

# SCORE



## ANNUAL REPORT, 2022 - 2023



*Presented by*

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## **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT, 2022 - 2023**

### ***Honorable President and Members of the General Body,***

I have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Catalyst Organization **Society for Community Organization and Rural Education (SCORE)** for the year 2022 - 2023 which gives brief account of the major activities which carried out during the period. SCORE is an independent not for profitable Social Service Organization. It was registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 27 of 1975. Besides it, our organization has also been incorporated under the Ministry of Home Affairs; Govt. of India, Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). SCORE organization is a community based awareness and development organization involved in specific empowerment and development activities with the active participation of the target communities who are socially marginalized, economically deprived, educationally backward and culturally conservative rural and tribal community. It is presently working in 50 under developed villages and hamlets in Thogaimalai block and 30 villages in Kadavur block of Karur District, and 15 hill tribal villages of Kollihills block of Namakkal District in Tamilnadu state, India. It is also planning to extend the activities in other villages where there is a greater need for the unreached community.

During the year 2020 - 2021, the Organization has implemented various programmes with the grant support of foreign agencies and local contributions and participation of the community and stakeholders.

I sincerely thank them and all our partners and well wishers for their generous support in different ways. I wish and request this cooperation to continue in the successive year also to help SCORE to continue and achieve its development mission.

***Our Vision:*** *“To pave the way for Socio - Economic Empowerment of marginalized in rural, Tribal community through collective actions and also enable them to develop individual and community potential for creating a humanitarian society”.*

***Our Mission:*** *“Our mission is to empower the economically poor and marginalized women and Children in the society through forming and strengthening community based organization and institution capacity building measures”.*

### ***Strength of the SCORE:***

Local communities that include farmers, rural women, tribal people and youths always support to SCORE. The tasks of the SCORE go beyond the conventional social works, we strongly believe in participatory rural development, and our community-based approaches have proved to be successful for the twenty third years. SCORE has formed 250 Self Help Groups of rural and indigenous women. Youth Groups, Farmers Associations and Tribal Associations have been formed for collective behavior and social movement. With this formidable strength, SCORE has been in the field since 1995 and has earned several awards, distinctions and recognitions.

The activities are detailed under different programs implemented in this reporting period.

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## 1. POVERTY REDUCTION & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:

SCORE have implemented poverty reduction program through bio farming methods among small and marginal women farmers in 15 villages of Kadavur block in Karur District, Tamilnadu, India financial supported by EUROFINS FOUNDATION, BELGIUM. The purpose of the project was to train the 200 women on Bio-farming methods of agriculture including preparation of vermin compost, bio-pesticides tonic, creation of indigenous seeds bank, training on drip irrigation, development of kitchen garden, marketing skills, Farmers Group formation and strengthening etc. The Direct beneficiaries of the project are 213 rural poor women. These women were from poor strata of the community healing from 15 villages in Kadavur block of Karur District, Tamilnadu, India.



These arrangements would enable to provide organic foods and Nutritional Vegetables and sell them in the markets at increased price earn for their livelihood and come out of poverty. Soil testing, cattle rearing, soil erosion, land degradation, ground water level, and village culture, maintain the reservoir are the major activities of this project. SCORE has maintaining the individual farmers file and provided farmer's diary to all farmers for entry the field visit and progress details.

## 2. HIV/AIDS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION EDUCATION:

HIV/AIDS has emerged as the most challenging health problem of the world. Despite the civilization, culture, and awareness of the people, the AIDS epidemic has not abated. Similarly, the number of HIV infected persons is increasing day by day due to lack of awareness and superstitions about STI/HIV/AIDS in the rural areas of Kadavur block in Karur district.



All the villages target groups were enthusiastically attended by all events. Training was provided clearly and descriptively by well-experienced resource persons. We have conducted 2 days training programme for the each young age groups. The trainers conducted the seminar on the basis of concepts such as STI/HIV transmission, prevention methods, safer sex, condom promotion and support for HIV positive persons. Awareness education was provided through village awareness meeting, awareness education seminar for women and young girls and youths, AIDS education for school and college students, traditional cultural programs, awareness rallies etc. IEC materials such as handbills, leaflets, posters and banners were distributed to the participants and the public at all events. We have given continuously care and support, counseling and referral service and linkages to the welfare departments and other Institutions to getting the various resources. Last year 125 positive persons and their family members have benefited in this programme through proper medical assistance and psychological counseling. And also we have motivated to take ART and referral services to the PHC for STI/STD treatment and counseling.

