ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

"Empowering Lives, Transforming Communities"





ATSWA TRUST

Address: # 42, Bajanai Koil Street, Redhills, Chennai – 600 052.

M: 98844 74866 |email: atswatrust2005@gmail.com | website: www.atswatrust.org

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A Year of Resilience and Renewal: A Note from the Founder

Dear Supporters, Partners, and Allies,

As we sit down to reflect on another year of growth and challenges at ATSWA Trust, our hearts brim with a mix of emotions - gratitude for the victories, humility in the face of obstacles, and an unyielding determination to keep pushing forward. The past year, 2023-2024, has been a journey filled with ups and downs, akin to a rollercoaster ride where we faced trials head-on and celebrated triumphs together.

The Michaung cyclone hit our communities in North Tamil Nadu and the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh like a freight train, leaving devastation in its wake. Imagine families picking up the pieces of their shattered homes, grappling with the uncertainty of their livelihoods, and searching for a glimmer of hope amidst the chaos. It was a time when the resilience of the human spirit shone brightest. Our team, volunteers, and the people we serve became beacons of strength, standing shoulder to shoulder, offering comfort and support to each other in the darkest of hours.

Despite the challenges, we didn't just rebuild; we planted seeds of hope in the hearts of those affected. Every step forward, no matter how small, was a testament to the power of unity and compassion. We didn't just meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals; we embraced them, making them our guiding light through the storm.

As we look ahead, our vision remains clear: a world where everyone has a fair shot at a better life, where justice and opportunity are not just buzzwords but lived realities. Our commitment to this cause is unshakeable, fueled by the belief that change is not just possible; it's inevitable when we work together.

To our supporters, volunteers, and partners, we owe a debt of gratitude that words cannot fully express. Your unwavering support has been the wind beneath our wings, propelling us forward even when the journey seemed daunting. Together, we've weathered storms, climbed mountains, and forged paths where none existed before. And together, we'll continue to write stories of hope and transformation, one small act of kindness at a time.

In solidarity, Seva S.A. Chelladurai Founder – President ATSWA TRUST

Our Story:

"Empowering Lives, Transforming Communities"

ATSWA Trust is an organization with a secular and humanitarian outlook, founded on established principles of social service. Since its inception in 2005, ATSWA Trust has been dedicated to serving the poor and downtrodden, providing a wide array of services to children, women, disabled individuals, poor commercial sex workers, and those affected by HIV/AIDS. With its primary operations in North Tamil Nadu, which borders Andhra Pradesh, and in the Eastern and Central Chittoor Districts of Andhra Pradesh, ATSWA Trust remains committed to reaching any area where there is a need.

Based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, ATSWA Trust is a duly registered charitable organization, holding income tax registration under sections 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act, ensuring transparency and accountability in all its endeavors.

VISION

"To Alleviate poverty and bring about Economic Empowerment and Social Justice and healing to the less Privileged in all areas of life and help them live with Human Dignity, "

MISSION

"To Empower the Downtrodden, with Activities and Support to overcome their limitations".

This year's theme, <u>"Empowering Lives, Transforming Communities,"</u> reflects ATSWA Trust's unwavering commitment to making a meaningful impact on society. It encapsulates the essence of our work over the past year, showcasing the transformative power of our programs and initiatives. Through collaborative efforts and strategic interventions, we strive to uplift the lives of individuals and foster sustainable community development.

ATSWA Trust's commitment to these areas underscores its dedication to creating a just and equitable society where every individual can live with dignity and hope. Through its comprehensive programs and initiatives, ATSWA Trust continues to make a significant impact on the lives of the marginalized and vulnerable populations it serves.

In this annual report, we highlight our achievements, challenges, and inspiring stories of resilience and transformation from the communities we serve. Join us as we reflect on a year of growth, learning, and unwavering commitment to our mission of empowerment and social justice.

Highlights of the Year: Our Initiatives

Child Residential Care



ATSWA Rehabilitation Centre for Children at Risk - Partner: Kindernothilfe e.V -Germany

look to the future, As we our commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment for girls affected HIV/AIDS remains unwavering. by collaborative Through efforts with regulatory bodies and stakeholders, we

aim to continue our mission of empowering these individuals to lead fulfilling lives despite the challenges they face.

