As an integral part of the Kudumbashree network we have neighborhood groups with huge fraternity of women members. After formation of neighborhood groups, time has come to make our members aware of their rights and entitlements. Also, an enabling environment was needed to ensure getting opportunities for women in various sectors. Kudumbashree identified the social need of an empowerment framework, where the women would be able to analyse and identify their present status in the society and identify the entitlements and rights available to them. We wanted all to feel proud of themselves and also want them to earn a respectable position in the society.

We realised that the analysis of the life experiences shared by the NHG women could be the most appropriate way to spread this idea to the all members of Kudumbashree Mission. Kudumbashree envisioned and implemented this.
unique idea of ‘Gender Self Learning Programme’ (GSLP) It’s a platform or tool to ensure continuous empowerment and growth and is implemented by appointing one woman each from every NHG as facilitator.

During the NHG meetings and GSLP meetings, women share their experiences in life. The discussions would be based on a guideline that was prepared and issued to all NHGs. Every self learning programme was executed based on a particular theme. So, in a nutshell, our ‘Gender Self Learning Programme’ (GSLP) is such a process through which the women learn and grow from the mutually shared experiences.

More than 300 specially trained resource persons (master trainers) trained 2.6 lakhs facilitators from all over the state. An experience shared by a woman during our GSLP session was posted yesterday (Making an impact - 44). Kudumbashree piloted this Gender Self Learning Programme during 2007. Following that, in 2009-10, we had the first GSLP series with the theme ‘Woman and Employment’. During 2011-12, we adopted the second theme ‘Woman & Health’ and during 2017-18 the chosen theme was ‘Woman and Travel’.

At present, ‘Gender Self Learning Programme’ on the broad theme ‘gender equality and justice’ is ongoing in every NHG. The total duration of discussion and do learning is 32 weeks. Leadership and guidance for the discussion will be facilitated by the trained facilitators. Through this process, women are gaining confidence to overcome their inhibitions and are becoming empowered to unleash their strengths. This finally results in boosting of their self esteem and lead to social development and equality.

Various books on GSLP (modules, work books, guides etc) prepared after making intense researches is available for all in this link: http://www.kudumbashree.org/pages/277

My wish is that every Malayali should read these books on GSLP to analyse and discuss the messages and the thought processes. More details about the Gender Self Learning Programme modules are available in this link : http://www.kudumbashree.org/pages/646