



**SOCIAL WELFARE AND
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT**

**POLICY NOTE
2022-2023**

DEMAND No. 45

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MINISTER FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE - WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
2022

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DEMAND NO.45
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EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT

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CHAPTER - 1

Introduction

கல்வியில்லாத பெண்கள்
களர்நிலம்; அந்நிலத்தில்
புல் விளைந்திடலாம்; நல்ல
புதல்வர்கள் விளைதல் இல்லை!
கல்வியை உடைய பெண்கள்
திருந்திய கழனி, அங்கே
நல்லறிவு உடைய மக்கள்
விளைவது நவிலவோ நான்

- புரட்சிக் கவிஞர் பாரதிதாசன்

*"There is no tool for development
More effective than the
Empowerment of Women"*

- **Kofi Annan**

**Former General Secretary,
United Nations Organization**

Women Empowerment is promoting women's sense of self worth, their ability to determine their own choices and their right to influence social change for themselves and others. By standing up for equality, women have helped other women to speak up and empower them. When women are living safe, fulfilled and productive lives, they can reach their full potential, contributing their skills to the work force and can raise happier and healthier children. Empowering women is key to economic growth, political stability and social transformation. Women are known for delivering multiple roles effortlessly thus, they are considered the backbone of every society.

The Constitution of India guarantees that there shall be no discrimination on the grounds of gender. There are various legal provisions for women safety and empowerment enshrined in the Constitution. It not only guarantees equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt

measures in favour of women for neutralizing the cumulative socio, economic, education and political deprivation faced by them since ages.

Fundamental Rights among others ensures equality before the law and equal protection of law, prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and guarantee equality of opportunity in matters relating to employment.

Indian Penal Code provides safety of women against rape (sec 376) kidnapping, abduction for different purposes (sec 363-373), Homicide for Dowry torture (sec 498-A) Molestation (sec 354) and Sexual Harassment (sec 509).

In the same way special laws are enacted to safeguard the interests of women, children and senior citizens viz, Immoral Traffic (suppression) Act 1956, The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, The Equal Remuneration Act 1976, The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, The

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007, The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012 and The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013.

The Government whose foundations are based on **social justice, social equity and inclusive society** is made the focus of its governance, the women especially marginalized, exploited, suppressed and uneducated, Children who need care, protection and sustainability, Elders who requires care of health, nutrition, protection and rehabilitation and Transgenders who are in need of social inclusiveness and empathy. The Government is striving hard to ensure that no one left behind in the process of growth and development.

The Government to achieve its stated policy, implementing various schemes/ programmes to empower women, children, elders

and transgender. Education is the only tool to empower the women to make choices that improve their children's health, their well being, marrying beyond childhood and having fewer children. Education can increase women's awareness of their right, boost their self esteem and provide them the opportunity to assert their rights.

Education will go an extended way in making women familiar with their legal and personal rights and make them battle for their privileges, which will direct to protecting their rights mentioned in the Constitution. Education is the initial line of defence for women who withstand life imperilling circumstances that traditional lifestyle perpetuates. In addition to this, it unlocks the door to preferences that are not combined by tradition. With a meaningful education, the women's status strides beyond the restrictions of motherliness.

Importance of Women's Higher Education was taken up as the need of the hour and efforts are put forth by the Government through the **"Higher Education Assurance Scheme"** effectively. The Ultimate aim of the Government is to provide higher education to women so as to bring the Social transformation. **Hence, the existing scheme The Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme has been changed as "Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme" by the department.**

The girls who are studied in government schools from 6th standard to 12th standard are facilitated to choose higher education and get benefitted under monthly incentive scheme of Rs.1000/- from the Academic year 2022 - 2023. This path breaking and motivating scheme for girl children will result in higher enrolment in

government schools by creating knowledgeable and skill society in the country.

The Biggest challenge in any progressive State is to ensure mobility of women for employment and pursuing higher studies and access of women to the public spaces. Tamil Nadu being the most literate State and having the highest enrolment ratio and having huge skilled men power, has introduced a path breaking revolutionary scheme of **"Free travel concession in Government run white board buses"** for working women and college going girl students and transgender, thereby increasing the greater participation of women in labour force. 91.85 Crore number of trips have been undertaken by the women, college going girl students and transgender.

The demographic trend in the State is fast changing as the State achieved excellent population control measure. As the birth rate has

decreased and due to extended life span, the State is having the largest number of senior citizens. As per the Census, the State will have 18.20 percent of Senior Citizens by 2031 that is approximately 1.50 crore senior citizens in the State. It is posing the biggest challenge for providing the welfare measures to the senior citizens by the State Government. To address this challenges of issues of care, protection, health, nutrition, rehabilitation of the elderly people, the State Government has announced the new **State Policy For Elders**, which is in advance stage of preparation.

The Children Health and Nutrition deserves a priority in development policy. It is not merely a cliché to say that a nation's future lies in its children. It is a well documented fact that an individual's growth potential as an adult, both physical and intellectual is determined in early childhood, and that poor health and poor nutrition

in infancy can have deleterious effects on his/her life. Most progressive and developed countries have developed because of the quality of human resource they possess, in which they have invested.

In India, more than 1 crore children are born every year in families which already have an inadequate per capita caloric availability. Further, a growing child cannot wait for the "trickle down effect" of overall economic development. The child's needs must be met today.

Article 47 of the Directive Principles of State Policy states that "the State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties.....".

The problems of child health and malnutrition is a complex one - relating to a number of factors which operate at the level of the family, the

community and the State as a whole. The most important of these include:

- Poverty and consequently, limited purchasing power,
- Lack of knowledge about nutrition and the requirements of a child including poor intra-family distribution and many traditional beliefs, practices and attitudes anti ethical to sound nutrition.
- Insanitary living conditions including the lack of adequate protected water supply and drainage, and the practice of open defecation leading to repeated infections which exacerbate malnutrition.

Tamil Nadu has a long tradition of protecting its people from hunger and starvation.

இரந்தும் உயிர்வாழ்தல் வேண்டின் பரந்து
கெடுக உலகியற்று யான். - குறள் 1062

“If a man is allowed to beg and beseech, let the Almighty, the Creator be vanished” - vehemently wrote by Ayyan Thiruvalluvar, He powerfully opposed starvation.

“தனியொரு மனிதனுக்கு உணவில்லை எனில்
இந்த ஜகத்தினை அழித்திடுவோம்.”

“Even if a single individual is allowed to starve, let us not hesitate to destroy the whole world” - expressed by the freedom fighter and the revolutionary poet Bharathiyar.

Emphasizing the above words, this Government always committed for the implementation of nutrition and health programmes to achieve “Malnutrition Free Tamil Nadu”.

The Covid-19 pandemic had devastated the life of people across the State /Country, especially a serious impact on families and many children became either orphans or left with single parents. The loss of protector and breadwinner in the

family has completely impacted their livelihood and children become the worst affected and vulnerable. Considering the precarious conditions of the children who lost both or either parents, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced immediate relief of cash assistance including, educational support, residential care facilities and special preference in Government implemented schemes by providing a deposit amount of Rs.5 lakh and Rs.3 lakh as immediate relief and maintenance grant of Rs.3000/- per month.

As a progressive State, the Government aims at empowering vulnerable families and keep children under their warmth, love and affection rather institutionalisation. The family environment plays a vital role in moulding a child and the same could not be compensated by any form of alternative service delivery. Placing children into institutions for the cause of poverty alone infringes the cardinal principles of Juvenile Justice

Act. The Children kept in the wait list for Sponsorship assistance and its cumulative increase in number from year to year has become a serious concern of the State Government. The Government determined to provide best possible opportunities for the development of children and the financial constraint in no way could affect the welfare of children. The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced fully State sponsored scheme of foster care and sponsorship covering all the children in the wait list in one go by sanctioning additional funds during the year 2021-22.

The State has been driving its programme to have a healthy and safe environment for children free from all forms of abuses. Sexual abuse of children cause serious damages on physical and emotional well being of victims. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act affirms victim compensation for children as an interim measure to swiftly respond

to their immediate needs and at final stage for long term rehabilitation and also to compensate the loss. In the past years the compensation for the POCSO victims was awarded from out of a common Victim Compensation Scheme meant for all victims of different offences. As there was delay in disbursement of fund, the State Government has created an exclusive fund (Tamil Nadu Child Victim Compensation Fund) for providing compensation to victims under the POCSO Act, a first of its kind in India and successfully implementing this scheme, by providing compensation on priority basis.

The Government had established **“Integrated Training Centre for Social Empowerment”** in association with UNICEF, one of the first of its kind in the Country, to provide training to Stakeholders related to the Child protection services. The Government has also framed **“Tamil Nadu State Child Protection**

Policy 2021” for the overall wellbeing of the children.

The State’s commitment to uplift the depressed, exploited, marginalised and voiceless especially women, children, elders and transgender continues with vigor and energy to ensure that a society based on social justice, social equity and social inclusiveness ensuring right based programmes and schemes in the State.

CHAPTER-2

SOCIAL WELFARE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment implements welfare schemes and enforces Social legislations to protect and safeguards the rights of the Marginalized sections of the society, i.e., Women, Children, Transgenders and Senior Citizens.

2.1 Child Welfare

India has the highest population of children below the age of 18, that is 39% of the total population. The children constitute the most vulnerable section of society and are considered supremely important asset of our nation as the future of any nation depends on how its children mature and develop. Every child has the right to lead a life of dignity, safe from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect, deprivation and

discrimination. Safeguarding the rights of the children and protecting them from all kinds of exploitation and abuses is the primary responsibility of the State including each and every individual member of the society.

The Government is committed in its continuous support to enable every child to have the best start in life, to thrive and to develop their potential. The Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children 2021, has been framed in such a way to guarantee all fundamental rights to children as enshrined in the Constitution and to safeguard them from abuse and harm.

The Government is taking utmost care for protection of the children by enacting and implementing various child related legislations and schemes. The Government is also taking all measures to a maximum extent for providing a protective environment by establishing a strong child protection mechanism.

2.1.1 Cradle Baby Scheme

The practice of female infanticide in some areas of the State, reflected a sudden decrease of Child Sex Ratio, as per census 1991. It may be attributed to so many socio economic factors. Poverty, dowry harassment, birth of child to unmarried women, deformed infants, famine, pandemic etc are among the causes that have been contributed for this kind of social evil practices. The low value associated with the birth of female child and the preference for male child also lead to intentional killing of female infants.

To make sure that girl child receives proper care and support even if they are left abandoned by parents, Tamil Nadu has launched a novel scheme of Cradle Baby Scheme in the year 1992 in Salem District. By setting up cradles in the hospitals, the mothers are facilitated to leave their unwanted girl babies safely in the cradles. This is a specific measure to rescue these babies

from the jaws of death and to promote the real value of girl children.

This scheme paves the way for the parents who are unwilling to take care of girl babies due to poverty, social stigma, children born with disability and due to various other reasons to voluntarily leave / place them in the cradles. The babies, received are given for In-country and Inter-country legal adoption to adoptive parents.

During the year 2001, this scheme was extended to Madurai, Theni, Dindigul and Dharmapuri districts where the practice of female infanticide was prevalent.

In the year 2011, the scheme was further extended to Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Villupuram and Thiruvannamalai districts where the Child Sex Ratio was recorded low as per the 2011 Census. Accordingly, Reception Centers were opened in the above mentioned districts. Children who are abandoned by parents are

received in the cradles placed in the Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Children Homes and Creches.

With an aim to prohibit the evil practices of female infanticide and to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio, the Government of Tamil Nadu is taking earnest efforts to make the administrative machinery more responsive in enforcing the act and punish the offenders.

5,781 children (Male 1283, Female 4498) have been saved since the inception of the scheme till March 2022.

A sum of Rs.42.46 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

2.1.2 Homes for Children with Special Need

The State Government is implementing a special scheme to give special care and protection to the children who were left out from

being adopted by prospective parents through homes run by Non Governmental Organizations.

The babies received under Cradle Baby Scheme sometimes are not adopted by parents due to various reasons, especially children with disabilities. To overcome this anomaly, the Government provides grants to the following 4 Homes run by Non Governmental Organizations to take care of these children with Special needs:

1. Sri Arunodhayam Trust, Chennai
2. Community Health Education Society (CHES), Tiruvallur
3. Premavasam, Kancheepuram
4. Families for Children, Coimbatore

At present, 135 children are taken care in these Homes. A sum of Rs.120/- per child per day is given as grant to Non-Governmental Organizations for the maintenance of the Special Need Children.

A sum of Rs.37.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

2.1.3 Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme

The future of a country hinges on ensuring gender equality so that girl children are also adequately represented, qualified and able to participate in the process of development. Gender equality means providing equal opportunities to boys and girls in education, health, economic and political aspects. Girl children are discriminated based on gender and still considered as burden in a patriarchal society. Hence, the Government is taking steps to educate, empower and uplift the girl child.

To eradicate female infanticide, to discourage the preference for male children and to promote family planning, Government

implements Girl Child Protection Scheme for the welfare of girl child.

In order to protect the rights of the girl children and to ensure education, the Government introduced the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme in the year 1992 with the direct financial investment on the girl children.

Under this scheme, the amount is deposited in the name of the girl child with the Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited. The copy of the fixed deposit receipts are given to the family of the girl children. On completion of 18 years, the amount deposited along with accrued interest will be given as maturity amount to pursue her higher education.

Aim of the Scheme

- Ensure the girl child education atleast up to 10th std level and then motivate her to pursue higher education.
- Encourage girls to get married only after the age of 18 years.
- Encourage parents to adopt family planning methods after two girl children.
- Strengthen the role of the family for improving the status of the girl child.
- Protect the rights of the girl child and provide social and financial empowerment of the girl child.

Types of Schemes

Scheme –I

An amount of Rs.50,000/- is deposited in the name of the single girl child in the form of fixed deposit with the Tamil Nadu Power Finance

and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, for a family having one girl child only. The copy of the fixed deposit receipt is given to the family of the girl child.

Scheme –II

An amount of Rs.25,000/- is deposited in the names of two girl children in the form of fixed deposits with Tamil Nadu Power Finance Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, for a family with two girl children only. The copy of the fixed deposit receipts are given to the family of the girl children.

Criteria to Benefit under the Scheme

- Family should have only one/two female children and no male child. In future, no male child should be adopted.
- Either of the parents should have undergone sterilization within 40 years of age.

- The parents should be a domicile in Tamil Nadu for a continuous period of 10 years at the time of submitting the application.
- Annual family Income should be less than Rs.72,000/-
- The application should be submitted before the child completes 3 years of age for Scheme I and before the second child completes 3 years of age for Scheme II.
- In case of birth of more than one girl child in first or second delivery, they will be benefitted under Scheme II.

Coverage of the Scheme

Under this scheme, so far, 10,46,605 beneficiaries have been registered and an amount of Rs.1705.52 crore have been deposited upto March 2022. For the year 2021-2022, an

amount of Rs.83.45 crore have been deposited benefitting 33,359 girl children.

From 2015 to March 2021, a maturity amount to the tune of Rs.76.44 crore has been disbursed to 26,561 girl children through Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited and due to continuous special effort of the Government, a maturity amount of Rs.90.18 crore has been disbursed to 30,114 girl children during the year 2021-22.

A sum of Rs.92.00 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

2.1.4 Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme for girl child which aims to generate awareness and improve the

efficiency of welfare services intended for girl children and to save them from social ills such as gender based abortions, female infanticide and advance the education of the girl children all over the nation.

The scheme was targeted and implemented at 11 districts that were recognized to have low Child Sex Ratio that is lower female children as compared to male children. This is primarily an education based initiative to help to change social attitudes and does not involve direct cash transfer to any beneficiary.

Objectives of the Scheme

- 1.To prevent gender biased sex selective elimination.
- 2.To ensure survival and protection of the girl child.
- 3.To ensure education and improve participation of the girl child.

Activities under the scheme

Considering the successful implementation of the scheme in Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu since the year 2015, where the Child Sex Ratio was below the national average, the scheme was extended to 10 more districts (Ariyalur, Dharmapuri, Namakkal, Salem, Perambalur, Villupuram, Thiruvannamalai, Thiruvallur, Tiruchirappalli and Chennai) in the year 2018. Multi-sectoral inter-departmental convergence activities stressing the importance of girl children are being done at all levels in these districts.

The scheme is being implemented in these 11 districts with financial assistance by Government of India and a sum of Rs.5.50 crore is allocated at the rate of Rs.50.00 lakh per district.

In the remaining 27 districts, the scheme is implemented through media advocacy and outreach programmes to promote birth of girl

child, to ensure safety and improve the education of girl children.

In order to create mass awareness among the public about the scheme awareness activities, training to field level functionaries by the various departmental officials, celebrating birth of girl child by giving appreciation letter, providing health kit to mothers, providing tree saplings, maintaining Guddi Gudda boards informing numbers of birth of female and male children, signature campaign, human chains, rallies, conducting drawing, essay writing competitions and prize distribution among the school and college students, installing hoardings and banners in Government office premises and public places are being done.

2.1.5 Prevention of Child Marriages

Child Marriage is a violation of human rights that confines children's future prospects by preventing them from realizing their basic right

to health and education. It minimize the economic opportunities, exposing them to violence and putting them at the risk of early and high risk pregnancies, maternal mortality and communicable diseases.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

The Government of India has enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in the year 2006. This legislation is armed with enabling provisions to prohibit child marriages, protect and to provide relief to victims and enhance punishment for those who abet, promote or solemnize such marriages. To eradicate child marriage in the State, the State of Tamil Nadu has framed and implemented the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Child Marriage Rules, 2009.

Special Features of the Act

- This Act prescribes the legal age for marriage as 21 years for males and 18 years for females.
- As per the Act, child marriage is cognizable and non-bailable offence.
- Child marriages are voidable and can be annulled.
- There is a provision for maintenance and residence to the victims of child marriages.
- Courts can issue injunction orders prohibiting solemnization of child marriages.

Punishment under the Act

- A male adult above 18 years of age, contracts a child marriage, he shall be, punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to 2 years or with fine upto Rs.1.00 lakh or with both.

