

MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA
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Social welfare Government sponsored schemes with reference to Union and Tamil Nadu

1. Cradle Baby Scheme

1. The practice of female infanticide in some areas of the State, reflected a sudden decrease of Child Sex Ratio, as per census 1991. It may be attributed to so many socio economic factors. Poverty, dowry harassment, birth of child to unmarried women, deformed infants, famine, pandemic etc are among the causes that have been contributed for this kind of social evil practices. The low value associated with the birth of female child and the preference for male child also lead to intentional killing of female infants.
2. To make sure that girl child receives proper care and support even if they are left abandoned by parents, Tamil Nadu has launched a novel scheme of Cradle Baby Scheme in the year 1992 in Salem District. By setting up cradles in the hospitals, the mothers are facilitated to leave their unwanted girl babies safely in the cradles. This is a specific measure to rescue these babies from the jaws of death and to promote the real value of girl children.
3. This scheme paves the way for the parents who are unwilling to take care of girl babies due to poverty, social stigma, children born with disability and due to various other reasons to voluntarily leave / place them in the cradles. The babies, received are given for In-country and Inter-country legal adoption to adoptive parents.
4. During the year 2001, this scheme was extended to Madurai, Theni, Dindigul and Dharmapuri districts where the practice of female infanticide was prevalent.
5. In the year 2011, the scheme was further extended to Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Villupuram and Thiruvannamalai districts where the Child Sex Ratio was recorded low as per the 2011 Census. Accordingly, Reception Centers were opened in the above mentioned districts. Children who are abandoned by parents are received in the cradles placed in the Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Children Homes and Creches.
6. With an aim to prohibit the evil practices of female infanticide and to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio, the Government of Tamil Nadu is taking earnest efforts to make the administrative machinery more responsive in enforcing the act and punish the offenders.

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7. 5,781 children (Male 1283, Female 4498) have been saved since the inception of the scheme till March 2022.

2. Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme

1. The future of a country hinges on ensuring gender equality so that girl children are also adequately represented, qualified and able to participate in the process of development. Gender equality means providing equal opportunities to boys and girls in education, health, economic and political aspects. Girl children are discriminated based on gender and still considered as burden in a patriarchal society. Hence, the Government is taking steps to educate, empower and uplift the girl child.
2. To eradicate female infanticide, to discourage the preference for male children and to promote family planning, Government implements Girl Child Protection Scheme for the welfare of girl child.
3. In order to protect the rights of the girl children and to ensure education, the Government introduced the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme in the year 1992 with the direct financial investment on the girl children.
4. Under this scheme, the amount is deposited in the name of the girl child with the Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited. The copy of the fixed deposit receipts are given to the family of the girl children. On completion of 18 years, the amount deposited along with accrued interest will be given as maturity amount to pursue her higher education.

Aim of the Scheme

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

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Types of Schemes

Scheme –I

An amount of Rs.50,000/- is deposited in the name of the single girl child in the form of fixed deposit with the Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, for a family having one girl child only. The copy of the fixed deposit receipt is given to the family of the girl child.

Scheme –II

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

Criteria to Benefit under the Scheme

- Family should have only one/two female children and no male child. In future, no male child should be adopted.
- Either of the parents should have undergone sterilization within 40 years of age.
- The parents should be a domicile in Tamil Nadu for a continuous period of 10 years at the time of submitting the application.
- Annual family Income should be less than Rs.72,000/-
- The application should be submitted before the child completes 3 years of age for Scheme I and before the second child completes 3 years of age for Scheme II.
- In case of birth of more than one girl child in first or second delivery, they will be benefitted under Scheme II.

Coverage of the Scheme

Under this scheme, so far, 10,46,605 beneficiaries have been registered and an amount of Rs.1705.52 crore have been deposited upto March 2022. For the year 2021-2022, an amount of Rs.83.45 crore have been deposited benefitting 33,359 girl children.

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

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3. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme for girl child which aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girl children and to save them from social ills such as gender based abortions, female infanticide and advance the education of the girl children all over the nation.

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

Objectives of the Scheme

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

Activities under the scheme

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

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

In the remaining 27 districts, the scheme is implemented through media advocacy and outreach programmes to promote birth of girl child, to ensure safety and improve the education of girl children.

