

“Dalit literature played vital role in resurgence”

Staff Reporter

MADURAI: Dalit literature played a prominent role in the Dalit resurgence which took place in the 1990s in the State and one among the prominent writers was the former Civil Services Officer P. Sivakami.

Ms. Sivakami's poetry collection "Kadhavadaippu" was released at De Nobili Centre here on Saturday. The book was released by R. Adhiyaman, founder-president, Adi Tamizhar Peravai, and the first copy was received by S. Tamil Selvan, state president, Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers' Association.

Advocate Rajni who presided over the event said that Dalit literature played a prominent role in the Dalit political resurgence that took place in the 1990's and in that as a woman Dalit writer, Sivakami's works were very influential for the Dalit renaissance.

Mr. Adhiyaman said that Sivakami's writings dealt with feminism, Dalitism and body politics.

Her repertoire, which includes novels, short stories, non-fiction and poetry talk largely about the Dalit angst against discrimination and questions patriarchy.

Mr. Adhiyaman said that



INFORMATIVE: R. Adhiyaman, second from left, founder-president, Adi Tamizhar Peravai, releasing *Kadhavadaippu*. S. Tamil Selvan, State president, Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers' Association, receiving the first copy in the city.

her writings brought out many subtle forms of discrimination meted against Dalits and women.

Among the Tamil Dalit women's writings, the poems which form part of this collection 'Kadhavadaippu' by Sivakami will find a unique place, said S. Tamil Selvan.

Writer, Stalin Rajangam said that Sivakami's writings had a role in drafting the 1990's Dalit resurgence.

P. Sivakami in her acceptance speech talked about how the poor were exploited by a small per cent of rich who have control over not only ec-

onomic resources but also society as a whole.

The ruling classes which form this elite section have no regard for the poor and the recent increase in prices state that, even schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme does not result or work towards empowering the poor but enslaving them, she opined.

Poet Sukirtharani and Writer Yaaz Chandra offered their felicitations on the poetry collection. The book was published by Uyirmai Pathipagam and is priced Rs.60.