INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

Human resource is an important resource of the natural resources and it is primary resource to develop a country in all aspects. The development of a country is begins from the self reliance of its individuals. If human resources develop, then the country's economy will automatically develop. The impact of industrialisation and the growing tempo of urbanisation caused many socio-economic changes.\(^1\) It is highly essential for initiating suitable changes and reforms to improve socio-economic conditions and to better the welfare of the public.\(^2\) Social work is a professional service, based on scientific knowledge and skill in human relations, which helps individuals, groups, or communities obtain social or personal satisfaction and independence.\(^3\)

Social problems—poverty, sickness, suffering and social disorganisation—have existed throughout human history. Until the nineteenth century, ancient social institutions such as the family, the church and the community were able to deal with all but the most overwhelming social catastrophes. But, as societies became industrialized, these institutions became increasingly inadequate to handle many problems. So, new social problems created by population movements and technological changes. A more formal system of social service was needed. The concept of social welfare as a scientific program to ensure the satisfaction of basic

\(^1\) Selection from the records of the Government of India, Home Department, Vol. V, 1859, p. 20.


human needs thus developed only in industrialized societies. Social welfare system is undergoing rapid transformation in response to the transition of our society from scarcity to relative abundance and to the revolution of rising expectations.

The social welfare administration would make proper shape and development of the society. It leads social, political, economical, cultural and public welfare developments where a richer contented life could be possible for all the citizens. The social action resulting from social policies normally lead to the establishment of a welfare state; the welfare state is one in which, social security and social services are birth right of every citizen. Normally speaking the social services are democratically organized to meet the essential needs of the whole community and in which, the whole community participates as a matter of course.

Social Welfare in the traditional sense, meant relief curative and rehabilitation services for a target group, namely, the clients of welfare. It concerned itself more with trying to solve the problems of the clients after they had arisen. It was basically micro-oriented in approach. The primary motivating forces were humanitarianism and clarity. Welfare thus viewed was not considered by and large as a development concern but rather as one of the late entrants for co-sharing whatever ‘surpluses’ could be spared.

---

The meaning and scope of social welfare vary from country to country reflecting the historical development and evolution of administrative organization and structure, the stage and goals of development, the types of programmes and the scales of their operation, the allocations of responsibility between government and voluntary sectors, the social-cultural framework, etc. Within a country, there exists a distinction between the concept of social welfare services (which is a quasi theoretical exercise in abstraction of what may be desired in a longer time perspective), the scope of social welfare services as operationalised in the plan (which has a shorter time perspective of usually 5 years) and the administrative responsibility of a ministry or department of social welfare for welfare services (which generally but nor entirely corresponds to the plan.  

The utter omadequacy this approach specially in the context of developing countries where poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, high infant, mortality, malnutrition and poor housing afflict a very large segment of the population and are to a very large extent responsible for problems which required a welfare intervention led to the evolution of the developmental approach and thrust to welfare to make it an integral part of the developmental process. Thus conceived, welfare would imply as such concern for the traditional, clients of welfare services, as for the well being of the underprivileged and handicapped sections of society which gets reflected through a variety of policy and programme options in direct sectors, both economic, and social, that would enable the individual and the group to realize their full potentialities of development but is retained in preference to the latter which is at the moment more of the nature of a concept or movement that is struggling to have an accepted body of

---

the theory and practice. The varieties of usages and understandings regarding the concept and scope of social development have not helped to provide a common base for discussion.

At the global level too, in various seminars and conferences, organized by the United Nations and other international agencies, the question of definition of social welfare has cropped up as also the issue whether it should be considered a field, a goal, a method or a process or, for programmatic reasons, related to the current administrative responsibilities in social welfare in a country which dynes the practice or related to the plan document which describes the philosophy, the objectives the instruments and the fields.

