Through the districts - 3

The details of the projects implemented by Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode districts as part of countering covid-19 pandemic have been explained through this ‘Making an Impact’ Article series for the last two days. Hope you all would have read the ‘Making an Impact’ Article - 245, ‘Making an Impact’ Article - 246 and understood the various projects implemented and are being implemented by the district teams of their own. Today, we will explain about the special projects of Alappuzha district.

Novel projects of Alappuzha

In Alappuzha, 3,41,304 members of 21,935 NHGs are part of the Kudumbashree fraternity in the district. There are 79 CDSs (Community Development Society or federation of NHGs in LSGI level) in Alappuzha. The state level activities like mask production, managing community kitchens, commencing janakeeya hotels etc are progressing well in the district. Following are the special activities implemented by the district in addition.

1. Floating Supermarket

‘Floating Supermarket’ is the enterprise launched by the Thanima NHG members of Kainakari Panchayath on 2 April, for those who find it difficult to buy provisions. The supermarket set in the boat...
functions from 10 AM to 5 PM. The CDS representatives, ward members and NHG representatives will inform the public about the time/schedule of the arrival of floating supermarket. So, by knowing the arrival details i.e. time when the floating supermarket would reach their jetty, people would wait there and buy the needed goods. Groceries, vegetables, dry fish, egg, fruits etc are available for sale in the floating supermarket. An average sale of Rs 35,000 is recorded per day.

2. e-koot for children
Balasabha is the Kudumbashree system that function as the NHG of children. e-koot blog was started to make the 29,283 children of 1984 Balasabhas in the district active during the lock down period. The aim was to make them close even in physical separation. Every week, the writeups received from the children are checked by an editorial team and are published in the blog. This includes stories, poems, reading experiences, pictures, informative videos etc.

3. ‘Jagrutha’ to prevent domestic violence
As NHG meetings are not held during lock down period, it is not possible to know and discuss the local issues. ‘Jagrutha’ is the project being implemented during aiming at reducing the domestic violences. Counselling, legal aid etc is given through this project to prevent domestic violence and create peaceful situation in the families. CDS, ADS level action groups were formed as part of this. The Panchayath level group includes CDS Chairperson, Panchayath President, Ward member, vigilant group leader, people who have public acceptance, asha worker, Anganwadi worker, CDS members and gender team members. The ward level group includes vigilant group members, NHG members and ADS members.

Atleast 10 households are contacted everyday by Jagrutha team and the information is collected. The common issues are discussed through whatsapp. If there would be further issues, the service of community counsellors or District Level Facilitator would be ensured. The CDS level group formation was completed on 11 April and the ADS level group formation was completed on 14 April. The activity of contacting households was started from 15 April onwards. As of now, around 2000 households were contacted and were seeked information. These activities are co-ordinated through Snehitha in the district level.

Alappuzha team had organised a programme called ‘Kaliyum Chiriyum Nirayum Veed’ (A Home where there is fun and laughter) for the tribal families in the district through whatsapp groups. Support was also ensured to the guest labourers during this time. Alappuzha team’s work could be considered as a good model of how projects could be framed and implemented by considering the geography of the district and the needs of the public. My appreciations to all.