

Progress of the Women through the Dravida Model: A Case Study of SC/STs Women in Tamil Nadu

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Abstract: The Dravidian model is an integrated development involving all communities, all districts and all sections. The basis of the Dravidian model is "everything for all" regardless of gender or blood. "The conservative era of praising women with words and enslaving them with deeds is changing very fast. The welfare and rights of women will be protected. Our 'Dravidian Model Government' will always support the progress of women," It was Father Periyar who taught women to have self-respect at a time when women were thought to be only housework machines and servants for their husbands. In 1929, Periyar passed a resolution that women should have equal right to property as men. The artist who was the Chief Minister in 1989 fulfilled what he had said that day. It was the Dravidian model that taught the whole of India the way to give equal rights to women. This paper tries to find that the how Dravidian model create impact on the SCs and STs Women empowerment as well as their development in the Tamil society.

Key words: Dravidian model, women, progress, Scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, rights

INTRODUCTION

Dravidian politics in Tamil Nadu has played a significant role in democratising the public space for wider participation. Social justice principles in Tamil Nadu were initially highlighted and propagated by Periyar, who fought for community-based representation while fighting the evils of the caste system. Even though the Dravidian social justice model was able to democratise the public sphere by opening the space for education and employment. There is a need to revisit many aspects of social justice to reach out and benefit more people. The Dravidian movement which had its echo over the Tamil society instantaneously attracted women to take part in it along with the social, political and economic fields. It offered the dissertations an opportunity to plunge into the study of women's role in the Dravidian movement. E.V. Ramasamy Periyar the veteran scholar and Tamil social reformer and politician applied his self-respect formula even for

the uplift women. He devoted much of his time for the improvement of women and women empowerment. As the women play their role earnestly in maintaining the economy and welfare of the family their services are much needed not only to the family but also to the society and state.

What is the Dravidian Model?

The goal of Davida model is equal economic development that will be in tune with social justice. It has taken root since the days of the Justice Party government (in pre-Independent India). Tamil Nadu polity has divided the task into short-term and long-term, and travels with the objective of improving the economy by implementing them within the time frame. At its simplest, the Dravidian model of governance is about peace, progress and prosperity, which is achieved by pursuing the principles of social justice, rational thought and action firmly rooted in equity. This translates to inclusive financial planning, access to education, housing, nutrition and health for all, a meaningful implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, encouraging independent decision-making in structures of democratic governance at all levels, and the State adhering to the Indian Constitution in letter and spirit on all issue including that of religious and personal freedom.

Social justice under the Dravidian model

Social justice principles in Tamil Nadu were initially emphasised and propagated by Periyar, who fought for community-based representation while fighting the evils of the caste system. Even though the Dravidian social justice model was able to democratise the public sphere by opening the space in education and employment, there is a need to revisit many aspects of social justice to reach out and benefit more people.

- The Tamil Nadu government must release a white paper on reservations in Tamil Nadu.
- To take stock of changes that have happened in the social composition of employees in the government sector after the year 2000.
- As part of filling the SC and ST backlog vacancies, the government should increase the SC and ST reservations as their population according to the 2011 census is 21.1 per cent.
- Further, the State government should pursue the policy of reservations in the private sector, which the DMK principally supported in its election manifesto.
- Reservation in private educational institutions has a constitutional mandate in Article 15 (5), which came through the 93rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 2005.
- Such proactive measures are needed to add meaning to social justice principles under the Dravidian model.

Dravidian model is for equality, women empowerment

The initiative to appoint aspirants from all castes as priests in temples includes a woman as well and that is Dravidian model. Following the footsteps of reformist leaders, initiatives and schemes for women empowerment were being implemented by the DMK government, Stalin said and added that the nation's growth is in the hands of women. Equal rights for women in family properties (1989) and present increase in reservation for women in government jobs to 40 percent from 30 percent featured in a list of initiatives underlined by the Chief Minister. The Dr Muthulakshmi Maternity Benefit Scheme aimed at ensuring maternal nutrition, schemes for education, marriage assistance and remarriage and fare-free travel for women in government-run city buses were among a slew of programmes cited by Stalin. The Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme provides Rs 1,000 financial assistance to girls till they complete their graduation, diploma or any other recognised course.