1. Residential Care for 100 Girls Affected by HIV/AIDS



Under our care, 100 residents received secure shelter, nutritious food, and access to education. We provided also skill enhancement programs to foster personal growth and empowerment. Our initiatives were closely monitored by Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and

government officials to ensure high standards of care and accountability. Looking ahead, we remain committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment for girls affected by HIV/AIDS, continuing our mission to empower them to lead fulfilling lives through collaborative efforts with regulatory bodies and stakeholders.

2. <u>Support for Boys Infected with HIV/AIDS: Non-Residential Care</u>



In the past year, our organization extended support to 40 boys infected with HIV/AIDS and their families through our non-residential care program. This initiative focused on ensuring continued access to education, healthcare, sanitation, and skill training for both the boys and their family members.

3. Support and Skill Development for Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians of these children also received support during this period. We established 22 Self Help Groups (SHGs) for the parents/guardians of our children, alongside 5 SHGs within the community and 3 SHGs specifically for our residential home children. Members of these groups received tailored skill training aimed at equipping them with practical work-based skills to generate sustainable income. Additionally, they were educated on the significance of regular medical examinations, including tests for ARV drugs, blood tests, and CD4 counts, to ensure

their ongoing medical well-being and longevity. Additionally, we provided groceries and essential materials to 400 underprivileged families, ensuring access to three nutritious meals a day. Additionally, we motivate and train 189 families to establish kitchen gardens, cultivating long-term food security and self-reliance.

	List of all direct target groups	Total planned for	Target Achieved During the Reporting Period		
		project duration	Male	Female	Other ¹
1	Poor orphans and semi-orphan girls	353	0	43	-
2	Boys with HIV in Community	270	22	0	-
3	HIV infected parent/s, or guardians of children	452	63	63	-
4	HIV infected Adults	310	52	89	-
5	People with Disabilities	257	53	67	-
6	People with Extreme Hunger	658	364	241	-
7	School Teachers	280	27	42	-
8	Health workers	180	18	29	-
9	Community members	12000	1254	869	-
10	Government officials	100	48	26	-
	Total direct target groups	14,560	1,901	1,469	-

Table 01: Depicting the targets achieved during the reporting period

Major Activities Highlights

- Independence Day Celebration (15th August 2023): Celebrated 76th Independence Day with the theme "Nation First, Always First." Organized games and competitions for children to showcase their talents.
- School Uniform/Sports Material Distribution: Provided 2 sets of school uniforms, footwear, sandals, and innerwear to all children. Distributed sports materials like carom boards, chess, ludo, footballs, and volleyballs.
- Educational Essentials Distribution: Supplied school bags, lunch boxes, water bottles, pens, pencils, rulers, geometry boxes, erasers, and notebooks to all children. Domestic sponsors provided additional educational kits in December 2023
- Vocational Training Material Distribution: Distributed training materials to beneficiaries from nearby communities for employable skills training, including doormat, basket, and flower making, woolen work, ribbon flower, mirror work, hand embroidery, tailoring, and stonework.
- Diwali Celebration: Celebrated the festival of lights with children and community beneficiaries. Provided crackers and festive gifts with the support of domestic sponsors.
- Orange Day Celebration (25th November 2023): Organized a handprinting/signature campaign to raise awareness about violence against women and girls. Participants took vows to report incidents of violence.
- Festival Celebration (December 2023): Distributed gifts to children, their parents/guardians, and community members. Organized cultural programs and fun-filled competitions.

- Annual Get-together: Hosted a gathering for 40 community care boys, their siblings, parents/guardians, and home children. Provided food provisions, groceries, and gifts.
- Cyclone "MICHAUNG" Relief: Distributed dry ration, grocery items, and sanitary hygiene kits to 1250 families affected by the cyclone.
- Pongal Celebration (14th 17th January 2024): Celebrated the Pongal festival with domestic sponsors who volunteered their time and care for those in need.
- Republic Day Celebration (26th January 2024): Commemorated the 75th Republic Day with flag hoisting and thoughtful gifts from sponsors, including lunch, dinner, and educational kits.
- Kitchen Gardening Initiative: Established 7 new kitchen gardens. Educated children and community members on the importance of growing their nutritious food and generating additional income.
- Children's Educational Tour (25th February 2024): Organized an educational tour to Mahabalipuram for 100 residential children and 40 community children to learn about historical monuments.

