



**SOCIAL WELFARE AND
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT**

**POLICY NOTE
2023-2024**

DEMAND No. 45

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MINISTER FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE - WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
2023

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DEMAND NO.45

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POLICY NOTE 2023–2024

CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

மனிதனுக்கு மனிதன் ஏற்றத்தாழ்வு இல்லை
ஆணும் பெண்ணும் சரி நிகர் சமானம்.

– தந்தை பெரியார்

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department embodies one of the core functions of the Welfare State, which is to provide welfare measures to its citizens, especially to the more vulnerable, disadvantageous and marginalised sections of the Society. As such, the Government whose foundation is based on social justice, social equity and inclusiveness has made social welfare the focus of its governance, especially women

who are marginalised, exploited, suppressed and uneducated, and children who need care, protection and sustainability, senior citizens who require healthcare, nutrition, protection and rehabilitation and Transgenders who are in need of empathy, social inclusiveness and economic support.

There are three Directorates working under the control of the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, namely the Directorate of Social Welfare, the Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services and the Directorate of Social Defence.

Broadly, the Directorate of Social Welfare looks after the implementation of various schemes and programmes related to women development and empowerment, transgender community, senior citizens and Noon Meal Programme.

The Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is responsible for promoting early childhood care for survival, growth and development. The ICDS was launched in 1975 as a welfare scheme for children between 0-6 years, pregnant and lactating women and aims to address the issue of malnutrition among children, fulfil other needs for the complete development of children and provide health care services to pregnant and lactating women.

The Directorate of Social Defence looks after the 'welfare and development' of children from the vantage point of providing protection to 'children in need of care and protection' and reformation and rehabilitation of 'children in conflict with law' by providing institutional and non-institutional services. The Department also provides after-care services and implement programmes for facilitating self-sustainability for those leaving institutional care.

Directorate of Social Welfare

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department reflects the focus of the Government in ensuring equal rights of women in Education, Health, Family life, Economic, Political Rights and a holistic empowerment of women in Tamil Nadu.

Women Empowerment is a process through which women are assured of lives without fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension, discrimination and perceived persecution. It also implies acquiring of power for women to understand her rights and perform her responsibilities effectively. It fosters greater autonomy in decision making by women through proper access to information and providing control over factors affecting their performance. By creating awareness and capacity building women can acquire various skills and capacities to remove gender disparity and attain sociological, psychological, political, familial and economic

empowerment of women and reflected at individual, group and community levels.

Constitutional Provisions for equal rights for women

The Constitution of India provides equal opportunities and rights to Women. Some of the significant Articles in the Constitutions are as follows

- ❖ Equality before law [Article 14]
- ❖ No discrimination by state on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them [Article 15(i)]
- ❖ Special provision by state in favour of Women and Children [Article 15(3)]
- ❖ Equality of opportunity in matters relating to employment [Article 16]
- ❖ Securing adequate means of livelihood for men and women equally [Article 39(a)]
- ❖ Equal pay for equal work [Article 39(d)]

- ❖ Promoting justice on the basis of equal opportunity and to provide free legal aid [Article 39(A)] and Renounce practices derogatory to women [Article 51(A)(e)]
- ❖ 1/3 reservation for women in panchayats [Article 243(D)] and in municipalities [Article 243(T)]
- ❖ Right to Property to Women [Article 300(a)]

Tamil Nadu Government is a forerunner in implementing various women centric and path breaking schemes such as Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Pudhumai Penn Scheme which has so far benefited 2.09 lakhs girls with a direct benefit transfer of Rs.1000/- per month to their bank accounts throughout their under graduation, ITI and Diploma courses. Higher education will enable women to make more informed decision about age at marriage, choice of life partners without getting into the trap of child marriages, early pregnancy, repeated

abortions and consanguineous marriages, etc. It will ensure economic empowerment through employment opportunities and Entrepreneurship. The free bus travel for Women, differently abled person and Transgender ensures their mobility to the Schools, Colleges, Study Centres and Work places.

Tamil Nadu Working Women Hostel Corporation Limited has been established to erect more working women hostels for their safety and security. It enables the working women to pursue their employment opportunities and empower them economically. At present, there are seven service homes running for the needy women such as widows, deserted and marginalised to enable them to continue their education, skilling and employment trainings through these homes. Multivarious facilities such as Women Help Lines, One Stop Centres and Swadhar Homes are being run to accommodate and support psychologically,

physically, socially, legally and economically the victims of violence at home, public spaces and community.

There are 100 (99 women + 1 Transgender) Women Tailoring Co-operative Societies supporting 85,493 members who get their yearly income through stitching of free uniforms for the school children.

Various legislations which protects women rights, such as the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act 2013, Tamil Nadu Hostels and Home for Women and Children (Regulation) Act 2014 and Rules 2015 are being implemented through the Department of Social Welfare.

To safeguard the Children from the evil of infanticide, the novel schemes such as Cradle

Baby Scheme, Chief Ministers Girl Child Protection Scheme and Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2006 are implemented.

Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in bringing socio economic welfare for the transgender through the formation of Transgender Welfare Board and by taking up various Welfare activities such as issuing of Identity cards, Transgender pension scheme and giving financial assistance for starting economic activities for their livelihood.

As per the projected population in the report "Elderly in India 2021" released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, Tamil Nadu with 13.6% of Senior Citizens in 2021 is projected to have the second highest proportion of Senior Citizens with 18.2% in 2031 next only to Kerala.

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, a statutory body, was constituted in

2008 to deal with the cases related to crime against women.

In 2022, the Widow and Destitute Welfare Board was created to address the issues related to Widows, Destitute Women and Spinsters.

Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services

Pediatric malnutrition has always been a matter of national concern in spite of various vertical health programmes being initiated by the Government from time to time. In 1974, India adopted a well-defined national policy for children. In pursuance of this policy, it was decided to start a holistic multicentric programme with a compact package of services. The decision led to the formulation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) – one of the most prestigious and premier national nutrition programmes of the Government of India. The scheme was launched on 2 October 1975 in 33

(4 rural, 18 urban, 11 tribal) blocks. In subsequent years, it was expanded progressively.

In Tamil Nadu, the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme covers 32.51 lakh direct beneficiaries i.e., children availing Health services, weight monitoring, counselling etc., through 54,439 Child Centres (comprising 49,499 Main Anganwadi Centres and 4,940 Mini Anganwadi Centres) functioning in 434 Child Development Blocks.

Advantages and Impact of ICDS

- ICDS plays an important role in fighting malnutrition across the State.
- Prior to ICDS, a few children in villages attain preliminary education but with the help of ICDS, every child gets access to free preliminary education, which is quite important for the complete development of children.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is thus working with a transformed Integrated Child Development Services to ensure holistic physical, psychological, cognitive and emotional development of children under six years of age in child friendly and gender sensitive family, community, programme and policy environments with greater emphasis on children under 3 and promotion of optimal early childhood care, development and learning including adolescent and maternal care.

Directorate of Social Defence

The Government of Tamil Nadu has an enviable history in taking proactive initiatives towards the care, protection and rehabilitation of children in difficult circumstances. The State has built a strong structure along with necessary implementation and monitoring system to fulfil the mandates enshrined under the Juvenile

Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

Though the State has created a conducive environment in the child care institutions for every child to grow and develop, the primary effort is to exhaust all avenues for keeping children in families. Institutionalization of children is considered as a last resort. Accordingly, the focus has been to promote adoption, foster care and sponsorship programmes so that children could enjoy the warmth of love and affection of a family. Action plan has been drawn up to improve foster care in the State by identifying suitable families for children when the biological family is found incapacitated or unfit to keep the children.

The Government has not only fulfilled the commitment of the State towards welfare and protection of its children, but is also well oriented in evolving a suitable approach towards child protection in consonance with the ground realities

and changing environment in the society, so that every single child is protected and “no one is left behind”.

CHAPTER-2

SOCIAL WELFARE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

2.1 Social Legislations for Women, Children, Senior Citizens and Transgender Persons

The statutes of the land in the form of legislated Acts (and the rules) form the fountain head from which the State draws its power to undertake various activities for the protection and welfare of the people.

Many Social Legislations pertaining to women, children, senior citizens and transgenders which have been enacted to ensure their safety and protection of their rights are implemented by the Department of Social Welfare:

1. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
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.
5. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
6. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and Rules 2009.
7. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and Rules 2022.

Social Legislations for Women

2.1.1 Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

- Under the Dowry Prohibition Act, District Level Advisory Committees have been formed in all the Districts

- Dowry Prohibition Act has been amended in 1989. District Social Welfare Officers have been designated as the Dowry Prohibition Officers as per Section 8(B) of the Dowry Prohibition Rules, 2004. Necessary training has been imparted to the District Social Welfare Officers for the effective implementation of the Act.
- The Police Department/Court files the dowry case after obtaining genuineness report from the District Social Welfare Officers.

Details of cases filed under Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

Sl. No.	Details	Jan – 2021 to Dec -2021	Jan – 2022 to Dec - 2022
1.	No. of cases registered at DSWOs	1486	1454
2.	No. of cases redressed amicably	719	769
3.	No. of cases reported to Police for prosecution	305	327
4.	No. of cases inquired by DSWO	462	358

2.1.2 Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

The Act provides protection to women to 'live in violence free home' and ensures the women's right to reside in her matrimonial home, get custody of her children and maintenance. Though this Act has civil and criminal provisions, it also enables a woman to get immediate civil remedies within 60 days.

Special Features under the Act

- Cases can be filed under the Act 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 abuse 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

In each District Social Welfare Office, a Protection officer has been appointed to help the aggrieved women to file the petition and get legal redressal.

The NGOs notified under the Act function as Service Providers and help aggrieved women in filing the Domestic Incident Report (DIR), provide accommodation in the short stay homes along with the children, counsel them and help the aggrieved women to get medical treatment if required. Based on the need, they also impart vocational training to secure employment for sustainable income.

Cases reported under the Act, 2005

Sl. No.	Details	Jan-2021 to Dec-2021	Jan-2022 to Dec-2022
1	Cases Reported	5,824	6,214
2	No. of cases disposed by Protection Officers	2,952	2,846
3	No. of cases filed in the Court	2,038	2,639
4	No. of cases under process with Protection Officers	834	729

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

Sexual Harassment results in violation of the fundamental rights of a woman to equality under Article 14 and 15 and her right to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The protection of women from sexual harassment and right to work with dignity are universally recognized human rights.

The Act came into force on the 9th Day of December 2013. The Government has notified the

District Collectors as District Officers under Section 5 of the Act.

Section 4 of the Act mandates for Internal Complaints Committees to be constituted in all Workplaces which have more than 10 employees. The District Social Welfare Officer is the Nodal Officer at the District who monitors the implementation of the Act. Notification have been issued in Newspapers by the District Collector directing all offices (both Government and Private) to set up the Internal Complaints Committee in the Districts. Any employer who fails to comply are liable for Punishment with fine upto Rupees fifty thousand. If not constituted, the Government or local authority is empowered to cancel their license or registration.

Local Complaints Committees have been constituted at District Level by the District Collector for safety of women working in unorganized sector, if the complaint is against the

employer and the workplace with less than 10 employees, as per the section 6 of the Act. Local Complaints Committees (LCC) have been formed in all the 38 Districts in the State.

The concept of Complaint Box has been introduced for women to open-up about their problems. The Internal Committee inquires into these complaints.

2.1.4 Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act 2014

In order to enhance security and prevent acts of violence against children and women who are accommodated in places away from their homes and for registering and regulating all such places, the Government of Tamil Nadu have enacted the Act (2014) and its Rules (2015). Since 01.07.2022, all hostels and homes are required to get registered through an online registration process at [**https://tnswp.com**](https://tnswp.com)

Social Legislations for Children

2.1.5 The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

The Government of India enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in 2006. This legislation is armed with enabling provisions to prohibit child marriages, protect and provide relief to victims and ensures punishment for those who abet, promote or solemnize such marriages.

To eradicate child marriage in the State, the Government of Tamil Nadu has framed the State Rules viz., The Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Child Marriage Rules, 2009 and notified the same on 30.12.2009.

Child Marriage Prohibition Officer

The Government have designated the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) as Child Marriage Prohibition Officer for effective implementation of the Act, under Section 17 of

the Act. The DSWO's are vested with powers to act immediately upon any information of solemnization of marriage through any mode of communication and to stop it. They can file petition for annulling child marriage, to pay maintenance to the female contracting party of a child marriage and can seek orders for the custody and maintenance of the children of child marriage.

Punishment under the Act

As per the Act, any male below the age of 21 and any female below the age of 18 years contracting marriage is an offence. Child marriage is cognizable and non-bailable offence. It is also voidable and can be annulled.

A male adult above 18 years of age, contracting a child marriage is liable for punishment with rigorous imprisonment which may extend for 2 years or with fine upto Rs.1.00

lakh or both. Any person who promotes, permits, performs, conducts, negligently fails to prevent, directs or abets any child marriage are punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend for 2 years or with fine upto Rs.1.00 lakh. However, no woman shall be punishable with imprisonment.

Steps taken for creating awareness to prevent Child Marriages

- Awareness posters about the ill effects of child marriages, with helpline numbers were printed and issued to all field functionaries for display in public buildings, bus stands, schools, colleges to create awareness and eradicate child marriages.
- The State Resource Centre has developed 'Elanthendral Pettagam', a package of 23 modules of Training materials in Tamil and 4 short films created by the department to train all district and block level officials on

issues such as gender based violence, child marriages.

- Awareness programmes about the Prohibition of Child marriage Act, 2006 and ill effects of Child marriage, Helpline numbers, etc. are being conducted through Block level field functionaries in highly prone areas.
- On receipt of information about child marriages, One Stop Centre staff also intervene immediately to reach the spot and prevent child marriages.
- Village Level Child Protection Committees have been formed with various field officials and local people which meets regularly and monitor the children related issues in the Panchayats.
- Various Welfare Schemes implemented by the State Government are designed in such

a way to benefit the Girl Children above 18 years which would discourage child marriage and encourage higher education for girls.

- As a rehabilitation measure, Child marriage victims are provided with vocational trainings.
- As part of Social Media, an exclusive Youtube channel -“Tamil Magalir Kural-Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment” has been created and short films are uploaded in the public domain.

2532 child marriages were prevented during the year 2022.

2.1.6 The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

Statutory protection for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens is provided under this Act and the rules framed thereunder.

