

HUMAN EDUCATION AND ACTION FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

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APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018



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(HEAL MOVEMENT)

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Introduction

Human Education and Action for Liberation Movement abbreviated as HEAL Movement where **Human** refers to its commitment to the right to life and livelihood of the downtrodden communities like Dalit, women, children, alternatively skilled people who have been suffering from social exclusion and economic marginalization for centuries.

HEAL focused on **Education** of the community by sensitizing them on the origin of caste system, religious institutions, their role in social exclusion and economic marginalization of their community. We felt that a community can be empowered only through education. This sensitization, HEAL believed, would enable them to reject these doctrines of exclusion and bondage and assert their right to equality and dignity that would ensure their **Liberation**.

The liberation entails collective **Action** by the people. Therefore, HEAL imparted appropriate awareness education that would eventually lead them to understand their livelihood rights and act on strengthening their social capital - **Movement** - through grass root level organizing.

The name HEAL reflects this line of thinking in its goal, strategies and in the programs implemented. HEAL Movement was registered in the year 1986.

Child Development

Children Activity Centres

HEAL started 14 Children Activity Centers (CACs) benefiting 360 children during the reporting period in addition to 32 CACs existing and thus benefiting 1200 children with the help of community teachers. These CACs promote child rights, ecology and school education.

CACs continue to provide supplementary educational support to the children during evening tuition hours. Since they hail from poor families and do not have adequate learning facilities, the CACs are a blessing to them. They get awareness education on environment and personal hygiene apart from supplementary education.

They get psycho social therapies including elements of play and creative activities to promote expression and self-confidence. Moreover, they get awareness regarding child rights especially their right to a healthy environment and ecology. CACs have variety of activities and it is categorized into daily, weekly, monthly and special activities. CACs are covered under the Child Protection Policy adopted by the implementing organization.

Child Activity Centers (CACs) have Child Protection Committee, Parents' Association and Children's Associations which are functioning well. Birthdays of the members are celebrated in the Center with planting a sapling to commemorate the child. Education programs are going on based on the syllabus.

Eco Clubs for Children

3,120 children form 12 new Eco-Clubs in schools are active in ecological matters. In addition, 2,588 newly enrolled school children joined the 30 already existing Eco-Clubs and continue their work. It also included preservation and maintenance of already constructed rainwater utilization systems and ecological school gardens. Like this, 5,708 children benefitted from the 42 Eco-Clubs altogether. Tree planting activities and the preservation of already planted trees are continued or introduced and close the gap regarding the consolidation of the results from the already existing project.

Eco Club children are routinely sensitized on systematic implementation of the project activities such as tree planting, school garden, utility of rain water from rain water harvesting system, organizing the Eco Clubs on International days for protecting nature, ecology, climate change and conservation of inter-generational ecological and bio diversity resources.

Ecological orientation on the importance of Sand dunes, mangrove forests and bio diversity has been provided by the resource persons. The need for protection of

environment and conservation of ecological resources, disaster management, and solid waste management, songs on child rights and ecological rights and games are taught to them by resource persons. They are provided orientation on Ecology and Child rights with special focus on water, land and air pollution.

Environment Education at Schools

15 schools participated in the environment education measures. A total of 2,364 children from 15 schools were trained on ecological education. The children, who experienced the school environment education are active members of the Eco-Clubs and participate directly in the tree planting activities, ecological school garden maintenance and other environment related activities. They act as Peer-Group and convey to their immediate vicinity about ecological conduct.

Ecological Education has improved the knowledge of the children thematically and it is shaping up their commitments to engage in conservation of ecology. Therefore, the importance of Ecological Education is highlighted by the Education Department Officials and Teachers at various levels. This is to enhance the scope of covering more coastal schools and the Governmental support to include Ecological Education in the curriculum.

8 children from Government Middle School, Mela Krishnan Puthoor participated in Science Exhibition held at range level with products to expose the benefits Palmyra produces.

