

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

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2010 – '11

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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, skill training to youths, 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. Apart from Women Development Activities, HIV/AIDS prevention programs, Program for the differently abled people and Residential School for the drop out children was conducted during the year.

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 empowerment of differently abled persons.

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:

147 new SHGs were formed during the year in all the four blocks. There have been 1911 new women members have been enrolled during the year.

Animator and Representative Training for new SHGs:

The animators and the representatives of all the 147 SHGs were provided training for 6 days on SHG principles, federation, book keeping and leadership. A total of 8 programs were conducted and 295 leaders attended the training. The training programs were conducted at the Union offices of the four Blocks.

Training for the SHG members:

All the 147 new SHGs were provided training on SHG concepts, Bank linkage, collective action and leadership etc. for four days. 57 Training programmes were conducted and 1911 women participated in the training programs.





Training to SHG members

SHG Activities:

AWAKE has formed a total of 465 Self Help Groups in four Blocks in Tuticorin District.

- It has a total membership of 6,975 women in the SHGs.
- The total Savings amount available with the SHGs are Rs.2,09,25,000.
- The SHGs utilize the savings amount to provide loans internally to the members. A loan amount of Rs.3,58,00,000 has been disbursed from the SHGs corpus fund. This helped the members to meet their basic needs in the family like education, health etc.

The SHGs also availed Revolving Loan Funds and Direct Linkage loans from the Banks for their income generating activities. The loans are paid on time and the Banks are readily lent to the AWAKE SHGs.



NABARD AGM of Tuticorin in a meeting with representatives of the SHG members

Awareness to Women of Panchayat Raj system:

The SHG members were motivated to actively participate in the Grama Saba meetings and discuss their local needs. This enabled enhance participation of the women in the Grama Saba meetings.



Women in Gramasaba meeting

2.2 Community Health / Water and Sanitation.

Community Health including Water and Sanitation 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. Families were motivated to construct household toilets by availing loans from the SHGs and by availing the subsidy of the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) of the Government.

- Health awareness on Primary Health care practices given to 350 SHGs covering 3150 women during the year.
- The children in the target villages were give health education and 2360 children participated in the health education classes.
- 164 families had received micro credit for construction of household toilets from Tuticorin Diocesan Association.



A women receives micro credit assistance for toilet construction



Health awareness to SHG members and School Children through cultural programs



Drainage Cleaning work being carried out at Narasanvilai and Melauthoor

2.3 HIV/AIDS / Tuberculosis Prevention:

The Program was aimed at providing awareness to the community on the prevention of HIV/AIDS, Stigma reduction and sensitizing the community to care for the People Living with HIV/AIDS.

Awareness for the SHG members:

1728 women from 195 SHGs were provided awareness on HIV/AIDS (methods of transmission and prevention of transmission) and care for the PLHAs. This was carried out by the cluster coordinators when they visited the villages to monitor the SHG activities.

Awareness for the ANCs:

Cluster Coordinators during the field visits visited the ANCs and provided them health education on the importance of regular medical check up, importance of taking nutritious food, health and hygienic practices and awareness on HIV/AIDS. The Pregnant women were given awareness on the prevention of HIV/AIDS, especially the prevention of transmission from the mother to the children. The pregnant women were encouraged to take test on HIV infection. 340 pregnant women were given awareness during the year.



Health Education to ANCs

Awareness on Tuberculosis:

Awareness on tuberculosis was conducted in 15 places and 270 women participated in the programs. This enabled the women to aware of ways of spreading tuberculosis, treatment process (DOTS) and the vulnerability of HIV people to be affected by Tuberculosis.

Linkage with other Organizations to provide support and care for the PLWHAs:

AWAKE made rapport with an organization called “Calvary Chapel” and arranged availability of supplementary nutritious food items of worth Rs.800/- per month per person for 25 PLWHAs. AWAKE facilitated for five positive children to avail dress materials once in a year.

2.4 Empowerment of Differently Abled persons

AWAKE has been doing community based rehabilitation programs for the differently abled people by networking with local NGOs which exclusively working for the rehabilitation of the differently abled people. The following activities are carried out among the Differently Abled People.

- Counseling and Motivation for the differently abled persons and their care takers
- Awareness to the SHG members on the causes of disability and prevention of genital disability.
- Facilitating the disabled persons to avail Government schemes like ID cards, pension, public transport concessions etc.
- Availing aids and appliances like wheel chairs, tricycles, hearing aids, clutches, calipers etc.
- Organizing differently abled people as Self Help Groups and credit linking them with Banks.

AWAKE had identified 300 differently abled people in the target villages of Sathankulam Union. They had received the following benefits during the year with the facilitation of AWAKE.

- Wheel Chairs – 3 persons
- Hearing Aids – 6 persons
- Tri Cycle – 15 persons

- Callipers and clutches – 7 persons
- Govt. ID cards – 25 persons
- Pension for differently able persons – 25 persons
- SHGs – 3 SHGs formed as special Groups under Mahalir Thittam.

2.5 Alcoholism

AWAKE conducted awareness program on alcoholism and referred alcoholic people to Ministry among Alcoholic people run by Tuticorin Diocesan Association. It conducts awareness programs in the villages in the ill effects of alcoholism, treatment process for alcoholic people. Three Awareness programs were conducted covering 95 people from three villages. 30 persons were referred for alcoholic treatment held at Elangulam for 10 days. The 30 persons were encouraged to attend the AA meetings and the Group therapy meetings every month.

2.6 Residential School program for the School Dropouts:

AWAKE took efforts to organize the school drop out children in Vilathikulam and Puthur union in Thoothikudi District. With the support of SSA, it conducted a Residential School Program for 45 school drop out Children. They were capacitated and joined with the normal school at the end of the year.

Association for Women's Awareness, Knowledge and Education (AWAKE) has been developing its activities to cover more people who are in need of support on different aspects. AWAKE was able to add two new programs during the year, namely the program for the differently abled people and the programs for the School Drop outs. AWAKE joins with the target people to thank TNCDW, SSA, all banks in the target area and all other benefactors for extending their support for the empowerment of the people in the AWAKE target area.

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