



## ROLE OF TAMIL NADU TO THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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### Abstract:

*"The Child's is father of the man", says Wordsworth". What he obviously means is that the productiveness of an adult depends on the opportunities he has had to grow and develop as a child. Indira Gandhi says, "Children are a reminder that man is immortal although men may be mortal. A nation realizes its potentialities through children and is judged by what it does for children". According to Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, "Our children are most important resource and deserve all possible investment for their development".*

### INTRODUCTION

The Department of Social Defence in Tamil Nadu is providing services for the development of Children found in difficult circumstances and the girls and women who are in moral danger requiring care and rehabilitation. The Department is also providing institutional and non-institutional services for the rehabilitation of the children entering the institution, besides involving the Non-Governmental organizations in all the programmes to ensure protection of the rights of the children and their over all development. The institutions under the department provide care, training (education & vocational) and rehabilitation to the children who are neglected and children in

conflict with law. The department also provides after care service to the boys, girls and women discharged from the institutions. The Government of India has also gazetted the model rules on 26th October 2007. The State of Tamil Nadu is fully committed to the implementation of the J.J. Act and Rules in letter and spirit. Reiterating this, the following steps are taken. The State would work towards a child protection policy and take steps that reiterate its commitment to the United Nations Child Convention Rights.<sup>1</sup>

The Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious meal Programme has taken on a new dimension with successful implementation of new and innovative schemes providing necessary funds to the Department of Social Defence. The Department of Social Defence would work towards convergences of all its units for enabling better implementation of Governmental services for children and women with necessary allocation of funds needed for the units.<sup>2</sup> In Demand 45, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department allotted fund for Directorate of Social Department for the years form 2007 to 2010.

The following Programmes are being functioned by the Department of Social Defence

#### (i) Juvenile Justice Boards

The Juvenile Justice Boards have been constituted in eight places of Tamil Nadu to deal with cases of children in conflict with law. A sum of Rs.15.36 Lakhs has been allotted in the budget estimate

2008-2009 for the scheme.<sup>3</sup>

**(ii) Observation Homes**

There are six government observation homes to receive children in conflict with law to be absorbed for further action.<sup>4</sup>

**Financial Performance (Rs. in lakhs) for the Government Observation homes<sup>5</sup>**

S.No.	Year	Target	Achievement
1	2004-2005	130.00	94.34
2	2005-2006	96.24	104.22
3	2006-2007	121.06	115.97
4	2007-2008	130.68	121.57
5	2008-2009	134.51	160.23
6	2009-2010	147.29	177.73
7	2010-2011	142.35	

**Observation Home Run by N.G.O's Financial Performance (Rs. in Lakhs)<sup>6</sup>**

S.No.	Year	Target	Achievement
1	2004-2005	9.00	6.76
2	2005-2006	6.50	9.06
3	2006-2007	9.00	9.04
4	2007-2008	7.00	12.56
5	2008-2009	13.00	14.10
6	2009-2010	14.17	15.47
7	2010-2011	14.17	

**(iii)Special Home for Boys and Girls**

Children in conflict with law who have been found guilty and committed by the Juvenile Justice Boards are sent to Special Homes for Care, custody and rehabilitation.<sup>7</sup>

**Financial Performance for Children in Special Homes**

**Under J.J Act 2000<sup>8</sup>**

S.No.	Year	Target	Achievement
1	2004-2005	19.70	15.3
2	2005-2006	17.06	17.95
3	2006-2007	19.51	18.61
4	2007-2008	21.87	17.61
5	2008-2009	24.09	24.25
6	2009-2010	26.26	21.26
7	2010-2011	25.5	

**(iv) Child Welfare Committee**

Child Welfare Committees have been constituted in eighteen places of Tamil Nadu to deal with the cases of children in need of care and protection. A sum of Rs.17.28 Lakhs has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2009-2010 for the scheme.<sup>9</sup>

**(v) Children Homes for Boys and Girls**

The Children Homes would cater exclusively to the needs of Children who require care and protection as added by the Child Welfare Committees.

