

HEAL MOVEMENT

Annual Report - April 2024 – March 2025

Human Education and Action for Education and Liberation Movement (HEAL Movement) is pleased to present its Activity Report for the period April 2024 to March 2025. During the reporting year, HEAL Movement continued its sustained grassroots engagement with children, youth, educational institutions, and coastal communities, primarily supported through local contributions and donations for the sixth consecutive year.

The programmes implemented during this period are organised under seven thematic areas to provide clarity on the scope, depth, and impact of HEAL Movement's interventions. Presented below is the narrative report of activities under the first thematic area.

1. Ecological Rights of Children and Youth

Promoting ecological consciousness and safeguarding the ecological rights of children and youth remained a central focus of HEAL Movement throughout the year. Through Eco Clubs, Child Activity Centres, school-based interventions, coastal campaigns, and youth forums, HEAL worked consistently to nurture environmentally responsible leadership among children and young people.

Strengthening School Eco Clubs and Environmental Leadership

The year commenced with the Eco Club meeting at MelaKrishnanputhoor Government Middle School on 25 June 2024, conducted under the guidance of Mr. Senthil, Headmaster and Eco Club Teacher. Mrs. Visalakshi presented a detailed review of the Eco Club's past initiatives and future action plan, while Miss Priyadharshini observed the functioning of the club. Twenty-seven Eco Club children actively participated, demonstrating strong engagement and ownership. On 21 August 2024, an Eco Club orientation was held at Little Flower Higher Secondary School, Manakudy, where Mrs. Visalakshi sensitised students on the structure, constitution, and objectives of Eco Clubs. The session saw the participation of 46 members, including Eco Club Teacher Ms. Hema and Headmistress Sr. Anna Mary.

Similarly, the Eco Club of St. Jude Thatheu Higher Secondary School was strengthened through multiple interventions. On 29 August 2024, a large-scale training was organised focusing on transforming the school campus into a clean and green environment. Mrs. Visalakshi emphasised student-led environmental action, with 112 Eco Club members and teacher Ms. Fatima participating. This engagement continued on 15 November 2024, when a child rights-focused Eco Club meeting was conducted under the leadership of Headmistress Sr. Oliviya. A participatory question-and-answer session enhanced students' understanding of child rights, benefiting 108 children. Further, on 12 September 2024, a one-day Eco Club orientation was organised at Our Lady of Miracle Bethany Higher Secondary School, Annai Nagar. The programme highlighted the relevance of Eco Clubs in the context of global warming and environmental degradation. Forty-six participants, including Headmistress Sr. Santhya Jose, took part, and three office bearers were formally selected to lead the Eco Club.

Capacity Building through Child Activity Centres

HEAL Movement continued its focused engagement with Child Activity Centres to foster leadership, life skills, and environmental responsibility among rural children. On 20 July 2024, Mr. SiluvaiVasthian visited the Child Activity Centre at Thathuvaneri village, Thysianvilai, and conducted leadership training for children engaged in ecological protection activities. He also reviewed centre records and assessed programme implementation.

A Life Skill Development Training was later conducted on 11 November 2024 at the same centre, facilitated by Mr. SiluvaiVasthian and organised by Mrs. Suyambukani. Thirty-eight children benefited from this programme aimed at strengthening confidence, communication, and responsible citizenship.

On 14 February 2025, Mr. SiluvaiVasthian visited the Child Activity Centre at MuthumothanMozhy to review progress and sensitise children and teachers on their right to a clean and green environment. Mrs. Suyambukani presented the centre's daily, weekly, and monthly activity framework. Twenty-two children participated in this interaction.

Youth, Coastal Ecology, and Community Engagement

HEAL Movement played an active role in regional and coastal environmental advocacy. On 23 August 2024, DRM, an NGO from Ramanathapuram, organised a training programme for NGO staff and village leaders, where Mr. SiluvaiVasthian served as a resource person. His sessions focused on coastal ecosystem restoration, water resource conservation, sand dune protection, and mangrove restoration, with special emphasis on the role of children and youth through Eco Clubs. Sixty participants attended this programme. HEAL Movement collaborated with multiple local networks to organise the 125th weekly Clean Coast and Alcohol-Free Awareness Programme at Thenkapattinam Harbour on 6th October 2024. The initiative mobilised 85 participants, including panchayat leaders, sanitation workers, and civil society representatives, who collectively removed solid waste from the coastline. The event reinforced community ownership of coastal conservation.

