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**C** CENTRE FOR  
**S** SOCIAL  
**J** JUSTICE AND  
**E** EQUITY

MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
**NEWSLETTER**

(For Private Circulation only)

**JANUARY 2024**



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## SUMMARY

As the new year 2024 commences, the centre has outlined a range of activities under research, programs, documentation units. The major focus of the Centre in this month was to establish a network with civil society organisations and academic institutions for carrying out its planned training activities.

During January 2024, CSJE was actively involved in organising various programmes and consultative meetings with civil society organisations. Apart from this, the centre concentrated on completing the PVTG Survey and consolidating the survey data. Further it has developed Kobo Toolbox based survey tools for the baseline survey of Scheduled Tribes i Tamil Nadu. Most importantly, the First Advisory Council Meeting of the Centre was held on 24th January 2024 at MSSW.

Moreover, CSJE invested in expanding its knowledge hub by procuring books and subscribing journals, with a emphasis on Tamil language publications. The Centre is optimistic in fulfilling the goals and targets set by the Advisory Council in the coming months.





Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

# PROGRAMME

In collaboration with Tamil Nadu People's Forum for Tobacco Control(TNPFTC), Centre for Child Rights and Development (CCRD) and Centre for Social Justice and Equity organised State Level Consultation on Drug Dependency and Children on 10th January 2024.



Organised one day civil society consultation meeting held on 23rd January in the south zone at Tirunelveli. Around twelve organisations have participated in the consultation meeting.



Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India  
 MSW, Casa Blanca, 6/2, CASA Major Rd, Sulaiman Zackria Avenue, Egmore, Chennai, Tamil Nadu  
 600008, India  
 Lat 13.071411°  
 Long 80.252477°  
 24/01/24 05:08 PM GMT +05:30

CSJE submitted its Quarterly Report which consists of activities from the month of September to December.

The First Advisory Council meeting was held on 24th January 2024. All the members participated in the meeting; some of them participated in online mode.

**CSJE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY  
 MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
 QUARTERLY  
 REPORT 2023/ 24**



**MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**  
(An Autonomous Institution Accredited by NAAC with A+ Grade/ NIRE 39<sup>th</sup> Rank)

**CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY - (CSJE)**  
(Established by the Directorate of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu)

**PUBLIC LECTURE**  
**Comparative Understanding of Caste System in India and Japan**

**SPEAKER**  
Prof. Jonathan Watts  
International Network of Engaged Buddhists

**MODERATOR**  
Mr. Gauthama Prabhu,  
President,  
Foundation of His Sacred Majesty - NGO

**DATE & VENUE**  
30 January 2024  
3.30 PM  
TAG Auditorium - MSSW  
*All are Invited*

Madras School of Social Work  
32, CASA Major Road,  
Sulaiman Zackria Avenue,  
Egmore, Chennai - 600008  
Mail: csje@mssw.in

**Abstract:**  
The Indian Caste System is known world-wide, a similar form of caste discrimination developed in the late medieval period in Japan. The shocking aspect of this development was that it was propagated through the national Buddhist temple system—although the historical Buddha of India clearly denounced all forms of discrimination, especially those of caste. Japanese Buddhist organizations had to confront this history in an embarrassing scandal in the 1979 called the Machida Incident. Although these organizations have made efforts to denounce such former practices, other vestiges of class/caste-ism remain in Japan and go largely unnoticed.

**Profile:**  
Jonathan Watts began working at the main office of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) in Bangkok in 1999 shortly after graduating Princeton University in the United States where he was born and raised. Under the tutelage of renowned Thai engaged Buddhist Sulak Sivaraksa and the teachings of one of the quietest articulators of progressive modern Buddhism, Buddhadasa Dhammadika, he has spent the last thirty years immersed in the international engaged Buddhist movement. Moving to Japan in 1993, he has worked in a variety of Socially Engaged Buddhist fields there, such as end-of-life care, suicide prevention, Buddhist chaplaincy, anti-nuclear activism, and holistic Buddhist development. In 2023, he published a two-volume set on the historical development of Engaged Buddhism in Japan and its contemporary practitioners. In 2009, he also edited a volume called Rethinking Karma: The Dharma of Social Justice, which presents Buddhist social issues in the Theravada world, including India.