The DMK regime, under the Dravidian model of social justice-led all-inclusive growth, is implementing more and more schemes for education, social justice and women's rights, Stalin noted. Such priority schemes of the government is leading to a giant leap forward in development. The fare-free travel in buses scheme is not a concession but a right of women, he said. "This has given socio-economic

freedom for women, who say that they save between Rs 600 and Rs 1,200." Though women work in several fields and hold key positions, it cannot be said that they have been fully emancipated and to promote gender equality a thought-culture among men that women are inferior to them should go, he said quoting reformist leader Periyar E V Ramasamy.

Giving away prizes in literary and social work to awardees, he said that since Sangam age women have been held in esteem in Tamil Nadu and there were women poets and authors. Avvaiyar, a woman poet had clout to the extent making an intervention to avert a war between two rulers. However, due to the 'cultural invasion in between,' women were subdued and to emancipate them a movement was necessitated and the Dravidian movement was born. Recalling the services of Periyar, he said the title of 'Periyar' (great leader) was conferred on him in 1938 in a conference held by women. Citing the participation of a large number of women in the meet, he said it was due to the struggle of the Dravidian movement for the rights of women. Besides Periyar, former Chief Ministers CN Annadurai, M Karunanidhi and reformist leaders Savitribai Phule and Dr B R Ambedkar should be remembered.

The Dravidian model was careful to ensure that a woman should not be left alone under any circumstances, from getting education to giving birth to women like free degree program for scheduled caste women, marriage assistance scheme for women, maternity assistance scheme. The DMK government also realized the importance of economic independence for women as they become educated and graduates. The artist came up with many plans for it. It goes on and on to say that it employed female teachers in primary schools, started women self-help groups and thereby turned women into entrepreneurs, gave women 30% reservation in government jobs, and recruited women into the police force for the first time in India. Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has increased the reservation for women in government jobs to 40%. Maternity leave for women has been increased to one year. He has created the facility of free travel in city buses for women. He has also exempted women policemen from long-standing duties.

Apart from that, he has ordered to easily issue separate ration cards to women who are divorced or living alone without their husband. Thus, the Chief Minister has created the hope that the government will support women living alone.

This is not just word of mouth. Statistics also show how far Tamilnadu women have progressed among women in India. The Dravidian model's interest in female education is the reason why Tamil Nadu's female literacy has increased from just 21% in 1961 to 73% in 2011. Even in India as a whole only 40% of educated women are eligible for employment. But a study conducted by India Skills Report has revealed that 67% of educated women in Tamil Nadu are developing the skills to go to work. 35% rural women and 23% urban women in Tamil Nadu go to work. This is 100% more than India as a whole. The Dravidian model is the reason why the women of Tamil Nadu achieved economic independence to this extent. But more than all these, there is another thing that needs to be noticed in the Dravidian model of Chief Minister MK Stalin. Politicizing women; it is about putting power in the hands of women. Not only were that 50% of the seats in urban local elections reserved for women. The Chief Minister has given 11 municipal corporation mayor posts to women out of total 21 municipal corporations. The aim of the Dravidian model is to ensure equal opportunities and equal rights for women.

Brilliant Women Welfare Schemes:

To improve the education level of women, the Muvalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar scheme in 1989, provided ₹5,000 for women who completed up to Class 8 while getting married. EVR Nagammaiyar Memorial free graduate education scheme for girls and Dr Muthulakshmi Maternity Benefit Scheme to financially support pregnant women were brilliant schemes for women executed by M. Karunanidhi.

When Karunanidhi provided TV units for every home as a freebie it became quite debatable all over the nation. But the 2009 Oxford University Press' Quarterly Journal of Economics stated that this freebie scheme of M. Karunanidhi actually helped in empowering women to act against domestic violence and to take a stand against bias over male children while increasing women's autonomy in households.

