

# HUMAN EDUCATION AND ACTION FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENT (HEAL MOVEMENT)

## ANNUAL REPORT (APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024)

### 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.

### Child Development

**Children Activity Centres:** In 15 new target communities, child activity centres have been established in spaces provided by the community and private parties. These centres aim to support children's extracurricular education and prevent school dropouts caused by poverty and the need for child labour. Open daily after school, the centres offer personal hygiene education, homework supervision, tuition, play, and creative activities to boost self-expression, self-confidence, and overall well-being.



Children learn about their rights, including the right to a healthy environment, and external evaluations show increased self-confidence and improved school performance. In this new phase, 360 children across 14 new centres are being educated on child rights, ecology, and school subjects, with support from animators. Additionally, 1,200 children continue to receive support through community teachers at existing centres.

Child protection is a priority, with guidelines in place and a Child Protection Committee overseeing compliance. A complaint box allows children to anonymously report grievances or suggest improvements. Parent groups are involved from the beginning, ensuring the sustainability of the centres. Sports events, traditional games, and camps are organized to promote physical activity, and sports equipment is provided.

**Children Ecological Clubs:** Eco Clubs in schools engage 3,810 children from 15 new clubs and 2,915 new members in 30 existing clubs, totalling 6,725 children. These clubs focus on ecological activities, such as maintaining rainwater systems and school gardens, tree planting, and observing environmental days like World Water Day and Earth Day. Meeting monthly, the clubs organize four annual events with external resource persons. The parent-teacher unions continue to sustain the clubs. Children discuss environmental issues, learn about dunes, mangroves, disaster management, waste management, and ecological rights. Through these activities, children gain knowledge on climate change, child protection, and biodiversity, fostering a commitment to ecological conservation and protestation of the environment.

The Pius XI Primary School Student Ecological Club, Chinnathurai, hosted an event under the leadership of Headmistress, Rev. Sister Shanthi Flora. The session included an insightful presentation by Mr Radhakrishnan on the activities of the Eco Club. It was held on 04/07/2023.

Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of ecological awareness and sustainable practices. The event also featured distinguished participants, including Kalaimamani Palania Pillai, Melphin Robin, Junior Ecological Club in-charge, and HEAL worker Mrs. Visalakshi. Mrs. Shailaja, the Eco Club teacher, played a significant role in organizing the event. 87 participants, including teachers as well as school children, actively engaged in the activities, making the event a success.

**Child Rights Club Inauguration Ceremony:** On 26/03/2024, the inauguration ceremony of the Child Rights Club took place at Attur NVKSD B.Ed College. The event was presided over by Dr. (Mrs.) Sreelatha, College Principal, who emphasized the importance of safeguarding children's rights and fostering an environment that nurtures their well-being and development.



The ceremony featured insightful speeches from members of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), representatives from Mahila, and other dignitaries, who shared their perspectives on the significance of child rights and the role of educational institutions in promoting these rights. The speakers highlighted the need for collective action and community involvement in protecting and advocating for children's rights.

A total of 120 people attended the event, including Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director, HEAL, staff members, and students. The presence of such a diverse group underscored the community's commitment to the cause of child rights. The event also served as a platform for networking and collaboration among various stakeholders, aiming to create a robust support system for children in the region.

Overall, the inauguration of the Child Rights Club marked a significant step towards raising awareness about child rights and empowering students to become advocates for the protection and promotion of these rights. The ceremony concluded with a call to action, encouraging participants to actively engage in initiatives that support and uphold child rights.

## Youth Empowerment

**Eco Youth:** To ensure sustainable project activities and active community involvement, the Eco Youth focuses on protecting natural resources and disaster prevention. They participate in various initiatives, such as safeguarding water sources and dunes, re-naturalizing mangrove forests and river deltas, and promoting ecological agriculture.

Eco Youth groups, formed at the cluster level, engage in practical activities like tree planting, dune restoration, and water resource management. They also campaign against child labour and advocate for child rights. Notably, they planted 500 mangrove saplings in the Manakudy Estuary. These activities enhance their understanding of ecological rights and foster skills in protecting air, water, and land resources, contributing to a sound ecological future.

**Youth Ecology Forum:** On 28/06/2023, Scott Christian College's Youth Ecology Forum Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Anandhi. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, spoke on the purpose, activities, and need for environmental protection within the Ecological Clubs. Dr. Hailin Reba, in charge of the Ecological Club, Kalaimamani Palaniapillai, and HEAL staff Mrs. Visalakshi were also present. The meeting was attended by about 56 people, including Mr. Melbin and college students, fostering discussions on ecological conservation.

**Planning for State-Level Youth Rally:** A planning meeting was held on 02/07/2023 at the HEAL office for a state-level youth rally. The event was attended by seven key individuals,

including HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Kalaimamani Palaniapillai, and Mr. Rajendran, focusing on strategies to mobilize youth for environmental action.

**Regional Consultation:** Hope Institute, Pondicherry, held a Regional Consultation on Youth and Education on 12/08/2023. The event saw participation from 36 delegates representing Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, attended, contributing to the discussions on youth education and engagement.

**Workshop on Climate Change:** A Youth Climate Change Workshop Seminar was held on 08/09/2023, at Holy Cross College. Special invitees included Sr. Sahaya Selvi, Mr. Vijay Vasanth M.P., Mrs. Kavitha Muraleedharan, journalist Sri. Lokesh, Mr. Prabhakaran Veera Arasu from Friends of the Earth, and advocate Mrs. Jesu Rethinam. Keynote addresses were delivered by several experts. The seminar, attended by over 1000 people including students and faculty, emphasized the urgency of climate action.