It is the duty of the children and the legal heirs who are above the age of eighteen to take care of their Parent or Senior Citizens. A senior citizen including parent who is unable to maintain himself from his own earning or property owned by him, shall be entitled to make an application to the Tribunal set up under this Act on issues related to the physical health, mental health and property for which they can get relief.

Salient features of the Act

- 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/- month

- A petition filed under this Act for maintenance allowance shall be disposed off within 90 days
- If the person responsible for the care and protection of senior citizen abandons him, such person is liable for punishment 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, i.e. 31.12.2009 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 senior citizen shall give a petition to cancel the gift deed

**Grievance Redressal under the Act
Maintenance Tribunal**

Revenue Divisional Officers (RDO) are appointed as Maintenance Tribunal by the

Government under section 7 of the Act for the purpose of adjudicating, deciding and issuing orders for maintenance application under section 5 of the Act. There are 94 such Tribunals functioning in the State. The tribunals have been vested with the powers of a Civil Court.

Conciliation and Maintenance Officer

District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) is notified as the Conciliation and Maintenance Officer under this Act. If an aggrieved senior citizen and the opposite party agree to compromise, then the tribunal shall refer the case to DSWO or appoint such person acceptable to both parties by forwarding the related documents to work out a settlement agreeable to both parties within 30 days.

Under Section 18(1) of the Act, Government has nominated the DSWO as Maintenance Officer who shall represent a parent, if the parent so

desires, during the proceedings of the Tribunal or Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be.

Appellate Tribunal

The State Government has designated the District Collector as Appellate Tribunal who will hear the appeal petition against the orders passed by the Maintenance Tribunal.

An appeal can be made within 60 days by the appellant against the orders of the Tribunal. If the Appellate Tribunal is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal in time, the Appellate Tribunal shall entertain the appeal made after 60 days.

State and District Committee for the welfare of Senior Citizens

Government has constituted a High-Level Advisory Committee, viz., State Council for Senior Citizen, under the Chairmanship of Chief

Secretary at the State level and District Committee under the Chairmanship of District Collector of the respective district for the effective implementation of the Maintenance and welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

Social Legislation for Transgender Persons

2.1.7 Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

This Act was passed in 2019 by Government of India and The Tamil Nadu Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules were framed in December, 2022.

Salient Features of the Act

- ❖ The Act seeks to recognize the identity of transgender persons and prohibit discrimination in the fields of education, employment, health care, holding or disposing of property, holding public or private office and access to and use of public services and benefits.

- ❖ Definitions of 'person with intersex variation' and 'Transgender Person' have been provided to include trans-men and trans-women (whether or not such person has undergone sex reassignment surgery, hormone or other therapy)
- ❖ It provides right to self-perceived gender identity and casts an obligation on the district magistrate to issue a 'certificate of identity' as a transgender person without a requirement of any medical or physical examination.

2.2 Schemes

2.2.1 Women Welfare

Women comprise 49.91% of the total population in Tamil Nadu as per Census 2011. The welfare and empowerment of women have always found a pivotal role in the State's Socio-Economic Empowerment agenda. In order to uplift the women in the society by providing

them their requisite recognition, rights, power, safety and protection, various social legislations and schemes such as Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Pudhumai Penn Thittam, four kinds of marriage assistance schemes, working women hostels, women co-operative societies and service homes are being implemented by the Department. The department strives for ensuring social justice and promotion of inclusiveness in all walks of a woman's life. These programmes and policies are being implemented to ensure the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

2.2.1.1 Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Pudhumai Penn Scheme

This flagship scheme was launched on 05.09.2022 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister by providing financial benefits to girl students, to pursue higher education, this programme envisages to achieve a behavioral change leading to reduction in early marriages and arresting the

low ratio of enrolment in higher education and increasing retention of girl students in higher education. The scheme therefore envisages empowerment of girls, especially who have studied 6th to 12th standard in Government schools.

Objectives of the Scheme

- i. Promotes education of girl students and instill motivation to pursue higher education giving them better foundation in the socio-economic sphere including improving gender parity.
- ii. Enables the creation and participation of skilled women workforce.
- iii. Incentive benefits of Rs.1,000/- per month per beneficiary credited directly to her bank account enables girl children to pursue higher education without incurring additional expenses.

- iv. Prevents drop outs beyond higher secondary and increases the retention ratio in higher education.
- v. Enable girl students to get involved in public spaces and enhance career opportunities.
- vi. Ensures Socio-Economic Empowerment of women.

So far 2,09,365 girls have benefited through this scheme.

A sum of Rs.349.78 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

2.2.2 Marriage Assistance Schemes

Marriage is an important institution in society and it influences every woman's life, bring perceptible changes in her life style. However the practice of early marriage is a scourge on the society. In order to address the issues of early

marriage, early pregnancy and ill health Government has formulated four types of marriage assistance schemes which help women financially and facilitate social transformation and promote social justice through inter-caste marriages and widow remarriages.

The inter-caste married couples, widows, daughters of poor widows, orphan girls are benefited under these four marriage assistance schemes.

2.2.2.1. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Ammaiyar Ninaivu Inter-Caste Marriage Assistance Scheme

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been implementing the Inter-Caste Marriage Assistance Scheme since 1968 to eradicate caste based discrimination and promote social equality among communities.

Eligibility for Assistance

1. No income limit.

2. Bride should have completed 18 years.
There is no upper age limit.
3. **Category-I:** One of the spouse from SC / ST community and other from a different community.
4. **Category-II:** One of the spouse from forward community and the other from BC / MBC.

Time limit for submitting applications

Applicant should apply within 2 years after marriage.

Year	No. of Beneficiaries Benefited	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. In Lakh)
2018-2019	2,322	1,651.12
2019-2020	1,886	1,890.35
2020-2021	1,637	1,654.65
2021-2022	2,461	1,922.75
2022-2023	2,095	1,922.85

2.2.2.2 Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiyar Ninaivu Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme

This scheme was launched in the year 1975 to encourage social reformation of remarriage of poor young widows and to ensure dignity, respect and their acceptance in the society.

Eligibility for Assistance

1. Minimum age of bride is 20 years. Maximum age limit for bridegroom shall not be more than 40 years.
2. No income limit
3. The bride should produce the widow certificate, invitation for re-marriage and age certificate.

Time limit for submitting applications

Applicant should apply within six months from the date of remarriage.

Year	No. of Beneficiaries Benefited	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. In Lakh)
2018-2019	32	19.12
2019-2020	39	20.64
2020-2021	34	22.83
2021-2022	32	19.15
2022-2023	27	24.07

2.2.2.3 E.V.R.Maniammaiya Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme for Daughter of Poor Widows

This scheme was started in the year 1982 with an intention to help the poor widows to get their daughters married with requisite financial assistance.

Eligibility for Assistance

1. Annual family income should not exceed Rs.72,000/-
2. Widows receiving pension under social security scheme are not required to provide income proof and widow certificate.
3. Bride should have completed 18 years.
There is no upper age limit.

Time limit for submitting applications

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.

Year	No. of Beneficiaries Benefited	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. In Lakh)
2018-2019	5,622	3,455.02
2019-2020	4,555	3,549.93
2020-2021	2,387	2,935.45
2021-2022	4,892	3,841.31
2022-2023	4,319	3,942.60

2.2.2.4 Annai Theresa Ninaivu Orphan Girls Marriage Assistance Scheme

This scheme was launched in the year 1985, to ensure a safe future and secured life for poor orphan girls and enable them to get married.

Eligibility for Assistance

1. Beneficiary should be an orphan girl.
2. No income limit.

- 3.The bride should have completed 18 years.
There is no upper age limit.

Time limit for submitting application

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.

Year	No. of Beneficiaries Benefitted	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. In Lakh)
2018-2019	634	404.20
2019-2020	635	416.96
2020-2021	538	424.21
2021-2022	647	489.89
2022-2023	571	504.44

For all the four kinds of marriage assistance schemes, a sum of Rs.219.67 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

2.2.3 Free Bus Travel for Women

Safe commutation of women is an empowerment which enables their independent mobility. The scheme has helped women to pursue higher education, travelling to their work places by themselves etc. This also enables women to use the amount thus saved on other essential expenses like food, clothing, education etc.

This scheme has benefited women passengers across the State immensely in multiple ways. A study conducted by State Planning Commission in November 2022 reported the following observations.

- a. Contributed to savings on transportation expenditure.
- b. Enhanced higher percentage of women in work force.
- c. Reduced dependency on family members for their mobility.

d. Fostered new opportunities for learning and social networks.

From 12.07.2021 to 31.03.2023 about 260.59 crore trips were availed by women including working women and girl students pursuing higher education. So far 14.91 lakhs free trips have also been availed by the transgender persons.

2.2.4 Sathiyavani Muthu Ammaiya Ninaivu Free Supply of Sewing Machine Scheme

This scheme aims to improve the status of women, especially economically weaker section women, widows, deserted and destitute women to earn their livelihood through self-employment by providing free motorized sewing machines.

A sum of Rs.1.35 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023 -2024.

2.2.5 Women Industrial Co-operative Societies

Economically poor women in the age group of 18 to 40 year, and destitute women have enrolled themselves to form the Women Industrial Cooperative Societies.

There are 125 Women Industrial Cooperative societies functioning under the control of the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment. Out of these, 99 Women Industrial Tailoring Cooperative Societies and one Transgender Tailoring Society are functioning under the direct control of Director of Social Welfare, and the remaining 25 Weaning Food Industrial Cooperative Societies are being run under the control of Director cum Mission Director of ICDS.

The members of the Women Industrial Cooperative Societies functioning under this Department have taken up stitching of uniforms

to school children from their homes besides attending their household duties as their main economic activity.

4 sets of free uniforms stitched by these societies are distributed to the children studying from 1st to 8th standard in Government and Government Aided School. Besides students studying in Adi-dravidar and Tribal Welfare Schools, Backward Class and Most Backward Class students also get their uniforms stitched through tailoring women Co-Operative Societies every year which guarantees the employment opportunities of the society members.

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

Sl. No	Type of Society	No. of Co-operative Societies	No. of members
1.	Women Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Societies	99	85,425
2.	Weaning food Manufacturing Women Industrial Co-operative Societies	25	1,086
3.	Third Gender Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Society	1	68
Total		125	86,579

42.16 lakh school children were provided with 4 sets of uniform during the year 2022-2023. Stitching charges to the tune of Rs.98.00 Crore has been sanctioned as wages by School Education Department to the Social Welfare Department.

2.2.6 Mission Shakti

Mission Shakti, an integrated umbrella scheme was launched by Government of India to spearhead a concerted effort on mission mode to

ensure gender equality and women empowerment by strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment under 15th Finance Commission cycle upto 2025-2026.

Sub- Schemes of Mission Shakti

Mission Shakti has two sub schemes- Sambal and Samarthya. The Sambal sub-scheme caters to safety and security of women schemes with components such as One Stop Centre, Women Helpline-181, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Nari Adalat. Samarthya sub-scheme, on the other hand is a scheme for empowerment of women, with components such as Ujjawala, Swadhar Greh, Working Women Hostels, Gender Budgeting, Pradhan Mantri Mathru Vandhana Yojana and National Creche Scheme.

Objectives of Mission Shakti

- To provide immediate and comprehensive continuum of care, support and assistance

to women affected by violence and for those in distress

- To provide quality mechanism for rescue, protection and rehabilitation of women in need of assistance and victims of crime and violence
- To make people aware of Government schemes and programmes as well as legal provisions to fight social evils in the society
- Capacity building and training of functionaries on various schemes and legislations
- To prevent gender biased sex selective elimination and thereby ensure survival, protection, education and development of girl children

State and District Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW)

Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) aims to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of

schemes and programs meant for women at the Central, State and District levels. The support under Hub would be guiding, linking and hand holding women to various institutional and scheme set up for their empowerment and development.

HEW will act as Project Management Unit (PMU) for all components under Mission Shakti. The State and the District HEWs will have specialist for gender, awareness generation & convergence, financial literacy and economic empowerment of women along with staff for administrative work.

The activities under HEW will be implemented upto Gram panchayat level through District Hubs which will serve as focal points converging with line departments under various women centric schemes of Central and State Government.

2.2.7 Formulation of Gender Budget Cell in all Departments

Gender Budgeting is a critical strategy on ensuring Financing for gender equality to mitigate gender inequalities. It has been adopted to facilitate a gender sensitive analysis in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies, programmes and budgets.

Following the announcement made during 2022-23, Government Orders with General Guidelines for formulation of Separate Gender Budget have been issued and all departments have been intimated to set up Gender Budget Cell.

2.2.8 Nirbhaya Fund

Nirbhaya Fund was set up in 2016 by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with an aim to provide safe environment for women. Safe City Project under Nirbhaya Fund is

implemented in 8 Cities, including Chennai, with a sanction 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 with a sharing pattern of 60:40 between Union and State Governments from 2018-2019.

The Social Welfare department has been sanctioned a sum of Rs.12.96 Crore, out of which a sum of Rs.9.72 Crore was received till 2022 from Greater Chennai Corporation, to strengthen women helpline services. System Integrator has been engaged to operate Women helpline services 24X7 with additional personnel on shift basis and Digital Team to create awareness about Women Helpline through Social Media platforms and Outreach activities.

In addition to the voice calls services, complaints are also being received through face

book, Twitter, Instagram, Email, Short Message service (SMS) catering to the needs of women from all walks of life, who are in distress. Along with these services, information sharing, legal aid, counseling, police help, medical assistance, shelter are provided to women through various departments.

2.3 Child welfare

2.3.1 Cradle Baby Scheme

To prevent the female infanticide, the State Government introduced the Cradle Baby Scheme in Salem district in 1992. Under the scheme, cradles are placed at Government Hospitals and Primary Health Centres to receive abandoned newborns and babies surrendered by their parents. After due process these children are given for legal adoption in order to prevent illegal sale of babies. Presently the Cradle Baby Scheme is implemented in 10 districts. 5928 children have

so far been handed over at the reception centres till March- 2023 (Male - 1346, Female – 4582).

A sum of Rs.25.79 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

2.3.2 Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme

The Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme, introduced in 1992, is an innovative scheme which aims at eradication of female infanticide, prevention of child marriage and promotion of girl child education. The scheme was restructured in 2001 to confer more financial benefits to the girl children.

