Mentors for providing handholding support to Harithakarmasena (to increase income)

In yesterday’s article, we had explained the interventions Kudumbashree has been making in the last four years for turning Kerala into a ‘waste free’ state, through formation of Harithakarmasena. This initiative is in association with Haritha Keralam Mission, Clean Kerala Company, Suchitwa Mission and Local Self Government Institutions. The latest progress in the programme were elaborated in yesterday’s article. The main feedback we received in the functioning of Harithakarmasena is that all Harithakarmasena teams are not getting a uniform income. Their monthly income varies from local body to local body and it depends on the receipt of user fees to a large extend. Further business model of enterprise, issues related to convergence and infrastructure etc were also dominant factors which determine the income. We have now taken steps to ensure that the income received by Harithakarmasena is increased. Today, we will explain about those efforts we made.

Though there exists a Government Order (G.O(Rt) No.1496/2020/LSGD) which states that Rs 50 should be given to the Harithakarmasena, that fixed amount is not received from all houses. This is one of the reasons which affects the income. Another Government Order (G.O(Rt) No.1391/2018/LSGD) also exists which states that the Panchayats may give Viability Gap Fund to the Harithakarmasena. This fund is not earmarked by some panchayats and it is one another reason. Factors affecting income of Harithakarmasena differs in each local body. So separate action plans are needed for increasing the income of each Harithakarmasena. We have started prepar-
ing such action plans. We have entrusted mentors for providing handholding support to Harithakarmasena. One mentor will support two or three Harithakarmasena and will help them earn more income by giving them support for 6 months.

Kudumbashree have arranged 206 mentors in various districts for extending support to the Harithakarmasena for the upcoming 6 months. These Mentors are Resource Persons, who are selected through the District Missions for implementing 6 month continuous training to the Harithakarasena members in ‘On the job’ model. This is fine as a part of our support in livelihood programme. Mentors will be equipped to provide overall support to improve the activities of Harithakarmasena and will make it be a high income generating enterprise. The On the Job Training will be implemented in such a way that the local opportunities of each Harithakarmasena would be considered and the activities will be regularly reviewed. These mentors are Kudumbashree members, who are able to give leadership to ensure various convergences. They are expected to strengthen the relationship with the LSGIs. The primary training for the mentors had already been started in all the districts. Through mentors we will collect regular data of the progress of Harithakarmasena. Monitoring their monthly income will also be done by mentors. They will prepare action plans by making extensive studies within a month. These action plans will be the for base for supporting Harithakarmasenas. Regular review of Harithakarmasena s (as per the prepared action plan) will also be the responsibility of mentors.

The mentors would also extend support if there are any plans by Harithakarmasena for starting ‘green enterprises’. We aim at helping the 25,000+ Harithakarmasena members in Kerala earn a monthly income of more than Rs 10,000 through these mentors within the upcoming 6 months. We hope that by implementing the action plans prepared by mentors, in convergence with the LSGIs, we would be able to support our enterprises earn better income. The broad aim of turning Kerala a local bodies to waste free will also be implanted with their support. Further we hope that this handholding support will improve the enterprise model of Harithakarmasena s.