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.

Mr. N. Kumaran – Treasurer

Kumaran, a Mullakurumba tribe who has been working for the rights and development of tribal community for many years. He has also equally taken interest in education work in the community.

Mr. M. Kethan – President

Kethan, a Bettakurumba tribe has been representing his community in the liaising work with government for the development of tribal community.

1. Mr. T.K. Ayyappan – Member
   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. A. Ambika – Member
   Ambika was one of the first woman to come forward for training as a nurse. She is today a highly trained and deeply committed nurse at the Gudalur Adivasi Hospital. Ambika also sits on the Coordination Team as a representative of ASHWINI and the Hospital. She is also a Mullakurumba.

3. Ms. K. Janaki – Member
   Janaki, a Bettakurumba, has been playing a vital role as a health animator in the Gudalur area. 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.

4. Ms. O.A. Indira – Member
   Indira is a Mullakurumba, who is working at the Hospital as a nurse. Her quiet and dedicated approach has earned for her a special place at the hospital. She and Ambika share the responsibilities of nursing superintendent and head nurse. She has been recently appointed to the Board.

5. Ms. K. Uma Devi – 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.
6. 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 play a lesser role – but nonetheless she still finds time to continue as Board member of ASHWINI.

7. Mr. B. Sreedharan - Member
Sreedharan or Parasu as he more affectionately 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 also is a Trustee of OXFAM and has been a consultant to them for their work on poverty in Great Britain.

10. 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.

11. Mr. K. Balakrishnan
Balakrishnan, a Paniya from Kozhikolly village has been active member in coordinating and organizing educational activities in the community.

12. Mr. S. Kathiravan
Kathiravan, a Bettakurumba has been active member in coordinating and organizing educational activities in the community.