Kudumbashree is the nodal agency for ‘Destitute Free Kerala’ Programme. Destitute families in Kerala were identified through a survey conducted by Kudumbashree and various services are being extended to them in convergence with the Local Self Government Institutions. Since they are one of the most vulnerable households, we thought about giving them special care during this Covid-19 pandemic. There are 1,57,691 destitute families in Kerala out of that, 1,22,920 families have members who are of more than 60 years of age. As the elderly people have less immunity in general and have co morbidities, they might suffer more, if infected with corona virus. So we decided to implement a special programme for the elderly people from among the destitute families.

The number of Destitute families (district wise) with elderly members are as follows:
1. Thiruvananthapuram-12,403
2. Kollam-10,230
3. Pathanamthitta-6742
S. Harikishore IAS

MAKING AN IMPACT

If they are suffering from cough or fever, they would be advised to consult a doctor. The coordinator would help them to do so and coordinate the same, if needed. If they are facing difficulties in getting food, they would also be connected to community kitchens. Awareness would be given to them on the importance to stay indoor especially for the elderly people. The programme aims at spreading the message that Kudumbashree would be there to give care for each family and thereby make them confident.

The programme was started yesterday (04.04.2020) and the activities for contacting the destitute families through phone for the first time are progressing. In the first day itself, the resource persons had contacted 6264 families.

District Programme Managers of all 14 districts are entrusted with coordinating this special care project for the destitute families. Under them, resource persons were selected and each resource person is given the charge of 50 families. 2500 resource persons are selected altogether in the state. Through these resource persons, the members in the destitute families would be contacted once in three days and the needed services would be extended to them.

Each resource person would contact the 50 destitute families and will ask about their health and their various needs including food. If they are suffering from cough or fever, they would be advised to consult a doctor. The coordinator would help them to do so and coordinate the same, if needed. If they are facing difficulties in getting food, they would also be connected to community kitchens. Awareness would be given to them on the importance to stay indoor especially for the elderly people. The programme aims at spreading the message that Kudumbashree would be there to give care for each family and thereby make them confident.

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