NRO assistance for the formulation and implementation of Vulnerability Reduction Plan in Tripura

Today, we will explain one of the new activities implemented by our National Resource Organisation (NRO). As you all knows NRO is the wing of Kudumbashree providing consultancy and support to various states and union territories in the country as per their requests. Hope you all would have read yesterday’s article (Making an Impact Article- 323), in which we had elaborated about the formation of Balasabhas in partner states. Today we will write about the assistance provided to states in implementing the ‘Vulnerability Reduction Plan’ (VRP) in Tripura. This is a novel project implemented by Kudumbashree NRO.

This programme, which is part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), is being implemented by NRO in association with Tripura State RuralLivelihood Mission (SRLM). VRP programme aims at mainstreaming the vulnerable families (Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, women headed households, victims of human trafficking, those facing physical-mental disabilities etc) of a selected area.

VRP is implemented by Village Organisations (VO), which are formed as a federation of 10-15 Self Help Groups-SHGs in every panchayath. The vulnerable families are identified on the basis of different criteria and the details of these families are enlisted at first. Out of the selected families, the most vulnerable families are earmarked and Vulnerability Reduction Plans are prepared considering their needs. The aim is to reduce their
vulnerability. Out of these needs, some are solved by SRLM through their own projects. Some other needs are addressed through departmental projects (of other departments) and some could be directly done by the Village Organisations. This way, the needs of the vulnerable families are fulfilled. Then, they will be made part of SHG network; and many other activities will be undertaken to mainstream vulnerable families.

NRO extended many supports/ consultancy / assistance to the Village Organisations in the blocks of Tripura where NRO’s support was requested. NRO provides support in many aspects of implementation of VRP. Kudumbashree NRO had prepared a special module for VRP implementation in Tripura. Also, NRO helped the state to frame strategies for identifying the vulnerable families. Also, support was extended for coordinating training and for preparing the VRP plans. Our NRO mentors and coordinators are doing these activities based on the work experience they earned while implementing the Ashraya Programme in Kerala. The first of its kind activity (support for VRP) was implemented in Kunjaban Gram Panchayat of Matabari Block of Tripura on 28 November 2018. Plans were formulated for many such as Hiran Bala Das, a 65 year old woman with a 21 year old intellectually disabled daughter with no regular source of income apart from the old age pension, and to many like Dhirendra Das, a widowed 71 year old man again with no other source of income apart from the old age pension etc.

The mapping was then piloted in Maa Durga VO of Muhiripur Gram Panchayat in Jolaibari Block on 31 July 2019. The details of 216 families were collected then. After the detailed analysis, it was found that 12 families are more vulnerable and are in need of emergency assistance. Special plans were prepared for them. Rs 58,000 was given as Vulnerability Reduction Fund (VRF) through SRLM. In some panchayats, VRP plans were submitted as part of their Annual Action Plans. Appreciations to the NRO team who take initiative to implement such activities in Tripura.