These initiatives in partnership with Kindernothilfe e.V, reflect ATSWA Trust's diverse activities and initiatives aimed at empowering communities, supporting education, and fostering personal growth.

Transformative Educational Initiatives

1. ECiS: Mission Education (Partner: Smile Foundation – Establishing Supplementary



support.

Key Achievements:

- Supplementary after School Educational Centres: Established 10 centers across various villages, slums, and underserved areas.
- Students Impacted: 300 students have directly benefited from the initiative, receiving tailored academic

nool-going children in the locations of Realities. The												
imary objective of this initiative is to enhance the												
cademic performance of these children by providing												
em with supplementary educational resources and												
	Class	Grade A+ (91-100%)	Grade A (81-90%)	Grade B+ (71-80%)	Grade B (61-70%)	Grade C+ (51-60%)	Grade C (41-50%)	Grade D (< 40%)	Total			
	Т	7	6	6	3	3	2	2	29			
	Ш	7	5	3	7	5	0	2	29			
	- 10	6	7	5	4	4	2	1	29			
	IV	8	6	4	5	5	2	2	32			
•	v	9	6	5	2	5	2	3	32			
I	VI	8	6	4	4	7	2	3	34			
	VII	9	5	3	4	5	4	7	37			

5

4

38

2

1

3

18

4

35

43

support to improve their performance in school.

- Provision of Educational Needs: All enrolled children received essential school supplies, including textbooks, notebooks, stationery, and other educational materials, ensuring they have the tools necessary for their studies.

10

9

73

9

4

4

38

VIII

IX

Total

- Support for School Dropouts: Identified school dropouts were motivated and trained for re-admission into regular schools, helping them to reintegrate into the formal education system.

After-School Educational Centres)

Through our partnership with the Smile Foundation, the ECiS: Mission Education initiative has made significant strides in supporting the education of disadvantaged school-going children in the locations of Redhills. The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance the academic performance of these children by providing them with supplementary educational resources and

Table 02: Learning Outcomes during the Financial Year 2023 – 2024

This initiative has been pivotal in creating a positive impact on the lives of many children, providing them with the educational support needed to thrive academically and build a brighter future.

Impact story:

Madesh joined our Mission Education Remedial tuition center in the year 2021 while



he was studying 3rd grade. He was so happy to be with his new friends and was able to learn, complete his homework, able to understand his academic subjects, able to clarify all his doubts from the center teacher. Now Madesh can do his homework on his own, if he has doubts, he clarifies it with his tuition center teacher. He has started scoring good marks. His interest in studies, writing & communication skills has increased. He participates in all extracurricular during festive days. Most importantly during evenings, he is safe. Madesh's mother is very happy that SMILE Foundation's After School Educational Center has helped his son to continue his studies and to score more marks. He feels his half dream his achieved with the help of

ATSWA Trust and SMILE Foundation for whom he is very grateful for his entire life. He wishes them to be blessed by God abundantly to help many more children and families with this initiative. School teachers are very happy that he can improve his studies by understanding the subjects. He is going to a center for having a good understanding of all academic subjects. Happy to see him scoring good marks in all subjects.

2. <u>Educational Assistance – After School Education for Girls & Boys in</u> <u>Underprivileged Communities (Partner: Give Foundation Inc – USA)</u>

Through the generous support of Give Foundation Inc. - USA, ATSWA Trust has been able to extend its educational support to girls and boys living in underprivileged communities. As part of this program, **50 notebooks** were distributed to the children to support their educational needs. This seemingly small gesture plays a significant role in encouraging regular attendance and active participation in their studies, helping them to stay organized and motivated.



Vocational and Alternative Training Initiatives

ATSWA Vocational Training Initiative is a dynamic NGO dedicated to empowering underprivileged individuals through comprehensive vocational programs. Operating two accessible centers in Redhills and Thirumullaivoyal, both in the Thiruvallur district, ATSWA offers accredited courses in partnership with organizations like PANKH, AIF, SMILE Foundation, and PMKVY. Courses include Basic Computers, Beauty Therapy, Retail Management, and more, tailored to meet industry demands and create employment opportunities, particularly for women.

