INTRODUCTION
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The topic of this research is "Social Welfare Measures in Tamil Nadu 1996 - 2006". There have been studies available on social welfare administration in Tamil Nadu but there has been none on social welfare measures in Tamil Nadu from 1996 to 2006. The present study deals with the welfare measures introduced in Tamil Nadu by the successive Governments led by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), from the years 1996 to 2001, and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), from the years 2001 to 2006, and the various stages of implementation of those measures and their effect on Tamil society.

The term "Welfare State" appeared for the first time in the Encyclopedia of Social Sciences in the year 1948. It is generally applied to a State which considers it her responsibility to provide a minimum standard of living to all her citizens. Except for the duties of preserving law and order within the State and defence from external aggression, all other responsibilities of the State can be covered under the heading of welfare activity.

The term 'social welfare' includes all social-service done by individuals or groups of people. 'Social welfare services' are the enabling services designed for those groups of people which cannot take full advantage of the established social services such as education, health, recreation etc.3

The term 'social welfare' is commonly used to describe certain specific activities. It is also often used along with the term 'social policy',4 the making of which is considered the main responsibility of the State. It calls upon the State to provide and maintain an acceptable standard of social and economic well-being for the entire population, which cuts across the fields of health, education, labour, women and children welfare, and the like.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The concept of social welfare is not new to human societies. In early times, charity was motivated by religious faith. Both in the western and eastern countries, active participation in philanthropy has been very much effective through ages. The concept of social welfare is also used in wider senses. It tends to include an inexhaustible list of activities. In fact, the terms

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'social welfare', 'social work', 'social services' and 'social reform' etc. are often used interchangeably. All these terms fall within the category of public welfare.⁵

After the Second World War, the term 'social welfare' gained significance more as a profession than as a principle and became a synonym for social justice. In India the concept of social welfare was employed practically in a restricted sense to provide services to the underprivileged, disadvantaged, and backward sections of the society.⁶ The concept of 'police state' was replaced by the 'social welfare state' in the 19th century.⁷ Karl Marx insisted on free development of each individual for the development of all.

Social work or the ideal of welfare service is not new to the people of India. Ancient literary works such as Upanishad says "let all be blessed with happiness and let none by unhappy". The Mauryan Emperor Ashoka (320 - 184 B.C) carried out a large number of welfare measures for the public. Workshops for the amelioration and training of handicapped persons were established during the Gupta period (320 - 425 AD). During the

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⁷ Ibid.
Mughal period, commencing from 1526, emperors like Shershah Suri, Akbar and his successors resorted to many social reforms. Akbar’s inter-caste marriage and Shahjahan’s social economic reforms were commendable social welfare measures.

During the time of the British rule (1857 - 1947), India was gradually brought under the western approach to social welfare and development. The social reform movements were strengthened by many social and religious leaders like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, (1732 - 1833), Sir Syed Ahmed Khan (1817 - 1883) and Swami Dayanand Saraswathi (1824 - 1883).  

Mahatma Gandhi started the ‘Sarvodaya’ movement which means ‘welfare of all’. According to him “the good of the individual is contained in the good of all.” The Indian leaders supported the British efforts for the abolition of social evils like Sati, child-marriage, Thuggi and female-infanticide that were prevalent in India.  

During the 20th century the concept of social welfare measures and social services was spread to all over India. Social Service League was established in Bombay to train the young in 1925. Sir Dorbaji Tata Graduate

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School of Social Work was established in 1936 for preparing studies to the profession of social work.¹⁰

When India became independent, the word ‘welfare state’ did undoubtedly become a slogan of contemporary India. The word ‘welfare state’ was then incorporated in the Directive Principles of State Policy in Chapter IV of the Indian constitution.¹¹

Under the Directive Principles of State Policy, Article 38 of the Indian Constitution directs that the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may, a social order in which justice, social, economic and political – shall inform all the institutions of national life.¹²

The ideas of social welfare are found in plenty in ancient Tamil Literature. The tradition of social welfare has a long and hoary past. The ancient rulers of the great dynasties of the Cheras, the Cholas, and the Pandiyas are still remembered and revered for their acts of charity. They did a lot to promote the common weal to their best.

