

HUMAN EDUCATION AND ACTION FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENT (HEAL MOVEMENT) ANNUAL REPORT 2022–2023

Introduction

The Human Education and Action for Liberation Movement (HEAL Movement), established under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act in 1986, envisions a society where equality, justice, and opportunities are available to everyone, regardless of caste, religion, or socioeconomic background. HEAL Movement addresses long-term challenges by implementing sustainable, community-based, and participatory solutions that complement both civil society and government efforts. The organization empowers marginalized communities, including children, child labourers, bonded labourers, sea-shell collectors/workers, daily wage labourers, fishermen, Dalits, disadvantaged groups, and individuals in poverty, offering support irrespective of their caste, gender, race, or religion.

During the year 2022–2023, **HEAL** actively worked with communities, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and government departments across **Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts**. The organization focused on **community development, environmental protection, youth and women empowerment, capacity building of civil society organizations, and institutional networking**. Through participatory approaches and strategic partnerships, HEAL reached diverse sections of society including farmers, fisherfolk, students, youth, women, NGO practitioners, and local leaders.

Strengthening Civil Society and Institutional Capacity

HEAL prioritized strengthening the capacity of NGOs and grassroots organizations through **trainings, consultations, and federation meetings**. Several meetings were organized with partner organizations to discuss development strategies, financial sustainability, and collective action.

Key initiatives included:

- **NGO Federation Meetings** and consultations focusing on **fund mobilization strategies** and organizational strengthening.
- **Income Tax and compliance training programmes** for NGO staff and leaders, facilitated by legal experts.
- **Freedom Raising Network trainings and consultations**, enabling collaboration among organizations from multiple districts.
- **Staff capacity building programmes** to enhance institutional effectiveness and leadership within HEAL.

Impact Numbers:

- **10+ capacity-building programmes and consultations** conducted
- **26 partner organizations** engaged through networks and trainings
- **250+ NGO representatives, staff, and leaders** reached

- **7 HEAL staff members** trained through internal capacity-building

Outcome: Improved organizational governance, stronger inter-NGO collaboration, and enhanced institutional readiness for development interventions. These initiatives strengthened networking, improved governance practices, and enhanced the ability of civil society organizations to respond effectively to community needs.

Environmental Protection and Climate Action

Environmental conservation and climate awareness remained a core focus area. HEAL organized and participated in multiple environmental initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable practices and community stewardship of natural resources.

Major activities included:

- **World Environment Day celebrations**, tree sapling distribution, and promotion of traditional medicinal plants.
- **Beach clean-up campaigns**, including the milestone **100th beach clean-up event**, reinforcing long-term community commitment to coastal protection.
- **Exposure visits to Manakudy Mangrove Forest and Coastal Sand Dune areas**, where students and youth learned about biodiversity conservation, mangrove ecosystems, and coastal resilience.
- Participation in **environment exhibitions** organized in collaboration with Central Government departments.

An expert-level consultation was also held with **international and national environmental experts and government officials**, leading to the submission of a **biodiversity proposal** for future interventions.

Impact Numbers:

- **More than 150 community members and students** participated in World Environment Day programmes
- **100 beach clean-up campaigns** completed cumulatively
- **More than 250 participants** reached through environmental exhibitions
- **More than 200 students and youth** participated in mangrove and coastal ecosystem exposure visits
- **1 biodiversity proposal** developed with expert support

Outcome: Increased community awareness on environmental protection and strengthened local commitment to coastal and ecosystem conservation.

Youth Engagement and Educational Outreach

HEAL placed strong emphasis on engaging youth and students as change-makers for sustainable development. Educational institutions were actively involved through awareness programmes, exposure visits, and leadership-oriented events.

Highlights included:

- **Career guidance programmes** for youth and college students in collaboration with partner organizations.
- **Youth meetings and leadership sessions** focusing on the role of young people in environmental protection.
- **Eco-awareness sessions in schools**, including special addresses during Annual Day and Centenary celebrations, emphasizing concepts such as *Green Clean Campus*.
- **Exposure and field-based learning programmes** for B.Ed. and MSW students, integrating academic learning with real-world environmental challenges.

Impact Numbers:

- **350+ youth and college students** reached through career guidance and leadership sessions
- **1,200+ school students, parents, and teachers** engaged through school events and awareness programmes
- **90+ MSW students** participated in residential rural/tribal exposure camps
- **100+ B.Ed. students** involved in environmental exposure programmes

Outcome: Enhanced youth awareness, leadership confidence, and practical understanding of environmental and social issues.

These initiatives enhanced youth awareness, environmental responsibility, and leadership skills.

Community Engagement and Social Events

HEAL actively participated in and organized several community-level and institutional events that strengthened relationships with local stakeholders and increased visibility of development initiatives.