Strategies Adopted

ATSWA employs various strategies to unlock opportunities for underprivileged youth

- Mobilization efforts include door-to-door visits, pamphlet distribution, and community meetings.
- Admission involves screening tests, followed by training, orientation, and placement assistance.
- Training duration varies from one month to two years, incorporating theoretical and practical classes, online teaching during the pandemic, and career counselling sessions.
- Employee Engagement Programs facilitate job placements, with a dedicated placement cell ensuring success in various sectors like retail and sales.

In house Courses Offered:

These courses are recognized by the National Council of Vocational & Research Training (NCVRT). The training focuses on

Unleashing Potential with Practical Skills and Knowledge

- 1. Transforming Lives, One Skill at a Time:
 - Basic Computers: Master the fundamentals of computer applications (Duration: 1 month).
 - Diploma in Computer Applications: Excel in advanced computer operations and applications (Duration: 3 months).
 - Tally ERP: Become an expert in accounting and financial management software (Duration: 2 months).
- 2. Beauty and Wellness:
 - Beauty Therapist: Explore the world of beauty and gain expertise in skincare and haircare (Duration: 6 months).
 - Advanced Skin & Hair Care: Unlock the secrets to radiant skin and lustrous hair (Duration: 4 months).
- 3. Healthcare Heroes:
- General Duty Assistant: Embark on a fulfilling healthcare career with hands-on training (Duration: 6 months).
- Diploma in Nursing: Gain comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in nursing care (Duration: 2 years).
- Pharmacy Assistant: Dive into the pharmaceutical field and learn essential pharmacy operations (Duration: 1 year).

Lab Technician: Equip yourself with the skills required to excel in laboratory practices (Duration: 1 year).



<u>Skill Enhancement Programs: Women and Youth Empowerment Initiatives</u> Skill Enhancement Programs: 744 Lives Impacted

- TRRAIN PANKH Programme: PANKH, also known as Wings of Destiny, is a retail skilling and livelihood program tailored for Persons with Disability (PWD). Benefiting 125 individuals, PANKH aims to empower PWDs by providing them with essential retail skills and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.
- Smile Foundation BPO: Smile Twin e-Learning Programme (STeP) Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) initiative by Smile Foundation. Benefiting 74 individuals, with a remarkable placement rate of 63, this program equips disadvantaged youth with essential BPO skills, opening doors to employment opportunities.



- 3. <u>Smile Foundation GDA:</u> Smile Foundation's General Duty Assistant (GDA) program focuses on training individuals for roles in healthcare assistance. Providing essential skills and knowledge, this initiative contributes to the employability of marginalized youth.
- 4. <u>American India Foundation (AIF) MAST Livelihood SAFAL Project</u>: The MAST Livelihood SAFAL Project by AIF is dedicated to enhancing the skills and livelihood opportunities of marginalized individuals between the age group of 18 to 35 open to all genders. Benefiting 120 individuals, this initiative plays a crucial role in empowering communities through skill development.
- 5. Jeyram Educational Trust: This program offers training in Field technicians for Home Appliances and Telecom, as well as Customer Care Executive roles in Call Centers and Relationship Centers. Benefiting 350 individuals, it equips participants with technical and customer service skills, enhancing their employability in relevant industries.
- 6. <u>Leeds Skill Training Centre Private Ltd:</u> Providing training in Checker roles for Inline and Measurement tasks, this initiative aims to enhance the employability of youth. Benefiting 45 individuals, it focuses on imparting practical skills for employment in various sectors.
- Chiron Skill Program Development Private Ltd: This program offers training in Customer Care Executive roles and Ward Boy/Ward Girl positions. Benefiting 60 individuals, it prepares participants for roles in customer service and healthcare support, contributing to their empowerment and employability.



Disaster Response and Risk Reduction Initiatives

Disaster Response & Risk Reduction – ELCA (Pulicat Region)

The Disaster Response and Risk Reduction program, initiated by ATSWA Trust, is dedicated to providing immediate assistance and long-term support to individuals and communities affected by disasters. With a focus on trauma care, counselling, and skill-building initiatives, the program aims to equip communities with the necessary tools to effectively respond to and recover from disasters.