In order to create mass awareness among the public about the scheme awareness activities, training to field level functionaries by the various departmental officials, celebrating birth of girl child by giving appreciation letter, providing health kit to mothers, providing tree saplings, maintaining Guddi Gudda boards informing numbers of birth of female and male children, signature campaign, human chains, rallies, conducting drawing, essay writing competitions and prize

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distribution among the school and college students, installing hoardings and banners in Government office premises and public places are being done.

4. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

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

Special Features of the Act

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

Punishment under the Act

- A male adult above 18 years of age, contracts a child marriage, he shall be, punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to 2 years or with fine upto Rs.1.00 lakh or with both.
- Persons whoever performs, conducts or directs or abets any child marriage shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to 2 years and with fine upto Rs.1.00 lakh.
- Any person having charge of the child, whether as parent or guardian or member of associations, who does any act to promote child marriage or permits it from being solemnized, or negligently fails to prevent it from being solemnized, including attending or participating in child marriage, shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to 2 years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend up to one lakh rupees. However, no woman shall be punishable with imprisonment.

5. Free Travel for Women in Government Buses

To ensure safe and secured travel for all women including working women and girls who are pursuing higher education, the free travel facilities have been

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provided in ordinary fare city buses operated under the control of the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation.

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

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

6. Marriage Assistance Scheme

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

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

In order to abolish caste discrimination and to eliminate dowry harassment, a scheme to encourage inter-caste marriage by providing financial assistance was launched in the year 1968 and is now being implemented.

2. Dr.Dharmambal Ammaiyar Memorial Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme was started in the year 1975 with an intention to rehabilitate the widows as well as to encourage the remarriage of widows.

3. E.V.R Maniyammaiyar Memorial Widow's Daughter Marriage Assistance Scheme was started in the year 1982 with an intention to help the poor widowed mothers to get their daughters married.

4. Annai Theresa Memorial Orphan Girl Marriage Assistance Scheme was launched as a marriage assistance scheme, during the year 1985 to help for the marriage of the orphan girls.

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

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Eligibility for Benefit in Marriage Assistance Schemes: -

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

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Assistance Scheme				circumstances, the application can be submitted one day prior to the marriage date.
Annai Theresa Memorial Orphan Girl Marriage Assistance Scheme	No Income limit	Bride - 18 yrs, Bridegroom - 21 yrs.	Nil	Application should be submitted 40 days before the marriage date. In exceptional circumstances, the application can be submitted one day prior to the marriage date.

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

Under Dr.Dharmambal Ammaiyaar Memorial Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme and Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Memorial Inter-caste Marriage Assistance Scheme, the beneficiaries are given 8 gram gold coin along with cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- which is disbursed as Rs.15,000/- through Electronic Clearing Service (ECS) and Rs.10,000/- in the form of National Savings Certificate (NSC) to non graduates and cash assistance of Rs.50,000/- for Degree/ Diploma Holders which is disbursed as Rs.30,000/- through Electronic Clearance Service (ECS) and Rs.20,000/- as National Savings Certificate (NSC).

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

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7. Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyaar Higher Education Assurance Scheme

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

The students receiving other scholarship from any other schemes are also eligible under this new scheme. Through this scheme, approximately 6.00 lakh students are likely to be benefitted every year.

8. Short Stay Home (Swadhar Greh)

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

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

The Swadhar Greh scheme (a short stay home for women) run by the Non Governmental Organisation can accommodate 30 women per home for upto a maximum of 5 years. Women above 60 years will be shifted to old age homes. Boys till the age of 12 and girls till the age 18, reside along with their mothers in these homes.

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

9. Mahalir Sakthi Maiyyam (Mahila Shakti Kendra-MSK)

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

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

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10. State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW)

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

11. Women Helpline (181)

The Women Helpline has been launched with an intention to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence through nationwide similar short code toll free number-181 with 100% financial assistance by the Government of India since November 2018. Information about women related Government Schemes and Programmers are also provided through the Women Help Line. A sum of Rs.50.53 lakhs has been sanctioned by Government of India as recurring cost for the year 2021-22.

12. Nirbhaya Fund

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

The Government of India sanctioned Rs.12.96 crore under Nirbhaya Fund to this Department for strengthening Women Helpline and a sum of Rs.9.72 crore has been received till the year 2021-2022. Private System integrator has been engaged to upgrade and operate the Women Helpline 181 for 24 hours with additional staff for 3 years.

