For the rehabilitation of urban street vendors

We explained in detail about setting up of shelter homes on urban areas of Kerala as part of National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) in yesterday’s article (Making an Impact-56). Along with this, a special project is being implemented for the welfare of the urban street vendors. It is a sustainable programme which aims at issuing identity cards to the street vendors, and at providing training and rehabilitation to street vendors.

It was during 2015, Kudumbashree initiated the primary activities for the development of street vendors. A survey of the urban street vendors was conducted under the leadership of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). It is identified that there are 22,435 urban street vendors in Kerala. The details of the survey is available at this link: http://www.kudumbashree.org/pages/411
Out of which, the ULBs have completed the process of issuing ID cards to 12,115 urban street vendors. Advisory committee chaired by the respective District Collectors and Town Vending Committee in each ULB has been formed for overseeing these activities in every ULBs. State Level Advisory Committee chaired by the Minister of Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala had also been formed.

Apart from issuing ID cards, awareness classes on Street Vending Act, rights and duties of street vendors and training programmes for improving their business are also being organised.

In addition to this, the efforts for setting up special vending zones for the urban street vendors is ongoing. Kasaragod Municipality and North Paravoor Municipality have submitted the proposal for rehabilitating the street vendors to special vending zones and these projects are approved. In North Paravoor Municipality, the activities for setting up special vending zone has been completed and in Kasaragod Municipality, the same is under progress. By opening special vending zones in these two ULBs, these would therefore become the first models from Kerala. The process of setting up special vending zones is progressing at SM Street, beach and New Bus Stand of Kozhikode Corporation. We hope that, implementation of such novel ideas would reach out to more vendors and more ULBs very soon.