The question of defining social welfare primarily in terms of the philosophy methods and fields of professional work, although not necessarily limited by it, has also cropped up. While there is large degree of correspondence between them, they are not identical. Further more social welfare problems are multi dimensional, requiring and inter-disciplinary approach and inter-disciplinary approach and inter-sectoral integration of policies and programmes, the extent of use of skills of professional social work would, therefore, depend upon the nature of the intervention strategy and the programmes. It is generally agreed that any definition of social welfare should be comprehension enough to indicate not only the custodial and remedial junctions of social welfare but also its preventive and developmental junctions and the changes that are taking place in programmes and activities in social
welfare in response to the changing scene; it should include social welfare inputs in areas of health, education, housing, rural development, urban renewal, etc.\(^9\)

For planning purposes, the field of social welfare can be defined as a body of organized activities which are basically meant to enable individuals, groups and communities to improve their own situation, adjust to changing conditions and participate in the tasks of development. These activities, requiring special skills in social, diagnosis, human relations and informal education among others, can be differentiated for instance from the body of health services or from the basic faceplate available for formal education and vocational training. Some of the social welfare activities play a supportive role in helping achieve the planning objectives of related sector. (Self-help housing or motivational works for family planning, for instance). Some are meant to enable local citizens to participate in self-help project and help to create the social climate that is an essential condition of development. Some of the social welfare activities are aimed more directly at helping vulnerable groups or categories of people to achieve, to the greatest extent possible the minimum social standards.

Beginning of organized welfare work the need for making special efforts for improving the lot of women and thus raising the social and economic stature of the nation naturally therefore loomed large among the objectives of a welfare state. The Madras state was one of the first to cut new ground in this sphere. It brought in to being a separate department to promote Women’s Welfare. This apartment like many organisations, had humble beginnings. The foundations were laid in 1941. In the thick

---

of global war a band of voluntary workers had organized themselves to instruct the lay women in air-raid.\textsuperscript{10}

The organization was then known as the Indian Women’s Civic crops. It was started in Madras City in the first instance, but later, branches were established also in the mofussils. After the termination of the war, this organization was retained as the Government felt that the experience it had acquired during the war-time could be profitably canalized in social work among women and children. Of course, the organization had to be expanded considerably to meet its peacetime job objectives. It was renamed as the Department of Women’s Welfare in 1947 and set before itself the difficult and comprehensive task of assisting women to re-discover themselves.

The main aims of the departments were broad based to cover all the important aspects of life, namely economic, social and cultural. Instruction in health hygiene, maternity and child welfare, provision of economic relief by the teaching of cottage industries or home raids or by securing employment to those who are unemployed and, above all, a complete identification with the welfare of individual families by helping them in the solution of their day-to-day problems are some of the highlights of the departments objectives. The first desideration for achieving these is a good organization named by the right type of persons.\textsuperscript{11}

The most important point to be taken note of in these connections is the departments approach to the whole problem of women’s welfare. Social welfare is a


\textsuperscript{11} Chauhan N.S., \textit{Truancy, Among School going boys}, Sri Ram Menrar Co., Agra 1968.
composite phenomenon and the departments pattern of action is to tackle simultaneously the problems in the various sectors of this composite phenomenon, while assisting in supplementing meager, incomes of individual families, the department also provides education they do not forget the requirements of public health. All these matters are attended to in a co-ordinate manner so that the overall improvement may be quick and allowed. The significance of this procedure cannot be over emphasized, for in the past, much of the efforts in the field of social welfare failed to yield adequate results because attention was concentrated on one or more specified aspects of social welfare in preference to others.

