

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

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2011 - '12

Office Address

**9A, Koller Mudukku Street,
Sathankulam,
Tuticorin District - 628 704.
Tamilnadu, South India
Phone: 04639 266677
Mobile Phone: 94433 08315
Email Id: stephen.tuty@gmail.com
awake.stkm@gmail.com**

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2. Address of the Director

I am happy to present this Annual Report of Association for Women's Awareness, Knowledge and Education (AWAKE) for the year 2011 – '12. I have been the Director cum Secretary of this Organisation since 1st October, 2011. I convey my heartfelt thanks to Mr. I. Balakrishnan who lead this organization successfully and making cheers in many lives of families since its inception during the year 2000.

The Organization has been injected with new Board Members who are young and energetic and has been in the field of Social Change and Development for many years. While I thank the outgoing Board members for their contributions to this organization, I welcome the new Board members to bring forth the good work of the Organization to the next level.

We concentrated on the following sectors of Community Development during the reporting year. They are

- i. Women Empowerment
- ii. Economic Development
- iii. Water and Sanitation
- iv. Community Based Rehabilitation for Differently Abled.
- v. HIV/AIDs and TB Eradication.

Hundreds of families had been benefitted by these programmes. I thank the Tamilnadu Women Development Corporation and the Block Development Offices in Sathankulam, Tiruchendur, Alwarthirunagari and the Udangudi Union and the local Banks for their extensive support to carry out the Women Empowerment and the Economic Development Activities for the target community. With the limited source of funds in hands, the Board Members and the Staff Team happily involved in carrying out awareness on Water and Sanitation, Care and support for the Differently abled and the People Living with HIV/AIDS.

I thank all the stake holders including the target community for their support cooperation during the reporting period. I assure that AWAKE shall continue to carry out the good work for the needy and the marginalized people in the society in the coming years with new vigour and enthusiasm.

P. Stephen

AWAKE - Director / Secretary.

3. Abbreviations Used

AIDS – Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome

ANC – Ante Natal Care

A & R Training – Animator and Representative Training

AWAKE – Association for Women’s Awareness, Knowledge and Education

CBR – Community Based Rehabilitation

HIV – Human Immuno Virus

PNC – Post Natal Care

PLWHA – People Living with HIV/AIDS

SHG – Self Help Group

TB – Tuberculosis

TSC – Total Sanitation Campaign

4. About the Organization

AWAKE is a registered non-profit organization working in the backward rural areas of Thoothukudi District. It serves 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. 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.

4.1 Vision Statement

A society where the families live with dignity and enjoy fullness of life.

4.2 Mission Statement:

Work with the poor, needy and the oppressed for transformation of their lives.

4.3 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.

4.4 Target Area:

AWAKE had been working in the following four Blocks in Tuticorin District during the reporting period.

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

5. Activities of the Organization

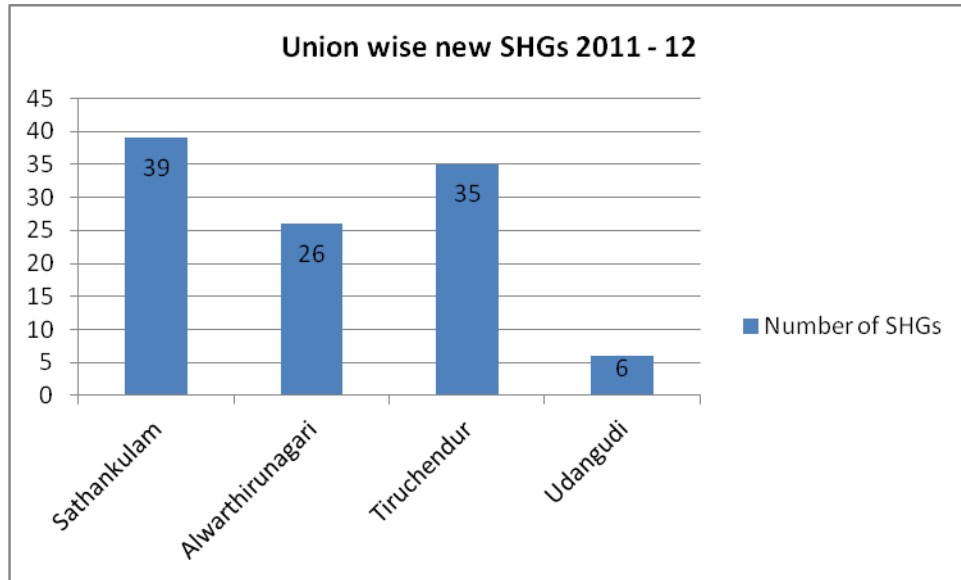
AWAKE had organized the women into self help groups, federated the SHGs at the Panchayat Level, educated them on various welfare schemes of the Govt., and credit linked the SHGs with the Banks for Economic Development. The members of the Self Help Groups were sensitised on Water and sanitation. The target community were sensitized on the causes of genital and non genital *Handicapness*. There were also programmes on awareness on HIV/AIDS and care and support for the People Living with HIV/AIDS.