Notable engagements included:

- Participation in **school milestone celebrations**, community programmes, and public events.
- Organization of **award programmes** recognizing youth contributions.
- Conducting a **HEAL Marathon event**, promoting social awareness and community participation.
- Hosting **cultural and festive celebrations**, including Christmas Day, fostering solidarity among staff, partners, and community leaders.

Impact Numbers:

- **500+ community members** participated in public events and campaigns
- **50+ youth** recognized through award programmes
- **1 district-level marathon event** conducted

Outcome: Strengthened community participation, visibility of development issues, and social solidarity.

Networking and Partnerships

Throughout the year, HEAL collaborated with:

- Local and district-level NGOs
- Educational institutions
- Government departments
- International consultants and networks
- Church and community leadership structures

HEAL also participated as a **partner organization** in state-level networks such as the **Tamil Nadu Urban WASH Network Programme**, strengthening linkages for future water and sanitation initiatives.

Impact Numbers:

- **5+ government departments and academic institutions** engaged
- **20+ senior leaders and experts** consulted
- **1 state-level network** actively participated in

Outcome: Strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships and groundwork laid for future large-scale interventions.

Overall Reach (2022–2023)

- **2,500+ individuals** reached directly through programmes, trainings, and events
- **30+ villages, schools, institutions, and networks** engaged
- **Multiple stakeholder groups** reached: farmers, fisherfolk, women, youth, students, NGO staff, teachers, and local leaders

Activity-wise Narrative (April 2022 –March 2023)

06 April 2022, Community Development Programme : HEAL, in collaboration with the Pazhaiyaru Movement and partner organizations, organized a community development programme at Arumanallur. The programme focused on strengthening grassroots leadership and collective action among farmers and Panchayat representatives. HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian highlighted the importance of people-led development and sustainable agriculture practices. Representatives from partner organizations shared field experiences, while community members discussed local challenges and priorities. The interaction took place among 60 active participants that helped build consensus on coordinated development efforts at the village level.

10 April 2022, Career Guidance Programme: A Career Guidance Programme was jointly organized by HEAL and PWD India at Arulvazhvu Centre, Nagercoil for about 72 students. The session aimed to guide college students and youth on career planning, higher education options, and employment opportunities, especially for young people with diverse abilities. Mr. Stephen from PWD India shared insights on inclusive career pathways, while Mr. Siluvai Vasthian emphasized life skills, social responsibility, and resilience. The programme helped students clarify career goals and build confidence.

15 April 2022– Development Initiatives Presentation: HEAL organized a PowerPoint presentation programme on development initiatives with Pazhaiyaru Movement partners from Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts. International Consultant Mr. Iyappan provided technical perspectives on sustainable development, while district-level organization representatives and farmers' association leaders discussed regional priorities. The programme facilitated knowledge sharing, inter-district collaboration, and strategic planning for future interventions benefitting about 80 participants.

26 April 2022– Development Coordination Meeting : A coordination meeting on ongoing and proposed development activities was conducted jointly by HEAL, Pazhaiyaru Movement, and partner organizations. HEAL Director and staff reviewed progress, identified gaps, and discussed strategies for improved collaboration. The meeting strengthened coordination mechanisms and reinforced collective accountability among 48 participants.

29 April 2022– Centenary Celebration : During the 100th Anniversary Celebration of St. Pious XI Primary School, HEAL presented a report on its long-standing support to education and community development initiatives in the midst of about 700 people. The presentation highlighted HEAL's contribution to child development, environmental awareness, and community engagement. The event strengthened relationships with educational institutions and the wider community.

23–27 May 2022– Capacity Building Training : HEAL facilitated a five-day Freedom Raising Network Training Programme aimed at strengthening civil society organizations. Participants from 26 organizations engaged in sessions on rights-based approaches, organizational governance, advocacy, and networking. Mr. Siluvai Vasthian and HEAL staff member Ms. Suyambukani guided discussions

and experiential learning activities. The training enhanced collective capacity and solidarity among 38 participating organizations.

24 May 2022– SAM Income Tax Training : A SAM Income Tax Training Programme was conducted for around 27 representatives at the RUC Office, Parvathipuram. Advocate Maria James facilitated the session, explaining statutory compliance, financial transparency, and filing procedures for NGOs. HEAL staff and NGO representatives gained practical knowledge to strengthen organizational compliance and governance.

25 May 2022– NGO Federation Meeting : An NGO Federation Meeting was organized to discuss fund mobilization strategies and collective sustainability. Mr. Thamocharan led an interactive session on resource mobilization, donor engagement, and diversification of funding sources. The meeting promoted collaboration and shared learning among 80 NGOs.

04 June 2022– Pazhaiyaru Movement Committee Meeting : A committee meeting of the Pazhaiyaru Movement was held at the HEAL office. About 21 Members reviewed ongoing activities, discussed strategic directions, and planned future actions. The meeting strengthened governance and decision-making processes within the movement.