A district-level workshop on climate change was held at the Revenue Hall in the District Collectorate on 25/10/2023, jointly organized by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission, and District Climate Change Mission. Presided over by Mr P.N. Sridhar, District Collector. The event featured speeches by Mr. Ilayaraja, District Forest Officer, and other representatives. More than 100 people, including college students, administrators, and NGO representatives, attended.



**Anti-Tobacco:** Little Flower Matric High School, Pushpagiri, hosted an Anti-Tobacco Rally and Seminar under the leadership of Principal Sr. Joby George on 09/10/2023. Special invitees included Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, Kalaimamani Mr Palaniapillai, and S.R. Christy Maria. The event featured a keynote address, a street play by students, and participation from 130 people, including school staff and students.

**Prevention of Teenage Suicide and Drug Addiction Awareness:** On 30/01/2024, HEAL, in association with Save Our Children, conducted a significant awareness event focused on the prevention of teenage suicide and drug addiction at Rotary Hall, Nagercoil. The event was a collaborative effort aimed at addressing the critical issues facing today's youth and fostering a supportive community environment.

The event featured an array of influential speakers who shared their expertise and insights on the topic. Dr. Rethna Robinson delivered a compelling keynote address, highlighting the psychological and social factors contributing to teenage suicide and drug addiction. Prof. Hemalatha discussed the importance of mental health education in schools and communities. Sr. Clara emphasized the role of family and religious institutions in providing emotional support and guidance to teenagers.

Mrs. Johnsy and Mrs. Merlin provided practical advice and coping strategies for parents and educators to identify and intervene in early signs of distress among teenagers. Fr. Nelson and Fr. Joy spoke about the moral and spiritual aspects of combating these issues, urging the community to foster a nurturing and understanding environment for the youth. Renowned cultural artist Kalaimamani Palania Pillai also participated, discussing the impact of cultural and recreational activities in keeping teenagers engaged and away from harmful behaviours.

The event saw an impressive turnout of over 200 participants, including students, educators, parents, and representatives from various NGOs and schools. The attendees engaged in the discussions, posing questions and sharing their own experiences and concerns.

The awareness event concluded with an interactive session, where participants had the opportunity to seek advice from experts and receive informational materials on preventing teenage suicide and drug addiction. The collective efforts of HEAL, Save Our Children, and the dedicated speakers underscored the importance of a community-driven approach to addressing these critical issues, aiming to create a safer and healthier environment for teenagers.

### **Environment:**

**Plastic Awareness:** HEAL organized a Youth Plastic Awareness Program at the Government Higher Secondary School, Valvankumaravilai, in collaboration with Bhima Jewellers, Rotary Club of Greater Nagercoil, and Utkarsh Global Foundation Asia on 28/07/2023. The program included awareness sessions on the dangers of plastic pollution, followed by a prize distribution ceremony. The event featured speeches by Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, Kalaimamani Palania Pillai, and several other dignitaries. A total of 527 participants, including school staff and students, participated.

**Ten Million Palmyra:** HEAL, in collaboration with ST Hindu College National Service Scheme (Team-116), organized a massive palm seed planting event at Manakudi and Chothavilai beaches on 01/10/2023,. Notable participants included Mr. Balabijapathy Adigalar (Anbu Vanam), Fr. Antonyyappan, Dr. Venu Kumar (Planning Commission Member), Dr. Mary Henshaw, Assistant Professor, Mr. Manikanta Prabhu, Labour Officer, and Dr. Malar, NSS Coordinator. College students and professors, totalling 57 participants, joined the initiative.

**Swachh Bharat:** From 31/07/2023 to 22/08/2023, the "Swachh Bharat" State Level Yatra event, organized by HEAL in collaboration with the Government Department, was launched at the Collectorate under the chairmanship of the District Collector. This initiative aimed to promote cleanliness and hygiene across the state, in alliance with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

The Yatra covered the distance from Kanyakumari to Pondicherry, conducting cleanliness drives and awareness campaigns in every district along the way. Notable participants included Kalaimamani Palania Pillai and singer Kandavilai Rajendran, who travelled on a two-wheeler to engage with communities and create awareness about the importance of cleanliness and sustainable practices.

On behalf of HEAL, Director Mr. Siluvai Vastian coordinated and led the entire event, ensuring its successful execution. The event garnered widespread participation and support, making a significant impact on public awareness and involvement in the Swachh Bharat mission.

**Awareness Meeting on Sea Pollution:** On 25/08/2023, an awareness meeting was organized by the Friends of Earth Group at the CPD office in Nagercoil. Mr. S. Sundar Rajan, the Coordinator of Friends of Earth Group in Chennai, delivered an insightful speech emphasizing the prevention of sea pollution and the pivotal role individuals play in preventing industrial effluents from contaminating rivers. The meeting was attended by 90 participants, including Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. The discussions focused on practical steps and community efforts needed to protect marine and riverine ecosystems from industrial pollution, underscoring the importance of collective action and responsibility.

**Pazhayar River Protection Initiative:** Mr. P.N. Sridhar, the District Collector, launched a Survey Report aimed at protecting the Pazhayar River at Konam, an event hosted by the University College of Engineering on 17/10/2023, The event featured special guests including Mr. Ilaiyarahah, DFO; Dr. V.A. Nagarajan, Dean of the University College of



Engineering; and Mrs. Revathi, District Revenue Special Officer. Organized by the University College of Engineering, the event underscored the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable practices. Social activist Dr. Vidhubala, Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Pazhayar Movement Team Leader, and more than 800 attendees participated, marking a significant step towards the preservation of Pazhayar River.