Ecological School gardens

In 14 targeted schools, ecological school gardens were created. They serve as practical supplement for the theoretical classes. Through them the children learnt methods on how to eat healthy with simple means without the application of chemical fertilizer and pesticides and carry this knowledge into their communities and families.

In the gardens the members of the Eco-Clubs gathered their practical experiences and all activities were linked with numerous other project measures like sustainable waste disposal, restoration of wells and ponds, rainwater utilization systems, ecological farms, mangrove forests and nature trail.

The Eco Club members in the 16 schools are very much impressed by the results of the school garden and hence they are totally involved in maintaining the gardens. Moreover, they have sensitized their parents to replicate them in their households. They understand now the harmful effects of chemical based vegetables, cereals, pulses and fruits and are advocates of organic farming. Children have prepared the school garden for next seasonal harvesting thus sustained these efforts with much interest.

Child Protection

Children and Child Protection

HEAL formed and strengthened 12 Children's Clubs based on Child Rights Convention (CRC) level activities for the empowerment of children. These Children's Clubs used to meet every weekend and discuss problems that affect their lives. They involved in CRC level activities related to Child Protection. They also met periodically to review and reflect and took follow-up planning to strengthen their Clubs.

Youth and Child Protection

HEAL formed and strengthened 8 Youth Clubs to initiate and lead child rights and protection programs in villages where Children's Clubs functioned. These Youth Clubs undertook programs leading around and 0m child protection issues.

Parents and Child Protection

HEAL organised Orientation Programs to parents of young children on safety and security. The program highlighted the importance of child rights and child protection issues among parents. The staff members of HEAL motivated parents to take active part in the Parents and Teachers Associations (PTAs) held at school levels.

Community and Child Protection

HEAL organised awareness campaigns on child protection and related issues in its target villages. These campaign events held at village level identified child protection issues. HEAL also organised community based legal awareness camps for the general public about child protection and laws related to children. It tied up with District legal aid board.

Child Protection Committees and Child Protection

HEAL conducted training programs to Child Protection Committee (CPC) members on various child protection issues and discrimination and protection mechanism and liaised with available systems to address the issues. HEAL organised Playback Theatre on child protection for awareness among committee members. The CPCs met monthly and reviewed their activities. HEAL also participated in Network meetings with child protection units. It celebrated Child Protection Day with children and key stakeholders.

School Management Committees (SMCs) and Child Protection

HEAL conducted training programs to SMC members on various child issues, corporal punishments and discriminations. It worked with various protection mechanisms and liaison with available system to address such issues. It has undertaken school risk/vulnerability assessments and analysis with the participation of children, teachers, SMC members and school authorities.

Support to Children in need

HEAL provided nutrition support for 20 enrolled children at brink. It has also provided emergency support to enrolled children

Disaster Preparedness

HEAL organised involved in the preparation of school safety plan and its updating. In the process of Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Preparedness, HEAL formed of Disaster Response Task Forces at school levels. It organised capacity building programs for these school level disaster response task forces, it provided safety measure kits to 20 schools

Child Protection Policy

Since HEAL played an active role in preparing the Child Protection Policy for Tamil Nadu, as the Co-Convener of Tamil Nadu Child Rights Protection Network, we were invited to be a Draft Committee Member to prepare the Education Policy of Kottar Diocese for the 52 Diocesan Schools of Kottar Diocese, Kanyakumari District. We have made use of this opportunity to influence other Draft Committee Members to have a Child Protection Policy for all their schools. The child protection policy is being

implemented in these schools. On behalf of Tamil Nadu Child Rights Protection Network, we played an active role to draft Model Child Protection Policy for Schools and submitted to the Secretary, Department of School Education of Government of Tamil Nadu for enforcing in all schools of Tamil Nadu. It is under the consideration of Government of Tamil Nadu.