- Persons whoever performs, conducts or directs or abets any child marriage shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to 2 years and with fine upto Rs.1.00 lakh.
- Any person having charge of the child, whether as parent or guardian or member of associations, who does any act to promote child marriage or permits it from being solemnized, or negligently fails to prevent it from being solemnized, including attending or participating in child marriage, shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to 2 years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend up to one lakh rupees. However, no woman shall be punishable with imprisonment.

Child Marriage Prohibition officer

The Government have designated the District Social Welfare Officers as Child Marriage Prohibition Officers under Section 17 of the Act to implement the said act effectively.

Role of Child Marriage Prohibition Officer

- (a) to prevent solemnisation of child marriages by taking such action as he may deem fit;
- (b) to collect evidence for the effective prosecution of persons contravening the provisions of this Act;
- (c) to advise either individual cases or counsel the residents of the locality generally not to indulge in promoting, helping, aiding or allowing the solemnisation of child marriages;
- (d) to create awareness of the evil which results from child marriages;

- (e) to sensitize the community on the issue of child marriages;
- (f) to furnish such periodical reports and statistics as the State Government may direct; and
- (g) to discharge such other functions and duties as may be assigned to him by the State Government.

Panchayat Level Core Committee

A Panchayat Level Core Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Panchayat President to report and prevent child marriages in rural areas with the following members:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Panchayat President | - Chairperson |
| 2. Extension officer (Social Welfare) | - Convener |
| 3. Village Administrative Officer | - Member |

4. Secretary, Panchayat Level
Federation of Self Help Groups - Member
5. Head Master / Senior Teacher
(where there is no Head Master) - Member
6. One Women Ward Member
(If more than one Women Ward
Member, the Senior most by age) - Member

Steps taken for creating awareness to prevent Child Marriages:

- Hon'ble Chief Minister has conducted Review meeting with District Collectors and Superintendents of Police from 09.03.2022 to 11.03.2022 in which agenda on "Prohibition of Child Marriages" was included and discussed in detail. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has given various directions to all District Collectors to take various preventive measures to stop all Child Marriages before they occur, by

taking integrated steps through district administration.

- Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department has conducted Regional Level Review Meetings at Salem, Madurai, Thoothukudi and Chennai with officials of Police, Social Defence, Social Welfare, ICDS, Child Help Line NGOs and supervisors and has given various instructions for taking stringent and swift steps to stop child marriages in convergence with all stake holders and to file FIR immediately in the cases of child marriages.
- To protect girl children from the evil of Child Marriages, Jingles and Short films explaining the ill effects of child marriages were produced and utilized in all training and capacity building programmes of the department.

- Various Welfare Schemes including Girl Child Protection Scheme and Marriage Assistance Schemes implemented by the State Government have been designed in such a way to benefit the girl children who have completed 18 years of age in order to prohibit child marriage and to encourage her higher education.
- Village Level Child Protection Committees have been formed with various field officials and local people which meets regularly to monitor the children related issues in the Panchayats.
- One Stop Centres are also intervening on receipt of information about child marriages. They immediately reach the spot and help to prevent the child marriage.
- Awareness programmes are being conducted regularly through Mahila Shakthi

Kendra, Government of India scheme, in blocks, villages and highly prone areas before subhamuhurtham days about the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, ill effects of Child Marriages, Child Helpline No.**1098**, etc.

- During the year 2021-2022, as a rehabilitation measure, 1015 child marriage victims have been provided 3 month vocational training @ Rs.1000/- per month per child.
- As a part of social media, an exclusive Youtube channel - "Tamil Magalir Kural" has been created by the Directorate of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment and short films educating / alerting the public about various child / woman related issues are uploaded in the public domain.
- With the support of UNICEF, 13 awareness posters about the ill-effects of child

marriages, helpline numbers, importance of girl child education were developed, printed and issued to all field functionaries for displaying/pasting on community buildings, bus stands, schools, colleges to create awareness and eradicate child marriages.

- UNICEF with the support of State Resource Centre has developed 'Illanthendral Pettagam' a package of 23 modules of training materials in regional language and 4 short films to train all the stake holders on various aspects of child marriages. With the help of these materials, district and block level officials are trained on issues like gender based violence, child marriages etc., and Standard Operating Procedures have also been developed to address these issues.

17,557 child marriages have been stopped till March 2022 in the State. During the last year

2021 alone, around 2,816 child marriages have been stopped.

2.1.6 State Awards for Girl Child Empowerment

To recognize and encourage the abilities of a girl child and to appreciate her efforts in opposing the injustice meted out against girl children, first of its kind in the country, the Government has instituted a State Level Award, to be given to a girl child, below 18 years of age, on the National Girl Child day, 24th January, every year. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs.1.00 lakh as cheque along with an Appreciation Certificate. .

The Government have also instituted awards to three best districts in recognition of their remarkable service in improving Child Sex Ratio which includes gold, silver and bronze medals and certificates. The award is being

given on Tamil Nadu State Girl Child Protection day, 24th February, every year.

2.2 Women Welfare

The Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment is implementing various programmes for the welfare and protection of women to uphold the principles of social justice, equality, self-respect and women's rights. Under the guidance of the Government of Tamil Nadu, the department has been working tirelessly on the education and social development of women, who are the equal partners of the society.

A society who gives importance to women, will transform into a well developed society. The status of women has changed due to the effective implementation of the schemes and legislations by the Government.

Moreover, as women progress in their educational development, they acquire the skills

essential to find solution to the problems as they face in the society. This leads to prevention of social crimes. Also, women are empowered to move around in the society with confidence and security.

2.2.1 Free Travel for Women in Government Buses

To ensure safe and secured travel for all women including working women and girls who are pursuing higher education, the free travel facilities have been provided in ordinary fare city buses operated under the control of the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation.

Safe travel of women paves the way for their empowerment. The free bus travel has helped women to reach the colleges and workplaces on their own, without depending others and has made a vast difference in the society. The daily expenses on transportation has been reduced and this has been a boon to

enable them to spend on their essential expenses like education, food, dress etc.

Approximately about 91.85 crore trips have been availed by the women including Working women and Girls students pursuing higher studies under this scheme.

2.2.2 Marriage Assistance Scheme

Various Marriage Assistance Schemes have been implemented through the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment for the purpose of ensuring girl child education, preventing child marriage, promoting widow remarriage and inter-caste marriages.

1. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Ammaiyar Memorial Inter-Caste Marriage Assistance Scheme

In order to abolish caste discrimination and to eliminate dowry harassment, a scheme to encourage inter-caste marriage by providing

financial assistance was launched in the year 1968 and is now being implemented.

2. Dr.Dharmambal Ammaiyar Memorial Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme

was started in the year 1975 with an intention to rehabilitate the widows as well as to encourage the remarriage of widows.

3. E.V.R Maniyammaiyar Memorial Widow's Daughter Marriage Assistance Scheme

was started in the year 1982 with an intention to help the poor widowed mothers to get their daughters married.

4. Annai Theresa Memorial Orphan Girl Marriage Assistance Scheme

was launched as a marriage assistance scheme, during the year 1985 to help for the marriage of the orphan girls.

Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme has been revamped as "Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme".

Eligibility for Benefit in Marriage Assistance Schemes: -

| Name of the Marriage assistance Scheme | Annual Income Limit | Minimum Age Limit | Educational Qualification | Time for submitting application |
|---|---------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Dr.Muthu lakshmi Reddy Memorial Inter-caste Marriage Assistance Scheme Scheme-I: SC / ST with other community. Scheme-II: Forward Community with BC/ MBC. | No Income limit | Bride - 18 yrs, Bridegroom - 21 yrs. | Minimum - Std. X pass For ST - Std. V | Within two years from the date of marriage |
| Dr.DharmambalAmmaiyar Memorial Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme | No Income limit | Bride - 20 yrs, Bridegroom - 40 yrs. (Maximum) | Nil | Within 6 months from the date of remarriage |
| E.V.R Maniyammaiyar Memorial Widow's Daughter Marriage Assistance Scheme | Rs.72,000 | Bride - 18 yrs, Bridegroom - 21 yrs. | Nil | Application should be submitted 40 days before the marriage date. In exceptional circumstances, the application can be submitted one day prior to the marriage date. |

| Name of the Marriage assistance Scheme | Annual Income Limit | Minimum Age Limit | Educational Qualification | Time for submitting application |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Annai Theresa Memorial Orphan Girl Marriage Assistance Scheme | No Income limit | Bride - 18 yrs, Bridegroom - 21 yrs. | Nil | Application should be submitted 40 days before the marriage date. In exceptional circumstances, the application can be submitted one day prior to the marriage date. |

Under the E.V.R Maniyammaiyar Memorial Widow's Daughter Marriage Assistance Scheme and Annai Theresa Ammaiyyar Memorial Orphan Girls Marriage Assistance Scheme, the beneficiaries are given 8 gram gold coin along with cash assistance of Rs.50,000/- for the graduates and diploma holders and Rs.25,000/- cash assistance for others.

Under Dr.Dharmambal Ammaiyyar Memorial Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme and Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Memorial Inter-caste Marriage Assistance Scheme, the beneficiaries

are given 8 gram gold coin along with cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- which is disbursed as Rs.15,000/- through Electronic Clearing Service (ECS) and Rs.10,000/- in the form of National Savings Certificate (NSC) to non graduates and cash assistance of Rs.50,000/- for Degree/ Diploma Holders which is disbursed as Rs.30,000/- through Electronic Clearance Service (ECS) and Rs.20,000/- as National Savings Certificate (NSC).

During the year 2021-2022, 94,700 beneficiaries are benefitted through the above marriage assistance schemes.

A sum of Rs.64.44 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

2.2.3 Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyaar Higher Education Assurance Scheme

In the changing circumstances, ensuring higher education to the girls who are belonging to economically backward classes and providing education to women are the best productive investment to develop the skills, knowledge and self confidence of women. Recognizing that the enrolment ratio of girl students from Government schools in higher education is very low, the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyaar Higher Education Assurance Scheme has been introduced. All girl students who studied from 6th standard to 12th standard in Government schools will be paid Rs.1000/- per month directly into their account, till their uninterrupted continuance of undergraduate degree, diploma and ITI courses.

The students receiving other scholarship from any other schemes are also eligible under

this new scheme. Through this scheme, approximately 6.00 lakh students are likely to be benefitted every year.

A sum of Rs. 697.78 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

2.2.4 Sathiyanimuthu Ammaiya Free Sewing Machine Scheme

Sathiyanimuthu Ammaiya Free Sewing Machine Scheme helps to improve the status of women in the Society, especially to improve the standard of living of the economically poor women, widows and deserted women to earn for their livelihood by the way of self employment.

Under this scheme, the motorized free sewing machines are provided every year by the Government. During the year 2021-2022, 2,250 beneficiaries have been benefitted at an expenditure of Rs.1.35 Crore.

A sum of Rs.1.35 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

2.2.5 Government Service Homes

Government Service Homes provides special care and protection to the destitute, deserted widows and poor women to rehabilitate their lives. Seven homes are functioning in Chengalpattu, Salem, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Sivagangai, and Krishnagiri districts. These service homes provide accommodation, food, health, training and medical facilities to the inmates. Vocational training, soft skill training, computer training and employment guidance are also provided to improve the skills of the inmates in these homes.

Government also provides financial assistance of Rs.50,000/- for pursuing Professional Courses and Rs.30,000/- for Degree/Diploma Courses to encourage the

inmates of the Service Homes who have completed +2.

All service homes are equipped with surveillance cameras to ensure the safety of the inmates. In the year 2021-2022, 564 children are benefited in these homes.

A sum of Rs.5.11 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022–2023.

2.2.6 Women Industrial Co-operative Societies

Women are also, on par with men, now marching towards progress at all levels. Various welfare schemes of the Government also plays a major role in their path towards success.

Women in the age group of 18 to 40 years living below poverty line and women without any support who are members in the Women Industrial Co-operative Societies functioning

under Social Welfare and Women Empowerment are being benefitted. The members of the Society stitch Uniforms to school children from their residence, besides attending to their household chores. This ensures their personal income and paves way to balance the financial burden along with their family heads.

Totally 125 Women Industrial Co-operative Societies are functioning under Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department. Ninety nine (99) Women Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Societies and one (1) Transgender Society are under the control of Director of Social Welfare and Twenty five (25) Weaning Food Manufacturing Women Industrial Co-operative Societies are under the control of Director cum Mission Director, Integrated Child Development Services.

The members of the Women Tailoring Co-operative Societies are engaged in stitching

of 4 sets of free uniforms to students who are benefitted under Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme, to the school children of Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare and Minority Welfare Departments. Through this, the employment for women and the reasonable income for their day-to-day expenses are ensured.

Details of Co-operative Societies and members enrolled are as follows:

| S. No. | Type of Society | No. of Co-operative Societies | No. of members |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Women Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Societies. | 84 | 80,592 |
| 2. | Women Stationery Industrial Co-operative Societies. (also engaged in Tailoring) | 15 | 4,428 |
| 3. | Weaning Food Manufacturing Women Industrial Co-operative Societies | 25 | 1,350 |
| 4. | Third Gender Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Society | 1 | 68 |
| Total | | 125 | 86,438 |

During the academic year 2021 – 2022, 38.42 lakh school children were provided with 4 sets of uniform. Stitching charges to the tune of Rs.81.68 Crore. has been allocated by School Education Department.

2.2.7 Short Stay Home (Swadhar Greh)

The Government of India has introduced “Swadhar Greh” in 2016 by merging two schemes namely, ‘Swadhar’ and ‘Short Stay Homes’. The homes which were functioning under the Directorate of Social Defence was brought under the control of Directorate of Social Welfare and is implemented.

This scheme provides shelter, food, clothing, counselling, training, medical support and legal aid to women in difficult circumstances.

The Swadhar Greh scheme (a short stay home for women) run by the Non Governmental

Organisation can accommodate 30 women per home for upto a maximum of 5 years. Women above 60 years will be shifted to old age homes. Boys till the age of 12 and girls till the age 18, reside along with their mothers in these homes.

The scheme is implemented through Non-Governmental Organisations with a sharing pattern of 60:40 between Union and State Government respectively.

A sum of Rs.5.58 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-23.

2.2.8 Mahalir Sakthi Maiyyam (Mahila Shakti Kendra-MSK)

Mahalir Sakthi Maiyyam (Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) was introduced by Government of India in the year 2017-2018 with the aim to undertake awareness programmes to empower rural women on Government schemes, skill

training, legal assistance, education, health and nutritional assistance.

The sharing pattern between Central and State Governments for this scheme is 60:40. The scheme is envisaged to work at State, District and Block levels.

2.2.8.1 State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW)

The State Resource Centre for Women is the technical body to support the implementation of women centric schemes such as One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Help Line etc, to undertake research on issues affecting women, conduct capacity building programmes, review and evaluate existing policies, programs, legislations impacting women and bring suitable recommendation to the Government at state level.

A sum of Rs.38.90 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

2.2.8.2 District, Block Level Centre for Women (DLCW/BLCW)

District Level Centres for Women acts as the bridge between State and block level and conduct awareness programmes in all villages through student volunteers, so as to extend the benefits of the government schemes to the maximum number of beneficiaries. Block level centres for women are functioning in 8 blocks each of the two aspirational districts namely Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram.

A sum of Rs.9.38 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

2.2.8.3 One Stop Centre (OSC)

One Stop Centre is being implemented to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces, within their family, community and in working places, with 100% financial assistance from Government of India. 34 One Stop Centres are functioning in 32 districts to facilitate temporary shelter, medical assistance, psycho-social support, free legal aid, police assistance and counseling services, under one roof for the women affected with gender based harassment and domestic violence. All these Centres are functioning inside the district headquarters hospitals/medical college hospital premises.

Government of India has sanctioned additional One Stop Centres for the newly created four districts namely Ranipet, Tirupathur, Kallakurichy and Tenkasi during the

year 2021-2022. Sanction of two One Stop Centres for newly created Chengalpattu and Mailaduthurai districts are awaited from the Government of India.

As on March 2022, 26,273 women are benefited through One Stop Centres. Among them, 7,371 complaints are pertaining to Domestic Violence. So far, 2,493 aggrieved women have been provided temporary shelter in One Stop Centres.

Government of India is also sanctioning construction fund to one stop Centres for own building at the rate of Rs.48.00 lakh per centre.

2.2.8.4 Women Helpline (181)

The Women Helpline has been launched with an intention to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence through nationwide similar short code toll free number-181 with 100% financial

assistance by the Government of India since November 2018. Information about women related Government Schemes and Programmers are also provided through the Women Help Line. A sum of Rs.50.53 lakhs has been sanctioned by Government of India as recurring cost for the year 2021-22.

The Women Helpline is currently functioning at Amtex Towers, SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Siruseri. The details of the calls during the year 2021-22 are as follows:

| Information seeking Calls | Other calls (Follow up Calls, test calls etc.,) | Calls given Remedy | Total calls |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 4,188 | 99,767 | 15,046 | 1,19,001 |

Department Wise Remedial Services provided through Women Helpline

| Sl. No. | Remedial Services | Number |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | One Stop Centre | 9149 |
| 2. | Police | 3106 |
| 3. | Other Dept referrals | 983 |
| 4. | Other helplines | 466 |
| 5. | Cyber crime | 363 |
| 6. | Free legal aid | 292 |
| 7. | DCPO | 241 |
| 8. | DSWO | 204 |
| 9. | Counselling | 195 |
| 10. | Mental Health Care | 47 |
| Total | | 15,046 |

2.2.8.5 Nirbhaya Fund

Nirbhaya Fund was set up in the year 2016 by Ministry of Home affairs with an aim to provide safe environment for women. It is implemented in 8 cities, including Chennai, in the country, to implement projects for safety of women. Government of India sanctioned a sum of Rs.425.06 crore to implement 12 projects through 4 departments viz., Greater Chennai Police, Greater Chennai Corporation, Metropolitan Transport Corporation and Social Welfare Department. It is being implemented in the sharing pattern 60:40 between Central and State Governments from the year 2018-19 by allocating and utilizing funds by the departments.

The Government of India sanctioned Rs.12.96 crore under Nirbhaya Fund to this Department for strengthening Women Helpline and a sum of Rs.9.72 crore has been received till

the year 2021-2022. Private System integrator has been engaged to upgrade and operate the Women Helpline 181 for 24 hours with additional staff for 3 years.

