



MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

(Funded and Established by the Adidravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu)



NEWSLETTER

MAY-JUNE 2025



Graveyard of the Puthirai Vannar Community

Executive Summary

In May 2025, the Centre's flagship initiative was the "Samathuvam Kaanbom" awareness campaign held in Madurai from 5 to 10 May, featuring a photography exhibition, cultural performances by Padmashri Velu Aasan's team, Parai Isai flash mobs at 10 public locations, film screenings of Sairat and Article 15, a panel discussion on equality in popular culture, public book readings of Ambedkar's works, an Equality Walk inaugurated by Thiru. B.K. Arvind IPS, and a mega Paramapatham board game activity, collectively reaching over 500 participants. The campaign received media coverage in the Times of India and ETV Bharat. Complementing the ground activities, a 31-day radio campaign was broadcast on Kodai FM across six southern districts of Tamil Nadu. The Centre also undertook a field visit to Ooty, and its panel proposal was accepted at the IIT Madras national conference on tribal studies.

In June 2025, the Centre organised a consultation and field visit to Thiruththangal, Virudhunagar District, examining the livelihood conditions of the Puthirai Vannar community. In collaboration with the Government of Tamil Nadu's Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department and Madurai Kamaraj University, the Centre conducted a leather puppetry training programme — "Samathuva Kooththu" — as part of the "Samathuvam Kaanbom" campaign targeting school children. The Centre also participated in the national conference at IIT Madras celebrating 150 years of Birsa Munda's legacy, hosted institutional interns, and presented a paper at a webinar organised by Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

SAMATHHUVAM KANPOM - MADURAI

"Samathuvam Kaanbom" Campaign — Key Activities Venue: Madurai | Date: 05–10 May 2025 | Total Participants: 500+

As part of the "Samathuvam Kaanbom" awareness campaign, 100 foam board posters featuring quotes from Ambedkar, Periyar, Phule, and Gandhi were installed across public spaces in Madurai. A life-sized Ambedkar statue was also installed at the Government Museum premises under the "Selfie with Ambedkar" initiative, encouraging visitors to photograph themselves and share images on social media, thereby creating organic digital outreach and amplifying the campaign's visibility.

Between 5 and 8 May, cultural teams organised Parai Isai flash mobs at 10 busy public locations across Madurai, including bus stands, marketplaces, and educational institutions, drawing large crowds with sudden bursts of drumming and song. Volunteers followed each performance by distributing pamphlets outlining the campaign's aims, ensuring that approximately 300 citizens directly engaged with its message. Simultaneously, students from American College, Madurai conducted public reading sessions of Ambedkar's Tamil work "Visavirkaaga Kaaththirukkirean" at the Gandhi Museum, Kalaingar Centenary Library, and Thamukkam Ground, complemented by readings of poems by Dalit and progressive writers. These intimate sessions, attended by around 200 participants, offered quiet, reflective spaces alongside the more energetic public events.

Vibrant cultural performances including parai drumming, awareness songs, and folk dances were presented by teams of Padmashri Velu Aasan and Karisal Karunanidhi across the Gandhi Museum premises, Thamukkam Ground, and various public spaces, drawing both campaign participants and passersby into spontaneous conversations on equality. To extend the campaign's reach beyond physical venues, a 31-day radio partnership was established with Kodai FM, broadcasting jingles, programme updates, and expert talks on equality across six southern districts — Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Sivagangai, and Ramanathapuram — coordinated by Prof. Saleema.

On 7 May, a panel discussion on equality in popular culture was held at the Kalaingar Centenary Library, featuring resource persons Prof. T. Dharmaraj (MKU), Dr. Stalin Rajangam, and Dr. Periyasamay Raja, moderated by Prof. Prabakar, and attended by 150 participants. Film screenings of Sairat and Article 15 were held on 5 and 6 May at the same venue, followed by critical discussions facilitated by Dr. Prabhakar, Director, Kalaidoscope, Madurai, engaging 100 participants in reflections on caste realities in mainstream cinema.

On 6 May, an Equality Walk was organised across 10 historically significant anti-caste sites in Madurai, inaugurated by Thiru. B.K. Arvind IPS, District Superintendent of Police, Madurai City, and led by Dr. Stalin Rajangam. Around 60 students and 8 facilitators participated, with the walk drawing attention from the general public. A creative highlight of the campaign was the mega-sized "Paramapatham" board game — a socially themed adaptation of snakes and ladders — installed at the Government Museum premises, designed by sculptor Mr. Saranraj and coordinated by Ms. Kavinmalar and Mr. Vijayanand. Over 200 children and adults participated across the campaign period, with ladders representing equality-promoting actions and snakes symbolising discriminatory practices, making complex social messages accessible and engaging for all age groups.



Putharai Vannar Community Engagement

Team of CSJE went for field visit and Public consultation in the Thiruthangal, Virudhunagar District on 10th and 11th June 2025. The main objective of the consultation is to explore the broader challenges faced by the Puthirai Vannar community in accessing basic infrastructure, education, employment and identify their specific needs and demands that need to be addressed or analysed through further research. Dr. K. Ragupathi has been invited as a special speaker. Thiruthangal is part of the Sivakasi Corporation. According to the Census 2011, Thiruthangal constitutes 15,424 families with a total population of 55,362 individuals, of which Scheduled Castes constitute 20.9%. Thiruthangal zone is consist of people from various social groups. In which, PV community lives around five hamlets.

