjunction with SWTN held Stakeholder Civil Society Annual Plan meeting from 2011 till Pandemic-Break in 2019 for SCSP/ TSP.
5. Government of India, Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry in 2011 provided extension of PMS (Post Matric Scholarship) to Self-financing Institutions.
6. The TN Budget under PMS increased its budget allocation from Rs.200 odd crores in 2010 to Rs. 1700 crores per annum in 2017.
7. TN SC/ST Scholars number went up from under 2 lakhs in 2010 to over 8 lakhs in 2017.
8. Due to sustained advocacy work by SWTN, Government of India made big changes in the components of PVTG sanction – near Rs.12 Crores from petty schemes to Rs.50 Crores for Entrepreneurship schemes since 2015.
9. For the first time in India a model multi storey tenement has been provided to Irular Tribes in Kayarambedu, Chengalpattu, TN (housing space increased from single room 100 sqft group houses to 400 sqft – 62 units with 400 sqft, with mosaic flooring and walling and other up to date amenities.
- 10.50 Innova cars were given to Thodar (ST) Entrepreneurs at Ooty through PVTG funds.
- 11.A participatory Planning forum for ADTW Dept has been set up in Madras School of Social Work this year 2023.
- 12.Over 100 Aandrors (ST) got appointed as teachers in Tribal Residential Schools.
- 13.First time in the history of the Directorate (2021-22), the new Director Tribal Development Mr. Annadurai has held several civil society meetings.

### III. With Civil Society

1. SWTN played key role in Sustaining and augmenting the activities of our network partners: PAALAM, REEDA, ASSET, TAAK, LAMP, SASY, NCDHR, Action Aid India, Kaanikkaarar MahaSabhai, Pazhani Paliar Koottamaippu, Vaanavil-Naagai, Naadodiar Koottamaippu – Madurai, Aadhiyar Pazhangudi Makkal Nala Sangam, Irular Associations, TN Anaithu Pazhangudigal Perlyakkam – with 10 Tribes
2. SWTN was the first to bring Pazhaverkaadu Irulars to the attention of the world. Several government schemes and NGO programmes have accrued them since 2015 floods. SWTN went to provide reasonable relief to Pazhaverkaadu Irulars. With the help of our network, there were significant rehabilitation measures. Few among them are: -
  - i. Provision of over 20 boats by several agencies.
  - ii. Over 20 houses in Meddhur by the Government.
  - iii. 15 Houses provided by Habitat India in 2016.
3. 50 Aadhiyar Tribal Youth got free admission in colleges including 10 in BE this year 2023 alone. One went to NIIT Agartala. One girl went BDS in Chettinad Dental College. One more girl went to Law.
4. Four Tribal youth got admitted NIT-Trichy this year alone.
5. The GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) of SC/STs in TN Higher Education went upto 41% in 2021 much higher than the overall general GER at All India Level which is only 29%.
6. Kaanikkaarar Tribes led by their leader Mr. Rajan, former Panchayat President, Succes in getting land rights of about 2000 acres of land under 2006 Tribal Forest Rights Act.
7. TN Government brought in the Act providing 5% preferential share for Saandrors and Aandrors in Government Procurements.
8. TN Government introduced new Start Up-SC scheme for SC/ STs. Two tribal group got Rs 1 crore each in the first year itself.
9. TN Government introduced Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme (AABCS) - G.O. (Ms) No. 33, MSME (D2) Dt: 12.05.2023
10. New schemes of Scholarship for SC/ ST PhDs - G.O. 96; Dt: 25/11/2021. So far 1600 Beneficiaries have been benefitted.
11. The Overseas Study Scholarships was expended in 2022. Upto Rs. 35 lakh grant. 25 students of SC/ST have benefitted so far.

#### **IV. Impact of educational meetings**

The suggestions given by SWTN – have been taken up seriously by Government of Tamilnadu and Kerala:

1. Issue of transferring Education from Concurrent list to State List
2. Demand for Abolition of NEET for medical admission
3. Demands for Removal of Governor from Chancellorship
4. Govt have announced taking over of Govt schools by the local body, Chennai Corporation.
5. Tribal department has appointed over hundred Tribes as teacher in Tribal Residential Schools.

#### **Higher Education Counselling For Aandrors And Saandrors**

Since 2023 Adi Dravidar Tribal Welfare Department is organizing students meet at all District Head Quarters in for Saandrors and Aandrors (SCSTs) for guiding them to Higher Education.

This is one of the persistent demands made by SW-TN, AKAM and PAALAM over a decade. As a matter of fact since 2013, AKAM has been regularly conducting these camps in over 50 places in a year. This has impacted the TN Govt who are now undertaking similar meets in every District.