05 June 2022 , World Environment Day : On World Environment Day, HEAL actively participated in district-level celebrations at the District Educational Office under the leadership of the Nagercoil Mayor. Tree saplings were distributed to promote environmental stewardship. More than 150 individuals participated in this programme.

A parallel programme at Kasthubai Women’s Association Hall focused on traditional medicinal plants and sustainable practices was attended by 56 attendants. In recognition of his environmental leadership, Mr. Siluvai Vasthian received the *Green Champion Award* from the Pollution Control Department. These events reinforced HEAL’s commitment to environmental conservation.

07 June 2022– Youth Meeting on Environment : HEAL organized a youth meeting at Nagercoil Animation Centre, focusing on the role of youth in environmental protection. Mr. Siluvai Vasthian emphasized youth leadership, climate responsibility, and community action. The session motivated 80 young participants to engage in environmental initiatives.

09 June 2022– Environmental Exhibition : An exhibition programme was jointly organized by HEAL and Central Government Departments for more than 250 members to promote public awareness on environmental conservation and development initiatives. Community members actively interacted with exhibits and experts.

14–17 June 2022– TDH Field Visit : TDH Consultants Mr. Reji and Mr. Thangam visited HEAL-supported project areas to review progress and provide technical feedback. An 18 member team /staff review meeting was conducted at the Nagercoil office, enhancing learning, accountability, and programme quality.

26 June 2022– Youth Award Programme : An award distribution programme was organized to recognize the achievements and contributions of youth. Community leaders and educators encouraged

young people to continue their engagement in social and environmental causes. About 58 youth and community leaders were present during this occasion.

27 June 2022– B.Ed. Student Exposure Visit : HEAL, in collaboration with MIDS, organized an exposure programme for II-year B.Ed. students. 102 Participants learned about mangrove ecosystems and coastal sand dune conservation through field-based learning. The programme strengthened students' ecological understanding and teaching perspectives.

16 July 2022– Staff Capacity Building : A capacity building training for HEAL staff was conducted to enhance organizational effectiveness, teamwork, and leadership skills. The session strengthened internal capacities for programme implementation.

17 July 2022 – Organizational Exposure Visit

Mr. Subramaniya Siva visited the HEAL office to gain an understanding of the organization's innovative programmes and ongoing development initiatives. During the visit, HEAL staff explained various thematic interventions, community-based projects, and operational approaches. The interaction provided an opportunity to showcase HEAL's long-standing work and institutional practices, with active participation from ten staff members.

18 July 2022 – Annual Day Address on Green Campus Initiative

During the Annual Day Programme at Little Flower Matric Higher Secondary School, HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian delivered a special address on the *Role of Students in Creating a Green and Clean Campus*. The session emphasized student responsibility in environmental protection and sustainable practices. The programme saw the participation of the school management, Principal Sr. Sophy George, teachers, parents, and students, with over 1,000 participants attending the event.

25 July 2022 – Olympiad 44 and Mangrove Development Consultation

The cultural team and subject experts of Kanyakumari district, in association with HEAL, conducted *Olympiad 44*, promoting student engagement and learning. HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian actively participated in the meeting. On the same occasion, during an official visit to the mangrove ecosystem by the District Collector, Forest Officer, District Supply Officer, and MLA Mr. Mano Thankaraj, the HEAL Director explained strategic approaches for mangrove expansion, conservation, and sustainable development.

26 July 2022 – Documentation Review and TDH Netherlands Visit

A discussion meeting was organized by KSSS to document activities carried out over the past 40 years, in which HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian participated, sharing insights and experiences. On the same day, Mr. Thangaperumal from TDH Netherlands visited the HEAL Thisayanvilai office. HEAL staff presented programme updates and field activities, with participation from Ms. Suyambukani, Ms. Muthuselvi, the Director, and nine other staff members, strengthening transparency and organizational learning.

22–26 August 2022 – Freedom Raising II Partners Meeting

The Freedom Raising II Partners Meeting was held in Chennai, bringing together civil society organizations to review progress, share experiences, and strengthen collective action. HEAL was represented by Ms. Suyambukani and Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian, alongside 27 partner organizations, reinforcing collaboration and shared advocacy strategies.

02 September 2022 – Drug Abuse Awareness Campaign

An Anti-Drug Abuse Awareness Campaign was conducted at Little Flower Matric Higher Secondary School, Pushpagiri. The programme included a rally from Urambu to the school campus to raise public awareness. The event was addressed by Sr. Joby George, HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian, officials from the District Health Department, and Mr. Pazhaniya Pillai. Nearly 300 students and community members participated, promoting awareness on the dangers of substance abuse.

