

# Field Visit Report



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## **Mudakkal Community Development Society Visit**

Mudakkal CDS office is situated at Mudakkal panchayat office which is under Chirayinkeezh Block in Thiruvananthapuram district. Present office bearers are Mrs. Bindhu K – Chairperson, and Mrs.Lalitha - Vice Chair Person. 418 Neighborhood Groups and 20 Area Development Societies are under this CDS. The present office bearers took charge on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

In this CDS there are 75 registered Joint Liability Groups. But only 25 renewed their affiliation in 2015. Out of this 25, 8 JLGs availed loan facilities for their functioning. Water scarcity is a major factor which is affecting the functioning of JLGs in this CDS. In 2016, the JLGs under this CDS conducted Onam trade fares. But this year due to water shortage, the CDS chairperson is not confident that they can conduct Onam trade fares as effective as last year. Moreover, as per the CDS chairperson, the JLGs are not getting any incentives. This is also a hindrance of the active participation of members.

I also met Mrs. Jayasree- who is a CDS member and 7<sup>th</sup> ward member of MudakkalPanchayath. The feedback that I got from these office bearers is that there is no active participation of all members in CDS. Many people came forward to take charge as office bearers thinking that they will get monetary benefits. But when they realise that they will not get much monetary benefits, they slowly became inactive. There are also some ADS which are not implementing the instructions of CDS.

As per the above mentioned office bearers, we can improve the functioning of CDS by doing two things:

1. There should be a hassle free mechanism to remove inactive office bearers and select new ones.
2. Now, the office bearers are getting only a very small amount as TA for attending CDS meeting. Some changes are needed here.

## **Micro Enterprise Unit Visit**

Micro Enterprise promotion and development is one of the significant strategies of Kudumbashree Mission to facilitate economic empowerment of the poor. I visited one such unit in MudakkalPanchayath on 4<sup>th</sup> august 2017.

Mrs. Bindu, Mrs. Sindhu, Mrs. Sreekala, and Mrs. Shani are the members of this ME unit - SreeDurga Pickle Unit. These women are into this business for the last three years. They are making different types of snacks and pickles. SreeDurga ME Unit is following 2 types of marketing strategy- door to door selling and through retailers. If everything goes well, they can sell products worth Rs.10,000 – 12,000 per month.

The main problem this ME unit is facing is that of financial crunch. The unit is operational only during festive seasons. This seasonal work is preventing them from having the much economic independence they needed.

### **Suggestions**

They should explore the possibilities of getting loans/ financial aids to make the unit functioning on a fulltime basis. Also they can improve their product base by ensuring the 100% utilization of their machinery and other resources. Kudumbasreemission should support them with export consultancy services

### Joint Liability Group Visit

Kudumbashree, the programme implementing agency (PIA) of **MahilaKisanSashakthikaranPariyojana (MKSP)** for Kerala, has undertaken the project through the institution of Joint Liability Group (JLG) of women farmers. The project target was kept at promoting 30,000 JLG, with 1,50,000 women farmers undertaking cultivation in 24,000 Ha. I visited one such JLG from MudakkalPanchayath on 4<sup>th</sup> august 2017.

Mrs. Bindu, Mrs. Sindhu, Mrs. Sreekala, and Mrs. Shani, Mrs. Prasanna, Mr. suni are the members of this JLG. This group is mainly focused on vegetable cultivation. This JLG is promoting environment friendly farming techniques and use of bio fertilizers. This group is actively participating in weekly markets. But they are not producing enough to meet the growing demands of the people of their area.





### Suggestions

The JLG needs to raise funds and increase the area under cultivation as their products is in higher demand. This particular group have not received any training or exposure visit to institutes of prominence so far. This should be arranged

## **Asraya Beneficiary Visit**

Asraya is a destitute rehabilitation program designed by Kudumbashree. The program is targeted at the poorest of the poor population. On 4<sup>th</sup> august I visited one Asraya beneficiary in the 4<sup>th</sup> ward of Mudakkalpanchayath.

I visited Mrs. Omana's home at Vasudevapuram in MudakkalPanchayath. There are 3 bed ridden people in her home – her mother, brother and sister. Mrs. Omana's brother and sister is bed-ridden from their early ages. Unfortunetly her mother is also bed ridden now.

They are getting all Asraya benefits except medicines. All these 3 people are in need of medication for long time and many of these medicines are not available in government hospital all the time. Concerned medical officer is not willing to use the HMC Fund to buy medicines for them even though the cash will be refunded from Challenge Fund.

It will be of great help for this family if we can find a solution for this.

### Suggestion

If NHG members can volunteer to do the documentation or to help the concerned medical officer in documentation, we can ensure that this situation will be tackled in many areas.

## **Neighborhood Group visit**

The lowest tier of kudumbashree's community structure constitutes The Neighborhood Group consisting of 10-20 women members from economically backward families. I visited one such NHG – Vyasagar NHG- from Kesavadasapuram ADS on 6<sup>th</sup> august 2017.

This NHG consist of 14 members. Out of this 12 members attended the meeting. ADS chairperson Mrs. Ajithakumari was also present in the meeting. Mrs. Sumangala and Mrs. Prameelakumari are the current President and secretary of this NHG. The meeting started at 5pm with Prayer and after that the minutes of the last meeting was reported and approved by members. The members discussed about taking their 1<sup>st</sup> linkage loan from bank.

They decided to celebrate Onam with various activities like Passing the cap, Onam songs etc and those who wins these competitions will be rewarded with prices. They are also planning to start a ME unit and as a first step they decided to attend the training programmes for the same in the coming days. After that they discussed the need and importance of making Balasabhas active.

After that they collected the thrift from members. And the meeting was concluded at 6pm.

### **Suggestions**

Even though some members got all the training for starting ME units they are not willing to start anything as they are afraid of taking risks. If we can create a platform to give them motivation by stories of successful ME units of Kudumbashree and arranging visits to such units.