Objectives of the Scheme

- To eradicate female infanticide
- To prevent child marriage
- To promote girl child education
- To discourage the preference for male child

- To promote small family norm
- To increase the Child Sex Ratio

Scheme Types	Eligibility Criteria for both schemes
<p>Scheme-I: An amount of Rs.50,000 is deposited in the name of the single girl child in the form of Fixed Deposit.</p> <p>The application should be submitted before the child completes 3 years of age.</p> <p>Scheme-II: For a family having 2 girl children, an amount of Rs.25,000 each is deposited in the names of two girl children in the form of fixed deposits.</p> <p>The application should be submitted before the second child completes 3 years of age.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual family income should not exceed Rs.72,000/- 2. Either of the parents should have undergone sterilization within 40 years of age. 3. Family should have only one/two female children and no male child. In future, no male child should be adopted. 4. The parents/ grand parents should be a domicile of Tamil Nadu for a period of 10 years at the time of submitting the application. 5. The scheme has been extended to girl children of SriLankan Tamil Refugees in the Refugee Camps. 6. On Completion of 5 years of deposit while renewing it, the child gets Rs.1800/- Per year as incentive for her education. <p>On completion of 18 years of age, the amount deposited with accrued interest will be given to the girl child for her higher education.</p>

Beneficiaries of the Scheme

Beneficiaries	2022-23		Cumulative total till 2022-23	
	Number of Girl Children (up to March - 2023)	Amount (Rs. In Crores)	Number of Girl Children	Amount (Rs. In Crores)
New Deposits	35,674	89.18	10,82,279	1794.77
Maturity disbursements	66,383	146.40	1,23,058	313.02

A sum of Rs.92.01 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

2.3.3 Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme

Government of India launched Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme on 22nd Jan 2015 with the urgent need to address declining Child Sex Ratio which is a major indicator in determining the status of women empowerment. The declining child sex ratio reflects both pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender based sex selective elimination and post-birth discrimination against girl children.

Objectives of the Scheme

- ❖ To prevent gender based sex selective elimination.
- ❖ To ensure survival and protection of the girl child.

- ❖ To ensure education and improve participation of the girl child.

Implementation of the Scheme

In Tamil Nadu, the scheme was launched in Cuddalore district in 2015 as the district had the lowest Child Sex Ratio (CSR) (896) in the State. The scheme was expanded to 10 more districts Ariyalur, Dharmapuri, Namakkal, Salem, Perambalur, Villupuram, Thiruvannamalai, Thiruvallur, Tiruchirappalli and Chennai in the year 2018.

In 2022-2023, the scheme was extended to all districts under Mission Shakti, with newly added objectives such as skill development to girls, career counselling for better future, identifying sporting talent among girls etc.,

In order to create mass awareness among the public about the scheme, awareness activities such as celebrating birth of girl child by giving appreciation letter, providing health kit to

mothers, providing tree saplings, maintaining Guddi Gudda boards on numbers of birth of female and male children in villages, signature campaign, human chains, rallies, conducting competitions as drawing, essay writing and prize distribution among the school and college students, installing hoardings and banners in Government office premises and public places, are being done.

Financial Allocation to Districts

Under the BBBP scheme depending on the Sex ratio at birth, along with the 11 existing districts where the scheme is under implementation, 27 more districts have been added for which a sum of Rs.1065.00 lakhs has been released for the year 2022 - 2023 for carrying out activities, in convergence with other stakeholders.

State and District Task Force Committees

The State Task Force Committee headed by Chief Secretary meets once a year and District Task Force committees headed by District Collector meets every quarter to review and monitor the implementation of BBBP activities for strategic interventions to achieve its objectives.

A sum of Rs.10.70 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

2.4 Senior Citizen Welfare

In India any person who has attained the age of 60 and above is legally termed as 'Senior Citizen'. Senior citizens are treasure troves of knowledge and experience and thus form a valuable and integral part of the society. According to the report 'Elderly in India 2021' released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the elderly

population of Tamil Nadu is projected to increase to 18.20% in 2031. The Government is committed to providing a protective and conducive ecosystem for its senior citizens and is constantly addressing the challenges towards creating an enabling environment through various schemes and initiatives.

To ensure the overall well being of senior citizens, the Government of Tamil Nadu through the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment 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. The State is fully committed to fulfil the mandatory obligations stipulated in the

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 towards all senior citizens.

2.4.1 State Action Plan for Senior Citizens

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India has formulated a sub scheme namely National Action Plan for Senior citizens for the years 2019 – 2025 under the umbrella scheme of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana Scheme to ensure the welfare of Senior Citizens and enable the State to plan and strategize their local considerations and frame their own State Action Plans for the welfare of the Senior Citizens.

A sum of Rs.1,18,00,000/- has been sanctioned to the State Action Plan for Senior citizens for the following projects for which the activities are under progress:-

Sl. 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 – Kolli Hills, Namakkal District	30,00,000
Total		1,18,00,000

2.5 Transgender Welfare

The Government of Tamil Nadu has assiduously been striving towards achieving inclusiveness of transgenders and mainstreaming them in the society. The state has played a lead role in the country in bringing welfare measures to the transgender community by the formation of "Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board" on 15.04.2008. The Board implements various welfare programmes for the transgenders.

2.6 Homes and Hostels

2.6.1 Government Service Homes

The Government runs Service Homes in seven districts, namely Chengalpattu (Tambaram), Cuddalore, Salem, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Sivagangai and Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu for poor girls, deserted women and widows in need of care and protection. Service Homes provide accommodation, food, education, medical facilities, educational tours and vocational training to the inmates. spoken english, computer training, counselling and career guidance facilities are also given to these girls in the Service Homes.

Girl children who have completed 12th standard which in Service Homes are encouraged to take up higher studies for which, the Government provides financial assistance of Rs.50,000 for pursuing Professional courses and Rs.30,000 for Degree / Diploma courses.

Several measures such as installation of CCTV Cameras, erection of compound walls etc. have been taken to ensure the safety and security of the girl children and women staying in the Service Homes. During the year 2022-2023, 626 girl children were staying in the Homes.

A sum of Rs.6.11 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023–2024.

2.6.2 Government Working Women Hostels

Industrialization and urbanization have opened avenues for employment of young women in the cities and towns and are therefore required to stay away from their homes. This increases their need to find safe, secure and affordable housing accommodation near the place of work. To meet this need, the Government is running 21 Working Women Hostels in 18 Districts throughout the State.

A sum of Rs.1.66 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023–2024.

2.6.3 Tamil Nadu Working Women Hostels Corporation Limited (TNWWHCL)

Tamil Nadu Working Women Hostels Corporation Limited was established as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in 2018-19 under the Company Act, 2013, to undertake infrastructure development, management and maintenance of certain projects such as Working Women Hostels, Crèches, Senior Citizen Homes, Child Care Institutions with modern facilities. The Directorate of Social Welfare is the Nodal agency for implementation of this project.

- The objective of this project is to provide hostel facilities as an alternate **“home away from home”**, enabling secure and pleasant accommodation at affordable prices.

- To develop, redevelop, design, construct, renovate, refurbish hostel buildings.

In phase 1, construction of working women hostels are under process in Tambaram, Guduvanchery, Tiruchirappalli at a total cost of Rs.31.07 crores with bed capacity of Tambaram 467 beds, Guduvanchery 158 beds and Tiruchirappalli 104 beds.

In phase II, 4 new working women hostels will be developed at Hosur, Tiruvannamalai, St. Thomas Mount (Chengalpattu) and Krishnagiri to benefit 532 women at approximate project cost of Rs.43.52 Crore.

Retrofitting and upgradation of existing hostels in 8 locations namely Salem, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Vellore, Villupuram, Tirunelveli, Adyar and Vadapalani in Chennai are under progress. These hostels will function with enhanced facilities like furnished rooms, Invertor, Geyser, CCTV, Wi-Fi and 24 x 7 Security services.

All these hostels will be branded and maintained uniformly across the State operating under a new brand name and logo promoted by Tamil Nadu Government. The registration of applications, allocation of beds admissions and discharge, monitoring and reporting will be managed through a dedicated online service under TNWWHCL.

A sum of Rs.5.00 Crore has been Provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023–2024.

2.6.4 Short Stay Home

Short Stay Home provides shelter, food, clothing, counselling, primary health facilities and other essential daily need items to women in distress who require an institutional support for more than 5 days. The scheme was introduced in 2016 after merging two schemes namely, 'Swadhar' and 'Short Stay Homes'.

The residents are given Rs.500 per month which are deposited in their bank accounts which they can withdraw when leaving the Home. Vocational training and social security benefits including medical benefits are also arranged in convergence with relevant departments. The nearby One Stop Centre provides other services like psycho social counselling and legal aid.

Each Swadhar Greh run by the Non-Governmental Organizations can accommodate a maximum of 50 women per home for upto 3 years. For above 3 years of stay, permission need to be obtained from the District Magistrate / District Collector. Older women above 55 years can be accommodated for a maximum period of 5 years, after which they would be shifted to old age homes. Boys till the age of 12 and unmarried girls of any age can reside along with their mothers in these homes.

The scheme is implemented through Non-Governmental Organizations with a sharing pattern of 60:40 between Union and State Governments respectively. Presently 33 Short Stay Homes (SwadharGreh) run by NGO's functioning in Tamil Nadu.

A sum of Rs.3.35 Crore is allotted as Central Share and Rs. 2.23 Crore as State Share has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

2.6.5 One Stop Centre (OSC)

One Stop Centres are implemented throughout the State with 100% financial assistance from Government of India, to provide integrated support and assistance under single roof for the women who are affected by violence both in private and public spaces within family, community and in workplace.

There are 39 OSCs currently functioning in the State. These are housed in exclusive building in District Head Quarters/Medical College Hospital premises to provide services like temporary shelter, medical assistance, psycho-social support, free legal aid, police assistance and counseling services to women affected by gender based harassment and domestic violence. Additionally, 9 more OSCs have been sanctioned in Corporation areas of Thiruvallur, Coimbatore, Thiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur, Madurai, Salem, Thoothukudi and Dindigul districts.

So far, 44,569 women have utilized the facilities and 3941 aggrieved women have utilized temporary shelter service till March 2023, through OSCs.

Details of services rendered

Sl. No	Case category	No. of cases Redressed 2021	No. of cases Redressed 2022	No. of cases Redressed March 2023
1	Domestic Violence	4,751	5,984	2,101
2	Harassment at public places	160	243	183
3	Child marriage	1,708	1,735	450
4	Children related	81	167	59
5	Marital problems	1,238	1,868	900
6	Mental Illness	826	794	235
7	Threat / cyber crime	526	832	181
8	Other Assistance	755	1,167	421
9	Alcoholism / violence / abuse	894	1,392	50
Total		10,939	14,182	4,580

A sum of Rs.12.99 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

2.6.6 Homes for Children with Special Need

Government of Tamil Nadu provides grant to 4 Homes for children with special needs run by Non-Governmental Organizations.

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

The babies received under Cradle Baby Scheme some times are not adopted by parents due to various reasons, especially children with disabilities. To protect these children, the Government provides grant to the above 4 Homes to take care and support these children with Special needs.

At present, 135 children are taken care in these Homes. A grant 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.59.13 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

2.6.7 Old Age Homes run by the NGOs with the State Grants

In order 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 at the sharing pattern of 5:1 between the State and NGO. Food, shelter, clothing, health care, recreational facilities, expenses on final rites 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.

717 elders have benefitted from 21 old age homes during the financial year 2022-2023.

A sum of Rs.1.22 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

2.6.8 Integrated Complexes for Senior Citizen and Destitute Children

Integrated Complex of Special Homes for Senior Citizens and Destitute Children was set up in 2011-2012 through NGOs in the State. These Integrated Complexes are run with the financial support from the State Government in a sharing ratio 75:25 between State and NGO. In each Integrated Complex, 25 elders and 25 children are accommodated. Rs.1200/- per month per elder and Rs.900/- per month per child is given as feeding grants.

In Tamil Nadu for the financial year 2022-2023, 45 Integrated Complexes were provided grants in which 901 children and 1032 Senior citizens were benefitted.

A sum of Rs.16.78 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

2.6.9 Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSC)

The Union Government with recommendation from State Government provides grants directly to NGOs for implementing 66 old age homes, 1 continuous care home, 2 physiotherapy clinics, 3 Mobile Medicare Units and 1 Regional Resource Training Centre projects at the ratio of 90:10 (GoI: NGO).

For the year 2022-2023, 72 projects with a budget of Rs.17.04 Crore have been recommended for grants in which 3,015 elders are benefitted by this scheme.

2.7 Commission and Board

2.7.1 Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women

Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, a statutory body has been functioning since 1993.

Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women was restructured in 2022 with a Chairperson and seven members. The Commission investigates and examines all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws.

The Commission takes up the cases of violation of provision of the Constitution and other laws relating to women with the appropriate authorities. The Commission also reviews from time to time the existing provision of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommends amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures. The Commission takes suo-moto notice of matters

relating to non-implementation of any laws, to provide protection of women's right and to achieve the objective of equality and development. Appropriate measures are being taken to create awareness among public about these laws.

The Commission ensures equality and empowerment of women, inspects prisons, hostels and other places where women are staying and brings to the attention of the appropriate authorities for redressal of deficiencies found.

Tamil Nadu State Women's Commission takes action on complaints received from women on issues like domestic violence, dowry abuse, sexual violence, sexual harassment at workplace, human trafficking and complaints of vulnerable women and creates awareness among people through public events such as awareness programs, review meetings, seminars, cultural

programs and marathons to bring about change in the community.

2.7.2 Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board

The Transgender Welfare Board was formulated in 2008 to implement the welfare schemes for giving social and economic support to the Transgender.

The following welfare measures are extended through the Transgender Welfare Board.

- I. Identity card
- II. Financial assistance to Higher Education
- III. Individual and business oriented and integrated skill development training
- IV. In order to promote self-employment to transgenders every year Rs.1.00 crore has been sanctioned for 200 beneficiaries at the rate of upto Rs.50,000/-

A sum of Rs.1.00 Core has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

V. The following welfare measures are extended in convergence with various line departments

A. Ration Card

B. House site Patta

C. Housing tenements

D. Sewing Machine

E. Formation of Transgender Self-Help Group and providing credit linkage through banks

VI. Monthly Pension Scheme for Transgender:
From March 2023 onwards, transgender monthly pension has been enhanced from Rs.1000 to Rs.1500 to the destitute transgenders above the age of 40 years. 1311 transgender persons are benefitted during the year 2022-2023

A sum of Rs.2.36 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

VII. 14.91 lakh safe trips through free bus travel undertaken by transgender persons from 12.07.2021 to 26.03.2023

2.7.3 The Widow and Destitute Women Welfare Board

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted the Widow and Destitute Women Welfare Board in 2022 to ensure the protection and welfare of Destitute Widows, deserted and destitute Women.
- ❖ The board shall function with the objective to provide education, health, employment, vocational training etc.

