

## **Agathirahithakeralam Concept**

In 2003, the Government of Kerala introduced a new project through the State Poverty Eradication Mission (Kudumbashree), catering to these unreachable poorest of poor, called Asraya. At present, the Asraya project which had seen many phases is being restructured into a more comprehensive one time program called Agathirahithakeralam (Destitute Free Kerala). The inception of Agathirahithakeralam Project was on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018. It is equipped with better technology in beneficiary identification (via mobile app) and project preparation rendering the project more cost effective and timely. The criteria of destitute identification in the Project are tailored according to the socio economic structure of Kerala. This is done by means of a 9 – point criteria and additional criteria (8 in rural and 10 in urban areas). Those families who satisfy 7 out of 9 – point criteria and 1 additional criterion are deemed to be destitute. The destitute identification is done using mobile app by specially trained resource persons. There is an appeal period during which any concerned person can approach Kudumbashree and submit appeal regarding the beneficiary list. Appeal verification is done by Local Self Government Institute (LSGI). The list is verified and ratified by Gramasabha and LSGI. Compulsory medical camps are also conducted to ascertain the health factor of the beneficiaries. It also has an anytime inclusion provision which was unavailable in Asraya Project. The fund given by Kudumbashree, known as Challenge Fund has also been enhanced from ₹ 25 lakhs to ₹ 40 lakhs in case of general projects and from ₹ 40 lakhs to ₹ 50 lakhs in case of ST projects. In this project District Panchayats and Block Panchayats also share 10% and 15% of the total project cost unlike in Asraya. The services being rendered in Agathirahithakeralam has been enhanced compared to Asraya. This time, apart from basic and infrastructural needs, job/skill enhancement and social needs will be focused on also. For monitoring of the projects after implementation, Monitoring Committees will be formed at State and District level. Thus Asraya which has donned new attire in the form of Agathirahithakeralam is expected to tackle the many facets of poverty in a better way.



Agathirahithakeralam – Inauguration by Hon. Minister of LS GD, Dr. K.T.Jaleel



Agathirahithakeralam Mobile Survey in Kottayam



Agathirahithakeralam Special Gramasabha - Ernakulam



Agathirahithakeralam Medical Camp – Ernakulam