Environmental Awareness, Rights Education, and Recognition

On 4 October 2024, HEAL Movement partnered with NVKSD Educational Institution to conduct an integrated awareness programme on Child Rights, Bonded Labour, and Anti-Tobacco Campaigns. The programme included sensitisation sessions, a student rally against tobacco use, and the distribution of certificates to outstanding child rights activists. Presided over by the college principal Dr. Sreelatha, the event was attended by distinguished guests and benefited more than 156 students.

HEAL's long-standing commitment to ecological child rights received public recognition on 2 October 2024, when Rojavanam International School honoured Mr. SiluvaiVasthian with the "ThangaMagan Award" for his outstanding contribution to ecological rights and environmental education during an Ayudha Pooja celebration.

Promoting Green Innovation and School-Based Environmental Action

HEAL Movement co-organised the Sustainable Innovations for Green Future Forum at St. Jude's College, Thoothoor, in collaboration with youth and environmental groups on 7

January 2025. The forum resolved to establish an Eco Youth Club, promote a plastic-free campus, and develop a Butterfly Garden. College faculty, students, and environmental leaders actively participated.

Continuing school-based green initiatives, on 29 January 2025, HEAL Movement, in collaboration with the Abdul Kalam Trust, supported the establishment of herbal gardens in Chothavilai and MelaKrishnanputhoor Government Middle Schools. With the active involvement of headmasters, teachers, and students, 185 children participated in planting and learning about medicinal plants.

2. Women Empowerment

Women's economic empowerment and leadership development continued to be a core focus of HEAL Movement during the reporting period. Through structured vocational training, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP), leadership building, federation strengthening, and access to financial institutions, HEAL supported women—particularly SHG members—to move towards sustainable livelihoods and collective empowerment.

Vocational Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Training

HEAL Movement organised a series of tailoring and vocational skill development trainings for Self-Help Group (SHG) members at its Field Office in ThysianVilai, aimed at enhancing employability and income-generating capacities.

The first training was conducted on 13 April 2024, benefiting 42 women, under the guidance of Mr. SiluvaiVasthian, Director of HEAL Movement, and coordinated by Mrs. Suyambukani. This was followed by a second batch on 23 April 2024, where 35 women participated in vocational skill development training with a special focus on Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) skills.

On 21 May 2024, 29 SHG members received focused EDP training covering financial management, register maintenance, and basic marketing strategies, strengthening their readiness for micro-enterprise initiatives. The training was imparted by Mr. SiluvaiVasthian and organised by Mrs. Suyambukani.

Further vocational training sessions were held on 11 June 2024 and 21 June 2024, engaging 36 and 28 SHG members respectively. These sessions emphasised the role of SHGs in entrepreneurship, identification of village-level micro-business opportunities, coordination among SHGs, and the personal skills required to become successful women entrepreneurs.

Leadership Development and Collective Strengthening of SHGs

Recognising leadership as a key driver of women-led enterprises, HEAL conducted a Leadership Training Programme on 21 July 2024 at the HEAL Field Office in ThysianVilai. Forty-three SHG members from Thathuvaneri and Rajammal Puram villages participated. Mr. SiluvaiVasthian highlighted the importance of leadership, collective decision-making, and confidence-building for entrepreneurial success, while the programme was effectively organised by Mrs. Suyambukani.

Institutional Capacity Building and Awareness Programmes

In order to strengthen internal capacity for women entrepreneurship initiatives, a capacity building training for HEAL staff was organised on 3 September 2024. The session, guided by Mr. SiluvaiVasthian, was conducted by Mr. C. Daniel on the theme “Women Entrepreneur Development Scheme”, benefiting six staff members.

HEAL also integrated environmental awareness within women empowerment initiatives. On 16 September 2024, a special workshop was organised on the occasion of World Ozone Day at the HEAL Branch Office, ThysianVilai. Mr. SiluvaiVasthian addressed 21 SHG members, highlighting the role of women in environmental protection and ecosystem sustainability.

