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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

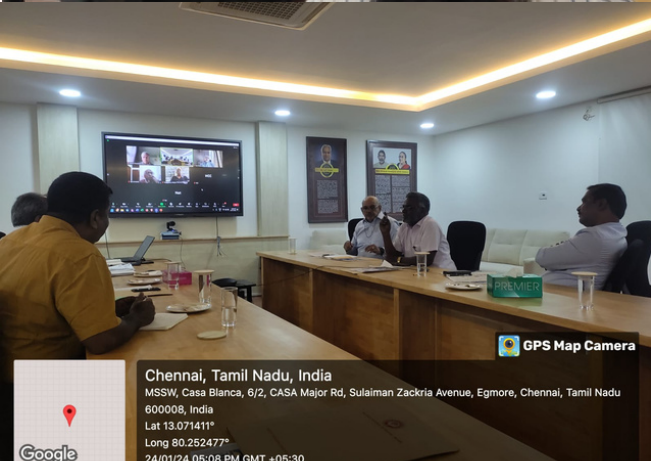


# PROGRAMME

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  
 MSSW, 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 / NIRF 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  
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Sulaiman Zackria Avenue,  
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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/JodVUfIKHvg9zpgp7>

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.

