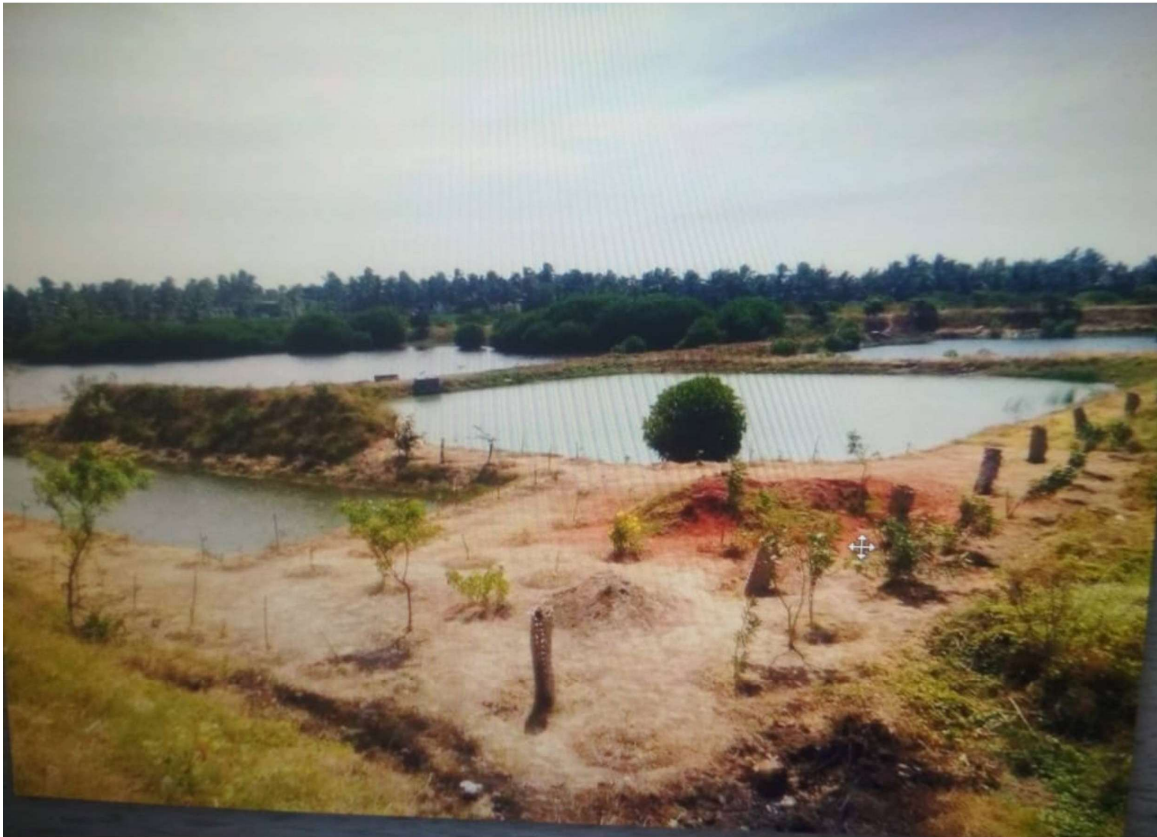




# **HEAL MOVEMENT**



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**APRIL 2018 TO MARCH 2019**

# **HUMAN EDUCATION AND ACTION FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENT**

**(HEAL MOVEMENT)**

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### **Introduction**

Human Education and Action for Liberation Movement [HEAL Movement] founded under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act in 1986, visualizes an egalitarian society based on equality, justice and opportunity to all irrespective of caste, religion and socio economic status. The organization seeks sustainable solutions to long-term problems through an integrated, community-based, participatory approach that reinforces civil society as well as government initiative. Through an array of empowering measures, it works to open opportunities for marginalized poor particularly, children, child labourers, bonded labourers, sea shell collectors/workers, coolies, fisherman, Dalit, disadvantaged people and other people as well as indigent people of whatever occupation irrespective of caste, sex, race or religion.