From the Indus valley civilisation to Insat Age in India, it experienced different kinds of administration in various aspects.\textsuperscript{12} India had a great heritage in the sphere of administrative machinery. Vedic literatures had given a lot of information that India had a well established administrative system in the vedic period.\textsuperscript{13} Subsequently, during the Mauryas time, they followed systematic rules. Kautilya’s Arthasasthra proved that the Mauryans were able administrators.\textsuperscript{14} After that, Guptas administrative system blended with Mauryan system, it had a great impact on the legacy of modern system of administration. During the Muslim rule Alauddin Khilji followed by the Mughal rulers and attributed to the major part of administrative force in India.\textsuperscript{15}

\textsuperscript{12} Khanna, K.C, & P.N. Chopra, \textit{India- Ancient, Medieval}, p. 28.


\textsuperscript{14} Keswami, K.B., \textit{History of Modern India (1800-1984)}, p. 49.

\textsuperscript{15} \textit{Ibid.}, pp. 220-233.
The East India company derived its power in India from 31st December 1600, not only from the British crown but also from the great Mughals. In 1608 British Captain Hawkins took efforts to get permissions for trade in India from the Emperor Jahangir. It was maintained by the English Ambassador Thomas Aldworth in 1612 A.D. and by 1615. A.D Thomas Rao succeeded to getting permission to establish factories in Mughal territories.\textsuperscript{16} The East India Company got permission to build a fort or castle in or about Madras patam.\textsuperscript{17}

After the advent of the British, the introduction of western pattern created a great increase in the economic and social problems facing the country.\textsuperscript{18} They sowed the seed to harvest good administrative principles in Government. As preventive measure the Government passed a series of legislations to put an end to some of the prevailing social evil practices like child marriage, abolition of sati infanticide etc.\textsuperscript{19} The British Government also given an encouragement and inducement to charitable and educational institutions. The advent of the Europeans influenced a lot into the day to day traditional administrative system of the Tamil. The western education and introduction of European form of administration had made radical changes in the administrative pattern of the country in various directions and dimensions. At present, everyone feels that administration of India as well as Madras presidency is an outcome of 300 years of British Rule. The impact of British rule led to changes in all walks of Indian life.\textsuperscript{20} Western type of parliamentary form of administration,

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{16} Rai, P.C. & Mukerjee, L.N., \textit{Constitutional History of India and National Movement}, pp.5- 6.
\item \textsuperscript{17} Dennis Kincaid, \textit{British Social Life in India, 1608-1937}, p. 55.
\item \textsuperscript{18} Tara Ali Baig, \textit{Women of India}, pp. 14-16.
\item \textsuperscript{19} Kiran Devendra, \textit{Changing status of women in India}, pp. 125-126.
\item \textsuperscript{20} Jagadeesan, P., \textit{Marriage and Social Legislations in Tamil Nadu}, p. 134.
\end{itemize}
judiciary, executive and the civil services are the contributions made by the Britishers in India.\textsuperscript{21}

Tamil Nadu occupies the southernmost region of India, which is also the homeland of the Tamils. Traditionally, boundaries of north - Andhra Pradesh, East Bay of Bengal, South-Indian ocean, west – Kerala state, North-west Karnataka State. In Tamil Nadu, the Sangam literature and its subsequent writings proved that Tamil Country was following a systematic form of government in which various elements like Kudavolai system (election) and Variams (departments) emerged as the pioneering system of administrative machinery.\textsuperscript{22}

In the month of July 1801 A.D. the military History of Madras Presidency came to an end with the treaty of 1799 A.D.\textsuperscript{23} Azim-ul-Daula of Mughal resigned his power and handed over the administration into the hands of the British retaining the titular power and dignity and consented merely by receiving a liberal stipend as pension. The effect of this treaty was to bring under the British the whole of Northern Circars to Cape Comerin with the exception of French settlement at Pondicherry, Karaikal and Danish at Tranqubar.\textsuperscript{24} The British government passed on acts for

\textsuperscript{21} Ibid., pp. 97-98.

\textsuperscript{22} Krishnamoorthy, V.M., \textit{Cultural History of India}, p. 268.