**Exposure Visit for Ecological Learning:** Students from NVKSD College in Attur visited the Manakudy Mangrove Forests and Periyakadu dune as part of their ecological learning exposure on 09/11/2023, Led by Mrs. Srilatha, Principal, and Mr. Madhavan, Assistant Professor, the visit provided students with first-hand insights into coastal ecosystems. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, delivered a talk on the importance of mangrove forests and coastal dunes, while Mrs. Visalakshi provided additional explanations. Approximately 150 college students attended the event, gaining valuable knowledge on environmental conservation and the crucial role of these ecosystems in protecting coastal regions.

**Exposure Visit to Mangrove Forest:** Students from Mother Gnanama B.Ed College in Madathattuvilai visited the Manakudy Mangrove Forests and Periyakadu dune areas for an exposure visit on 21/03/2024. The event was graced by Fr. Jayakumar and Sr. Princy. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, and Mrs. Visalakshi spoke about the significance of mangrove forests, emphasizing their role in coastal protection and biodiversity conservation. The event was attended by 80 individuals, including college professors and students, fostering a deeper understanding of mangrove ecosystems and their environmental importance.

**International River Clean-up:** On 10/10/2023, HEAL, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Greater Nagercoil, Clean and Green Chinnathurai, Little Flower Matric High School, and the Plastic Free Weaving Brigade, organized the World River Clean-up Day event at Chinnathurai. Participants cleaned a 1km stretch of the AVM channel. Over 300 people, including HEAL representatives, Rotary members, community organizations, and school children, participated in the event. The clean-up helped to improve the local environment and raised awareness about the importance of maintaining clean waterways for ecological and human health.

**Evaluation of River Monitoring:** Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director, HEAL, led a work evaluation session for volunteers engaged in river monitoring at NVKSD College on 18/01/2024, This session aimed to assess the progress and impact of the river monitoring efforts undertaken by the volunteers. Mr. Manikanta Prabhu, Deputy Commissioner of Labour, and Mrs. Srilatha, Principal, joined the discussion, providing valuable insights and feedback on the ongoing project. The meeting saw active participation from 38 individuals, including HEAL staff and students, who shared their experiences and highlighted areas for improvement in the river monitoring initiative.

## Coastal Cleaning Program



**Beach Planting and Clean-up Event at St. Jude's Matric High School:** HEAL, in collaboration with the Chinnathurai Plastic Free Weaving Brigade, Mariyagiri Malankarai Kathgolika College National Cadet Corps, Green & Cleanliness Chinnathurai, Chinnathurai Social Service Workforce, and St. Jude Matric High School, organized a massive beach planting and clean-up program on 23/01/2024. The event took place at St. Jude's Matric High School, Chinnathurai, and saw participation from more than 500 people, including college and school students, teachers, and community members. The initiative aimed to enhance the coastal environment through both planting and cleaning activities, promoting environmental awareness among the participants.

**Chinnathurai Beach Cleaning Initiative:** A beach cleaning program was held at Chinnathurai Beach, jointly organized by HEAL, the district administration, and Thoothur Panchayat on 04/02/2024. The event was attended by 86 participants, including Mrs. Laila, Panchayat President, District Project Officer Mr. Babu, HEAL Director Siluvai Vastian, and members of the Plastic Free Weaving Squad. The collective effort aimed to rid the beach of waste, fostering a cleaner and healthier coastal environment.

**Joint Beach Cleaning Effort at Chinnathurai Beach:** HEAL, Clean and Green Chinnathurai, and the Plastic Free Weaving Force jointly organized another beach cleaning program at Chinnathurai Beach on 24/02/2024. The event saw participation from 53 individuals, including Mrs. Laila, President, Panchayat, HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vastian, and members of the Plastic Free Weaving Squad. During this initiative, a total of 67 kg of garbage was collected, demonstrating the community's dedication to maintaining a clean President beach.

**Poothurai Beach Clean-up Event:** A beach cleaning event organized by the Plastic Free Weaving Brigade and Green & Clean Chinnathurai at Poothurai Beach on 02/03/2024. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director, HEAL, Mrs. Laila, Panchayat President, ward members, and members of the Plastic Free Weaving Squad participated, totalling 48 attendees. The initiative focused on removing litter and promoting environmental stewardship among the local community, contributing to the ongoing efforts to preserve the coastal ecosystem.

### **Women Empowerment:**

The organization has empowered marginalized women by forming 170 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with 2,559 members. These groups have significantly impacted women's social status, enabling them to fight discrimination and gain recognition. In 15 new communities, 20 additional SHGs with 300 members each have been established, involving 2,250 women in workshops on income generation, nutrition, and health, contributing to holistic development.

SHGs formed a loose alliance for sustainability, guided by community workers, animators, and ecological trainers. Workshop topics included government support access, basic business skills, nutrition, health risks, and the impact of untreated garbage on health.



To provide direct income support, 226 fishmongers from impoverished backgrounds received aluminium containers and cooling boxes, improving hygiene and fish quality, and reducing losses. This one-time support, combined with SHG assistance, enables women to manage future expenses independently.

**Capacity Building Program:** The Nalandula Mullaimalar Self-Help Group (SHG) conducted a capacity-building training session for its members at the Tisayanvilai office on 01/03/2024. The session was led by the Director of HEAL, who provided comprehensive training on group activities, specifically focusing on getting bank loans and ensuring regular loan repayments.

The training was attended by 11 participants, including Mrs. Swayambugani, Coordinator. The program aimed to equip SHG members with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage their financial activities effectively, fostering better financial stability and growth for their groups. The active participation and engagement of the attendees highlighted their commitment to improving their financial literacy and operational efficiency.

