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## Village ... Action!

AVAG Newsletter # 2



Thank you, AVAG !



In the exchange meetings we get the chance to meet so many new people. A person that has never been in touch with low castes calls a woman she met in the exchange meeting her "new daughter". People make new friends that they only get to know through the exchange. When we normally meet this people in the AVAG office, all we might know is their name and their village. Now we know each other as human beings. We know their feelings and life-stories, we share our problems and laugh together, this makes me really happy!

Aruljothi from Vanurpuddupakam

*Summertime in South India; as temperatures are rising and rising, the speed of life slows down. Still there are many things happening.*

**Read how we** cross the borders of **caste and gender**, break the silence about **menstruation**, help members to get **fair loans** and celebrated **women's day!**

### Getting in touch with the unknown

People make new friends, women call each other mother and daughter or step into the pond to pluck lotus flowers for their special guests...

And all this happens between two castes that normally avoid any contact in Tamil society! Again and again, I am amazed how much love our members show, once they get the chance to bridge the gaps of caste and gender.

[learn more about AVAG's exchange programs ...](#)



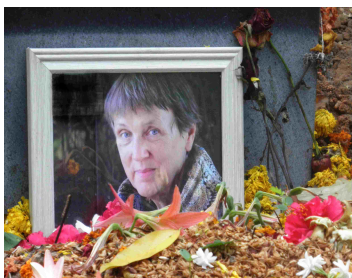
### Next steps to break the silence



After our survey in Tamil villages confirmed that menstruation is still considered a taboo-issue we are taking initiatives to break the silence about this natural part of being a woman.

In seminars, women get the chance to

**R.I.P. Bhavana**



Our founding member Bhavana Dee left us on 11.May 2011. We are so thankful for all the inspiration she gave us and will keep her visions alive in our work. Still we will miss her a lot!

talk about fears and problems when "blood is coming" (most of them have no clue, where it is actually coming from) and get the chance to learn from each other about their hygiene management, herbal remedies for pain and many more. [check out how Tamil women deal with their period...](#)

**Giving help through microcredits**

Most of our members don't have a lot of financial back-up. So what to do when your daughter is sick or when your roof is leaking in monsoon time? Local money lenders are still quite common. However, they want about 25% interest every 3 months. This makes more than 90% per year! Luckily, there is another way. AVAG designed a unique micro-finance program to meet the needs of our members and provide fair loans. At the moment, 4000 members take advantage of our program and we hope to provide them with even better loans by increasing our corpus fund once we have the money for it.



[Do you know how our unique program works?...](#)

**Women around the world - it's time to celebrate!**



Many AVAG clubs organised great festivals to celebrate international women's day in different villages. In AVAG office, 220 women from 4 villages joined us for fun-games, sports, food and discussions. In Unity, regardless of caste and origin, we celebrated our strength and beauty.

[Check out more of our latest news...](#)



**In the end, we would like to thank all our donors and volunteers who make our work in the villages possible!**

**Further help is more than welcome.** Just contact us for some volunteer activities - here or in your home country or give us financial support.  
[Find out how you can help us...](#)

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