A sum of Rs.94.39 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

2.8 Grievance Redressal Mechanisms

2.8.1 Women Helpline (181)

The nationwide common Women Helpline-181 has been implemented in Tamil Nadu since December 2018 with 100% financial assistance by Government of India. The Women Helpline is functioning 24x7 hours to provide immediate and emergency response during a need or crisis and thereby improve the safety of women and children. Women helpline is a sub-scheme of Mission Shakti scheme.

Women Helpline also provides information about the laws, existing schemes and government programs related to women empowerment and protection.

The details of the calls received during the year 2022-23 (Upto March 2023) are as follows:

Information seeking calls	Other calls as follow up calls, test query calls, blank calls, etc.	Registered as Actionable calls	Total Calls
6,891	67,304	36,671	1,10,866

Department/Agency wise remedial services provided through Women Helpline

Sl. No	Referral Department / Agency	No. of Calls
1.	One Stop Centres	16,992
2.	Police	7,013
3.	Other Helplines	6,470
4.	Other Department referrals	2,638
5.	Cyber crime	2,139
6.	Free Legal Aid	869
7.	District Social Welfare Office	164
8.	Differently Abled Welfare Office	196
9.	Counselling	190
TOTAL		36,671

2.8.2. Senior Citizen Helpline (14567)

Government of India launched the toll free senior citizen helpline number '14567' throughout India on 28.04.2021 in co-ordination with the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. It is designed to provide support to the senior citizens from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on all days. It provides 100 percent direct financial assistance to the implementing agency which runs the helpline.

The following services are provided through elder helpline:-

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

Out of 1,11,798 calls received from 17th May 2021 up to March 2023, 17,592 calls are actionable (received from elders) and 94,206 calls are non – actionable (call drops, nuisance calls, calls that are out of the services offered and calls by non elderly).

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

The complaint or suggestion received is registered and the District Officers and Block Development Officers concerned, who in turn visits that particular school and discrepancies if any found sorted out at the earliest.

2.9 Awards

2.9.1 State Award for Girl Child Empowerment (January 24th)

A State Level Award has been instituted by the Tamil Nadu Government to recognize and encourage the abilities of a girl child and to appreciate her efforts in opposing the injustice meted out against Girl children. It is 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 award for 2022-2023 was conferred on Selvi.M.Ilampirai, Salem District.

2.9.2 Best District Award (February 24th)

Best 3-District Administrations are also awarded to recognize their remarkable efforts in improving Child Sex Ratio with Gold, Silver and Bronze medals and certificates, on Tamil Nadu State Girl Child Protection day, 24th February, every year. For the year 2022-2023, Thiruvallur,

Nagapattinam and Namakkal districts were awarded as the best Districts.

2.9.3 Avvaiyar Award (March 8th)

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 (22 carat), cash award of Rs.1.00 lakh as Cheque, a Shawl, and a Citation. Avvaiyar Award for the year 2022-2023 was conferred on Dr.Tamilchemmal Pulavar R.Kamalam Chinnasamy of The Nilgris District.

2.9.4 Transgender Award (April 15th)

In order to encourage the transgender who have done eminent work towards the welfare of

transgender and who had built their career through their own efforts, a State Level Award has been instituted from the year 2020. This award carries Rs.1.00 lakh cheque and citation.

2.9.5 Best Institution and Best Social Worker Award (August 15th)

In order to encourage the best services done by the institutions and individuals for the welfare of women, every year on Independence Day, Awards are given. Best Social Worker award consists of 22 carat Gold Medal weighing 10 grams, a Shawl and a Citation and Best Institution award consists of Rs.50,000 cheque in addition to a shawl and a Gold Medal. The best social worker award was conferred on Dr.G.Pankajam, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul and best institution award conferred on Vanavil Trust, Nagapattinam for the year 2022-2023.

CHAPTER - 3

3(a) Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme (CMBFS)

As per the Announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister under Rule 110 on 07.05.2022 in the floor of Assembly, to provide Breakfast to students studying in the standard 1-5th of Government Primary school on all school working days, the scheme was rolled out by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15.9.2022. Presently 1,54,108 students studying in 1969 schools are being benefitted under this scheme. A sum of Rs.33.56 Crore is allocated for this Scheme.

Objectives

- To ensure that children attend schools without hunger.
- To ensure that children do not suffer from malnutrition.
- To enhance the Nutritional status of the children, particularly in preventing Anaemia.

- To increase the attendance / learning skills of the children in the schools.
- To decrease the burden of the working mothers.

Menu for the Breakfast

The following types of menu are provided for breakfast:

Monday-Uppuma type (any one)	Tuesday-Kitchadi type (any one)	Wednesday – Pongal type (any one)
Rava Uppuma + Vegetable Sambar (or)	Rava Vegetable Kitchadi (or)	Rava Pongal + Vegetable Sambar (or)
Vermicelli Uppuma + Vegetable Sambar (or)	Vermicelli Vegetable Kitchadi (or)	Pongal + Vegetable Sambar
Rice Uppuma+ Vegetable Sambar (or)	Sorghum Vegetable Kitchadi (or)	-
Wheat Rava Uppuma + Vegetable Sambar	Wheat Rava Vegetable Kitchadi	-
Thursday- Uppuma Type (any one)	Friday-Sweet	
Vermicelli Uppuma+ Vegetable Sambar (or)	Any one of the kitchadi with Sweet/	
Rice Uppuma+ Vegetable Sambar(or)	Rava Kesari/	
Rava Uppuma +Vegetable Sambar(or)	Vermicelli Kesari	
Wheat Rava Uppuma+Vegetable Sambar	-	

Method of Implementation

- Greater Chennai Corporation implements the scheme in Chennai Corporation areas.
- In other Corporation and Municipalities, the scheme is being implemented by the Municipal Administration Department through cluster/ common kitchen respectively.
- In Rural areas and hill stations the scheme is being implemented by the Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd., through Village Panchayats / Self help groups.
- In Urban areas cooking is done in common kitchens and in Rural areas cooking by Self Help Groups.

Special Initiatives

- Nodal Officer has been nominated for every district to monitor the Scheme.

- As a special initiative, an exclusive App has been developed to monitor the Scheme on real time basis.
- Active participation of Self Help Groups and Panchayat Level Federations in rural areas.
- In Urban areas the scheme is implemented through Centralized kitchens.

A sum of Rs.500.50 Crore has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2023-2024.

3(b) Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme

The Mid day meal scheme was introduced in the year 1925 in Madras Municipal Corporation, the first of its kind in India. The scope was enlarged when the Noon Meal Programme was introduced in all districts of Tamilnadu by former Chief Minister Thiru.K.Kamarajar in the year 1962. Then, in 1982 Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

Nutritious Meal Programme was launched. To ensure Protein rich food in nutritious meal programme for the children, the former Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi introduced the distribution of egg scheme along with in Noon Meal in 1989.

As of now 13 varieties of Hot cooked Nutritious meal is being provided to the children in Primary and Upper Primary classes up to 10th Std. in all Government, Government aided schools and National Child Labour Project Schools in Tamil Nadu.

Objectives of the Scheme

1. Motivate children to attend school regularly.
2. Maximise enrolment and reduce dropout rate in schools.
3. Universalization of the primary education.
4. Improving the nutritional status of children and enhancing the literacy rate of the children.

5. By providing more employment opportunities to women under nutritious meal scheme and empower them economically.

Salient Features of the Scheme

- i. Primary school children in the age group of 5-9 years, Upper Primary and High School children in the age group 10-15 years are provided with hot cooked nutritious variety meals along with masala eggs for 220 School working days.
- ii. Under National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Special Schools in Vellore District alone, the enrolled children are provided with hot cooked nutritious variety meals along with masala eggs for 312 days in an year.
- iii. Food Entitlement Norms (rice) for Primary school children (1st Std. to 5th Std.) rice at the rate of 100 gm per child/per day and at the rate of 150 gm/per day/per child for

Upper Primary and High School (6th Std to 10th Std) students are being followed.

Details of Mid-Day Meal Beneficiaries (2022-2023)

Sl. No	Type of School	No. of Centres	No. of Students
1.	Primary	26,937	22,49,700
2.	Upper Primary	16,127	15,37,879
3.	9 th and 10 th Standard		6,84,381
4.	National Child Labour Project	30	519
Total		43,094	44,72,479

Budget Provision

(Rs. In Crore)

Sl. No	Year	Total allotment	Central Share	State Share
1.	2021-2022	1974.37	449.68	1524.69
2.	2022-2023	2076.88	470.94	1605.94
3.	2023-2024	2655.26	451.61	2203.65

CHAPTER - 4

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

"The lives of children and women are the true indicators of the strength of communities and nation"

**- Kofi Annan
former General Secretary,
United Nations Organization**

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), globally considered as one of the world's largest and most unique community-based outreach system for promoting early childhood care for survival, growth and development was launched in 1975 as a welfare scheme for children between 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The scheme aims to address the issue of malnutrition among children, fulfill other needs for the complete development of children and provide health care services to pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Government of India launched the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN Abhiyaan) during 2017-2018 in order to reduce malnutrition through targeted approach by leveraging technology and Jan Andolan (Peoples' Movement). The Anganwadi Services Scheme under POSHAN 2.0 was approved for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period i.e. from 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 and in 2022-2023, the nomenclature of Anganwadi Services was changed to Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme to strengthen the content, delivery, outreach and outcome of the nutritional services.

The objectives of Integrated Child Development Services

- Lay the foundation for the proper psychological, physical and social development of the child

- Improve the nutritional and health status of children below the age of six years
- Reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropouts
- Achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation among various departments to promote child development
- Enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health, nutritional and development needs of the child through proper community education
- To contribute to human capital development of the country
- To achieve Sustainable Development Goals, specifically, SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG 4 on quality education
- Address challenges of malnutrition
- Promote nutrition awareness, good eating habits and hygiene practices for sustainable health and wellbeing

- Address nutrition related deficiencies through key strategies.

4.1 Target Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries in the scheme are women and children. The prime beneficiaries of the scheme, i.e., children below six years, expectant and nursing mothers and women in the age group of 14 to 49 years receive benefits such as supplementary feeding, growth monitoring and promotion, immunization, health checkup, referral services, nutrition and health education, early childhood care and education as per the guidelines based on their eligibility. Beneficiaries are selected after a comprehensive survey of all families in the area so as to ensure that no one is left out from availing the service.

4.2 Package of Services

The Anganwadi Services Scheme provides the following package of services in an integrated manner to beneficiaries:

- i. Supplementary nutrition
- ii. Pre-school non-formal education
- iii. Nutrition & health education
- iv. Immunization
- v. Health check-up
- vi. Referral services

Three of the six services, viz., Immunization, Health check-up and Referral services are being provided through National Health Mission and Public Health Infrastructure, under the Health and Family Welfare Department.

Details of services--(Beneficiary wise)

Sl. No	Categories	Services Offered
1	Children below two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• supplementary nutrition• immunization• health checkups• referral services
2	Children between two and six years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• supplementary nutrition• immunization• health checkups• referral services• Preschool non-formal education
3	Expectant and nursing mothers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• supplementary nutrition• immunization• health checkups• referral services• nutrition and health education
4	Women between 14 and 49 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• nutrition and health education

4.3 Salient Features

The scheme has the following salient features:

- i. Beneficiaries covered under the Scheme are children upto the age of 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers in all Districts

and, in Aspirational Districts, including Adolescent Girls (14-18 years).

- ii. This Scheme is open to all targeted beneficiaries on demand, irrespective of caste, religion and income criteria. The only pre-condition is that the beneficiary has to be registered at the nearest Anganwadi Centre with Aadhaar identification. However, child's Aadhaar card shall not be mandatory, and the benefits can be accessed using the mother's Aadhaar card.
- iii. The duty and responsibility of Anganwadi worker, Supervisor, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and District Programme Officer (DPO) concerned is to ensure that Supplementary Nutrition is provided to beneficiaries without any disruption.
- iv. Growth Measurement i.e., Length/Height & Weight are undertaken for all children to assess their status as Normal, Underweight,

Stunted, Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) or Moderately Acute Malnourished (MAM).

v. Health check-up and referral services under Anganwadi Services are provided through National Health Mission and Public Health Infrastructure by Village Health Nurse (VHN) and Auxillary Nurse Midwife (ANM). Specifically, the following Health and Referral services are mandated to be provided by Department of Health and Family Welfare at the Anganwadi Centres.

- Iron syrup - 1 ml twice in a week.
- IFA tablets during pregnancy and post-pregnancy.
- De-worming tablet and Vitamin 'A' supplementation once in 6 months for children under 5 years.
- Pregnant Women: 1 de-worming tablet.
- Diarrhoea management.

- For pregnant women, two Td (Tetanus and Diphtheria) doses and all vaccines for children under Health schedule are administered.
- Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) Children are referred to hospital or Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre.
- Sick children are also referred to health care facilities for management.

4.4 Norms for setting up of Anganwadi Centres

The focal point for delivery of these services in the village is the Anganwadi Centre, which runs with the help of the Anganwadi worker. In Rural/Urban areas, for a population of 400 to 800, a Main Anganwadi Centre and for 150 to 400, a Mini Anganwadi Centre is established. In Tribal areas, for a population of 300 to 800, a Main Anganwadi Centre and for 150 to 300, a Mini Anganwadi Centre is established. Currently, 54,439 centres consisting of 49,499 Main

Anganwadi Centres and 4,940 Mini Anganwadi Centres are functioning in the State. The Anganwadi worker is assisted by a helper in the implementation of the programme. The activities at the centre is supervised by a Supervisor who reports to the Child Development Project Officer who is the overall in-charge of the implementation of the programme at the block level.

4.5 Project Cost/Budget Estimate for 2023-2024

The project cost for the year 2023–2024 is as follows.

(Rs.in Crore)

Gross Total Project cost	GOI share	State share	Exclusive State share	Total State share (3+4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
2765.90	747.65	754.42	1263.83	2018.25

The corresponding share of Central and State is 27% and 73% respectively.

