Joining hands during Rehabilitation activities

Kudumbashree members had came forward to co-ordinate the rehabilitation activities and lend their helping hands to the affected, when the unprecedented floods hit Kerala during August 2018. Our members and chairpersons co-ordinated the rescue activities along with local governments, helped taking the flood affected people to the safer places, ensured that they meet their basic needs, arranged stay for the affected in their own houses, packed flood relief kits, co-ordinated community kitchens, extended counselling services etc. These were a few of the activities that
women from kudumbashree family had been into during the floods last year.

When flood water rushed in to the houses in August 2018, many people had to shift to the relief camps. When few of them were hesitant to go to the camps, Kudumbashree members arranged comfortable and safe stay for them in their own houses. More than 38,000 people, especially women has been housed in the houses of Kudumbashree members. This activity was so much of help in Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Pathanamthitta districts.

In August 2018, within a couple of days, many houses were flooded, and it was a challenging job to bring it back to the normal state, as houses were piled up with dirt, waste and even reptiles were found inside those homes. Kudumbashree members from all districts became part of the cleaning activities. More than 2 lakh houses, 12,000 public roads and public spaces were cleaned under the leadership of Kudumbashree members in association with local governments and district administration.

Food packets were arranged for the affected under the leadership of Kudumbashree neighbourhood groups and CDSs during the start of the floods. The members also arranged food for the people who came back to their homes from the relief camps. Understanding that it was so difficult for them to return to their homes, clean them, buy new utensils and cook their food within two or three days, community kitchens were opened by government. In many districts, Kudumbashree members were entrusted with the functioning of the community kitchens. The food so prepared were packed and delivered to the houses of the affected people. Community Kitchens were of great help in Ernakulam and Pathanamthitta districts.

Along with that, medicine, food, clothes and other basic items were collected regionally and were brought to the government storage facilities. Kudumbashree members were active in packing the flood relief kits arranged by the Government under the leadership of the respective district collectors. In Ernakulam district, Kudumabshree exclusively took up the responsibility of the packing centre and completed the same successfully. Kudumbashree members were in charge of the packing centres functioned at SD College of Alappuzha district too.

Kudumbashree members from the least flood affected districts like Kasaragod, Kannur, Thiruvananthapuram reached out to the neighbouring districts to extend their services. This itself shows the selfless attitude of Kudumbashree members.

Now, during this August (2019), the monsoon is getting a little stronger. Situations are a matter of concern at present in Wayanad, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts. And the other districts are under alert. All the District Mission Co-ordinators of Kudumbashree Mission are already directed to extend rescue, relief and rehabilitation services to the affected people under the leadership of Kudumbashree members. Though Kudumbashree members may be among the most vulnerable to get affected by the floods, they are all set and alert to help the needy families in distress.