The exclusive website has been created for Women Helpline and it is enabled to provide services like information sharing, necessary legal aid, counselling, Police help and medical assistance through Teleconferencing to women in distress.

2.2.8.6 Social Legislations for Women

To ensure the safety and protection of women and their rights, the Department implements various Social Legislations like:

1. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and its rules 2004.
2. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence, Act 2005 and its Rules, 2006.

3. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

4. Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act, 2014 and Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Rules, 2015.

2.2.8.7 Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

The Domestic Violence Act, 2005 provides protection to a women to 'live in violence free home'. This Act ensures the women's right to reside in her matrimonial home, custody of her children and maintenance.

Special Features of this Act:

- Cases can be filed under Prevention of Women from Domestic Violence Act,2005 in addition or even if other cases and

legal proceedings are pending between parties.

- Multiple Judgments can be obtained in a single case under this Act.
- Relief can be obtained for verbal and emotional violence also.
- Both petitioner and respondent can prefer Appeal to the court of sessions within 30 days from the date on which the order is made.

Protection Officers and Service Providers

A Protection officer has been appointed in each District Social Welfare Office. This Protection Officer help the aggrieved women to file the Domestic Incidence Report and get legal redressals. The NGOs act as service providers who are notified under Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

Cases reported under Domestic Violence Act 2005

| S. No. | Description | 2008 - 2021 |
|---------------|---|--------------------|
| 1. | Cases Reported | 61,303 |
| 2. | No. of cases filed in the Court | 23,805 |
| 3. | No. of cases disposed by Protection Officer | 36,436 |
| 4. | No. of cases enquiry under progress | 1,062 |

2.2.8.8 Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

- The Dowry Prohibition Act was passed in 1961 and the Tamil Nadu Dowry Prohibition Rules were framed in 2004.
- The Act has been amended in 1989 and is being implemented by the District Social Welfare Officers who are designated as the **Dowry Prohibition Officers** as per Section 8B of the Dowry Prohibition Rules, 2004.

- The Police Department/Court files the dowry case after obtaining genuineness report from the District Social Welfare Officers.
- **Dowry Prohibition Day is observed on 26th November**, every year.

Cases reported under Dowry Prohibition Act

| S. No. | Description | 2006 - 2021 |
|---------------|--|--------------------|
| 1. | No. of cases reported at DSWO | 14,447 |
| 2. | No. of cases counseling done and solved amicably | 11,331 |
| 3. | No. of cases reported to Police prosecution | 2,438 |
| 4. | No. of cases enquiry in progress by DSWO | 678 |

2.2.8.9 Government Working Women Hostels

In the present scenario, women who are coming out of their family to any place to work and also to support their family income

require a safe and affordable accommodations. To fulfill the need of these women, the Government is running 28 Working Women Hostels in 18 Districts throughout the State.

2.2.8.10 TamilNadu Working Women Hostels Corporation Limited.

As per the Company Act, 2013, Tamil Nadu Working Women Hostels Corporation Limited, as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), has been established in 2018-19 to undertake required Infrastructure Development, Management and Maintenance of certain projects such as Working Women Hostels, crèches, senior citizen Homes, child care institutions with modern facilities funding from the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation Ltd (TNIFMC). The Directorate of Social Welfare is the Nodal agency for implementation of this project. The object of this project is to develop, redevelop,

design, construct, renovate, refurbish hostel buildings.

2.2.8.11 TamilNadu State Policy for Women

Tamil Nadu has the second largest state economy in the country and the poverty level is lower than many of the States in the country. In order to improve the effective participation of women in the state's work force and to achieve sustainable growth rate, a new policy for women was proposed and announcement was made by the Government.

The frame work of the policy is to improve women's safety and security, Women's employment and economic empowerment. Various consultative meeting at regional levels were held in which international agencies like UN women, World bank, UNICEF and Stake holders like eminent scholars, women activists, general working women participated.

The policy will focus on the principles of social justice, equality, self respect, integration, equal access to opportunities, resources and support for women's rights. Social, economic and political wellbeing will be the cornerstones of this policy.

2.3 Senior Citizen Welfare

'Senior Citizen' means any person, who has attained the age of sixty years or above. Everyone deserves a life full of joy/comfort and overall well being including the senior citizen. Senior Citizens are a treasure of knowledge and experience for the youngsters.

The increase in human life expectancy over the years due to scientific and medical advancement has resulted in a very substantial increase in the geriatric population. India's elder population will dramatically increase over the next four decades. The elder population of Tamil

Nadu is projected to increase to 18.20% in 2031 according to the report 'Elderly in India 2021' released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India. This booming in geriatric population pose a big challenge to the Government to provide a conducive and protective environment for the senior citizens to lead a decent and peaceful life. Considering these challenges and to fulfill the social and constitutional obligations of the State and to uphold the principles of Social Justice and Human Rights to ensure an enabling environment for senior citizens, the Government have formulated the draft Tamil Nadu State Policy on Senior Citizens, 2022 on the basis of the various consultative meetings held with the stake holders, NGOs, CBOs etc who are working for senior citizens, Geriatric Specialists, volunteers and senior citizens, and Social Activists. The draft policy was uploaded in the Government portal and the public opinion was

received. As the elderly care is being looked after by the various line departments, the draft policy was circulated to the line departments for their valuable inputs, comments and suggestions.

As we are living in the era of rights, the Government is fully committed not only to protect their rights but also to provide a conducive safe environment for the senior citizens to lead a peaceful life. Towards this directions, the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment not only caters to the needs of the destitute senior citizens by providing food, clothing, shelter and medical support through various institutional care services such as Old Age Homes, Integrated Complexes for Senior Citizens and Destitute Children and Integrated programmes for senior citizens and other non-institutional care services, but also fulfils it mandatory obligations

stipulated in the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

2.3.1 The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 provide a statutory protection for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens. The State Government has framed Rules under this Act and notified the same on 31.12.2009.

It is the duty of the children and the legal heirs to take care of Parents and Senior Citizens. The act addresses the issues related to the physical health, mental health and property of the Senior Citizens for which they can get relief through the maintenance tribunals.

Salient features of the Act:

A senior citizen or a parent who is unable to maintain himself from his own earnings or out of the property owned by him is entitled to make an application to obtain maintenance amount from his children / legal heirs as follows:

- This Act includes senior citizens and biological, adoptive, step father, step mother as parents
- Any senior citizen who is aggrieved for not being maintained by their children/legal heirs can file a petition before the Maintenance Tribunal constituted under this Act for receiving a maintenance allowance upto a maximum of Rs.10,000/-
- A petition filed under this Act for maintenance allowance shall be disposed off within 90 days.

- If the persons responsible for the care and protection of senior citizens abandon them, such persons shall be punished with imprisonment for three months or fine up to Rs.5,000/- or with both.
- If any senior citizen who after the commencement of this act has transferred by way of gift his property to his children or legal heirs, subject to the condition that the transferee shall look after them and such transferee fails to do so then the parent or a senior citizen shall give a petition to cancel the gift deed.

2.3.2 Grievance Redressal Mechanism under the Act

Maintenance Tribunal

The Government under section 7 of the Act have constituted Maintenance Tribunal by appointing Revenue Divisional Officers for the

purpose of adjudicating, deciding and appointing order for maintenance under sec 5 of the Act. There are 94 such Tribunals functioning in the State. This Tribunal has all the powers of a Civil Court.

Conciliation Officer

The State Government have notified the District Social Officer as Conciliation Officer. However, if an aggrieved elder and the opposite party agree to compromise, then the tribunal shall refer the case to a Conciliation Officer or appoint such person acceptable to both parties by forwarding the related documents to work out a settlement acceptable to both parties within a period not exceeding one month.

Maintenance Officer

The Government have designated the District Social Welfare Officer as Maintenance Officer under section 18(1) of the Act who shall

represent a parent if desires so, during the proceedings of the Tribunal or Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be.

Appellate Tribunal

The State Government have constituted Appellate Tribunal by appointing District Collector who will hear the appeal against the order of the Maintenance Tribunal.

An appeal can be made within 60 days against the orders of the Tribunal. However, the Appellate Tribunal may entertain the petition if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal in time.

2.3.3 State and District Committee for the welfare of Senior Citizens.

In order to advise and supervise the effective implementation of the Maintenance and welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007,

the Government have constituted a High Level Advisory Committee namely State Counsel for Senior Citizen under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary at the State level and District Committee under the Chairmanship of District Collector concerned.

2.3.4 Old Age Homes run by the NGO's with the State Grants

To safeguard the life of destitute elders above 60 years of age who are abandoned by their families, the State Government is providing maintenance grant for the Old Age Homes run by the Non Governmental Organisations. Food, shelter, clothing, health care and recreational facilities etc are provided in these homes. In each home 40 inmates can be accommodated and Rs. 1,200/- as feeding grants per month per person is sanctioned.

During the financial year 2021-2022, 711 elders were benefitted from 21 old age homes. A

sum of Rs.102.01 lakh was incurred as expenditure. The sharing pattern of grants for the scheme is 5:1 between State and NGO.

A sum of Rs.1.17 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-23.

2.3.5 Integrated Complexes of Special Homes for Senior Citizens and Destitute Children

Integrated Complex of Special Homes for Senior Citizens and Destitute Children was set up in 2011-2012 through NGO's in the State where they can share love and affection with each other. These Integrated Complexes are run by the non-governmental organisations with the financial support from the State Government. In each Integrated Complexes 25 elders and 25 children are accommodated. In Tamil Nadu for the financial year 2021-2022, 43 Integrated Complexes were provided grants in which 959

children and 989 Senior citizens were benefitted. A sum of Rs. 590.47 lakh was incurred as expenditure. The grants are given in the ratio 75:25 between the State and the Non Governmental Organisations.

A sum of Rs.6.44 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-23.

2.3.6 Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC)

At present the beautiful family structure of the joint family has been disrupted by various social and economic factors and a separate family trend has developed. Such a trend puts senior citizens in a lonely environment. This leads to lack of emotional, physical and financial support to the Senior Citizens. To improve the quality of life of the Senior Citizens, Union Government is providing basic amenities like food, shelter, medical care and entertainment

opportunities and thereby encouraging productive and active ageing through Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens since the year 2016-2017.

The Union Government is providing grant in aid directly to 66 Old Age Homes run by Non Governmental Organisations at a ratio of 90:10. This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. Through these homes, the lives of homeless destitute elders who are 60 years and above and abandoned by their families are protected by providing food, clothing, shelter, medical support and recreational activities. Under this scheme, 3 Mobile Medicare Units, 2 Continuous Care Home, one Physiotherapy Clinic and Regional Resource Centre projects are also implemented. For the year 2021-2022, 72 projects with a budget of Rs.13.58 crore have

been recommended for grants in which 3,048 elders are benefitted by this scheme.

2.3.7 Elders Abuse Awareness Day

United Nations General Assembly has declared 15th June as World Elders Abuse Awareness Day. This day is being observed by the State through various activities to create awareness about to protect and support the senior citizens. On this day, the school/college students and Government servants are encouraged to take oath against elders' abuse.

A sum of Rs. 3.92 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-23.

2.3.8 International Day of Older Persons

The International Day of Older Persons is celebrated on the 1st day of October every year at State and District level in Tamil Nadu as per

the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly on 14th December 1990 to mark as a respect for elderly and to value their services to the society.

During this year greater awareness programmes were done by disseminating the elder's help line numbers '14567' and salient features of Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 through panel boards in metro trains in Chennai and in districts celebrations were conducted by honouring the elders.

A sum of Rs.5.23 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-23.

2.3.9 Senior Citizen Helpline 14567

A unique senior citizen helpline number '14567' was launched by the Union Government throughout India, since 28.04.2021 in

co-ordination with the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department to provide support to the senior citizens from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on all days. The Union Government provides 100 percent financial assistance to the implementing agency which runs the helpline. A sum of Rs.1.67 crore has been sanctioned for the year 2021-2022.

The senior citizen helpline '14567' is a toll free phone number for senior citizens who are provided with the following services:-

- Rescue services
- Information on Old Age Homes
- Information on senior citizen welfare schemes
- Psycho Social Counselling
- Legal guidance on the provision of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

Help Line Call Details:-

| Month | Actionable Calls | Non Actionable Calls | Total |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| May (From 17 th May, 2021) | 595 | 620 | 1,215 |
| June -21 | 4,952 | 5,572 | 10,524 |
| July-21 | 1,212 | 3,882 | 5,094 |
| August-21 | 529 | 2,177 | 2,706 |
| September-21 | 820 | 4,021 | 4,841 |
| October-21 | 671 | 4,214 | 4,885 |
| November-21 | 582 | 3,176 | 3,758 |
| December-21 | 352 | 2,493 | 2,845 |
| January-22 | 610 | 2,249 | 2,859 |
| February-22 | 358 | 1,946 | 2,304 |
| March-22 | 375 | 2,375 | 2,750 |
| Total | 11,056 | 32,725 | 43,781 |

Out of 43,781 calls received upto March, 2022, 11,056 calls are actionable (received from elders) and 32,725 calls are non - actionable (call drops, nuisance calls, calls that are out of the services offered and calls by non elderly).

2.3.10 National Action Plan for Senior Citizens

To ensure the welfare of Senior Citizens, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India has formulated National Action Plan for Senior Citizen for the years 2019 - 2025. This Action Plan has been formulated on the basis of the National Policy for Senior Citizens and Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. To fulfil the preferential need of Senior Citizens, the following 10 components has been included in the Action Plan:-

- i) Financial Security
- ii) Health Care and Nutrition
- iii) Shelter and Welfare
- iv) Protection of life and property of Senior Citizens
- v) Active and Productive Ageing with Intergenerational Bonding and State Development

- vi) Accessibility, Transport and Age friendly environment.
- vii) Awareness Generation and Capacity Building.
- viii) Promoting Silver Economy Senior friendly industrial goods and services in the society.
- ix) Research and Study.
- x) Project Management

A sum of Rs.1,18,00,000/- has been sanctioned to the State Action Plan for Senior Citizens for the following projects:-

| S. No. | Projects | Allotment (Rs.) |
|---------------|--|------------------------|
| 1. | Creation of database of Senior Citizens | 25,00,000 |
| 2. | Mobile App for Senior Citizens | 15,00,000 |
| 3. | Awareness Generation Programme for Senior Citizens | 33,00,000 |
| 4. | Capacity Building | 15,00,000 |
| 5. | Mobile Medicare Unit | 30,00,000 |
| | Total | 1,18,00,000 |

2.3.11 Tamil Nadu State Policy for Senior Citizens, 2022

The Government of Tamil Nadu laying emphasis on the rights of the senior citizens to live with dignity and security and to be free from exploitation and mental and physical abuse had announced to formulate the Tamil Nadu State Policy for Senior Citizens during the last year. A series of meetings, workshops and consultations have been conducted in technical partners with Helpage India, J-Pal South Asia, Tamil Nadu Senior Citizen Support Forums, Tamil Nadu Dr.MGR Medical University, Madras School of Social Work. After various deliberations in the consultative meetings a draft policy on the Tamil Nadu State Policy on Senior Citizens,2022 is drawn and published in the website for getting the comments from the general public and others. The suggestions/Comments received have been considered and incorporated in the draft policy. As the elderly care is being

looked after by the various line departments viz. Health, Home, Transport, Revenue etc., the draft policy was circulated to the line departments for their valuable inputs, comments and suggestions. On receipt of the same the draft policy will be finalized and published.

To improve the quality of life of the senior citizens the policy focuses on the areas concerning Health and nutrition, Social Security Schemes, Livelihood / Income Security, Housing and Environment, Safety and Security, Institutional Care, Awareness and Education, Research and Documentation, Disaster Management and Mitigation and need for creation of the separate Directorate for the Senior Citizens.

2.4 TRANSGENDER WELFARE

The Government of Tamil Nadu consider Transgender are also a part of the society.

Tamil Nadu, as the pioneer State in India, formed the "Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board" on 15-4-2008. To ensure their welfare, social security, social recognition and to enhance their quality of life various welfare schemes are being implemented.

In order to improve the welfare of transgender, a "Thirunangaigal" mobile app was developed to register their self details and make it easier to get their identity card.

Transgender people can avail the following benefits:

- Identity Card
- Family Card
- Housing Patta
- Residential Homes
- Tailoring Machine
- Higher Education Scholarships
- Creation of Self Help Groups

- Self employment grant amount of Rs.50,000/- is provided to improve the livelihood of Transgender.

Under the Transgender pension scheme, a monthly pension of Rs.1000/- is provided to support the Transgender who are above 40 years of age and 1071 Transgenders are benefitted during the year 2021-2022.

“A State level Award for the Thirunangaiyar”, with Rs.1.00 lakh cheque has been instituted from the year 2020 to encourage a Transgender who has done eminent work for the welfare of Transgender and who has built their career on their own efforts. The award will be felicitated on **“Thirunangaiyar Day”** which falls on 15th April of every year.

Free bus travel on Government run white board buses has been introduced to the transgender to ensure their safe travel and

approximately about 5.27 lakh trips have been availed by the Transgender.

Under the Transgender Self-Employment scheme, 141 Transgender have been benefitted in the first phase, with an amount of Rs.72.55 lakh.

To improve the livelihood and employment opportunities for Transgender, 20 Transgender have been imparted skill training by Anna Institute of Management, Chennai.

A sum of Rs 6.19 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022–2023.

2.5 Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women is a statutory body which was constituted in 2008 to deal with the cases

relating to crimes against women and to safeguard their rights.

The Commission is empowered to investigate specific problems of women and take action to provide speedy relief to the petitioners. The Commission has also undertakes studies related to women issues and makes recommendations to the Government. The Commission also ensures the implementation of various women related Social Legislations such as the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and the Sexual Harrassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013.

The Commission conducts various programmes like Walkathon, Rallies, Legal Awareness Programmes at State and district

levels with the assistance of National Commission for Women.

A sum of Rs.102.81 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

2.6 Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board

The Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board, constituted in 1954 and it has been working for the development of women and children comes under below poverty line through Voluntary Institutions. It monitors the effective implementation of the Programmes aided by Central Social Welfare Board and State Government.

The Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board supports the Non Governmental Organisations to provide services like education, training, awareness creation and family counseling to women.

A sum of Rs.113.49 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

2.6.1 Family Counseling Centre (State Grant)

The main objective of Family Counseling Centres is to give counseling to the couples and members of the family to preserve the basic social fabric from the breaking of family and to help in creating harmony in the family. The needy can approach these centres to redress their problems.

The women, children and family members especially who are victims of domestic violence are provided counselling, referral and rehabilitative services through concerned departments with the help of two qualified counselors in each Family Counselling Centre.

It also helps women, who approach the centre to redress their grievances relating to dowry harassment, cases of alcoholism and counseling to AIDS victims by giving suitable and appropriate guidance.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is assisting 5 Family Counseling Centres in Chennai, Thiruvavur, Villupuram, Theni and Sivagangai Districts run by Non-Governmental Organisations, with a financial assistance of Rs.1,80,000/- each disbursed through the Tamil Nadu Social welfare Board.

A sum of Rs.10.06 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

2.6.2 Family Counselling Centre (Union Grant)

Family Counselling Centre has been started in the State with Government of India grant

from 1984. At present, 56 Family Counselling Centres are functioning in the State. Out of which 2 are functioning at Central Women Prison in Vellore and Puzhal in Chennai and 3 Family Counselling Centres are functioning in All Women Police Stations at Police Commissioner's Office, Thousand Lights Police Station and Flower Bazaar Police Station in Chennai. The remaining 51 Counselling Centres are functioning in the State Government's Office premises like, Collectorate Campus, DSWO, AWPS, and Panchayat Union Office from 2018-2019. Two counsellors are appointed in each family counselling centre.

During the year 2020-2021, a sum of Rs.182.40 lakh was sanctioned to Family Counselling Centres benefitting 66,424 persons.

2.7 State Awards

2.7.1 Avvaiyar Award

The Avvaiyar Award is given to one eminent woman who has rendered excellent service in any one field such as Social Reform, Women Development, Communal harmony, Service for Language, Service in various disciplines in Art, Science, Culture, Press, Administration, etc., on the International Women's Day which is being celebrated on March 8th, every year. The recipient of the Avvaiyar Award is honoured with a Gold Medal weighing 8 grams, cash award of Rs.1.00 lakh as Cheque, a Shawl, and a Citation.

2.7.2 Best Institution and Best Social Worker Award for serving Women

In order to encourage the best services done by the institutions and individuals for the welfare of women, this award being given in every year on Independence Day. Best Social Worker award consists of Gold Medal weighing

10 grams, a Shawl and a Citation and Best Institution award consists of Rs.50,000 cash in addition to a shawl and Gold Medal.

CHAPTER-3

PURATCHI THALAIVAR M.G.R. NUTRITIOUS MEAL PROGRAMME

3.1. Mid Day Meal Scheme:

Education is a key which opens one's mind. Education along with Nutrition lays the foundation for over all development of children. The Mid Day Meal scheme was introduced as a flagship programme in all Government Elementary school to cater the Nutritional needs of the school going children. The Nutritious Meal Programme not only motivates the children to attend school regularly but also enable them to study without class room hunger besides improving the health and education of the children. Also providing nutrition to the children who are the future citizen of India. The history of the programme clearly depicts that the provision of required proportionate nutritious food eliminates malnutrition among the children

in the long term and thereby ensures human development.

The Noon Meal Programme was introduced in all districts of TamilNadu by Former Chief Minister Thiru.K.Kamarajar in the year 1962. The Nutritious Meal Programme was launched in the year 1982. To ensure the required nutrition to the children, the scheme was fine tuned by former Chief Minister Dr.Kalaignar M.Karunanithi by introducing eggs in Noon Meal Programme in the year 1989.

3.2 Aim and objective of the Programme

- To motivate the children to attend school regularly.
- To maximize enrolment and reduce school dropout rates.
- To universalize primary education.
- To Improve the Nutritional status of children and to increase the Literacy rate.

- To develop the economic status of women by providing more employment opportunities to women in nutritious meal scheme.

3.3 Prominent Features of the Scheme

- i. Primary School children studying in 1st to 5th standard and Upper Primary and High School children studying in 6th to 10th standard are provided with hot nutritious variety meals along with masala eggs for 220 working days in a year.
- ii. Under National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Special Schools in 15 Districts, the enrolled children are also supplied with hot nutritious variety meals along with masala eggs for 312 days in a year.
- iii. Food Entitlement Norms for Primary school children (1st to 5th standard) rice at the rate of 100 gm and for Upper Primary and High School

(6th to 10th standard) at the rate of 150gm per child per day are being followed.

3.4 Evolutionary Growth

| Year | Growth of Nutritious Meal Programme |
|------|--|
| 1925 | Started in Chennai Corporation |
| 1962 | Started Mid Day Meal Programme all over Tamil Nadu. |
| 1982 | Started Nutritious Meal Programme for the poor children from 5+to 9+ years. |
| 1984 | Extended the Nutritious Meal Programme to 6 th standard to 10 th standard children |
| 1989 | Introduced one Egg fortnightly to all children. |
| 1997 | Introduction of sweet pongal to the Nutritious Meal Beneficiaries on the Birthdays of eminent leaders. |
| 1998 | Introduced one Egg per week for the children in the age group of 2 to 14 years. |
| 2006 | Introduced two Eggs per week for the children in the age group of 2 to 15 years. |

| Year | Growth of Nutritious Meal Programme |
|------|--|
| 2007 | Introduced three Eggs per week for the children in the age group of 2 to 15 years. |
| 2010 | Introduced Eggs on all working days (5 days per week) for students studying from 1 st standard to 10 th standard |
| 2014 | Introduced Variety Meal with Masala Eggs. |

3.5 Beneficiaries 2022 – 2023

| S. No. | Stage | No. of Nutritious Meal Centres | No. of Beneficiaries |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Primary (1 st to 5 th Standard) | 26,909 | 24,25,031 |
| 2 | Upper Primary (6 th to 8 th Standard) | 16,116 | 15,51,225 |
| 3 | 9 th & 10 th Standard | | 6,90,705 |
| 4 | NCLP | 164 | 3497 |
| Total | | 43,190 | 46,70,458 |

3.6 Variety Menu of Nutritious Meal Programme

Variety Menu such as Vegetable Briyani, Sambar Sadham, Mixed Meal Maker with vegetable rice etc., with five kinds of egg masala has been provided long back from the year 2014.

Dry ration such as rice, dhal, along with eggs have been provided to the children during the closure of schools due to Covid-19. It has been decided to assess the Body Mass Index (BMI) of all nutritious meal beneficiaries to ascertain their nutritional status in convergence with school education department, and the work is in progress.

Additional Nutrition

- i. 20 gram of Black Bengal Gram / Green Gram is provided once in a week to each child.

- ii. 20 gram of Potato is provided weekly once.
- iii. "A" Agmark Graded egg weighing 46 gram to 52 gram is provided on all school working days.
- iv. Banana (100 gram) is provided to non-egg eating children.
- v. Double Fortified Salt with "Iodine" and "Iron" are used for cooking.
- vi. Double fortified oil with vitamin "A" and "D" is being used daily in the Nutritious Meal Programme.

Nutritional Norms per child per Day under Mid day Meal Scheme:

| S. No. | Stage | GOI Norms | | State Govt. Provision | |
|--------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | | Calories (In Kcl) | Protein (In gm) | Calories (In Kcl) | Protein (In gm) |
| 1. | Primary | 450 | 12 | 557.00 | 18.92 |
| 2. | Upper Primary | 700 | 20 | 735.00 | 22.77 |
| 3. | IX & X | --- | --- | 735.00 | 22.77 |

3.7. National Mid Day Meal Scheme

The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (*NP - NSPE*) was started by Government of India on 15th August 1995 and implemented from 1997-1998 and then extended it to Upper Primary from October 2007. The Government of India, Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy has conveyed the approval of centrally Sponsored Scheme "**Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM - POSHAN)**" for providing hot cooked meal in Government and Government aided school.

Under the scheme, the Expenditure towards the components of Cooking Cost and Honorarium to Cook-cum helper at a fixed norm is shared by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 60:40. Cost of Food Grains (rice), transportation of Food Grains and Management, Monitoring and Evaluation [MME] are 100%

funded by Government of India. The Expenditure on providing Nutritious Meal to the High School students (IX & X standard) is fully meet out from the State Government Fund.

3.8 Cooking cost

(Per Child per Day Cost in Rs.)

| Class | MDM Norms (60:40) | Centre (60%) | State (40%) | Additional State Contribution | Total |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Primary (1 st to 5 th Standard) | 4.97 | 2.98 | 1.99 | 3.57 | 8.54 |
| Upper Primary (6 th to 8 th Standard) | 7.45 | 4.47 | 2.98 | 1.20 | 8.65 |
| 9 th & 10 th Standard | 100% State Government Contribution | | | | 10.26 |

3.9 Management of Food Grains

The Food commodities namely Rice, Dhal, Fortified Cooking Oil, Fortified Salt, Black Bengal Gram and Green Gram are supplied by TamilNadu Civil Supplies Corporation. For the procurement of Vegetables & Condiments,

advance amount is provided once in three months.

Agmark 'A' grade Egg weighing between 46 gram to 52 gram is supplied by the selected tenderer twice in a week to the Nutritious Meal Centres. To prevent pilferages, a seal with prescribed colours is affixed on the eggs.

3.10 Infrastructural facilities of Nutritious Meal Centres

Kitchen cum stores are constructed for cooking the Nutritious Meal and to store the food commodities safely. Further in the financial year 2021- 2022 for the construction of 1,291 Kitchen cum stores [KCS] an amount of Rs 69 crore has been sanctioned and the works are in progress. As a part of modernization of NMP centres, Gas connections and sufficient kitchen devices are provided.

3.11 Monitoring Mechanism of Nutritious Meal Centres

- Three tier monitoring system is ensured (State / District / Block).
- As per the prescribed menu and operative procedures, NMP functionaries at field level monitor the quality and quantity of food.
- Before serving the Nutritious Meal, the taste of the food is checked by the Head Masters and Teachers at school level.
- TamilNadu is the pioneer State for the certification for the Nutritious Meal centres under ISO 9001-2015. So far, action has been taken for the provision of certification under International Organization for Standardization [ISO] for 100 Nutritious Meal Centres.
- TamilNadu is the only State registered all Nutritious Meal Centres under Food Safety

and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Act and being renewed every year.

- The accounts of Nutritious Meal Programme Centres are placed in Special Grama Sabha conducted in Village Panchayats.
- The conduct of Social Audit has also been commenced.

3.12 Grievance Redressal Mechanism

To ensure transparency, the public can make a complaint or give suggestion regarding implementation of Nutritious Meal Programme to the Directorate of Social Welfare & Women Empowerment through

Toll Free number: **1800-425-8971.**

Online Complaint <http://www.middaymeal.tn.gov.in>

On receipt of complaints / suggestions if any, necessary remedial measures will be taken within a maximum span of 30 days.

3.13. Supply of Hygiene kit to Nutritious Meal Centre

In order to cook the meals hygienically, Hygiene Kits have been provided to 25,000 Nutritious Meal Centres in the year 2021-2022 at the rate of Rs.650/- per centre with 2 Aprons, 1 Head Cap, 1 Nail Cutter, 5 Hand Towels, 6 Antiseptic Soaps at a total cost of Rs.1.62 Crore.

3.14 Capacity Building and Training

- One day orientation training programme on Food Safety by the FSSAI by virtual mode was conducted for the Personal Assistants to District Collectors, who are in charge of Nutritious Meal Programme in the districts and Additional Education Officer - Greater Chennai Corporation.
- Food Safety Training and Certification [FoSTaC] training were imparted to Nutritious Meal organizers.

- Capacity building training to Nutritious Meal Organisers is organized at Anna Institute of Management in a phased manner.

3.15 Awards for Frontline Workers

- Cooking competition for Cooks and Cook Assistants are conducted in each district and the winners are awarded with a cash prize of Rs.5000/- along with a certificate by the District Collector.
- Best performing Nutritious Meal Organiser is selected from each district and awarded with Rs.5000/- cash prize along with certificate by the District Collector.

3.16 Health check up for beneficiaries

- Health camps are being organized in all schools in convergence with Health and Family Welfare Department.

- Apart from regular health checkup, tests are being done for anaemia, eye and dental checkup.
- Iron and folic acid tablets and deworming tablets are distributed to school children. Health cards are maintained for each beneficiary in convergence with Health Department.

3.17 Benefits provided to Nutritious Meal Employees

- Tamil Nadu is the First State in India in providing the Special Time Scale of pay along with additional benefits to the Nutritious Meal Employees.
- Each Nutritious Meal Centre has been provided with three sanctioned posts viz, Nutritious Meal Organizer, Cook and Cook Assistant.

- For Nutritious Meal centres with beneficiaries exceeding 500, one additional Cook is appointed.

As per the Government of India norms, an Honorarium of Rs.1000/-per month is allowed for a Nutritious Meal Employee for 10 months under the sharing pattern of 60:40 between GOI and State Government. Whereas considering the best interest of these employees, the State Government provides the following Special Time Scale of Pay exclusively from the State fund.

The Special Time Scale of Pay given to Nutritious Meal Employees are as follows:

| Post [NME] | Pay scale (Rs.) |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Organizer | 7,700 – 24,200 |
| Cook | 4,100 – 12,500 |
| Cook Assistant | 3,000 – 9,000 |

Additional Benefits provided to Nutritious Meal Employees

The other additional benefits such as House rent allowance, City compensatory allowance, Medical allowance, Hill allowance, Adhoc bonus for Pongal, Festival advance, Causal leave, Maternity leave, Appointment as Rural Welfare Officers / Office Assistants, Grant of lumpsum amount, Special Monthly pension, Special Provident Fund, Compassionate ground appointment are also provided. In addition to the above, the retirement age on superannuation has also been enhanced.

3.18 Special Initiatives in Nutritious Meal Programme

- Fortified Rice with 9 Nutrient Contents (Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc) has been provided to all Nutritious Meal and Anganwadi Centres in five Districts namely, Dharmapuri,

Madurai, Thanjavur, Thoothukkudi and the Nilgiris on pilot basis from November 2019 under Tamil Nadu Innovative Initiatives and a Pilot Project of Fortified rice with three nutrients (*Iron, Folic and Vitamin B12*) has also been implemented in Trichy district since 01.10.2020.

- As per the direction of Government of India, Fortified Rice is being distributed from 01.10.2021 onwards throughout the State.
- Body Mass Index [BMI] – it has been proposed to assess the BMI of 46,70,458 children availing Nutritious Meal, in 43,190 Nutritious Meal Centres in Government/Government Aided Schools in convergence with School Education department. A sum of Rs. 2.00 crore has been sanctioned for implementing the programme and the survey works are under progress.

- The process of installation of water purifier in 1000 Nutritious Meal Centres identified with sufficient water pipeline has been initiated at a total expenditure of Rs.80.00 lakh.

3.19. Social Audit

- During 2021-2022, Social Audit has been completed by the Social Audit Society of Tamil Nadu (SASTA) in 5 Nutritious Meal Centres in 5 districts in the month of November-2021.
- Conduct of Social Audit in 95 centres covering all the districts is under process.
- Planned for taking up Social Audit in another 200 centres subsequently during 2022 -2023.

3.20 Setting up of School Nutrition Gardens

- In order to address the issue of malnutrition and micro nutrient deficiencies among the children, School Nutrition Gardens [SNG] have been set up for providing nutritional meals with freshly grown vegetables and greens.
- To give children firsthand experience with nature and gardening.
- To enhance the knowledge of children regarding nutritional values of vegetables and harmful effects of junk food.

A sum of Rs. 2076.88 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

CHAPTER-4 INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme is a popular flagship programme of the government. Launched in 1975, it is one of the world's largest programme providing an integrated package of services for the holistic development of the child.

4.2 Objectives

- To improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
- To lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;

- To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- To achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- To enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

4.3 Beneficiaries

- Children in the age group of 0-6 years
- Pregnant women
- Lactating mothers
- 11-14 years adolescent girls (out of school)

4.4 Services under ICDS

The ICDS Scheme offers a package of six services, viz.

- Supplementary Nutrition
- Pre-school non-formal education
- Nutrition & health education
- Immunization
- Health check-up and
- Referral services

Three of the six services viz. immunization, health check-up and referral services are related to health and are provided through National Health Mission. The other three services are offered at Anganwadi Centres through Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) at grassroot level.

4.5 The delivery of services to the ICDS beneficiaries:

| Services | Target Group | Service provided by |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| (i) Supplementary Nutrition | Children below 6 years, Pregnant & Lactating Mothers (P&LM) & Adolescent Girls | Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helper |
| (ii) Immunization | Children below 6 years, Pregnant & Lactating Mothers (P&LM) | Auxiliary Nurse Midwives /Medical Officer |
| (iii) Health Check-up | Children below 6 years, Pregnant & Lactating Mothers (P&LM) | Auxiliary Nurse Midwives /Medical Officer/ Anganwadi Worker |

| Services | Target Group | Service provided by |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| (iv) Referral Services | Children below 6 years, Pregnant & Lactating Mothers (P&LM) | Auxiliary Nurse Midwives /Medical Officer/ Anganwadi Worker |
| v) Pre-School Education | Children 2-6 years | Anganwadi Worker |
| (vi) Nutrition & Health Education | Women (15-45 years) | Child Development Project Officer/Supervisor/Anganwadi Worker/ Auxiliary Nurse Midwives /Medical Officer |

4.6 Operational Status

In Tamil Nadu, the Department of ICDS is operational with 54,439 Anganwadi centres of

which 49,499 are main centres and 4,940 are mini centres.

The Government of India has suggested to convert the mini anganwadi centre which have Children strength 25 and above as Main centre. Action is being initiated by the Department to list out such anganwadi centres.

4.7 Population Norms for Setting up of AWCs/Mini-AWCs

- There will be one Anganwadi centre (AWC) for population of 400-800
- The norms for one AWC for Tribal / Hilly and other difficult areas will be 300-800
- Norms for one Mini AWC will be 150-400.

