Railway Waiting Halls

Hope you recall the ‘Making an Impact’ Article - 37, in which the details about Kudumbashree’s partnership with railways was explained. Neighbourhood group members are managing the railway parking (as a service enterprise) in 49 railway stations in partnership with the Indian Railways. In addition to the management of parking areas, Kudumbashree members are also engaged in upkeep of AC waiting halls at 9 railway stations. Let me explain the details in this post.

Kudumbashree has taken up the supervision of the AC waiting halls at Thiruvananthapuram Central, Kollam Ernakulam South, Ernakulam North, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Tirur, Kannur and Thalassery railway stations. Among the
stations mentioned in the list, Kudumbashree got the opportunity to take up the management of the waiting halls at Thalassery and Kannur in 2019. Kudumbashree is managing waiting halls of all the other railway stations since the last two years. A user fee is collected from the passengers as a service charge for the use of AC waiting halls.

Indian railways provided space to Kudumbashree for the waiting halls. After the allotted space is handed over, basic amenities (like furniture, painting, air conditioning facilities) are arranged by Kudumbashree members. It's done as an enterprise model and the members avail bank loans for arranging the infrastructure. The income collected is shared between Kudumbashree and Railways in a fixed ratio.

The entrepreneurs who invested funds in these waiting halls also work there and provide services.

State of the art amenities are arranged by our team in the waiting halls. Best furnitures are procured and clean toilets are maintained. In addition to these amenities, feeding console, prayer room, mobile charging points and bookshelves are also arranged. These waiting halls provide much needed 'relaxing space' to the passengers at affordable rates. This is a good model of public - public partnership (between Kudumbashree and Indian Railways).

Best wishes to all NHG group members who have taken up and are running these enterprises successfully.