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### 3. ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:

The goal of the child labour awareness Campaign for Inclusive Education is to guarantee that 100% of school-aged working children and adolescents effectively exercise their right to a complete and quality education. Protect children from slavery, abuse, neglect and exploitation through awareness, empowerment and support. Empower the rural poor family to fulfil their parental care role towards their children. We selected 5 schools in backward and remote villages of Kadavur block where school attendance is low. A trained resource person who already has experience in child labour eradication program was led by the headmaster of each school under the supervision of other teachers for 2 hours. Resource persons was given on child labour eradication, the importance of education, the need for education in the future, what causes child labour, what laws are there, shame and punishment for parents.



Earlier SCORE director Mr.AA.Balasundharan; B.Sc. B.Ed., M.S.W thanked to **Ontario Teachers Federation (OTF), Canada** for funding supported this project. The Headmaster of the school said that the implementation of child labor eradication program in our school is a good and useful program for all of us. Thanks to the OTF Canada and SCORE organization for this important activities. All the students should pay attention to their opinions and continue studying without interrupting their education. He said that only then will your future be better and happier.

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#### 4. PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS:

Karur district, the villages of Kadavur block are very dry and rely on monsoon rains to support their families by farming and doing agricultural labour. Especially the people of this area who do not have any permanent employment go to daily wage laborers and earn low income and struggle to survival on daily meals.



In this situation, the corona virus infected families and they were unable to go to daily wages and were struggling to meet their basic amenities. Their children were unable to purchase the necessary educational materials to continue their school studies. There was a situation where children's education had to stop education. SCORE requested the Shamdasani Foundation, Hong Kong help for educational purpose. According to this, we selected the children of 300 families suffering from extreme poverty with the help of their respective school teachers and after consultation with the concerned village panchayat leaders. Accordingly, we provided 300 children with all the necessary educational materials for their studying classes, including books, notes books, pens, pencils, geometry boxes, scales, erasers and English and Tamil grammar books etc. All the educational materials required for their class this year has been provided. Children and parents received it happily. The school teachers also wished that this help would be very useful for these poor and COVID-19 affected families' children. Elected Village Panchayat leaders also said that this educational assistance will be very helpful for the education of our village children and continued their education.

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#### 5. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & RIGHTS PROGRAM:

Empowering women is the fundamental right of women. They can have equal rights to participate in education, society, economics, and politics. They are allowed to have higher education and treated in the way like men. In this article, you will know about the importance of women's empowerment. Empowering women is essential to the health and social development of families, communities and countries. When women are living safe, fulfilled and productive lives, they can reach their full potential. "Women's Rights are Human Rights". These include the right to live free from violence and discrimination; to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; to be educated; to own property; to vote; and to earn an equal wage. SCORE continues to work on the principle that the development of women is the development of the country and the development of the family. Only if there is equal rights, equal opportunity, equal status will it be the real

development of women. Only when women develop in the economy can the family sustainable, the state and the country become independent. For the past 27 years SCORE has been doing various project implementations for the development of women. SCORE formed 250 women SHGs with 2800 women as members and motivated them to savings as Group Savings and rotates their amount as 'Internal Rotation' under its 'Women Development Programme' to alleviate poverty and to promote sustainability and holistic empowerment among poor women. SCORE organizes various trainings like SHG management training, members orientation, training-cum-exposure, financial literacy, adolescent girls health trainings, general health & sanitation, community sanitation, HIV/AIDS prevention, disaster management, savings & thrift, EDP, REDP, skill trainings, etc. to SHG members, Animators & Representatives and PLF leaders for their sustainable development and empowerment with the support of local Nationalized banks.

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## **6. TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:**

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This is a continuous programme of tribal development in the past 20 years. SCORE have adopted 12 interior tribal villages in Valavanthinaadu panchayat and working for the full-fill of the basic needs and sustainable Livelihood & Development activities for the tribal women and children. We have provided Books, Note Books, Uniforms, Shoes and Educational materials for school students, Helping small amount for House Repairing work for poor Tribal women, Medical help for poor older Tribal persons, Free medicines for small health problems and given loan for Tribal women SHG's. We have provided milch animal loan for 20 tribal women and established mini grocery shop in Seekkuparai village and conducting free tuition centre at Sitroonipatti village.