CSJE organised a Public Lecture on Comparative Understanding of Caste System in India and Japan.

Speaker for the lecture is Prof. Jonathan Watts, International Networks of Engaged Buddhists.

Around 90 participants have participated in the lecture.

## RESEARCH

- Consolidated the PVTG Survey
- Survey tool prepared for a pilot baseline survey of Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu

## DOCUMENTATION

- Logo Design Competition
- Books in Tamil language have been purchased as part of creating knowledge base.
- A list of revenue villages of tribal habitations prepared using Census 2011 and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj department data sources.

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**CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY**  
(Established by the Department of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu)

**Logo Design Competition**

CREATE A LOGO FOR OUR  
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Medium: Hand-drawn/Digital  
Prize: Rs. 5000/-  
All College and University Students of Tamil Nadu are Eligible to Participate  
Deadline: 19/02/2024  
Submission Link: <https://forms.gle/JodVUfIKHvg9z9p97>

SCAN HERE TO SUBMIT

For more Details  
Mr. Sankara Pandi

## Plans for Upcoming Months

- Lecture on Impact and Historical Review of Social Justice Movement in Tamil Nadu By V Geetha
- Civil Society Consultation on Social Justice and Equity - Western Zone - Erode
- Conservation linked social enterprises in three selected locations in Tamil Nadu - Action and Field Project
- Civil Society Consultation on Social Justice and Equity - South zone Madurai
- Release of Homeless study report and sustainable livelihood initiatives for homeless women in Chennai
- Filed visit and data collection for the study on Panniyandi Community in Dharmapuri and Thiruvannamalai district.
- An exploratory study on the scholarship schemes for SC/ST students of Tamil Nadu.
- Preparation of a Tribal Atlas of PVTG communities
- Logo design competition for the CSJE.
- 1st Phase of website will be launched.





# MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

## CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

(Funded by the Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu)



### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

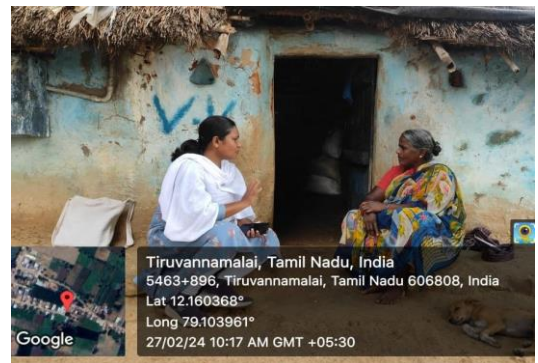
*Centre for Social Justice and Equity (CSJE) was engaged with various research and programme activities in the month of February 2024. The research unit of the centre carried out a pilot study in Dharmapuri and Thiruvannamalai districts on the socio-economic condition of Panniandi Community (pig rearing community) one of the castes listed under the Scheduled Caste category of Tamil Nadu. The programme unit of the Centre organized consultation meetings with civil society organisations of western and southern regions of Tamil Nadu.*

*The Centre initiated and successfully instituted at MSSW a Social Justice Forum – a network of academicians, policy makers and students. Under this forum the CSJE organised in this month its first invited lecture on “Impact and Historical Review of Social Justice Movements in Tamil Nadu” delivered by Ms. V. Geetha, a renowned academic activist. Several students and research scholars from different institutions attended the lecture.*

*In addition to these regular activities, the CSJE is selected as one of the knowledge partners of the State Planning Commission in preparing Block Development Strategy Paper (BDSP) under its Focused Block Development Program. The CSJE is assigned to work with seven districts administration in preparing the strategy paper and annual plan for each district. The members of a civil society organization called Thurambar Viduthalai Iyakkam visited the centre and interacted with the staff of the Centre on issues pertaining to Puthirai Vannar community.*