Achievements over 70 years of rule in Tamilnadu:

In the same way, the present Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, M. K. Stalin is still continuing the efforts to empower women in Tamilnadu. CM Stalin increased maternity leave for women from 9 months to 12 months. DMK's major goal is to improve the political participation of women in Tamilnadu. In

urban local bodies, DMK ensured 50% of seats for women.

To encourage the independence of women, the Tamilnadu government is providing a free bus ride scheme which enables them to save 10-20% more in their monthly income. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Tamilnadu is higher than in the other states of the nation. To stop girls from getting married at an early stage, the Tamilnadu government is giving an incentive of ₹1,000 to government school girls who are getting enrolled in Government Colleges. Consistent efforts of Dravidian rule in Tamilnadu empowered women in Tamilnadu more when compared to the rest of the nation.

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Recent Initiatives taken

DMK government signed five important orders that included Rs.4,000 as financial assistance for families during the COVID pandemic, free bus travel for women, reduction of milk prices, creation of a department to fulfil the promise of addressing people's complaints within 100, days and covering expenses for COVID treatment in private hospitals under the Chief Minister's health insurance scheme. Sustainable industrial development is the key to prosperity. The government has initiated various methods to attract investment and improve the industrial climate. Through investment conclaves held in Chennai, Coimbatore and Thoothukudi, it has so far signed 124 MoUs for investments totalling Rs.62,276 crore, which will create job opportunities for 1,90,702 persons. The government is creating a Land Bank to the extent of 45,000 acres in the next five years. It has released the Tamil Nadu Fintech Policy 2021 and the Tamil Nadu Export Development Strategy 2021 and launched the Single Window Portal 2.0, the Single Window Mobile App

and the Tamil Nadu Land Information Portal at Investment Conclaves.

Achievements of Dravidian Model for the Women

- In India Tamil Nadu is leading state of giving equal property rights for women.
- Free undergraduate Program for Women.
- Women are getting the loan through the Self-Help Groups
- The helping plans for marriage and maternity women.
- The helping plans for women remarriage
- Provide ration card for those women are living alone and with mental breakdown
- The women police are relieved from long time standing during duty time.
- In local body election 50% of reservation provide for women

- In 40% of the reservation for women provided the government employment opportunity
- The women teachers are appointed by the elementary school.
- Free Gas stove without fixed price
- Maternity leave is increased from eight month to twelve months.
- In India, the more women police are joining in Tamil Nadu.
- In India, the more women are got opportunity in firefighting officer
- In Tamil Nadu out of 21 Municipalities 11 for women Mayor including SC/STs women.

Because of the Dravidian model Tamil Nadu women are better than the whole of India

	The % of Women Education	% of Qualified education women ready for employment opportunity	% of rural women for employment opportunity	% of urban women for employment opportunity	Death of women during pregnancy (Per 1 Lakh)
Tamil Nadu	1961-21.06%	67%	35.1%	23.6%	60
	2011-73.14%				
India	1961-15.35%	Only 40%	19.7%	16.1%	113
	2011-59.28%				

Source: TN Government 1000 Rupees Scheme (Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Scheme):

Under the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Scheme, the TN Government provides financial assistance of Rs.1,000 every month to the women residents of Tamil Nadu. The TN Government identified around 1.06 crore women beneficiaries under the scheme. The TN Government received 1.63 crore applications for the scheme, and 1.06 crore women were shortlisted as beneficiaries after verification based on the eligibility criteria. The TN Government released the funds of Rs.1,000 to the eligible beneficiaries, and the financial amount was deposited in their bank accounts through a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for September. Since the financial assistance is directly transferred into the beneficiaries' bank accounts, it ensures a streamlined and efficient distribution process.

The TN government also issued ATM cards to eligible women to withdraw the allocated amount as needed. The Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Scheme is beneficial in improving the living standard of the citizens of Tamil Nadu.

