Youth Resource Centres for the Youth of Attappady

The details about formation of Balagotra Sabhas for the tribal children and adolescent clubs for the adolescent girls as part of the Attappady Special Project had been discussed in the previous ‘Making an Impact’ articles. On realizing the need to ensure creative activities for the youth to avoid depression and laziness, we thought about forming ‘Youth Resource Centres’.

When the youth became proactive they not only come out of laziness, but also avoids the affinity towards the bad habits including the consumption of alcohol. Through activities and opportunities, the youth can be channelises to attain financial stability and become self sustainable. This feedback had made us focus on the projects for the youth.
Let me introduce a few activities implemented in Attappady as part of the 'Youth Resource Centres'.

1. Youth Clubs- 47 hamlet level Youth clubs were formed focusing on the development of social, cultural, educational, financial and health needs of the youth. These clubs have a total membership of 975 youngsters as of now. Football, Kabadi, athletic tournaments etc are being organised for them to motivate the tribal youth who have aptitude for sports. Participation in these physical activities make them self confident.

2. Community Theatre was formed for promoting the traditional art forms and instrumental music. Dramas were created in tribal language and we arranged venues for their performance. This initiative was received by people with much enthusiasm. Through this, the social status of the youth in the hamlets was also improved.

3. The personal profile of the youth in the hamlets were prepared by collecting their basic details such as educational qualifications, interested sector of livelihood, present job status, interest in art-sports sectors etc and the we are planning programmes according to the need and choice.

4. Labour Banks of youth were formed for arranging job opportunities. This detailed list of youth who are willing to work as a part of labour bank was handed over to different departments and thereby we could assist them get jobs (mostly unskilled manual labour jobs) in various sectors. Along with that, those who failed in degree-PG courses and did not appear for examination were identified and we motivated them to clear their examinations. In addition to that, youth were given training through DDUGKY programme (skill training project) in trades of their choice viz., electrician, plumbing, front office, driving etc. 225 people have completed skill training so far. Also, 69 youth were given assistance to launch their own enterprises through Kudumbashree a micro enterprise promotion program.

The federation of youth clubs, are called as 'Youth Resource Centres'. We are trying as to ensure sustainable development of the youth through this convergence. We aspire for sustainable growth and empowerment in Attappady through the development of tribal youth.