

With over two decades of experience in the non-profit and social sector, A. Devaneyan is the Founder & Director of Thozhamai, a civil society organization based in Chennai. Thozhamai, meaning "Solidarity," was established in 2006 and has evolved into a prominent community development organization. Devaneyan's commitment spans policy-level engagement to grassroots fieldwork, focusing on the rights of the urban poor, particularly children, women, youth, and Dalits & Tribals.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Led rights-based initiatives for children, youth, women, and communities in Tamil Nadu as the Director of Thozhamai.

Prominent voice on human rights issues with over 400 YouTube videos and contributions to various media platforms.

Co-Convener of Tamil Nadu Child Rights Watch and active participant in major human rights fact-finding missions.

Recognized for advocacy and lobbying skills, engaging with key stakeholders, and collaborating with government institutions.

Zonal Convener for Tamil Nadu State Campaign Against Child Labour, State Convener for "Shout for Freedom," and Co-Convener of Right To Education Forum – Tamil Nadu.

## MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES

Core committee member for Policy Guidelines on the Safety, Security, and Dignity of Girls and Women workers in Textile Mills.

Engaged in various state-level committees on education, child protection, and women empowerment.

Involved in drafting SOPs for Zero Child Marriage in Tamil Nadu.

## AWARDS

A. Devaneyan and Thozhamai have received several awards, including the Unsung Champion Award for flood relief efforts in 2015, Child Rights Defender Award, and the Justice Shivaraj V Patel Award for Human Rights Defender.

## POLICY LEVEL INTERVENTIONS

Instrumental in finalizing the Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children 2021.

Conducted regional consultations and played a key role in the operationalization of the policy.

Active involvement in child protection policies, consultations, and campaigns at the state level.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

Developed Policy Guidelines for the Safety, Security, and Dignity of Girls and Women Workers in the Textile Sector.

Conducted social audits in garment/textile industries and collaborated with the State Commission for Women on implementation.

## MEDIA INTERFACE

Trained over 1500 journalists on ethical reporting of children's issues.

Advocated for human rights issues in the media and organized state-level programs for media professionals.

## COVID AND DISASTER RESPONSE

Engaged in relief efforts during COVID, providing support, vaccination, and aid to affected communities.

Core team member for coordinating relief and rehabilitation during Chennai floods and cyclones.

Conducted various research studies on child protection, education, and the status of marginalized communities in Tamil Nadu.

Authored manuals and handbooks on child rights, education, domestic violence, and human rights and business.

Director at Thozhamai since November 2008, with prior roles at the Centre for Child Rights and Development and the Institute of Human Rights Education.

Presented papers and participated in international programs on child rights, advocacy, and development.

## EDUCATION

Advanced Diploma on Development, Law and Social Justice from the International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague.

M.Sc. in Physics from Loyola College, Chennai.

Masters of Human Rights from Pondicherry University.

Bachelor of Education from Annamalai University.

B.Sc. in Physics from Gobi Arts College, Erode District.