Youth Empowerment

As part of the Youth Empowerment process, HEAL organised "Eco-Youth" in its target villages. It organised sensitization/session and knowledge test with enrolled adolescents and youth on reproductive health education at community level

Training for Youth

HEAL conducted Life Skills education training to 180 adolescents. As part of equipping youth skills, it organised training on Spoken English to empower them with communication skills.

Eco Youth

Eco youth activities are planned, in order to sustainably strengthen the activities of the project and active participation of the population in the implementation process. Eco Youths are formed at cluster level for the protection of natural resources and disaster prevention.

It is carried out for their involvement in the project activities such as protection of water sources, sand dunes, and sustainable re-naturalization of mangrove forests, river deltas, ecologically friendly agriculture and solid waste management.

State level training of Eco Youth has covered topics such as the rights of the Indian Citizen in conservation of ecology and nature as enshrined in our Constitution both rights guaranteed such as social, economic and environmental justice and the duties as per the fundamental directives.

Resource persons have taught them about rights and duties as an enabled citizen as they become adult at the age of 18 years. Issues related to water, air and land pollution as a result of unsustainable development and aggravated use of natural resources

beyond the need of people were discussed. Concepts informed to them through State, District and Cluster level has led to attitudinal change among them.

Eco Youth continued learning on ecological rights and exposure to the practical activities ranging from tree planting, restoration of sand dunes, and water resources at local level, and gained cultural skills for exhibiting their ideas on protection of air, water and land resources are the most important outcomes of the activities related to Eco youth. They are also involved in the campaign against child labour, child protection and rights. They have actively engaged in growing Mangrove saplings and newly planting about 500 saplings in Manakudy Estuary

Youth Clubs and Solid waste Management

HEAL organised a training program for youth on Environment and Green Audit. Consequently, it conducted Environment and Green audit in government schools involving the trained youths. It paved the way for clean and green villages with the help of youth force in the villages.

Welfare of Youth

HEAL facilitated youth to access government schemes to avail the benefits. It arranged meetings with bank officials for availing loan facility under various government schemes. There were meetings with DIC/TIC and NABARD officials for obtaining finding subsidies. HEAL conducted awareness to youth on available welfare schemes and the procedures to avail benefit from the schemes.

Sports for Youth

HEAL organised various sports competitions for youth in the villages. It reallocated its resources for such sports competitions. Moreover, HEAL organised different competitions in village and district levels for youth.

Women Empowerment

At present we have 150 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with a membership of 5,659 spread over 00 villages in and around Tisayanvilai in Tirunelveli district and 14 villages in Kanyakumari district. These women groups have brought forth the most visible

impacts of all activities. The women see the success of joint activities and have now more and more courage and strength to fight against discrimination.

Training workshops for women on income, nutrition and health

During the reporting period HEAL conducted 34 training workshops benefiting 1107 women on income, nutrition and health. They gained knowledge on health, causes of malnutrition, hygiene, mother health, reproductive health and low cost indigenous medicines.

We sensitized women group members on the proactive role of savings that would enable them to avail bank loans to improve their livelihoods. We organised training programs to impart them with skills to access general and specific government welfare schemes and benefits including subsidies available for fishermen and other community members. They acquired leadership skills, communication skills, community action planning and team building.

More women from the SHGs came forward to initiate kitchen gardens in the backyards of their households. The women who received training on health issues are now giving more attention to nutrition deficiencies of children, choices of food consumption and cooking processes. There is a positive shift in the mind-set of the women towards hygiene and nutrition. They are now aware of the collective action to address their social needs and problems.

Social Welfare Benefits:

We facilitated 1,159 families to gain direct support related to social welfare measures of Government during the reporting period. They have obtained welfare benefits and certificates for eligibility for schemes through our intervention. With the support of project activities, desperate old age people from the project area received old age pension benefits from the Department of Social Welfare. Similarly, widows and physically and visually challenged persons received pension of INR 1000 per month from the department.