5.1 Women Empowerment:

5.1.1 Formation of Self Help Groups:

We had formed 106 new SHGs in our 62 villages during the year. There are 1550 unorganized rural women have been organized in these SHGs. There is an average of 15 members per SHG in overall. The details are given below in the table.

SN	Name of the Block	Number of Panchayats	Number of Villages	Number SHGs	Number of Members	Average Number Of members Per SHG
1.	Sathankulam	11	19	39	532	14
2.	Tiruchendur	9	21	26	374	14
3.	Alwarthirunagari	11	16	35	556	16
4.	Udangudi	4	6	6	88	15
Total		35	62	106	1550	15



Annexure 1 – List of new SHGs formed during the year 1st April, 2011 to 31st March, 2012.

5.1.2 Training of New SHGs

AWAKE had conducted two types of capacity building programmes for the new SHGs. One for the Animators and the Representatives of the SHGs for 6 days on leadership and Book keeping skills and another one for all the members of the SHGs on SHG concepts and leadership skills.

a. Trainings of SHG members:

All the members of 45 new SHGs formed during the year 2011 – '12 were given training on principles and the concepts of SHGs. A total of 681 members were given training. These trainings enabled the member of these 45 SHGs to understand SHG as a means of coming together for empowerment of women and Savings, credit, women entrepreneurship, social awareness etc., as means of women empowerment. The table below shows the number of SHGs and the number of members trained.

SN	Name of Panchayat Union	Number of SHGs	Number of Members
1	Sathankulam	19	274
2	Tiruchendur	25	394
3	Nesam Trust	1	13
	Total	45	681

Annexure 2 – List of SHGs covered under SHG members training.

b. Training of Animators and Representatives (A&R Training):

196 Animators and the Representatives from 98 SHGs were trained on leadership skills, book keeping, Panchayat Level Federation functioning, orientation on women entrepreneurship etc. This training programme enabled these 196 women to lead the 98 SHGs effectively to achieve the objective of women empowerment. The table below shows the number of SHGs and number of members covered under the A & R training during the year 2011 – '12.

SN	Block	A&R Training	
		Number of SHGs	Number of Participants
1	Sathankulam	38	76
2	Tiruchendur	32	64
3	Alwarthirunagari	16	32
4	Udangudi	3	6
5	Nesam Trust	9	18
	Total	98	196

Annexure 3 – List of SHGs covered with A & R training during the year 2011 – '12.

5.1.3 Strengthening of Self Help Groups

AWAKE has a total of 512 SHGs. They had conducted meetings regularly every month. Staff members had attended the SHG meetings; The SHG members had saved a minimum of Rs.100/- per month by every person. All the SHGs had regular transaction with the banks. They lent the savings amount internally among the SHG members.

Field staff attended the SHG meetings and facilitated the SHG meetings and carried out awareness on health and sanitation, care for differently abled people, prevention of TB/HIV/AIDS etc.

5.1.4 Enrolling the SHGs with Panchayat Level Federation

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

5.2 Economic Development and Micro Credit Loans:

AWAKE had linked the SHGs with the Banks and the Cooperative Societies to avail micro credit loans for income generation activities of the SHG members. A total of 192 SHGs had availed Micro Credit Loans from the Banks for a total amount of INR 2,49,13,000/-

The SHGs had utilized the loan amount for the following purposes

- a. Farming work
- b. Cattle rearing
- c. Petty shops, tea stalls etc
- d. Purchase of sewing machines
- e. Motor cycle service shops, and cycle shops,
- f. Education of the children etc.

All the SHGs had repaid the loans as per the schedule of loan repayment agreed with the banks.

5.3 Community Health / Water and Sanitation.

AWAKE carried out Awareness on Community Health and Water and Sanitation to the Community especially to the SHG members and the children. This enabled health seeking behaviour among the target community. The target community practice healthy and hygienic practices like drinking boiled water, washing of hands, keeping the house and the surroundings clean.

5.3.1 Awareness on Community Health / Water and Sanitation:

AWAKE had conducted health awareness rallies and seminars in 14 places during the reporting period and the programmes were attended by 1832 women and children. The participants now aware of health seeking behaviours like eating balanced diet using the locally available food items, keeping personal hygiene, drinking boiled water, the importance of using toilets etc. The **Annexure – 4** gives the details of places where the awareness programmes were conducted.

5.3.2 Construction of household toilets:

AWAKE had facilitated the SHGs in our target villages to construct household toilets by availing the monetary assistance from Tuticorin Diocesan Association and the Total Sanitation Campaign of Tuticorin District. This enabled 70 families to construct household toilets and to avoid open defecation. The SHG members of these 70 families were also given training on maintenance of toilets. This motivated other members in the target villages also to construct household toilets. Annexure – 5 gives the details of persons constructed household toilets during the reporting period.