09 September 2022 – Experiential Learning for MSW Students

An experiential learning session was organized at Hindu College for MSW students. HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian delivered an interactive lecture on the role of social workers in community development, drawing from field experiences. The programme, organized by Professor Kannan, benefited 18 MSW students by strengthening their practical understanding of social work.

19 September 2022 – Observation Visit by Holy Cross College Students

MSW students from Holy Cross College undertook an observation visit to learn about community-based development practices. During the visit, HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian explained the role and responsibilities of social workers in grassroots development. The session benefited 17 students and enhanced their field orientation.

24 September 2022 – Beach Clean-Up Campaign

A Beach Clean-Up Campaign was conducted at Chinnathurai Beach, marking the milestone of HEAL's 100th clean-up event. The campaign reinforced community participation in coastal conservation and environmental responsibility, highlighting HEAL's sustained commitment to protecting coastal ecosystems.

06 October 2022 – International Geo-Diversity Day Observation

International Geo-Diversity Day was observed at the Kasthubai Women Association Hall, Nagercoil. The programme focused on raising awareness about geological diversity, environmental protection, and sustainable resource management among community members and stakeholders.

17–19 October 2022 – TDH Netherlands Monitoring Visit

Ms. Annie from TDH Netherlands visited the HEAL Thisayanvilai office for monitoring, field assessment, and evaluation of ongoing projects. The HEAL Director and nine staff members

participated in detailed review meetings, sharing progress, challenges, and future plans, thereby strengthening accountability and programme quality.

08 November 2022 – Expert Consultation on Biodiversity Proposal

An expert consultation meeting was organized at the HEAL office with the participation of International Environmental Consultant Dr. Oswin, IFS officer Mr. Deepak S. Belgi from the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Dr. Kalai Selvam (Professor and Director, Centre for Marine Biology, Annamalai University), Mr. Pazhaniya Pillai, and HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian. The consultation resulted in the submission of a comprehensive biodiversity proposal.

11 November 2022 – Biodiversity Awareness Programme for College Students

A Biodiversity Awareness Programme was conducted at Ayappa College for Women for Commerce Department students. The programme aimed to enhance understanding of coastal biodiversity and environmental conservation. Organized by the college management and HEAL, the event was led by Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian, Principal Mrs. Kalaidevi, and HOD Mrs. Sonia, benefiting nearly 200 students.

24 November 2022 – Anti-Drug Awareness Programme

An Anti-Drug Awareness Programme was organized at Scott Christian College. The programme was addressed by Principal Mr. Edward, HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian, and Mr. Pazhaniya Pillai. Cultural performances highlighting the theme of substance abuse prevention were conducted, benefiting approximately 500 students and youth.

29 November 2022 – Freedom Raising Consultation Meeting

A Freedom Raising Consultation Meeting was held at Peace Trust, Dindigul. HEAL Director and staff participated in discussions on programme strategies, collective advocacy, and organizational strengthening, with 22 participants attending the meeting.

01 December 2022 – Tamil Nadu Urban WASH Network Programme

HEAL participated as a partner organization in the Tamil Nadu Urban WASH Network Programme held in Coimbatore. The HEAL Director and staff engaged in discussions on water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives, along with 27 participants from various organizations.

07 December 2022 – Tamil Nadu Alliance 3rd Conference

The Tamil Nadu Alliance 3rd Conference was held in Dindigul, with participation from 60 NGO Directors. During the conference, HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vasthian was honored and appreciated for his dedicated service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

24 December 2022 – HEAL Marathon Event

A HEAL Marathon Event was organized at Nagercoil Anna Stadium to promote health, fitness, and community participation. The event saw active involvement from the HEAL Director and staff members.

27 December 2022 – Christmas Celebration

A Christmas Celebration was organized at the HEAL office, bringing together the HEAL Director, Parish Priest Fr. Victor, committee members, and staff. The celebration fostered fellowship and solidarity among participants, with ten members attending the event.

06 January 2023– MSW Residential Exposure Camp : HEAL hosted a rural residential exposure camp for MSW students from Amirtha Vishwa Vidyapeedam, Coimbatore. Students visited mangrove forests and coastal sand dune areas and learned about biodiversity conservation and community-based environmental action. The programme enriched students' academic learning with practical field exposure. *Total beneficiaries: 92.*

Conclusion

During 2022–2023, HEAL's thematic interventions significantly strengthened civil society institutions, enhanced environmental awareness, empowered youth leadership, and broadened community participation, while fostering strong partnerships essential for sustained development and climate resilience. The year was marked by active grassroots engagement, effective institutional collaboration, and impactful initiatives centered on environmental conservation and youth development. Through its integrated and participatory approach, HEAL has continued to make a meaningful contribution to sustainable development, climate resilience, and long-term social transformation across the region.