



## ROLE OF DRAVIDIAN PARTIES FOR WOMEN'S WELL-BEING

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### *Abstract*

Women's welfare refers to their happiness and general happiness. Obstacles to women's advancement include untouchability, child marriage, and caste oppression. Leaders like Nathuram Jyotiba Phule, Eswara Chandra Vidyasagar, Mahatma Gandhi, and others rescued the female community. The DMK government enacted laws for women's advancement, implemented programs, and defended education and employment rights. The DMK government passed a law in 1921, giving women the right to vote, symbolizing justice and progress. As women progress, they will be empowered to question society's crimes and prevent social crimes.

**Key Words:** *Women Welfare, Periyar, Justice Party, DMK, AIADMK*

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The well-being of women is referred to as women's welfare. In many aspects, women's health differs from men's health. Women's happiness is an indirect measure of general happiness. "Whole, physical, mental, and social well-being, not disease-free existence," according to the World Health Organization. Although this is commonly understood to apply to women's reproductive health, numerous organizations have argued for a broader definition that encompasses women's entire well-being. Depending on gender inequalities between men and women in developing nations, as well as the risks encountered by women, are becoming more pronounced. There is less concern about women's well-being outside of large-scale research into improving women's well-being.<sup>1</sup> This is a result of the gender discrimination that exists in the face. It took the United States 144 years to grant the right to vote to its citizens, and Britain a century to do so. In some parts of Switzerland, women only got the right to vote in 1974. Except as India flourished as a republic, Indian women gained the right to vote. British Writer *Dr. Ornit Shani* has written a book detailing how Indian women gained the right to vote in elections when India gained independence from British rule in 1947. "India was liberated amid the great crisis of secession that claimed the lives of nearly 10 lakh people and left 80 people homeless."<sup>2</sup>

The decision to give women the right to vote in that chaotic environment is a great achievement for any colonial country," said *Ernie Shani*. The number of voters in independent India has increased 5 times to 17 crores 30 lakhs. of these, about 80 million are women. Eighty-five percent of these people never voted. Unfortunately, the names of about 28 lakh women had to be removed from the voters' list, do you know the reason? In his book *Women in Modern India*, *Dr. Forbes* notes that the British Parliamentary Assembly has ignored the demands of many Indian and British women's organizations for women's suffrage. There was widespread criticism of the government's decision to discriminate against women and put them behind the scenes. Administrators and legislators of the colonial regime opposed the extension of the right to vote to women. Forbes says the number of women who oppose suffrage is low, "and the notion that women are incapable of interfering in public affairs was widespread." Government of Bihar and Orissa (then Bihar and Orissa were one province), in an attempt to reduce the number of voters, it sought to deprive women of the right to vote.<sup>3</sup>

"The government considered that the names of divorced women, handmaidens, and propertyless women should be removed from the voter list." Says *Dr. Shawn* But the communities in the Kasi hills in northeast India were maternal. Women own property in these communities. Women own property in these communities. So, these regional women were the exception. Such an Indian social environment was paralyzing Indian women and treating them like domestic animals.<sup>4</sup> The Dravidian movement dates back it is a social and political movement of historical significance that emerged in Tamil society in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The educational opportunities available to the common people during this period had tapped into their social sentiments among them. Some of these people advocated for the rights of the common people and opposed the Brahmin domination of the time.<sup>5</sup> When the country was liberated, they believed that its benefits would not accrue to the people unless it came under Brahmin domination. Ayodhya Das and Irattaimalai Srinivasan were among the leading fighters in the 19<sup>th</sup> century who put forward such ideas.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century d. M. Nair, Thiyagarasach Chettiar, Kesavap Pillai, Natasa, etc. were at the forefront. The influence of the Justice Party had been declining since 1926. The Justice Party, which lost the 1937 election, began to disintegrate completely. After 1937, the leadership post was taken over by E. Periyar. Ramasamy agreed. He was a fan of Dravidian ethnic policy and was famous for his selfless movement. Thus, the Dravidian movement was able to survive the fall of the Justice Party.<sup>6</sup>

### **Abolition of the Devadasi system**

Dr. Muthulakshmi, then a Member of the Legislative Assembly, proposed the Devadasi Prevention Act on the advice of Periyar during the rule of the Justice Party. Speaking on the abolition of the Devadasi system in his assembly speech, Satyamurthy said, "Angels are sacred.