Objectives:

- $\checkmark\,$ Provide trauma care and counselling to affected individuals to facilitate resilience and recovery.
- ✓ Ensure all community members in 52 villages are knowledgeable about disaster management and preparedness.
- Collaborate with local and government bodies, NGOs, and corporations to facilitate rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts.
- ✓ Provide livelihood enhancement assistance to affected families to improve their socio-economic status.
- ✓ Ensure access to safe shelter, clean water, clothing, and medical assistance for all community members.

Activities:

- Conduct awareness and training programs on disaster management, first aid, fire safety, and hygiene for children, adolescents, youth, and adults.
- Distribute Safety Essential Kits (SEKs), Emergency Essential Kits (EEKs), food, and clothing to affected families.
- Provide counseling and motivation to affected individuals to overcome trauma and rebuild their lives.

Program Accomplishments:

- 1. Imparted knowledge and training to 1902 direct beneficiaries and indirectly reached 1182 individuals.
- 2. Conducted multiple training sessions for children, adolescents, young adults, and adults on disaster preparedness and response.
- 3. Trained Women Self-Help Group (WSHG) members and established a Rescue Team to aid in community welfare activities.
- 4. Networked with relevant authorities and stakeholders to enhance the program's reach and effectiveness.

Impact:

- Empowered 52 village communities with knowledge and skills for disaster management and response.
- > Trained over 2000 individuals on various aspects of disaster preparedness and response.
- > Established partnerships and networks for enhanced community resilience and welfare.



The Disaster Response and Risk Reduction program exemplifies ATSWA Trust's commitment to serving vulnerable communities and ensuring their safety and well-being in the face of adversity.

Cyclone Michaung Relief and Rehabilitation Initiatives by ATSWA TRUST



The recent cyclone Michaung wreaked havoc in Chennai, and neighboring areas, leaving behind a trail of destruction and despair. With winds reaching 110 kilometers per Michaung pronounced hour, as 'Migjaum,' unleashed unprecedented rainfall of 53 centimeters over two relentless days. The cyclone disrupted daily life, displaced communities, and intensified the challenges faced by

the most vulnerable. In response to this urgent need, ATSWA TRUST initiated relief and rehabilitation efforts to assist affected individuals and communities in rebuilding and recovering from the aftermath of the cyclone.

- 1. <u>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Cyclone Michaung Emergency</u> <u>Response & Relief project-Pazhaverkadu:</u>
- Distributed Emergency Essential Kits (EEKs) to 1251 families, containing essential items for daily sustenance.
- Provided food assistance to 500 people during the initial three days following the cyclone, followed by safe relocation to rehabilitation centers.



- Ensured hygiene and sanitation for 628 girl children through the distribution of EEKs and awareness programs.
- Distributed clothing to 600 cyclone-affected individuals to supplement relief efforts.
- 2. <u>Stichting Child Tuition Netherlands Cyclone Michaung Flood Relief Assistance</u> <u>- Ponneri & Madanambedu:</u>
- Focused on efficiently distributing essential aid, including 10 kg rice bags and 600 sarees, to 3215 families in Pazhaverkadu and surrounding areas.
- Overcame logistical challenges and adverse weather conditions to ensure timely and effective relief distribution to affected communities.
- Cyclone Mick Pood Relief A
- 3. <u>Hinrich Schmieta und Christine Germany Assistance Cyclone Michaung</u> <u>Relief in Pazhaverkadu:</u>
- Engaged in flood relief work in Pazhaverkadu, focusing on assisting affected individuals and communities.





4. <u>Eicher Group Foundation - Relief Assistance Project for Flood-Affected</u> <u>Communities:</u>

- Royal Enfield, in collaboration with ATSWA TRUST, extended support to cyclone-affected communities by providing essential relief aid and assistance.
- Through this initiative, Royal Enfield contributed to the distribution of relief materials,



- including food, clothing, and other essential items, to further alleviate the plight of affected individuals and families.
- Distributed relief aid, including 5 kg rice bags, to 2500 families in Tiruvottiyur, ensuring timely delivery of essential assistance to affected communities.

