

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

CARE T

Community Awareness Research Education Trust

Registered no 230/4 dated 22.02.2002

1-B, Vikram Avenue, 59 Ravindranath Layout, New Siddhapudur, Coimbatore-641044

www.caret.info

2021-2022

I. About CARE T

Vision and focus area

Community Awareness Research Education Trust (CARE T) has a vision to serve the people and earth by promoting the environment standards, sustainable development, labour standards and rights based education. It is founded with non-profit motto on a inimitable day of 22.02.2002 with a vision to serve the people and earth by promoting the sustainable development, labour and environment standards, education and empowerment of the marginalized communities. CARE T is primarily functioning for the welfare of socially and economically vulnerable children, adolescents, youth, unorganized employees, women, fishers and farmers. It believes in down to earth research on economical, environmental and social issues and transferring the research output to the welfare of people through sustainable development project benefiting downtrodden and the marginalized communities. It is based at Coimbatore with an outreach in the rural districts of State of Tamil Nadu in India.

Legal registration

CARE T is registered as a Trust 230/4 dated 22.02.2002 under Indian Trust Act 1882. It is registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976, 2010 and 2020 of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and 12-A and 80-G of Income Tax Act 1961 of Ministry of Finance.

II. AIM and OBJECTIVES of CARE T

The aim of the organization is to work towards care of earth and people by promoting the environment standards, sustainable development, labour standards and rights based education in Southernmost State of Tamilnadu in India.

The objectives of the organization are as follows: -

- To link people and the Government welfare schemes and measures by meaningful interaction
- To generate awareness among consumers and farmers about the need to develop and maintain organic farming and farming without chemical pesticides and fertilizers for holistic health protection
- To conduct assessment studies on economic, social, environmental issues and to analyze study outputs in order to develop suitable and feasible activities for our organization
- To reduce child labour in various industries and support the education of children and youth.
- To develop and implement concerned education programs for children, women, teachers, professionals and low literate people
- To work for the total development of children, youth, women and community
- To promote the overall development of marginalized communities
- To integrate alternative health care systems within the community
- To promote sustainable development in all spheres of human life and planet

III. Activities of CARE T in the year 2021-2022

CARE T has focused its activity in the entire State of Tamilnadu for its research based education activities. The organization focuses its development activities in all the districts of Tamilnadu. CARE T has conducted the following research, education, awareness and development activities in the financial year 2021-2022.

- 1.) Data collection on Environment and Labour
- 2.) Decent work for women workers
- 3.) State level network training of officials and stakeholders
- 4.) Promotion of child rights & improvement for textile & garment workers including young female workers
- 5.) Covid 19 - Emergency response to support children and their families
- 6.) Support rural & Government school child-education
- 7.) Environmental assessment and studies and Agricultural trainings
- 8.) Capacity Building Training for staffs & volunteers State project training
- 9.) IEC materials.

1.) Data collection on Environment and Labour

Data collection work on environment pollution, environment issues, public outrage against pollution, health hazard, water conservation, reports on organic farming, sustainable agriculture, forests, marine eco-system, wild life, man-animal conflict, sustainable development, genetically modified seeds, incinerators, environment management, clean production, recycling, waste management, zero-waste management, toxic pollution, alternate energy and eco-buildings are collected and documented in the year 2021-2022.

Data collection as a continuing process of the previous years and we have documented it. All news, articles and reports related to labour standards like child labour, bonded labour, women workers, trade issues, employers 'meeting, details of industries, case studies, Indian Labour Laws, ILO conventions, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, sensitization on camp labour, health and safety issues, code of conducts and

related information, meetings, seminars and workshops are collected. Newspaper clippings, news articles, website information, success stories and achievements in implementation of project activities are documented as print and electronic format.

2.) Decent work for women workers

The activities of the project are as follows: - Identification of adolescent girls and young women workers affected by the hardship of tough working conditions, life skill education, educational support, qualification measures like skill development trainings, tailoring training, and soft skill trainings such as human resource development, career advice, health camps and family support.

The Life Skill Education training is provided to 1,893 girls and young women. Under life skill education training, 10 types of Life skill education such as Identification of problems, Decision making, Creative thinking, Critical thinking, Self awareness, Sympathy, Interpersonal relationship, Effective communication, Stress management, and Self control over emotions, are taught to survivors of tough labour conditions. It is conducted through resource centers located in 5 blocks in 3 districts.

384 girls have taken part in 9 career guidance training programs. 181 young women are trained in tailoring and embroidery in 5 tailoring centres. 318 girls and young women workers are provided vocational skill training under qualification measures. 101 girls are provided educational support by enabling them to join in certification courses in order to get decent work. Totally, 600 survivors of forced labour received other income generating skill education during the reporting period. The courses are provided to the girls at specialised training institutes within the blocks.