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## **7. YOUTH CARRIER OPPORTUNITIES CAMPS:**

Employment for youth in India, especially in Tamil Nadu, has been very octagonal in years. Many educated youths have given up half of their lives without finding jobs. With this in mind the SCORE conducted employment opportunity camps for educated youth at various main locations in last year. We have hired many young people to study which courses, which jobs and which companies. About 1900 youths have attended and benefited from these camps. There was good reception and interest in the embracing villages as well. The manual of full details, application form was distributed to all. We have organized youth sensitization training programme in 5 main villages Content of this training on personality development, Leadership quality, service to the poor communities etc,. SCORE has also promoted men SHG's for sustainable development and motivated savings and credit management activities. We have conducted the leadership training for Youths and animation of village welfare activities. In order to create Awareness and opportunity for self-employment and other purpose among the rural people.

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## **8. MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH CARE:**

SCORE giving most importance for Child health and education activities to the school children and mothers to preventive and curative aspects. Among the target group in general mother and child care

has been a most importance for they are the most vulnerable section in the society. Awareness on the imperative of breast feeding, personal and environment hygiene, healthy habits, preparation of simple and nutritious food availing local grains was given to them. Health awareness meetings were regularly conducted in the women SHG's meetings in all 12 target villages.

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#### **9. SELF-EMPLOYMENT TRAINING:**

SCORE has conducted Continuously Self-Employment Training for most backward and scheduled caste women. Last year, we conducted as self-employment training, 60 women were trained for 15 days to value addition techniques training on agricultural products they produce and sell them to rural poor farmers. That is, technical training was imparted to make and sell Mango Pickle, Lemon Pickle, Garlic Pickle, Gooseberry Pickle, Chili Powder, Sambar Powder, Tomato Jam etc. By this they are getting more income and they are making and using it at home for their needs. And also the tailoring, embroidering and Modern Dress Making. This year 170 girls from Thogaimalai and Kadavur blocks were trained in tailoring through 4 months course. This training is offered on modern dress making and designing, stitching, packing and marketing. Training on kids wear and women's wear are given special priority. After completion of the Training the trained girls are able to earn at least Rs.7,000 to 9,000/- per month.

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#### **10. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION:**

SCORE conducted climate change and environmental conservation awareness campaigns in last 18 years continuously. Similarly, awareness seminar on environmental conservation and climate change was held in 9 major villages in last year. The women's Self Help Groups, youth, farmers and school students by a large number attended the programme. The seminar was conducted on topics such as tree planting, organic farming, rain water harvesting, kitchen garden promotion and climate change and mitigation action. Each participant was given 10 tree saplings free of cost. The environmental awareness rally attended by all the participants was held in the main villages of Tharagampatti and Thogaimalai. In addition, planted trees in school campus and road side with participation of the local people and elected Panchayat President and Panchayat Union Chairman. Farming women are participated enthusiastically and each received 10 tree saplings of various fruits and trees.

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#### **11. ORGANIC FARMING AND KITCHEN GARDEN PROMOTION:**

Organic farming system in India is not new and is being followed from ancient time. It is a method of farming system which primarily aimed at cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way, as to keep the soil alive and in good health by use of organic wastes (crop, animal and farm wastes, aquatic wastes) and other biological materials along with beneficial microbes (bio-fertilizers) to release nutrients to crops for increased sustainable production in an eco friendly pollution free environment. With the increase in population our compulsion would be not only to stabilize agricultural production but to increase it further in sustainable manner. Keeping this in mind, Score Company has been promoting organic farming for the last 10 years so that the future society should not be exposed to various physical ailments due to environmental damage, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Similarly, last year 200 small and marginal women farmers in 15 villages were selected and trained on topics such as agriculture, vermin compost, panchakavya, pesticides, home vegetable garden, tree

cultivation, soil fertility conservation, soil testing, seed treatment, crop rotation. All participated enthusiastically. Vegetable seeds and fruit seedlings were provided free of charge at the end of the training.

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## **12. REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS:**

Put simply, rehabilitation helps a child, adult or older person to be as independent as possible in everyday activities and enables participation in education, work, recreation and meaningful life roles such as taking care of family. SCORE is a District Facilitation Center for Disability, District convener of TNVHA Network and Registered with **Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), Govt. of India**. 3 days orientation training in 3 modules to the NGO staffs, women SHG members, young married women and Child care workers with subject of Early Intervention of Disability and their Rights, Govt. schemes and public cooperation etc., Various NGO leaders and staffs were attended the training programme. The trained staff was conducted in various villages and to identify and list the persons with disability. After identification, they prepared a face sheet and case study about each disabled person. We have planned to establish a Special school for the Challenged persons in Thogaimalai.

