

ABSTRACT

The social action sector: from the welfare State to the non-governmental State ? Case study of the Tamil Nadu's Women.

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Various changes characterise the evolution of the social action sector in India is: a permanent expansion, an approach which is more and more technical and economical (with for instance the strong and quick growth of the microfinance sector), approach which is also more and more professional. While social and economic inequalities prevail and persist, it becomes urgent to analyse those evolutions, the role of the social action sector and its ability to promote social changes and to produce solidarities. The first step of our work consists in defining the concept of social work in India (limited to professional social workers, trained in school of social work, and the registered NGOs). The second step of our work aims at analysing the realities of social action, both practices and discourses:

- ❑ a review of the history of the social action sector from the 19th century till now :evolutions influences and perspectives
- ❑ a review of the history of the schools of social work in India (since the creation of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences): evolution, limits, networks, research works, links and exchanges with the voluntary sector and governmental agencies
- ❑ an analysis of the various discourses (through interviews and literature review) on the social work by the national and international actors, professionals or para-professionals, academics, and “beneficiaries”
- ❑ case studies of schools of social work : formation and training, content of lectures, profiles of the students as well as the professors, field work practices
- ❑ case studies (monographies) of NGOs that employ train and untrained social workers,with women as main beneficiaries