20 medical camps are conducted for the benefit of 862 girls, young women and their family members. Professional doctors and nurses are hired for these camps. Medical tests such as blood type, blood pressure, sugar, urine test, weight corresponding to age, and body development are conducted for survivors of forced labour. Medicines and referral services are provided.

Families of the girl children and young women are supported by linked them with the Government welfare schemes such as enrollment in various welfare boards, old age pension, widow pension and other welfare schemes including required basic documents for application of National and State Government schemes.

1484 families of the girl children and young women are linked to Government social welfare schemes. They have benefited through the schemes of the Government during the year 2021-2022 and it had less working days due to Covid-19 Pandemic lock down.

887 girls and young women are trained through 17 human resource development and career advice. Self-Awareness, Empathy, Motivation, Communication Skills, Creativity and Logical Thinking for Problem Solving, Importance of Higher Education and Career Advice, Interview Skills, Work Ethics, Stress management and Team Work and Leadership are the contents of human resource development and career advice.

805 young women have received labour education training. 24 groups of young women with 420 members are formed under activity groups in villages. The following topics are covered during the training period: gender sensitization, girl children, women and law, gender and violence, group exercise on gender stereo types, group exercise on analysing gender roles and needs, prevention of gender discrimination and sexual harassment at workplace. The main aspect of the gender sensitization and leadership trainings is to improve and understanding gender and the social issues faced by the young girls and women in the society.

10 Cooperation meetings with law enforcement and free legal aid had been conducted for 492 officials. It has focussed on formation and strengthening of Internal Complaint Committee to realize the law to prevent the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, initiating Grievance committees, Hostel committees, registration of hostels and effective operation as per the Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes Act for Women and Children to protect the girls and women workers of the hostels in the textile supply chain industries.

3.) State level network training of officials and stakeholders

46 Block level network meetings on education of girl children and prevention of school dropout for early age employment are conducted for 3,038 persons. They are trained on the sensitization based action on education and the need for skilled adult employment. 19 District level workshops for 1059 persons on laws protecting children and women for officials of the relevant departments and peers working for them.

2 meetings with 115 members of civil society organizations is conducted on the measures to adopt for prevention of child labour, school dropout, child marriage and decent employment. The main aspect of the trainings is to improve and understanding gender and the social issues faced by the young girls and women in the society. The following topics are covered during the training: gender sensitization, girl children, women and law, gender and violence, gender stereo types, analysing gender roles and needs, prevention of gender discrimination and sexual harassment at workplace.

4.) Promotion of child rights & improvement for textile & garment workers including young female workers

Network of like minded persons with thematic and field experience on protecting the rights of workers of textile and garment Industry have coordinated. They have been supporting the thematic work especially focused on labour rights, grass root level needs of textile and garment industrial workers of textile hub located in Western Districts. Declaration and Framework of Action for promoting the interests of all stakeholders of textile industry has been prepared, reviewed and formalized. Appeals to advance Declaration and Framework of Action for promoting the interests of all stakeholders of textile industry have been made by sharing developments and concerns related to the workers of textile and garment industry. This has been discussed and carried out preparation work with its network members for annual conference of civil society organizations.

34 CSO members of the network have participated actively in the annual conference in which Declaration and Framework of Action, UN guidelines on Business and Human

Rights, National Voluntary Guidelines of Business and Human Rights of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs of India are explained to the participants. Network has formed 104 internal complaint committees and assisting hostels for women workers in textile industries on registration and compliance of hostel law. Key issues of migrant workers are identified and the needs like minimum wages, decent working conditions, Government welfare assistance and the implementation of existing laws which are protecting the well being of Migrant workers.

5.) Covid 19 - Emergency response to support children and their families

COVID-19-Emergency Response and Mitigation Efforts have a wide range of beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu. 1465 families of Textile and garment workers facing starvation and poverty have been relieved temporarily by the supply of dry Food materials in 2021-2022. Our distribution of the dry food materials has helped families to get 3 meals a day and survive for 1 month. It has prevented hunger and starvation related problems of the vulnerable families. Totally, 1,371 Children are benefited by the intake of nutritional snacks and it has provided the required nutritional support for mostly malnourished children.

Vegetable farmers have gained income directly from the farm because of the direct vegetable procurement policy and farmers have saved their transportation costs and service charge of vegetable brokers. It has helped to support their livelihood. 70,000 produced masks are distributed to doctors, health workers, police personnel, sanitation workers, social workers, other frontline workers, and families of female women workers and others in the same marginalized communities. It has helped to prevent community spread.

