

SCORE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024-2025



Submitted by

A.BALASUNDARAM, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.S.W.,

Secretary cum Executive Director

Society for Community Organization and Rural Education (SCORE),

Vedhachalapuram, Thogaimalai Post, Karur – 621 313,

Tamilnadu, India.

Phone: +914323296230 / Mobile: 7639794991 / 9443533617

Email: scoreindia@rediffmail.com / aabalasundharan@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

As we present the annual report for the year 2024 - 2025, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. This year has been a testament to the strength of our collective efforts, compassion, and resilience. Together, we are striving to turn challenges into opportunities, expanding our impact and reaching more lives than ever before.

There may not be many success stories for this year, but our journey began with a new vision and mission, backed by the trust of each well-wisher, partner, and community member who believed in our cause.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated team, whose tireless efforts have been the cornerstone of our resurgence. To our generous supporters, 1. Mercury Phoenix Trust, UK, 2. Ontario Teachers Federation, Canada, 3. Shamdasani Foundation, Hong Kong grants, Donations and contributions have made it possible for us to return and deepen our impact.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to driving sustainable change and fostering hope in the lives of those living with HIV. Let us continue to work together to build a brighter, more equitable future for all.

With gratitude,

Mr. BALASUNDARAM ARUMUGAM
Secretary cum Executive Director

SCORE VISION & MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of SCORE is to work with the Rural and Tribal poor to bring about long term and sustainable transformation to their quality of life. We aim to provide holistic community-based healthcare, empowerment, financial inclusion, education and environmental improvements by training, resourcing and encouraging the community to receive and enjoy their basic human rights.

SCORE VALUES:

WE BELIEVE THAT:

- i. Every person has a right to affordable healthcare that will allow them the best possible chance of living a productive and fulfilling life.
- ii. Every child has a right to an education that will give them the opportunity to reach their potential, earn a living and grow in self-esteem.
- iii. Shelter, safe water and sanitation should be available to all, regardless of their background or status within society.
- iv. Women have equal rights to those of men, and those rights should be protected by both men and other women.
- v. Communities working together are capable of achieving great change, and can influence others to also strive for change.
- vi. The poor deserve the chance to improve their financial status and their quality of life, and to break free from the cycle of poverty.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- i. Working among the poor without discrimination of any kind such as that based on sex, caste, religion, language, race, colour or other status.
- ii. Being at the forefront of the pursuit of justice and peace for the poor, and dealing with the systems that make and keep poor people in poverty.
- iii. Challenging oppressive social structures and responding to injustice through non-violence and active peace-making.
- iv. Empowering the poor to lead full and meaningful lives, and building vibrant communities through the advance of love, neighbourliness, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- v. Practising a liberating generosity towards the poor and giving them the opportunities they deserve.
- vi. Demonstrating earnestness in prayer for the needs of the poor and for all our partners.
- vii. Valuing diversity and the skills and gifts of each team member.
- viii. Maintaining excellence in the quality of our programmes.
- ix. Exhibiting good stewardship of limited

OUR HISTORY:

Society for Community Organization and Rural Education (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) and income tax exempted in 12A and 80G. 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 25 villages in Kadavur block of Karur District, and 15 hill tribal villages of Pachaimalai hills in Thuraiyur block of Tiruchirappalli District in Tamilnadu State, India.

During the year 2024 - 2025, the Organization has implemented various programmes with the grant support of foreign agencies, board members of SCORE, local contributions and participation of the community and stakeholders. I sincerely thank them and all our partners, members 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 200 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 as follows:

1. Eradication of Child Labour
2. Provision of Educational Materials
3. Women Empowerment program
4. HIV/AIDS Awareness program
5. Tribal Development program
6. Youth Career opportunities
7. Self-Employment Training
8. Climate change & Environment Awareness program
9. Poverty Reduction and & sustainable livelihoods
10. Rehabilitation Devt.& Disabled persons
11. Reproductive Health and Rights
12. Health care for Aged persons

1. ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR:

SCORE continued working to eradicate child labor through a multi-pronged approach including strong laws and their enforcement, access to quality education, social protection, poverty alleviation and social awareness programs.



2. PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS:

For the fourth consecutive years, SCORE have been providing free educational Materials with the help of SHAMDASANI FOUNDATION, (Sai Baba Charitable Trust) Hong Kong funding to improve the quality of education for poor students and reduce the burden on parents.



Everything needed for learning like note, book, pen, pencil, scale, jam box and book bag were provided free of cost. About 450 poor children received educational equipment in 6 schools during the last financial year. Many important people like school head teachers, assistant teachers, parents, panchayat administrators participated in this program. The children and their parents happily received materials with thanked to SCORE and Shamdasani Foundation.

3. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM:

Empowering women is very essential for the socio-economic development of families, communities and countries. When women are empowered then they can contribute to our Nation's development. Life skills make us competent to know how to make our life easy and simple, how to create a positive life, and how life can be spent in the right way. Life skills polish the ability to adopt all kinds of circumstances and succeed in every aspect of the society. SCORE organization multi-dimensional rural livelihood programme focuses on empowering women, farmers, artisans, and other contributors to rural and tribal economies. By enhancing their skills, technical know-how, and access to resources, the organization reduces economic vulnerability and ensures sustainable income generation. The initiatives align with Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, fostering inclusive economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods for all. Rural and tribal communities, particularly women, farmers, and artisans, face economic instability due to limited access to skills, resources, and market linkages. This lack of capacity restricts opportunities for sustainable income, hindering their contribution to the rural economy and overall community development.

4. HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAM:

HIV not only leads to a high mortality rate but also subjects patients to severe social stigma, including ostracism, rejection, and discrimination. The lack of awareness and the taboo surrounding the disease further hinder voluntary testing and early treatment, especially among migrant populations in local communities.



Every year, we actively work towards the prevention and intervention of HIV/AIDS with the help of some abroad or local financial support organization. This year, although no any charity or organization helped, an AIDS awareness program was implemented with the participation of local contributions and members of the SCORE organization. In that regard, an AIDS awareness meeting was held for school students, village youths, adolescent girls and young married couples. Promoting awareness through campaigns like "Know AIDS, No AIDS" to educate the community, especially high-risk groups, about preventive measures.

- i. Conducting interpersonal communication sessions, street plays, and skits to break taboos and encourage behaviour change.
- ii. Counselling individuals for voluntary HIV and AIDS testing and fostering a supportive environment to reduce stigma.

Village youth and women of the Self Help Groups made a lot of contributions. Everyone was given an awareness manual on behalf of the SCORE organization.

5. TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

SCORE's primary mission is the upliftment of the hill tribes' communities since 2004 till date, we have been implementing various awareness programs for the hill tribal. In continuation of that, this year we have decided to set a target to make activities among the indigenous people living in Pachaimalai hills in Thuraiyur block of Trichy district. SCORE have adopted 10 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 Seekkupalai village and conducting free tuition centre at Sitroonipatti village with the support of LACIM France.

6. YOUTH CARRIER OPPORTUNITIES CAMPS:

Employment opportunities in India, especially in Tamil Nadu, are for A job that is suitable for studies among the youth. We can see that the youth are suffering without proper guidance for this. We can also hear that the youth are running around wanting a job that is not difficult and does not require any work.

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 900 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 7 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.

7. SELF EMPLOYMENT & VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

Marginalised and underprivileged women in rural and semi-urban areas largely suffer from limited access to skills, resources, and opportunities, hindering their financial independence, household income contribution, as well as community upliftment.

- SCORE Initiative implements tailoring and embroidery training programmes Kadavur block in Karur District.
- Empowers over 200 women and girls with vocational training, equipping them to start and run successful businesses.
- Comprehensive training in tailoring and embroidery techniques.
- Provision of resources and mentorship to set up boutique and embroidery businesses.
- Support in creating women-led rural enterprises that sustain traditional crafts while uplifting the community.

8. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS PROGRAM:

For almost 20 years, SCORE has been funding projects in areas such as environmental protection, climate change, and social forestry, both domestically and internationally. We carry out various projects in schools, colleges, and villages. Climate change is a significant environmental issue driven by human activities, and raising environmental awareness is crucial to address it. Awareness involves understanding how actions impact the environment and promoting lifestyle changes, such as reducing waste, conserving energy, and choosing sustainable products. Education, community engagement, and government initiatives are all vital tools for spreading awareness and encouraging solutions like using renewable energy and protecting forests.



Similarly, this year we have organized awareness seminar on environmental conservation and climate change was held in 7 major villages. 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 and kitchen garden. Each participant was given 2 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.

9. POVERTY REDUCTION AND & SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS:

Poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods are interconnected strategies that go beyond traditional income-focused poverty alleviation to create long-term economic, social, and environmental resilience. Sustainable livelihoods focus on building a person's or community's assets and capabilities so they can cope with shocks, maintain or enhance their quality of life, and not undermine future resources. Poverty reduction is achieved by implementing measures like skill development, improving access to assets and resources, and transforming policies to create a more inclusive environment for the poor.



SCORE has been conducting organic agriculture development for small and marginal women farmers in various training such as vermin composting making, pesticide medicines, herbal crop growth tonic, mushroom cultivation, goat rearing, country chicken rearing and home vegetable garden etc., and also, we are doing long-term benefits by planting fruit tree saplings. Last year 200 women farmers benefited from this poverty reduction and sustainable livelihood programs in 12 villages. At present, every farmer woman earns an additional income of at least Rs. 6000 per month.

10. REHABILITATION DEVT.& DISABLED PERSONS:

Rehabilitation and development for disabled people involve a multi-faceted approach, focusing on physical, educational, and economic aspects to create an enabling environment and promote equal opportunities. Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) service to persons with disability is ongoing program with support of Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association (TNVHA). SCORE is a District Facilitation Center for Disability, District convener of TNVHA Network and Registered with **Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), Govt.of India**. Activities like providing government schemes for the physically disabled, guiding them to start their own businesses, providing advice, and creating a change in the society were carried out last year. We have conducted camps at the village level and have also provided identity cards and three-wheelers to the physically disabled. 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.

11. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS:

Reproductive health and rights are human rights that protect a person's ability to make free and informed choices about their own body and sexuality without coercion, discrimination, or violence. This includes the right to access comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare, contraception, safe abortion, and information about sexual and reproductive health. Achieving these rights is essential for overall health, well-being, gender equality, and development.

During the last financial year SCORE conducted awareness education for young girls and adolescents going to school on the above topics in 9 villages. 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 12000 school children were benefited and also school Teachers.

12. HEALTH CARE FOR AGED PERSONS:

Health is the foundation of a thriving society. The SCORE is committed to improving the physical and mental well-being of aged persons through need-based health interventions which are not only curative but also preventive in nature. Our initiatives aim to make health services accessible, ensuring a productive, safe, and happy society. Healthcare awareness for the aged involves promoting regular check-ups, maintaining healthy lifestyles through balanced nutrition and physical activity, ensuring social connection, and understanding the available government support systems.

SCORE has been a member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) Federation of Elderly Care Associations since 2011 and has been working on issues such as the rights, needs, mental health, and physical health of the elderly. In addition, 5 camps were held for the elderly last year. In addition, discussions were held with their families on the needs, rights, and benefits of the elderly under the topic of community-based rehabilitation and advice was provided.

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 fulfil everything. 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 endeavours 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 **Shamdasani Foundation (Sai Baba Charitable Trust), Hong Kong, Ontario Teachers Federation, Canada (OTF) and Tamilnadu Voluntary Health Association (TNVHA) - Chennai**. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the organizations **Accelerated Country Women of the World – UK, Global Alliance for Rights of the older persons (GAROP) - Switzerland, Global Waste Cleaning Network – UK, NAMATI – Legal Empowerment Network, USA. and Consortium for Health Associations International - c-HAI - Tamil Nadu**, that have recognized our SCORE organization and become members of their organization and kindly request them to continue to support and cooperate with us. 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

Founder & Secretary – SCORE