They are born to serve God. They will be born in heaven in the next life." Muthulakshmi replied, "If the goddesses are going to heaven, then Sathyamoorthy can make their housewives goddesses and they can be born in heaven in the next birth. The goddess system was common before the 1930s. Although this system was created for temple work, it was later used by the upper classes, including the king, the rich, and the landlords, who managed the temples, to dance and were used as slaves to their sexual desires. Due to this, the practice was strongly opposed in India from 1920 onwards. Due to this, the Devadasi Abolition Act was passed in 1947.<sup>7</sup>

### **Self-deprecating marriages**

The marriage system introduced by these activists is called self-respecting marriages. Today it is followed by everyone. The marriage ceremony was simply a frugal marriage ceremony with no rituals such as the Brahmin priest traditionally followed, Sanskrit mantras and thali tying. The marriage was declared a legal marriage by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhaka government. Through this system of marriage, mixed marriages such as atheism and caste atheism and revolutionary marriages such as gay remarriage were conducted. Thus, the Sangha ritual system, which had been in vogue for a long time, was changed. This unnecessarily saved money for priests and priestly rites. The blindfolds were covered in mud by these operators.<sup>8</sup>

### **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam**

In 1949, the Dravidian League split due to differences of opinion over some of Periyar's activities. Under Annathurai's leadership, many left the Dravidian League and started a new movement. Annathurai led the movement, which was renamed the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). M. Karunanidhi, People like Nedunchezhiyan supported him.<sup>9</sup> The DMK, which has attracted a large number of youths, has been working to highlight language and ethnic sentiments. They spread their principles through attractive stage speeches, writing, magazines, music, drama, and later films that developed into strong communication media. This helped to spread the Dravidian movement policies all over the corner accelerators in Tamil Nadu. Top leaders like Annathurai and Karunanidhi were also directly involved in the film industry.

The DMK, which was initially a social movement, also jumped into politics in 1957. The DMK has waged a series of struggles against the Hindi dumping efforts and other measures of the Congress-dominated central and state governments. As a result, the DMK's influence helped them defeat the Congress in 1967 and come to power. Following the election, Annathurai became the Chief Minister. The name of the state was also changed to Tamil Nadu as a symbol of Tamil sentiment. After the Anna Department, artist Karunanidhi became the Chief Minister. He served

as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu 6 times. Winner of 13 Assembly elections held up to 2016.<sup>10</sup>

### **Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam**

Annathurai passed away very soon. Karunanidhi, who took over the leadership, and the leading actor who was the party treasurer, M.P. G. The party split into two due to a feud with Ramachandran (MGR). M. G. R. Under the leadership of Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), a political party was formed. The AIADMK came to power in the next election. M. G. R became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Since then, it has become possible for a Dravidian party to rule in Tamil Nadu.<sup>11</sup>

### **Advancement of women in the DMK regime**

Untouchability of child marriage, denial of remarriage by widows, cohabitation, goddess system, caste oppression, etc. were major obstacles to the advancement of women. Leaders such as Nathuram Jyotiba Poole, Eeswara Chandra Vidyasagar, Mahatma Gandhi, Father Periyar, Annal Ambedkar, Grandfather Anna, Muthamizharinjar Artist, and many other political and social movements were involved in rescuing the female community from that vulnerability and making women self-respecting and energetic. Evil social barriers such as untouchability, child marriage, goddess system, concubinage, and widow remarriage were declared and legally invalid in constitutional India after liberation.<sup>12</sup>