4.6 Project Beneficiaries

Age	Number of Beneficiaries
6 months-1 year children	4,07,260
1-2 years children	6,74,690
2- 3 years children	7,04,686
3-6 years children	7,36,737
Total	25,23,373
Ante &Post natal mothers	6,82,073
Adolescent Girls (in the age group of 14-18 in Aspirational Districts)	46,063
Total Beneficiaries	32,51,509

As per monthly periodical report February 2023

4.7 “Uttachathai Uruthi Sei (Ensure Nutrition)” Scheme

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has announced an eminent scheme **Uttachathai Uruthi sei** on 07.05.2022 under rule 110, with an

aim to ensure the healthy growth of children under 6 years to achieve the status of "**Malnutrition free Tamil Nadu**". Under this scheme the height and weight of all children under 6 years will be measured to ascertain the nutritional status. Accordingly, nutrition and medical intervention will be provided. The utmost goal of this scheme is to bring them back to normal.

Based on that, the height and weight of 37.27 lakh children under 6 years of age were measured and malnourished children were identified.

Then the malnourished children were screened by the RBSK Doctors and based on the recommendations, necessary medical and nutritional interventions were given to severely malnourished children. Also 43,299 children were given specialized medical treatment.

The Government is providing UNICEF recommended Ready to use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to 93,200 severely malnourished children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years. Further, 2 Nos. of Nutri Kits to the mothers of 11,917 severely malnourished children and 1 No. of Nutri Kit to the mothers of 16,415 moderately malnourished children in the age group of 0 to 6 months were provided to improve their lactation and nutrition.

The Government have provided a sum of Rs.27.36 Crore for the implementation of this scheme.

4.8 Supplementary Nutrition Programme

Beneficiaries viz., children, pregnant and lactating women often need additional nutrition for the optimum growth and wellbeing. Hence, 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).

The Supplementary Nutrition Programme has two major components:

1. Sathumavu
2. Hot cooked meal

Supplementary nutrition is to be provided for 300 days in a year to beneficiaries as mandated under National Food Security Act, 2013.

Approved cost norms and nutritive values are detailed below

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
14-18 Years Adolescent Girls	18-20	600	9.50

4.8.1 Sathumavu

The Nutrition provided by breast feeding alone is not enough to fulfil the nutrition needs for growth of a 6 months old child. Hence it is necessary to provide supplementary nutrition along with breast feeding, to fulfil the nutrition needed for the child's growth. However, breast feeding should continue with complementary feeding up to 2 years of age or beyond.

Sathumavu with BIS 11536:2022 Standard

In order to enhance the standard of Sathu Mavu provided to children an Expert committee was formed by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Based on the recommendations of the Expert committee, the standard of Sathu Mavu adhering to BIS standard 11536:2022 is being provided from January 2023 to the beneficiaries.

Further, considering the occurrence of gestational diabetics during the pregnancy the

Expert Committee recommended that Sathumavu with different composition should be provided to AN / PN Mothers. Sathumavu in new composition is being provided to these beneficiaries from January 2023.

Composition of ICDS Food Supplement (Sathumavu) for children

Sl. No	Ingredients	Percentage
1.	Roasted Wheat flour	45.50
2.	Malted Ragi Flour	5.00
3.	Full Fat Soya Flour	16.50
4.	Jaggery	24.00
5.	Roasted Ground Nut Kernel flour	8.00
6.	Vitamins and Minerals Premix	1.00
Total		100.00

100 Grams of ICDS Food Supplement (Sathumavu) for children contains minimum 400 Kcal of Energy and 15 grams of Protein.

Composition of ICDS Food Supplement (Sathumavu) for AN/PN mothers

Sl. No	Ingredients	Percentage
1.	Roasted Wheat flour	45.50
2.	Roasted Bengal Gram flour	10.00
3.	Roasted urad dal	5.00
4.	Roasted peanut flour	4.00
5.	Fortified Refined Vegetable oil	5.00
6.	Malted Ragi flour	5.00
7.	Full fat soya bean flour	10.00
8.	Jaggery	14.00
9.	Vitamins and Minerals premix	1.50
Total		100.00

100 Grams of ICDS Food Supplement (Sathumavu) for AN/PN mothers contains minimum 400 Kcal of Energy and 14 grams of Protein.

In order to meet out the additional nutritional requirement of Severely Malnourished Children, additional sathumavu used to be given

previously. Now, as per the suggestions of the Expert committee, the Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to provide Fortified Biscuits instead of additional "Sathumavu" towards meeting the nutritional requirement of Severely malnourished children.

Composition of Fortified Biscuit for Severely malnourished children

Sl. No	Ingredients	Percentage
1	Wheat flour	30.00
2	Maida	10.00
3	Peanut Grit	4.00
4	Ragi flour	7.00
5	Refined Vegetable Oil	24.74
6	Sugar	23.00
7	Vitamins and Minerals	1.00
8	Baking Powder	0.26
Total		100.00

100 Grams of Fortified Biscuits contain minimum 500 Kcal of Energy and 6 grams of Protein.

Procurement of Sathumavu

ICDS Food Supplement (Sathumavu) to children in the age group of 6 months to 2 years is procured in accordance with Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act 1998 & Rules, 2000.

65% of ICDS Food Supplement (Sathumavu) to children in the age group of 2 years to 6 years and AN/PN mothers is procured from 25 Women Co-operative Societies functioning under the Department of ICDS and the balance 35% is procured by floating open tender.

Quality Testing

Sathumavu provided to beneficiaries is subjected to a two-tier quality check. It is sent for testing to any Government recognized lab by the manufacturers themselves before supplying to Anganwadi Centres. Further, random samples

collected from Anganwadi Centres by the District Project Officers are sent for quality checking.

Per day ration of Supplementary Nutrition to ICDS beneficiaries

Age	Food provided
6 months - 1 year children	125gms/day of Sathumavu to all Children. In addition to Sathumavu, 60 grams of fortified biscuits per day to Severely Malnourished children.
1-2 years children	125gms/day of Sathumavu and three eggs per week to all Children. In addition to Sathumavu and eggs, 60 grams of fortified biscuits per day to Severely Malnourished Children.
2- 6 years children	50 gms/day of Sathumavu, Hot Cooked Nutritious Variety meal for 6 days a week along with eggs for 3 days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday), Black Bengal gram /Green gram on Tuesday and Boiled Potato on Friday are being provided to children attending pre school. Further Rice and Dhal is given as dry Ration on Sunday to all children. In addition to above, 30 grams of fortified biscuits per day to Severely Malnourished children.
AN/PN mothers	150 gms /day of Sathumavu

4.8.2 Hot Cooked Meal

For children in the age group of 2 to 6 years, in addition to Sathumavu, for six days in a week, Hot cooked Meal is provided in Anganwadi Centres. For Sundays, the beneficiaries are provided Rice and Dhal as Dry ration (Take Home ration). For children, lunch is crucial for getting adequate nutrients and vitamins for the day. In order to increase the protein content, provision of egg was introduced during 1989 which was followed by Green gram, Black bengal gram, Potatoes in subsequent years. Agmark quality eggs weighing a minimum of 45-52 grams has been provided to beneficiaries since 2013.

In order to increase the nutritional status of 1-2 years children, provision of one egg per week has been enhanced to 3 eggs per week from November 2022.

Considering the digestive capacity and special needs of the young children, the following menu has been adopted since 2013-2014.

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)

Details about the average quantum of nutrition per day being provided to beneficiaries

Category	Nutrition details in sathumavu			Nutrition details in Hot cooked meal*		Nutrition details in Biscuits		Total Nutrition	
	Quantum of sathumavu (gms) per day	Protein (gms)	Energy (Kcal)	Average Protein (gms)	Average Energy (Kcal)	Average Protein (gms)	Average Energy (Kcal)	Protein (gms)	Energy (Kcal)
Children 6 months - 1 year	125	18.75	500	-	-	-	-	18.75 (GOI-12-15)	500 (GOI-500)
Children 6 months - 1 year (severely malnourished)	125	18.75	500	-	-	3.60 (in 60 gms)	300 (in 60 gms)	22.35 (GOI-20-25)	800 (GOI-800)
Children 1-2 years	125	18.75	500	3.00 (3 egg per week)	36 (3 egg per week)	-	-	21.75 (GOI-12-15)	536 (GOI-500)
Children 1-2 years (severely malnourished)	125	18.75	500	3.00 (3 egg per week)	36 (3 egg per week)	3.60 (in 60 gms)	300 (in 60 gms)	25.35 (GOI-20-25)	836 (GOI-800)
Children 2-3 years	50	7.50	200	13.27	468.79	-	-	20.77 (GOI-12-15)	668.79 (GOI-500)
Children 2-3 years (severely malnourished)	50	7.50	200	13.27	468.79	1.80 (in 30 gms)	150 (in 30 gms)	22.57 (GOI-20-25)	818.79 (GOI-800)
Children 3-6 years	50	7.50	200	13.27	468.79	-	-	20.77 (GOI-12-15)	668.79 (GOI-500)
Children 3-6 years (severely malnourished)	50	7.50	200	13.27	468.79	1.80 (in 30 gms)	150 (in 30 gms)	22.57 (GOI-20-25)	818.79 (GOI-800)
Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers	150	21.00	600	-	-	-	-	21.00 (GOI-18-20)	600 (GOI-600)

***Hot cooked Variety Meal, 3 Eggs per week, Bengal gram/Green gram on Tuesday and Potato on Friday.**

**Per day average cost for providing
Supplementary Nutrition
(Sathumavu + Hot cooked Meal + Egg)**

(in Rs.)

SI. No	Category	GOI Cost norms Per day / beneficiary	Cost incurred Per day / beneficiary	GOI share	State share	State Additional contribution
1	6 months to 1 year children	8.00	8.67	4.00	4.00	0.67
2	6 months to 1 year children (Severely Malnourished)	12.00	15.87	6.00	6.00	3.87
3	1 to 2 years Children	8.00	11.05	4.00	4.00	3.05
4	1 to 2 years Children (Severely Malnourished)	12.00	18.25	6.00	6.00	6.25
5	2 to 6 years Children	8.00	9.14	4.00	4.00	1.14
6	2 to 6 years Children (Severely Malnourished)	12.00	12.74	6.00	6.00	0.74
7	Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers	9.50	10.47	4.75	4.75	0.97

4.8.3 Usage of Fortified Food Ingredients

To combat micronutrient deficiency among the Children, Antenatal women, lactating mothers and Adolescent girls, the following fortified food ingredients are utilized in the Supplementary nutrition provided through Integrated Child Development Services:-

1. Double Fortified Salt with Iron and Iodine.
2. Palmolein oil fortified with Vitamin A and Vitamin D.
3. ICDS Food Supplement (Sathumavu) fortified with Vitamins and Minerals.
4. Rice fortified with Iron, Folic acid and Vitamin-B12.

4.9 National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan)

POSHAN Abhiyaan, also known as the National Nutrition Mission (NNM) was launched during 2017-2018 with the aim of improving nutritional outcomes in a phased manner.

The scheme has specific targets for reducing stunting, wasting, under weight, anaemia and Low birth weight.

The scheme is being implemented in all Districts, with the funding pattern of 60:40 (GOI:State).

4.9.1 Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0

Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme. It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in Children, Adolescent girls, Pregnant women and Lactating mothers through creation of a convergent eco system to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity.

POSHAN 2.0 focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, Treatment Protocols for SAM/MAM and Wellness through AYUSH practices to reduce Underweight, Wasting,

Stunting and Anaemia. These are monitored through 'POSHAN Tracker', a new, robust ICT based data system.

The nutritional indicators in the State have shown impressive outcomes as follows:

Indicator	NFHS-4		NFHS-5 (2019-21)		POSHAN Tracker (Feb 2023)	Progress
	All India	State	All India	State	State	
Stunting (%)	38.4	27.1	35.5	25	19.27%	Improved
Wasting (%)	21	19.7	19.3	14.6	5.14%	Improved
Underweight (%)	35.8	23.8	32.1	22	9.44%	Improved
Children age 6-59 months who are Anaemic (%)	58.6	50.7	67.1	57.4	NA	--

4.9.2 POSHAN Tracker Application

POSHAN Tracker Mobile Phone Application was launched in 2021. This application provides a 360-degree view on the delivery of services in

Anganwadi Centres. It also facilitates data entry and real time monitoring of providing supplementary nutrition to beneficiaries, growth monitoring of children etc. All the 54,439 Anganwadi Centres are registered in the application.

Further, State specific components of the scheme are captured through another Mobile Application viz., TN-ICDS.

4.9.3 Jan Andolan (People's Mass Movement)

The Jan Andolan initiative seeks to create a peoples movement for bringing Social and Behaviour Change towards adopting good nutritional practices. Various strategies are adopted and implemented in convergence with Government and private sectors.

Jan Andolan activities includes Samudhaya Valaigappu, Breast Feeding awareness, Traditional

Food Festivals, Exhibition, Adolescent Girls programme, IEC materials (Posters & Phamplets) and Community Based Events (CBE).

National Nutrition month is celebrated every year in the month of September.

Totally, 2,54,59,176 activities were conducted during September 2022 to reach out the majority of population with nutrition and health messages.

4.9.3.1 Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) through EMU Train

In order to bring Social and Behavioural Change among the common public, messages on Prevention of anaemia, First 1000 golden days of a child, Health and Nutrition awareness for Adolescent girls are advertised in one (Electric Multiple Unit) EMU train for a period of one year. All the nine coaches of the train were pasted with vinyl stickers of selected themes.

4.9.3.2 Campaign on Hand washing and cleanliness to combat Anaemia

Awareness Campaign on Hand washing and cleanliness to combat Anaemia was implemented in 20 districts. Posters, auto campaign, intensive door to door campaign, street plays, advertisement in FM Radios and Private T.V. channels, audio and Video jingles were used to create awareness among Pregnant women, Lactating mothers, Adolescent girls and General public. A sum of Rs.4.75 Crore has been spent on this campaign.

4.9.3.3 Supply of Growth Monitoring Devices & Smart phones

In order to ensure accurate recording of weight and height of all beneficiaries viz., Pregnant women, Lactating mothers, New born babies and Children upto 6 years, growth monitoring devices and smart phones have been supplied to all centres. The dysfunctional 23,040 nos. of Digital Weighing Scales (Mother & Child)

21,668 nos. of Stadiometer and 6,630 nos. of Smartphone with accessories were replaced at a cost of Rs.17.40 crore.