4.8 Total Budget allocated for 2022-2023 is detailed below:

(Rs. in Crore)

| Gross Total Project cost | Total Funds | GOI share | State share | Exclusive State share | Total State share |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2702.24 | 1464.96 | 836.53 | 628.43 | 1237.28 | 1865.71 |

The overall percentage of State share for the year 2022-2023 is 69% and the Government of India share is 31%.

4.9 Details of beneficiaries

| Age | Number of Beneficiaries (2022-2023) |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 6 months -1 year children | 4,09,976 |
| 1-2 years children | 7,07,443 |
| 2- 3 years children | 7,63,538 |
| 3-6 years children | 8,18,585 |
| Total | 26,99,542 |
| Ante & Post natal mothers | 7,51,580 |
| Adolescent Girls (11-14 out of school only) | 242 |
| Total Beneficiaries | 34,51,364 |

4.10 Supplementary Nutrition Programme

Supplementary Nutrition Programme consist of

1. Complementary Feeding (Sathu Mavu) and
2. Hot cooked meal

Provision of supplementary nutrition under ICDS is primarily made to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Average Daily Intake (ADI) of children, pregnant and lactating women.

All children below 6 years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers are eligible for availing services under the ICDS Scheme. BPL is not a criterion for registration of beneficiaries under ICDS. The scheme is universal for all categories of beneficiaries. Supplementary Nutrition Programme which is one of the six services under ICDS has been made as an entitlement under National Food Security Act.

Nutritional norms mandated under National Food Security Act, 2013 and approved cost norms of Government of India are as follows:-

| Category | Nutritional norms per beneficiary per day | | Financial Norms per Beneficiary Per Day (Rs.) |
|--|---|---------------|---|
| | Protein (gms) | Energy (kcal) | |
| Children 6 months to 6 years | 12-15 | 500 | 8.00 |
| Children 6 months to 6 years (Severely Malnourished) | 20-25 | 800 | 12.00 |
| AN & PN Mothers | 18-20 | 600 | 9.50 |

4.10.1 ICDS Food Supplement (Sathu mavu)

Around the age of 6 months, an infant's need for energy and nutrients starts to exceed what is provided by breast milk, and complementary foods are necessary to meet those needs. Breast feeding should continue

with complementary feeding up to 2 years of age or beyond and it should be on demand, as often as the child wants. Complementary feeding is needed to provide energy and essential nutrients required for continued growth and development.

The State Government, by forming an Expert Committee has formulated the composition of sathumavu as follows:-

| S. No. | Particulars | Percentage |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Wheat flour | 45.50 |
| 2 | Roasted Ragi Flour | 6.00 |
| 3 | Fortified Palm Oil | 5.00 |
| 4 | Malted Ragi Flour | 5.00 |
| 5 | Full Fat Soya Flour | 10.50 |
| 6 | Jaggery | 27.00 |
| 7 | Vitamins & Minerals | 1.00 |
| | Total | 100.00 |

Per day ration of ICDS Food Supplement (Sathu Mavu)

| Sl. No. | Category | Quantity provided Per day per beneficiary (In grams) |
|----------------|--|---|
| 1 | 6-24 months Children | 125 |
| 2 | 6-24 months (Severely Malnourished) Children | 200 |
| 3 | 2 - 3 years Children | 100 |
| 4 | 2 - 3 years (Severely Malnourished) Children | 165 |
| 5 | 3 - 5 years Children | 10 |
| 6 | 3 - 5 years (Severely Malnourished) Children | 100 |
| 7 | Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers | 165 |
| 8 | Adolescent Girls 11-14 years (Out of School) | 165 |

4.10.2 Hot Cooked Meal

Tamil Nadu is the Pioneer state for implementing the massive programme of providing nutritious Mid-Day Meal to children in the age group of 2-15 years, with an aim to

combat malnutrition among the children and to increase their literacy rate. The programme has undergone many changes since its launch in 1982. In order to increase the protein content, provision of egg was introduced during 1989 which was followed by green gram, Black Bengal gram, Potatoes during the subsequent years.

Considering the digestive capacity and special needs of the young children, the following menu is being adopted since 2013-14

| Days | Menu |
|-----------|--|
| Monday | Tomato Rice + Boiled Egg |
| Tuesday | Mixed Rice + Boiled Black Bengal gram / Green gram |
| Wednesday | Vegetable Pulav Rice + Boiled Egg |
| Thursday | Lemon Rice + Boiled Egg |
| Friday | Dhal Rice + Boiled Potato |
| Saturday | Mixed Rice |
| Sunday | Dry Ration as Take Home Ration (Rice and Dhal) |

The Nutritive value in Supplementary Nutrition (Sathumavu + Hot Cooked Meal) per day is tabulated below:

| Sl. No. | Category | Per day serving size of SM + Rice in noon meal (in gms) + Egg (Weekly) | Nutritive value provided in supplementary nutrition (SM+HCM+EGG) per day | |
|---------|--|--|--|-------------------|
| | | | Protein (in gms) | Energy (in K.Cal) |
| 1. | Children (6m-1 year) | 125 | 13.75 | 500 |
| 2. | Children (6m-1 year) (Severely Malnourished) | 200 | 22.00 | 800 |
| 3. | Children (1 - 2 years) | 125 + 1 Egg per week | 14.85 | 514.44 |
| 4. | Children (1-2 years) (Severely Malnourished) | 200+1 Egg per week | 23.10 | 814.44 |
| 5. | Children (2 to 3 years) | 100+80+3 eggs per week | 24.27 | 868.79 |

| Sl. No. | Category | Per day serving size of SM + Rice in noon meal (in gms) + Egg (Weekly) | Nutritive value provided in supplementary nutrition (SM+HCM+EGG) per day | |
|---------|--|--|--|-------------------|
| | | | Protein (in gms) | Energy (in K.Cal) |
| 6. | Children (2to3 years) (Severely Malnourished) | 165+80+3 eggs per week | 31.42 | 1128.79 |
| 7. | Children (3 to 6years) | 10+80+3 eggs per week | 14.37 | 508.79 |
| 8. | Children (3 to 6 years) ((Severely Malnourished) | 100+80+3 eggs per week | 24.27 | 868.79 |
| 9. | Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls (11-14 out of school) | 165 | 18.15 | 660.00 |

The per day average cost of providing supplementary nutrition (ICDS Food Supplement+ Hot cooked Meal + Egg) to

beneficiaries is as follows:-

| Sl. No | Category | Financial norms (in Rs) | Per day Cost per Beneficiary (in Rs.) | GOI share (in Rs) | State Share (in Rs) | State Additional Contribution (in Rs) |
|--------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Children 6m-1 year | 8.00 | 7.86 | 3.93 | 3.93 | NIL |
| 2 | Children 6m-1 year (Severely Malnourished) | 12.00 | 12.58 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 0.58 |
| 3 | Children 1-2 years | 8.00 | 8.73 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 0.73 |
| 4 | Children 1-2 years (Severely Malnourished) | 12.00 | 13.45 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 1.45 |
| 5 | Children (2 to 3 years) | 8.00 | 12.05 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.05 |
| 6 | Children (2to3 years) (Severely Malnourished) | 12.00 | 16.14 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 4.14 |
| 7 | Children (3 to 6years) | 8.00 | 6.40 | 3.20 | 3.20 | NIL |
| 8 | Children (3 to 6 years) (Severely Malnourished) | 12.00 | 12.05 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 0.05 |
| 9 | Pregnant Women Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls (11-14 out of school) | 9.50 | 10.38 | 4.75 | 4.75 | 0.88 |

4.10.3 Usage of Fortified Food Ingredients

Micronutrients are necessary for many important body functions. Our body can't synthesize micronutrients. They need to come from our diet. Fortified foods are foods with micro-nutrients added to them which helps in boosting the nutritional value and benefits of our health. In order to combat micronutrient deficiency among the children, Ante Natal Women, Pregnant Mothers and Adolescent Girls, the following fortified food ingredients are utilised in the supplementary nutrition provided through Integrated Child Development Services :-

- Double Fortified Salt with Iron and Iodine.
- Palmolein oil fortified with Vitamin A and Vitamin D.
- ICDS food supplement (sathumavu) fortified with Vitamins and Minerals.
- Rice fortified with iron, folic acid and Vitamin B12.

4.11 National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan)

Government of India has introduced the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan) as a structured drive to combat nutritional challenge. The scheme was rolled-out in all Districts, with the funding pattern of 80:20 (GOI: State).

4.11.1 The Impact of the Scheme:

Due to the laudable efforts of the State Government in addition to additional financial contribution to the nutrition component and due to effective implementation of the mandated nutritive norms as envisaged under National Food Security Act 2013 and based on guidelines received from Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) from time to time viz. Rollout of POSHAN Abhiyaan, the nutritional indicators have shown an impressive and

scalable outcomes which are denoted as follows:-

| Indicator | NFHS-5 (2019-21) | | POSHAN Tracker | Progress |
|--|------------------|-------|----------------|----------|
| | All India | State | State | |
| Stunting | 35.5% | 25% | 22.44% | Improved |
| Wasting | 19.3% | 14.6% | 5.36% | Improved |
| Underweight | 32.1% | 22% | 12.12% | Improved |
| Children age 6-59 months who are Anaemic | 67.1% | 57.4% | NA | -- |

The Goals of National Nutrition Mission (Mission POSHAN 2.0) are as follows:-

| | Baseline | 2022 | 2025 | 2030 | Annual Reduction (Until 2025) | Annual Reduction (from 2026 to 2030) |
|----------------------------------|--|------|------|------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| % of children under 5yrs: | | | | | | |
| Under weight | 35.70% (CNNS data 2016-18) | 34% | 28% | 8% | 2% | 4% |
| Stunted | 38.40% (CNNS data 2016-18) | 36% | 30% | 10% | 2% | 4% |
| Wasted | 21% (CNNS data 2016-18) | 19% | 13% | 3% | 2% | 2% |
| Pregnant women | | | | | | |
| Anaemic | 65% (Anaemia Mukta Bharat Data: 2016-18) | 62% | 53% | 23% | 3% | 6% |

4.11.2 Mission POSHAN 2.0

Mission Poshan 2.0 is India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes of children, adolescents, pregnant women and lactating mothers by leveraging technology, a targeted approach and convergence.

Poshan 2.0 is a strategic shift in mission mode to develop practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity from malnutrition and will now be known as the "Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0" (hereinafter referred as Saksham Anganwadi).

The Components under Saksham Anganwadi have been reorganized in 3 primary verticals:

1. Nutrition Support for POSHAN through Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) to the children of the age group of 6 months to 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers (PWLM); and for

- Adolescent Girls of the age group of (14+), upto 18 years for Aspirational Districts;
2. Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years]; and
3. Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadis

The Government of India has approved upgrading of 800 anganwadi centres as Saksham Anganwadis in two aspirational Districts in Tamil Nadu. i.e. 400 Anganwadi centres in Ramanathapuram and 400 Anganwadi centres in Virudhunagar Districts.

4.11.3 POSHAN Tracker

POSHAN Tracker Mobile Phone Application has been newly launched by Government of India under Mission POSHAN 2.0 during January 2021. This application provides a 360-degree view of the activities by Anganwadi Centres, Service deliveries of Anganwadi Workers and

complete beneficiary management for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children through digitalized monitoring mechanism. As of now, all 54,439 Anganwadi centres have been registered under POSHAN Tracker Application.

The State specific programme is recorded under New Mobile Application viz.TN-ICDS which covers all the data from Poshan Tracker along with our State specific activities in convergence with TNeGA.

4.11.4 People's Mass Movement (Jan Andolan)

People's Mass Movement under National Nutrition Mission is an integrated approach to reach every household with the message of Poshan (Nutrition awareness) with inclusive participation of public representatives of local bodies, government departments of the State,

social organizations and the public and private sector at large.

Necessary funds were released to districts to carry out the following activities under Jan Andolan component.

- Samudhaya Valaikappu (Community Bangle Ceremony)
- Breast feeding week
- POSHAN Maah (Nutrition month) and POSHAN Pakhwada celebrations
- Hand Washing day
- Anaemia Awareness Programme
- Exhibitions at State level, District level and Block levels
- Parambariya Unavu Thiruvizha (Traditional food festival) at all districts
- Health and nutrition education for Adolescent Girls
- Community Based Events (CBE)

Rashtriya POSHAN Maah (National Nutrition Month) was celebrated in September 2021. Pushing this month-long celebration with common theme “converging towards a healthy walk through life”

- a) Plantation activity on “POSHAN VATIKA”
- b) YOGA & AYUSH for well being
- c) Identification of SAM children and Community Kitchen for SAM children.

Totally 2,23,28,760 awareness activities were conducted thereby reaching nutrition and health messages to majority of the population.

4.11.5 Provision of Two sets of Uniform Sarees under National Nutrition Mission

Two sets of Uniform sarees have been provided to all the Anganwadi Worker, Mini Worker and Helpers during 2021-2022 at

Rs.400/- per saree with the 100% Government of India Contribution under POSHAN Abhiyaan.

A sum of Rs.118.58 Crore (Union Share:State Share 80:20) has been provided in the Budget Estimate 2022-2023 for the implementation of National Nutrition Mission.

4.12 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) aims at the holistic development of a child’s physical, cognitive, emotional and social needs in order to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning and well being. ECCE is one of the most important component and backbone of the ICDS programme.

Stimulation in the first six years of the life of the child is critical since the development in these years is more rapid than any stage of

development. The Government of India through the amended Article 45 of the Constitution of India, directs that 'State shall endeavour to provide ECCE for all children until they complete the age of six years. Sustainable Development Goal No.4 also targets to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

"Aadi Paadi Vilaiyadu Pappa" (APVP), a developmentally and age appropriate Annual Contextualized Curriculum has been prepared by our State based on the National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy, 2013 and implemented in all the Anganwadi Centres. This curriculum contains 11 child-friendly theme based activities for 11 months and 12th month is reserved for revision of syllabus.

ECCE curriculum books for Anganwadi Workers, three types of Activity Books (2-3, 3-4 & 4-5 years), age wise Assessment Cards, Pre-School Completion Certificates, Child Profiles for children and Pre-school Kits are supplied for all Anganwadi Centres every year.

Anganwadi Workers have been trained on ECCE at Sector Level in three stages in a cascade manner and 51,600 Anganwadi Workers are trained so far and ensured effective rollout of ECCE.

A sum of Rs.27.22 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the 2022-2023 for the implementation of the programme.

4.13 Provision of Medicine Kit and Hygiene Kit

Anganwadi Centres are provided with Medicine Kit to address minor ailments like,

fever, diarrhoea, dressing of wound, skin infections etc.,. The Anganwadi workers are trained on the administration of drugs by the Public Health Department. Children who need further treatment are referred to the nearest Primary Health Centre.

- To promote hygienic practice among children and to keep them clean and tidy at the Anganwadi centres, Hygiene Kit consisting of Nail cutter, Comb, soap and Hand Towel is being provided to all Anganwadi centres.
- Rs.7.79 crore has been provided every year for the scheme.
- During the year 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.7.79 crore has been sanctioned towards the procurement and supply of hygiene kits to all Anganwadi centres keeping in view of the pandemic situation.

- The Hygiene Kit consist of the following materials;

| Sl. No. | Name of Hygiene Kit materials | Quantity per Main AWC | Quantity per Mini AWC |
|---------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | First aid box- Small plastic box(1) containing Band Aid (20), Small scissor(1) and Gauze Swabs (20) | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | Liquid Hand Sanitizer -50 ml | 5 | 1 |
| 3 | Floor Cleaner - 1 litre | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | Antiseptic Liquid - 500 ml | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | Reusable Mask | 10 | 1 |
| 6 | Soap - 75 gms | 11 | 3 |
| 7 | 9 to 10 inch length plastic | 2 | 1 |
| 8 | Nail Cutter - medium size | 1 | -- |

A sum of Rs.7.80 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

4.14 Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)

This is a special intervention Scheme for Adolescent girls which aims to facilitate,

educate and empower them to become self-reliant and self-sustaining individuals. The scheme covers only out-of-School Adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years. The scheme has Nutrition and Non-Nutrition Components.

In the Nutrition component, out-of-school adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years registered in Anganwadi Centre are provided with 165 gm of Complementary food (Sathumavu) in the form of Take Home Ration (THR) per day for 300 days in a year.

The scheme also gives thrust in motivating out-of-school girls in the age group of 11-14 years to go back to formal schooling or skill training aspects and providing supporting environment for self-development. The other services under the non-nutrition component of the scheme are Iron and folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, Health check-up and referral

services, Nutrition, Health education, Life skill education and Guidance on accessing public services.

Recently the Government of India has modified the Scheme for Adolescent Girls subsumed under Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 with coverage of Adolescent Girls in the age group of 14-18 years only in aspirational districts viz., Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram districts.

A sum of Rs.27.47 lakh has been provided in Budget Estimate 2022-2023 for implementing the programme.

4.15 Training

The importance of Training and continuous capacity building of the ICDS functionaries for improving the quality of services delivery in ICDS has always been recognised as vital for the success of the programme in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu follows a decentralised pattern of training procedure and conducts residential training programmes for Job training of CDPOs, Instructress of Anganwadi Training centres and Grade 2 Supervisors at State Training Institute, Taramani. The State Training Institute is equipped with faculties, infrastructure, teaching & learning materials and field experience support. The training institute is supported with hostel inside the campus.

Job training for the Anganwadi Workers and orientation training to Anganwadi helpers are conducted at the sector level in a unique cost effective method, by the block training team which consists of CDPO, Grade-I Supervisors and representatives from Health and School Education departments.

Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices is the most crucial component in the

training programme of field functionaries to equip their knowledge on the early initiation of breast feeding, exclusive breast feeding, timely introduction of complementary foods after the age of six months and about usage of mother and Child protection Card as a learning tool. Self-monitoring tools on IYCF practices were prepared and distributed to 9,96,066 numbers of mothers and caregivers of children from 0 - 2 years in all 38 districts to improve the IYCF practices of the community.

The ICDS functionaries are also given need based trainings through various Government organisations such as Anna Administrative Staff College, Kirishi Vigyan Kendras, Institute of Child Health and Natesan Institute of Co-operative Management.