### **Child Development**

#### **Children Activity Centres**

In each of the new 12 target communities an activity-centre for children was formed. In the new target villages, 12 child activity centres are functioning in spaces owned by the community and private parties. The programme of the centres focuses on the extra-curricular support of the children in their school education.

The centres are preventive measures to reduce the high dropout rate among the school children and to lead them successfully to school completion. This is often not possible because of the poor economic conditions (poverty, needed labour of the children to secure the livelihood of the families) and lacking support from the part of the parents.

The activity centres for children are open daily after the regular school time. Besides personal hygiene, supervision of homework and tuition regarding the subject play and creative activities are also offered to promote forms of expression, self-confidence and the general psycho-social wellbeing of the children.

The children are also sensitised in regard to their child rights, especially the right to a healthy environment. The external evaluation has made clear that the children like to visit the centres; their self-confidence increased through the participation in the activities of the centres and through the supervision their school performance improved according to statements of the children and supervisors.

In this new phase a total of 360 children in 14 new centres are promoted in matters of child rights, ecology and school education. The supervision of the children is taken over by the project working animators. In addition to the (12) new centres, the work with the already existing centres of the first phase of the project is continued and a total of 1.200 children are furthermore supported through community teachers. The psycho-social wellbeing of the children is always paramount in every activity of the centres. In addition guidelines are developed to protect the children from any kind of abuse.

Child protection regulations as they already exist at the implementing Organizations are taken over by the activity-centres. As a monitoring body regarding child protection a Child Protection Committee is set up. Moreover a complaint-box gives the children the opportunity to anonymously bring in any grievances, abuse or harassment or to present improvement suggestions.

From start on already existing parent groups are involved in the maintenance and support of the centres. They are to continue the centres independently after completion of the project. The right of the fisher children to games is revived through regular sport events. Through camps at full moon nights and other recreational activities the children are given an understanding about traditional sports. The children are also provided with sport equipment.

The comprehensive modules of Child Activity Centre – daily activities, weekly, monthly and special activities that carried out in CAC and methodologies / pedagogy adopted in the centre, curriculum covered in the CAC has been translated in English and released on 11 December, 2018 by South Asia Tdh India Advisor Mr George and received by Mrs Ingrid, Regional Coordinator, South Asia Tdh at Kanyakumari in the presence of South Asia Staff team of Tdh.

### **Eco Clubs for Children**

3,120 children from 12 new Eco-Clubs in schools are actively involved in ecological matters. In addition 2,588 newly enrolled school children join the 30 already existing Eco-Clubs and continue their work. The activities of Eco-Clubs include the preservation and maintenance of the 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.

Similar to the already existing clubs, the Eco-Clubs organize the preservation of the rainwater utilization systems and the school gardens in the new target schools. They also plan activities to observe special days like World Water Day, World Forest Day, World Environment Day and Fishery Day.

The Clubs meet once a month except for the examination months. The children organize a total of four events per year like e.g. the Earth Day or events regarding the Global Action Month. For these activities external resource persons were invited additionally. It is planned that according to the experiences from the first phase after completion of the projects the parent-teacher-unions would continue the Eco-Clubs. During the eco club meetings the children bring out the issues concerning their surrounding environment.

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 was 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 were taught to them by resource persons. They were provided orientation on Ecology and Child rights with special focus on water, land and air pollution.

Eco club children actively participated in the eco club events held for protecting nature, ecology, climate change and conservation of inter-generational ecological and bio diversity resources. It spread the message of conservation of ecology and the natural resources for the benefit of all species in the world.

The participation of children who were members of Eco clubs in Schools was ensured in such a way that the knowledge gained by them was reflected in their eco club meetings and activities at their respective schools. The children gained more information, knowledge and internalized the importance of climate change, child protection and biodiversity and changing their conviction and practices to protect ecology.