**Entrepreneurship Development Training:** An entrepreneurship development training session for the women of the federation was organized on 12/07/2023. Mr. Shankar Ganesh, Deputy Manager, Canara Bank, and Mrs. Amuda, Tailoring Instructor, attended the event to

provide training on the benefits of women engaging in handicrafts. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director, HEAL, was also present. Thirty persons attended the session, aimed to empower women with the skills and knowledge needed to start and manage their handicraft businesses.

**Obtaining Welfare Projects:** Under the leadership of Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, a training session was held on welfare projects on 01/08/2023. The training covered various topics including health schemes to help people access healthcare, child rights, and the harms caused by plastic. Special trainers Kalaimamani Palanipillai and Kandanvasilai Rajendran participated in the event, providing valuable insights and expertise. The event saw the participation of 35 individuals, including federation members, all of whom gained important knowledge on how to improve community welfare through these initiatives.

**Training On Embroidery:** A training session on Ari embroidery for women was conducted at the HEAL office in Tisayanvilai on 19/08/2023. Mr. Shankar Ganesh, Deputy Manager, Canara Bank, and Mrs. Selvi, Instructor, were special invitees who provided training to the attendees. The event was attended by 35 individuals, including Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. The session focused on enhancing the embroidery skills of the participants, thereby providing them with opportunities for economic empowerment and self-sufficiency.

**Ari Embroidery Training:** Another session of Ari embroidery training was held at the Tisayanvilai office on behalf of the federation on 05/12/2023. Mrs. Suba, Special Instructor, led the training, with Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, also in attendance. The session was attended by 36 individuals who were eager to learn and refine their embroidery skills. This training aimed to provide women with the tools and knowledge needed to pursue embroidery as a viable income source contributing to their financial independence and empowerment.

### **Women Federation Meetings**

**Discussion on Bank Loans and Business Opportunities:** A federation meeting was held at the HEAL office in Tisayanvilai on 21/08/2023. The Director of HEAL spoke extensively about the process of obtaining bank loans and how to effectively run a business. This informative session was attended by 42 individuals, including Mrs. Swayambugani, Coordinator, who were eager to learn and apply these insights to enhance their financial independence and business ventures.

**Introduction to the Revolving Fund:** The federation convened another meeting at the HEAL Tisayanvilai office on 22/09/2023. During this session, the Director provided detailed information about the revolving fund, explaining its benefits and how it can support the financial needs of the community. This meeting saw a significant turnout with 68 attendees, including Federation Executives, highlighting the community's interest in financial resources.

**Training on Self-Help Group Operations and Entrepreneurship Research:** At the HEAL office in Tisayanvilai, the federation meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Director on 28/10/2023. The focus of this meeting was on the functioning of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and the importance of entrepreneurship research. The Director imparted valuable training on these topics, which was attended by 35 participants, including Mrs. Swayambugani, Coordinator, HEAL. The training aimed to equip SHG members with the skills needed for effective group management and entrepreneurial success.

**Entrepreneurship Development Training:** The federation meeting at the Tisayanvilai office focused on entrepreneurship development for Self-Help Groups on 25/11/2023. The Director led the session, providing comprehensive training to the participants on various aspects of entrepreneurship. The event was attended by 37 individuals, including the renowned Kalaimamani Palanipillai and other federation members. This training session aimed to empower women with the knowledge and skills required to start and sustain their businesses.

**Pongal Festival Celebration:** A festive Pongal event was organized by the federation at the Tisayanvilai office on 05/01/2024. The celebration was graced by several dignitaries, including Fr. Victor, President of HEAL; Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL; Mr. Shankar Ganesh, Assistant Manager at Canara Bank; and Mr. Raj, Inspector of Police. The event saw the participation of 86 individuals, including HEAL staff and federation members. The festivities included a traditional food fair, kolapotti (rangoli) competitions, and sports events, with prizes awarded to the winners.

**Samathuva Pongal Festival:** The Samathuva Pongal Festival was celebrated at the Government Middle School in Chothavilai, presided over by Mrs. Akhila, the Headmistress on 12/01/2024. The event was supported by HEAL, with Mrs. Visalakshi and Mrs. Sneha serving as Chief Guests. Approximately 300 children and their parents attended the event, which aimed to promote communal harmony and cultural celebration.

### Sea-shell Unit



HEAL Movement, in partnership with the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), launched the Sea Shell Collectors Federation project in 2006 to improve the living conditions of sea shell collectors in Kanyakumari District. Despite the global attention on the 2004 tsunami, the struggles of the sea shell collectors went largely unnoticed. This community, dependent on collecting dead mollusk shells for lime powder production, faced significant challenges, particularly after the tsunami destroyed their stored shells and traditional ovens.

The sea-shell workers face economic exploitation due to their reliance on local merchants for financial support. These merchants offer high-interest loans and purchase the lime powder at low prices, exploiting the community's dependency. Additionally, the lack of adequate storage facilities forces workers to sell their products immediately, often at unfavourable prices.

Regulatory harassment further complicates their lives. Government officials misapplied the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, leading to unnecessary harassment of sea shell collectors, even though the collection of dead mollusks is not prohibited. Furthermore, the government does not recognize sea shell collecting as a cottage industry, disqualifying the community from receiving benefits available to other cottage industries.

Poverty remains a significant issue, with the income from the sea shell collection being insufficient for year-round sustenance. This economic hardship is compounded by low literacy rates within the community, which results in a lack of interest in children's education. Strong traditional values and superstitions also inhibit skill development and limit opportunities for alternative employment, particularly for women who face additional gender discrimination.

The community's traditional production methods are outdated, leading to high production costs and making their products less competitive compared to those from corporate businesses. The impact of the tsunami worsened their situation, washing away stored shells and halting the operation of traditional ovens. The aftermath saw the community struggling with near starvation as the marine ecosystem took time to recover, reducing the availability of sea shells.