Thirukkural, the world renowned classical work, belonging to a period of antiquity, states that “gift to the poor alone is true charity. Everything else is of the nature of barter”. Besides the Thirukkural, other classical works of Tamils like the Silappathigaram and Manimekalai, the twin epics, Kambaramayanam, Chekkizhar’s Periya Puranam and other such literary works contain ideas of social welfare.\textsuperscript{13}

From the beginning of the present century, Tamil Nadu has been playing a pioneering role for the promotion of public welfare, particularly with the emancipation programme of women.

The Justice Party, founded in 1916, conceived many social welfare programmes for the benefit of non-Brahmins in Tamil Nadu. The most notable achievements of the Justice Party-Government were the issuance of the two Communal Government Orders (1921) to establish State-aided charity houses for the enlistment of women and children, and the establishment of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.\textsuperscript{14}

The Congress Government under the leadership of Mr. K. Kamaraj (1954 - 1963) introduced the Mid-day Meal Scheme in schools to help the

\textsuperscript{13} Rama, K.G., Women's Welfare in Tamil Nadu, Sangam Publishers, Madurai, 1974, p.201.
\textsuperscript{14} G.O.No.613, (Public Ordinary Services) Dated 16\textsuperscript{th} September, 1921 and G.O.Ms.No.658, (Public Ordinary Services) Dated 15\textsuperscript{th} August, 1922.
poor and the needy to pursue education.\textsuperscript{15} The DMK Government under the leadership of Mr. C.N.Annadurai (1967 - 1969) legalised Self-respect Marriages.\textsuperscript{16} The DMK Government under Mr. M. Karunanidhi (1969 - 1976) instituted ten Leper-cum-beggar Rehabilitation Homes and established the Slum Clearance Board to provide houses for the downtrodden.\textsuperscript{17}

Mr. M.G. Ramachandran introduced many welfare schemes during his rule in Tamil Nadu (1977 - 1988). In July 1982 he introduced a nutritious-meal scheme, popularly known as the Chief Minister’s Nutritious Noon-Meal Programme (CMNMP) \textsuperscript{18}, under which 8.5 million children, from the ages of 2 to 15, were given free meals every day in schools. He also introduced the Free Tooth-Powder Scheme, Free Uniform to School-children Scheme and Free Saris and Dhotis to the Downtrodden people.

After the demise of Mr. M.G. Ramachandran, Mr. M. Karunanidhi was elected as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, for the third time, in February 1989.\textsuperscript{19} In a historic move, the Government of Tamil Nadu has enacted an amendment to the Hindu Succession Act in May 1990, paving the way to share the family property by Hindu women on a par with Hindu men.

\begin{footnotesize}
\textsuperscript{17} Ibid., p.19.
\textsuperscript{18} G.O.M.S., 857, (Public Department), Dated 28\textsuperscript{th} May 1982.
\textsuperscript{19} Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Debate, Vol.15, Dated 6\textsuperscript{th} May 1989, pp.419-467.
\end{footnotesize}
Scheme,\textsuperscript{20} Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Memorial Maternity Benefit Scheme,\textsuperscript{21} Dr. Dharmambal Widow-Remarriage Scheme,\textsuperscript{22} Anjugam Ammaiayar Memorial Inter-Caste-Marriage-Assistance Scheme,\textsuperscript{23} etc., were introduced for the benefit of women in Tamil Nadu by Mr. M. Karunanidhi (1989-1991).

The remarkable achievement of Ms. J. Jayalalitha, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu (1991 - 1996), was the enacting of a law for the protection of reservation in educational institutions and employment for Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribes, and getting the act mentioned in the IX\textsuperscript{th} Schedule of the Constitution.\textsuperscript{24} Other welfare schemes like the Cradle-Baby Scheme\textsuperscript{25} and the setting-up of Women Police Stations\textsuperscript{26} throughout the State are some other welfare measures of Ms. J. Jayalalitha.