The on-line and on-field counseling services and educational support through mobile teachers have been provided to 984 children in 60 villages by the trained and experienced psycho-social care staff of the project.

170 young women workers are employed for the preparation of Nutritional mix, snacks and savories and they are benefited by gaining an employment and wages for the

work.⁸⁹ young workers have gained an employment opportunity by taking part in the production of sanitary napkins and by gaining wages that are very much supportive to their survival.

Ever since the Covid-19 lock down has started the agriculture and garment & textile industry has been highly affected due to prolonged lockdown in the State. The mitigation efforts have contributed to the life, livelihood and safety of marginalized communities and frontline workers fighting Covid-19.

The relief of CARE T has focus on hunger, malnutrition, protection of public from community spread, safety of frontline workers, livelihood support to farmers and small traders, protection of children, gender equity in terms of access to relief, health, hygiene, work and psycho social care of women in 5 Blocks of 3 Districts, has been carried out.

The support of District Administration, Police, Health Department, Farmers, Small Traders, Transporters, Youth and Women members of Action Groups, Volunteer and Staff of the CARE T have made this relief and mitigation effort possible at the time of community spread of Covid-19 and the restriction of movements.

6.) Support rural & Government school child-education

28 Teachers without formal appointment are as part time teachers. They are provided monthly stipend for helping children in developing skills and knowledge required in formal education under School Teaching Assistance.

17 part time teachers are supported under Student Development Programme support the educational skill development in 17 villages. Children are taught to play, sing songs, dance and general knowledge as a part of boosting up the morale of vulnerable children. The work of teachers and part time teachers have been interrupted by Covid-19 lock down but they have done maximum possible support to 4,437 children both boys and girls in the academic year 2021 to 2022.

7.) Environmental assessment and studies and Agricultural trainings

Environmental Impact Assessment of NOYYAL Sub basin especially extension, renovation and modernization of Noyyal river system in Cauvery basin has been conducted in 3 clusters. The Project of water resource department wholly envisages rehabilitation of the following:- 18 number old Anicuts, 22 No. of Tanks and 24 supply channels, Noyyal Orathupalayam reservoir, Noyyal main canal of Athupalayam reservoir and Noyyal River from LS 3Km to 158.35Km.

The Noyyal River receives occasional flow that occurs during south-west monsoon and North East monsoon covering six months in a year. CARE T has completed 3 environmental impact assessment reports for the 3 clusters of the project. It has identified the positive as well as negative aspects in the indicators related to environment impact of this work.

Organic farm training program developed for farmers of Noyyal river basin. The training for the farmers has been continued throughout the year with a fortnightly assembly of 212 farmers. Water pollution, soil pollution, air pollution, use of chemicals in agriculture as pesticides and fertilizers and its negative health impact, global warming, climate change and its negative impact on rainfall pattern and agriculture are taught to them. Improving soil fertility through organic farming, use and enhanced yield of drip irrigation are taught to them. Organic farming, Organic inputs such as organic manures and organic pest chasers and ensuring crop protection through organic eco friendly agriculture.

8.) Capacity Building Training for staffs, volunteers and peers

4 capacity building training workshops for 125 project staffs, volunteers and peers are conducted in 2021-2022. Training are conducted on human resource development, career advice, gender education, labour education, training to internal complaint committee members, project planning, review, multi stake holder dialogues, policy promotion on labour, gender and human resource had been conducted. The project staffs, volunteers and peers have gained knowledge in the training subjects and shown

positive attitudinal and enhanced knowledge as an outcome of the capacity building training workshops for the project staffs, volunteers and peers.

9.) IEC materials

Notices and pamphlets on Decent Work, Child Rights, Workers entitlements and Gender equity are circulated for awareness among children and public. Manuals on life skill education, human resource development and career advice are developed for training young workers in textile and garment industries. IEC materials are distributed to the participants of trainings and public. . Manuals on life skill education, human resource development and career advice have helped young women workers to gain valuable knowledge to become skilled labour and good employee. IEC materials on laws protecting children and women have enabled the officials on the new laws. IEC materials are the major tool in sensitization of the vulnerable families, downtrodden communities on Covid-19

Conclusion

The activities are changing the lives of poor, unskilled young female workers and their families from distress to confidence, extreme poverty to a better employment. Covid-19 has an impact on their livelihood and living conditions. CARE T's Covid-19 relief, soft training and skill development activities has been enhanced through direct relief. It is reflected in the number of girl children, children, women, youth and farmers as the beneficiaries. During the activity period of 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, CARE-T has been helpful to its direct beneficiaries due to sustained efforts of the staffs and volunteers and their enhanced capacity to reach out for the vulnerable even during the unprecedented Covid-19 Pandemic in 2021-2022 annual year.