

APPENDICES

- Appendix A : The Forum**
- Appendix B : Original Constituents of TNPFS**
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Appendix A :

THE FORUM

The Tamilnadu Peoples' Forum for Social Development (TNPFS) was born in the context of the Global Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen 1995.

A **Peoples' Summit on Social Development in Tamilnadu**, held at Chennai on 11 & 12 March 1995, parallel to the global summit, had brought together varied and substantial sections of civil society in Tamilnadu – women and dalit movements, trade unions, environmental and human rights and non-governmental organisations, and socially concerned professionals... At the summit, an effort was made to holistically assess the level of social development in Tamilnadu, from the point of view of the major social sectors (dalits, women, children, tribals, fisherfolk, unorganised and bonded labour...) and key issues (housing, environment, human rights...)

The enthusiastic response to the Summit inspired the organising team to decide to take up a long-term role in the field of social development in Tamilnadu. This effort resulted in the Forum, which was started with the following aims in mind:

- Playing the role of a Think Tank in the social development sphere of Tamilnadu, intervening at crucial stages.
- Taking up a continuous Social Audit on Tamilnadu public policy, and to develop a Budget Analysis and Policy Priority Cell towards that end.
- Publishing an Annual Report on the status of Social Development in Tamilnadu

Over the last 5 years, the Forum has attempted to make meaningful interventions in the field of Tamilnadu social development. Among its more significant efforts have been

- The **Tamilnadu NGO Declaration on Panchayat Raj & Decentralised Democracy**, released at a State level Convention of NGOs in November 1995, organised by the Forum. The declaration was tested by grassroots organisations during the elections to the local bodies.
- The **Tamilnadu Peoples' Manifesto**, involving major civil society forces in Tamilnadu, was formulated and released in May 1996, as the Forum's "Alternative Programme for Sustainable Development, Democratic and Decentralised Policy and the right to Livelihood in Tamilnadu". The Manifesto, which was tested at the grassroots during the 1996 elections, has remained the basic framework and perspective for all the later efforts of the Forum.
- "**Peoples' Manifesto vs Party Manifestos**", an analytical study was released by the Forum in the context of the 1999 Elections to the Lok Sabha, providing a benchmark for monitoring ruling and opposition parties in the field of social development.
- The **Budget Critiques** (general & sectoral) and the lobbying works during the Budget Sessions of the Tamilnadu legislative assembly, in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 & 2000.

Budget Analysis...

The **BUDGET ANALYSIS & POLICY PRIORITY CELL** has been a major and significant initiative of the Forum. The Cell was started in 1996, with the following objectives:

- a. Influencing State Budget policies and Public Policy in general.
- b. Post Budget Analysis and popular dissemination of budget information through networking, advocacy and lobbying.
- c. Constant monitoring of various facets of social development in Tamilnadu, leading to proposals of alternatives in required areas of change.

Over the last four years (1996, 1997, 1998 & 1999), the Cell has intervened at the level of Public policy advocacy during the Budget Sessions of the Tamilnadu Legislative Assembly. The following critiques have been the basis for the lobbying efforts of the Cell and the Forum:

- * **“Comments on the Tamilnadu 1996-`97 (Revised) Budget”**
- * **“Recommendations towards the Tamilnadu 1997-`98 Budget”**
- * **“Comments on TN Budget 1997-`98:
Peoples’ Forum exposes the anti-Social Development bias of TN Budget**
- * **“Tamilnadu Budget 1998-`99: A peoples’ Critique”**
- * **“Tamilnadu Budget 1999-2000: A Perspective”**
- * **“Yet Another Budget Drama”
- A peoples’ critique on Tamilnadu Bidget 2000-2001**

Copies of the “Critiques” have been distributed to legislators, research institutions, academics, grassroots organisations and the general public. The press has given us a fairly good coverage. Many acclaimed the step as novel and were happy to publish the discrepancies in the budget, as pointed out in the “Critiques”.