Protection of Natural Resources and Sustainable Resource Management

Waste Management

HEAL organised 11 training workshops and trained 443 participants on sustainable waste disposal and implementation of a waste disposal plan as part of its waste management program. It bought equipment for the waste disposal.

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Chinnathurai village was selected for the construction of garbage tank in association with the local governing body. In the beginning, leaders of the 53 Anbians received orientation training on the need for solid waste disposal tanks in addressing health hazards involved in indiscriminate solid waste disposal in the open space. Besides, consultation meetings were held with the stakeholders of the village such as Panchayat and village council members. The garbage tank was dumped with segregated wastes for recycling as bio fertilizers.

HEAL created public awareness among the village community of the Annai Nager on addressing the solid waste problem. Moreover, this attempt is a model program established in Chinnathurai. The local community did not have any alternate solution to address huge piles of solid waste in the open. Hence we created this model. The success of the program have replication effect upon other villages too. This is an important first step towards the wider level solid waste management movement in all the coastal villages.

Workshops for a safe environment and sustainable agriculture

HEAL conducted a workshop on environment friendly agriculture practices in Elanthavilai. Two experts outside HEAL and three HEAL members conducted the training for 57 farmers. The training focused on plant/tree specific water requirements, the positive impact of bio fertilizers and bio pesticides on environment and cost of cultivation, minimizing the community health hazards involved in chemical based fertilizers and pesticides and protecting the sustainability of the soil through the above eco-friendly measures are conducted for farmers for preparing the same in their own farmlands. 57 farmers have received first-hand experience through practical demonstration of making organic manures and pesticides

Establishment of ecological model farms

One Biological model farm (ecological model farm) was established by HEAL at Ilandhavilai. 12 farmers were selected to work as farmers group of each of the ecological model farm. Totally 12 farmers were involved in each ecological model farm. These farms were used for training in recycling biological wastes and projected as food security model for coastal communities to engage in learning solid waste management and food security as practical models.

The outcome from the ecological model farm is very much encouraging. It impacted the marginal farmers and families involved in kitchen gardening to get a clear idea about what eco-friendly farming practices are.

Youth from Youth Clubs visited the Model Farm and received training in preparing manure and pesticides. 47 Youth from Scott Christian College participated. Also three training programs on Safe Environment and Sustainable Agriculture were conducted in the farm.

Maintenance of Nature Trail

The established Nature Trail is situated centrally to the target communities and therewith easily reachable for the whole target group. The trail is situated in proximity to the mangrove forests in the Manakudy River Delta. The mangrove forests have been rejuvenated in the first phase of the project and extended with 10,000 new plants of mangrove seedlings. School children, young people, students as well as the broad public expand their knowledge regarding the preservation of natural resources by visiting the trail. The Nature Trail is also used for excursions of the Eco-Clubs as well as for demonstration purpose at seminars.

The restoration work first focused on clearing the solid waste found in the area. Mangrove species and the conserved marine species are a show case of what is available in this nature trail. It is now used by research students and eco club children in understanding the marine eco system. External visitors who have not seen this category of mangrove forests with this particular variety of Rhizophora and Avicenia plants are excited to know about the importance of this rich bio diversity resource.

The Eco Park created an impact among the district administration and govt. fisheries department has recommended to the State Government to make it a tourism centre and the Hon. Chief Minister has announced INR 100 million to develop tourism. Out of INR 100 million, INR 45 million is already allocated through a notification. The District Administration is planning to form a committee; the Director of HEAL was invited to be part of the committee as a member and asked to provide inputs on what are the necessary components of Eco Park within the broader ambit of sustainable tourism.

HEAL also involved in the restoration of village ponds, restoration of wells in the villages, and rainwater utilisation systems

Skills Training

HEAL organised skills training for youth on Sari designing and Handicraft to 25 youths, cell phone mechanism to 15 youths and Beautician course for 10 youths.

