



04th March 2025

To,

The Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education
Govt. of Tamilnadu

Sub: Requesting your intervention to rectify the disgraceful Tamil translation of "Disability" in the degree certificate issued by the University of Madras - Reg

Nethrodaya is a Social Service Institution, approved by the Rehabilitation Council of India and recognised by the govt. of Tamil Nadu. As a recognition of our dedicated Service in the field of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, we have been conferred with the Prestigious **National Award** by the **Hon'ble President of India**. Further, Nethrodaya has also been awarded as **"The Best Institution"** by the **Government of Tamil Nadu** for offering quality services to Differently Abled students completely free of cost.

We would like to bring to your kind attention that the University of Madras has issued degree certificates for the **"Master Of Social Work in Disability and Empowerment"**, a Post Graduate Degree for the students of **2021-2023** batch in its affiliating college **Madras School of Social Work**.

We are deeply disheartened to note that the terminology **"Iyalaamai"** has been used for the term "Disability" in the Tamil Translation of the Degree Program.

We wish to place on record that our former Chief Minister Dr. Kalam introduced the term **"Maatruthirunaligal"** (Differently Abled) and established an exclusive department in the year 2010. The term **"Maatruthirunaligal"** has become the official terminology across all departments and Universities in Tamilnadu for referring to persons with Disabilities.

Despite these facts the University of Madras has wilfully degraded the Differently Abled Community by using the term **"Iyalaamai"** in its prestigious degree certificate, whereas the said Tamil term actually highlights inability rather indicating disability.

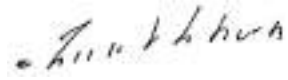
Such an insensitive act on part of the officials of the University of Madras amounts to serious violation of **RPWD Act, 2016**. It further maligns the image of the Dravidian Model Government which is committed to empowering the differently abled persons at large. Use of the term '**Iyalaamai**' is highly objectionable since it will create a negative perception against the differently abled community in the society and academia.

Taking into the account the above facts, we request your kind intervention to reinstate the term "**Maatruthiren**" instead of "**Iyalaamai**" in the aforesaid degree certificate with immediate effect. We request you to issue appropriate directions/orders to the authorities of University of Madras so as to issue fresh degree certificate with proper Tamil translation, thereby rendering justice to the differently abled and upholding the dignity of Tamil language.

Looking forward for immediate intervention.

Thanking you.

For **Nethrodaya**



C.Govindakrishnan
Founder
National Awardee
Best Social Worker Awardee, TN