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhaka government played a major role in enacting laws for the advancement of women, implementing programs, advancing women's education and employment rights, and advancing them to various positions. The work done by the DMK government for the advancement of women is a great contribution to the advancement of women. The role of DMK in the advancement of women is immense. She is a leader with a keen interest in women's education, women's liberation, women's rights, and women's advancement. During her tenure as the Mayor of Chennai Corporation, Minister of Home Affairs, and Deputy Chief Minister of the State of Tamil Nadu, she played a major role in the advancement of women through women's self-help groups. She has been working for the betterment of women in education, higher education, and industry, higher employment opportunities for women, and upliftment of women in poverty. The Justice Party, the pioneer movement of the DMK, and the Justice Party government played a major role in the advancement of women. The Justice Party government passed a law on 10-5-1921 giving women the right to vote. It is the golden crown of justice for women.<sup>13</sup>

The Justice Party government, which was in power from 1920 to 1926, realized that there were no female members in the Chennai Provincial Assembly and tried to make women members



of the Legislative Assembly. During the tenure of Dr. Subbarayan, who was the Chief Minister who ruled with the support of the Justice Party, opportunities were created for women to contest elections. S. Canara was the first woman to contest the Chennai Provincial Assembly elections in 1926 for the first time. But he did not win the election. Therefore, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, the first female doctor in India, was appointed as a member of the Chennai Provincial Assembly. Following that Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy was appointed as the Deputy Speaker of the Chennai Provincial Assembly. It is a matter of pride that a woman has been made the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly globally in the province of Chennai. Deputy Speaker Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy On 2-2-1929, he introduced the Devadasi Abolition Bill in the Chennai Provincial Assembly. After a lengthy debate, the bill was passed and the Devadasi system was banned.<sup>14</sup>

During the DMK rule in 1968-69, 12,688 women's forums functioned. In 1970-71 and the following year, hundreds of women's forums were newly established by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Career tools were provided to women's forums. Women's hostels for working women were started. 1972 Women's service program started and implemented. Vocational training was imparted to 13 lakh 31 thousand women in 1972-73. Same year One lakh 70 thousand financial assistance was given to 271 women's forums established in 14 unions. During the DMK rule in 1973, women were appointed as constables in the Tamil Nadu Police for the first time in India. In 1973-74, the government provided financial assistance to the Seva Sangam, which ran hostels for working women.<sup>15</sup>

1973-74 Panchayat One There were 13,124 women's forums in Tamil Nadu. The government provided Rs 4,000 for the maintenance of each women's forum. The training was provided to 10,082 women council members. To implement women's welfare schemes 4,077 grants were given to 241 charities. Sewing machines were donated to 50 women's welfare branches. 5,000 women's organizations were activated. Women's groups operated in 13 unions. During the DMK regime of 1989-91, women were given 30 percent reservation in government service. The law was passed in 1990. In primary schools, only women were appointed to teaching posts up to the fifth grade. For the first time in India, women in local elections 33 percent reservation were given. Across Tamil Nadu, 44,143 women held positions in local bodies.<sup>16</sup>

Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project has been implemented since 1989. The Women's Self-Help Group was first started in 1989 in Dharmapuri. For the first time in India, women are required by law to have an equal share in the family passed by the DMK Government on 6-5-1989. The scheme of providing free education to poor women till graduation was implemented. Incentives were given to businesses run by women. From 1989-to 91 3,31,000

women were given posts in the Khadi and Khadar sectors. 1,25,000 of them are women from disadvantaged communities. Vocational training was given to women.

The Women's Small Business Loan Scheme was launched in Chennai on 1-1-1999 and later extended to other corporations, municipalities and municipalities. The daily loan amount for a small businesswoman range from Rs.500 to Rs.5,000. The scheme provided small business loans of Rs 18 crore to 1,44,913 people. Fair price shops run by women in Madurai Launched in 1998. There were 230 women-only fairs across Tamil Nadu. Grant-in-aid provided financial assistance to 250 first-generation business start-ups. Business Complexes Priority was given to female entrepreneurs. Fishermen's Women's Co-operative Society was established and motorized vehicles were provided free of charge. Financial assistance was provided to fisherwomen. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhaka government has implemented several special schemes for the advancement of women. Through them, millions of women have benefited and made tremendous progress in life<sup>17</sup>