The government and NGOs focused primarily on the fishermen, neglecting the equally affected sea shell collectors. As a result, the plight of this community remained largely ignored, leaving them to endure their hardships with little external support.

**Technological Advancements in Puthukkudiyiruppu Sea-shell unit:** The Sea-shell unit At Puthukkudiyiruppu hosted a visiting event presided over by Mr. Anthony Raj and Mr. Siluvai Vastian, the Director of HEAL on 09/07/2023, The event focused on addressing the challenges in the seashell industry and exploring the integration of modern technology to enhance productivity and sustainability. During the workers' meeting, Mr. Siluvai Vastian provided coaching and shared valuable insights on overcoming industry challenges through innovative technological solutions. The discussions aimed at equipping the workers with the knowledge and skills needed to adapt to the evolving demands of the seashell industry. The event saw the participation of approximately 17 individuals, including Mrs. Visalakshi, HEAL, and several seashell workers. Their active engagement highlighted the community's commitment to improving the industry and embracing advancements for a better future.

## **Staff meetings**

**Staff Meeting on Children's Activity Center and MIS Portal:** A staff meeting was conducted on 05/04/2023 at the Tisayanvilai office, chaired by Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. During the meeting, Mr. Vastian provided an overview of the Children's Activity Center and the Management Information System (MIS) portal. He detailed the center's activities and discussed the operational aspects of the MIS portal, emphasizing its importance in streamlining processes and improving efficiency. Mrs. Swayambugani, Coordinator, and 10 other staff members attended the meeting, which aimed to enhance understanding and implementation of these key organizational tools.

**Staff Meeting on Climate Change:** The HEAL office in Tisayanvilai hosted a staff meeting on 08/07/2023 focused on climate change. The session was chaired by Mr. Siluvai Vastian, with special invitees Mr. Antony Raj from Bangalore and Mr. Sundar Babu from Chennai, who delivered insightful talks on the impacts and mitigation strategies related to climate change. The meeting was attended by Mrs. Swayambugani, Coordinator, and 9 other participants, highlighting the organization's commitment to addressing environmental issues through knowledge sharing and expert input.

**Staff Meeting on Revolving Fund:** A staff meeting on 21/09/2023 was held at the Tisayanvilai office, chaired by Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. The focus of the meeting was to provide information on obtaining and managing a revolving fund. Mr. Vastian explained the procedures and benefits associated with the revolving fund, aimed at improving financial sustainability. The meeting was attended by Mr. Vastian and 2 staff members, emphasizing the importance of understanding and effectively utilizing financial resources.

**Staff Meeting on Nambiar River Cleaning:** A staff meeting was held on 12/10/2023 at the Tisayanvilai office with Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, presiding over the session. The meeting addressed the Nambiar River cleaning project, with Mr. Ananda Kumar, Panchayat President, joining as a special invitee. The discussion focused on the progress and strategies related to the river cleaning initiative. The meeting was attended by 6 participants, including HEAL staff, and provided an opportunity for in-depth discussion on the project's impact.

**Evaluation Meeting on Center Activities:** An evaluation meeting was held on 06/04/2023 at the Tisayanvilai HEAL office, chaired by Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director. Mr. Thangam, a representative from TDH, visited to inquire about the activities and plans of the center. The meeting provided an opportunity for staff to present their progress and challenges. The discussion was attended by 10 participants, including Mrs. Swayambugani, the Coordinator, and other staff members, focusing on assessing and improving the center's operations.

**Consultation Meeting on Agricultural Laborers and Farmers:** A consultation meeting was held on 23/09/2023 at the Tisayanvilai HEAL office, focusing on the status of agricultural labourers and the challenges faced by farmers. Chaired by Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director, the

meeting addressed topics such as water management, groundwater conservation, and the Nambiar dam dredging project. The discussion included visits to working villages like Pettaikulam and Urumangulam, where interactions with farmers were held. The meeting saw participation from 30 individuals, including Mr. Ananda Kumar, President, Muthumothanmozhi Panchayat, Rajagopal, VAO, farmers, and HEAL staff.

**Explanatory Meeting on Agricultural Workers' Survey:** An explanatory meeting was held on 14/10/2023 at the Tisayanvilai office to discuss a survey form on the status of agricultural workers. The meeting, chaired by Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director, included a special address by Kalaimamani Palaniapillai, who provided insights on Nambiar river cleaning, river water irrigation, and rainwater harvesting. Mr. Vastian explained the farmer census form in detail. The event was attended by 17 participants, including 6 youths, farmers, and HEAL workers, aiming to clarify the survey's objectives and gather relevant data.

**Staff Planning Meeting:** A staff planning meeting was held on 27/11/2023 at the HEAL office under the chairmanship of Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. During the meeting, the workers organized and planned their activities according to their respective project areas, ensuring a more structured and coordinated approach to their tasks. The planning session saw the participation of 17 staff members.

**Staff Meeting on Industry Survey Work:** A staff meeting was held on 18/11/2023 at the HEAL office. During the meeting, Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, provided detailed guidance on how the sub-categories of industries should be selected and calculated in the survey work. This crucial information was aimed at ensuring accurate and comprehensive data collection for ongoing projects. The meeting saw the participation of 17 staff members, who engaged in discussions and planning to effectively implement the survey methodologies.

**Evaluation of Survey Work:** On 27/12/2023, another staff meeting took place at the HEAL office, chaired by Mr. Siluvai Vastian. This meeting focused on evaluating the survey work conducted by the staff over the previous months. A total of 16 staff members participated in the session, reviewing the findings, assessing the quality of data collected, and discussing improvements for future surveys. The evaluation aimed to enhance the accuracy and impact of HEAL's research efforts.

