

Vulnerability Mapping in Kasaragod

Kudumbashree Mission developed vulnerability mapping as a tool to identify the issues/demands through the collective action of the community. Through this process the vulnerabilities prevailing in each and every locality was identified and the needed help was provided. The first phase of vulnerability mapping was done in 28 panchayaths, which means 2 panchayaths each from every district. In Kasaragod District, vulnerability mapping was done in Pallikkara and Kallar Panchayaths. By successfully conducting vulnerability mapping, the issues prevailing in these two panchayaths were identified and the needed assistance was provided. An impact study was also conducted along with. Let's look into the details on how Kasaragod District Mission had done vulnerability mapping in Kasaragod!

What is Vulnerability?

Vulnerability in this context can be defined as the diminished capacity of an individual or group to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural or man-made hazard. The concept is relative and dynamic. Vulnerability is most often associated with poverty, but it can also arise when people are isolated, insecure and defenseless in the face of risk, shock or stress.

People differ in their exposure to risk as a result of their social group, gender, ethnic or other identity, age and other factors. Vulnerability may also vary in its forms.

Vulnerability Mapping

Vulnerability Mapping is not only a tool to develop the action plan but it capacitates the people to identify their vulnerability and help them to find out the opportunities. It is not constant and it can be changed through the empowerment of community to take the effort by themselves to address their vulnerability. It is a collective action to identify and address the existing vulnerabilities in their own community. The way women experiencing vulnerability is different from men due to social construction and gender differentiation.

Kudumbashree started mapping activities in selected 28 Local Governments in Kerala with the support of 100 trained Gender Resource Persons. Inauguration of the process is done by Hon. Minister of Local Self Government Dr. K.T. Jaleel on 16 December 2016.

The process is to map the locality to identify the prevailing vulnerabilities which are leading the community in to vulnerable situations. It will be reflect in different forms and leading the people to poverty or to any hazard or shocking situation. Kudumbashree developed vulnerability mapping as a tool to identify the issues/demands through the collective action of the community. Through the process it was tried to capacitate them to identify the situation and possibilities to prevent them. Vulnerability depends on the geographical, social, economical and

physical situation and capacity of an individual or the group. Community Resource Persons can be support them to realize or understand the vulnerability through different methodologies. It also aims the Participatory preparation of Social protection plan at the NHG area. It may be Focus Group Discussions, Individual Interviews, Home visits, Case Studies, experience sharing.

Why Vulnerability Mapping?

The aim of vulnerability mapping in each panchayath was to understand the reasons relating to poverty, violence, and health issues, among others. The pilot phase was conducted in 28 panchayaths, 2 panchayaths each from every district.

Ultimately, it intended to help overcome those who face such hardships by providing opportunities. In the pilot phase, the vulnerability mapping was done in 28 panchayaths at the rate of two panchayaths in each of the 14 districts in the state.

The mapping ascertained the crimes in each locality, alcoholism, child marriage mostly girls, problems faced by women at workplace, problems due to migrant population, political and domestic violence, transgender issues, poverty, safe drinking water shortage, health, environment and climate issues, sanitation and problems of unorganized sector workforce.

Following were the areas which were selected to Map

- Identify poverty in all its forms and everywhere
- Identify hunger factors, food security issues and agricultural possibilities

- Health status of the community – permanent illness and its after effects, communicable diseases and awareness, Health condition of the community due to any special cause, Mental Health, Reproductive health , Mal nutrition, autism, mentally challenged
- Educational factors – Education status of men & women, opportunities, facilities
- Gender inequalities, Gender Based Violence and empowerment of women and girls –Different types of violence, Issues of single women, adolescents, transgender, political violence
- Water and Sanitation issues
- Issues related to employment – Issues at work place, unemployment, issues of persons who can't go for work and livelihood analysis
- Infrastructure – Critical facility analysis
- Safe and Sustainable human settlement/Rehabilitation/Housing
- Disability and related vulnerabilities
- Vulnerability due to Migration
- Social Issues affecting - Money lending, crime, Alcoholism, child/early marriage
- Climate change and its impact
- Vulnerable situations due to Institutional access and Inclusiveness
- Identify the issues of groups such as unorganized sectors,(Textile, Bamboo workers, street vendors etc)
- Vulnerabilities due to the access of information, technology, services
- Atrocities against women and children in the area and develop prevention strategies

Vulnerability Mapping in Kasaragod

The Vulnerability Mapping in the district was done in Pallikkara and Kallar Panchayaths. The mapping was done with the help of gender resource personnel in the district. Considering the 2 panchayaths, Pallikara is a coastal area and Kallar is a ST area. As Kallar has more tribal population, it had so many issues relating to them. As the result of vulnerability mapping, so many issues prevailing in the areas were identified and assistance was extended.

The vulnerability mapping in Kallar Panchayath was executed under the leadership of Smt Ambili, Gender Resource Person and that of Pallikara Panchayath was executed under the leadership of Smt. Padmini. It was Smt. Prabha Kripesh, Gender Consultant of Kasaragod District gave the guidance for implementing the mapping in the most effective way. The CDS chairpersons and the governing body members of both the panchayaths and the NHGs worked together for the successful implementation of the same. The process identified the issues that were being threats to women and children. The issues were identified through the detailed analysis and focused group discussions. The primary data and the secondary data were collected by the RPs and CDS members and the institution analysis and the other relevant details were collected by the members, Panchayath President, ICDC supervisor and other department heads and the rest was collected through focused group discussions.

As part of the programme, training was given to Resource person and ward members as well. Detailed meetings of MNREGA workers and Anganwadi workers were also called as part of the programme.

By studying the different sectors existing in both the panchayaths, the issues and the opportunities were found out, whether it is agriculture, hygiene, water availability, waste disposal. Animal husbandry, health, education, shelter, education, women development, child development, Scheduled Tribe Development etc.

As the result of the success of vulnerability mapping, a Kudumbashree sales outlet was opened in Pallikara. The weekly markets and monthly markets were made active and the participation in the agriculture sector was also increased. The amenities of the Health Centre in the area was also increased.

The Vulnerability mapping in the Pallikara Panchayath made sustainable organic cultivation possible in the panchayath. The Kudumbashree members made use of the barren land available in the panchyath, cultivated various crops and then sold it out in the monthly markets and sales fairs in the best possible ways. For the benefits of Life and Ashraya programmes to reach to the real beneficiaries, an awareness was created and more focus was therefore paid to it. As a result more funds were allocated for starting selling outlets, and buds institutions etc in the panchayath.

Through the well organized execution of vulnerability mapping, the issues prevailing in the respective localities were identified and were resolved according to. The District Mission of Kasaragod had implemented the programme in a more systematic way!