

Board Members Profile

The members of ASHWINI board elect a three member executive committee consisting of the President, Secretary and Treasurer, every three years from among the members.

Ms. Janaki – President

Janaki, from the Bettakurumba tribe, has been playing a vital role as a health animator in the Gudalur area since 1990. The Bettakurumbas were the most resistant to using modern medicine. Janaki was part of the team that helped this community overcome their fear and prejudice.

Mr. K.T. Subramanian – Secretary

Subramanian, from the Mullakurumba tribe was one of the first animators to join ACCORD in its land rights movement. He is also the Secretary of the tribal people's organization, The AMS. He has worked for the rights and development of the tribal community for over 30 years. Today he is one of the most trusted and respected representatives of the community.

Ms. A. Ambika – Treasurer

Ambika, from the Mullakurumba tribe was one of the first women to join the health team in 1990. She trained as a nurse and is today a highly skilled and deeply committed nurse at the Gudalur Adivasi Hospital. Ambika also sits on the Coordination Team as a representative of ASHWINI and the Hospital.

Other Members Of The Board

1. Mr. T.K. Ayyappan
Ayyappan, a Mullakurumba, has been coordinating the tea planting programme over the years. Today he is in charge of a 400 member strong tea leaf marketing cooperative of the adivasis.
2. Ms. Indira – Member
Indira is a Mullakurumba, who is working at the Hospital as a Pharmacist. Her quiet and dedicated approach has earned for her a special place at the hospital. She is in charge of Pharmacy in Gudalur Adivasi Hospital

3. Ms. Uma – Member
Uma joined the team as a nurse at the Gudalur Adivasi Hospital. Her warmth and natural flair for getting on with people saw her very quickly shifting to being a health animator. She has been one of the pioneering ones. Though a Mullakurumba she has not hesitated to work with other tribes far away from home. Currently she is the health animator for the Srimadurai area which has some of the most remote villages of Gudalur.
4. Ms. T.R.Janu – Member
Janu, a Mullakurumba was one of the early nurses and was a very active member of the Hospital team. Family commitments have forced her to work as Health Animator in the field. She tirelessly works for the community in Ayyankolly area.
5. Mr. Sreedharan - Member
Sreedharan or Parasu as he more affectiantely known, is a dynamo of energy and commitment. A health animator of the Devarshola area he is also one of the coordinator of the Health Animators team. Parasu represents this team on the coordination committee. He is a Mullakurumba.
6. Dr. Nandakumar Menon (MBBS,FACS, Diplomate American Board of Surgery) - Member
A graduate of CMC, Vellore, Nandakumar went to the U.S. where he further qualified as a surgeon. Nandakumar belongs to the unique breed of Indian professionals who actually clung to his dream of returning to India after becoming financially stable. Even more unique is that he fulfilled his dream of working for the poor in India. He was one of the founders of ASHWINI.
7. Mr. Stan Thekaekara - Member
Stan has a long history of working with adivasis. Starting in Bihar in 1974, he came to Gudalur in 1984 and with his wife Mari founded ACCORD in 1985. Stan has received recognition for his work both in India and abroad. After years as ACCORD's Director and Secretary, he currently works as volunteer with ACCORD and the AMS. Stan was a Trustee of OXFAM and has been a consultant to them for their work on poverty in Great Britain.
8. Dr. Roopa Devadasan (MBBS) - Member
Roopa, a graduate of Christian Medical College, Vellore started the Community Health Programme in Gudalur in 1987 and later was a founder member of ASHWINI. She completed her post graduate diploma on community health from the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium. Currently, she is working as a teacher in Bangalore and is practising alternative medicines.