

Dr. T. Sumathy (a)
Thamizhachi Thangapandian

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Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)
South Chennai Constituency - Tamil Nadu

MEMBER :

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- Consultative Committee - Social Justice & Empowerment
- Board of Governors, NIFT



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Chennai-115

To,

Mr. Manoj Kumar,
Chairman,
Khadi and Village Industries Commission

Respected Sir,

Thank you for your letter requiring my suggestions with respect to the working of Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The work that KVIC has been doing is indeed commendable. Some of the suggestions that could lead to increased effectiveness of your endeavors in Tamil Nadu are listed below:

- a. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin submitted an MoU to the Commerce Ministry to establish a Mega Textile Park in Tamil Nadu under the PM-MITRA scheme in April 2022. This was preceded by a preliminary project report submitted to the Union Government on 14 March 2022. KVIC, as a commission, can take measures to support the successful signing of this MoU.
- b. He also inaugurated new buildings constructed for the Department of Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi in Erode, Karur, Thanjavur and Virudhunagar districts in April 2022. KVIC can be a great support in this venture too.
- c. Many suggestions were given by Hon'ble CM in July in a meeting with the Ministry of Handlooms and Textiles. These included marketing strategies, promoting products among higher income groups to augment weaver incomes and encouraging government officials to wear handloom dresses.

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To be noted here, particularly, is the benefit of synergies that can be reaped from the collaboration between KVIC and Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board to not only popularize handlooms but also increase producer incomes.

- d. In the case of Village Industries, Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board has diversified and done well in a number of areas: clothing, palm products, soaps (using specific local materials), leather, honey, carpentry and blacksmithing.
KVIC can take note of indigenous materials and what products have been so far successful in Tamil Nadu. The same can be used to develop/revamp the line of products KVIC has.
- e. Tamil Nadu government convened a committee last year to spur exports, including the fields of handlooms and khadi in October 2021. KVIC can be a key resource to the committee's success by bringing in their expertise and recommendations.
- f. Around 27% of workers in Tamil Nadu fall into the category of semi-skilled workers. Suitable identification of these and proper training can help bring them under the purview of KVIC, thereby, increasing the quantum and stability of their incomes.
- g. KVIC can be of immense help and a big catalyzer for local women collectives in the handloom and textile industry who are looking for post-production help.
- h. On the policy front, KVIC can establish itself as an effective intermediary between groups like women, youth and the disabled and the Union Government. By ensuring that schemes like providing production linked subsidies, assistance in marketing and gaining credit and helping provide a global reach to products of local collectives actually reach the above-mentioned groups, KVIC can ensure increased effectiveness of central level schemes being run.

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- In the case of Chennai, three registered Khadi institutions have been established. There is a specific need to look towards their post-production side since they have been demonstrating almost zero/less than the amount of production sales since 2016. Measures to ensure sales of Khadi products to generate revenue should be a top priority in Chennai.

KVIC can make use of international events like Chess Olympiads and Chennai Open as an effective platform for promotion of their products and ensuring global reach.

I hope that these recommendations add value to the existing work KVIC and that KVIC keeps up with its goals of adding value to the sector and the lives of people associated with it.

Thanking you,

With warm regards,

Dr. T. Sumathy (a) Thamizhachi Thangapandian
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TAMIL NADU.