

# Women Welfare Schemes in Tamil Nadu - A Special Reference to Cuddalore District - A Study

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## Abstract

The Social Welfare Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu under the able guidance of the Honble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had always ensured the welfare of the poor, the downtrodden, Women, Children, Senior Citizens and third genders. Their health, nutrition, education, protection and development have been improved through various Social Welfare Schemes. They have also been provided with innumerable opportunities and facilities to live a dignified life.

## Key Words

Child Marriage, Dowry Prohibition, Domestic Violence, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen's, Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place.

## Introduction

Tamil Nadu is witnessing a vibrant development phase, with the state government giving special emphasis for the development of the women and children addressing their concern in a multi phased manner to the social welfare and nutritious programme department.

The department has initiated, a comprehensive strategy aimed towards the protection and welfare of girl children and women through schemes like Marriage Assistance Scheme Free Supply of Sewing Machines and Government Service Homes and Working Women Hostels to benefit the girl children and women at large. Special focus has been given to issues relating to senior citizens and third genders by implementing schemes like Old Age Homes, Day Care Center and Integrated Complexes for the Senior Citizens and wide range of services for the inclusion and livelihood promotion of the third genders.

## Objectives

- To study explore the Tamil Nadu social welfare department Schemes.
- To examine the provisions special of act in women and child welfare.

## Methodology

The study based on descriptive method however documentary analysis also considered for the relevant study.

## Delimitation

The research article explore only women's and children welfare schemes and acts which imitated by tamilnadu social welfare department schemes and constitution provide special acts of women and children.

## Source of data

The secondary source of data considered for the relevant study

### **The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006**

An Act to provide for the prohibition of solemnization of child marriages and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Be it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

(1) This Act may be called the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

(2) It applies also to all citizens of India without and beyond India: Provided that nothing contained in this Act shall apply to the Renocants of the Union territory of Pondicherry.

(3) It shall come into force on such date<sup>1</sup> as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different States and any reference in any provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed in relation to any State as a reference to the coming into force of that provision in that State.

### **Definitions**

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,— (a) “child” means a person who, if a male, has not completed twenty-one years of age, and if a female, has not completed eighteen years of age; (b) “child marriage” means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is a child; (c) “contracting party”, in relation to a marriage, means either of the parties whose marriage is or is about to be thereby solemnised; (d) “Child Marriage Prohibition Officer” includes the Child Marriage Prohibition Officer appointed under sub-section (1) of section 16; (e) “district court” means, in any area for which a Family Court established under section 3 of the Family Courts Act, 1984 (66 of 1984) exists, such Family Court, and in any area for which there is no Family Court but a city civil court exists, that court and in any other area, the principal civil court of original jurisdiction and includes any other civil court which may be specified by the State Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, as having jurisdiction in respect of the matters dealt with in this Act; (f) “minor” means a person who, under the provisions of the Majority Act, 1875 (9 of 1875), is to be deemed not to have attained his majority.

In this way stopped in Cuddalore child marriages were prevented in Cuddalore district in the last month. According to official sources, an attempt to marry off a 14-year-old girl to a 23-year-old youth was stopped at Karmangudi village near Srimushnam after Chidambaram sub-collector received a tip-off about the incident.

“On receiving a tip-off, Chidambaram sub-collector reached us weather help from police and stopped the wedding happening at the groom’s residence with the presence of a few relatives. The minor was rescued, and a written statement against child marriage has been procured.

## The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

An Act to prohibit the giving or taking of dowry

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Twelfth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

(1) This Act may be called the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint.

### Definition

In this act, 'dowry' means any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly:

- a. by one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage; or
- b. by the parents of either party to a marriage or by any other person, to either party to the marriage or to any other person; at or before or any time after the marriage in connection with the marriage of said parties but does not include dower or mahr in the case of persons to whom the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) applies.

In the way registered in cuddalore district a case on woman died by suicide in Virudhachalam town in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore district as she was being harassed for dowry by her husband and in-laws. The woman, 26, recorded her suicide on camera and blamed her husband's family for the extreme decision. The woman's family has now filed a complained indicating that Shobana was harassed by her husband, Vijayakumar, his father Anbazhagan and mother Selvarani for dowry. The couple had been married for two years and had a child. According to the police, Vijayakumar used to work in an IT company in Chennai and the couple had a one-year-old son. After losing his job during the lockdown, he came back home. Allegedly, he and his parents started pressuring Shobana to bring in more dowry from her family. Following her death, Shobana's family members lodged a complaint with the Virudhachalam police.

