

Experience of PRI-CBO convergence in rural India- A case study

The Kudumbashree network has been setting an excellent example in the country for implementing an effective model of convergence by working in an integrated manner within the government's constitutional decentralized structure and through effective convergence of resources, actions and human capital. The convergence has also opened up avenues for horizontal linkages for functioning as a collaborative framework, aimed at planning and implementation of activities for the larger socio-economic development of the community.

This model is being implemented by Kudumbashree NRO in more than ten states in the country by adopting strategies suited to a particular context of the state. The premise behind contextualizing approaches is that each state has its own implementation architecture at the state, district and block levels with complementary systems in the form of human resource, administration and finance mechanisms. Moreover, the PRI-CBO convergence model is also implemented keeping in mind the socio-economic and cultural context of the communities living in these areas. Even though these factors influence the strategies adopted by NRO, the basic premise of the convergence model of increasing the efficiency and reach of poor centric programmes, improved participatory planning between PRI and CBO, increased capability of the CBOs to demand entitlements and promoting democratically conscious community remains the same throughout.

Reaping the benefits of New Knowledge- Case Study from Killa, Tripura

Tripura, located in the north-eastern part of the country, is one of the states where Kudumbashree NRO has been implementing the convergence model. The MoU was signed with the state on December 2016 and since then a number of activities were carried out including selection of local community cadre, mobilization of women for Gram Sabha, participatory planning exercises among women for demanding entitlements from Panchayaths and capacity building of the community network. Before the work initiated in Killa block of Tripura, most of the women were very indifferent to the Gram Sabha that happened in their area. The participation was also very limited. But since the project's inception, a number of initiatives for awareness generation were carried out among the local women who were part of the community network. This was mainly done by the local community cadre- LRGs, selected through several process oriented training programs by Kudumbashree NRO. The mentors along with the LRGs then carried out PAE (Participatory Access to Entitlements), an SHG-level interactive discussion and baseline formation module that helps in sharing of information among SHG members and their sensitisation on entitlements and benefits. Once this exercise was done in Atharbhula Village Council (Killa, Tripura), a demand plan which is basically a compilation of all the demands of the community network, was placed in Gram Sabha. The Village Council (VC) chairperson and the members were really impressed by the LRGs and the work that they had done in enhancing the capability of the CBO network. They praised the LRGs for successfully using their new-found knowledge on the schemes and the entitlements and making the CBO members aware of it. Such an initiative from the side of the

community helped the members of the Village Council realize the potential of the LRGs as vehicles of information dissemination and the importance of community network as a ready platform to reach out to the needy and provide them with their due benefits. A month later, LRGs were called to the Village Council office and the Chairman asked them to gather a few CBO members who would be interested in floriculture. For the next few days, the LRG members visited every SHG meetings in their Village Council and successfully gathered 20 CBO members. The chairman of the Village Council informed that once the paddy cultivation in the village gets over, the women will be allotted farming area, seeds and necessary support by the Panchayath to do floriculture.



An SHG meeting in progress

Such a case serves as an excellent example of an informed community being able to work together with the panchayath for the benefit of the people. In other words, considerable effort towards institutional strengthening and

capacity building will in turn make government institutions more responsive to the needs of poor people.