### **Environment Education in Schools**

Environment education for school children of the intermediate level were integrated according to the previous phase of the project in the new schools directly into the curriculum. The Indian Curriculum contains one hour per week "Moral Instruction". This hour was utilized for environment education measures during the project period.

The workbooks used for environment education in the schools contained overall introduction to ecology, explanations for the proper and considerate handling of water, explanations regarding climate change, handling of waste and demonstration of alternative agricultural cultivation methods.

The environment education targets at one hand the conveyance of theoretical knowledge, and on the other hand to improve the gathered knowledge through practical work, e.g. in the school garden.

15 schools participated in the environment education measures. A total of 2364 children from 15 schools were trained regarding ecological education. The children, who experienced the school environment education in the first phase of the project, were also active members of the Eco-Clubs and participate directly in the tree planting activities, ecological school garden maintenance and other environment related activities. They acted as Peer-Group and convey to their immediate vicinity about ecological conduct.

Ecological Education improved the knowledge of the children thematically and it was shaping up their commitments to engage in conservation of ecology. Therefore, the importance of Ecological Education was highlighted by the Education Department Officials and Teachers at various levels. This was 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 the 14 target schools, ecological school gardens were created. They served 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 fertilizers 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 were very much impressed by the results of the school garden and hence they were totally involved in maintaining the gardens. Moreover, they sensitized their parents to replicate them in their households. They understood now the harmful effects of chemical based vegetables, cereals, pulses and fruits and were advocates of organic farming. Children prepared the school garden for next seasonal harvesting thus sustained these efforts with much interest.

### **Youth Empowerment**

#### **Empowerment of Eco Youth**

To sustainably strengthen the activities of the project, active participation of the population in the implementation is necessary, and also an understanding of the full extent of the environment effects which would build a sound ecological future.

The overriding objective of the Eco-Youth is the protection of the natural resources and disaster prevention. They are also involved in several project activities like protection of water sources and sand dunes, sustainable re-naturalization of mangrove forests and river deltas and ecological cultivation.

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.

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 actively engaged in growing Mangrove saplings and newly planting about 500 saplings in Manakudy Estuary.

### **Women Empowerment**

As can be understood in April 2015 prepared interim evaluation the organisation of marginalised women in Self Help Groups (till date 5.659 women in 150 self-help groups) has 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 back against discrimination.

They have a new social status and a recognition they did not have before. To consolidate this activity and to let benefit further, we organised and sensitised women from the organisation in Self Help Groups (SHGs). These women have mostly a poor education background, became impoverished and carry the burden to provide solely for the support of their families.

In the newly added 12 communities 18 new SHGs with an average number of members of 36 women become active. Altogether 2.100 women participate in workshops and acquire the skills regarding the generation of income and nutritious diet and health. This contributes to a holistic development of the families to counteract the current poverty situation step by step. In addition, the SHGs formed a loose alliance with the goal to form these sustainably and continuously.

These were accompanied by the community workers, animators and ecological trainers and were oriented at the experiences which already made in the first phase of the project. The topics treated in the workshops were as follows: Organisation and linking to government support like widow pension, pension and social benefits, business basics like simple bookkeeping, banking, nutrition and health risks; exertion of influence on communal level; connection between untreated garbage and the occurrence of health problems.

To provide the new target communities with direct income support, 396 fishmongers who were selected on the basis of the poverty situation, were equipped with aluminium containers and cooling boxes (40 kg fish capacity). The aluminium containers had the advantage to traditional baskets made from coconut fibre or leaves that they were clearly more stable and because of easier cleaning contribute to increased hygiene.

The possibility of storage of the fish for sale in cooling boxes contributes to an increase in quality through the durable freshness and makes it possible for the women to dry remaining fish and to sell it only the following day. Like this loss because of rotten fish is greatly reduced. The women used ice as cooling agent.

Because of the precarious economic situation of the women it was not possible for them to do such investments themselves. This onetime support, increased through the support of the SHGs make it possible for them to handle such expenditures themselves in future.

