Town Vending Committee to assist Street Vendors

We had already dealt in detail about the various programmes being implemented as part of National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), for the welfare of the urban street vendors (who are working hard to make both the ends of their lives meet) in Making and Impact Article-56 and Making an Impact Article-57. We elaborated about issuing the identity cards to street vendors, setting up special vending zones for them, extending training to the urban street vendors and about setting up temporary shelter homes for the urban homeless people in those articles.

In this article, we would explain about how our activities based on the Street Vendors Act and The Kerala Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Rules helped in bringing a new initiative in this sector. The Street Vendors Act came into being in
2014. This act was enacted to protect the rights of urban street vendors and to regulate street vending activities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Based on this act, Government of Kerala notified the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Rules in 2018.

According to the Act of 2014, temporary town vending committees were functioning in 93 urban Local Bodies (ULBs). For ensuring that the rights of the street vendors are protected, it is needed to form town vending committees in every Urban Local Bodies, which is presided by the Secretary of the Urban Local Body and has 9 selected representatives from within the urban street vendors. This committee consists of 27 members. North Paravur ULB of Ernakulam district of Kerala has completed the selection of the town vending committee by conducting election including the street vendors who had received ID cards.

The other members of this committee include a representative of District Collector not below the rank of RDO, District Police official who is in charge of law and order and traffic, District level officials of various departments including water authority, representatives of trade union, residents association, merchant association and elected representatives. Those who were included in the street vendors survey and those who have the ID card/ certificates issued by the Urban Local Bodies were only allowed to compete in the election and cast their votes.

As per the act, the activities for forming the permanent town vending committee is progressing in other ULBs. We hope that North Paravur ULB would be able to set a model for all other ULBs. Appreciations to the officials of ULB, who are part of Kudumbashree, which helped the ULB attain this achievement.