The police arrested Vijaykumar and his parents after her video went viral. "Vijaykumar lost his job after the pandemic as people were being laid off. So he and his parents, Selvarani (45) and Anabalagan (53) tortured Shobana for money. The husband was also having an affair with another woman and Shobana had suspected that they were trying to drive her out to accommodate the other woman," a police official in the Virudhachalam Deputy Superintendent's office, told

## The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

(1) This Act may be called the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

(2) It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(3) It shall come into force on such date 1 as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

## Definitions

- (a) “aggrieved person” means any woman who is, or has been, in a domestic relationship with the respondent and who alleges to have been subjected to any act of domestic violence by the respondent;
- (b) “child” means any person below the age of eighteen years and includes any adopted, step or foster child;
- (c) “compensation order” means an order granted in terms of section 22;
- (d) “custody order” means an order granted in terms of section 21;
- (e) “domestic incident report” means a report made in the prescribed form on receipt of a complaint of domestic violence from an aggrieved person;
- (f) “domestic relationship” means a relationship between two persons who live or have, at any point of time, lived together in a shared household, when they are related by consanguinity, marriage, or through a relationship in the nature of marriage, adoption or are family members living together as a joint family;
- (g) “domestic violence” has the same meaning as assigned to it in section 3;
- (h) “dowry” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in section 2 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (28 of 1961);
- (i) “Magistrate” means the Judicial Magistrate of the first class, or as the case may be, the Metropolitan Magistrate, exercising jurisdiction under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) in the area where the aggrieved person resides temporarily or otherwise or the respondent resides or the domestic violence is alleged to have taken place;
- (j) “medical facility” means such facility as may be notified by the State Government to be a medical facility for the purposes of this Act;
- (k) “monetary relief” means the compensation which the Magistrate may order the respondent to pay to the aggrieved person, at any stage during the hearing of an application seeking any relief under this Act, to meet the expenses incurred and the losses suffered by the aggrieved person as a result of the domestic violence;
- (l) “notification” means a notification published in the Official Gazette and the expression “notified” shall be construed accordingly;
- (m) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (n) “Protection Officer” means an officer appointed by the State Government under sub-section (1) of section 8;
- (o) “protection order” means an order made in terms of section 18;
- (p) “residence order” means an order granted in terms of sub-section (1) of section 19;
- (q) “respondent” means any adult male person who is, or has been, in a domestic relationship with the aggrieved person and against whom the aggrieved person has sought any relief under this Act:

Provided that an aggrieved wife or female living in a relationship in the nature of a marriage may also file a complaint against a relative of the husband or the male partner.

(r) “service provider” means an entity registered under sub-section (1) of section 10;

(s) “shared household” means a household where the person aggrieved lives or at any stage has lived in a domestic relationship either singly or along with the respondent and includes such a household whether owned or tenanted either jointly by the aggrieved person and the respondent, or owned or tenanted by either of them in respect of which either the aggrieved person or the respondent or both jointly or singly have any right, title, interest or equity and includes such a household which may belong to the joint family of which the respondent is a member, irrespective of whether the respondent or the aggrieved person has any right, title or interest in the shared household.

(t) “shelter home” means any shelter home as may be notified by the State Government to be a shelter home for the purposes of this Act.

The Tamil Nadu police have said that they have recorded 13,447 complaints of women facing violence in their homes between March 24 and May 31. This includes complaints recorded by police personnel who have been personally enquiring in homes with previously recorded cases of domestic violence.

"This is at least 500 cases lesser than what had been recorded between January 1 and March 23," says Assistant Director General of police M Ravi from the Crime against Women and Children department. That this is because relatives and children are at homes, forcing husbands to restrain themselves and not indulge in violence against their wives, The North Zone comprises Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Vellore, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Cuddalore.