These initiatives reflect ATSWA TRUST's commitment to providing immediate relief and long-term support to communities affected by natural disasters, helping them rebuild and recover in the face of adversity.

Community Sensitization Initiative on State and Central Government Schemes In its commitment to uplift marginalized communities, ATSWA TRUST conducts

extensive awareness programs on key government schemes. Across Sathyavedu Mandal in Andhra Pradesh, the Pulicat region of Thiruvallur, and the Redhills area, these efforts aim to empower diverse demographics.



1. Sensitization Programs in the Pulicat Region and Redhills Area:



Extending its reach, ATSWA TRUST extends sensitization programs to the Pulicat region and Redhills area. Recognizing the need for awareness among vulnerable populations, targeted campaigns educate communities on government schemes, entitlements, and support mechanisms to 800 common public. By bridging the gap between policies and grassroots, these initiatives equip individuals with the knowledge and resources to access and benefit from available schemes.

Through these initiatives, ATSWA TRUST envisions inclusive development and sustainable progress, fostering empowerment at the grassroots level.

2. Sensitization in Sathyavedu Mandal, Andhra Pradesh:

ATSWA TRUST engages locals in Sathyavedu Mandal, educating them on vital state and central schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and many such necessary schemes to Approximately 600 individuals, spanning youths, women, and elders, benefit from these sessions, ensuring they grasp the advantages offered. By fostering awareness, ATSWA TRUST empowers informed decision-making and access to resources, elevating socio-economic well-being.



Global Warming and Reduction in Carbon Footprint Program by ATSWA TRUST

ATSWA TRUST is dedicated to combating global warming and reducing carbon footprints through a comprehensive program aimed at raising awareness and implementing sustainable practices. Recognizing the urgent need to address environmental issues, ATSWA TRUST has initiated various activities to mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote eco-friendly lifestyles.

1. Awareness Campaigns:

- Global Warming: ATSWA TRUST conducts extensive awareness campaigns to educate communities about the causes and consequences of global warming. In the Ponneri Blocks, 240 individuals participated in these workshops and campaigns. Through these efforts, participants learned about the importance of reducing carbon emissions and adopting sustainable practices in their daily lives.
- Promotion of Renewable Energy: ATSWA TRUST promotes and creates awareness of the use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power as alternatives to fossil fuels. Through awareness programs and practical demonstrations, individuals are encouraged to adopt clean energy technologies to reduce their carbon footprint and contribute to the fight against climate change. In association with Goodera, 80 Solar lamps were given to the tribal communities in the Ponneri blocks.



Green Transportation Programs: ATSWA TRUST advocates for the use of green transportation modes such as cycling, walking, and public transport to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles. The organization collaborates with local authorities to improve infrastructure for non-motorized transport and raise awareness about the environmental and health benefits of sustainable mobility options.

2. <u>Tree Plantation Drives:</u>



One of the key initiatives of ATSWA TRUST is organizing tree plantation drives in collaboration with local communities in the Mandambedu village, Sathyavedu Mandal. By planting trees, the organization aims to offset carbon emissions, improve air quality, and enhance biodiversity. These drives not only contribute to environmental conservation but also involve community participation, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the environment.

3. <u>Waste Management and Recycling Initiatives:</u>



To minimize waste generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, ATSWA TRUST implements waste management and recycling initiatives in the lighthouse and Palaverkadu panchayat. By promoting segregation at source, composting, and recycling of waste materials, the organization aims to divert waste from landfills and promote a circular economy.

Through these initiatives, ATSWA TRUST is actively contributing to the global efforts to combat climate change and create a sustainable future for all. By empowering communities and fostering environmental stewardship, the organization aims to make a meaningful impact in the fight against global warming and carbon emissions.

Rainwater Harvesting and Water Conservation Program in Naravarikuppam, Redhills ATSWA TRUST's rainwater harvesting and water conservation program in Naravarikuppam, Redhills, has made significant strides in promoting sustainable water management practices. As a result of this initiative, 350 households have been sensitized to the importance of conserving water and adopting rainwater harvesting techniques. The program has successfully installed rainwater harvesting systems in 120 homes with the support of local stakeholders and like-minded organizations, ensuring a reliable and sustainable water source for these families. Additionally, community workshops have led to increased awareness and behavioural changes toward water usage, contributing to a more resilient and water-secure community.