\textsuperscript{24} Annual Report on the Administration of Madras Presidency, Madras 1920, p. 28.
widow re marriage (1856), female infanticide (1870), abolish sati (1929) and child Marriage (1929).25

The Madras Presidency later flourished as a centre of all administrative and political activities of the company.26 Elections were conducted in all Presidencies in 1920 A.D. to elect members to the legislative council. In Madras Presidency, Justice Party won the majority places and formed its ministry in 1921.27 Since the inception of this Ministry lot of welfare activities were taken to improve education, health for the uplift of women. The downtrodden people benefitted more. Taking this into account proper welfare measures were given importance to remove the social stigma that were detrimental to the growth and development during the second decade of the twentieth century where westernization created an awareness of progress.28 Thus some reform measures were undertaken, by which Indians were given some more share for running their administration.29 The entry of Europeans profoundly altered the socio-economic and political milieu prevalent in Madras. To eradicate socio-economic problems of the human beings, the Government initiated welfare administration.30

25. Harijan Welfare in Madras State, Published by the Director of Information and Publicity, Government of Madras, 1951, p. 3.
27. Hardgrave, R.L., The Dravidian Movement, p. 120.
Justice party became the training centre for the entry of so many natives in the administration of the country during the latter period i.e. in the Indianisation of public services and democratization of the local bodies.\textsuperscript{31} The Justice party not only created native administrations but also fought for the rights of the public in the legislation of their own country.\textsuperscript{32} During their regime a number of social activities and various affairs had been passed for the upliftment of the people. They devoted mainly to the betterment of the people and redeemed the earlier error of class bitterness. The Justice party’s administrative measures helped to remove the disabilities of the socially handicapped, disabled, under privileges or vulnerable sections of the community by giving provisions for the well being of the people.\textsuperscript{33}

The Madras Presidency paid attention to health and the upliftment of women for the fruitful development of the society.\textsuperscript{34} During 1936, the Public Department, Home department, Finance department, Development department, Revenue department, Local self government department, education and public health department, public works department and legal department were established. During British period, the collector was the representative of the government at the local level, and had a link with the people. Later, the food and agriculture department and industries department were The Women’s Welfare department was established in 1947.\textsuperscript{35} It was started to function under the control of a Director from the year 1954.\textsuperscript{36}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{31} Krishnaswamy, S., \textit{The Role of Madras Legislature in the freedom struggle, 1861-1947}, p. 82.
\item \textsuperscript{32} G.O. Ms. No. 280, Law (Legislature) department, dt. 12-11-1921.
\item \textsuperscript{33} \textit{Andhrapatrika}, Madras, 5-3-1920, p. 314.
\item \textsuperscript{34} Pillay, J.K and Rajeswari, K., \textit{Readings in Women’s Education}, p.56.
\item \textsuperscript{35} G.O. Ms. No. 33, Public (C.I.C.), 13-11-1947.
\item \textsuperscript{36} G.O. Ms. No. 2563, Public (P.W.D.) 17-8-1955.
\end{itemize}
The State Social Welfare Board came into existence in 1954. The Directorate of Women’s Welfare was formed in 1955. All the above two agencies were combined to form the department of Women’s Welfare in 1961.\(^{37}\)

The State of Madras was renamed as the State of Tamil Nadu with effect from 14 January 1969, on the Tamilar Thirunal of Pongal day; it had many departments to look after each need of the public.\(^{38}\)

In the year 1972, the Department of Women’s Welfare was re-designated as the Department of Social Welfare by expanding its scope to cover various activities such as the Nutritious Meal Programme for pre-school children, programme for care of nursing mothers, and the Home for beggars.\(^{39}\) The main functions of this ministry are to promote, develop and implement welfare services for children who are from weaker sections of the society.\(^{40}\) Tamil Nadu has always remained a fore runner in improving the living standards of the most vulnerable sections of the society physically, emotionally and financially to support the women, children and disabled in India.

The Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme department has been carved out of the erstwhile women’s welfare department fulfilling its responsibilities


\(^{38}\) G.O. Ms. No. 80, Public Department, dt. 11-1-1969.


to the entire satisfaction of women, children, adolescent girls, pregnant women/lactating mothers, transgender and older persons by introducing various new schemes and revamping the existing schemes. Various social welfare programmes of the Government of Tamil Nadu are implemented through three Directorates namely, Social Welfare, Social Defence and Integrated Child Development Services. These departments are also functioning as a nodal agency for various social security programmes implemented through Revenue Department.

The Government of Tamil Nadu implements various welfare schemes for all the people. Girl Child Protection Scheme, Working Women Hostels, Orphanages, Supply of Sewing Machines to widows and deserted wives, Old Age Homes, Protection for neglected and abandoned children, and Nutritious Meal Programme for children, Pregnant and lactating mothers and Old Age Pensioners are the significant programmes implemented by the Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department.41

Social welfare Department implements and monitors several social legislations for the care, welfare and protection of the children, women, and the senior citizens. The important one among them are Dowry Prohibition Act, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act.42


42. Government of Tamil Nadu, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department, Performance Budget 2010-2011.
Both human resources development and society's development will largely depend on the women of that country. Women become the strong pillars for the future society. Both human resources among women, pregnant women, lactating mothers, the poor women living below poverty line, widows and destitutes deserve more affection and assistance. This Government plans and implements well the schemes for the overall development and security of these women. This Government has been implementing a number of welfare schemes for the development of women in social as well as economic spheres to establish their rights at all levels in the society and to get more empowerment.

Children should stand as pillars of the strength of the future society. Age is a process in one's life cycle which cannot be postponed. Schemes extending helping hands to the aged people are planned and being implemented. The care and well being of all sections in society like women, children, adolescent girls, destitutes, disabled and aged persons is taken care of in the recently implemented novel scheme called "Whole Life Cycle Nutrition Security Programme" which is a pioneer scheme to all such schemes. A number of welfare schemes aimed at mitigating the sufferings of the women, children, disabled and destitutes and for their development are being implemented by the Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department in synergy with the programmes of the other departments besides aiming to mitigate the sufferings of poor people and aged.

The Directorate of Social Welfare lays special focus on the welfare schemes such as marriage assistance schemes for the women, hostels for the low income
working women, girl child protection scheme and service homes for women in need of shelter and support. The special steps taken for the girl children have resulted in higher child sex ratio in Tamil Nadu.

Child protection scheme has been implemented for those who are in need of care and protection and the children in conflict with laws. The main aim of this scheme is ‘there is no child will be left without care in the society’. 43 Noon meal scheme provided for the welfare of the students, who came from poor background and also to avoid the drop outs from the school during study period.

Welfare of old age pension, widows, destitute women and differently abled persons, complex for older persons in Tamil Nadu, prohibition of child marriage, dowry prohibition and prevention of women from Domestic violence Act are another welfare activities.

The Directorate of Social Welfare was established for the development and welfare of the three most vulnerable sections of society, viz., the women, the children and the aged.

Scope of the Study

The area selected for the study is modern Tamil Nadu. The period selected for the study of the span of sixty three years, since India got independence and ends in 2010.

Hypothesis

The study based on the following hypothesis;

- Establishment of Social Welfare Department.
- The role played by the government for the betterment of child and women welfare.
- What are the steps taken by the government for the implementation of mid-day meals programme
- The implementation of social security schemes for poor and aged
- Role of Non – Governmental Organisation for the empowerment of downtrodden and vulnerable groups