### **Workshops for women SHGs**

During the reporting period HEAL has conducted 34 training workshops. Totally, 1107 women received trainings on income, nutrition and health throughout the project



period. They gained knowledge on health, causes of malnutrition, hygiene, mother health, reproductive health and low cost indigenous medicines.

They were sensitized of the proactive role of savings that would enable them to avail bank loans to improve their further livelihood needs. Another important feature of the training was that they received skills to access general, specific government welfare schemes and benefits including subsidies available for fishermen community. They are learning acquiring leadership skills, communication skills, learning community action planning and team building.

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

## **Environment and Ecology**

### **Maintenance of Nature Trail**

The established Nature Trail is situated centrally to the target communities and therewith easily reachable for the whole target group. 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 trail is situated in proximity to the mangrove forests in the Manakudy River Delta. The mangrove forests were rejuvenated in the first phase of the project and extended with 10.000 new plants of mangrove seedlings. Since the positive impact of the mangrove forest developed and could be measured only in the long run, a steady continuation of the measures and activities of the first phase in regard to the mangrove forests and the Nature Trail is necessary (rejuvenation of the cultivations, repair work etc.).

The outcome of the nature trail is visible as it has mini model sand dune covered with vegetation, corals and shells inside the pond, ornamental plants and Rhizophora plants that are planted inside the nature trail as a model. The nature trail stands as a testimony on the need for the conservation of the marine eco system and it is serving as a practical learning natural laboratory for ecological students, eco club members and science students. Nature trail is established in which the ecological balance and the benefit of the people of an intact environment is demonstrated.

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 10 crores to develop tourism. Out of Rs. 10 crores, Rs.4.50 crores has been allocated through notification. The District Administration is going 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 already submitted a project proposal to the Tourism Department, Government of India, for the development of Eco tourism in Manakudy Estuary, and the Central Government has sanctioned Rs 3 crores and 27 lakhs for the project. Now the preparatory works were started through the Local Government-Panchayat Union. In this regard, Director HEAL asked District Collector, to ensure local community participation in tourism project functioning to ensure sustainable tourism and as a response to this appeal, the Collector has agreed to consider this and engage local community.

To make eco-tourism sustainable, there is the need to ensure green vegetation of Mangroves and rich fishery resources and to ensure sustainable growth of Mangroves and fishery resources in Estuary, brackish waters should be free from current pollution of mixing liquid and solid waste that dumped in to waters.

Hence water pollution caused due to the mixing of effluents generated in source areas of Municipality of Nagercoil should be stopped forthwith. HEAL has understood this intrinsic linkages and done campaign and propaganda actions among cross-sections of people-in collaboration with Department of Field Publicity, Ministry of Broadcasting

and Communications Government of India and Nagercoil Municipality in Nagercoil Town and its surroundings widely to prevent indiscriminate dumping of waste in River Pazhayar.

With this objective, we have conducted 8 programmes and reached 5600 people including general citizens, youth, Eco Youth Club Members and Government officials.

### **Solid Waste Management**

A sustainable waste disposal system was implemented in the 42 village communities. In addition the dialogue with relevant (trans) regional departments was sought, like the Panchayat Raj (decentralized village autonomy) and the Ministry for Rural Development. The latter is also responsible for resource protection, poverty reduction and improvement of the livelihood of the rural population. A total of 2.100 persons from the 42 target communities will be selected for trainings and implementation of the 30 waste recycling plants on the area of the villages. Committees for waste disposal will be formed and on cluster-level form an alliance. They will receive trainings regarding solid waste- and general waste disposal and minimization on community level.

The formed peer groups mobilise jointly with the staff of the implementing Organisations and the inhabitants of the communities and motivate them to participate in the activities for a sustainable waste disposal. The trainings will take place in 60 workshops (one workshop for 35 persons). The topics of the workshops are: Sensitisation regarding plastic waste, separation of solid matter and non-recycling waste, recycling of the organic solid matter waste to fertilizer, effects of waste on the water bodies, relation between waste disposed into the ocean and the reduction of maritime resources, burning of waste and their effect on air pollution and the climate, reduction of garbage in daily life, connection between garbage, diseases and health problems among children and adults.