This Act may be called the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressed 1) Act, 2013. (2) It extends to the whole of India. (3) It shall come into force on such date<sup>1</sup> as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, — (a) “aggrieved woman” means— (i) in relation to a workplace, a woman, of any age whether employed or not, who alleges to have been subjected to any act of sexual harassment by the respondent; (ii) in relation to dwelling place or house, a woman of any age who is employed in such a dwelling place or house; (b) “appropriate Government” means— (i) in relation to a workplace which is established, owned, controlled or wholly or substantially financed by funds provided directly or indirectly— (A) by the Central Government or the Union territory administration, the Central Government; (B) by the State Government, the State Government; (ii) in relation to any workplace not covered under sub-clause (i) and falling within its territory, the State Government; (c) “Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Local Complaints Committee nominated under sub-section (1) of section 7; (d) “District Officer” means an officer notified under section 5; (e) “domestic worker” means a woman who is employed to

do the household work in any household for remuneration whether in cash or kind, either directly or through any agency on a temporary, permanent, part time or full time basis, but does not include any member of the family of the employer; (f) “employee” means a person employed at a workplace for any work on regular, temporary, ad hoc or daily wage basis, either directly or through an agent, including a contractor, with or, without the knowledge of the principal employer, whether for remuneration or not, or working on a voluntary basis or otherwise, whether the terms of employment are express or implied and includes a co-worker, a contract worker, probationer, trainee, apprentice or called by any other such name; (g) “employer” means— (i) in relation to any department, organization, undertaking, establishment, enterprise, institution, office, branch or unit of the appropriate Government or a local authority, the head of that department, organization, undertaking, establishment, enterprise, institution, office, branch or unit or such other officer as the appropriate Government or the local authority, as the case may be, may by an order specify in this behalf; (ii) in any workplace not covered under sub-clause (i), any person responsible for the management, supervision and control of the workplace. Explanation. —For the purposes of this sub-clause “management” includes the person or board or committee responsible for formulation and administration of policies for such organization; (iii) in relation to workplace covered under sub-clauses (i) and (ii), the person discharging contractual obligations with respect to his or her employees; (iv) in relation to a dwelling place or house, a person or a household who employs or benefits from the employment of domestic worker, irrespective of the number, time period or type of such worker employed, or the nature of the employment or activities performed by the domestic worker; (h) “Internal Committee” means an Internal Complaints Committee constituted under section 4; (i) “Local Committee” means the Local Complaints Committee constituted under section 6; (j) “Member” means a Member of the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be; (k) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act; (l) “Presiding Officer” means the Presiding Officer of the Internal Complaints Committee nominated under sub-section (2) of section 4; (m) “respondent” means a person against whom the aggrieved woman has made a complaint under section 9; 5 (n) “sexual harassment” includes any one or more of the following unwelcome acts or behavior (whether directly or by implication) namely:— (i) physical contact and advances; or (ii) a demand or request for sexual favors; or (iii) making sexually colored remarks; or (iv) showing pornography; or (v) any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature; (o) “workplace” includes— (i) any department, organization, undertaking, establishment, enterprise, institution, office, branch or unit which is established, owned, controlled or wholly or substantially financed by funds provided directly or indirectly by the appropriate Government or the local authority or a Government company or a corporation or a co-operative society; (ii) any private sector organization or a private venture, undertaking, enterprise, institution, establishment, society, trust,

non-governmental organization, unit or service provider carrying on commercial, professional, vocational, educational, entertain mental, industrial, health services or financial activities including production, supply, sale, distribution or service; (iii) hospitals or nursing homes; (iv) any sports institute, stadium, sports complex or competition or games venue, whether residential or not used for training, sports or other activities relating thereto; (v) any place visited by the employee arising out of or during the course of employment including transportation by the employer for undertaking such journey; (vi) a dwelling place or a house; (p) “unorganized sector” in relation to a workplace means an enterprise owned by individuals or self-employed workers and engaged in the production or sale of goods or providing service of any kind whatsoever, and where the enterprise employs workers, the number of such workers is less than ten.

A lot of sexual harassment cases women at work place had been registered in Cuddalore district but some of the reason that not explore that the work place.

## Conclusion

The Department of Social Welfare is also implementing various Social Legislations for Women like Child Marriage Prohibition Act-2006 and Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen’s Act,2007, Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place Act, 2013. The Department is taking several measures to create awareness among women and others in the society on these Acts in order to ensure that women actually benefit from these provisions available for them.

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