Our interactions with the legislators of various political parties, especially of the opposition, were indeed very enlightening. Our daily dispatches during the Budget Sessions of the Assembly were much sought after by the more serious minded legislators. Many of the questions raised by them at the Session were based on the findings and study of the Budget Cell.

Among our sectoral budget critiques, the dossier **“Social development of Dalits and Tamilnadu Govt. Budget”** has been the most sought after, both by social movements and policy makers. We have also attempted minimal pre-budget lobbying, involving other organisations and movements in Tamilnadu. **“Social Development in Tamilnadu - Serious Concerns”** was a peoples’ memorandum that was the basis for our pre-budget lobbying this year.

“Budget Analysis as Social Audit Tamilnadu Experiences (1996-2000)” sums up all our efforts and experiences over the last 5 years. We have been active members of “People’s BIAS”, the national network of organisations involved in budget analysis in India.

Sectoral Workshops:

As an effort to build up a strong database as well as to establish meaningful contacts for future work, the Budget Cell of the Forum visualised a series of sectoral workshops. The workshops brought together committed bureaucrats, intellectuals & academic institutions, financial institutions and grassroots organisations involved in the specific sector. The effort was to compare notes and to pool data and experiences in viable forms.

The Cell identified 12 key areas of social developmental importance (women, dalits, fisher-folk, unorganised labour, children, tribals, Education, Environment, Public health, Rural & Urban development, Local bodies and Civil & Political rights).

The enthusiastically-participated 2-day workshops (“Rural Development in Tamilnadu”, in September `97, “Coastal Realities in Tamilnadu” in January ‘98 and “Dalits and social Development” in October ‘98) as well as the State-level Campaign on “Violence against women in Tamilnadu” in Oct-Nov. ‘98 have been very relevant exercises in developing databases and in establishing contacts.

Social Development Monitoring...

In the context of the above experiences, the Forum is taking up the broader task of an on-going process of monitoring Social Development in Tamilnadu, with the following objectives:

- Creating state-level and district-wise database on the social, economic and demographic aspects of Tamilnadu and on specific sectors.
- Preparing a schema for the functional cum statistical classification of the major heads in the Budget for analysing the social and economic services.
- Monitoring the impact of economic liberalisation and Structural Adjustment programme on the social sectors such as education, health, social security and welfare etc.
- An Annual Report on Social Development in Tamilnadu.

The Forum is seriously committed to continue this process of social auditing. It aims to reverse the process of decision making in the State, so that Govt policy becomes deeply a people-involved process.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE FORUM:

- “1996 General Elections - Peoples’ Manifesto”, 1996
- ‘Tamilnadu NGO Declaration on Panchayat Raj & Decentralised democracy”, 1996
- “A Critique on the Tamilnadu Govt Budget 1996-97”, 1996
- “Proposals for the Tamilnadu Govt. Budget 1997-98”, 1997
- “A Peoples’ Critique on the Tamilnadu Govt. Budget 1997-98”, 1997
- “Tamilnadu Govt. Budget 1998-99 - A Peoples’ Critique”, 1998
- “Budget Analysis - Tamilnadu Experiences”, 1998
- “Budget Analysis - A Manual”, 1998
- “Tamilnadu Govt. Budget 1999-2000 - A Peoples’ Perspective”, 1999
- “Social Development of Dalits and TN Govt. Budget - A Critique”, 1999
- “Peoples’ Manifesto vs Party Manifestos - Indian Lok Sabha Elections”, 1999
- “Social Development in Tamilnadu - Serious Concerns - A People’s Memonrandum to the Govt. of Tamilnadu on the State Budget 2000-2001”, 2000
- “Budget Analysis as Social Audit - Tamilnadu Experiences 1996 - 2000”, 2000
- Papers at TNPFS “Tamilnadu Peoples’ Parallel Summit”, 1995
- Papers at TNPFS Workshop on “Dalits & Social Development in TN”, 1998
- Papers at TNPFS Workshop on “Rural development in Tamilnadu”, 1998
- Papers at TNPFS Workshop on “Coastal Realities in Tamilnadu”, 1999