Through the trainings of the Peer-Groups and their mobilization, awareness regarding sustainable waste disposal will be generated and participation on the part of the villagers will be achieved. An overall waste disposal on village level is the key to get a grip on the environment related through solid waste created health problems. A total of 30 waste processing plants, comprising of two separate waste tanks for degradable

waste and non-degradable materials/plastic were set up. The tanks are about 3 m long, approx. 1 m broad and 1½ m high. The filling capacity of each tank is about 5.600 Liter. Area for the construction of the models will be provided as contribution to the project by the village community. Disposal-Collectives from the villages are responsible for the separation and proper disposal into the provided tanks. Then from processing the organic disposal, derived biological fertilizer will be provided to the ecological model farms and nearby coconut and palm groves. Trained persons maintain the garbage tanks and accompany the transport of the bio fertilizer.

We are able to notice decrease in the solid waste disposal in the open spaces in the village as more and more people are coming forward to dispose solid waste into the tanks.

Chinnathurai village which has 1752 households and a population of 7034 the process of collecting garbage is enormous since there are only 15 women involved. These women have formed a group called, "*Neela Kadal Pengal Sangam*". (Blue Sea Women Association)

HEAL understood the solid waste management issue and its critical importance in ensuring public health and hygiene. To respond to this issue, HEAL held discussions with the Parish council, people during house visits, SHG members, Anbiyams, youth and children groups. Our staff, eco club members, and eco youth members conducted door to door interactions, issued hand bills in order to motivate the community on the importance of solid waste management. Due to the efforts of this the community people have started to segregate waste as bio and non-biodegradable waste in cloth bags. HEAL provided the women with aprons, mask, rubber gloves, caps, uniforms and bleaching powder to maintain their personal hygiene. The women who are involved in the process are not able to collect the entire waste accumulated in the village. Initially the garbage collectors are deputed under the MNREGA scheme and once the program was stopped the Parish council held discussions for their remuneration and decided to collect Rs.100 / family/ month.

The efforts undertaken by these women have created a great impact in the community particularly among the youth and people who are working abroad. The village Parish

committee held series of discussions with the general community and people who are living abroad on the issue of solid waste management. They wanted to take efforts to make a “Clean and Green Chinnathurai” and for this purpose they formed a separate WhatsApp group. Based on this they have come with an innovative idea of installing an incinerator.

Under the guidance of HEAL they approached the Additional Collector [PD – DRDA] about this novel idea and he has assured that from the Swatch Bharath scheme the Government will cover 2/3rd of the cost and the rest will be community contribution. He had also asked the Parish council to buy a plastic shredder machine so that it can be recycled.

This public-private community initiative has been formalized now and they have collected Rs 3 lakhs as local contribution to match the total costs and contribution. Preparatory activities such as collecting quotations for battery cars set up of incinerator, shredders are underway and once Government sanctions their contribution, installation work will begin in early 2019.

Periakadu is a coastal village which has 306 families with a population of 1231 people. The special significance of this village is the presence of the famous St. Antony's Church which is a religious tourism center, has a rehabilitation center for the old and the destitute persons and the presence of natural sand dunes which is the oldest 3 tier sand dune in Kanyakumari coastal belt. Because of the presence of this sand dune potable drinking water is available in between the sand dune and the sea and this also attracts many tourists.

The biggest challenge for the villagers is the contamination of waste from households and during religious festival / tourism seasons. People used to dump the waste in the seashore and many of them were suffering from breathing difficulties. During the reporting period due to that above said problem and to make use of biodegradable waste as fertilizer, HEAL constructed 2 waste disposal units with 4 pits on May 28, 2018.