#### **V. Gender Budgeting**

Significant outcomes of SW-TN's advocacy efforts towards Gender Budgeting:

1. One of the key recommendations highlighted in our research publication is "Evolving Gender Budget Cells at State level". Due to our collaborative lobbying and the pro-active initiatives with TN State Women Commission, UN Women South Asia and TN State Planning Commission; Finance (OP-III) Department, Government of Tamilnadu issued a **G.O.(Ms.) No.241, Dated 10.08.2017 regarding Formation of a Gender Budget Cell**. And during the following year, Government of

TN for released its first GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT in its Appendices to Budget Memorandum 2018-19, Budget Publication No: 64.

2. Our Recommendations to the TN Govt's Drafting committee of Women Policy, on INTERSECTIONAL Approach and Gender Budgeting were reflected in the "TN State Policy for Women 2021 (Draft)" released by GoTN during December 2021.
3. As an outcome of the State Level Consultation on 'POLICIES and BUDGETS for WOMEN' with Tamilnadu State Commission for Women, , the [Key DEMANDS from Stakeholders were CONSOLIDATED DEPARTMENTWISE](#) were 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. Following our request, [Government Order G.O \(Ms\) No.38, on "...Formulation of GENDER BUDGET in all Departments..."; was released by the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Government of Tamilnadu; dated 08.07.2022; annexed with the Guidelines and Terms of Reference.](#)
4. Our meeting with key Women Leaders to create a push to the Government to Finalize the State Women Policy Draft 2021; and filing a RTI demanding the release date of the final policy and to get the revised policy for public opinion; along 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; restarted the discussion with Chairperson of TN State Women Commission; Our demands were reflected in Indian Express and DT Next newspaper, dated 7th January 2024. As a success to our joint efforts, on 23rd 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. During last week of February 2024, the TN STATE WOMEN POLICY was released by Government of Tamilnadu.

## VI. **Political Advocacy**

A difficult proposition in India is reacting out to Politicians on issues concerning Saandrors (SCs). At best a commoner or an NGO can achieve is to get across to a legislator or a Parliamentarian who hails from Saandror Community. That too not all of them are open to these dialogues.

Social Watch not minding numb responses steadfastly pursues politicians for Saandrors and Aandror's sake. And Succeeding in getting things done where nothing would have happened.

Social Watch has gained the confidence of few like-minded legislators – prominent among them being

1. Mr. Thol.Thirumavalavan MP and VCK Party President.
2. Mr. Ravikumar MP from VCK
3. Mr. Sinthamani Selvan, MLA, VCK
4. Mr. Balaji, MLA, VCK
5. Mr. Armstrong, State President, BSP
6. Mr. Elamaran, State Organizer, BSP
7. Mr. Jayakumar, MP, Congress, Thiruvallur 2020-24
8. Mr. Selva Perunthagai, TN State Congress President
9. Mr. Stalin, MLA Thuraiyur, Ruling DMK.

Social Watch created a fruitful relationship between the Irulars (Aandrors-ST) of Thiruvallur and Mr.Jayakumar exiting MP.Mr.Gunasekaran, now a member of the State Aandror Pearavai.

Social Watch greatly succeeded in making all parties in TN include announcements for Saandror and Aandror in their manifestos before the General Elections for the Assembly 2021. Several of the assurances given by the ruling DMK have been implemented.

Politicians of all hues approach SW-TN for drafting their speeches in the Assembly .

SWTN has conducted residential workshops for Irular Panchayat Presidents. Few panchayats successfully increased their panchayat income almost fourfold after taking the cue from us.

## VII. **Reverse Claims**

SW-TN in fine coordination with likeminded social motivators like CAI (Confederation of Affirmative Industries), PAALAM and AKAM (Ambedkar Kalvi Nootraandu Iyakkam) has been immensely successful in getting new schemes for Saandrors and Aandrors. One of the successful pursuits is for new entrepreneurial schemes for Saandrors and Aandrors where there existed none till now.

Over 600 Saandrors and Aandrors getting business loans. Encouraged by the success of the scheme TN Govt granted Rs.30 Crores towards subsidy over and above the Rs.70 Crores Subsidy announced earlier. These schemes came about on the lines of thrust we have been giving for evolving “Exclusive Plan and Schemes for the Excluded” and not merely apportioning a miniscule portion for Saandrors and Aandrors from general or mainstream schemes.

‘Start Up for SCs’ is unique in India or anywhere else. Similarly AABCS (Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme) offers 35% upfront subsidy which is also unique.

The success of this scheme is attracting the notice of non-SCs who are of making a reverse-claims for similar schemes for them too.

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