

**REPORT OF THE DIFFERENT UNITS AND PROGRAMMES OF KUDUMBASHREE**  
**AT KOTTARAKKARA AND PUNALUR MUNICIPALITIES**

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**Municipalities: Kottarakkara, Punalur**

**District: Kollam**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Kudumbashree Mission appointed me as PMAY Social Development Specialist at Kottarakkara and Punalur Municipalities. In order to understand the functioning of various units and systems of Kudmbashree, visited one neighborhood group, two micro enterprise units, one JLG, met an Ashraya beneficiary and also had meetings with the Secretaries and other officials, Local Self Government representatives including Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons, and the CDS officials of both the Municipalities. A detailed report regarding the activities done from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 7<sup>th</sup> August is given below.

**I. Neighbourhood Group Meeting**

Visited Pulari Neighbourhood Unit, Chanthamukku, Kottarakkara on 5<sup>th</sup> August at 3 pm. The group consists of 16 members. Met the President, Secretary, Health Education Volunteer, Basic Emnities Volunteer and Income Generation Volunteer. The meeting began with prayer and the secretary delivered welcome speech. After that she read the meeting minutes of the previous meeting and also the accounts. Those who are the volunteers of various team also presented their reports. Also discussed about loan repayment and the need of a member to take a loan amount of 20000 Rs. The group members discussed about the need to begin a micro enterprise at the earliest. Some of the group members are interested in joining the MEs and they need training for that also. The

ADS ensured that she would discuss this with the CDS chairperson and will inform in the next group meeting. After that collected the thrift amount of 40 rs and loan repayment was also done. After that the president delivered vote of thanks and the meeting came to an end with the National Anthem.

## **II. Meeting with Municipality Officials/CDS**

Joined Kudumbashree District Mission office, Kollam on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017. As directed by the DMC, reported at Kottarakkara Municipality and met the Municipal Secretary and Superintendent. The section head who handle PMAY made me familiarize with the current status of the project in this Municipality. Also met the CDS Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Municipality Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Welfare Standing Committee Chairperson, Municipal Secretary, Superintendent and the HI. In Kottarakkara Municipality the DPR has prepared including 140 beneficiaries in the second phase.

Reported at Punalur Municipality on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and met the Superintendent, Section clerks, Health Supervisor, Municipal Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The chairperson called upon a meeting of the executive members of the PMAY and discussed the present status of the project running and also guided the section clerk to arrange a meeting of the first phase beneficiaries to know the status of the project. He also guided to begin the processing of the second phase application. The present status of the project of Punalur Municipality is that they have completed providing aid to 200 families and the process is going on.

## **III. MICRO ENTERPRISE UNITS:**

### **i. Ornamental Elephant Caparison Making:**

An ornamental caparison making unit is functioning at Padinjattinkara by the four members of Sangholi Neighbourhood group. This unit started its functioning in August

2016. The raw materials needed for the making of the caparison is purchased from Kollam as per the need of the customers and also from the market. One of the notable speciality of this group is that they make it in a traditional way by understating the rituals and rules of particular religions. They make caparison sized one foot to six feet. One of the leading TV channels reported this ME as a women empowered enterprise. One of the members of the group had undergone training and trained the rest of the members who are interested in this. The group members said that this particular activity could improve their life in a much better way and they could earn by their own.

#### **ii. Catering Unit, Kotarakkara:**

Visited a catering unit on 5<sup>th</sup> August functioning at Kottarakkara Municipality which is handled by seven members of two different groups. They function as mobile catering unit on the demand from the customers. They prepare 80 regular lunch box kits everyday and supply at different governmental and non- governmental offices, shops, banks, work sites, etc. They charge 50 rs for non-vegetarian lunch and 80rs for non-vegetarian lunch box. They also take order for receptions, other functions at home, etc. They prepare special food based on the demand from the customers. Visited the place where they prepare food and it was found that it locates in a hygienic place where the food is prepared under the regulations of food safety authority. Now they are trying for getting license as they found it beneficial for each of them as well as the society. They also need loan to develop their activity, especially the infrastructural facilities as they are willing to proceed further.

#### **IV. JLG, Kottarakkara:**

A JLG is functioning at Kottarakkara Municipality comprises of five members of a group. They started cultivating all types of seasonal vegetables and sell it to whole sale distributors. They cultivate in one acre near to the canal so that it is easy to cultivate crops in between. Now they cultivate tapioca and banana plantation is also there. They gets an average of 30000/40000 rs profit from the cultivation and is divided among the

members of the group equally. The Krishi Bhavan office gives timely guidance to them regarding the technical side of cultivation. Also the members are trained and they admitted that these trainings help them in improving their farming. They do all their activities by their own and find market to sell their crops. It was found that the JLG functions very successfully and the dedication of the members help the group in the smooth running of the project.

#### **V. ASHRAYA BENEFICIARY:**

Ashraya project of Kottarakkara Municipality covers a total number of 120 beneficiaries who are landless, houseless, destitute, widows, unemployed, differently abled, unmarried mothers, etc. The major aim of Ashraya project is to ensure house, land, treatment and food to everyone in the Municipality who comes under the above mentioned category. In the second phase, a total number of 98 beneficiaries are covered which comprises of 42 one member family, 46 two member families and 10 families who comprises of above three members.

Met an Ashraya beneficiary of Ashraya Project of Kottarakkara Municipality. The beneficiary is a widow who doesn't have house, drinking water facility, and also a destitute who lives with her unmarried sister. She is 73 yrs old and her sister is 63yrs old. The beneficiary gets food kit as part of Ashraya project in this second phase of project implementation. She said that this project is a great relief for her as she doesn't have any income or nobody to look after her. She gets the kit once in every month and the kit for this month she would get during Onam. She is also included in the PMAY project.

#### **EXPERIENCES:**

- The municipal officials and the CDS members are very much supportive.
- In the first meeting itself the municipal chairpersons of both the municipalities and the section clerks who handle PMAY were willing to share the details and present status of PMAY.

- The visit was such a great experience so that it helped me as a new staff to make familiarize with the basic units and programmes of Kudumbashree.
- The Punalur Municipal Chairperson called upon a special meeting of PMAY to know the status of the project and also to plan for the implementation of the second phase.

**OBSERVATIONS:**

- The Municipal officials are very keen in handling the projects.
- In Punalur Municipality, the first phase of PMAY covered about 200 beneficiaries while in Kottarakkara Municipality the DPR has been prepared including 140 members.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

- Micro enterprise units should be strengthened in both the Municipalities.

**CONCLUSION:**

The visits done to various units and in different projects helped to have an orientation regarding the basic units and functions of the Kudumbashree. The PMAY projects function well in both the Municipalities and also the involvement of Kudumbashree for the smooth functioning of the projects would enhance the development of the society as a whole.

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