Due to the continuous interaction and awareness programmes which were conducted for the youth, Parish council members and women on solid waste management, people are not dumping waste in the public. HEAL has provided a container to segregate the non-biodegradable items to transfer in the load auto. The village committee is on the process of discussion to construct a concrete path way leading to the waste pit. The segregated biodegradable waste was dumped in the waste pits. The village committee is undertaking a procedure to sell the non-biodegradable waste. HEAL the village committee and the community is taking all efforts to make the village free of plastic. People have come forward and started to use cloth bags instead of plastic bags even before the introduction of Plastic Ban in January 2019.

Keezha Manakudy a coastal village has 650 families with a population of 2997 people. The biggest challenge for the residents was dumping the bio and non-bio degradable waste where ever possible especially into the sea and ponds. This created health hazards to the public. The Manakudy seashore is peculiar place for breeding ground for certain species of turtle and lobsters. The dumping of waste has affected the coastal biodiversity. HEAL contributed to develop the biodiversity in this region by Mangrove afforestation.

The Parish council collects a certain amount for maintenance of the Church and they appointed a sanitary worker and as community contribution are paying Rs. 12,000 as monthly salary. He collects all the waste from each house in a tricycle and dumps it at the outskirts of the village and burns it. The community has allotted separate free house and free ration.

Currently people are not dumping waste in the public. To make use of biodegradable waste as fertilizer, HEAL constructed 2 waste disposal units with 4 pits on 28.5.2018. To take the waste a load auto is engaged to the waste disposal units the village committee is on the process of discussion to construct a concrete path way. The segregated biodegradable waste was dumped in the waste pits. The village committee is undertaking a procedure to sell the non-biodegradable waste. HEAL the village committee and the community is taking all efforts to make the village free of plastic. People have autonomously use cloth bags instead of plastic bags thus totally avoid using plastics.

## **Biological Model Farms and Sustainable Agriculture**

The main focus of the workshops for safe environment and sustainable agriculture is on the effect of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on drinking water, soil fertility, climate and environment, the demand for recycling of degradable bio-waste for ecological agriculture and for the change from conventional to ecological agriculture. 540 in agriculture working persons, especially those who stay in the proximity of fragile eco systems, are sensitized in 18 one-time workshops (one workshop per 30 participants) for the problems created through exploitive and non-sustainable agriculture. There they learnt about the alternatives to the currently practiced cultivation methods, which are characterized by disregard to water protection and intensive input of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Another topic of the workshop is the processing of organic waste to fertilizers for production of safe food and protection of the environment. Like this an interlinking of the farmers with the fisher villages in which the bio fertilizer is produced is achieved, to create beneficial relation for both sides. The workshops for secure environment and sustainable agriculture facilitate the formation of a network between fishers and farmers to counteract a part of the waste problems (that of the organic waste).

The outcome is very much encouraging at two levels. First, more than 50% of the farmers who participated in the training have contacted the resource persons through mobile number and have clarified their doubts and suspicions about natural farming practices. About 20 % of them have come forward to start cultivation through natural farming practices in the coming monsoon. About 20% of farmers have started natural farming practices in the monsoon period. By practicing organic farming even though the yield is less they are getting a high price for their produce in the market. Moreover the local community is buying these organic vegetables and rice from the farm yard itself. Most of the farmers involved in our area are coconut and banana cultivators and they are now using organic fertilizers.

## **Network Meetings and Round Tables**

HEAL scaled up and completed stakeholder mapping, Round Tables were held (Multi-stakeholder meetings). These were meetings between political decision makers, officials of the relevant ministries (Forest, Environment), research assistants and

representatives of civil society. Objective of these Round Tables was to initiate changes on political level in a non-confronting way.

HEAL conducted a meeting with the Minister of Tourism, Govt. of India and convinced him on the need for an Eco Park in Manakudy area to develop tourism in the district and submitted a draft proposal to him. Based on that, the ministry of Tourism sanctioned an amount of Rs. 3.27 crores to develop Eco Tourism near Manakudy Estuary. The Commissioner of Tourism, Tamil Nadu, acknowledged the petition of HEAL movement in the sanction letter sent to the District Collector and The Tourism Officer, Kanyakumari.