SHG Federation Meetings and Community Leadership

Regular SHG Federation meetings were conducted to strengthen collective leadership, decision-making, and coordination among women’s groups.

A Federation meeting was held on 8 January 2025, focusing on Pongal festival celebrations, with 11 members participating under the leadership of Mr. SiluvaiVasthian. This was followed by a larger Pongal Festival celebration on 10 January 2025, which emphasised equality and secularism. The event witnessed the participation of 56 members and was felicitated by Mr. Franklin, President of Rotary Club of Greater Nagercoil, along with Mr. SiluvaiVasthian. Competitions such as traditional games and rice flour designs were organised, and participants collectively took an oath against plastic usage and in favour of cotton bags.

Further Federation meetings were conducted on 30 January 2025 and 7 February 2025, where members discussed micro-business opportunities, livelihood improvement strategies, and planning for International Women’s Day 2025. These meetings saw the active participation of federation leaders, including Mrs. Rajakizhi, Treasurer of the Federation, and were facilitated by Mr. SiluvaiVasthian and Mrs. Suyambukani.

Celebration of International Women’s Day 2025 :In preparation for International Women’s Day, a planning meeting was held on 5 March 2025 to finalise programmes, expenses, time schedules, and allocation of roles and responsibilities.

The International Women’s Day celebration on 8 March 2025 at the HEAL Branch Office, ThysianVilai, marked a significant milestone in women’s collective empowerment. The event featured village games, singing competitions, traditional food preparation, and cultural activities. Inspiring speeches were delivered by Fr. Sathees Kumar Joy, Mr. SiluvaiVasthian, and Mr. Saravana Kumar. The programme was attended by over 200 women, with the participation of Anayadi Panchayat President Mrs. Panchavarnam and HEAL Coordinator Mrs. Suyambukani.

Facilitating Access to Institutional Finance

To enable women-led SHGs to scale their income-generating activities, HEAL Movement facilitated linkages with formal financial institutions. On 26 March 2025, a function was organised at the HEAL Field Office in ThysianVilai, during which letters of recommendation were issued to Canara Bank to support SHGs in availing loans for viable Income Generating

Programmes (IGPs). Mr. SiluvaiVasthian handed over recommendation letters to two SHGs represented by 30 members.

3. Livelihood Options for SHG Women

HEAL Movement continued its efforts to expand sustainable livelihood opportunities for women, youth, and marginalised communities by facilitating access to career guidance, skill enhancement, agricultural knowledge, rights-based employment awareness, and institutional financial support. These initiatives aimed to strengthen income security and promote dignified livelihoods for SHG women and their families.

Career Guidance and Educational Pathways for Livelihood Security

Recognising education as a critical pathway to sustainable livelihoods, HEAL Movement organised a Career Guidance Programme on 4 May 2024 at the Assisi Community Hall. The programme focused on guiding higher secondary school students to choose appropriate professional courses that offer employability and a liveable income. The sessions were facilitated by Mr. SiluvaiVasthian of HEAL Movement and Mr. Selvin. A total of 23 school students participated and gained clarity on career options aligned with emerging employment opportunities.

Strengthening Agricultural Livelihoods and Farmer Capacities

To support women and small farmers engaged in agriculture-based livelihoods, a training programme on coconut and banana cultivation was organised on 24 June 2024 at the Pallam Panchayat Office under the aegis of the Government Agriculture Department.

Ms. Priyadharshini, who was conducting a study on coconut and banana cultivation practices, shared her research findings and practical recommendations to improve productivity and sustainability. Officials from the Government Agriculture Department—Mrs. Vani, Mrs. Ponrani, Mrs. Siva Jeyanthi, Mrs. Jenila, and Mrs. Gomathy—provided detailed information on various government schemes and welfare programmes for small and marginal farmers. The programme benefited over 60 farmers, strengthening their awareness of crop management practices and institutional support mechanisms.

Rights Education and Employment Orientation for Marginalised Students

HEAL Movement actively supported rights-based livelihood education for marginalised youth. On 13 July 2024, the Students Forum for Marginalised Community organised an orientation programme at the Community Hall of St. Alfonsa Arts and Science College. The programme aimed to enhance students' understanding of rights, employment opportunities, and the skills required to access them.