4.9.3.4 Monitoring of Low birth weight (LBW) children

To track the LBW children from Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation (PICME) application, ICT based growth monitoring devices integrated with mobile application are used. 1000 ICT based growth monitoring devices have been procured at a cost of Rs.85.00 lakhs and distributed to all the Blocks of the State for monitoring the LBW children.

4.10 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

- One of the major activities in Anganwadi Centres is providing Pre-School Education to 2 to 6 years children. ECCE activity is being conducted in all AWCs daily for four hours.

- Aadi Paadi Vilaiyadu Pappa (APVP), a developmentally and age appropriate, Annual Contextualized Curriculum has been prepared by the State Government 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 the 12th month is reserved for revision of syllabus.
- Age wise Activity Books (2-3, 3-4 & 4-5 years) and Pre-school Kits to children are supplied for all Anganwadi Centres every year.
- In order to improve the early childhood activities of the children, pictorial learning through Play Books have also been supplied for the Mother and caregivers of the 0-3 year children attending Anganwadi Centres, with counselling to practice at home.

- Anganwadi Workers have been trained on ECCE at Sector Level in three stages in a cascade manner for the effective rollout of ECCE.

4.11 Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)

The Scheme for Adolescent girls has been revised by Government of India and the targeted beneficiaries have been revised in the age group of 14 to 18 years in aspirational Districts, (Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram) instead of out of school girls in the age group of 11 to 14 years.

Nutrition Component

Supplementary nutrition containing 600 calories, 18-20 grams of protein and micronutrients will be provided to adolescent girls in the age group of 14 to 18 years in the form of Take-Home Ration (THR) for 300 days in a year

as per nutritional norms prescribed by Government of India.

Non-Nutrition Component

The Health and Family Welfare Department, Skill Development Corporation, Department of Education and Youth Affairs and Sports are involved in giving life skill education to the adolescent girls.

4.12 Training to Field functionaries

- Tamil Nadu follows a decentralised pattern of training procedure and conducts residential job training programmes for CDPOs and Supervisors at State Training Institute, Taramani. The State Training Institute is equipped with faculties, infrastructure and field experience support. The training institute is supported with hostel inside the campus.

- Smart Class Rooms have been created by refurbishment and conversion of two training halls in the State Training Institute at Directorate of ICDS at a total cost of Rs.35.00 Lakhs under Flexi Fund of POSHAN Abhiyaan for effective training.
- Job training to 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 early feeding practices.

4.13 Supply of Medicine Kit and Hygiene Kit

Anganwadi Centres are provided with Medicine Kits to address minor ailments like fever, diarrhea, dressing of wound, skin infections etc. Hygiene Kits are also being provided to promote hygienic practices among children and to keep them clean and tidy at the Anganwadi centres.

The Medicine Kit consists of Paracetamol syrup, Paracetamol Tab 500 mg, ORS Powder, Iron and Folic Acid Syrup and Multi vitamin Drops. Hygiene Kit consists of Floor cleaner, Toilet soap and Hand towel.

A sum of Rs.7.80 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

4.14 Aadhar Enrolment in ICDS

The Director-Cum-Mission Director of ICDS is notified as Registrar under UIDAI and the Child

Development Project Offices are notified as Aadhar enrolment agencies for enrolment in Aadhar. Accordingly, three types of Aadhar enrolment kits were provided to all the 434 Child Development Project offices and Aadhar enrolments and updation of Aadhar entries are being carried out.

So far, 96% of beneficiaries under ICDS have been enrolled with Aadhar and necessary entries are being made in POSHAN Tracker application.

4.15 Monitoring and Evaluation

To monitor and review the progress of implementation status of ICDS, committees at different levels viz., State / District / Block / Centre. The Committee will meet periodically as ordered by Government.

4.16 Supply of two sets uniforms to Pre-school children

Uniform provides dignity to children and their parents, especially to socio economically disadvantaged. It also provides level playing field and break socio economic barriers. The uniform in Anganwadi helps to prepare children for future schooling because they become accustomed to dressing in the uniform. Children are more motivated and maintain a sense of routine to attend Anganwadi centres when they are dressed in uniform. Every year two sets of ready-made uniforms are given to the children attending pre-school education. The programme is being implemented exclusively out of State funds. This year the cost of uniform has been enhanced from Rs.131.25 to Rs.150 per set.

A sum of Rs.28.95 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

4.17 Infrastructure Development at Anganwadi Centres

(a) Annual Maintenance Grant to Anganwadi Centres

To carry out minor repair in the Anganwadi centres functioning in Government owned buildings, Rs.3000/- per Anganwadi centre is being provided annually.

A sum of Rs.12.60 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

(b) Saksham Anganwadi

As per the revised guidelines, Anganwadi centres are being upgraded as Saksham Anganwadi in two Aspirational Districts viz., Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar. In these centres various activities such as establishing Nutri gardens, installation of Rain water harvesting structure, provision of Water

purifier/RO unit, provision of LED screens and other infrastructure works will be carried out.

A sum of Rs.48.48 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

4.18 Welfare of Anganwadi Employees

In accordance with the 7th Pay Commission recommendations, the workers of 54,439 Anganwadi centres functioning in Tamil Nadu have been provided with Special time scale of pay as follows: -

(in Rs.)

Sl. No	Post	Honorarium Fixed by GoI	Total Salary	GOI Share (60%)	State Share (40%)	Additional State Expenditure (inc. DA @38%)	Total Share
1	Anganwadi Worker	4,500	12,586	2,700	1,800	8,086	9,886
2	Mini Anganwadi Worker	3,500	9,826	2,100	1,400	6,326	7,726
3	Anganwadi Helper	2,250	7,618	1,350	900	5,368	6,268

- The Anganwadi employees are provided with Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance, Medical Allowance, Hill Allowance and Winter Allowance along with Annual Increment.
- Since 01.10.2017, Lumpsum grant of Rs.1,00,000/- and Rs.50,000/- is given to Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers respectively during their retirement. Since 01.10.2017, Special Pension of Rs.2,000/-is being provided to Anganwadi workers, Mini Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers.
- Summer holidays are granted since May 2018 on a rotation basis.
- Family Benefit fund of Rs.5 lakh is given to the family of the deceased Anganwadi employees.

- Special GPF Scheme has been implemented and GPF Account is being maintained for Anganwadi employees from the year 2015.
- On medical grounds, Anganwadi employees are permitted to go on Voluntary Retirement with all retirement benefits.
- Women legal heir of Anganwadi employees who died while in service are appointed in Anganwadi Centres on compassionate grounds based on their eligibility.
- Mini Anganwadi workers who have completed 5 years of service are promoted as Main Anganwadi worker.
- Two Uniform sarees with vest coat are being provided to all the Anganwadi employees every year.

As per the guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister, under "Uttachathai Uruthi Sei" (Ensure Nutrition) scheme, the beneficiaries are given RUTF special Food, Nutri Kits, BIS Standard Sathu Mavu,

Fortified biscuits, Additional eggs to 1-2 year children. Also monitoring through Regional review the Integrated Child Development Services are implemented with full vigour. With political commitment and community participation activities, Tamil Nadu is marching towards Malnutrition free State.

CHAPTER – 5

SOCIAL DEFENCE

The Directorate of Social Defence looks after the welfare and development of children and other vulnerable sections of the society. The State has pioneered a child protection mechanism by establishing approved schools as early as in the year 1887. The Madras Children Act, 1920 was subsequently enacted for the protection of Children and management of Child Care Institutions. The Department of Social Defence was formed in the year 1947 by bifurcating from the Prison Department with separate nomenclature as Department of Certified Schools and Vigilance Service.

The nomenclature of the Department was changed from time to time as detailed below:-

1958 –Department of Approved Schools and
Vigilance Service

1975-Department of Correctional Administration

1981-Department of Approved Schools and Vigilance Service

1990-Department of Social Defence

The Department of Social Defence cater to the needs of two different categories of children, namely, 'children in need of care and protection' and 'children 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 also provide after care services and implement programmes for facilitating self sustainability for those leaving institutional care. As the Government believes that the family is the best place for any child to nurture and grow, alternative forms of care to institutionalization such as, adoption, foster care and sponsorship has gained prominence in recent times.

The Department of Social Defence is vested with the implementation of following legislations and schemes/programmes to fulfil the statutory obligations and overall growth and development of children and women as well:-

Legislations

- 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

Schemes/Programmes

- i. Mission Vatsalya Scheme (Child Protection Services Scheme)
- ii. Formal and Non-formal education
- iii. Vocational Training *and* Skill development Programmes
- iv. Children Educational Tour Scheme
- v. Psycho-social support for children

- vi. Financial Assistance for self employment and entrepreneurship
- vii. Childline 1098
- viii. De-Addiction Programme
- ix. Ujjawala Scheme

As the Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to providing best possible opportunities for children and also to ensure the safety and security at highest level, it has been planned to form a high level committee to inspect and examine the status of service delivery in all the institutions for children in conflict with law and to suggest measures for attaining best possible services in such child care institutions.

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

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 aims at providing 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. The Government of Tamil Nadu framed the Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2017 under the above Act.

5.1.1 Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP)

“Child in need of care and protection” means 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 appropriate age, 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.

5.1.1.1 Child Welfare Committees

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 Child Welfare Committee consists of a chairperson and four other 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 Committee functions 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 Government has constituted 36 Child Welfare Committees in 34 districts. 3 Committees have been established for Chennai district considering the higher volume of cases. Action is taken to constitute Child Welfare Committee in the remaining 4 districts of Ranipet, Tirupathur, Myladuthurai and Tenkasi and they are now functioning with in-charge arrangement. 18,225 cases have been handled by these Committees during the year 2022-2023.

A sum of Rs.9.00 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.1.1.2 Children Homes

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. 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. As on 31.03.2023, there are 864 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 6 homes for differently abled children. A maintenance grant of Rs.3000/- 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 Mission Vatsalya Scheme. The children in the Child Care Institutions are provided with food, cloth, shelter, medical assistance, education, vocational training, etc., for their overall development.

Sl. No	Government Run Children Homes	NGO run Children Homes by receiving Grant from the Government	NGO run Children Homes with self-financing
1	36	147	681

A sum of Rs.168.42 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.1.1.3 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 12 are receiving grants from the Government. The maintenance grant of Rs.2,500/- per child per month is provided to the Non-Governmental Organizations besides expenses towards rent, water, electricity, transportation and contingencies, under Mission Vatsalya Scheme. The sanctioned strength of these homes is 345 in total.

A sum of Rs.4.64 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.1.1.4 Child Adoption

“Adoption” is an opportunity for orphan, abandoned and surrendered 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 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) facilitates adoption by serving as a bridge between the Prospective Adoptive Parents, Specialized Adoption Agencies and Central Adoption Resource Authority. A "Hand Book on

Child Adoption” has been published by the SARA for easy understanding and display boards have been placed in all District Collectorates, 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.

5.1.1.5 Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAA)

In Tamil Nadu there are 24 Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) functioning to promote in-country and inter-country adoption. These SAAs are situated in Chennai-3, Madurai-2, Salem-2 and one each in the districts of Ariyalur,

Chengalpattu, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Kanniyakumari, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, Thoothukudi, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Tirupathur, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai and Vellore.

The children placed in "adoption" from 1993 to 31.03.2023 are given below: -

Sl. No.	Nature of Adoption	No. of Children Placed in Adoption		Total
		Male	Female	
1	In-Country	1,830	4,637	6,467
2	Inter-Country	139	427	566
Total		1,969	5,064	7,033

The children placed in "adoption" during the year 2022-2023 are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Nature of Adoption	No. of Children Placed in Adoption		Total
		Male	Female	
1	In-Country	135	199	334
2	Inter-Country	13	21	34
Total		148	220	368

5.1.1.6 Financial Assistance for Self Employment and Entrepreneurship

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.

5.1.1.7 Assistance to the children of incarcerated parents

The Government provides care and protection to the children of incarcerated parents also. The children of this category receive

assistance such as sponsorship, education, foster care. In some cases they are being provided with accommodation in the Child Care Institutions run by Government. A total number of 22 children have received sponsorship in the year 2021–2022 and 20 children have received sponsorship in the year 2022–2023. 3 children have been benefitted with foster care. 143 children are accommodated in various child care institutions across the State.

5.1.1.8 Sponsorship

To enable a child to remain in the family and continue his/her education by enjoying the love and affection of parents, financial assistance of Rs.4,000/- per month is provided under the sponsorship assistance programme. Every child selected for assistance under this programme is eligible to avail the benefit upto 18 years of age. 1,354 children in the State are currently benefitting under Centre-State sponsorship programme.

5.1.2 Children in Conflict with Law

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 is classified as a child in conflict with law.

5.1.2.1 Juvenile Justice Boards

The Juvenile Justice Boards are statutory bodies constituted under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and 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. 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). All proceedings of the Juvenile Justice Boards are conducted in a child friendly manner to ensure best interest of

the children. The Government has constituted 32 Juvenile Justice Boards covering 38 Districts. Action is being carried out for constitution of JJB in remaining 6 districts of Chengalpattu, Kallakurichi, Ranipet, Tirupathur, Myladuthurai and Tenkasi and they are now functioning with in-charge arrangement. 7,624 cases have been handled during the year 2022-2023.

A sum of Rs.6.06 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.1.2.2 Observation Homes

The Juvenile Justice System postulates establishment of Observation Homes provides temporary reception of children in conflict with law while their cases are pending before the Juvenile Justice Board. In Tamil Nadu there are 8 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 counselling 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, 132 children are housed in 8 Observation Homes.

A sum of Rs.10.72 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.1.2.3 Special Homes

Special Homes provide long term rehabilitation for children who are committed to such homes by the Juvenile Justice Board after due process of law. These children are

accommodated in these homes for not more than 3 years and long term rehabilitation programmes are provided. Special Homes provide services like education, vocational training, counselling 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, 30 children are housed in these 2 Special Homes. Children having potential skills and interested in self-employment are assisted with financial support under the Juvenile Justice Fund for procuring tools and equipment for establishing self employment and to attain self-sustainability.

A sum of Rs.2.97 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.1.2.4 Place of Safety

Place of Safety is meant for children in conflict with law between the age of 16 and 18 years and are accused of or convicted for

committing a heinous offence. A person above the age of 18 years but 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 for boys. These children / persons are provided with reformatory services including education, counselling, behaviour modification etc., during their stay in the Place of Safety. The Government have also issued orders recognizing a portion of Government Observation Home for Boys and Girls at Madurai as a Place of Safety exclusively for girls and a portion of Government Special Home for Boys, Chengalpattu as Place of Safety for Boys. At present, 38 children/persons are housed in these three Place of Safety. Rs.15.95 crore has been allocated for the construction of a new

building of "Place of Safety" in Chengalpattu District.

