SENGAMALA THAYAAR EDUCATIONAL TRUST WOMEN'S COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS)
(Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli)
(Accredited by NAAC)
SUNDARAKKOTTAI- 614016, MANNARGUDI,

PG AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY

Report on Community Empowerment Programme

Title: Edible Mushroom Cultivation and Organic Farming

Date : 25.09.2026

Venue: BMMU office, Sundarakkottai

The PG and Research Department of Microbiology, Sengamala Thayaar Educational Trust Women's College (Autonomous), Sundarakkottai, organized a **Community Empowerment Programme for Women Self-Help Group (SHG) Members** at the **BMMU, Sundarakkottai**, on **25.09.2026**.

The programme was organized with the objective of creating awareness among women self-help group members about **edible mushroom cultivation, organic farming, preparation of organic liquid fertilizers, and the marketing opportunities available through mushroom cultivation**. More than **50 women SHG members** actively participated in the programme.

Ms. P. Maheswari organized the programme, and **Rural Development Officer Ms. E. Mala** presided over the function. The programme provided a platform for students and faculty members to share their practical knowledge and promote sustainable livelihood opportunities among rural women.

As part of the programme, **students and faculty members conducted a practical demonstration of edible mushroom cultivation**, particularly focusing on the basic methods and techniques involved in mushroom production. The participants were given a clear explanation of the materials required, preparation of the cultivation substrate, spawning, maintenance, harvesting, and basic post-harvest handling of mushrooms.

An awareness session was also conducted on the **preparation and use of organic liquid fertilizers**. The participants were informed about the importance of organic farming, the use of

natural inputs, maintenance of soil fertility, reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers, and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.

The programme also highlighted the **economic and entrepreneurial potential of mushroom cultivation**. Information was provided on harvesting, packaging, value addition, local marketing, and possible income-generation opportunities through small-scale mushroom production. This encouraged the participants to consider mushroom cultivation as a potential **home-based and livelihood-oriented activity**.

A total of **100 students** actively participated in the programme and supported the faculty members in conducting the demonstrations and awareness activities. **Pamphlets containing information on edible mushroom cultivation methods** were distributed to the participants for future reference.

The programme successfully created awareness among women SHG members regarding **mushroom cultivation, organic farming, organic liquid fertilizers, and mushroom marketing**, while also providing students with an opportunity to engage in community-based extension activities. The programme thus contributed to **community empowerment, skill development, sustainable agriculture, and rural livelihood development**.

Outcome:

The programme enhanced the knowledge of women SHG members about edible mushroom cultivation and organic farming and created awareness about converting these activities into potential income-generating ventures. It also strengthened the connection between the institution and the local community through practical knowledge-sharing and extension activities.


EXTENSION ACTIVITY


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