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

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13. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

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

Special Features of this Act:

- Cases can be filed under Prevention of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 in addition or even if other cases and legal proceedings are pending between parties.
- Multiple Judgments can be obtained in a single case under this Act.
- Relief can be obtained for verbal and emotional violence also.
- Both petitioner and respondent can prefer Appeal to the court of sessions within 30 days from the date on which the order is made.

14. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

- The Dowry Prohibition Act was passed in 1961 and the Tamil Nadu Dowry Prohibition Rules were framed in 2004.
- The Act has been amended in 1989 and is being implemented by the District Social Welfare Officers who are designated as the Dowry Prohibition Officers as per Section 8B of the Dowry Prohibition Rules, 2004.
- The Police Department/Court files the dowry case after obtaining genuineness report from the District Social Welfare Officers.
- Dowry Prohibition Day is observed on 26th November, every year.

Cases reported under Dowry Prohibition Act

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

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

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 provide a statutory protection for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior

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citizens. The State Government has framed Rules under this Act and notified the same on 31.12.2009.

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

Salient features of the Act:

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

- This Act includes senior citizens and biological, adoptive, step father, step mother as parents
- Any senior citizen who is aggrieved for not being maintained by their children/legal heirs can file a petition before the Maintenance Tribunal constituted under this Act for receiving a maintenance allowance upto a maximum of Rs.10,000/-
- A petition filed under this Act for maintenance allowance shall be disposed off within 90 days.
- If the persons responsible for the care and protection of senior citizens abandon them, such persons shall be punished with imprisonment for three months or fine up to Rs.5,000/- or with both.
- If any senior citizen who after the commencement of this act has transferred by way of gift his property to his children or legal heirs, subject to the condition that the transferee shall look after them and such transferee fails to do so then the parent or a senior citizen shall give a petition to cancel the gift deed.

16. Senior Citizen Helpline 14567

A unique senior citizen helpline number ‘14567’ was launched by the Union Government throughout India, since 28.04.2021 in co-ordination with the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department to provide support to the senior citizens from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on all days. The Union Government provides 100 percent financial assistance to the implementing agency which runs the helpline. A sum of Rs.1.67 crore has been sanctioned for the year 2021-2022.

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

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

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

17. National Action Plan for Senior Citizens

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

- Financial Security
- Health Care and Nutrition
- Shelter and Welfare
- Protection of life and property of Senior Citizens
- Active and Productive Ageing with Intergenerational Bonding and State Development
- Accessibility, Transport and Age friendly environment.
- Awareness Generation and Capacity Building.
- Promoting Silver Economy Senior friendly industrial goods and services in the society.
- Research and Study.
- Project Management

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

S. No.	Projects	Allotment (Rs.)
1	Creation of database of Senior Citizens	25,00,000
2	Mobile App for Senior Citizens	15,00,000

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3	Awareness Generation Programme for Senior Citizens	33,00,000
4	Capacity Building	15,00,000
5	Mobile Medicare Unit	30,00,000
	Total	1,18,00,000

18. Tamil Nadu State Policy for Senior Citizens, 2022

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

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

19. TRANSGENDER WELFARE

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

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

Transgender people can avail the following benefits:

- Identity Card
- Family Card
- Housing Patta
- Residential Homes
- Tailoring Machine
- Higher Education Scholarships
- Creation of Self Help Groups
- Self employment grant amount of Rs.50,000/- is provided to improve the livelihood of Transgender.

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

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

Free bus travel on Government run white board buses has been introduced to the transgender to ensure their safe travel and approximately about 5.27 lakh trips have been availed by the Transgender.

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

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

20. Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women is a statutory body which was constituted in 2008 to deal with the cases relating to crimes against women and to safeguard their rights.

The Commission is empowered to investigate specific problems of women and take action to provide speedy relief to the petitioners. The Commission has also

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undertakes studies related to women issues and makes recommendations to the Government. The Commission also ensures the implementation of various women related Social Legislations such as the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013.

The Commission conducts various programmes like Walkathon, Rallies, Legal Awareness Programmes at State and district levels with the assistance of National Commission for Women.

21. Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board

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

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

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

22. Family Counseling Centre (State Grant)

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

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

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

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

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23. State Awards

Avvaiyar Award

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

Best Institution and Best Social Worker Award for serving Women

In order to encourage the best services done by the institutions and individuals for the welfare of women, this award being given in every year on Independence Day. Best Social Worker award consists of Gold Medal weighing 10 grams, a Shawl and a Citation and Best Institution award consists of Rs.50,000 cash in addition to a shawl and Gold Medal.