A sum of Rs.85.62 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.1.3 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 to Child Care Institutions is accorded based on the minimum standards prescribed under the Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice Rules, 2017, such as space for dormitory, building stability, building license, fire safety, sanitation etc. As on 31.03.2023, 952 Child Care Institutions have been registered, around 30,241 children are

accommodated in these registered Child Care Institutions.

5.1.4 Inspection and Monitoring of Child Care Institution

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 already existing inspection bodies such as Juvenile Justice Boards, Child Welfare Committees and District Child Protection Units. 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 with District Child Protection Officer as Member Secretary and four members from among Child Welfare Committee / Juvenile Justice Board,

Medical Officer, Psychologist and a representative of Non-Governmental Organization.

5.1.5 After Care Organizations

After Care services are provided to children having no family or any other care taker while leaving institutional care on attaining 18 years of age, so as to sustain themselves during the transition from institutional care to independent life. The Government is running After Care Institution for Boys at Athur (Chengalpattu) with 11 beneficiaries and Madurai with 9 beneficiaries and for Girls at Vellore with 17 beneficiaries. The Government provides Rs.4,000/- per month per child to the NGO's who are providing after care services. A Non-Governmental Organization in Mayiladuthurai District is supported under Mission Vatsalya Scheme for maintaining differently abled young adults and 37 beneficiaries are housed here.

A sum of Rs.1.67 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.1.6 Mission Vatsalya Scheme (Child Protection Services Scheme)

The "Mission Vatsalya" scheme provides a 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 view 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.

The Government have established adequate State and District level structures required under the 'Child Protection Services' - "Mission Vatsalya" a Centre-State shared 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, website for Child Information System and tracing out the missing children are the major components of the scheme.

5.1.6.1 Service Delivery Structures under Mission Vatsalya Scheme

The Government have established the following structures for effective implementation of Mission Vatsalya Scheme:-

- 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.53.63 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.1.6.2 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.

A. Child Protection Committees in rural areas

1. Village Level Child Protection Committee

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

B. Child Protection Committees in urban areas

1. Child Protection Committee at Town Panchayat Level
2. Child Protection Committee at Municipality 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 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 for the Child Protection Committees (CPCs) to handle child protection issues at rural and urban areas.

At present 13,646 CPCs have been constituted and quarterly meetings are held regularly. During this year,

- District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) have intervened 10,873 child related cases.
- 6 trainings conducted at the State level in which 583 stakeholders have been trained.
- 105 training conducted at the District level for 10,330 child protection functionaries and stakeholders.

- 4,019 awareness programmes conducted in which 5,04,870 beneficiaries were reached.

5.2 The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act, 2012) was formulated in order to effectively address sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and safeguarding interest and wellbeing of the child at every stage. It provides for protection of children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. It also provides for stringent punishment which is inflicted as per the gravity of offences. The punishment ranges from simple to rigorous imprisonment of varying period. There is also provision for fine, which is decided by the court.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 envisages compensation to

victims of sexual offences as a measure of addressing their rehabilitation needs.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has created the “Tamil Nadu Child Victim Compensation Fund” under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 in order to provide financial assistance as a compensation for the rehabilitation of child victims of sexual offences. So far, 1,328 Children have benefitted under this scheme at a cost of Rs.20.00 crore.

A sum of Rs.15.00 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.3 The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005

The Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been constituted as per the section 17 (1) of Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 for monitoring the effective

implementation of Child Welfare related Acts in force. The Commission has been established with a Chairperson and six Members with effect from 18.01.2013.

The main objective of this Commission is to monitor the implementation of child related legislations that are in force in order to ensure the protection and welfare of the children at the optimum level and to give suggestions to the Government.

Activities of the Commission are

- To monitor / supervise the active implementation of Child related legislations.
- To get relevant documents relating to the violation of child rights issues from police and other Departments.
- To recommend to the competent authority to take necessary and immediate remedial

steps towards violation of child rights after making necessary enquiries.

- To create awareness to the General Public about child rights.
- To take necessary action against child rights violations based on complaints received from general public, media, NGO and suo- motu cognizance of the cases.
- To conduct Training / Convening programme to Government / Non-Governmental bodies with respect to child rights.

The Commission has dealt with 4,498 cases under the following child rights related acts from 18.01.2013 to 31.03.2023:-

1	The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015	1566
2	The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006	422
3	The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009	905
4	The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012	1,438
5	The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986	167

A sum of Rs.1.10 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.4 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.

5.4.1 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, counselling, 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 Tiruchirappalli for the rehabilitation of women victims of trafficking under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

Free legal assistance has been extended to women victims admitted in these institutions.

A sum of Rs.5.25 Crore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.4.2 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 3 Non-Governmental Organizations implementing this scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu.

5.5 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

- i. The Government of Tamil Nadu believes that the growth of a country depends on the development and welfare of its

children. In extra-ordinary circumstances and times of natural calamities and pandemic, it always evolves a system of hand holding to keep them safe. As such, 379 children who had lost both their parents due to COVID-19 are provided with a sum of Rs.5.00 lakh per child and the same has been deposited in the name of child at a total expenditure of Rs.18.95 crore. A maintenance grant of Rs.3,000/- per month for these children at a total cost of Rs.161.07 lakh has been provided to grow in family circumstances until attaining 18 years of age. Further, as immediate relief a sum of Rs.3.00 lakh per child has been given to the 13,300 children including 9 Srilankan refugee's children who had lost one

of their parent due to COVID-19 at a total cost of Rs.399.00 crore from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. Action has been taken to give priority for these children in all Government welfare schemes and to bear the cost of education to continue their education.

- ii. Preference shall be given for admission in Government / Government aided Homes and Hostels for children who had lost both the parents.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.

5.6 Special Initiatives taken by the Government for Children and Women

(a) Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children

The Government of Tamil Nadu has brought out "Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children - 2021" for ensuring care, protection, growth and development of children in an enjoyable environment. Key indicators had been developed for each parameters on par with International Standards.

The Directorate of Social Defence 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.

(b) 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.

(c) Integrated Training Centre for Social Empowerment

The Government of Tamil Nadu in association with UNICEF, established a training centre and providing training to all the stakeholders who are involved in Child Protection. In addition, the services are extended to other Directorates under the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment to train in the areas of Child and Women welfare, protection, rights and development. An Integrated Training Centre for Social Empowerment is being established at a cost of Rs.27.00 crore in Chengalpattu District.

(d) Career Guidance Centre

Children admitted in Child Care Institutions usually hail from socially and economically disadvantaged background. The poor educational background of parents, unhealthy living conditions and poverty does not enable children to get a

helping hand from the family at times of distress. Hence for providing necessary assistance for their employment and economic development, action has been taken to set up "Career Guidance Centre" in six districts of the state at a cost of Rs.48.24 lakh in the first phase.

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

To identify the potentials of children and encourage children to have skills 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.

A sum of Rs.25.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

A sum of Rs.2.75 lakh has been provided in Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 to procure sports materials for children in the child care institutions to have regular sports activities.

5.7 Other Schemes

5.7.1 Formal and Non-formal Education

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.

5.7.2 Vocational Training and Skill Development Programmes

In order to improve the skills of children, modernized vocational trainings are imparted in tailoring, dress making, ac mechanic, fast food preparation, plumbing, water purifier servicing, basic computer application, bakery etc., as short term courses. 1,250 children are benefitted under this training. 20 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. 213 Children from Government Children Homes are provided with Typewriting training.

A sum of Rs.40.15 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.7.3 Children Educational Tour Scheme

The Government of Tamil Nadu implemented the Educational Tour Scheme to provide opportunities to gain educational knowledge from outside of institutions to the Children of 36 Government Child Care Institutions of the Department of Social Defence every year.

A sum of Rs.10.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.7.4 Psycho-Social support 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 often suffer from 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. 4,143 children have benefitted under this programme during the year 2022-2023.

A sum of Rs.51.30 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024.

5.8 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 Child Line India Foundation with financial assistance from Government of India. In Tamil Nadu 27,922 telephone calls were received under the service during the year 2022-2023.

5.9 Child Information System

Government have issued orders for the development of new portal namely "Child Information System" at a cost of Rs.65.00 lakh to have a reliable data on the protection and development of children, sharing of information among various service providers, strengthen and monitor child care services and understand the real time implementation of programmes under the Juvenile Justice System. The website for Child Protection Information Management and Monitoring System is functioning with effect from 10.09.2022 (<https://dsdcpimms.tn.gov.in>). The online system is user friendly and helps to

monitor the progress of children at every stage. The data is being maintained electronically for easy access and management.

5.10 Child Tracking 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.

5.11 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.

5.12 De-addiction Centre for children

De-addiction Centre 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. Recently, the Government had also established two de-addiction centres exclusively for children through NGO's in Chennai and Tirunelveli Districts. In these centers, steps are taken to rehabilitate the children who are addicted to various drugs by providing free treatment and counseling. 310 children had benefitted under this programme during the year 2022-2023.

A sum of Rs.99.24 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023 -2024.

5.13 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 Child Welfare Committee and Juvenile Justice Board 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. Periodic review

meetings are held by the Directorate of Social Defence to ensure that proper rehabilitation measures are provided to the children at the earliest.

5.14 Convergence with other Departments for Child Protection

Child protection is the task that requires coordination between various departments. The Department of Social Defence coordinates the implementation of multidisciplinary services for children in various sectors. It ensures the care and protection of all the children with the effective co-ordination with line Departments such as Social Welfare, Education Department, Labour Welfare, Samagra Shiksha, National Child Labour Project, Railway Police, Revenue Department, Integrated Child Development Services, Rural Development, Municipal Administration, Medical and Health, Police, Judiciary, Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled, etc.,

At District Level, District Child Protection Committee meetings are conducted periodically under the Chairmanship of District Collector to plan and address the issues related to child protection.

Appropriate actions are taken for the rescue and rehabilitation in cases of sexual abuse, child marriage, child trafficking, child begging, physical and mental abuses and child labour. Awareness campaigns are conducted on regular basis at District Level.

CHAPTER - 6

6.1 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) entail achieving sustainable development in three dimensions – economic, social and environmental in a balanced and integrated manner. To monitor the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, 17 aspirational Goals with 169 targets are fixed to measure the outcomes.

NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the role to co-ordinate with States for SDG localization, including the State, District and Panchayat level Indicator Frameworks, review mechanisms and capacity building.

The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, an attached office of NITI Aayog has been mandated to actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of schemes through Output Outcome Monitoring Framework to restructure

the schemes and strengthen their implementation.

Eight thematic Working Groups were formed by Planning and Development Department to review and monitor the achievement of fixed targets. These thematic groups periodically conduct meetings with the stakeholder Departments to guide suitable measures to achieve the targets fixed for Panchayat, Districts and State as a whole.

SDG Dash board has been developed by the State to collect data periodically from various departments and to monitor the relevant indicators pertaining to SDGs. The High-Power Committee with the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government oversees the implementation of SDGs in Tamil Nadu.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls should begin with the birth of a child and continue throughout the life cycle, where in societies must endeavor to ensure her survival, protection and empowerment. Goal 5 has 9 targets and 14 indicators, which aims to end all discrimination against women and girls, and ensure equal access to health and education, equal opportunities for employment and equal rights for economic resources. Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department is the Nodal Department for Goal-5 Gender Equality.

Targets for Goal 5

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

The Cradle Baby Scheme, Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme are implemented through this

department aiming to prevent female foeticide, female infanticide, ensure her protection, Rights and provide economic assistance which addresses the Child Sex Ratio and Gender inequality.

Pudhumai Penn scheme, an innovative initiative of the Government of Tamil Nadu has benefitted 2.09 lakh girl students to continue their higher education thereby improving female literacy rate and female work force.

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 State-run Helplines for Women (181) and Children (1098), 38 One Stop Centres, 33 Swadhar homes, Ujjawala Homes, 7 Service Homes provides emergency response and rehabilitation services as shelter, food clothing, counseling, legal aid and training to women and children affected by violence and abuse.

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

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and State Rules, 2009 is implemented by creating awareness among public and file FIRs against child marriages. Sensitization Programmes and awareness generation activities are being undertaken with assistance from UNICEF and SBGF in High Incidence Districts.

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

Women related Social Legislations such as Dowry prohibition Act, 1961, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, 2013 and Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children Regulation Act, 2015 are implemented by

the department to ensure dignity and respect of women and children. Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women deals with cases related to crimes against women and safeguarding their rights. Widow and Destitute women welfare Board has been constituted to formulate schemes for improving livelihood status of widows, deserted women, orphan and spinsters. Social Security pension schemes are also implemented to protect vulnerable section of the society.

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.

Free bus travel facilities are provided to women which provides mobility thereby creating opportunities to be independent and economically empowered. Women Industrial Cooperative Societies are established to provide employment to women so as to complement their family

income. Government Working Women Hostels run and regulated by the Department ensures safe, decent and affordable stay for women. 50% of seats in local bodies and 33% in employment have been reserved for women.

5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conference.

Various Health programmes as supply of Nutritious health kit and continuous health checkups during pregnancy, Maternity benefit schemes to compensate wage loss, Health check-ups for adolescents and children are being undertaken to develop a healthy society.

5.6.a: 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 is ensured by Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2020. Tamil Nadu is also pioneer State in issuing Orders in 1994, for putting Mother's name also as initials for their children during their admission to schools.

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

Tamil Nadu is the first State to set up All Women Police Station (AWPS) in early 1990s to ensure secured feeling to women to approach Police Stations. Various Helplines and Mobile Apps

as Kavalan, Kaval Udhavi are implemented to ensure safety and empowering women in the field of education, employment, etc.,

5.6.c: 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 State is in the process of formulating the draft State policy for Women which guarantees equal opportunities and representation of women for leadership at all levels. The Department implements various social legislations to ensure safety and protection and thereby ensuring gender equality and women empowerment.

Towards the State Indicator for Goal 1 & 2 No Poverty and Zero Hunger, the Chief Minister's Breakfast scheme has been launched to increase attendance and improve their nutritional status thereby benefitting 18 lakh children in all Government Primary schools. The Nutritious Meal

programme is implemented in 43,094 Schools catering to 44.72 lakhs School children in the age of 5-15 years through 13 types of variety meal and 5 eggs a week to ensure retention in schools and address malnutrition.