Issues identified

- Water
- Road facilities
- Electricity
- Bus Services
- Burial Ground
- Community Certificate and Welfare Board Card
- Houses & Patta for housing land



சமூகநீதி மற்றும் சமத்துவ மையம்
சென்னை சமூகப்பணி கல்லூரி
மற்றும்
தமிழ்நாடு புதரையர் கூட்டமைப்பு
இணைந்து நடத்தும்

புதிரை வண்ணார் வாழ்வாதார நிலை
குறித்து ஒரு நாள் கலந்தாலோசனை கூட்டம்

இடம்: சனி மஹால் திருத்தங்கல், விருதுநகர் - 08, நாள்: 11.06.2025, நேரம் : காலை 10 மணி

வரவேற்புரை:	உயர்திரு. கு. செந்தூர் பாண்டி, உறவின முறை தலைவர்
தலைமை:	உயர்திரு. கே. எஸ்.சாய் பாலாஜி, M.Sc., M.Ed., M.Phil., M.Com., M.L.L. மாவட்ட ஆதிதிராவிடர் (ம) பழங்குடியினர் நல அலுவலர் விருதுநகர்
முன்னிலை:	உயர்திரு. வே. சிவக்குமார் தனித் தாசில்தார், ஆதி திராவிடர் நலத்துறை, விருதுநகர். உயர்திரு. மு. ராஜசீத் மாவட்ட மேலாளர், தாடகோ.
வாழ்த்துரை:	உயர்திரு. "கழுதி" சுப்பையா பாண்டியன் புத்தர் களம் - தமிழ்நாடு உயர்திரு. குபால்பாண்டி புதிரை வண்ணார் நலவாரிய உறுப்பினர்
நோக்கவுரை:	முனைவர். இரா. பவனந்தி வேம்புலு இயக்குனர், சமூகநீதி மற்றும் சமத்துவ மையம், சென்னை சமூகப்பணி கல்லூரி.
கருத்துரை:	முனைவர். கோ. ரகுபதி இணைப்போசிரியர், வரலாற்றுத் துறை, சென்னை மாநிலக் கல்லூரி.
நன்றியுரை:	உயர்திரு. ம.மோகன் குமார் மாநிலச் செயலாளர், புத்தர் களம் - தமிழ்நாடு
ஆய்வு ஒருங்கிணைப்பு:	முனைவர். சு. இளவரசி, மனைவர். சு. சந்திரசேகர்



Leather Puppetry Show - Samaththuvam Koothu

In collaboration with Government of Tamil Nadu, Adidravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Department of Folklore and Culture Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University, CSJE organised a workshop on Leather Puppetry show – Samaththuva Koothu from 17-06-2025 to 01-07-2025.

- Four members from four different groups have participated in the Workshop. The main objective of the workshop is to engage this Tholpavai Koothu to inculcate equality among the school children through stories of social reformers such as Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar, Periyar etc.



தமிழ்நாடு அரசு
ஆதிதிராவிடர் மற்றும் பழங்குடியினர் நலத்துறை
 சமூக நீதி மற்றும் சமத்துவ மையம், சென்னை சமூகப்பணிக் கல்லூரி,
 தமிழ்நாடு காவல்துறை,
 சமூக நீதி மற்றும் மனித உரிமைகள் பிரிவு – மதுரை,
 தமிழ்நாடு அரசு அருங்காட்சியகத்துறை – டிதுரை,
 நாட்டுப்புறவியல் மற்றும் பண்பாட்டு ஆய்வுகள் துறை
 மதுரை காமராசர் பல்கலைக்கழகம்
இணைந்து நடத்தும்
 சமூக நீதிக் கறையாட்களுக்கு தோற்றப்பாணவக்
 கைத்துக் கலைஞர்களை தயார்படுத்தும் பயிலரங்கம்
 (17-6-25 முதல் 1-7-25 வரை)
திரைட்டக்க வியிரா
 17.06.2025 காலை 10 மணி முதல் 12 மணி வரை
 மனிதவள மேம்பாட்டு மைய (HRDC) அரங்கம், மதுரை காமராசர் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

வரவேற்புரை
அமைதி T.கோவிந்த்
 தலைவர், மதுரை காவல்துறை, மதுரை

பயிலரங்கக் ஆதிகுக் உரை
அமைதி T.குறமாரக்
 தலைவர், மதுரை காவல்துறை, மதுரை

தொடக்கவுரை
அமைதி M.சுயவரை ருவி
 தலைவர், மதுரை காவல்துறை, மதுரை

முள்ளினலை
அமைதி M.மருது பானையன்
 தலைவர், மதுரை காவல்துறை, மதுரை

தலைவையுரை
அமைதி K.கிராமகிருஷ்ணன்
 தலைவர், மதுரை காவல்துறை, மதுரை

சமத்துவம் காண்போம் விரச்சார நோக்கவுரை
அமைதி P.கச்சீத்திரா
 தலைவர், மதுரை காவல்துறை, மதுரை

நின்றுவு குறங்கினையு
அமைதி M.விரியசித்ரா
 தலைவர், மதுரை காவல்துறை, மதுரை

நன்றுயுரை
அமைதி R.கார்த்திக்
 தலைவர், மதுரை காவல்துறை, மதுரை



Academic Activity

Centre organized a panel titled 'Tribes of Tamil Nadu: Explorations on Religion, Culture and Public Policy' at the national conference on "Tribal Resistance, Resilience, and Reimagining Futures: Celebrating 150 Years of Birsa Munda's Legacy" organized by IIT Madras, Chennai.

