

MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
QUESTA FORUM
Consultation on Climate Change Action Plan for
Greater Chennai Corporation

Event No: 7

Date: 21.10.2022.

Time: 10 am – 2:30 am

Venue: Tag Auditorium

Faculty Organiser: Prof. Agnes Roshini.

Student Organiser: Ms Taj Rasha

Documented by: Mr Jayanth

Total Participants: 14

Organised by: QUESTA forum

On 28th April 2023, a discussion on climate change was held at the conference hall of the Department of Social Work, Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), Chennai. The discussion was graced by various dignitaries from different fields, including Mr. Raj Cheruba, Mr. Janpapal, Mr. MG Devasahyam, Mr. Janakaraj, Mr. Sundararajan, Mr. KA Rangunathan, CPI Bhagyam, and Dr. Vishwaja Sampath.

The Head of the Department delivered the welcome address and highlighted the importance of academic institutions in discussing various issues. He acknowledged the exhaustive list of speakers and expressed the department's nervousness in creating such an informative program. He welcomed all the dignitaries, friends of society, students, and teachers present in the hall. Mr. Raj Cheruba, the first speaker, talked about the progress in attitude towards climate change. He spoke proudly of the conversion of street lights into LED and referred to the climate action plan being implemented in Chennai, such as non-motorized transport and pedestrian plazas in T Nagar. He thanked MSSW for the opportunity to meet all stakeholders and looked forward to positive engagement. He also talked about urban mobility and coordination with various climate consultants.

Mr. Janpapal spoke about the importance of climate change issues, accommodating around 60 to 90 crore people. He explained the climate change document, which was attached.

Mr. MG Devasahyam, an IAS officer, talked about the good points in the climate change document but felt that climate change was still a prevailing issue. He expressed his concern over poor governance systems and the oppression of nature in today's society. He stated that planning for Chennai alone is pointless and suggested more inclusive planning. He also talked about the lack of urban governance and prevalence of corruption in India. He stressed that all religions must be included in environmental sustainability and called the climate action plan a joke. He emphasized the need for a dynamic and inclusive system and stakeholder consultation for environmental sustainability.

Janakaraj, the president of the South Asian Consortium, questioned whether the government had gone into the geographical data. He pointed out that the risk and vulnerability mapping were very poor and that Chennai was a city that is very different from zone to zone. He stressed that talking to communities is very important, and community opinion will help the government create a better document. He talked about the great resources available in Chennai and the importance of protecting them.

Mr. Sundararajan appreciated Mr. Devalingam for covering most topics and the corporation for accepting that climate change exists. He expressed his concerns over carbon emissions and suggested that the blame should not be put on everyday residents of Chennai but rather the bigger organizations. He talked about the lack of stakeholder consultation and the absence of coastal communities in the presentation. He talked about the problems Chennai is facing, such as solid waste management, food security, and lack of intersectionality in society. He suggested that the corporation must do its research instead of using other research material as resources. He stressed that cities can be destroyed by either nuclear bombs or elevated pathways.

Mr. KA Rangunathan from MSME Ragu talked about identifying problems, finding solutions, and making the solution a reality. He pointed out that the country had invested several crores in smart cities, but the city is barely livable. He talked about the gap between thoughts and actions and the poor execution of plans. He pointed out the lack of segregation in waste and lack of self-discipline. He asked how entrepreneurs could contribute to improving the environment's status.

CPI Bhagyam thanked MSSW for their support in conducting this discussion. He appreciated the.

Photos of the Event:



Conclusion:

The welcome address and speeches given by various dignitaries at the discussion on climate change and environmental sustainability highlighted the importance of taking action to address these issues. Speakers discussed the progress made in Chennai towards sustainability, as well as the challenges and shortcomings in governance, planning, and execution. There was a call for inclusive planning, stakeholder consultation, and community engagement to create a more dynamic and sustainable system. Overall, the discussion emphasized the need for collaborative efforts from all sectors to ensure a livable and sustainable future.