The Government of Tamil Nadu from 1996 to 2006, under the Chief Ministership of Mr. M. Karunanidhi (1996-2001) and Ms. J. Jayalalitha, (2001-2006) introduced many new social welfare measures aimed to uplift the Tamil Society. They continued some of the welfare schemes with some

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{20} G.O. Ms. No. 515, BCW, NMP & SWD, Dated 31\textsuperscript{st} May 1989.
\item \textsuperscript{21} G.O. Ms. No. 369, BCW, NMP & SED, Dated 13\textsuperscript{th} April 1989.
\item \textsuperscript{22} G.O. Ms. No. 462, SWD, Dated 24\textsuperscript{th} June, 1975.
\item \textsuperscript{23} G.O.M.S. No. 1716, AD & TWD, Dated 29\textsuperscript{th} August 1989.
\item \textsuperscript{24} Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Debate, Vol.46, Dated 9\textsuperscript{th} November 1993, p.14.
\item \textsuperscript{25} Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Debate, Vol.24, Dated 10\textsuperscript{th} April 1992, p.254.
\item \textsuperscript{26} Dr. Namadhu M.G.R., Tamil Daily, Dated 14\textsuperscript{th} April 1992.
\end{itemize}
 modification which were already introduced by them earlier. They also introduced few schemes for the welfare of the downtrodden during their period with meager financial allocation.

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the study of “Social Welfare Measures in Tamil Nadu 1996 - 2006” are,

(i) To provide a descriptive and analytical study of the social welfare measures in Tamil Nadu 1996-2006

(ii) To examine the social welfare measures introduced by the Governments of Tamil Nadu with special reference to those social welfare measures that are being carried on

(iii) To assess the impact of the social welfare measures on the Tamil Society with special reference to the economically poor women and children

(iv) To analyse the health care measures implemented by the State and Central Government of the welfare of the downtrodden in Tamil Nadu

(v) To discuss the welfare measures implemented for the economically underprivileged classes in Tamil Nadu
(vi) To put forth the efforts taken by the Tamil Nadu Government for the Welfare of the Agriculture, Egalitarian society, etc.,

SOURCES FOR THE STUDY

The materials employed for writing the thesis are both primary and secondary. The primary sources consist of Policy Notes of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Administrative Reports, Performance Budget, Proceedings of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Debates, Government Orders of various departments, especially, the Social Welfare Department, the Adi-Dravidar Welfare Department, the Backward, the Most-backward and the Denotified-Communities Welfare Department, Tamil Nadu Government Budget and Census Report. Reports of Government and Non-Governmental Organisations and contemporary writings in Journals and Newspapers rank as an important source, as they enable us to understand the opposing views in respect of the intended reforms.

The main secondary sources for this study are printed books like *Human Rights – A study* written by Mrs. Sivagami Paramasivam, *Social Reform Movement in Tamil Nadu* written by C. Paramarthalingam, *Women and Human Rights* written by Rachana Kaushal, *Marriage and Social Legislation in Tamil Nadu* written by Dr. P. Jagadeesan, *Constitutional

The journals such as Social Welfare, Yojana and Kurushetra and newspapers like The Hindu, the New Indian Express, Daily Thanthi and Dinamani mark the other important secondary sources for writing the thesis.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted in writing this thesis “Welfare Measures in Tamil Nadu 1996-2006” is descriptive-cum-analytical.

CHAPTERIZATION

After careful analysis of the data and information gathered and culled out, this thesis has been designed to contain five chapters excluding the Introduction and the Conclusion.

The Introduction part describes in detail about the origin, evolution and development of social welfare from the ancient to the modern times. The
focus in this chapter is to highlight the historical growth of social welfare ideas from the olden times to the modern ones. It further focuses on the Constitutional framework of social welfare in India with special reference to Tamil Nadu.

Chapter I - Welfare Measures for Women and Children

"Women are the silent masters of men and makers of modern society" is Mahatma Gandhi’s compliment as well as appraisal of Indian women. Tamil Nadu is the pioneer state in introducing Programmes to eradicate the miseries of women, for the betterment of the economically poor, abandoned destitute women, widows etc. and there by setting up an example for the other States.

The Chief Minister Mr. M. Karunanidhi (1996 - 2001) implemented various welfare schemes through the Social Welfare Department with the aim of driving out the darkness of sorrow prevalent among women through out the various stages of their lives and giving them a ray of hope and satisfaction in their living.

Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiayar Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme, Anjugam Ammaiayar Memorial Inter-Caste Marriage Assistance
Scheme, Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiayar Memorial Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme, Mother Theresa Memorial Marriage-Assistance Scheme for Destitute Women, EVR Maniammaiayar Marriage Assistance Scheme for daughters of economically poor widows etc. were effectively implemented by the Chief Minister Mr. M. Karunanidhi.