**Staff Performance Appraisal Meeting:** A staff performance appraisal meeting was held on 08/01/2024 at the HEAL office under the chairmanship of the Director, Mr. Siluvai Vastian. The meeting aimed to evaluate the performance of the staff members over the past period. Seventeen staff members participated in this crucial assessment session, where individual performances were reviewed and feedback was provided.

**Staff Meeting for Survey Form Validation:** A staff meeting was chaired by the Director at the HEAL office on 13/01/2024. The primary agenda was the validation of the survey form and the preparation of the Final Report. 17 staff members participated in this event, ensuring that the survey data was accurately compiled and validated for the final documentation.

**Staff Performance Appraisal Meeting:** Another staff performance appraisal meeting was held on 27/01/2024 at the HEAL office. During this meeting, the Director requested an industry-wise report based on the survey work conducted by each union. The staff submitted their reports of their activities, providing comprehensive insights into their performances.

**General Staff Meeting:** A general staff meeting was held on 29/01/2024 at the HEAL office. Twenty staff members participated in this meeting, where various organizational matters and ongoing projects were discussed, and updates were shared among the team.

**Staff Meeting with Special Invitee:** A staff meeting was held on 07/03/2024 at the HEAL office under the chairmanship of the Director, Mr. Siluvai Vastian. Mrs. Merlin was present as the special invitee and conducted an evaluation of the ongoing work. Seventeen staff members participated, where progress was reviewed, and strategic plans were discussed.

### **Network Programs:**

**Sexual Harassment Committee Meeting:** A Sexual Harassment Committee meeting was held on 25/05/2023 at the District Collector's office under the leadership of Mrs. Sarojini, Social Welfare Officer. The meeting focused on addressing issues related to sexual harassment and implementing effective measures to prevent such incidents within the community. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, participated in the meeting, representing the organization and contributing to the discussions and decision-making processes aimed at promoting a safer and more respectful environment.

Another Sexual Harassment Committee meeting took place on 07/02/2024 at the District Collector's office. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, participated as a member of the committee. The meeting continued the ongoing efforts to address and combat sexual harassment, with Mr. Vastian actively involved in reviewing cases, providing insights, and helping to develop policies and procedures ensuring safety and well-being of individuals.

**Anti-Tobacco Cultural Event:** In collaboration with the District Public Health and Disease Prevention Department, District Administration, Rotary Club of Greater Nagercoil, and Grace College, HEAL organized a significant 'Anti-Tobacco' cultural event on 31/05/2023 at Vadaseri Bus Station, Nagercoil. This event aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco use through engaging and impactful cultural performances. Various artists participated, delivering powerful messages against tobacco consumption through their performances.

The event saw the attendance of more than 2,000 people, including, Mr. Mahesh, Mayor of the Corporation, Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, President of the Rotary Club, Mr. Palaniappala and staff members from various organizations. The diverse audience also comprised artists, school students, and bus station passengers. The cultural event successfully conveyed the anti-tobacco message, highlighting the importance of health and well-being in the community.

### **CACL Network Meetings**

**Anti-Child Labor Day Event:** CACL organized an Anti-Child Labor Day event on 04/06/2023 at the ICSA Centre in Chennai. The Tamil Nadu Planning Commission Chairperson attended as a special guest, emphasizing the importance of eradicating child labor and supporting affected children. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, along with 40 representatives from various charitable organizations, participated in the event. The gathering focused on raising awareness and advocating for policies to protect children from labor exploitation.

**CACL & PCPC Network meeting:** A CACL & PCPC Network meeting was held on 10/06/2023 at the ICSA Centre in Chennai. The meeting, attended by 12 participants, including Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, aimed to discuss strategies and collaborative efforts to combat child labor and ensure child protection. The discussions centered on enhancing the network's effectiveness in addressing child labor issues across the region.

**Tamil Nadu CACL Meeting on Education Policy:** The Tamil Nadu CACL Meeting took place on 13/08/2023 at the ICSA Centre in Chennai, focusing on Education Policy. The event was attended by 28 individuals, including Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. The meeting

addressed various aspects of education policy, aiming to improve access to quality education for all children and eliminate barriers that prevent children from attending school.

**Child Marriage Free India Event:** An event titled "Child Marriage Free India" was organized on 26/09/2023 by CACL and Peace Trust at the ICOSA Centre in Chennai. The event aimed to raise awareness about the issue of child marriage and advocate for a child marriage-free society. The event saw the participation of 28 individuals, including Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. The discussions focused on strategies to prevent child marriages and support affected children and communities.

**District Health Monitoring Committee Meeting:** A District Health Monitoring Committee meeting was held on 24/07/2023 at the District Collector's office. The meeting aimed to discuss and evaluate the health initiatives and programs within the district. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, attended the meeting, contributing to the discussions on improving healthcare services and monitoring health-related activities in the region.

**Coastal Integrated Development Plans Campaign:** Collective Learning and Action Program (Clap Network), Tamil Nadu organized a campaign on 16/11/2023 in Ramanathapuram to create Coastal Integrated Development Plans. The event saw the participation of several notable figures, including Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, Mr. Annadharai, Mr. Karuppasamy, and Advisor Dr. Krishnamurthy. This campaign aimed at formulating comprehensive development strategies to enhance the coastal regions' sustainability and resilience. The collaborative efforts highlighted the importance of integrated planning in addressing coastal challenges and promoting community well-being.

**SAM Meeting at RUC Parvatipuram:** On 30/12/2023, a SAM (Special Activities Meeting) was held at the RUC Parvatipuram office under the chairmanship of Advocate Maria Stephen. Each organization presents shared a report on their special activities conducted over the past year. HEAL was represented by Mrs. Visalakshi and Mrs. Nambikkai Mary, along with 17 other participants. The meeting provided an opportunity for various organizations to highlight their achievements and discuss plans.