#### **Moolaloor Ramamartham Ammaiyyar Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme**

This Poor Women Marriage Assistance Program Launched in 1989. The scheme benefited poor women above the age of 18 who had completed the eighth standard and women belonging to degraded and tribal communities up to the fifth standard. A total of 17 crores 30 lakh financial assistance was provided to 34,595 women from 1-4-1989 to 11-1-1991 under this scheme implemented by the Social Welfare Department. During the DMK regime in 1996, the educational qualification of the beneficiaries was fixed as Class X and the allowance was fixed at Rs. 10,000. 228 crore 60 lakhs were given to 2,28,593 poor women. The project was put on hold during the 2001-2006 AIADMK regime. The project grant has been increased to 15 thousand from 3-6-2006. Later from 20-3-2008, this amount was increased to Rs. 20,000 and from 1-4-2010 this financial assistance was increased to Rs. 25,000. Financial assistance was also given to poor women in refugee camps. During the DMK regime from 2006-to 2011, Rs. 880 crore 55 lakh was provided for the marriage of 4,66,756 poor women.<sup>18</sup>

#### **Anjum Ammaiyyar Memorial Mixed Marriage Assistance Scheme**

Mixed marriages were encouraged in Tamil Nadu in 1967-69 when scholar Anna was the Chief Minister. The Mixed Marriage Assistance Scheme was also implemented during the DMK regime of 1969-1976. The DMK provided financial assistance of Rs. 58 crores 94 lakhs to 1101 couples who got mixed marriages from 1989-to 1990. During the DMK regime from 1996- to 2001, this assistance was increased to Rs. 10,000. If one of the bride and groom is Adithravidar, the allowance has been increased to Rs. 20,000 since 1997. Financial assistance was provided to 3281



couples who got mixed marriages during the DMK regime from 1996-to 2001. This financial assistance has been increased to Rs. 25,000 since 2010. 20 crore 89 lakh 60 thousand rupees was given to 11383 couples who got mixed marriages during the DMK regime of 2006-2010.<sup>19</sup>

### **Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Memorial Maternity Assistance Scheme**

3,71,805 people benefited from this scheme which assisted poor pregnant women implemented during the 1989-91 DMK regime. During the DMK regime of 1996-2001, 7,33,731 poor pregnant women have given financial assistance of Rs. 28 crores 75 lakhs.<sup>20</sup>

### **Bangaru Ammaiyar Women's Development Project**

This project was launched in 1989. The scheme was implemented in 28 districts during the DMK regime from 1996-to 2001. 10,06,969 women benefited through the scheme. Of them, 1,26,882 women were given loans worth Rs 73 crore. 58,391 women's groups were formed through this program.

### **Mother Teresa Memorial Unsupported Women Marriage Financial Assistance Program**

The scheme was started during the AIADMK regime of 1984-85 and continued during the DMK regime of 1996-2001. Under this scheme, the financial assistance was increased to Rs. 2,000 in 1996-97, Rs. 3,000 in 1997-98, Rs. 5,000 in 1998-99 and Rs. 7,000 in 1999-2000. During the DMK regime from 1996-to 2000, financial assistance of Rs.16,28,00,000 was provided to 360 women. In the year 2010, this financial assistance was increased to Rs.25,000. During the DMK regime from 2006-to 2011, 2,220 marriages of women were funded.<sup>21</sup>

### **EVR Maniyamaiyar Memorial Marriage Financing Scheme**

The AIADMK regime was launched in 1981-82, the scheme was implemented during the 1989-90 DMK regime. 10,44,000 women were provided financial assistance of Rs. 1,000 each through the above scheme. In 1999, the funding for the project was increased to Rs. 7,000. During the DMK regime of 2006-2011, financial assistance was provided to 16365 people through this scheme.<sup>22</sup>