- Four Researches have presented their paper on various aspects of Tribals of Tamil Nadu.
- Our Centre research team presented a paper titled , 'A Prolegomenon to Tamil Nadu State Tribal Policy' .

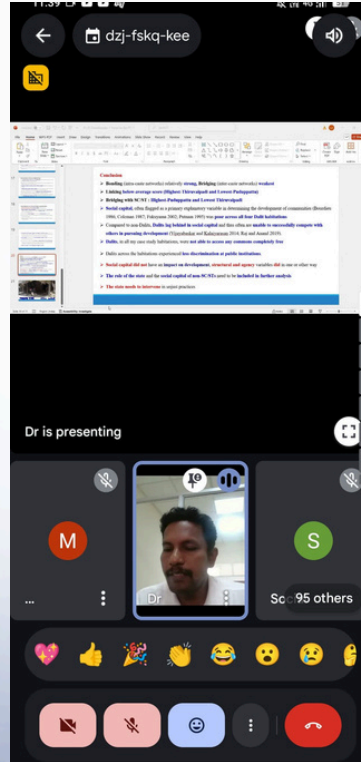


Tribes of Tamil Nadu: Explorations on Religion, Culture and Public Policy

Name of the Authors	Thematic Introduction / Moderator
Dr. T. Dharmaraj Professor and Head, Department of Folklore and Culture Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai.	Kani Tribe's Religious Fantasies and the Problem of Green Politics
Dr. Vijay Ratna Kumar J Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Communication, Loyola College, <u>Chennai.</u> Dr. S. Udhayakumar, Director (I/C), TRC, Mr. Gopi Srinivas, Dept. of Visual Communication, Loyola College, Chennai	Crossing Cultural Boundaries: A Kurumba Woman's Inter-Tribal Marriage and the Politics of Belonging.
Dr. R. Pavananthi Vembulu Director, Centre for Social Justice and Equity, Madras School of Social Work, Egmore, Chennai. Dr. S. Ilavarasi , Research Associate, CSJE, MSSW, Dr. D. Chandrasekar , Research Assistant, CSJE, MSSW.	A Prolegomenon to Tamil Nadu State Tribal Policy
Mr. P. Dhivaagar Research Scholar, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore.	Impact of Cooperatives on Tribal Livelihood in Masinagudi, The Nilgiris District

Academic Activity

On 26th June, Dr. D. Chandrasekar, Research Assistant, CSJE presented a paper in a Webinar on “Social Capital and the Development of Dalits in Rural India’s Village Economy” organized by CSSIU, MS University, Tirunelveli



**CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL INCLUSION
MANONMANIAM SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY
TIRUNELVELI, TAMIL NADU.**

**A ONE-DAY WEBINAR ON
Social Capital and the Development of Dalits in
Rural India's Village Economy**

Date: 26.06.2025 Time: 11.00 a

INVITATION

Tamil Thai Vazhthu	: 11.00 am.
Welcome Address	: Dr. R. Selvaraju Director, CSSIU M.S. University, Tirunelveli.
Felicitation	: Dr. S. Lenin Director & Assistant Professor Public Relations and Estate Management M.S. University, Tirunelveli.
Special Guest Lecturer	: Dr. D. Chandrasekar Research Assistant Centre for Social Justice and Equity (CSJE)-MSSW Egmore, Chennai-08.
Vote of Thanks	: Dr. S. Alamelumangai Asst. Professor, CSSIU M. S. University, Tirunelveli.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Interns

The Centre for Social Justice and Equity Hosted interns six PG students from University of Madras and Central University of Jammu.

The Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), founded by Mary Clubwala Jadhav in 1952, is one of India's premier institutions for social work education and research. It stands as the first social work institution in South India. Located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, MSSW is a NAAC-accredited autonomous institution committed to fostering social justice, community development, and inclusive welfare through quality education and collaborative research.



The Centre for Social Justice and Equity (CSJE) at Madras School of Social Work was established under the financial grant-in-aid of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, vide G.O. (MS) No. 87 dated 12 July 2023. The Centre was formally inaugurated by the Honourable Minister N. Kayalvizhi, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, on 16 August 2023, marking a significant step towards advancing research, advocacy, and policy support for tribal and marginalised communities in Tamil Nadu.

Connect with us



CSJE_MSSW



csje_mssw



csje-mssw



@CSJE-MSSW



csje0