5.4 Community Based Rehabilitation for differently abled:

Community Based Rehabilitation for the Differently Abled people is one of the program of AWAKE for the past two years. AWAKE had conducted sensitization program for the community, medical camps for the disabled persons, training on Community Based Rehabilitation for the community etc. The details of the programmes are given below.

5.4.1 Awareness Programmes

Awareness programmes on the causes of disability, medical care and physiotherapy available for individuals, aids and equipments like clutches, calibres, tricycle, wheel chair that helps the differently abled persons to move, Govt. welfare schemes available and the importance of Community Care for the differently abled people. The programmes was conducted in 15 places and 273 people attended the programmes. Mrs. P. Aksal was the resource persons for the programmes. The table below shows the places where the awareness programmes were conducted.

SN	Date	Village	Number of Participants	Resource Person
1.	8 th Apr'11	Nedunkulam	15	P. Aksal
2.	9 th Apr'11	Thailapuram	12	P. Aksal
3.	12 th Apr'11	Navamudalur	12	P. Aksal
4.	5 th May'11	Valathur	20	P. Aksal
5.	6 th May'11	Visuvasapuram	30	P. Aksal
6.	7 th May'11	Pothakalanvilai	14	P. Aksal
7.	8 th May'11	Saveriyarpuram	15	P. Aksal
8.	5 th Jun'11	Kadakulam	20	P. Aksal
9.	6 th Jun'11	Kalvilai	15	P. Aksal
10.	3 rd Jul'11	Nedunkulam	14	P. Aksal
11.	13 th Aug'11	Pootchikadu	18	P. Aksal
12.	10 th Sep'11	Notchikulam	15	P. Aksal
13.	9 th Dec'11	Karuvelampadu	15	P. Aksal
14.	14 th Jan'12	Kadatchapuram	20	P. Aksal
15.	11 th Feb'12	Sathankulam	20	P. Aksal
16.	14 th Feb'12	Mudalur	18	P. Aksal
	Total		273	

5.4.2 Medical Camps

Identification of disability at the early stages help control disability and make development in neurological system. AWAKE arranged medical camps in two places in which children aged around 2 years were brought by the parents to identify if the children were ailing by any disability. 60 children attended the camps.

SN	Date	Village	Number of Participants	Resource Person
1.	Apr'11	Sathankulam	35	
2.	May'11	Saveriyarpuram	25	
	Total		60	

5.4.3 CBR Training

It is essential that the community be sensitized on the need for “Community Based Rehabilitation”, in contrary to the “Institutional Based Rehabilitation” The CBR training was conducted in two places in which the parents / caretakers, women from SHGs, etc attended the programmes. The participants were sensitized on the issues of “Institutional based rehabilitation”, how to create friendly environment for the differently abled, Govt. welfare schemes, etc. The following table shows the details of CBR training given to the community.

SN	Date	Village	Number of Participants	Resource Person
1.	Apr'11	Sathankulam	23	P. Aksal
2.	May'11	Mudalur	18	P. Aksal
3.	Jun'11	Pothakalanvilai	32	P. Aksal
4.	Jul'11	Kadakulam	25	P. Aksal
5.	Aug'11	Nedungulam	18	P. Aksal
6.	Oct'11	Notchikulam	28	P. Aksal
7.	Dec'11	Saveriyarpuram	26	P. Aksal
8.	Jan'11	Nazareth	32	P. Aksal
	Total		202	

5.4.4 Tapping Resources from GOs and other NGOs

AWAKE had facilitated the Differently Abled Persons to avail aids and equipments and other Govt. Welfare Schemes

SN	Type of Benefits	Number of Beneficiaries
1.	Pension for Differently Abled	16
2.	Identity Card	21
3.	Train Pass	1
4.	Economic Development Assistance	2
5.	Callipers	10
6.	Wheel Chairs	5
7.	Clutches	18
8.	Tricycle	6

5.5 Prevention of HIV/AIDS and TB:

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

5.5.1 Awareness for the SHG members:

675 women from 65 SHGs were provided awareness on HIV/AIDS (methods of transmission and prevention of transmission) and care for the PLHAs, Prevention of Tuberculosis and the treatment (DOTS) for Tuberculosis. This was carried out by the cluster coordinators when they visited the villages to monitor the SHG activities.

5.5.2 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.

6. Conclusion:

We are happy that thousands of families were given awareness, capacity building programmes, micro credit loans for income generation activities, construction of household toilets and education on health practices leading to health seeking behaviour. These were possible with the enormous support and cooperation from the community, donors, staff team and the Board members of AWAKE. AWAKE likes to extend its operation to Srivaikundam Block also in the coming year starting with organizing of unorganized people into Self Help Groups. AWAKE shall continue its good work further effectively in the coming years with the power of Almighty God and the support of all stake holders.

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