ADVOCACY FOR ENTITLEMENTS OF MARGINALISED PEOPLE AT PALAVAI CENTRE, TINDIVANAM

Project Context:

PALAVAI (Pedagogy and Action for Livelihood Availing Village Leadership and Advocacy of Irulars.) Works on empowering tribal communities through its interventions and developmental activities in the hills and adjutants' areas in Vizhupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu districts. Cultivating community leadership is crucial to increasing the participation of marginalized people in PALAVAI focuses democracy. leadership skills among community members rather than outsiders to progress towards liberation. We continue to transform everyday individuals conscientious community leaders. These Community leaders, who often have no political background or formal qualifications, are driven by their courage and commitment to empower their community. With more than 60 such leaders across three districts advocating for individual and communal rights, we equip them with

the necessary knowledge of current government schemes and legislation, enabling them to confidently stand up for their rights. Our focus remains on working closely with these communities to understand their needs and identify potential leaders who can make a lasting impact.





Rationale:

Many Irular communities do not understand important government schemes and their rights. Without this knowledge, they struggle to access benefits that could improve their lives. Additionally, some people are afraid to talk to government officials because they lack experience, making it hard for them to advocate for their rights. To help with these issues, PALAVAI runs awareness programs, capacity-building activities, and leadership training to empower community members. They train local leaders, who often have no political background or formal education, to interact confidently with government offices, write requests, and understand legal processes. These leaders have become strong advocates for justice in their communities, ensuring that marginalized voices are heard and legal rights are protected. Over the past eight years, these programs have turned hesitant individuals into brave advocates and have achieved important successes in securing promoting justice for the Irular tribes. The ongoing success of these programs shows how

community leadership is for making lasting change.

Beneficiaries:

Irular community people in districts of Villupuram,
Tiruvannamalai, Kanchipuram and Chengalpattu.

Objective of the project:

- → To raise awareness among the Irular communities about their rights and government welfare schemes.
- → To capacitate community members through leadership training and skill development.
- → To empower community leaders to effectively advocate for their individual and community rights.
- → To promote a self-reliant model of leadership among marginalized communities for long-term advocacy justice.

Activities of the Project:

→ Conducting workshops and sessions to educate the Irular community about government welfare schemes, legal rights and entitlements.

- Organize structured leadership development programs for better advocacy.
- Provide practical training on writing formal requests, filling government forms, and understanding administrative procedures.
- Facilitate meetings between tribal communities and government officials to establish dialogue and trust.
- Offer guidance and legal support for community leaders when necessary.

Expected outcome of the Project:

- → Increased awareness among Irular community members about their rights and the availability of government schemes.
- Confident and capable community leaders who advocate effectively for their communities.
- Improved access to welfare schemes and entitlements for the Irular tribes.
- → Improvements in the socio-economic conditions of the Irular tribes through successful implementation of schemes and legal victories.



Possible Collaboration:

- Conducting legal awareness campaigns.
- → Offering leadership training in collaboration with other NGOs.
- Addressing CSR by conducting entitlement camps.
- Collaborating for legal advice camps.

