

Report on familiarization with activities of Kudumbasree CDS through various System

Kudumbasree is one of the strongest women network to organize and emancipate the female population of Kerala. The conscious and continuous work rendered by this system helps the women to enjoy upgradation in the social economic and political status in the present scenario. Local self-governments are playing vital role in channelizing this development initiatives to the grass root level. Coordination and effective communication between the CDS and local self government is essential for the successful implementation of the programme.

To familiarize with the activities kudumbasree system I am attached with the CDS of Karunagappally municipality of Kollam district. Through the one week interaction with the Kudumbasree members at various level, I am able to familiarize with the three tier system and various institutions under Kudumbasree mission. Neighbourhood Help Group, Area Development Society and Community development Society are the three important pillars of Kudumbasree structure. NHGs are working in the Grass root level. ADS are working in the ward level and CDS is working in the Panchayath or municipality level.

NHG Visit

To get a more clear idea about the working of NHG in the primary level I had visited a NHG named Anaswara in the 9th Division of Karunagappally CDS. It has 20 members among them one person is now bedridden and not actively participating in the day to day activities. This NHG had formed on 2005. Rs.100/- is paying as monthly contribution. Smt. Remadevi is the chairperson and Smt. Ushakumari is the secretary of the NHG. Secretary of the NHG is also acting as the Chairperson of the CDS. Even though the meeting is a routine process they are following all the procedures of an official meeting while they are conducting the NHG meeting. After the prayer there is a welcome speech by the secretary and presidential address of the chairperson. After the official speeches secretary introduces various socially important issues as well as programmes and activities related to kudumbasree for discussion. The discussion gives equal opportunity to every member to express their opinion regarding each subject. The latest issues discussed and followed with action are pre monsoon cleaning and awareness programmes. This initiative helps the neighbouring people to escape from the contagious viral fever.

CDS Visit

Karunagappally CDS is one of the important CDS of Kollam district Mission. Karunagappally CDS is always ready to take innovative programmes and challenging initiatives. Soothikasree, Swasthya, and Natuvipani are some of the innovative initiatives implemented on pilot basis in the CDS. Miscommunication and improper coordination from the part of implementing agency itself caused the failure of the project. Karunagappally municipality is having 35 divisions. 14929 houses consist of 23381 male and 24102 female population. Among them 4697 people are belonging to Scheduled caste and 81 are belonging to scheduled tribe category. CDS committee is consisted of 35 members and 4 subcommittee members. Smt. Ushakumari leading the CDS

for the previous 3 years. The subcommittee members are Smt. Sukumari, Smt. Indulekha, Smt. Sukumari.S, Smt. Sobhana Sasidharan. The present executive committee will complete the tenure in December 2017. 245 members constituting the CDS general body. 472 NHGs are presently working in the CDS. 6320 NHG members are acting as the strength of this CDS. Among them 2289 are belonging to below poverty line. 3 special NHGs, 14 SC NHGs and 1 ST NHG playing vital role in marking the presence of Kudumbasree system in the social scenario of the Municipality. Even though there are 140 Micro enterprise units are registered in the CDS 15 groups and 12 Individuals are actively working. Locally profitable ME units are Canteen, café Kudumbasree, Soda making, tailoring, bakery and confectionery, handicrafts and stationary. Two phases of Asraya projects are going on. In the first phase 137 beneficiaries were identified and supported. On the course of time some of them excluded from the project due to demise. After the revisit of first phase it is limited to 87 numbers. In the second phase 207 beneficiaries were included and now 197 were continuing with support. In the first phase municipality provided houses to 9 Asraya beneficiaries which cost 18 lakh rupees'. In the second phase 5 beneficiaries needed housing support. In the current year budget Municipality proposed for 3 houses.

There are 142 JLGs registered in the CDS. Among them 97 is actively working. Major crops cultivated by the JLGs are vegetables, Paddy, and tubers. Lack of proper support and guidance from the DMC is the major issue facing the JLGs in this CDS

88 Balasabha units are working under the CDS. 1612 children are taking part in the activities of the Balasabha. Major activities rendered to the Balasabha group are workshop, vacation camps and study tour

The activities of Gender Self Learning programme is going on in a passive mode. Gender corner and jagrathasamithy is not working in the CDS. Even the gender corner box is not fixed in the CDS

Opinion of the councilors

Ward councilors including the welfare standing committee chairperson have the opinion that the CDS not rendering its 100% in the field level activities. There is a strong communication gap and lack of coordination between the councilors and CDS members. We feeling among the CDS members is lacking very largely. 75% of the NHG members considered it as merely thrift and credit operation rather than a medium for engaging in productive initiatives or income generating activities. Absence of a permanent marketing facility is one of the major cause for low participation in micro enterprises. Municipality is planning to construct a permanent market space for Kudumbasree. Political interferences in the Kudumbasree system is the major cause for lack of link between the CDS and councilors. Municipality expects the intervention of Kudumbasree in the agriculture sector and solid waste management.

Joint Liability Group

Samruthy JLG in Division no 33 is one of the model JLG of the CDS. It consists of five members who are proactively engaging with agriculture activities. They are cultivating spinach, lady finger, brinjal, pees, banana plant etc. they are following mixed crop method for cultivation. They are also ready to intervene in paddy cultivation on experimental basis

Micro Enterprises

Thrupthy activity group is a successful café kudumbasree unit in the karunagappally CDS. They had actively participated in so many festivals such SARAS fair, VENADfest , IITF etc. This group is situated in the 21st division of the municipality. They are also running the canteen of Sri. Vidhyadhiraja arts and Science College. Smt. Najma leading the group. It is a seven member group and all of them are got training from the AIFROM for professionally running the unit. From each fest they are getting Rs.25000/as profit. Per day they are getting average of Rs. 300-500 to each member

Menma pickle unit was started as a group venture in the year of 2011. A 5 member team under the leadership of Smt. Najma Started the unit. The production unit was constructed on Smt. Najma's property. The group has provided with Rs. 1.5lakh including susidy in the initial stage. But the team members except Najma are not ready to actively participate in the marketing of the product. They have interest to divide the loan amount among them. They are not ready to get the medical clearance for FSSAI Registration. So Najma decided to dispose the group and continue the activity by herself. Now she is producing variety of pickles and getting and considerable amount as stable income. She is also able found permanent marketing sources for her product.. Now she started diversification of product such as spices, different kinds of flours etc.

ASRAYA

Smt. Remani, a single women who have a minimal means of living is the Asraya beneficiary that I had visited. She is living alone in her sister's daughter's house. Being the elder member of the family she forced to take the responsibility of her 4 sisters and one sister's children in her early ages. So she forget to get married or found her own life,\. She engaged with coir making ad support her father to make the future of her sisters safe. After the death of his father she became alone with 3 cents of land. She is finding her means of living by working as a cleaner in the nearby temple. she is getting Rs. 500/- per week. She is included in the 1st DPR of PMAY programme and completed the construction of foundation. But unfortunately due to the carelessness of officials she has paid the beneficiary contribution by loan the amount from friends and relatives

This report is not a complete or comprehensive one. The information shared here is only up to my limited knowledge. The further detailed interactions will increase the quality of the report.

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