Consumer Awareness Programs

In our effort to educate the consumers about their rights, HEAL took this initiative during the reporting period. The market was constantly being flooded with new products and services, making it difficult for consumers to choose the right products. Consumer awareness campaigns enabled people to ask questions, to learn the specifics of a product or service. These campaigns helped rural masses to compare products and services from different sellers and acquired more information. They helped them to have the freedom to choose what best suited consumer needs without harming the consumers. Consumers are now aware of their rights.

Consumers were no more accepting the substandard quality products, poor service, billing errors, late deliveries and unordered merchandise. Consumers were aware of their right to speak up and voice their dissatisfaction. In case of unresolved problems with the seller, they sought recourse from state and local consumer protection forums. Companies and retail shops could not take advantage of their ignorance or reluctance to ask questions about the product or to take action in case of defect/deficiency in the goods or the services.

During the reporting period, HEAL asked people to raise their voices against such malpractices and asked for the right value of their money. HEAL has been spreading the message on consumer awareness and rights of the consumers in its target villages. Financial literacy campaign gave us an opportunity to talk to people in more than 20 villages and made them aware of misleading offers, especially in investments and chit funds

Monitoring

Activities of each organization and work plan of each organization were tabled, discussed and reviewed in Core Action Group meetings moderated by Mr. P.E. Reji, Deputy Regional Coordinator and Ms. Cynthia Xavier of terre des hommes, South Asia and Southern Office respectively conducted financial review meetings with the guidelines of BMZ for 3 organizations separately.

Mr. Y.Siluvai Vasthian, Mr. A. Aloysius and Mr. S.M. Prithiviraj representing 3 implementing organizations HEAL, LIFT and CARE T provided the inputs based on the activities. Participants of Core Action Group have provided valuable inputs on the project implementation, expected outcomes and impact of the project.

Regular monitoring of the programs and activities were conducted at field and office level. Regular monitoring of the programs and activities enabled the staff to improve their capacities to identify shortcomings if any, during project implementation. Effective monitoring identified gaps and strategies required.

Core Action Group meetings and monitoring visits had overseen, coordinated the implementation holistically to achieve good results as per the overreaching objective, overall goal and 4 sub Goals of the continuing phase of the project.

The recommendations of the Evaluation team contributed to push the agenda and activities forward and to next stage with renewed strategies and innovative approaches.

Monthly review meeting

HEAL conducted monthly review of the activities implemented by the respective organizations with the staffs during this reporting period. All the staff members participated in the staff review meetings. Monthly work plan was developed and implemented. Core Action Group was formed in each organization for the implementation of the project. The Directors, key staff and the TdH representative also participated.

Staff Training

At the starting of the project the staff members were trained in a 2-day-Training program. The contents of the trainings were:

- ☐ Protection and preservation of biodiversity of water resources, climate and environment protection and waste disposal
- ☐ Result-based Monitoring/ Rapid Sample Survey²
- ☐ Regenerative Energies (innovations, development status)
- ☐ Ecological Child Rights and activities for schools
- ☐ Inclusion of local ecological, social and economic processes into the planning
- ☐ Network- and Civic Engagement
- ☐ Sustainable Development Goals

Themes of the capacity building training were Child rights, keeping the children safe in children activity centres and public events involving children, Child Protection Policy, Women rights, Women rights and its implementation at workplace and children activity centres where they work, Ecological rights and General, social, economic and environmental rights, conservation of ecology, Solid Waste Management techniques and implementation of solid waste management, developing biological farms, Life skill education, Documentation, Accounts and Evaluation, Sustainable Development Goals and its relevance to the field reality, Child Sexual Abuse and POCSO Act and its implementation, Role of Youth in Sustainable Development

HEAL also organised basic conceptual understanding on VCPC to its Staff members and other relevant capacity building of the Staff on a continuous basis.