

**ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S AWARENESS, KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION
(AWAKE), SATHANKULAM, THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT.**

Activity Report for the year 2009 – '10

1. About the Organization

AWAKE is a registered non-profit organization working in the backward rural areas of Thoothukudi District. The Promoter of the Organization was a Post Graduate Teacher, Mr. I. Balakrishnan. The organization has been working in the sectors of women empowerment, economic development, community health, and education of the children since the year 2001.

AWAKE works with the poor and oppressed regardless of caste, religion, creed and gender. Women and Children Development has been main area of the working of the organization. Major activities carried out during the year has been on empowerment of women through building their capacities.

Vision Statement

To create a society where the families live with dignity and enjoy fullness of life.

Mission Statement:

To work with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation.

Specific Objectives of the Organization:

- To provide education to the children
- To provide awareness to women and empower them
- To sensitise and promote gender balance in the community
- To work for the economic development of the people we serve
- To sensitize the community on health and see that they follow primary health care practices.
- To provide care and support for people affected by TB, HIV/AIDS etc.
- Remove the factors contributing to poor sanitary condition of the villages

- Cultivate hygienic qualities in the minds of the children
- Conduct awareness programs in the villages regarding health and sanitation
- Setting up of Vocational Education Centre for rural women and marketing of the products
- Providing micro loan to the women Self Help Groups members to start small economic development ventures and for the education of their children.
- Promote kitchen garden concept so that people will get a nutritious rich diet and can make good use of cow dung for manure.

Target Area:

AWAKE has been working in the following four Blocks in Tuticorin District.

- i. Sathankulam
- ii. Udangudi
- iii. Tiruchendur
- iv. Alwarthirunagari

2. Activities of the Organization

AWAKE has been working in the areas of Women Empowerment, Economic Development, Community Health, HIV/AIDS awareness and supplementary education for the school children.

2.1 Women Empowerment:

AWAKE has been organizing the unorganized sector, especially the women, through Self Help Groups. The member of the Self Help Groups are trained in the following areas to make them self reliant and enhance their status in the community.

- Training to the SHG Members on the principles and working of the SHGs
- Leadership Training for the leaders of the SHGs
- Book Keeping Training
- Entrepreneurship Development Programs

- Skill Trainings

New SHGs:

55 new SHGs were formed during the year in all the four blocks. There have been 715 new women members have been enrolled during the year.

Animator and Representative Training for new SHGs:

The animators and the representatives of all the 55 SHGs were provided training for 6 days on SHG principles, federation, book keeping and leadership. A total of 3 programs were conducted and 110 leaders attended the training. The training programs were conducted at the Union offices of the four Blocks.

Training for the SHG members:

All the 55 new SHGs were provided training on SHG concepts, Bank linkage, collective action and leadership etc. for four days. 20 Training programmes were conducted and 715 women participated in the training programs.

SHG Activities:

AWAKE has formed a total of 318 Self Help Groups in four Blocks in Tuticorin District.

- It has a total membership of 5,064 women in the SHGs.
- The total Savings amount available with the SHGs are Rs.1,43,10,000.
- The SHGs utilize the savings amount to provide loans internally to the members. A loan amount of Rs.2,58,00,000 has been disbursed from the SHGs corpus fund. This helped the members to meet their basic needs in the family like education, health etc.
- 40 SHGs received Revolving Fund of Rs.50,000/- each
- 115 SHG received Direct loan from the Banks.



Celebration of Pongal festival by SHG members

2.2 Community Health

Community Health is another major area of working of AWAKE. AWAKE carried out awareness programs on mother and child health, Water and Sanitation etc. Providing support services for the ANCs, PNCs and the Adolescent girls with the support of the PHCs and the local health service providers. Awareness programs on HIV/AIDS and TB were carried out at Block level in all the four blocks to sensitize the community on the prevention of the disease and providing care for the affected people. The families were sensitised to raise Kitchen gardens to enhance their health by availing fresh vegetables and greens.

- Health Education was imparted to 315 SHGs covering 2529 women members on seven components of sanitation.
- 225 ANCs were given health education on the importance of care during pregnancy, regular medical check up etc.

- 315 SHGs covering 2529 women in the four Blocks (target area) were imparted awareness on HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis.
- Awareness on herbal plants and preparation of Indigenous medicines were give for 315 SHGs covering 1575 women.



Home Garden at the backyard of one of the beneficiary



Health Education on HIV / AIDs to SHG members

2.3 Supplementary coaching classes:

Evening coaching classes are conducted in five places enabling 200 children from the poor families get the opportunity to do their home work with the support of the AWAKE staff and the children to cope up with the other children.

AWAKE has been thankful to Tamilnadu Corporation for Development of Women, Banks in the Target area and all local sponsors for supporting the cause of improving the socio economic status of families in the target villages.

**Association for Women's Awareness, Knowledge and Education (AWAKE),
Sathankulam.**