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## **13. PREVENTION OF EARLY FORCED MARRIAGES:**

The day-to-day girl children rights in questionarable. Forced marriage at a young age girl. Thus the girl children are affected both physically and mentally. Younger widows are more likely to marry young girls to an older man. Considering this situation, the SCORE organization Women's Self Help Groups also provided awareness education to women on issues such as girl child rights, early age of forced marriage, and their preferences. Awareness campaigns, leaflets and posters were also spread among the general public. Selected women SHGs members and youth group members and also general public for attaining the objectives and educate and importance of girls children Rights. 13 workshops conducted in 13 villages and two rallies organized in Tharagampatti and Thogaimalai with involving SHGs, Youths and General public covered women and men in and around the Kadavur and Thogaimalai blocks. Dissemination of IEC materials were produced to the all participants. Formed Block level Girl Children Protection Group and functioned properly with the support of the people's contributions and discussed about the Women and Girls Rights and action for general public.

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## **14. ADOLESCENT HEALTH & RIGHTS:**

During the last financial year SCORE conducted awareness education for young girls and school going adolescent girls on the above topics in 10 villages. Upholding human rights for sexual and reproductive health key to ensuring that all people can be equal and free to make decisions in all spheres of their lives, without discrimination, without violence or coercion, and with the assurance of their dignity upheld. The role of young women is essential in creating the new society of the future. For that we need to provide a lot of health and rights awareness education. Sexual and Reproductive illness Pregnancy, abortion and childbirth, sexually transmitted infections, death and disability related to STI/HIV/AIDS and genital cancers are the most important. Resources can be better utilized by better integrating services for HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health. The target groups were attended with interest. Doctors, women rights activists, social workers, lawyers and many

others conducted the seminar and distributed IEC materials to the participants. For these problems SCORE conducted Comprehensive School Health Programme for school students in Thogaimalai and Kadavur blocks. Totally we have conducted training in 16 schools (High and Higher Secondary schools) and 17000 school children's were benefited and also school Teachers.

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#### **15. CARE AND SUPPORT OF AGED PERSONS:**

A man lives in various stages including infancy, childhood, adolescence, old age and old age. At each stage our behavior, attitude, attitude and physical fitness are different. Neither man nor woman can be alone. They have to live in a family where love, affection and care, mutual help a person to live. With the advent of urbanization, modernization and many other factors, joint families have disintegrated. People are busy with their work and they do not have the time or interest to look after the older members of the family. So, they leave their parents in nursing homes. Moreover, many who are insensitive abandon their parents. To understand and clear these issues, an awareness seminar was conducted in 9 villages for village women, household heads, men and youth. Mainly the elders attended in large numbers and expressed their problems and needs in tears. At the end of the training the women and men pledged that they would treat well and care not send them to a old age home.

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#### **CONCLUSION:**

As SCORE is known to be a service organization in this area, many social issues, problems and unfulfilled needs are brought to its attention every year with the hope that SCORE will fulfill everything. While SCORE has its resource and executive limitations, it continues to do its best to provide services and expand its current programs carefully without over-stepping its legs. Current flagships of SCORE include our successful support programs for HIV-affected children and our micro-finance programs for Self-Help Groups. SCORE thanks its friends, consultants and overseas supporters who promote and guide its stepwise progress to achieve its full goals and become a self-reliant organization. For this, it has to initiate new endeavors and build on the financial and technical assistance of its current partners and explore new partners. SCORE takes this opportunity to thank all its funding partners particularly **The Mercury Phoenix Trust - UK, EUROFINS Foundation - Belgium, Ontario Teachers Federation – Canada, SHAMDASANI Foundation – Hong Kong and Tamilnadu Voluntary Health Association (TNVHA) - Chennai**. SCORE is also thankful to all its staff and board members, without whose dedicated work it could not have made all the accomplishments. And finally on behalf of SCORE, I wish and request everyone to join hands with us and continue all your support and cooperation in the forthcoming years also to help SCORE achieve its development mission.

Our sincere thanks.

**AA.BALASUNDHARAN**

**Secretary cum Executive Director – SCORE**

**31.05.2023**

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