**Financial Performance for Children Homes<sup>10</sup>**

S.No.	Year	Target	Achievement
1	2004-2005	551.21	474.81
2	2005-2006	590.00	654.07
3	2006-2007	822.03	726.71
4	2007-2008	754.51	742.25
5	2008-2009	8887.00	883.53
6	2009-2010	966.83	836.07
7	2010-2011	938.68	

**Financial Performance for Children Homes (Under N.G.O)<sup>11</sup>**

S.No.	Year	Target	Achievement
1	2004-2005	60.60	41.00
2	2005-2006	50.00	31.00
3	2006-2007	59.90	42.56
4	2007-2008	66.27	64.03
5	2008-2009	83.95	54.29
6	2009-2010	83.95	71.83
7	2010-2011	80.05	

**(vi) After Care Organisations**

The after care organizations are functioning at the three place in Tamil Nadu to provide rehabilitation to the discharged children from Children Homes / Special Home for Boys and Girls.<sup>12</sup>

**Financial Performance for after Care Homes<sup>13</sup>**

S.No.	Year	Target	Achievement
1	2004-2005	36.42	33.36
2	2005-2006	44.08	40.42
3	2006-2007	48.06	44.00
4	2007-2008	50.27	50.93
5	2008-2009	69.58	65.54
6	2009-2010	73.09	74.22
7	2010-2011	74.06	

**(vii) Vigilance / Protective Homes under Immoral Traffick Prevention Act 1956**

Under this act the five homes were established to provide care, treatment, training and rehabilitation to the women victims.<sup>14</sup>

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**Financial Performance (Rs. in Lakhs) in Government**

**Vigilance / Protective Homes<sup>15</sup>**

S.No.	Year	Target	Achievement
1	2004-2005	77.05	86.21
2	2005-2006	89.39	81.57
3	2006-2007	97.70	102.52
4	2007-2008	118.38	110.53
5	2008-2009	208.33	144.73
6	2009-2010	185.79	173.26
7	2010-2011	222.74	

**(viii) Rescue Shelter**

These shelters are intended for the detention of under trial women and girls who have been charged with the offences under immoral Traffic (prevention) Act.16 They are kept in the shelters temporarily till their cases are disposed by the courts. Six Rescue Shelters are functioning for the women victims whose cases are under trials.

**(ix) Unmarried Mothers Home**

Women and girls who are victims of sexual exploitation and become pregnant are to be admitted in Government Vigilance Home and Sri Sadhana.17

**Financial Performance (Rs. in lakhs) for Unmarried**

**Mothers Home Run by N.G.O.<sup>18</sup>**

S.No.	Year	Target	Achievement
1	2007-2008	0.15	0.13
2	2008-2009	0.15	0.16
3	2009-2010	0.15	0.17
4	2010-2011	0.29	

**(x) Short Stay Homes**

Two short stay Homes are run by the Non-Governmental Organisations funded by the Department of Social Defence. A Sum of Rs.194.34 Lakhs was provided in the budget estimate 2009-2010.19

**Financial Performance (Rs. in Lakhs) for Short Stay**

**Homes Run by N.G.O.<sup>20</sup>**

S.No.	Year	Target	Achievement
1	2004-2005	0.40	0.40
2	2005-2006	0.63	0.50
3	2006-2007	0.65	0.47
4	2007-2008	0.65	0.46
5	2008-2009	0.50	0.16
6	2009-2010	0.50	0.05
7	2010-2011	0.50	

**(xi) Juvenile Guidance Bureau**

Five Juvenile Guidance Bureaus in Tamil Nadu are functioning to provide guidance and counselling to the Children and parents/Guardians in order to facilitate reform and rehabilitation of children. A Sum of Rs.2.4 lakhs was provided in the budget estimate 1994-1995.21

**(xii) School Education**

Education is imparted upto 8th standard in all the Children's / Special Homes. In Chengalput and Chennai Education is imparted upto 10th standard apart from providing computer training.22

