Yesterday we had explained about one of the activities being implemented in Kollam district associating with the MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme). Today we will introduce yet another activity being piloted in the district associating with MGNREGS.

The aim of this convergence is to provide maximum livelihood opportunities for the Kudumbashree members in the district. Many construction activities (asset creation) are ongoing as part of MGNREGS. They include construction of Citizen Information Boards (CIB), cattle sheds, compost pits, soak pits, construction of rural roads etc. Kudumbashree members who got skill training in basic masonry and related activities are entrusted with the construction work of MGNREGS. This helps them to avail wages from MGNRES as per skilled or semi skilled wage rates. This process is ongoing in Kollam district and is giving good results.

Our women construction groups who got training in basic masonry to construct homes are part of this project. In addition those members who got training in making Citizen Information Boards are also in. Also, those trained in other construction works under MGNREGS are also made part of this concept. The activity of including them in skilled and semi skilled labour category of MGNREGS Programme was implemented as a pilot in Velineloor Panchayath in Chadayamanalam block (of Kollam district) from July 2019 onwards. The Panchayath committee decided to
entrust trained Kudumbashree members in the MGNREGS construction activities. As part of this, two members each from the 17 wards of the panchayat, who had been engaged in MGNREGS activities were selected and was given training through, EKSAT, the empaneled training agency of Kudumbashree. 35 people got trained through this. They were given various MGNREGS construction works and were engaged as skilled labour in MGNREGS. Following the success of this pilot, the convergence activity was extended to other local bodies in the blocks. Later, units were provided with training and they were made available for making this convergence activity possible in all other panchayats in the district. As of now, there are 34 construction groups and 22 groups which got training in the construction of CIB and other works, in the district. A total of 342 women are members of these groups.

MGNREGS daily wage is Rs 271. For skilled and semi skilled labor, Rs 700- Rs 1000 will be received as daily wages. Through these activities, works worth Rs 5.5 crores was done and from which Rs 2.2 crores was received by Kudumbashree members under skilled and semi skilled labour category during the financial year 2019-20. During the 2020-21, works worth Rs 3.5 crores were done, of which Rs 1.32 crores was received as skilled wages until now. A total of 10,250 Citizen Information Boards were produced by the Kudumbashree units during 2020-21 financial year. The construction units get Rs 3000 per board. Kudumbashree is also giving startup fund and community enterprise fund for those units that make Citizen Information Boards.

The District Mission aims at making this convergence possible in 68 rural CDSs, this year itself. The district team is getting ready to extend them training in well recharging as well.

As mentioned in yesterday’s article, Kudumbashree CDSs function as vendors which deliver building materials to MGNREGS construction sites. Along with this, trained Kudumbashree members would take up skilled and semi skilled labour in construction works of MGNREGS and Kudumbashree NHG members would take up the unskilled labour. Thus, Kollam district succeeded in implementing all the construction works of MGNREGS through Kudumbashree itself. Appreciations to the District Mission for taking action for ensuring better income for NHG members through MGNREGS Programme.