During this COVID-19 period, various online trainings are imparted to CDPOs and Supervisors

in co-ordination with National Institute of Public cooperation and Child Development, Bengaluru and New Delhi.

Job training has been given to 250 Grade II Supervisors, 80 Instructress of Anganwadi centres, 75 CDPOs, 3,465 Anganwadi Workers and 2,000 Anganwadi Helpers.

A sum of Rs.5.53 Crore has been provided in Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

4.16 Information, Education and Communication

Information Education and Communication activities are conducted in such a way that it should disseminate messages to the mothers, care givers, adolescent girls and the community on Nutrition, Health and Child development, to bring attitudinal changes and positive behavioral changes in nutrition and health practices.

A variety of Information Education and Communication programmes like", "Young couples workshop", advertisement in T.V Channels and FM Radio are conducted to create awareness on Ante natal and post natal care, child rearing, nutrition and health practices and to elicit and sustain community participation. "Chittu Kuruvi sedhi theriyuma" a bi monthly news letter is being published and supplied to all the Anganwadi centres towards propagating scheme news.

A number of Information, Education and Communication materials like posters, pamphlets, flip charts, dangler kits, stickers with messages related to nutrition, health, education of mother and children, and child development are being distributed to all Anganwadi centres to create awareness among general public. Various Information Education and Communication programmes, Exhibitions,

campaigns and drives are conducted at District, Project, sector and centre level for the promotion of Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices and importance of sanitation health, nutrition of mother and child and other public health care massages.

4.17 Sustainable Development Goals and achievement

| Goal | Target No. | Target | State Indicator Framework | Achievement |
|------|------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | 1.3 | Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable. | 1.3.2 Number of beneficiaries under ICDS | All enrolled beneficiaries are benefitted. |

| | | | | |
|---|-----|--|--|------------------------------|
| 2 | 2.1 | By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people including infants to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round. | 2.1.1 Percentage of children aged under 5 years who are under weight | Reduced from 23.8% to 8.13% |
| 2 | 2.2 | By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition including achieving by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls pregnant and lactating women and older persons. | 2.2.1 Percentage of children under 5 years who are stunted | Reduced from 27.1% to 24.29% |
| | | | 2.2.2 Percentage of children under 5 years who are wasted | Reduced from 19.7% to 6.63% |

4.18 Supply of two sets of ready made Colour uniforms to Anganwadi children attending pre-school.

To motivate the parents in the community to send their children to Anganwadi centres and to encourage / improve enrolment in Anganwadi Centres, the scheme of providing two sets of ready-made colour uniform to the children in the age group 2 to 6 years attending pre-school education in anganwadi centre was introduced in 5 districts. As the scheme was well received by the community, it has been extended in a phased manner and presently two sets of ready made colour uniforms @ Rs.262.50 per child are being provided in 25 integrated Districts. The programme is being implemented exclusively out of State funds. During the year 2021-22,two sets of ready made colour uniforms is being provided to 9.57 lakh children at a total cost of Rs.24.80 crore. Also administrative sanction towards procurement and supply of two sets of

ready made colour uniform to the balance 7 integrated districts at a total cost of Rs.4.15 crore, has been issued by the Government.

A sum of Rs.28.95 Crore has been provided in Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

4.19 Infrastructure Development of Anganwadi Centres.

(a)Annual Maintenance Grant to Anganwadi Centres.

Government of India is providing funds for the past two years, to carry out minor repair works, for procurement of kitchen utensils etc., to the anganwadi centres functioning in Government owned building at the rate of Rs.3000/- (fund sharing pattern 60:40 Government of India:State) per anganwadi centre.

A sum of Rs.13.12 Crore has been provided in Budget Estimate for the year 2022-23.

(b) Electricity facilities to Anganwadi Centres.

In order to protect the children from the heat during summer season anganwadi centres are being electrified by providing electricity connection, with fan and light. During the year 2021-22, orders have been issued for providing electricity facility to 7757 Anganwadi Centres @ Rs.10000/- per anganwadi centre functioning in Government own buildings and the works are under progress.

(c) Enhancement of rent to the Anganwadi Centre functioning in private rented buildings

Orders have been issued enhancing the rent as follows w.e.f. 1.10.2021 to the anganwadi centres functioning in private rented buildings.

| Anganwadi centres located in | Existing Rent per month (in Rs.) | Enhanced rent per month w.e.f. 1.10.2021 (in Rs.) |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Rural Area | 750 | 1000 |
| Urban Area | 3000 | 4000 |
| Metropolitan | 5000 | 6000 |

4.20 National Creche Scheme

Creches play a vital role in safe guarding children of working mothers between the age group of 6 months to 6 years as well as to encourage the employed women to continue their job regularly. At present under the National Creche Scheme, 320 creches are being run by Non-Governmental Organizations with a fund sharing pattern of 60:30:10 between Government of India, State Government and NGO as per the Government of India guidelines.

Government of India has requested the State Government to send proposals for establishing anganwadi cum creche in urban

areas which have sufficient space facility to maintain creche also in order to facilitate women empowerment in gaining economic independence. The Department is in the process of identifying such anganwadi centre in order to send necessary proposal to Government of India

A sum of Rs.6.49 crore has been provided in Budget Estimate 2022-2023.

4.21 Welfare of Anganwadi Employees

In accordance with the 7th pay commission recommendations, the Anganwadi employees working in 54,439 Anganwadi centres in Tamil Nadu are given with the special time scale of pay as follows:

| Sl. No. | Designation | Special time scale |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Anganwadi Worker | 7,700 - 24,200 |
| 2. | Mini Anganwadi Worker | 5,700 - 18,000 |
| 3. | Anganwadi Helper | 4,100 - 12,500 |

The Anganwadi Employees are also provided with an annual increment along with **Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance, Medical Allowance**, Hill allowance and Winter allowance. In this regard Tamil Nadu Government is incurring additional expenditure as follows:

(Rs.)

| Sl.No | Designation | Honorarium fixed by GOI | GOI share | State Govt., share | Stat Govt's Addl. Share |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Anganwadi Worker | 4,500 | 2,700 | 1,800 | 7,547 |
| 2. | Mini Anganwadi Worker | 3,500 | 2,100 | 1,400 | 5,927 |
| 3. | Anganwadi Helper | 2,250 | 1,350 | 900 | 5,081 |

Lumpsum grant Rs.1,00,000/- for AWW and Rs.50,000/- for AWH issued during their retirement since 01.10.2017. Special Pension

Rs.2000/- per month issued to AWW, AWH & Mini AWW since 01.10.2017. The Anganwadi employees are eligible to avail voluntary retirement on medical grounds with retirement benefits. Two sets of uniform Sarees are provided every year to the anganwadi employees at a cost of Rs.400/- per Saree.

Anganwadi employees are eligible to avail one week summer holidays

| Sl. No. | Designation | Summer holidays |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Anganwadi Worker | 2 nd week of May |
| 2. | Anganwadi Helper | 3 rd week of May |
| 3. | Mini Anganwadi Worker | 4 th week of May |

Anganwadi employees are eligible to avail 180 days maternity leave for two live births. Differently abled Anganwadi employees are provided with Rs.2,500/- per month as conveyance allowance. Family benefit fund of Rs.3.00 lakh is given to the family of deceased

Anganwadi employee. Special GPF scheme has been implemented for the Anganwadi employees from the year 2015.

Anganwadi workers below 42 years of age with 2 years experience are eligible to undergo VHN (Village Health Nurse) Training and subsequently posted as VHN in Health Department. The Anganwadi Helper, who have completed 10 years of service with X standard qualification are eligible for promotion as AWWs on seniority.

The Anganwadi Helpers Retirement age enhanced from 58 to 60 during the year 2021. 25% posts of Anganwadi employees are reserved for widows & Destitute widows since 09.11.2021.

Thus ICDS promotes and ensures consistent high-quality holistic child development services at all levels, by enabling flexibility in services delivery to meet the

varying needs and capacities of the target population with the active participation of the community and the political commitment.

CHAPTER – 5

SOCIAL DEFENCE

Children are the most valuable gift to humanity and Childhood is an important and impressionable stage of human development as it holds the potential to the future development of any Society. The State of Tamil Nadu is committed to provide best possible opportunities for children to develop their intellectual, physical and social health in a safe environment free from violence, exploitation, neglect, deprivation and discrimination. As the needs and wants of children are complex, the policies and programmes are designed to address the issues and concerns of a child as an individual rather a common general programme. The State has recently come out with Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children, 2021 with the objective of just not to fulfil the legal mandates but to safeguard the interest of children at every stage starting from

early childhood to till they attain self sustainability. An efficient mechanism has been promoted to appropriately and effectively utilise the resources by integrating the resources available at different sectors of the Government and Non-Governmental Organisations with Community participation.

In order to strengthen the child protection mechanism right from the grass root level, Child Protection Committees at Village, Zonal, Block, District and State Level have been established to prevent, protect and profoundly respond to violence against children. While the limited fund allocation under Sponsorship Scheme of the Union Government resulting to number of children on the wait list, the State had stepped in and covered all the children from its own fund and reaffirmed its commitment for leaving no one behind. The recent initiative of the Government in establishing Integrated Training

Center for Social Empowerment as a centre of excellence with state of the art facilities will go a long way in capacity building of stakeholders under child protection and delivering professional services.

The pro-active programmes of the State in protecting children from COVID-19 pandemic had ensured an effective safety net for children both in the institutions and outside and considerably reduced the incidences of children getting infected and fatality. The announcement of various welfare programmes with huge financial commitment by the Honourable Chief Minister for children infected/affected due to COVID-19 has once again proved the concern of the State towards its children and drawn the attention at national level. New innovative programmes had been brought in and the investment on children has been considerably increased in the recent past as the State believe

that children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.

5.1 The Government through the Directorate of Social Defence had established an effective Juvenile Justice System to cater to the needs of children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with law by providing institutional and non-institutional services.

Under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Department of Social Defence is maintaining Children Homes, Open Shelters, Specialized Adoption Agencies, Observation Homes, Special Homes and Place of Safety. These institutions provide care, protection, education, treatment and vocational training for rehabilitation of children who are in need of care and protection and those in conflict with law. The State has developed structures to effectively implement

Child Protection Services under "Mission Vatsalya" – a Centre and State sponsored scheme.

Vigilance/Protective Homes are established under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 for providing institutional care facilities for the women rescued from trafficking and those in moral danger and integrating them with family wherever possible.

The Department also provides After Care services to boys, girls and women who are discharged from residential care institutions through After Care organizations run by Government as well as Non-Governmental Organisations.

5.1.1 Acts implemented by the Directorate of Social Defence

- i. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

- ii. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
- iii. The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005
- iv. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956

5.2 The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 aims at ensuring proper care, protection, development, treatment and social reintegration of children in difficult circumstances by adopting a child-friendly approach keeping in mind the best interest of the child. The Act provides a legal framework to deal with children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law.

5.2.1 Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP)

Section 2 (14) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, defines a

“child in need of care and protection” as a child who is found without any home or settled place of abode and without any ostensible means of subsistence, found working in contravention of Labour Laws, who is mentally ill or physically challenged, whose parent or guardian is found to be unfit or incapacitated, street children, begging children, who is in imminent risk of marriage before attaining the age of marriage, does not have a parent and no one is willing to take care of him / her or abused or whose parents have abandoned him / her or and whose parents could not be found after reasonable inquiry etc.,

5.2.1.1 Child Welfare Committees

The Child Welfare Committees are constituted under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to take cognizance of matters relating to the care, protection and development of children

in need of care and protection. The Committees are functioning as a Bench with the powers conferred on a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class as per the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The Child Welfare Committee consists of a chairperson and four members (of whom atleast one shall be a woman). The Child Welfare Committee shall adopt a child-friendly procedure and ensure the best interest of children in all its proceedings. The Government has constituted 34 Child Welfare Committees covering 38 districts. 22,968 cases have been handled during the year 2021-2022. The Government had also issued orders for establishing 6 new Child Welfare Committees exclusively for the newly formed Districts.

A sum of Rs.8.00 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023 for the functioning of Child Welfare Committees.

5.2.1.2 Children Homes

Children taken cognizance by the Child Welfare Committees and found to be "children in need of care and protection" after due enquiry are placed in Children homes for short term as well as long term care, treatment, education, training, development and rehabilitation. Children homes have been established in the State and registered as per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. As on date, there are 978 Children homes functioning in the State and monitored by the Social Defence Department. 36 Children homes are directly run by the Government. 147 Children homes are functioning under Non-Governmental Organizations with financial assistance from Government including 5 homes for physically and mentally challenged children. A maintenance grant of Rs.2,160/- per child per

month is provided to the above grant receiving 147 Non-Governmental Organizations besides expenses towards rent, water, electricity, transportation and contingencies under Child Protection Services. The children in the Child Care Institutions are provided with food, cloth, shelter, medical assistance, education, vocational training, etc., for their overall development. As the State has effectively handled the COVID -19 pandemic, the strength of the children in Child Care Institutions has gradually increased from 11,109 in the last year to 35,903 children.

A sum of Rs.123.20 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.2.1.3 Open Shelters for children in need of care and protection in urban and semi urban areas

Open Shelters are established in urban and semi-urban areas to temporarily accommodate children in need of care and protection especially begging children, street children, rag pickers, small vendors, street performers, orphaned, deserted, trafficked and run-away children, children of migrant population and any other vulnerable group of children. The scheme essentially targets the homeless and street children and ensures safety and protection. At present, 16 open shelters are functioning in the State of which 11 open shelters are receiving grants from the Government. The maintenance grant of Rs.2,160/- per child per month is provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations besides expenses towards rent, water, electricity, transportation and contingencies under Child Protection Services.

The sanctioned strength of these homes are 400 in total.

A sum of Rs.2.35 Crore has been provided in Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.3. Special Initiatives taken by the Government for Children in need of care and protection

In order to develop competitive skills, encourage community participation and to widen the scope for development of children in institutional care, the Directorate of Social Defence is implementing several programmes as detailed below:-

(a) Financial assistance under Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund (CMPRF) and various welfare measures for Children who had lost their parents due to COVID-19.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is always having a greater concern over the care and protection of children and have implemented various novel schemes. During this pandemic, the State had taken swift action for rehabilitating the children affected/infected by COVID 19, as well as children of COVID affected/infected parents.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced various welfare measures for the children who had lost both the parent or either of the parent due to COVID 19. The following schemes are implemented for children who had lost their parents due to COVID-19.

- i. A sum of Rs.5.00 lakh shall be deposited in the name of the child who had lost both the parents due to COVID-19 from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund and shall be deposited in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance**

Corporation in the name of the child. The Deposited amount shall be paid to the child with accrued interest when he/she completes 18 years of age.

- ii. A sum of Rs.5.00 lakh shall be deposited in the name of the child who had lost one of the parents earlier and other parent due to COVID-19 from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund and shall be deposited in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance Corporation in the name of the child. The Deposited amount shall be paid to the child with accrued interest when he/she completes 18 years of age.**
- iii. Preference shall be given for admission in Government/ Government aided Homes and Hostels for children who had lost both the parents.**

- iv. All the expenditure including educational fees and hostel fees shall be borne by the Government up to their graduation for children who had lost both the parents.**
- v. A child who had lost both the parents and living with his relative / guardian without being admitted in any registered Child Care Institutions or Government Hostels shall be given a maintenance grant of Rs.3,000/- per month till the child completes 18 years of age.**
- vi. A sum of Rs.3.00 lakh shall be given to the surviving father or mother of the child who had lost either father or mother due to COVID-19 from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund in the name of the child as immediate relief.**

vii. Priority shall be given in all the Government schemes, to all these children as well as to the husband or wife who had lost their spouse due to COVID-19 and living with their children.

District Level Committees have been constituted to monitor the financial assistance provided to each child, their progress in education, care, protection and development.

So far, Rs.16.90 crore disbursed to 338 children who had lost both the parent and Rs.309.75 crore to 10,325 children who had lost one of the parents, totaling a sum of Rs. 326.65 crore to 10,663 children. The Government have also extended the benefits to the Srilankan refugees.

The Government have also sanctioned Rs.84.93 lakh to 308 children who had lost both the parents and living with their

relative/guardian without being admitted in any registered Child Care Institutions or Government Hostels towards maintenance grant of Rs.3,000/- per month till the child completes 18 years of age.

(b) The Tamil Nadu Child Victim Compensation Fund under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 envisages compensation to victims of sexual offences as a measure of addressing their rehabilitation needs.

Government have created "Tamil Nadu Child Victim Compensation Fund" under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 with an initial amount of Rs.2.00 crore for awarding compensation to the victim children under the Act. The Honourable Chief Minister of

Tamil Nadu has reviewed the State Programmes for prevention of children from sexual offences and rehabilitation of victims. He expressed his concern over the immediate sanction of victim compensation. Consequently, the Government had released Rs.5.00 crore to this fund. So far, compensation for 373 child victims to a tune of Rs.6.99 crore had been settled.

A sum of Rs.2.00 Crore has been provided in Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

(c) Sponsorship

To enable a child to remain in the family and continue his/her education by enjoying the love and affection of parents rather institutionalization, financial assistance of Rs.2,000/- per month is provided under sponsorship assistance programme. Every child selected for assistance under this programme, is eligible to avail the benefit for a period of three

years. 1,312 children in the State are currently benefitting under Centre-State sponsorship programme. As the allocation of funds by the Government of India for the scheme was not adequate to reach out all the deserving children, the State Government had additionally allocated Rs. 1.38 crore during 2021-2022 completely from the State funds and covered all the 1,148 children leaving no one in the wait list.

(d) Conducting a State Level Annual Sports and Cultural Meet

To identify the potentials of children and encourage children having skill and talent, the Government is conducting a State Level Annual Sports and Cultural Meet at a cost of Rs.25.00 lakh for the children in 36 Government Children Homes as well as Children Homes receiving financial assistance from Government under the Directorate of Social Defence every year since 2017.

The Government is also providing financial assistance of Rs.2.75 lakh for procurement of sports articles to have regular sports activities in Government Child Care Institutions.