The Department of Integrated Child Development Services is one of the departments that address Goals 2 and 4. ICDS runs AWCs to fulfil the nutritional needs of children in the age group 6 months to 6 years, adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years, pregnant and lactating mothers.

Goal No.2 aims to End hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition and promote sustainable growth. The Department strives to tackle all forms of malnutrition and its effects such as stunting and wasting in children under 6 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and women in the age group of 14-49 years.

Goal No.4 aims to provide quality education to children. Department aims to provide early childhood care and education for the physical, language, cognitive and socio-emotional development of the children attending Anganwadi Centres. This helps in preparing the children for school readiness.

The Department focuses on formulation and implementation of welfare schemes towards achieving holistic development and upliftment of women and achieving SDG Targets and indicators.

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. From 01.01.2023, an amount of Rs.1,500/- is being paid to all the eligible differently abled beneficiaries. The allocation has been increased substantially up to Rs. 4646.86 crore in 2022-23. As on 31st March 2023, totally 34,62,034

beneficiaries were included under various schemes as detailed below:

Sl. No	Name of the Schemes	No. of beneficiaries as on 31.03.2023
1.	Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme	14,36,569
2.	Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme	63,769
3.	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme	5,29,728
4.	Differently Abled Pension Scheme	4,04,345
5.	Destitute Widow Pension Scheme	6,16,016
6.	Chief Minister's Uzhavar Patukappu Thittam	2,63,194
7.	Destitute / Deserted Wives Pension Scheme	1,18,462
8.	Un-married Women Pension Scheme	25,655
9.	Srilankan Pension Schemes (OAP, DAP, DWP, DDWP)	4,296
Total		34,62,034

ILLUSTRATION OF BENEFICIARIES UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES

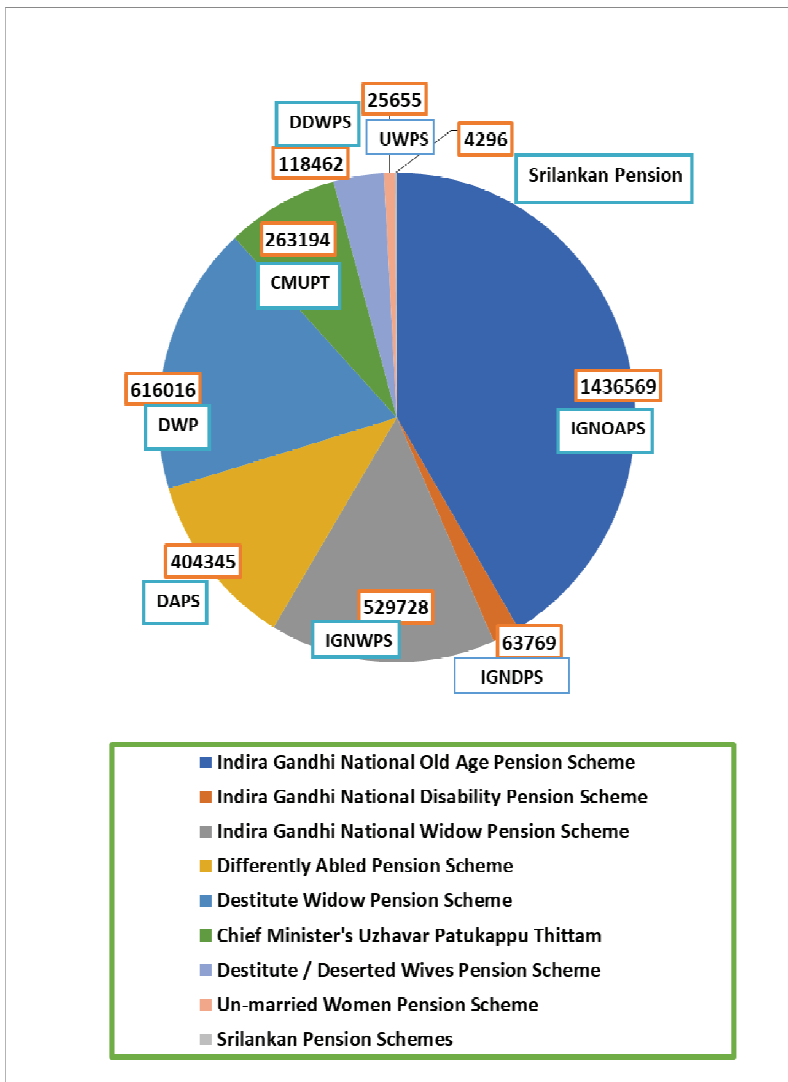


Table-2.2**Funding Pattern–Union and State share**

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.1200/-
3.	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)	Rs.300/-	Rs.700/-
4.	Differently Abled Pension Scheme (DAPS)	-	Rs.1500/-
5.	Destitute Widow Pension Scheme (DWPS)	-	Rs.1000/-
6.	Chief Minister's UzhavarPadhukappuThittam (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 (OAP,DWP,DDWP)	-	Rs.1000/-
10.	Pension to Srilankan Refugees (DAPS)	-	Rs.1500/-

Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria to avail Additional Central Assistance under the three pension schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in TamilNadu are as detailed below:

Table-2.3

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:

Table-2.4

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 PadhukaapuThittam (CMUPT)-(OAP)	Destitute. Age: 60 year 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."

4.	Destitute/ Deserted Wives Pension Scheme (DDWPS)	Destitute. Age: 30years and above. Must be legally divorced or deserted for not less than 5years (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: 50years 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."
6.	Pension to Srilankan Refugees (OAP, DAP, DWP, DDWP)	Benefits are being provided based on the eligibility criteria under the schemes of OAP, DAP, DWP and DDWP.

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 Special Tahsildar (Social Security Schemes) for scrutiny and sanction of pension. Pension is sanctioned by Tahsildar (Social Security Schemes) for the eligible petitioner.

Disposal of Petitions - Time line

Applications received under Social Security Pension Schemes are verified by detailed enquiry and disposed within 30 days as prescribed by the Government.

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 at 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.

5 Kg of rice are distributed to all the beneficiaries of Social Security Schemes as per Food Security Act, 2013.

CHAPTER - 8

SOCIAL REFORMS DEPARTMENT

As per the decision taken in the meeting of all party leaders held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Muthamizh Arignar Dr.Kalaignar on 22.10.1998 and 26.10.1998, a Committee was constituted consisting of sociology experts to form a separate department of Social Reforms in Government to bring about egalitarian social revival. Based on the recommendation of the Committee, Social Reforms Department was created in 1999 to promote religious harmony and community cohesion and to create egalitarian social renaissance. In the year 2002, this department was merged with Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department. Again in the year 2006, this department was renewed and functioning as per the announcement of the then Hon'ble Chief Minister Muthamizh Arignar Dr.Kalaignar.

Social Justice Monitoring Committee

On the occasion of the centenary day of the Social Justice, the Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced that "**Social Justice Monitoring Committee**" will be formed. This committee will monitor as to whether the yardsticks of social justice have been fully followed in Education, Employment, Posts, Promotions and Appointments. It will also recommend the Government for taking appropriate action if these are not implemented properly. It has also been announced that the committee will include Government officials, academics and legal experts.

In order to implement the above announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, orders have been issued in G.O.(Ms.) No. 02, Social Reforms Department, dated 24.12.2021 to constitute the "**Social Justice**

Monitoring Committee" with the following Chairman and members: -

1. Prof.Suba.Veerapandian - Chairman
2. Dr.K.Dhanavel, I.A.S., (Retired) – Member
3. Prof.Dr.Swaminathan Devadoss – Member
4. Poet.Thiru.Manushyaputhiran – Member
5. Thiru.A.Jaison – Member
6. Prof.Dr.R.Rajendran – Member
7. Thiru.G.Karunanidhy – Member
8. Dr.Shanthi Ravindranath – Member

Terms of Reference of the Committee

- I. The committee shall verify whether the affirmative actions have been implemented in its true spirit in the fields of education, employment, appointments and promotions as per the Government orders and rules and to make recommendations if any shortcomings are noted in any field.

- II. The Committee shall verify whether the order of priority, Horizontal reservation for categories like the students of first generation, persons who studied in Tamil medium and other such categories has been complied as per rules in force, while making appointments through the Employment exchange. The committee shall suggest measures to be taken to ensure adequate representation of the said priority categories and the Differently abled persons as per existing norms and Government orders.
- III. The Committee shall verify that opportunities are not denied to any individual on the grounds of caste or gender. The committee may study various welfare programmes of the State and the Central Government

- and analyse if the schemes intended towards social equity have delivered their goals and suggest measures to make appropriate corrections if needed.
- IV. The committee shall assess the efforts taken by the local bodies in strictly eliminating manual scavenging.
 - V. The committee shall recommend measures to sensitise the youth especially amongst children in schools and colleges on the importance of Social Justice as well as the State's pioneering efforts to promote social equity.
 - VI. The committee shall recommend measures to prevent misuse of the Social media forum which may jeopardize the Social fabric of the state and may suggest ways in which the State can promote the concept of

Social Justice and communal harmony using the print, visual and social media.

- VII. The committee shall thus strive to achieve a progressive state based on Social Justice and pave way for a Radical Society as visualized by Thanthai Periyar.

Furthermore, orders have been issued in G.O.(D) No. 02, Social Reforms Department, dated 24.12.2021 for the creation of 9 posts along with sanction of funds of Rs. 79,39,600/- for recurring and non-recurring expenditure including salaries for the posts sanctioned for smooth functioning of the Committee.

The office of the Committee is functioning in 2nd floor of Devaneyya Pavanar Library Building, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002.

Meetings of the Committee

The Social Justice Monitoring Committee has held 7 meetings since its inception.

Activities of the Committee

1. Visit to Universities for inspections

At the first instance, the Social Justice Monitoring Committee conducted inspections in various Universities throughout Tamil Nadu namely Periyar University, Bharathiyar University, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Dr. MGR Medical University, University of Madras, Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University, Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University and Anna University.

Among the above Universities, the reports and the recommendations of Periyar University, Bharathiyar University, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Dr.MGR Medical University and

University of Madras have been submitted to Government.

2. Conducting Seminars among the students

In order to propagating the principles of Thanthai Periyar among the students of Colleges, a proposal received from the Committee for conducting Seminars in 9 Universities will have been executed under the initiatives of "Maperum Tamizh Kanavu" by Tamil Virtual Academy.

3. Spot Inspection on the incident of Iraiyr Venkaivayal Village

The Social Justice Monitoring Committee visited Iraiyr Vengaivayal village, Kulathur Taluk in Pudukkottai District on 13.01.2023 in connection with the incident of unidentified miscreants mixed faeces matters into the over head tank situated in Adi Dravidar habitation. The Committee has submitted its report and

recommendations to the Government on 20.01.2023.

Similarly, the Social Justice Monitoring Committee is effectively carrying out its work by monitoring various activities which are related to Social Justice and Social harmony.

P. Geetha Jeevan
Minister for Social Welfare –
Women Empowerment

ANNEXURE -I
IMPORTANT DAYS

Sl. No	Day		Date
1.	National Girl Child Day	-	January 24 th
2.	State Girl Child Protection Day	-	February 24 th
3.	International Women's Day	-	March 8 th
4.	Thirunangaiyar Day	-	April 15 th
5.	Mother's Day	-	14 th May 2023 (May Second Sunday)
6.	Anti Child Labour Day	-	June 12 th
7.	Elders Abuse Awareness Day	-	June 15 th
8.	International Day of Older Persons	-	October 1 st
9.	International Girl Child Day	-	October 11 th
10.	Children's Day	-	November 14 th
11.	International day for Elimination of Violence against women	-	November 25 th
12.	Dowry Prohibition Day	-	November 26 th
13.	Human Rights Day	-	December 10 th

ANNEXURE – II

BUDGET ESTIMATE – 2023-2024 DEMAND No.45

SOCIAL WELFARE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT

TOTAL BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 2023-2024 Rs. 7,745.12 crore		
BUDET ESTIMATE FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024		
HEAD OF ACCOUNT		(Rs. in lakh)
REVENUE SECTION		Allocation
2059	Public Works	274.69
2225	Directorate of Social Welfare	0.21
2235	Directorate of Social Defence	35,029.58
2235	Directorate of Social Welfare	97,640.20
2235	Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme	14,134.72
2236	Secretariat	37.75
2236	Directorate of Social Welfare	3,08,284.23
2236	Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme	3,09,981.04
2251	Secretariat	952.47

2551	Directorate of Social Welfare	----
REVENUE SECTION TOTAL		7,66,334.89
CAPITAL SECTION		
4235	Directorate of Social Welfare	---
4235	Directorate of Social Defence	3,328.55
4236	Directorate of Social Welfare	0.02
4236	Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme	4,848
CAPITAL SECTION TOTAL		8,176.57
LOAN SECTION		
7610	Loans to Government Servants etc.,	0.02
LOAN SECTION TOTAL		0.02
Grand Total		7,74,511.48

GROSS TOTAL

(Rs. in Lakh)

Revenue Section : 7,66,334.89

Capital Section : 8,176.57

Loan Section : 0.02

TOTAL : 7,74,511.48

(or)

Rs. 7,745.12 Crore

A sum of Rs.5337.18 Crore has also been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2023-2024 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



Hon'ble Chief Minister distributing enhanced monthly pension of Rs.1,500 to Transgender on 28.02.2023 at Anna Centenary Library.



Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the "Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme" on 15.09.2022.



Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated "Pudhumai Penn" Scheme on 05.09.2022 at Bharathi Women's College, Chennai in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Thiru Arvind Kejriwal.



Hon'ble Chief Minister distributing sweets to the Children of Anganwadi Centre near St. Mary's School, Madhavaram Highway, Chennai District.



Hon'ble Chief Minister greeted Women on the International Women's Day function at Ethiraj Women's College on 08.03.2023.



Transgender Welfare Board Meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare - Women Empowerment on 28.03.2023.



Children watching lesson on LED TV provided under District Collector's Discretionary Fund at Inamreddyapatti Anganwadi Centre, Virudhunagar District.



Children using drinking water purifier installed in Panchayat Union Primary School, Mannivakkam, Chengalpattu District.



Music Band formed by the Children of Government Children Home for Boys, Tattapparai in Thoothukudi District.



State Level Training Programme on "Build a Cadre of Adolescent Champions" who will act as Agents of Change.