## RESEARCH

- ❖ Completed pilot study on the condition of Panniandi community in Dharmapuri and Thiruvannamalai Districts of Tamil Nadu on 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February.
- ❖ Based on the pilot study, research tools have been finalised and converted into Kobotoolbox to facilitate the data collection.
- ❖ Primary data collection has been conducted at six blocks in Thiruvannamalai district from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March.
- ❖ Participated in a consultation meeting on Tamil Nadu State Policy (draft) for Transgender and Intersex Persons organised by Tamil Nadu Transgender Association on 03.02.2024.
- ❖ Participated in a consultation meeting on Scheduled Caste Sub Plan /Tribal Sub Plan organised by Social Watch - Tamil Nadu on 21.02.2024.
- ❖ Participated in a consultation meeting on “Enhancing Gross Enrolment Ratio Through Maximising the Implementation of Post Matric Scholarship (SC & ST) in Tamil Nadu, organised by CRY and Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Administration, Tamil Nadu Open University on 9<sup>th</sup> February



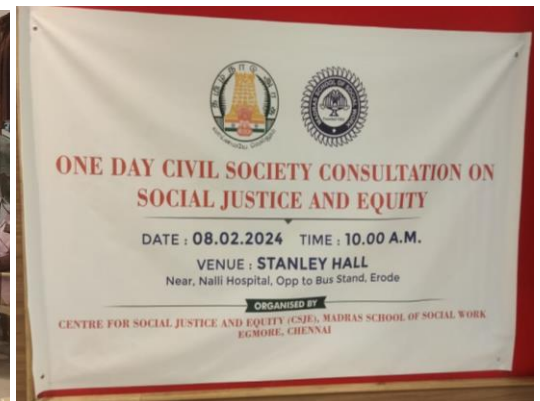
## PROGRAMME

- ❖ Invited lecture on “Impact and Historical Review of Social Justice Movements in Tamil Nadu on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 by Ms. V. Geetha, renowned writer and Indian feminist activist. Around 36 Students and Research scholars from MSSW and other educational institution have participated in the event.



## PROGRAMME

- ❖ Organised one day consultation meeting in Erode on 8<sup>th</sup> February. Thirty six civil society organisations from the western region have participated in the meeting.
- ❖ One day consultation meeting with civil society organisations held in Madurai on 20<sup>th</sup> February. Around Thirty organisations from the Southern region have participated in the meeting.
- ❖ Had a initial meeting with Mr. Jeyachandran, Blue Jays Media for creating short videos on the issues related to social exclusion and discriminations.



## DOCUMENTATION

- ❖ Participated in the workshop on Human Rights interventions organised by Evidence, Madurai on 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February.
- ❖ A fact-sheet and data pool was generated on Tribal people's operational land holdings in Tamil Nadu based on the Indian Agriculture census reports.
- ❖ The CSJE web portal was designed and will be launched soon.

## Other Activities

- ❖ Oriented the Assistant Professors from MSSW who will coordinate district level in preparing Block Development Strategy Paper (BDSP). Seven faculty members from different departments of MSSW have been chosen for preparing the paper.
- ❖ A team from Thurambar Viduthalai Iyakkam visited the centre and interacted with CSJE team. They have discussed the issues experienced by the Puthirai Vannar community members in Tamil Nadu.



## PLAN FOR THE UPCOMING MONTHS

- ❖ Data Collection for the study on the condition of Panniandi in Dharmapuri district and complete the analysis.
- ❖ Centre would organize two conferences In collaboration with the Department of Social Work and Department of Social Entrepreneurship of Madras School of Social Work.
- ❖ Training on Social Justice to Panchayat presidents from Krishnagiri District.
- ❖ One day civil society organizations consultation meeting at Villupuram.
- ❖ First phase of the website will be launched
- ❖ Fact Sheets of PVTG communities in Tamil Nadu
- ❖ Workshop on Citizenship Journalism collaborating with Asian College of Journalism, Chennai.

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**MARCH 14 & 15, 2024**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY, MSSW**

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
SOCIAL WORK FOR SUSTAINABLE  
TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE &  
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Venue : MSSW, Egmore, Chennai. Kindly Scan the QR Code or Tap Here for Registration Form.

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**PG DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
&  
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY**  
*invites you for the*

**National Conference on  
Tribal Entrepreneurship and  
Inclusive Development**

**Date: 20 & 21 March 2024**

**Major Events**

- Academic Presentations
- Tribal Entrepreneurship Pitch
- Tribal Fashion Walk
- Artisan workshop

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

Abstract submission date: 28th February 2024  
Full Paper submission date: 10th March 2024