**Details of High School Beneficiaries<sup>23</sup>**

Year	9 <sup>th</sup> Std	10 <sup>th</sup> Std	Higher Secondary
2004-2005	140	95	21
2005-2006	129	100	19
2006-2007	99	101	20
2007-2008	114	78	28
2008-2009	144	90	31
2009-2010	104	116	21

**(xiii) Higher Education**

The Department also takes care of the higher education of children by facilitating their admission in Medical, Engineering, Polytechnic and I.T.I. Certificate courses.<sup>24</sup> A sum of Rs.3.86 lakhs was allotted in the budget estimate 2009-201.

**(xiv) Vocational Training**

Vocational Training is imparted with the help of trained teachers as a part of a skill building and rehabilitation programmes of the department.<sup>25</sup>

**Beneficiaries and Financial Under Vocational Training**

**Incentive Scheme<sup>26</sup>**

S.No.	Year	Beneficiary	Financial	
			Target	Achievements
			(Rs. In Lakhs)	
1	2004-2005	160	0.99	0.88
2	2005-2006	160	1.00	0.95
3	2006-2007	160	1.00	0.95
4	2007-2008	160	0.95	0.95
5	2008-2009	75	1.00	0.17
6	2009-2010	57	0.83	0.41
7	2010-2011	160	0.83	

**(xv) Financial Assistance Programme**

The Department of Social Defence is providing financial assistance to the children discharged from the institutions.<sup>27</sup>



**Lumpsum Grant For Vocational Trainees**

**Financial Performance<sup>28</sup>**

S.No.	Year	Target	Achievement
1	2004-2005	0.15	0.05
2	2005-2006	0.15	0.05
3	2006-2007	0.25	0.08
4	2007-2008	0.25	0.20
5	2008-2009	0.25	0.15
6	2009-2010	0.25	0.15
7	2010-2011	0.25	

**(xvi) Family Support Scheme**

The family support scheme is implemented with a view to encourage deinstitutionalisation of children who have come to children homes due to poor economic condition to enable them to stay with their family.<sup>29</sup>

**(xvii) Eradication of Juvenile Beggary**

When Juvenile Guidance Bureau is run by an N.G.O., Indian council for Child Welfare, Chennai with the financial support from State Government in the form of grant-in-aid to prevent Juvenile Beggary by counselling the children/parents. A Sum of Rs. 1.08 Lakhs was provided in the year 2008-2009.<sup>30</sup>

**(xviii) Special Care Centre**

To provide parental care to destitute children in Children Home, one special care centre (Girls) is functioning through a non Governmental Organisation. A sum of Rs.1.95 Lakhs was sanctioned in the budget estimate 2008-2009 for the Scheme.<sup>31</sup>

**(xix) Comprehensive Street Children Programme**

Under the comprehensive street children programme, fifty Children are admitted in each institution and such children are provided food, non formal education and vocational training. A sum of Rs.32.4 Lakhs was sanctioned in the year 2008-2009 for the Scheme.<sup>32</sup>

**(xx) Crisis Intervention Centre for the prevention of child abuse and Neglect**

The government launched a project through Indian council for Child Welfare to ensure the prevention of child abuse and neglect. A sum of 0.36 Lakhs was sanctioned in the year 2008-2009 for the Scheme.<sup>33</sup>

**(xxi) Child Line**

Child Line is a national 24 hours free emergency telephone helpline and outreach service for children in need of care and protection.<sup>34</sup>

Initiative for Combating Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children

One of the prime concerns of the State Government is combating Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children.<sup>35</sup>

The World Bank Report points out the substantial difference in socio-economic outcomes, Social stigma and accesses to services by disability type, with those with mental illness and mental retardation in a particularly poor position. There are also major, urban and rural differences in outcome, gender, class and regional variation. An awareness campaign has also been launched in each district to educate the women. Over the past years our government has made rapid strides towards the uplift of women, children, the old and disabled. The government is striving hard to take this marginalised section into the main stream of life and enjoy the fruits of our economic success.

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