A sum of Rs.25.00 lakh has been provided in Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

(e) Children Educational Tour Scheme

As a measure of providing opportunities to gain knowledge from outside the institutions and to have an exposure, children are taken to educational tour every year. Children in 36 Government child care institutions are benefitting by the programme.

A sum of Rs.10.00 lakh has been provided in Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

(f) Child Information System

To have a complete reliable data on the protection and development of children, sharing of information among various service providers, strengthen and monitor child care services and to understand the real time implementation of programmes under the Juvenile Justice System, the Government have issued orders for the Development of new portal namely "Child Information System" at a cost of Rs.65.00 lakh. The online system is user friendly and helps to monitor the progress of children at every stage. The data will be maintained electronically for easy access and management and print as and when required.

5.3.1 Child Adoption

"Adoption" is an opportunity to children to find a family and to grow in the warmth of parents. "Adoption" is a process through which the adopted child is permanently separated from

his biological parents and becomes the legitimate child of his adoptive parents with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that are attached to the relationship.

A child is to be placed in institutional care as a step of last resort only when a child could not be placed in family care. The ultimate aim of adoption is to find suitable families for children and not children for families.

The Adoption of Children is governed by Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. The procedures of adoption are made online and it is uniform throughout the country.

The State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) is facilitating adoption by serving as a bridge between the Prospective Adoptive Parents, Specialized Adoption Agencies and Central Adoption Resource Authority. It is

functioning in the Directorate of Social Defence. A "Hand Book on Child Adoption" has been published by the SARA for easy understanding and display boards have been placed in all District Collectrates, District Child Protection Units, Specialized Adoption Agencies, Civil Society Groups and Public Places to create greater awareness and dissemination of information among public. Awareness programmes are being conducted among various stakeholders including health professionals to prevent illegal adoption. Periodical monitoring of Specialized Adoption Agencies and Grievance Redressal of Prospective Adoptive Parents by liaising with CARA are the important initiatives of SARA.

5.3.2 Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAA)

In Tamil Nadu there are 23 Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) functioning to promote in-country and inter-country adoption.

These SAAs are situated in Madurai-2, Kancheepuram-3, Salem-2 and one each in the districts of Ariyalur, Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, Tiruchirappalli, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, Kanniyakumari and Erode.

The children placed in "adoption" from 1993 to Feb 2022 are given below:-

| Sl. No. | Nature of Adoption | No. of Children Placed in Adoption | | Total |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Male | Female | |
| 1 | In-Country | 1,681 | 4,427 | 6,108 |
| 2 | Inter-Country | 125 | 406 | 531 |
| Total | | 1,806 | 4,833 | 6,639 |

The children placed in "adoption" during the year 2021-2022 are as follows:-

| Sl.No. | Nature of Adoption | No. of Children Placed in Adoption | | Total |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | | Male | Female | |
| 1 | In-Country | 109 | 139 | 248 |
| 2 | Inter-Country | 9 | 10 | 19 |
| Total | | 118 | 149 | 267 |

5.4 Children in Conflict with Law

Child in conflict with law means a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offence and who has not completed eighteenth year of age as on the date of commission of such offence.

5.4.1 Juvenile Justice Boards

The Juvenile Justice Boards are statutory bodies constituted under the provisions of the

Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015, for exercising the powers and to discharge their duties conferred on them in relation to children in conflict with law under this Act and rules framed there under. The Juvenile Justice Board consists of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class with two Social Worker Members (of whom atleast one shall be a woman). The Board shall adopt a child-friendly procedure and ensure the best interest of children in all its proceedings. Free Legal Aid services have also been provided to children in conflict with law through Legal Services Authority. The Government has constituted 32 Juvenile Justice Boards covering 38 districts. 2,367 cases have been handled during the year 2021-2022. The Government had also issued orders for establishing 6 new Juvenile Justice Boards exclusively for the newly formed Districts.

A sum of Rs.4.31 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.4.2 Observation Homes

Observation Homes provide residential care facilities for children in conflict with law who are facing enquiry before the Juvenile Justice Boards. In Tamil Nadu, there are 9 Observation Homes run by the Government. The children residing in the Observation Homes are provided with basic amenities like shelter, food, clothing, bedding and also other services like non-formal education, vocational training, medical facility and counseling as a part of their short term rehabilitation. Surveillance and security cameras have been installed in all the Observation Homes for the enhanced safety of children. Children admitted in the Observation Homes are monitored by the Probation Officers

after discharged from Homes. At present 189 children are housed in 9 Observation Homes.

A sum of Rs.7.75 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.4.3 Special Homes

Special Homes provide long term rehabilitation programmes for children in conflict with law for a period not exceeding 3 years as assigned by the Juvenile Justice Boards. In special homes, children have been provided services like education, vocational training, counseling and facilities for co-curricular activities. There are two Government Special Homes, one at Chennai for girls and the other at Chengalpattu for boys. At present, 23 children are housed in 2 Special Homes. Children having potential skills and interested in self-employment are assisted with financial support to provide tools and equipments under

the Juvenile Justice Fund to attain self-sustainability.

A sum of Rs.4.02 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.4.4 Place of Safety

Place of safety is meant for child in conflict with law, who is between the age of 16 and 18 years and is accused of or convicted for committing a heinous offence. A person above the age of 18 years who had committed an offence before attaining the age of 18 years is also admitted in this home. These children/persons are placed in "Place of Safety" by the Juvenile Justice Board or the Children's Court upto the maximum age of 21 years. In Tamil Nadu, Place of Safety is established at Vellore. These children/persons are provided with reformatory services including education counseling, behavior modification etc., during

their stay in the place of safety. The Government have issued orders recognizing a portion of Government Special Homes for Girls, Chennai as a Place of Safety exclusively for girls. At present, 44 children are housed in Place of Safety.

A sum of Rs.46.51 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.5 The Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice Fund

The Government have created "The Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice Fund" with a corpus of Rs.25.00 lakh for undertaking welfare and rehabilitative activities for children as mandated under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The fund facilitates to implement activities which are of urgent need as well as programmes that are not covered under regular Government programmes. The funds have been applied to facilitate education, health,

training, sports, raw material or capital requirement for income generating activities. So far, 59 children have benefited and Rs.12,04,329/- disbursed under the fund.

5.6 De-addiction Centre exclusively for children

De-addiction Centre exclusively for children addresses the problem of addiction to drugs and substances among children especially those in conflict with law. The Government had established de-addiction centres exclusively for children and implemented through Non-Governmental Organizations at Chengalpattu, Madurai and Namakkal districts. 87 children had benefitted under this programme during the year 2021-2022. Recently, the Government had also issued orders for establishment of two de-addiction centres exclusively for children through NGO's in Chennai and Tirunelveli Districts.

A sum of Rs.76.50 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.7 Probation System

Probation is an effective tool under the Juvenile Justice System for early rehabilitation and restoration with the participation of children at every stage. The Probation Officers are assigned with preparation of Social Investigation Reports to assist the Child Welfare Committees as well as Juvenile Justice Boards. The reports throw light on the personal and family history of children and help the CWC and JJB in arriving at proper disposition of cases brought before them. Follow-up of children in conflict with law in specific cases and after care of children who are discharged from children homes are regularly done by Probation Officers. The Directorate of Social Defence is having one Probation Officer each in 32 Districts. In Chennai, 3 Probation

Officers are additionally appointed due to high volume of cases.

5.8 Special Initiatives taken by the Government for Children in conflict with law

(a) Video Conferencing Facility

The Government have installed video conferencing facilities to facilitate online enquiry by the Juvenile Justice Boards without physically producing children before them. The facility will provide a link between various homes accommodating "children in conflict with law" and respective Juvenile Justice Board. The facility ensures speedy trial by completely eliminating the escape and the threat for children during transportation to the respective Juvenile Justice Board. At present, video conferencing facilities have been installed in all Observation Homes, Special Homes and Place of Safety.

(b) Psychological Counseling for Children

The causative factors for children committing crimes are complex. The childhood psychological trauma, peer influence, hatred toward community are some of the mentionable factors. On the other hand, children admitted into children homes suffer lack of parental care and helplessness. These factors subject them to emotional and psychological problems. In order to overcome the psychological issues and to have a positive approach, the Government has provided counseling services to both children in conflict with law as well as children in need of care and protection in Government Child Care Institutions through professional counselors. 1,822 children have benefitted under this programme during the year 2021-2022

A sum of Rs.40.98 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.9 After Care Organizations

After Care services have to be provided to any child without family or other support who leave institutional care after they attain 18 years of age to sustain themselves during the transition from institutional care to independent life. It will facilitate the child's re-integration into the mainstream of society. The Government is running After Care Institution for Boys at Athur (Chengalpattu) with 29 beneficiaries and Madurai with 15 beneficiaries and for Girls at Vellore with 12 beneficiaries. Further, the Government is providing Rs 2,000/- per month per child to the NGO's who are running after care services and at present there are 56 beneficiaries under this programme. A Non-Governmental Organisation in Mayiladuthurai District is supported under child protection services for maintaining mentally challenged

young adults and 36 beneficiaries are housed here.

A sum of Rs.2.62 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.10 Educational and Vocational Training in Child Care Institutions

In Government Child Care Institutions, Schools are functioning within the campus to provide formal education recognized by the Department of School Education. In Child Care Institutions, where schools are not available, children are sent to nearby schools. In Observation Homes and Reception Units children are provided with non-formal education and vocational training, since their stay in these homes are temporary.

In order to improve the skills of children, vocational trainings are imparted in Tailoring, Dress making, AC Mechanic, Fast food

preparation, Plumbing, Water purifier Servicing, Basic Computer application and Bakery as short term courses. 728 children have benefitted under this training. 25 Children were admitted in Government Industrial Training Institute. 63 ex-inmates of Government Children Home are admitted in Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANM) Training Conducted by Public Health and Preventive Medicine Department.

A sum of Rs.50.29 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.11 Childline (1098)

CHILDLINE (1098) is a 24 hours toll free phone outreach service for children in distress. Any person who comes across the children in crisis and need immediate help or children themselves can call 1098 for immediate rescue or guidance. The CHILDLINE services are being implemented by Non-Governmental

organizations in the Districts under the control of Childline India Foundation with financial assistance from Government of India. In Tamil Nadu 1,58,112 telephone calls were received under the service during the year 2021-2022.

5.12 Child Protection Services (CPS)

The State of Tamil Nadu is known for its commitment towards child protection. The Government have established adequate State and District level structures enshrined under the 'Child Protection Services' - "Mission Vatsalya" a Centre-State sponsored programme. The scheme envisages care, protection, development and rehabilitation of children by providing best possible opportunities in a comfortable environment. The effective implementation of the programme is achieved through Government, Non-Governmental and community participation by maintaining

openness and transparency. Quality service delivery for children in institutions, intervention programmes for children in difficult circumstances, enhancing the safety and security of children, family based care as an alternative to institutionalization, finding families for children are the major components of the scheme.

The scheme provides a broader framework to fulfill the mandates stipulated under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Programmes for addressing the needs of every child have been drawn keeping in mind the individual care plan of children. Monitoring and Evaluation at regular intervals is also ensured. The Directorate of Social Defence has also developed performance and management indicators to monitor the implementation of Child Protection Services at district level.

5.12.1 Service Delivery Structures under Child Protection Services

The Government have established the following structures for effective implementation of Child Protection Services:-

- State Child Protection Society (SCPS)
- District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)
- State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)

Training of stakeholders at various levels, integrated services by liaising with various sectors including health, education, judiciary, police and labour and skill development have been done to cater to the multiple needs of children.

A sum of Rs.31.53 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.13 Registration of all Child Care Institutions under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 mandates the registration of all Child Care Institutions under the Act. The Child Care Institutions functioning without registration are liable for legal punishment. The registration of child care institutions regulates and monitors the activities and ensures minimum standards in Child Care Institutions.

1,029 institutions have been registered and 82 institutions are closed down during the year 2021-2022, for not having the minimum standards/ facilities to run the institutions. The registration to Child Care Institutions is accorded based on the fulfillment of minimum standards prescribed under the Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice Rules, 2017, such as space for dormitory, building stability, building license, fire safety,

sanitation etc. Around 36,133 children are accommodated in the registered Child Care Institutions.

5.14 Inspection and Monitoring of Child Care Institution

5.14.1 Inspection

According to the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, the Government have constituted State Level Inspection Committee (SLIC) and District Level Inspection Committees (DLICs), to effectively monitor the functioning of all Child Care Institutions and to ensure prescribed standards of care and protection. In addition to the above existing inspection bodies, Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees are also inspecting the Child Care Institutions under their purview. The State Level Inspection Committee has been constituted under the chairpersonship of the Director of Social Defence/ Secretary, State Child Protection

Society. The District Level Inspection Committees have been constituted by District Collectors.

5.14.2 Child Track System

The Government of India had set up a National Portal on Missing Child Tracking System (www.trackthemissingchild.gov.in) through National Informatics Centre to trace missing and found children. The child tracking system facilitates matching of missing and found children and also enables follow up on the progress of tracking of children. Thus, proper monitoring and welfare of the children under the scheme would also be ensured through the portal. Child Track System is linked with all the Police Stations, District Child Protection Units, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Care Institutions in all parts of the State through this national portal.

Each stakeholder is given separate username and password for uploading the details of the missing children.

5.14.3 Individual Care Plan

The Individual Care plan is developed for all the children who are staying in Child Care Institutions, in order to assess the progress, design intervention strategies in institutions and to plan effectively for the rehabilitation, restoration with family and reintegration of children into society. Periodical training has been given to the staff of Child Care Institutions functioning in the State for preparing quality Individual Care Plan. The department in collaboration with UNICEF has brought out an animation video and a booklet to train the functionaries to professionally draw an Individual Care Plan, so as to effectively utilize the available resources.

5.14.4 Monitoring of Child Protection Services

The Government of Tamil Nadu has formed new Child Protection Committees in rural as well as in urban areas to prevent incidents of Child rights violation and ensure Child Protection.

5.14.4.1 Child Protection Committees in rural areas

1. Village Level Child Protection Committee
2. Block Level Child Protection Committee
3. District Level Child Protection Committee

5.14.4.2 Child Protection Committees in urban areas

1. Child Protection Committee at Town Panchayat Level
2. Child Protection Committee at Municipal Level
3. Child Protection Committee at Zonal Level in Municipal Corporation

These committees render child protection services by creating awareness on child marriage, child labour, migration of children for child labour, exploitation, illegal child adoption, child protection and prevent children from sexual offences, increase of child sex ratio by reducing female foeticide and infanticide etc.

To reduce and combat the incidences of child rights violation and to professionally conduct the meetings at village level, the State Child Protection Society in collaboration with UNICEF has brought out a hand book setting out the guiding principles to be adhered and devised a format for documenting the discussions and decisions taken during the meeting.

Capacity building programmes had been organized covering 72,611 members of the village level child protection committees since 2014. Similarly 912 capacity building and

training programmes had been conducted covering 4,556 members of the Block Level Child Protection Committees and 34 programmes for 1,241 members of the District Child Protection Committees during 2021 - 2022.

5.15 Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children

The State of Tamil Nadu has been implementing various welfare programmes to safeguard the interests of children and also to provide opportunities for sustainable growth and development. The State has brought out an exclusive policy for children to have a strategic approach on life, survival, health, nutrition, education, protection and participation of children. The State Policy for Children was released by the Honorable Chief Minister on 20.11.2021.

The Directorate of Social Defence has been assigned with preparing of an action plan for implementing the objects of the State Policy

and integrating the services existing in line Departments. The Directorate of Social Defence with the support of UNICEF has organized several regional level consultation programmes to chalk out draft action plan to effectively carry out and fulfill the mandates of the Government enshrined in the State Policy.

5.16 Integrated Training Center for Social Empowerment

The Government had established **“Integrated Training Center for Social Empowerment”** in association with UNICEF, one of the first kind in the country, to serve as a centre of excellence in child protection especially for capacity building, training of various functionaries under the Juvenile Justice System, Women Welfare / Women Empowerment. So far, 640 participants from child protection sector had been trained by organizing 16 training programmes.

5.17 Rehabilitation Policy for children in street situations

The Government have formulated “Rehabilitation Policy for Children in Street Situations, 2022”. The main objective of the policy is to take steps for identification and rescue of children in street situations and to recommend suitable measures for effective rehabilitation in accordance to their prevailing situation. It also provides a plan for reporting and monitoring of children in street situations and to establish an effective coordination of stakeholders in other States for further follow-up.

5.18 The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 had been enacted to combat trafficking and sexual exploitation of women for commercial sexual purposes. The Act provides for institutional care facilities for short and long

term rehabilitation of victims by providing education, training and skill development.

5.18.1 Vigilance/ Protective Homes

Vigilance/ Protective homes provide residential care facilities for women in moral danger. Women victims are being admitted in these homes as per the orders issued by the courts under the provisions of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. In these homes services like residential care, medical treatment, counseling, vocational training are provided to inmates as part of their rehabilitation. A financial assistance of Rs.10,000/- is provided to the victims under "Victim Relief Fund".

The State Government is maintaining five Government Vigilance /Protective Homes each in Chennai, Madurai, Salem, Coimbatore and Trichy for the rehabilitation of women victims of trafficking under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

A video conferencing facility has been installed between the Government Vigilance Home, Mylapore and Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Saidapet at a cost of Rs.20.00 lakh to facilitate "virtual appearance in lieu of physical production to Court" for the victims of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 thereby maintaining their dignity and facilitates speedy trial by the court. Free legal assistance has been extended to women victims admitted in these institutions.

A sum of Rs.5.49 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.18.2 Ujjawala Scheme

Trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation is a crime against human rights. To ensure safety and proper rehabilitation of victims, Ujjawala

Scheme is being implemented with Centre and State assistance. It is a comprehensive scheme for Prevention of Trafficking, Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. There are 4 Non-Governmental Organizations implementing this scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu. 166 women have benefitted under this scheme during the year 2021-2022.

5.19 De-Addiction Programme

The Integrated Rehabilitation Centers for addicts of alcohol and substances (Drugs) have been established and maintained by Non Governmental Organisations for providing in-patient and out-patient treatment under the Government of India Scheme. The treatment is provided at free of cost and 4 Non Governmental Organisations are recommended for assistance during the year 2021-2022.