Sources and Relevant Literature

The source materials are mostly Primary Records found in Tamil Nadu Archives such as Madras Administrative Reports, Madras Legislative Assembly Proceedings; Madras Informations, Policy Notes and Performance Budgets of Government of Tamil Nadu, Five year Plans of State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of India records, Reports of the Directors of (i) Social Welfare, (ii) Social Defence and (iii) Integrated Child Development Service, Social Welfare and Nutrition Meal Programme Department; Revenue department orders, Finance Department orders, and so on.
Besides these records found in the Tamil Nadu Archives a number of published books such as *K.G. Rama’s Women’s Welfare in Tamil Nadu*, *Dolly Singh’s Child Development: Issues, Policies and Programmes*, *D.L. Hobman’s The Welfare State*, *H.Gray’s Indian Women and the West*, *P. Gupta’s The Story of Women in India*, *Kiren Devendra’s Changing Status of Women in India*, *A.M. Majumdar’s Social Welfare in India*, *A.P. Pillay and M. Subramaniyam’s Maternity and Child Welfare* and *Shamim Aleem’s Women’s Development; Problems and Prospects* are the important sources to give a full fleged accounts to finalise this thesis.

**Chapterisation**

This study consisted into five chapters excluding Introduction and Conclusion. The introduction carried the scope and purpose of the study and the area, period, hypothesis, limitations and importance of the study are highlighted.

The first chapter explained that the “Establishment of the Social Welfare Department” that explains about the social welfare board and subsequently the directorate of women welfare were formed in 1955. In the year 1972, the department of women’s welfare was re designated as the department of social welfare. Director of social welfare lays special focus on the welfare schemes in Tamil Nadu.


The third chapter “Mid - Day Meals” narrates mid-day meals to the school going children, old age pensioners, feeding scale per beneficiary per day, National programme of mid-day meal in schools. Banana to the non-egg eating children under the Noon Meal Programme had pointed out that giving ‘Vazhaipazham’ (banana) is to be seen as “Vazha” Pazham (fruit given for living). The guidance provided by the Honourable Chief Minister has been instrumental for introducing and implementing several schemes meant for the better ‘Vazhkai’ (life) of the women, children and the under-privileged in the State. The introduction of three eggs a week in the Nutritious Meal Programme for the children between 2-15 years and one egg a week between 1-2 years is a very unique programme launched by the Tamil Nadu Government. The three eggs a week apart from being appetizing will contribute to the physical and mental development of these young children.
Fourth Chapter “Women Welfare” explains the various marriage assistance scheme implemented to women by the government of Tamil Nadu under various names i.e. Moolavar Ramamirtham Ammaiayar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme, Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiayar Ninaivu Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme, E.V.R. Maniammayar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme for daughter of poor widows, Annai Theresa Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme for Orphan Girls, Dr. Muthulekshmi Reddy Ninaivu inter-caste marriage assistance scheme, service homes for economically backward widows neglected by their families. Financial assistance to study higher education, secondary grade training education to the women who were already in the homes, working women hostels, scheme for socio economic empowerment of women, Sathiyavani Muthu Ammaiayar Ninaivu free supply of sewing machine scheme, Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, Tamil Nadu transgenders welfare board, Protection of women from domestic violence Act 2005, shelter homes, dowry prohibition Act 1961. The state initiated for combating trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children through the acts.

The fifth chapter “Old age and other Schemes” discusses the integrated complex of special homes for senior citizen and destitute children – old age homes run by non-governmental organizations with State government celebration of international day of senior citizens – the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens Act 2007 – State council and district committee for senior citizens. In addition, it analyses Indira Gandhi National Old age pension scheme, Indira Gandhi National disability pension scheme, Indira Gandhi National widow pension scheme, Destitute differently abled pension scheme, destitute widows pension scheme,
Destitute/deserted wives pension scheme, pension to un-married, poor, incapacitated woman of age 50 years and above and destitute agricultural labourers pension scheme, pension schemes under national social assistance, benefit of the social security pension schemes extended to Sri Lankan Tamil living in camps, disbursement of social security pensions through banks using bio-metric smart card, National family benefit scheme (i) accident relief scheme and (ii) distress relief scheme.

Conclusion is the last part of the study in which the major findings of the study are to be enumerated.