The govt. officials from the department concerned visited the site and identified Mela Manakudy to develop the Eco Tourism.

The Assistant Director of Fisheries, Nagercoil acknowledged and appreciated the proactive role in the conception and development of the Marine Eco Park to be implemented by Fisheries Department at Manakudy vide circular. HEAL suggested the following components to be incorporated in the proposed project; back water fish culture centre, boat ferrying, walk thorough fare, ornamental fish aquarium in lawn, Child play centre and an Eco Park with canteen facilities. This Eco Park shall be implemented in 10 acre of land available with the Department of Fisheries.

### **IEC Materials**

Information, awareness and sensitization are continuously necessary during the implementation of the project. Materials are prepared regarding the following topics: sustainable waste disposal (waste disposal plants, plant clarification systems, recycling of organic waste to ecological fertilizer and pesticides through alternative agricultural methods), restoration of ponds and wells, rainwater utilization systems in schools and communities, water scarcity and groundwater recharge, results of water samples, mangrove forests, river deltas, nature trail, biodiversity and impact of climate change.

Recipients are mostly the members of Eco-Clubs, Eco-Youth, collectives of women and traditional community council members. These IEC-Materials (Information,



Education, Communication), like announcements, posters and other display materials are used for sensitization and is an effective way of dissemination of information about measures and results.

Beneficiaries have gained knowledge gained IEC materials in the upcoming period of this continuing phase of the project.

### **Capacity Building of Staff members**

At the starting of the project the staff are trained in a 2-day-Training programme. 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 Survey
- 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

6 Capacity Building Trainings were conducted for the staff as the trainings were provided repeatedly for same number of staff.

Themes of the capacity building training : - 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

## **Monitoring**

HEAL conducted monthly review of the activities implemented by the respective organizations with the staffs during this reporting period. All the staff 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.

Regular monitoring of the programmes 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 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.

## **Consumer Awareness Programmes**

HEAL organised Consumer Awareness Programmes among its target groups. The programmes were intended to make sure the buyer or consumer to be aware of the information about products, goods, services, and consumer rights. HEAL considers consumer awareness as an important programme to enable the buyers to take the right decision and make the right choice. It believes that consumers have the right to information, right to choose, right to safety. It propagates about consumer rights, responsibilities and awareness through its awareness programmes.

## **Consumer Rights and Responsibilities**

As far as HEAL is concerned consumer rights is an insight into what rights consumer holds when it comes to seller which provide the goods. What if the goods provided to the consumer by the business is not up to the standard? Then in that case – what should a

consumer do? To be precise, what rights consumer have is in the court of law to fight against the malpractices of the business firms or seller.

### **Consumer Rights**

HEAL made the public aware of their rights such as (1) Right to Safety, (2) Right to Information, (3) Right to Choose, (4) Right to be Heard, (5) Right to Seek Remedies, and, (6) Right to Consumer Education.

As part of their right to safety, the consumers should be protected against the product that hampers their safety. The protection must be against any product which could be hazardous to their health – Mental, physical or many of the other factors.

Right to Information: They should be informed about the product. The product packaging should list the details which should be informed to the consumer and they should not hide the same or provide false information.

Right to Choose: They should not be forced to select the product. A consumer should be convinced of the product he is about to choose and should make a decision by himself. This also means consumer should have a variety of articles to choose from monopolistic practices are not legal.

Right to Heard: If a consumer is dissatisfied with the product purchased then they have all the right to file a complaint against it. And the said complaint cannot go unheard, it must be addressed in an appropriate time frame.

Right to Seek Remedies: In case a product is unable to satisfy the consumer then they have the right to get the product replaced, compensate, and return the amount invested in the product. We have a three-tier system of remedial measures according to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Right to Consumer Education: Consumer has the right to know all the information and should be made well aware of the rights and responsibilities of the government. Lack of Consumer awareness is the most important problem our government must solve.