

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

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2012 - '13

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 2012 – '13.

This year we conducted legal awareness camps in networking with Taluk Legal Services Committee, Sathankulam for elders, school and college children in various places. Apart from that we had conducted capacity building programmes for few SHGs and involved in Credit Linkages of SHGs to enable economic empowerment of women. International Women's Day was celebrated at Kachinavilai. It was the time of celebration for the SHG members. We took special efforts to create awareness on Violence against women. Domestic violence is one of the biggest challenge for the women apart from the violence they face out of the house. There were also programmes for the differently abled people in Sathankulam and Udangudi Union.

We had also taken efforts for the economic empowerment of the women. Accessibility and availability of funds for SHG members for Income Generation Programmes still a challenge for the rural women. Banks and few other organizations have come forward to provided micro credit loans to SHGs formed by AWAKE.

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, MBA., M.Com., B.Ed., DMF.,
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:

Srivaikundam, Ottapidaram and Thoothukudi Unions were newly added in this year and thus AWAKE had been working in the following Blocks in Tuticorin District during the reporting period.

- i. Sathankulam
- ii. Udangudi
- iii. Tiruchendur
- iv. Alwarthirunagari
- v. Srivaikundam
- vi. Thoothukudi and
- vii. Ottapidaram

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*.

5.1 Women Empowerment:

5.1.1 Formation of Self Help Groups:

We had formed 15 new SHGs in 12 villages during the year. There are 231 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	1	1	2	25	13
2.	Tiruchendur	2	6	6	99	17
3.	Alwarthirunagari	5	5	7	107	15
Total		8	12	15	231	15

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 75 new SHGs formed during the year 2011 – '12, and 12 – '13 were given training on principles and the concepts of SHGs. A total of 1065 members were given training. These trainings enabled the member of these 75 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	29	391
2	Tiruchendur	13	204
3	Alwarthirunagari	28	394
4.	Udangudi	6	88
Total		75	1077



Training of SHG members

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

41 Animators and the Representatives from 20 SHGs were trained on leadership skills, book keeping, Panchayat Level Federation functioning, orientation on women entrepreneurship etc. This training programme enabled these 42 women to lead the 20 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 2012 – '13.

SN	Block	A&R Training	
		Number of SHGs	Number of Participants
1	Sathankulam	3	6
2	Tiruchendur	6	12
3	Alwarthirunagari	8	18
4	Udangudi	3	6
	Total	20	42



Training of Animators and Representatives held at Sathankulam

5.1.3 Strengthening of Self Help Groups

AWAKE has a total of 582 SHGs and there are 10,582 members. 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 Celebration of International Day for Women:

International Day for women was celebrated by SHGs of AWAKE on 09.03.2013 jointly with the Punitha Mariannai High School at Kachinavilai. Mr. S. Perumal, Project Officer of Mahalir Thittam Tuticorin was the Chief Guest. Mrs. V. Latha Mathivanan, Director of the NGO "Arumbugal" gave special speech on prevention of violence against women. 1500 Women and 500 school children attended the function.

The school children and the SHG women performed cultural programmes. There was an awareness rally on Violence against Women starting from Kachinavilai Bus Stand to Neilvilai and finished the rally at Punitha Mariannai High School, Kachinavilai which was the venue of the celebration. Mr. Kingston, the Panchayat President of Kachnavilai Panchayat inaugurated the Rally.



Women's Day Celebration



Cultural programmes of SHG members on the celebration



Awareness Rally on Violence against Women.

5.1.5 Enrolling the SHGs with Federations

AWAKE has federated the women under two federations last year. The SHGs formed by AWAME in Sathankulam, Udangudi, Tiruchendur, Alwarthirunagari and Srivaikundam Blocks were organized under the federation called "Arunothayam". The SHGs at Tuticorin and Ottapidaram Blocks are organized under a federation called "Amuthasurabi". The SHGs contributed their Entrance fee, Subscription etc. The Amuthasurabi federation has been function more effectively.

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 63 SHGs had availed Micro Credit Loans from the Banks for a total amount of INR 1,60,80,000/-

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.



Loan for Income Generation distributed to Star SHG at Mudalur

5.3 Legal Awareness Programmes:

With the support of Sathankulam Taluk Legal Aid Committee, AWAKE had conducted legal awareness programmes for community people and the students of Schools and colleges. This enabled enhanced knowledge on various laws of our country and availing Govt. Welfare Schemes.

5.3.1 Training of Para Legal Volunteers:

AWAKE helped the Sathankulam Taluk Legal Aid Committee to identify 50 Para Legal Volunteers and to provide them training on Indian laws, Govt. Welfare Schemes etc. The first training of the Para Legal Volunteers was held on 09.10.12 at Court Premises, Sathankulam. Mr. Pasumpon Shanmugaiya – President Sathankulam Legal Aid Committee and a team of Lawyers conducted the training programme. A total of 38 Volunteers attended the training programme.

5.3.2 Legal Awareness Camps for Community

AWAKE conducted legal awareness camps for the community people on three times during the year at Sathankulam. During the camp the Judges and a team of lawyers gave legal awareness. Petitions for legal problems and availing Govt. Welfare Schemes were received by the President of the Taluk Legal Committee and were forwarded to the concerned Govt. Departments. The details of the programmes have been given below.