**SAM Meeting Organized by HEAL:** On 07/01/2024, HEAL organized a SAM meeting in collaboration with Advocate Maria Stephen, chaired by Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. During the meeting, Mr. Annadurai led a SWOT analysis on HEAL's achievements over the past five years and planned the formation of a target group. HEAL was represented by Mrs. Vishalakshi and Mrs. Merlin, who contributed to the strategic planning discussions.

**Awareness Meeting on Welfare Board for Sanitation Workers:** On 08/01/2024, an awareness meeting about the welfare board for sanitation workers was held at the HEAL office. The event was organized by HEAL in association with the Wash Network. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, and Mr. Annathurai, Treasurer of the Wash Network, conducted the training. 19 people from 5 companies participated in the event aimed to educate sanitation workers about their rights and the benefits available to them through the welfare board.

**Forum for Rights Meeting:** A Forum for Rights meeting was held on 10/03/2024 at the HEAL office. The meeting featured a speech by Gerald, Advocate, who spoke about scholarships available for Dalit students. 12 persons participated, including HEAL President Fr. Victor and Director Mr. Siluvai Vastian. The discussion focused on the importance of educational support for Dalit students and the available resources to aid their academic pursuits.

**Forum for Rights Follow-Up Meeting:** A follow-up meeting of the Forum for Rights was held on 24/03/2024 at the HEAL office. The meeting included a discussion on various welfare schemes available for Dalit students. HEAL President Fr. Victor and Director Mr. Siluvai Vastian were present, along with 24 other attendees. The discussion aimed to evaluate the

progress of previous initiatives and plan further actions to enhance the educational and welfare opportunities for Dalit students.

### **Other Programs**

**Health Awareness Camp and Rally:** Kanyakumari Ayurveda Medical College organized a bathing awareness camp and rally on 07/11/2023 to promote hygiene and traditional health practices. The event commenced at the college and proceeded to Kanyakumari, where it drew considerable attention. Special invitees Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, and Kalaimamani Palaniapillai participated in the event. Their presence underscored the importance of maintaining personal hygiene and adopting traditional health practices for overall well-being. The rally aimed to raise awareness among the community about the benefits of regular bathing and traditional health routines.

**Survey on Workers' Conditions:** A preparatory meeting was held on 08/11/2023 at B.Ed College in Attur, chaired by HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vastian and Principal Mrs. Srilatha. The meeting was convened to discuss the involvement of college students in a survey assessing workers' conditions across Tamil Nadu. The session saw active participation from 45 individuals, including professors and students. Fourteen students volunteered to take part in the survey, reflecting their commitment to understanding and improving labour conditions. The preparatory meeting was crucial for organizing and coordinating the upcoming survey efforts.

### **Mothers' Day Awareness Program**

The Kanyakumari District Child Protection Unit hosted a Thai Day Awareness Program on 14/11/2023 at the District Collectorate. The event was presided over by District Collector Mr. P.N. Sridhar and included several significant activities. Attendees participated in a pledge on child and human rights, the release of awareness stickers, and a rally to emphasize the importance of protecting children's rights. The program attracted over 300 participants, including government officials, students from various colleges, and representatives from NGOs, highlighting the community's dedication to child protection and human rights.

**Job Evaluation Meeting;** A job evaluation meeting was conducted on 14/02/2024 at NVKSD B.Ed College in Attur to review the work of students involved in survey activities. The meeting, led by HEAL Director Mr. Siluvai Vastian, featured the presentation of reports submitted by the students. This session allowed for a detailed assessment of their findings and provided feedback on their performance. The meeting was attended by 42 participants, including HEAL staff members and college professors, who engaged in discussions about the students' contributions and the implications of their survey results.

**Anti-Child Labor Day Event:** An Anti-Child Labor Day event was held on 12/06/202 at the District Collector's Office, led by the District Collector. The event emphasized the commitment to eradicating child labor, with all attendees taking a solemn pledge to support this cause. Approximately 198 individuals participated, including Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, officials from the District Collector's Office, college students, and Kalaimamani Palaniapillai. The event highlighted the collective effort and dedication of the community to protect children from labor exploitation and ensure their right to a safe and healthy childhood.

**Agro Entrepreneurship Training:** An Agro Entrepreneurship training program was organized jointly by Vishva Yuva Kendra, Vaigai Trust, Dindigul, Stella Maris, Gramiyam, Karur, and HEAL from 20/06/2023 to 22/06/2023. The event, held in Kanyakumari, focused on briefing participants about Agro-Industry activities and the potential for entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector. The training was attended by Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, along with 38 individuals from various charities. This collaborative effort aimed to equip attendees with the knowledge and skills necessary to foster entrepreneurial ventures within the agro-industry, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and economic development.

**World Population Day Event:** A World Population Day event was organized on 11/07/2023 by HEAL in association with Kiras College of Engineering was held at Nallur. The event aimed to raise awareness about population issues through rallies and cultural performances. Approximately 110 people attended, including notable guests such as Kalaimamani Palaniappalai and Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. The event successfully engaged the community in discussions and activities designed to highlight the importance of population control and its impact on sustainable development. At the event, they created awareness through rallies and performances. Around 110 people attended, including Kalaimamani Palaniappalai and Mr Siluvai Vastian, Director, HEAL.