### **Dr. Dharmambal Memorial Widow Remarriage Scheme**

The project was launched in 1975. During the DMK regime of 1989-1990, 378 women received a stipend of Rs. 5,000 each. During the 1996-2001 DMK regime, Rs.66 crore 88 lakh was given to 904 widowed women at the rate of Rs.10,000 per beneficiary. During the DMK regime of 2006-2011, this financial assistance was increased to Rs. 25,000 and 16,365 persons were given financial

assistance.<sup>23</sup>

### **EVR.NAGAMMAYYAR MEMORY FREE TUTORIAL PROJECT**

The project was launched in 1989. 5444 women benefited under this scheme during the DMK regime of 1989-90. The scheme was continued during the DMK regime of 1996-2001.

### **Satyavani Muthu Ammaiyar Memorial Free Sewing Machine Scheme**

The scheme was implemented for poor women who were abandoned by their widows during the DMK regime of 1996-2001. Sewing machines were donated to 14,365 poor women. The scheme was continued during the DMK regime from 2006-to 2011.

### **Sivagami Ammayar Girl Child Protection Scheme**

A deposit of Rs. The full amount was paid with interest. 1,15,897 children benefited from the scheme. A deposit of Rs. 3,000 / - was given in the name of daughters of mothers who have only one daughter and are controlling the family in the absence of boys. The full amount was paid with interest when the child grew up to be 20 years old. The project was implemented during the DMK regime from 2006-to 2011 at a cost of Rs.300 / - crore. 1,97,047 girls benefited from the scheme. Women's self-help groups were set up and millions of women benefited. 223 Farm Women's Self-Help Groups and 3,500 Agricultural Women's Self-Help Groups were set up and financial assistance was provided. Today I.A.S., IPS If many women have risen above the ranks of men as officers, policemen, military personnel, aviators, doctors, and engineers, the whole reason for this is that the Justice Party, the Dravidar League, and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam have laid the foundation for this.

### **Conclusion**

The social injustice of enslaving women began from the day the male-centric possession society emerged in social life. In particular, women were forbidden to touch the magazine and were morally instructed not to read it, even though it was taught to be unclean. Only united struggles can bring about change in today's predicament. In line with Bharati's line, "Give male to the female net, Murase", we will continue our efforts to create gender equality in all spheres, such as family, community, media, education, government activities, and organizations. Gender equality can only be seen when women have an equal share in power. We will support the women who are fighting toward that goal. Finally, women will not move forward just because they call the country 'Thai Nation'. Prioritizing and implementing their health plans will play a key role in their development.





The growth of women today is such that there is no sector without women. But at a time when violence and oppression against women were at their peak, the suffering they experienced was far greater. All life in this world arises from the motherhood of the woman. Women are making a vital contribution to the development of a successful society. Women are the ones who raise children, raise them, and manage the family. Women tend to have unimaginable mental strength and patience. A woman's love, support, and sacrifices are behind every man's success. But what are the denial of the status, rights, and protection of such women in society? This must be the essence of the feminist ideology of the old stories. But today this darkness is beginning to recede.

A society in which women are progressing is becoming a community of excellence. A woman takes on many roles in society. As a mother to children, a wife to husband, a good daughter to parents, a loving sister to brothers, a loving teacher to students, a doctor and a nurse, some women support men in many fields and in all miserable times of life. Psychology says that a woman usually survives without the support of a man but a man cannot live without the support of a woman. Love, Warmth, sacrifice, patience, endurance for women net women. As women come on the path of progress and advance in education, they will be empowered to question the crimes that take place in society and the social crimes will be prevented and society will be successful. In the past only men earned but today women are earning equally as the economy and the labour force are on the rise. It will help improve the economic growth and development of a country.

There is no doubt that social development as a whole is on the path of progress. The world's leading nations are increasingly concerned about the needs and resources of women and children, freedom, and security. Women play a major role in the development of these countries. Women have become the political and executive leaders of countries around the world. Such growth greatly reduces the burden on men and leads to the development of a healthy society. It is imperative that our nation embraces these and works to protect and promote women.

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