Free gas connection scheme to the newly married poor couples introduced during the period of Ms. J. Jayalalitha (2001 - 2006) was the first of its kind in India. The other welfare schemes like the Girl Child Protection Scheme, the Cradle-Baby Scheme, Service Homes, Crèches and Free Supply of Sewing Machine were implemented effectively during 2001-2006. Ms. J. Jayalalitha effectively implemented the Noon Meal Scheme, Free Supply of Note-books Scheme, Free Uniform, Free Cycle Scheme and other such schemes for the welfare of children.

Chapter II - Welfare Measures for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Recognising the need to uplift the downtrodden people belonging to Adi-Dravidar and Tribal communities, the Chief Minister Mr. M. Karunanidhi (1996 - 2001) gave special thrust to improve their status in all spheres. A high level committee headed by the minister for
Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare was formed in 1997 to examine the appointment of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates in Government services and to take special care to fill-up the reservation-seats. A separate Directorate was created for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in 2000.

To encourage the girl students belonging to SC and ST to pursue education unhindered, Free- Bicycle Scheme was introduced in 2001 by Ms. J. Jayalalitha. Free House Pattas and Free Houses for the SC and ST were given for the welfare of the SC and ST Communities. For the welfare of people belonging to the SC and ST communities, free supply of note books and text books, vocational training and such other welfare measures were implemented by Ms. J. Jayalalitha, during her regime between 2001 and 2006.

Chapter III - Welfare Measures for Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, De-notified Communities and Minorities

Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of the Chief Minister Mr. M. Karunanidhi (1996-2001), stood first in implementing a number of welfare schemes for the advancement of people belonging to the Backward Classes (BC), the Most Backward Classes (MBC), the De-notified
Communities (DC) and Minorities. Highest emphasis has been placed on the educational and economic development of the BC, the MBC, the DC and Minorities in Tamil Nadu.

A high level committee headed by the Minister for Backwards Classes was constituted in 1998 to examine the representation of the Backward and the Most Backward Classes in the Government Departments and Government Offices. Free text books were given to all BC and MBC students studying up to X standard. To safeguard the interests of both religious and linguistic minorities, Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation (TAMEDC) was formed in 1999. Bicycles to 2,50,000 BC, MBC and the DC girl students studying in XI and XII Standards in Government and Government aided schools were distributed free of cost by Ms. J. Jayalalitha during 2001-2006.

Chapter IV – Rural Healthcare Measures

The Government of Tamil Nadu under Chief Minister Mr. M. Karunanidhi, during 1996–2001, took a number of measures to provide basic health services to the people in Tamil Nadu. Special schemes were formulated and implemented on a war footing all over the State. In 1997, the scheme of providing Rs.25,000/- as medical aid to people living
below poverty line, who have to undergo expensive surgical-operation for
cardiac and renal diseases and cancer treatment was introduced.

Ms. J. Jayalalitha, during her 2001-2006 regime, implemented various
Health Projects like Master-health Check-up Scheme, Free Comprehensive
Health-Care Scheme for the poor etc. She also granted various technological
aids to the Primary Health Centres and Taluk-level Government Hospitals so
as to benefit the poor.

Chapter V - Public Welfare Measures

Many public welfare measures were undertaken by Chief Ministers
M.Karunanidhi (1996-2001) and Ms.J.Jayalalitha (2001-2006) for the
welfare of the poor people in Tamil Nadu. Among them Anna Renaissance
Scheme in 1997, Egalitarian Habitat (Samathuvapuram) in 1998, Farmers’
Market (Uzhavar Santhai) in 1998, Self Help Programme (Namakku Name
Thittam) in 1997 are some of the welfare measures implemented by
M.Karunanidhi during his tenure (1996-2001) in Tamil Nadu. Rain Water
Harvesting (RWH) an innovating scheme was introduced by Chief Minister
J.Jayalalitha (2001-2006). Ban on smoking and spitting in public places,
Abolition of lottery sale in Tamil Nadu, etc., are some of the other welfare
measures implemented by her.
The Concluding part of the thesis contains the assessment of the welfare measures implemented in Tamil Nadu from 1996 to 2006, findings and observations made therein and certain suggestions for the effective implementation of social welfare measures in Tamil Nadu.