



'No woman member present in crucial State panels'

The Hindu Bureau

KODAIKANAL

The absence of even a single woman member in the State Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare commission, State Minorities Commission and State Human Rights Commission was a matter of concern and one should introspect about this at least on this day, spoke tribal women during the International Women's Day celebration in Kodaikanal on Saturday.

A. Veronica Mary, a Madurai based social activist, who delivered the chief guest address said that not having women in some of the important commissions showed the importance given to them on crucial matters.

"How these commissions which will be taking



Women from 38 villages take out a procession to mark International Women's Day in Kodaikanal on Saturday.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

up some of the important cases and incidents would fairly investigate and hear out the grievances of women without any biases," she questioned. When women are said to have 33% reservation, in reality, it remains only on paper.

"Though it is a great thing to have a day for women to celebrate their presence and achievements, we should also not forget

about thousands of women from various tribal and Dalit communities who still lack even basic facilities like decent toilet, clean drinking water and nutritious diet," she noted.

Many govt. policies and schemes aimed at developing livelihood of women from such underprivileged backgrounds never even reach some of the hamlets located in Kodaikanal hills, she added. While the Centre boasts of having achieved open-defecation free State under Swachh Bharat Mission, hundreds of households in tribal hamlets still lack a toilet facility, Ms. Mary said.

To voice out their demands and stress their needs, more than 400 women from 38 hill villages went on a rally during the event.