SN	Date	Event	Place	Number of participants	Chief Guests / Resource Persons
1.	15.11.12	Legal Awareness on the eve of Senior Citizen's Day	Sathankulam	78	Mr. Shanmugaiya Pandian – President Legal Aid Committee and a team of Lawyers
2.	17.01.13	Legal Awareness for Differently Abled Persons	Sathankulam	75	Mr. Karunakaran – Secretary Legal Aid Committee, Mr. Shanmugaiya Pandian – President Legal Aid Committee and a Team of Lawyers
3.	21.03.13	Legal Awareness on the eve of Women's Day	Sathankulam	150	Mr. Karunanithi – Secretary, Tuticorin District Legal Aid Commission, Mr. Shanmugaiya Pandian – President, Sathankulam Taluk Legal Aid Committee and a Team of Lawyers



Participants of legal awareness camp



Winners of quiz competition on laws to protect women from violence were given prizes.



President of Sathankulam Taluk Legal Services committee addresses the participants

5.3.3 Legal Awareness for Students

Legal Awareness camps were conducted for the School and College Students in four places during the years. This enabled legal awareness among the students and formation of Legal Aid Clubs in the respective School / Colleges.

SN	Date	Name of the Schools / Colleges	Number of participants	Chief Guests / Resource Persons
1.	16.10.12	Mariamman High School, Sathankulam	150	Mr. Shanmugaiya Pandian – President Legal Aid Committee and a team of Lawyers, and the School Secretary
2.	08.01.13	St. Joseph Girls Higher Secondary School, Sathankulam	250	Mr. Shanmugaiya Pandian – President Legal Aid Committee and a team of Lawyers, and the Correspondent of the School
3.	22.01.13	Sri Sankara Bhagavathi Arts and Science College, Kommadikottai	150	Mr. Prabudoss, Tuticorin District Chief Judge and President of District Legal Aid Commission, Miss. Pitchammal – District Judge, Mr. Karunanithi, Secretary District Legal Aid Commission, Mr. Shanmugaiya Pandian – President Legal Aid Committee, Miss. Raihna Parveen, Judge, Mr. Ananda T. Amirtham Correspondent cum Secretary of the College and a Team of Lawyers and the Secretary of the College
3.	14.02.13	Sri Sankara Bhagvathi Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kommadikottai	150	Mr. Karunakaran – Secretary Legal Aid Committee, Mr. Shanmugaiya Pandian – President Legal Aid Committee and a Team of Lawyers and the Secretary of the School.



Legal Awareness camp at St. Joseph Girls Higher Secondary School, Sathankulam

5.4 Celebration of Senior Citizen Day

The day for senior citizens was celebrated on 15.11.12 at Sathankulam together with Sahtnkulam Taluk Legal Aid Committee. Mr. Pasumpon Shanmugaiyah, President of the Legal Aid Committee was the Chief Guest. 78 elderly people and the SHG members attended the program. The participants were given awareness on Socio Economic and legal remedies for senior citizens.



Participants of Senior Citizens

5.5 Celebration of National Girl Children Day

“National Girl Children Day” was observed at “Punitha Mariannai High School at Kachnavilai on 24.01.2013, by 4.00 PM. Around 150 girl children, 50 women from the SHGs and the teachers attended the function. Rev. Sis. Irudaya Therese, the Headmistress presided over the function in the presence of Mrs. Chandra – Treasurer, AWAKE and Mrs. Radha Saraswathy – Coordinator, AWAKE. Sis. Irudaya Therese and Mrs. Chandra spoke about the pride of being girl children, how best they can contribute to the society and how they can protect themselves from the evils of society. After that the participants took the oath as given by Mathi. National Anthem was sung at the end of the function.

188 people have been screened for eye problems and treatment. 300 people attended the legal awareness programme conducted. Those people who needed follow up treatment were asked to visit Agarwal Eye Hospital with the prescription sheet given during the camp.



Legal Awareness cum Eye Camp



Eye Check up for a participant of the camp

5.7 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.

5.7.1 Celebration of Day for Disabled Persons

The day for the Differently Abled persons was conducted on 17.01.13 at Annai Theresa Community Hall at Sathankulam. Mr. TV. Mani, Sub Judge and Secretary of District legal Services Authority, Mr. Pasumpon Shanmugaiah, President of Sathankulam Taluk legal Services Committee were the chief guests. The participants were provided legal awareness. The judge also received applications from 20 persons for getting National ID card and applications from another 32 persons for availing Bus/Train concession pass. A total of 75 differently abled people in Sathankulam Union attended the programme.



Vice President of AWAKE Mrs. Aksal presenting the petitions of the differently abled persons to the Judge.

5.7.2 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 11 places and 188 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.

5.7.3 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. 150 people attended in programmes conducted in 5 places.

5.8 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.

5.8.1 Awareness for the SHG members:

788 women from 78 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.

5.8.2 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.

5.9 Monitoring and Evaluation:

5.9.1 Staff Meeting

Programme Review cum staff capacity building programmes were conducted once in a month at AWAKE office. Activities of previous month were reviewed and activities for the coming month were planned during the meeting. Director / Secretary conducted the staff meetings. Need based training programmes were also conducted during the staff meeting.



Mrs. Chandra, Treasures of AWAKE conducts a training programme for the staff members

6. Conclusion:

We are happy that thousands of families were given awareness, capacity building programmes, micro credit loans for income generation activities. 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 Tuticorin and Ottapidaram Blocks 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.