Special Initiative to Restore Bird Habitat at Pulicat Lake

ATSWA TRUST has launched a special initiative aimed at restoring the biodiversity of Pulicat Lake, once a thriving habitat for migratory birds. Due to land degradation and other man-made impacts, the number of visiting birds has significantly declined. To address this, ATSWA TRUST is organizing talks and workshops to raise awareness about the importance of restoring and preserving this vital ecosystem. The initiative focuses on habitat restoration, pollution control, and sustainable land use practices to create a welcoming environment for birds. By collaborating with local communities, environmental experts, and government bodies, ATSWA TRUST aims to rejuvenate Pulicat Lake and bring back its vibrant birdlife, thereby enhancing the region's biodiversity and ecological balance. Activities and Achievements:

- Community Workshops and Seminars: Over 20 workshops and seminars were conducted, engaging more than 500 residents. Topics covered include the importance of wetland ecosystems, bird conservation, and sustainable practices.
- School and College Programs: Educational programs conducted in 5 schools and 2 colleges, reaching around 1,200 students.
- Cleanup Drives: Organized Two cleanup drives around Pulicat Lake, involving over 50 volunteers.

Through these activities as the first step, ATSWA TRUST aims to rejuvenate Pulicat Lake, restore its biodiversity, and create a sustainable environment for migratory birds to return and thrive.

Looking Ahead – Strategic Vision for the Future

ATSWA TRUST is committed to promoting sustainability and addressing the pressing issues of environmental and climatic changes. Our strategic vision for the future encompasses a comprehensive approach that integrates environmental conservation with advancements in education, health, and livelihood. By focusing on these interconnected areas, we aim to bring about a transformative impact on the communities we serve.

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action:

- ATSWA TRUST is expanding conservation programs like the Pulicat Lake restoration to other habitats, promoting large-scale tree plantation drives, and advocating for renewable energy adoption.
- > We aim to install solar panels in community centers and households while launching educational campaigns on climate change.
- Collaborations with governments and international organizations help us advocate for sustainable policies.

Revolutionizing Education:

- > We are enhancing educational infrastructure by building and upgrading schools with modern facilities and implementing digital learning tools.
- Our vocational training programs equip youth and women with marketrelevant skills, including courses on green technologies. These efforts ensure quality education and prepare the workforce for future challenges.

Advancing Health and Livelihood:

- > ATSWA TRUST strengthens healthcare by establishing clinics and mobile units in remote areas, conducting health camps, and promoting preventive care.
- > We support sustainable agriculture and small-scale enterprises, providing training and resources to improve food security and boost local economies.

Community Empowerment and Engagement:

- > Our inclusive development programs address the needs of marginalized groups, fostering community leadership and participation.
- We build strategic partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector to maximize impact, engaging with global networks to share best practices and innovative solutions for sustainable community development.

By integrating these strategic initiatives, ATSWA TRUST aims to create a sustainable, resilient, and empowered future for the communities we serve. Our commitment to environmental stewardship, educational advancement, and holistic health and livelihood support will drive us toward a brighter and more sustainable tomorrow.

Get in Touch:

To learn more about ATSWA TRUST's initiatives, collaborate with us, or support our mission, please reach out. We are eager to connect with individuals, organizations, and partners who share our vision of empowering communities and promoting sustainable development. Together, we can make a lasting impact and create a brighter future for all. Contact us at <u>atswatrust2005@gmail.com</u> or visit our website at <u>https://atswatrust.org/</u> for more information.

Gratitude Corner:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors, partners, and supporters who make our work possible. Your generous contributions and unwavering support empower us to drive meaningful change in the communities we serve. From funding educational initiatives to supporting environmental sustainability projects, every bit of assistance helps us achieve our mission. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey towards creating a brighter, more sustainable future for all. Together, we are making a difference.

Conclusion:

As we reflect on our journey, we are filled with gratitude for the progress we have made and the impact we have achieved. Yet, we recognize that our work is far from over. With your continued support and collaboration, we remain committed to advancing environmental sustainability, revolutionizing education, advancing health and livelihoods, and empowering communities. Together, let us continue to strive for a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable world. Thank you for being a part of our mission.

