



# **Building centres of excellence - Concept of Gender Resource Centers**

Soya

## **Gender Resource Center for Women**

Kudumbashree, the poverty eradication mission of the state of Kerala is a community based self help initiative involving poor women. Kudumbashree was formally begun in 1998 as a pioneering agency for poverty alleviation. Unlike other poverty alleviation programmes, Kudumbashree has a multi-pronged design that rests on economic empowerment and social development strategies. Its a three-tier federated community structure that adds to its authenticity, accountability and commitment towards the poor and marginalized. Kudumbashree recognizes that capacitating women to understand and exercise their rights is a basic requirement for the success and sustainability of any poverty eradication programme.

Kudumbashree has attempted to bring every poor woman in the state within a fold and capacitate them to address the issues in micro statistical reports on female work participation; health and nutritional levels among women; their participation in decision making and governance; and their role in planning, implementation and evaluation of the development process.

The scope of Kudumbashree in community interface in local governance is the functioning of Kudumbashree and is tied up to the development initiatives of the local government be it for social infrastructure, welfare or right based interventions or for employment generation. From food security to health insurance, from housing to enterprise development, from the national wage employment programme to the jagratha samiti, every development experience depends on Kudumbashree to provide the community interface.

## **Gender Resource Center for Women**

Through Gender Resource Center Kudumbashree emphasizes to address the women's inequality manifests itself in many forms such as gender discrimination in terms of declining male-female sex ratio, social stereotyping, gender based violence, health and nutritional status, limited access to resources, etc. Also aims to work for holistic empowerment of women in the state cutting across sectors and to serve as a nodal agency for all gender related initiatives in the state and in the community. GRC attempts to develop and make available the resources at a single place to share them across organizations in order to make their efforts in the sector more streamlined, efficient and effective. It can be act as a center for making poverty free panchayaths in Kerala through various interventions.

### **Role of the Centre**

GRCs can initiate gender sensitive development programmes through gender sensitization, gender mainstreaming, gender planning, gender analysis and through convergence.

- Planning and support for the gender development programmes
- Promoting awareness on gender issues and gender sensitization programmes.
- Procuring and disseminating information on specific gender concerns for sensitization.
- Providing support to and coordination of efforts of various change agents to facilitate gender mainstreaming.

- Building capacities of the many stakeholders and change agents to enable effective gender mainstreaming.
- Providing technical inputs for gender planning, gender budgeting, gender analysis & audit of policies, programs and outcomes, gender convergence, and gender advocacy to various organizations within and outside the state.
- Develop and provide different information – education and communication materials for the programmes.
- Immediate support and guidance to the women who are in need.
- Convergent action in the states and at the LSG level .



## Goals

- Eliminating gender based discrimination from society through gender sensitization and gender just development in Kerala.
- Mainstreaming gender in all plans, programs and processes of developmental change.
- Gender sensitive design and implementation strategy for programs of the state and other development agents that reduce gender discrimination.
- Positive and gender just impact of developmental processes that lessen the gap between men and women.
- Acceptance by the state of policies that ensure gender equality.

## Objective

- Enhancing the participation of women in governance process.
- Develop a an engendering Panchayat by bringing more women in local economic development and governance
- Community mobilization for the preventive interventions in the Panchayaths.
- Work for holistic empowerment of women in the state cutting across sectors.

- To facilitate government and other stakeholders involved in women empowerment issues to implement gender sensitive programmes, laws and schemes through effective coordination.
- To facilitate awareness generation on gender issues and promotes gender sensitive programs, policies, laws and schemes.
- To set up an information network and to cooperate through it with interested organization at the local, national and international level.
- To undertake social research and policy analysis on problems and processes of gender development.
- To involve and enhance participation of key stakeholders in programs related to gender and development on a common platform.
- To link and facilitate the activities of voluntary organizations and other groups.
- To develop projects under women component plan.
- To channelize and coordinate the existing resources.
- To function as a centre for state centre for knowledge, information, research and data on all women related issues and convergence of programmes.
- Develop and implement gender sensitive training & capacity building modules. The strategy needs to factor in the requirements of diverse stakeholders (elected representatives, government officers, staff including field functionaries, women's collective members and individuals), training needs (sensitization, awareness generation, technical skills, behavioural change), modalities (either directly or through agencies) etc.

## LIST OF GENDER RESOURCE CENTRES

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>NAME OF GENDER RESOURCE CENTRE STARTED</b>	<b>SELECTED</b>
<b>THIRUVANATHAPURAM</b>	Pazhayakunnummel	
	Karodu	
	Kadinamkulam	
	Pangode	
	Vellarada	
		Aryanad
<b>KOLLAM</b>	Panayam	
	Kadaykkal	
	Ummannoor	
	Vettikkavala	
	Velinelloor	
		Poothakulam
		Alappadu
<b>PATTANAMTHITTA</b>	Pattanamthitta	
		Malayalapuzha
		kalayoor
		Kulanada
		Nedumbram
<b>KOTTAYAM</b>	Veliyanoor	

	Njeezhoor	
	Thrikodithanam	
	Thidanad	
		Ettumanoor
<b>ALAPPUZHA</b>	Aryad	
	Ambalapuzha	
	Haripad	
	Pattanakkad	
	Chengannoor	
<b>IDUKKI</b>	Vathikkudi	
		Thodupuzha municipality
		Parappuzha
		Adimali
		Munnar
		Kattappana
		Kanjikuzhi
		Pampadumpara
<b>ERNAKULAM</b>	Kuttampuzha	
	Vengola	
	Aluva	
	Nedumbasserry	
	Vengoor	
<b>THRISSUR</b>	Aloor	



	Annamanada	
	Varavoor	
	Edavilangu	
	Pazhayannoor block	
	Thekkumkara	
		Chavakkad
		Nadathara
<b>PALAKKAD</b>	Kannadi	
	Kannambra	
	Kongadu	
	Vambazhi	
	Sreekrishnapuram	
<b>MALAPPURAM</b>		perumannakalari
<b>KOZHIKODE</b>	Olavanna	
	Kakkodi	
		Maniyur
		Koduvalli
		Baluserry
<b>WAYANAD</b>		Vythiri
		Panamaram
		Batheri
		Thavinjaal
		Poothadi
<b>KANNUR</b>	Chembilodu	

		Kuthuparambu
		Payyannur
		Chengalayi
		Azhikode
<b>KASARGOD</b>		Chengala
		Pilikode
		Kanhangad
		Muliyar
		Karithalam
		Manjeshwram