**Consultation and Seminar:** A consultation and seminar organized by HEAL in collaboration with the Energy Department of the Mechanical Division, NIT Trichy, was held on 15/07/2023 at the college. During the event, Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, announced that HEAL would collaborate with NIT and utilize the research findings of NIT students in target villages. The seminar saw the participation of 11 individuals, including NIT students, who engaged in discussions on the application of energy research to community development projects. Department of Mechanical Division, NIT Trichy was held in the college. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director, HEAL, said that HEAL will work with NIT and use the findings of Research students in our target villages. 11 persons including NIT students participated in this event.

**Field Study and Exposure Visit:** Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, conducted a field study and exposure visit to Namakkal, Karur, and Kuzhithalai on 16/07/2023. During his visit, he explored a small business center and observed its operations. Impressed by their practices, he decided to implement similar business models within HEAL corporate groups to enhance their entrepreneurial activities. This visit aimed to gather insights and ideas to bolster HEAL's efforts in promoting sustainable small businesses.

**Information and Broadcasting Event:** HEAL, in collaboration with the Naja Gokilam Foundation, organized an event on 19/07/2023 with the Information and Broadcasting Department, South Zone, Government of India, at Nagercoil. The focus of the event was on disseminating information about government welfare programs to the public. The event featured discussions on effective strategies to ensure that these programs reach and benefit the intended recipients. 42 participants and Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, attended, highlighting the importance of community engagement in promoting government initiatives.

**Energy Department Meeting:** A meeting organized on 10/08/2023 by the Energy Department at NIT, Trichy, was held. The event focused on research-related topics and the sharing of experiences in the energy sector. Key attendees included Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, Dr. Sivaramakrishnan, and Mrs. Premalatha, Head of the Department, Mr. Palaniswami and seven other participants also attended, contributing to the discussions .

**Consultation Meeting on Palayaar Protection Meeting:** A consultation meeting related to Palayaar River was held on 14/08/2023 at the Chennai Museum. The event was chaired by Mr. Aravind IAS, the Medicine Controller Officer and former District Collector. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, participated as the chairperson for the protection of the Old River, contributing his expertise and insights on the matter. The meeting focused on strategies and initiatives for preserving and protecting the Palayaar River.

**Revolving Fund Meeting:** On 18/09/2023, Siva Trust in Coimbatore held a meeting related to providing revolving funds. The event was attended by Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. During the meeting, Mr. Siluvai Vastian engaged in discussions with Mr. Subramania Siva, focusing on the modalities and processes for obtaining revolving funds for the group. This meeting aimed to explore financial support options and strategies to enhance the group's economic stability and growth.

**Shared Food Program Event:** The Kumari District Thiruvarul Forum and PWD India organized a shared food program event on 06/10/2023 at Tucker Children's Home. Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, served as the Chief Guest for the event. The program was attended by 36 people, including Fr. Vincent, President of Thiruvarul Forum, and James S. Daniel, Coordinator. Parents of the children, teachers, and social activists also participated in the event. The gathering emphasized the importance of community support and nourishment for the children, fostering a sense of togetherness and care.

**Pre-Preparatory Meeting:** A pre-preparatory meeting was held on 02/11/2023 at the HEAL office under the chairmanship of Mr. Manikanda Prabhu, Labor Assistant Commissioner, with the presence of Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. The meeting saw the participation of 14 individuals representing five different companies. The discussion focused on aligning strategies for upcoming initiatives to improve labour conditions.

**Pre-Preparatory Training:** A pre-preparatory training session was conducted on 10/11/2023 at the HEAL office under the leadership of Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. The training aimed at preparing for a survey on the working conditions of workers in Tamil Nadu. A total of 15 staff members participated in this session. The training equipped the participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively carry out the survey, ensuring a comprehensive assessment of the workers' conditions.

**Vetiver Farming Initiative:** Vetiver farming was promoted through the Trichy Vetiver India Organization on 17/11/2023, which is creating more employment opportunities for women. Acting on the advice of the Kanyakumari District Forest Officer, Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, visited Tiruppathur to study an initiative aimed at planting Vetiver to prevent soil erosion in the Periyakadu dunes. This visit highlighted the dual benefits of Vetiver farming: environmental conservation and economic empowerment for women in the region.

**Enumerator Training on Worker Conditions:** An enumerator training session on the working conditions of workers in Tamil Nadu was held 21/11/2023 under the leadership of Mr. Manikanda Prabhu, Deputy Commissioner, at the Konam Labor Office. The training was conducted by Mr. Jeba Prince and Mr. Sandeep. 36 staff members participated in the training, focusing on data collection and assessment techniques to improve worker conditions.

**District Review Meeting:** A review meeting of the District Narcotics Prevention Committee took place on 23/11/2023 at the District Collector's Office, chaired by District Collector Mr. P. N. Sridhar. The meeting was attended by various departmental officials, including Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL. The discussions centered on strategies to combat drug abuse and implement effective prevention measures in the district.

**Participation in Pulse Polio Camp:** Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, participated in the Pulse Polio Camp held on 03/03/2024 at Asaripallam Medical College. Representing HEAL, Mr. Vastian administered polio drops to children aged 0 – 5 years, emphasizing the organization's commitment to public health and disease prevention. The event saw the attendance of numerous doctors and nurses, who collaborated to ensure the successful immunization of young children against polio. This initiative underscores the collective efforts of healthcare professionals and organizations like HEAL in combating polio .

**School Anniversary Event and Art Competitions:** On 22/03/2024, the Government Middle School in Chothavilai celebrated its anniversary with a series of art events and competitions. The event was held under the leadership of the school principal, Mrs. Akila. Mr. Krishna Murthy, President of the Rotary Club of Greater Nagercoil, and Mr. Siluvai Vastian, Director of HEAL, were the Chief Guests for the occasion. The event saw a significant turnout, with more than 600 participants, including school teachers, parents, PTA, SMC, and children.