Mr. SiluvaiVasthian served as one of the key resource persons, along with Adv. Gerald, Mr. N. Swaminathan, Ms. Monisha, Fr. Starwin Cyril, Fr. Francis Xavier, and Fr. Vincent. The programme benefited 120 students from marginalised communities, equipping them with critical knowledge for pursuing education, employment, and dignified livelihoods.

Facilitating Access to Institutional Credit for SHGs

As part of its livelihood promotion strategy for SHG women, HEAL Movement facilitated access to institutional finance. On 3 August 2024, a bank loan distribution programme was organised at the HEAL Field Office in ThysianVilai for eligible SHGs. The event was followed by an orientation session on economic development schemes for women, delivered by Mr. SiluvaiVasthian.

A total of 58 SHG members participated in the programme, which strengthened their ability to initiate or expand income-generating activities through formal financial support.

4. Collaboration with Other NGOs and Government Institutions

Collaboration with civil society organisations, government departments, academic institutions, and community networks remained a defining strength of HEAL Movement during the reporting period. Through these partnerships, HEAL contributed to policy advocacy, rights protection, environmental conservation, labour welfare, youth development, public health campaigns, and institutional strengthening at district and state levels.

Engagement with Social Welfare Board and Sexual Harassment Committees

HEAL Movement played an active role in advancing women's rights and workplace safety through sustained engagement with the Social Welfare Board and Sexual Harassment Committees.

On 22 April 2024, HEAL Movement, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Board, jointly observed Sexual Harassment Day at Vivekananda College, where Mr. SiluvaiVasthian participated as a member of the Sexual Harassment Enquiry Committee. In recognition of his long-standing contribution to women empowerment, on 26 April 2024, the Social Welfare Board, represented by Mrs. Sarojini, conferred the "Appreciation Award" on Mr. SiluvaiVasthian.

Throughout the year, Mr. SiluvaiVasthian actively participated in multiple Sexual Harassment Committee meetings held at the Social Welfare Office and District Collector's Office on 20 May, 20 June, 28 June, 5 July, 5 August, 31 August, 30 September, 19 November 2024, and 30 March 2025. He also presided over the committee meeting on 28 June 2024.

In addition to policy deliberations, committee members undertook field-level enquiry and monitoring, including a spot visit on 22 June 2024 to a petrol bunk in Karungal following a complaint by a female employee. A district-level Sexual Harassment Awareness Programme was organised on 24 October 2024, presided over by District Collector Mrs. AzhaguMeena, during which complaint boxes were formally released for educational institutions. The programme reached over 300 participants, including officials and school representatives.

Labour Rights, Unorganised Workers, and Welfare Initiatives

HEAL Movement collaborated closely with the Labour Department on labour rights and welfare initiatives. On 3 June 2024, HEAL submitted the final report on the status of unorganised workers to the Labour Department. The report was formally received by Labour Officer Mr. ManikandanPrabhu.

Further engagements included a labour welfare review meeting on 19 July 2024 at Konam Labour Office and a bonded labour consultation on 24 February 2025, focusing on enumeration and identification of bonded labourers in brick kilns. These efforts reinforced HEAL's role in evidence-based advocacy for labour rights.

Networking with NGOs and Capacity Building Platforms

HEAL actively participated in multiple NGO networking and capacity-building platforms at district and state levels. Notable among them were:

- A two-day WASH Network programme at Kuzhithalai village on 13–14 June 2024, focusing on sanitation workers' welfare, attended by 32 participants.
- A two-day Agro Entrepreneurship Development Training held on 30–31 July 2024, organised with Kuzhithalai Panchayat and VishvaYuva Kendra, benefiting 72 NGO representatives.
- An NGO get-together meeting organised by Charity India at ICSA, Chennai, on 1 August 2024, focusing on fundraising strategies.
- A two-day Fundraising Training Programme organised by CLAP Network at Ramanathapuram on 21–22 August 2024.
- A state-level NGO consultation meeting on 11 December 2024, attended by representatives from 30 NGOs.

In addition, HEAL participated in SAM meetings, NGO consultations, and strategy development meetings in Pondicherry, Bangalore (online), and Namakkal, strengthening inter-organisational learning and coordination.