5.20 The Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights

The Tamil Nadu Government has constituted the Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights under section 17(1) of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. The main function of this Commission is monitoring the implementation of child welfare related Acts in force. The Commission consists of one Chairperson and 6 Members and is functioning from 18.01.2013.

A sum of Rs.126.15 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023.

5.21 Convergence with other Departments for Child Protection

The Directorate of Social Defence is closely coordinating with other Government Departments and Non-Governmental Organisations in mainstreaming the children, providing the protection services and reducing

the sufferings of vulnerable children and those in difficult circumstances.

It ensures the care and protection of all the children with the effective co-ordination with line Departments i.e. Social Welfare, Education Department, Labour Welfare, Samakra Shiksha Abhiyan, National Child Labour Project, Railway Police, Revenue Department, Integrated Child Development Services, Rural Development, Municipal Administration, Medical and Health, Childline, Police, Judicial and Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled.

At District Level, District Child Protection Committee meetings are conducted periodically under the Chairmanship of District Collector, in which all stakeholders including Judiciary participate to plan and address the issues related to child protection.

Suitable rescue operations are planned by identifying cases of sexual abuse, child marriage, child trafficking, using the children for begging, physical and mental abuses and child labour. Awareness campaigns with the help of Government Departments and Institutions are conducted on regular basis at District Level.

CHAPTER-6

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an international agreement formulated to act to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The SDGs aim at transforming the lives and livelihood of the people across the globe.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of seventeen goals with 169 targets and 304 indicators that all the countries which are members of the UN agreed to work upon to be achieved by 2030.

NITI Aayog, is the nodal agency for coordinating and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in collaboration with States. The Niti Aayog works closely with the State and

supports them in a range of initiatives for SDG localisation, including the State and District Indicator Frameworks, review mechanisms and capacity building.

Eight Sustainable Development Goals-working groups are in place to monitor the progress and inter convergence activities of the departments. Secretary to Government, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department is the nominated nodal officer for Sustainable Development Goals-working group 4, taking care of "Goal-5 Gender equality and women empowerment"

To track performance of Sustainable Development Goals, the State has developed SDG dash board through which data are collected periodically from the concerned departments. Monitoring formats, output-outcome indicator frame works for each scheme are also developed to understand the

performance of the scheme and to give recommendations for course corrections.

Based on that, the department is in the process of revamping the schemes and remapping of the schemes under relevant departments to achieve a broader impact of the schemes and effective management of resources.

GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

"Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

- UN Organisation

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department is the Nodal Department for Goal-5 Gender Equality. It has 9 targets and 14 Indicators.

Empowering women and girls to take control of their bodies and lives is crucial for

solving our biggest social and environmental crises. According to the UN, ending gender-based violence, harmful practices, preventable maternal deaths and unmet family planning needs is affordable and within reach.

To measure State's performance towards Goal of Gender Equality, six national level indicators have been identified, which are outcome oriented and capture four out of the nine SDG targets for Goal 5. The six indicators are - (i) Sex Ratio at Birth; (ii) Wage Gap (Male/Female); (iii) Domestic Violence; (iv) Women in Leadership; (v) Ratio of Female Labour Force Participation Rate; and (vi) Family Planning.

Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

The department implements various scheme as Cradle Baby Scheme, Girl Child protection scheme and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme to

address the social issues of female foeticide, female infanticide, girl child discrimination and gender biased societal mindset. These schemes aim to protect the girl children, ensure their birth & survival, and thus indirectly support the increase in SRB of the State. It provide economic assistance to continue school education and higher education to ensure their right for education.

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

The Government implements Women Help Line (181) Senior Citizen Help Line (14567) and Child Help Line (1098) which is intended to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women and Children affected by Violence and abuse.

34 One Stop Centers are functioning in all District headquarters hospitals to provide integrated assistance as temporary shelter, medical assistance, psycho social support, free legal aid, Police assistance and counseling service for women affected with gender based harassment and violence. The State Government provides grant to 36 Swadhar Greh, which are run by NGOS to provide shelter, food, clothing, counseling, training, clinical and legal aid to rehabilitate women in difficult circumstances.

The Government runs Service Homes to provide accommodation, food, health, medical facilities and vocational training to deserted Women and any women who is in need of care and protection can stay along with their children. The Women are also encouraged to pursue their schooling.

Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 is implemented by the Department throughout the State and continuous effort are being taken to file FIRS against child marriage and create awareness among public against child marriages. In collaboration with UNICEF, Sensitization programs are being conducted among line department in 15 High incidence districts towards Ending Child Marriage and Adolescent Empowerment .In coordination with SPC, Awareness Generation activities are being undertaken in 10 backward blocks of aspirational districts Ramanadhapuram and Virudhunagar under State Balanced Growth Fund.

Target 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

The Department implements social protection policies through various acts such as Dowry prohibition Act, 1961, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and senior Citizen Act, 2007, Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place Act, 2013 and Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for women and children Regulation Act, 2015 to ensure dignity and respect of women, children and senior citizen within the household and the family.

Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision - making in political economic and public life.

The department has formulated State Policy for Women and State Policy for Elders emphasizing their right and towards ensuring opportunities for effective participation and leadership qualities in public life. The Working Women Hostels are regulated by the department for a safe & decent stay for women which leads to economic empowerment of Women. The State also has reserved 50% seats for women in local bodies and 30% reservation for women in employment.

Target 5.6: Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the agreed in accordance with the programme of action of the International Conference on population and development and the being platform for action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Through Health Department, the Government implements various programmes as Health checkup during pregnancy, supply of Nutrition Health Kit, Maternity Benefit scheme to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care.

Target 5.7: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property,

financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

Tamil Nadu is the pioneer State in enacting law way back in 1989 giving equal rights to daughters on parental properties which has been ensured by Supreme Court in the year 2020. Many schemes are unveiled by the Government to provide enough recognition to the Women in the Households through various departments as Agriculture, Rural Development, Tribal welfare, etc..

Target 5.8: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

The Government has introduced various Helplines as Child Helpline 1098, Women Helpline 181, Senior Citizen Helpline 14567, Cyber Crime Helpline 1930, and Mobile

Applications as Kavalan, Kaval Udhavi to ensure safety of Women and empowering her in the field of Education, Employment, etc..

Target 5.9: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

The Department implements various Social Legislations to ensure safety and protection and thereby enabling empowerment of Women and Girl Children. The State has also formulated the State Policy for Women which rightfully recognises the critical role played by women in agriculture and allied sectors. It guarantees women equal representation in the management of water resources, forest rights and agricultural cooperatives.

The department works towards achieving the objectives of SDG-5 goals in coordination

with other stake holders to achieve gender equality with the SDG motto- "Together for the Sustainable Development"

Towards the State Indicator for Goal 1&2- No Poverty and Zero Hunger, the Nutritious Meal Programme is implemented in 43,190 schools catering to school children in the age of 5-15 years. ICDS runs 54439 AWCS to fulfill the nutritional needs of 26,99,542 children in the age group 6 months to 6 years, 11-14 out of school 242 adolescent girls, 7,51,580 pregnant and lactating mothers, health need and pre-school educational need of children.

Under SDG-4, target 4.2, to ensure all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development care and preprimary education, ICDS provides ECCE, for 2-6 years children enrolled in Anganwadi centres, State specific ECCE curriculum has been developed on 11

themes and Anganwadi workers are trained to provide comprehensive care and education to the children.

ICDS plays an important role in achieving the indicators under SDG 2 and 4. The indicators for these goals are monitored at the state level through a real-time monitoring app **POSHAN Tracker.**

As per the report SDG 3.0 children under five years who are underweight in Tamil Nadu is 23.5%. While stunted children is 19.7% In addition Pregnant women aged 15-49 years who are Anaemic is 44.3%.

NITI Aayog has released the 3rd edition of the SDG India index and dash board 2020-21 on 03.06.2021. As per SDG 3.0 reports Tamil Nadu stands in

1st place with the score 86 for SDG 1,
7th place with the score 66 for SDG 2,
5th place with the score 69 for SDG 4,
4th place with the score 59 for SDG 5,

Tamil Nadu took in 2nd position with the score 74, for the composite score 100 which is for all 17 goals and listed in **Front runner** in performance wise.

The department assures holistic development of women, children and senior citizen by active formulation and implementation of welfare scheme and by achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

CHAPTER-7

Social Security Pension Schemes

7.1 Social Security Schemes:

The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing Social Security Pension Schemes to protect the vulnerable sections of the society. i.e., old aged persons, differently abled persons, widows, agricultural labourers, farmers, destitute/ deserted wives and unmarried, poor, incapacitated women of age of 50 years and above, who are destitute and poor. The monthly Pension of Rs.1,000/- is being paid to all the eligible beneficiaries under these Schemes. The allocation has been increased substantially up to Rs. 4807.56 crore in 2022-23. As on 31st March 2022, 34,52,758 beneficiaries were included under various schemes as detailed below:

| Sl. No. | Name of the Schemes | No. of beneficiaries as on 31.03.2022 |
|----------------|--|--|
| 1 | Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme | 14,60,159 |
| 2 | Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme | 64,623 |
| 3 | Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme | 5,72,258 |
| 4 | Differently Abled Pension Scheme | 3,52,697 |
| 5 | Destitute Widow Pension Scheme | 5,69,789 |
| 6 | Chief Minister's Uzhavar Patukappu Thittam | 2,82,974 |
| 7 | Destitute / Deserted Wives Pension Scheme | 1,20,389 |
| 8 | Un-married Women Pension Scheme | 25,486 |
| 9 | Srilankan Pension Schemes | 4,383 |
| Total | | 34,52,758 |

Funding Pattern–Union and State share

| Sl. No. | Name of the Scheme | Union Government Contribution | State Government Contribution |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) | Rs.200/- | Rs.800/- |
| | | Rs.500/- | Rs.500/- |
| 2. | Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) | Rs.300/- | Rs.700/- |
| 3. | Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) | Rs.300/- | Rs.700/- |
| 4. | Differently Abled Pension Scheme (DAPS) | - | Rs.1000/- |
| 5. | Destitute Widow Pension Scheme (DWPS) | - | Rs.1000/- |
| 6. | Chief Minister's Uzhavar PadukappuThittam (CMUPT) | - | Rs.1000/- |
| 7. | Destitute / Deserted Wives Pension Scheme (DDWPS) | - | Rs.1000/- |
| 8. | Pension to Poor Unmarried Women of age 50 years and above (UWP) | - | Rs.1000/- |
| 9. | Pension to Srilankan Refugees | - | Rs.1000/- |

Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria to avail assistance under the three pension schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in Tamil Nadu are as detailed below:

| Sl. No | Scheme | Eligibility Criteria |
|--------|--|--|
| 1. | Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGN-OAPS) | Eligibility: Destitute, belonging to Below poverty line Age: 60 years and above |
| 2. | Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGN-WPS) | Eligibility: Destitute Widow, belonging to Below poverty line Age: 40 years and above. |
| 3. | Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGN-DPS) | Disability level: 80% and above, belonging to Below poverty line Age: 18 years and above. |

The eligibility criteria for Social Security Pension Schemes fully funded by the Government of Tamil Nadu are as detailed below:

| Sl. No. | Scheme | Eligibility Criteria |
|---------|---|--|
| 1 | Differently Abled Pension Scheme (DAS) | Unemployed. If private / self-employed, the annual income of the beneficiary should not exceed Rs.3 Lakh. Age: 18 years and above. Disability level: 40% and above |
| 2 | Destitute Widow Pension Schemes(DWPS) | Destitute Widow. Age:18 years and above, Fixed assets: Not exceeding Rs.1,00,000/- |
| | | "Provided further that the value of the fixed assets or property of the applicant or beneficiary may not be taken into account if a free house has been assigned to the beneficiary under any of the schemes of the Government." |
| 3 | Chief Minister's Uzhavar Padhukaapu Thittam (CMUPT) | Destitute. Age: 60 years and above. Landless agricultural labourers Fixed assets: Not exceeding Rs.1,00,000/- "Provided further that the value of the fixed assets or property of the applicant or beneficiary may not be taken into account if a free house has been assigned to the beneficiary under any of the schemes of the Government." |

| Sl. No. | Scheme | Eligibility Criteria |
|---------|--|---|
| 4 | Destitute/ Deserted Wives Pension Scheme (DDWPS) | Destitute. Age: 30 years and above. Must be legally divorced or deserted for not less than 5 years (or) obtained legal separation certificate from a competent Court of Law. Fixed assets: Not exceeding Rs.1,00,000/- |
| | | "Provided further that the value of the fixed assets or property of the applicant or beneficiary may not be taken into account if a free house has been assigned to the beneficiary under any of the schemes of the Government." |
| 5 | Pension to Poor Unmarried Women of age 50 years and above(UWP) | Destitute and Unmarried women. Age: 50 years and above. Fixed assets: Not exceeding Rs.1,00,000/- "Provided further that the value of the fixed assets or property of the applicant or beneficiary may not be taken into account if a free house has been assigned to the beneficiary under any of the schemes of the Government." |

7.2 Online web application for applying for Social Security Scheme Pensions

Revenue Department has implemented a simple one- page format that can be submitted

online by those who seek pension under any Social security scheme. The applications are forwarded to the concerned revenue authorities by the system for verification. After verification, the eligible cases are forwarded to the higher authorities for scrutiny and sanction of pension. Pension is sanctioned by Tahsildar (SSS) for the eligible petitioner.

Other benefits to the pensioners:

One saree per female pensioner/one dhoti per male pensioner is distributed twice a year i.e. on Pongal and Deepavali festivals.

The beneficiaries are also permitted to draw fine variety rice free of cost as per the following norms:-

- (i) 4 Kg of fine variety rice per month for those who do not take meals at the Anganwadi Centres.

- (ii) 2 Kg of the fine variety rice per month for those who take meals at the Anganwadi Centres.

P.Geetha Jeevan
Minister For Social Welfare -
Women Empowerment

ANNEXURE – 1

Details of Important Days observed by Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---|
| 1. | 24th January | National Day for the Girl Child |
| 2. | 24th February | State Girl Child Protection Day |
| 3. | 8th March | International Day for the Women |
| 4. | 15th April | Transgender Day |
| 5. | 12th June | Anti Child Labour Day |
| 6. | 15th June | World Elder Abuse Awareness Day |
| 7. | 1st October | International Day of Older Persons |
| 8. | 14th November | Children's Day |
| 9. | 20th November | Universal Child Rights Day |
| 10. | 25 th November | International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women |
| 11. | 26th November | Dowry Prohibition Day |

ANNEXURE – 2

BUDGET ESTIMATE – 2022-2023 DEMAND No.45

SOCIAL WELFARE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT

TOTAL BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 2022-2023 Rs.5,922.40 crore

| BUDET ESTIMATE FOR THE YEAR 2022-2023 | | |
|--|---|--------------------|
| HEAD OF ACCOUNT | | (Rs. in lakh) |
| REVENUE SECTION | | Allocation |
| 2059 | Public Works | 262.56 |
| 2225 | Directorate of Social Welfare | 12.42 |
| 2235 | Directorate of Social Defence | 18,960.06 |
| 2235 | Directorate of Social Welfare | 1,13,383.04 |
| 2235 | Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme | 15,653.30 |
| 2236 | Secretariat | 39.35 |
| 2236 | Directorate of Social Welfare | 1,87,995.80 |
| 2236 | Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme | 2,49,702.77 |
| 2251 | Secretariat | 786.16 |
| 2551 | Directorate of Social Welfare | ---- |
| REVENUE SECTION TOTAL | | 5,86,795.46 |
| CAPITAL SECTION | | |
| 4235 | Directorate of Social Welfare | 0.02 |
| 4235 | Directorate of Social Defence | 556.02 |
| 4236 | Directorate of Social Welfare | 0.02 |
| 4236 | Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme | 4,848.00 |
| CAPITAL SECTION TOTAL | | 5,404.06 |

| LOAN SECTION | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 7610 | Loans to Government Servants etc., | 40.01 |
| LOAN SECTION TOTAL | | 40.01 |
| Grand Total | | 5,92,239.53 |

GROSS TOTAL

(Rs. in Lakh)

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue Section : | 5,86,795.46 |
| Capital Section : | 5,404.06 |
| Loan Section : | 40.01 |
| TOTAL : | 5,92,239.53 |

(or)

Rs. 5,922.40 Crore

A sum of Rs.4,807.56 Crore has also been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2022-2023 under the Demand No.41 Revenue Department for the implementation of Social Security Pension Schemes.

SERVICES

Women Helpline 181

(Website:<https://tn181whl.org/>)

(<https://www.facebook.com/181Tamilnadu/>)

(<https://twitter.com/whl181>)

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/>)

(UCQ7_mJrhmhZNa4YfDXRrYfQ)

(www.instagram.com/whl181tn/)

Women Helpline (Domestic Violence)

1091

Child Helpline

1098

Student and Exam Helpline

14417

Senior Citizen Helpline

14567

Cyber Crime Helpline

1930

Kavalan Udhavi App

(For Children, Women and Senior Citizens Emergency)



The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the Integrated Child Development Centre at Madhavaram Highways near St. Mary's School, Kolathur Assembly constituency and distributed sweets to the children (20.09.2021)



The Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the scheme to provide Rs. 2,000/- per month under the Sponsorship Programme through the Directorate of Social Defence (20.11.2021)



The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment reviewed the performance of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department (11.10.2021)



The Hon'ble Chief Minister issued Compassionate Appointment orders to the heirs of 15 Government Employees who died while on duty in the offices of the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department (20.11.2021)



First Consultative Workshop on Formulation of Draft State Policy for Women chaired by the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment (12.08.2021)



The Hon'ble Chief Minister greeted the Non-official Members of the Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board (18.10.2021)



The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the buildings constructed by Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department through Video Conference (25.10.2021)



Media Workshop was conducted and short films on awareness creation was released on reducing Malnutrition and Anemia among Children and women (06.12.2021)



The Hon'ble Chief Minister has released the "Tamil Nadu State Children's Policy 2021" to ensure the safety, integrated Development of the children and their Rights in Tamil Nadu (20.11.2021)



The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment inspected the Child Welfare Centre at Tiruvanmiyur and verified the uploading of 0-6 years children growth monitoring data in the newly developed application (21.03.2022)

