Is it possible for the tribal women to design a course for graduates and post graduates and conduct classes on their own? As nothing is impossible for the strong 'Kudumbashree team', we were able to implement this novel idea also at Attappady. This is our 'Mechinapally' or 'Centre of Excellence'.

Tribal women will take classes at 'Mechinappally' for those groups who will enrol to learn about the progress and development at Attappady. The classes will focus on the activities of Kudumbashree which led to these changes. There will be special sessions on the livelihood programmes explaining how it helped the tribal community find their own sources of income.

The syllabus for the training include tribal culture, art, language, governance system of the hamlets,
Kudumbashree three tier community network, training centres established as a part of special project, social institutions, livelihood programmes, community kitchens, activities of the Oorusamithi, interventions in health, education and cultural sector etc. Field visit is also made part of the training as it is important to study with real life experience.

Usually, the course duration at ‘Mechinappalli’ is 3 days. Based on the requirements, custom made courses can also be designed. The classroom would be the community hall in the hamlet. And, course fees? Yes! Rs 3500 is the course fee per person, if the batch size is 30 (All the expenses are covered in this fees of Rs. 3500/- per person. The charges are inclusive of accommodation, food, training fees, co-ordination and conveyance during the field visit)

You all are invited to enrol and learn through ‘Mechinappalli’ about tribal empowerment and livelihood at Attappady. On spending Rs 1,05,000/-, a group of 30 persons can study about tribal development, challenges for livelihood, social development through community intervention etc implemented successfully at Attappady (And, the full fees, and small profit after meeting all expenses will go directly to the tribal families coordinating the training)

I am writing this article, after about 8 months since we inaugurated the first Mechinappally. As of now, the preparation for starting of such community led courses had been completed in 5 hamlets. So, our team is all set and is equipped to extend training to 150 people at a time (a batch size of 30, through 5 centres at the same time makes is 150).

Out of this 5 centres which are ready, training has already been started in 3 centres. Until now, 568 people including different officials from Kudumbashree, college students, block level officials etc enrolled for the course at ‘Mechinapally’ and successfully completed their 3 day training. This course, coordinated by Kudumbashree Oorusamirhi, helps the participants to learn about the policies and activities that brought social changes in tribal sector. We welcome you all to ‘Mechinapally’ to learn and to realize the change through first hand experience and insights.

Those who wish to know more about the course may contact in the following numbers (our program managers/ young professional at Attappady) 9946001968 (Ms. Sindhu), 9526367726 (Ms. Sindhusha)