Youth, Students, and Marginalised Community Forums

HEAL continued to collaborate closely with the Students Forum for Marginalised Community and VurimaiKazham, focusing on youth rights, education policy, and employment guidance.

Multiple executive and committee meetings were conducted throughout the year at HEAL Office and educational institutions to plan career guidance, enumeration of educated youth, volunteer identification, and seminar organisation. These meetings took place on 27 July, 4 August, 13 August, 24 October 2024; 1 December 2024; 5 January, 2 February, 2 March 2025, among others.

HEAL also supported career guidance and skill development programmes for students, including a training camp at KarunkalAlfonsa Arts and Science College on 18 January 2025, benefiting 54 students, and NSS-related initiatives at Scott Christian School involving 450 participants.

Environmental Conservation, Climate Action, and Biodiversity

Environmental collaboration remained a major focus area. HEAL partnered with INTACH, EXNORA, Kanyakumari Green Corps, NEEDS Network, Heritage India, and academic institutions to promote biodiversity conservation and climate awareness.

Key initiatives included:

- World Bamboo Day observance and preparatory meetings (August–September 2024).
- A large-scale planting of 1,000 palm seeds at Scott Christian College on 29 October 2024, involving over 500 participants.
- Coastal sand dune protection through fencing with palmyra leaves at KombavilaiThuvaragapathy coast on 30 November 2024.
- Climate change and marine biodiversity training organised with INTACH on 14 November 2024.
- A state-level climate change and plastic-free campaign conference held at Tiruvannamalai on 18 February 2025.

These initiatives reinforced community-led environmental stewardship and institutional collaboration.

Public Health, Tobacco Control, and De-addiction Campaigns

HEAL Movement played a prominent role in district-wide tobacco control and de-addiction campaigns, in collaboration with the District Tobacco Control Board, Public Health Department, Prohibition and Excise Department, educational institutions, and civil society organisations.

Major campaigns included:

- Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 2.0 at Pushpagiri School on 17 October 2024, reaching over 1,500 students.
- Tobacco awareness programmes at Attoor, Kurusady, and Ayurveda College between October–November 2024, reaching more than 400 participants.
- A large-scale anti-alcohol awareness programme at Vadasery Bus Stand on 23 September 2024, which engaged over 2,000 members of the public through folk arts.

Rights-Based Advocacy and Special Campaigns

HEAL also supported rights-based campaigns, including:

- A cycle rally and conference highlighting the Differently Abled Persons Rights Act, 2016, on 27 October 2024.
- Participation in Tobacco Control DLMC meetings chaired by the District Collector.
- Engagement in policy discussions on “Thittam”, held at NIT Trichy and WORD Office, Namakkal, during February 2025.

Recognition and Representation

HEAL's contribution was publicly recognised on multiple occasions. On 28 January 2025, during the centenary celebrations of Chothavilai Government Middle School, Mr. SiluvaiVasthian received the "SoozhialVurimaiChemmal Award" for environmental rights advocacy.

Conclusion

Through consistent engagement with schools, child activity centres, youth forums, and coastal communities, HEAL Movement strengthened ecological awareness, leadership, and rights-based environmental action among more than 1,200 children, youth, and community members during the reporting year. The programmes reinforced the principle that children and youth are not only beneficiaries but key agents in environmental protection and sustainable development.

Through career guidance, agricultural capacity building, rights-based employment education, and access to institutional finance, HEAL Movement expanded livelihood options for over 260 beneficiaries, including SHG women, farmers, students, and marginalised youth—contributing to sustainable income generation and economic resilience at the community level.

During the reporting year, HEAL Movement directly supported over 500 women through vocational skills training, entrepreneurship development, leadership building, federation strengthening, awareness programmes, and access to institutional credit—reinforcing women's economic independence, leadership, and social empowerment at the grassroots level.

During the reporting year, HEAL Movement collaborated with over 40 government departments, NGOs, networks, educational institutions, and community forums, contributing to large-scale outreach across women's rights, labour welfare, youth empowerment, environmental conservation, public health, and policy advocacy—reaching more than 7,000 direct beneficiaries through joint actions and campaigns.