

Village Action News

Monthly news about the efforts of AVAG to bridge the gap between
Auroville and the villages around it.

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Women – Strength in Numbers

The last month saw a surge in women's activities in Village Action's program, culminating in a huge event on March 23 to celebrate International Women's Day.



or performed cultural programs for village leaders, others presented educational tools to school children or celebrated quietly with discussions and songs.

The grand finale was a collective celebration to mark IWD, with over 2000 women in attendance from the 100 women's clubs that participate in AVAG's program. Women from 40 clubs gave cultural performances to an audience that included Aurovilians and

The activities began in late February, with a women's sports day at AVAG's resource centre. Approximately 600 women participated in sporting competitions, such as basketball shooting, skipping and racing with pots of water balanced on the head.

International Women's Day on March 8 was celebrated by women's clubs in their own villages, with each club choosing their own original way to mark the occasion. Some played games



invited VIPs, and prizes were awarded to clubs that had achieved the most in different categories.



Two guest speakers from Chennai, Ms Beulah from IWID and Ms Valentina from AIDWA, addressed issues affecting women, such as dowry, unequal wages and the denial of education. The two MLAs of the region were also present and praised the initiatives of the women, especially their savings/micro-credit

programs and their work for village improvement. The MLA for Lawspet, Pondicherry, Mr Shajahan, acknowledged the accomplishments of AVAG in the region, stating “women are instrumental in bringing social change”.