Unmarried women and widows who are heads of their households are eligible under this scheme. The annual family income of the woman applicant must be below Rs.2.5 lakh. The woman's family should not own more than 10 acres of dry land or five acres of wetland.

Benefits of the Scheme

The state government of Tamil Nadu initiated the 1000 Rupees Scheme to provide finances to poor women and remove poverty. This scheme aims to help low-income women families in Tamil Nadu. The woman head of the family will get Rs.1,000 every month directly to their bank accounts under this scheme. Women can utilise the amount for their daily needs and expenses and do not have to depend on others for their necessities.

Tamil Nadu Naan Mudhalvan Scheme 2024

The extensive Tamil Nadu Naan Mudhalvan Scheme was unveiled on March 1st, 2022 by MK Stalin, the

state's Chief Minister. Academic counselling will be available to talented students in government-run and state-run educational institutions through this programme. This programme will help students identify their skills and give them training that will eventually enable them to find a better career. In order to communicate effectively with the interview panel, the students will get spoken English teaching through this curriculum.

Aims and objectives of the Tamil Nadu Naan Mudhalvan Program

The main objective of the Tamil Nadu Naan Mudhalvan Scheme is to identify gifted students in state-run and government-run educational institutions and to offer them academic and career guidance without discrimination. Students in Tamil Nadu will get the chance to participate in this program and obtain training that will help them reach their professional goals. Thanks to this initiative, kids in Tamil Nadu will develop their independence. Additionally, this approach will improve the pupils' quality of life. With the implementation of this system, talented children will get the help they need to choose the finest career path.

Features & Benefits of the Tamil Nadu Nan Mudhalvan Program

- MK Stalin, the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, unveiled the comprehensive Tamil Nadu Naan Mudhalvan Scheme on March 1st, 2022.
- Through this initiative, the government will annually give 10 lakh children in the state the skills they have to reach their potential for the welfare of the country.
- This initiative will provide academic counselling to gifted kids at state- and government-run educational institutions.
- This program will help students identify their skills and give them training that will eventually enable them to obtain a better job.
- Through this programme, the students will be given spoken English education so they can effectively communicate with the interview panel.
- Under this concept, training capsules in coding and robotics will also be made available.
- Medical experts and mental health counsellors will also provide the kid with advice on diet and fitness as well as general personality development.

- On-site and online training will also be a part of this strategy.
- Each school will also establish a guidance office to carry out this initiative.
- For students in classes 11 and 12, there will be continuing sessions with a diversified curriculum offered.
- There will also be a mentorship programme run by alumni.
- Foreign language teaching would be provided to students in order to assist prepare them for job overseas while keeping the need in mind.
- At the district and college levels, separate training facilities would be built.
- The Technical Institute must advance if it is to meet industry norms.
- A committee led by the collector and working directly under the Chief Minister would oversee this project at the district level.

CONCLUSION

The women progress is attaining through Dravidian model which are Dravidian ideology, social justice at its core, and rising against oppression. Moreover, At the heart of the Dravidian movement, movements such as the South Indian People's Association, the Justice Party, Self-Respect Movement, Dravidar Kazhagam, and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam have championed the cause of social justice for the Dravidian race. Their firm dedication to the cause played a pivotal role in the progressive transformation of Tamil Nadu, setting it apart as a model state that has achieved social renaissance unmatched by any other in India. Dravidian model stands as a formidable force against oppression, finding its voice in Thanthai Periyar's self-reflective ideals, Perarignar Anna's democratic ethos, and the Muthamizh Arignar Kalaigarnar's visionary governance. With commitment to the equality of human rights, the Dravidian model defies all forms of oppression, including those based on caste, religion, race, colour, land, language, and gender. It paves the way for a just society that firmly upholds dignity and equality for all, working towards a future where every person is treated fairly and with respect. Tamil Nadu's governance model, exemplified by Chief Minister Stalin's comprehensive overview, underscores the state's commitment to economic progress, social welfare, and inclusive development.

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