

Rangasree Community Theatre

Kudumbashree women in theatre with the twin objective of forming three all-women theatre repertory groups that can produce and perform plays as well as equipping the members of these theatre groups to become trainers in theatre of other groups of women. As a part of gender self learning program Kudumbashree asked to write life experiences to the NHG members and the experiences were consolidate on the CDS's. Then all the books had been collected from the each district of Kerala through initiating a drama which was based on preventing gender violence. The name of the drama was "Bheri". Bheri inspired Kudumbashree to start community theaters in each district. After this first move Kudumbashree had created team in every district and played dramas which were related to Energy Conservation. The main aim of creating such team was making women culturally empowered ant to ensure their presence in the field of theatre.

With this objective, the main activities conducted

1. Selected of a team of 15 women from Kudumbasree from three regions of the State, namely Kannur- Malappuram, Ernakulam-Alappuzha, Kollam-Pathanamthitta.
2. A two-day Orientation workshop for the selected candidates were conducted to orient the participants about the vision behind Rangasree,

about the training process and what is expected of them once they complete their training as well as create a sensibility for group action like singing together, dancing together and other group exercises.

3. Provided 15-day training in theatre for the 15 member team from each of the three regions. (Central, North and Southern).
4. Performance of Central team.
5. District level trainings to capacitate the tem
6. Play on different themes to disseminate the messages
7. Independent groups and registered as ME units

Training followed with these two methods

- a) To provide basic training in Script making, acting, directing, set & property making, costume designing and making, make up, and mask making.
- b) Made a play out of the script from the workshop that will be performed in a Rangasree Festival.
- c) As state and district almost 50 days training they got in different area.

Selection Process

The selection process started when a first information sheet prepared in Malayalam and which included questions on aptitude, experience and willingness (Sample attached) was distributed to prospective candidates from the six districts of Kannur, Malappuram, Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Kollam and Pathanamthitta who were to be grouped into three namely Northern, Central and Southern regions.

Diction from Rangashree Members

My name is Shreekala I belong to Payyavoor panchayath of Kannur district which is a tribal area. After the demise of my husband, I have got the responsibility of my family. I came to know that CDS were inviting women artists to be a part of Community Theatre. I don't have any academic qualification. However, I was well aware of our traditional arts and dance forms like Nadan Pattu, Thudi kutthu, Mudi attam and Chendavadyam. CDS asked me to go for the selection process at that time I thought that I would have to perform a drama or any of my talents. But then when I had reached there I came to know that it's a 15 days training camp, I was so scare because it was the first time I was leaving my home and going far from family. I was informed that if I will get through the training then I will become the state team member of Rangashree. Along with me there were four more ladies from my own place and all of us cleared the training and selected for Rangashree Team. We became the part of community theater of Kannur District through Rangashree. We were trained to direct and write the play, compose the music, play the It was a life changing movement of my life. Till the

time I was living for my own but then I have started contributing to society through awareness programs by our dramas, folk songs and street plays which are mainly based on gender based violence, health, NHG enhancement. I had never mingled out of my community prior to this but Rangashree gave me the exposure to meet and interact with others. Stage fear has gone we have started performing independently at different places. We have been invited to perform in other district too (Kasargode, Waynad, Kozhikode) as well for many political and public events and inaugurations, to play Shingari melam and perform traditional forms. It gives me pride and honor and I am happy to be with Rangashree. My life has been changed through Kudumbashree's Rangashree community theater.

My name is Sherly. I am from Pathanamthitta district. Because of my family issues I was very upset and there was no happiness in my personal life. I was of an introvert personality with stage fear, not interacting with society in any manner. So I was unable to laugh and enjoy like others did. People have justified me as an egoistic lady. It was a coincident that I had ended up to Rangashrees training. Rangashree was a new name for me and I was unaware about its activities. I used to dance when I was young and I thought that Rangashree is a kind of dance and drama competition. So I went for 15 days training program and there I realized that I have a talent of writing a script and Rangashree made me aware about my hidden talent. I became the representative of the district and I found a leadership quality as well in my through that training. After that I have started interacting with others, I blown my personal issues which were putting me in darkness.

Through Rangashree, we are conveying awareness to community. We are working on a grass root level as well. After joining Rangashree ,I went to so many places to perform Street plays and dramas. People have started recognizing me I share my experience to them. I felt so happy and independent.

District mission granted Rs. 1 lakh ME loan to us and we paid off it by performing street plays and dramas. Now we have applied for bank loan of Rs.2 lakh to purchase our own mic set. One more thing i would like to add here is that, my husband has started supporting me in my work and he is very happy. He feels proud on me especially because I am working with Kudumbashree Mission. We have the label of Kudumbashree mission and it gives us freedom to mobility. And we are getting huge response from society rather than any other group.