

Rural Sports Meets

Rural Sports Meets were conducted in every village, where women and children took part enthusiastically. Age is no bar to the participants and even elderly persons participated in the sports competitions. The events were conducted separately for the elders, women and children. The women's penchant for sports was apparent from their participation and the eagerness to win prizes. AREDS-initiated Self Help Group members showed much spirit and won prizes worth Rs. 30000 from the Women Development Programme of the state.

AREDS, in order to strengthen the unity among the women members of its self-help groups and women movements, held a Sports Meet separately on the SWATE premises in Veerarakiyam on the 18th of January 2009. Ms. Rani, the president of Pothuravuthanpatti panchayat, presided over the function. Ms. Premalatha, a ward member, welcomed the participants. Other elected ward members and the key staff of AREDS spoke in the meeting. Ms. Sheela Robert, the treasurer of Women's Front, flagged off the sports.

SWATE members participated in the sports competitions enthusiastically. The competition was very intense. However, the participants were not acrimonious but friendly and sportive. The events included in the competitions were 100 metres running, putting threat in to the eye of the needle, musical chair, tug of war, singing and the like. The Sports Meet served as a binding force that made the women members and the staff of AREDS work in unison. It also exhibited the organising capacity and leadership qualities of the women members. These are remarkable about the sports meet.

The entire events were planned, organised and executed by the women members of SWATE. It was the programme of women, by women and for women. Mr. Samy, the director of AREDS, distributed the prizes to the winners. Ms. Janaki, a ward member, gave the vote of thanks.

