

The story: Sreekrishnapuram CDS, Palakkad



Overview

The Community Development Society (CDS) was constituted in the year 2003. CDS is a federation of Neighbour-Hood Groups (NHGs). NHGs are formed by 12 to 20 families co-existing in a village or hamlet. These NHGs (10 to 15) are federated at area level under Area Development Societies (ADC). Palakkad CDS has 14 ADS with 185 NHGs. 43 Joint Liability Groups (JLG) groups with the membership of 350 persons are engaged in different agricultural activities. 155 persons of them are involved with paddy cultivation, while others are cultivating plantains, vegetables and tuber crops. 100% entry has been made in transactional MIS. Under the Chairpersonship of Mrs. Usha Rani, Palakkad CDS has achieved 100% linkages, 100% matching grant provision, and 90% Revolving Fund distribution. They have also taken a loan of Rs. 1.5 crores from the Backward Corporation and also had availed a loan of 6 crores through 'Muttathe Mulla'. CDS has been gradually building its own corpus funds for the CDS activities.

Mrs. Usha Rani

Chairperson,
Sreekrishnapuram CDS

A Report prepared in
conversation with the
CDS chairperson.

by

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General

This kind of engagements of Kudumbashree State Mission team is a very interesting one. All staff members were asked to interact with one CDS chairperson and collect information regarding the CDS, salient achievements and their feedbacks. Details about the best practices were also collated and were most satisfying experiences during their tenure as chairperson.



Initially, the Chairperson was contacted and the State Mission officer got introduced to her. A detailed background about the assignment has been provided to the Chairperson and sought the details that would be required to fulfil the assignment further to get a personal discussion with her. It was agreed to keep the required information ready and fixed up a time for discussion.

Special Programmes

Cash contributions made through coin boxes kept in different institutions, shops and establishments. The money that are accumulated through this are utilised for supporting patients who are undergoing dialysis, and cancer treatment, besides supporting patients in palliative care, home care etc. CDS also employs yet another strategy called '*Sneha bucketcollection*' to support people in need of emergency help.

Covid-19 and Flood related activities

Various relief activities was taken up by CDS as part of its social responsibility during the mega flood and Covid-19 lock down period. Community kitchen was opened and distributed food packets to hundreds of families stranded due to flood and senior citizens those are living alone in homes during Covid-19 lockdown period. CDS has distributed food packets to 100 families for about 50 days during the lockdown period. Counselling through community counsellors were provided to the people who were stranded alone in their houses and those who were in need of help. The volunteers visited the houses and provided counselling to the aged people. Awareness programmes were also organized through social networks. The panchayath is also having a Buds and Buds Rehabilitation Centre (BRC). House visits were conducted by CDS members and teachers to the houses of students and reassured tranquillity among the students who were otherwise panic due to closure of schools for a long period due to Covid-19 lockdown. Followed by mega flood period, the CDS supported the families in cleaning the houses of the affected. Liquid soap and cleaning materials were distributed and volunteered to work along with the family members in cleaning the houses.

Best practices

'*Vanitha canteen*' run by the members of their network is been supplying food to the '*Pakalveedu*' members. NHGs were also formed for 50 elderly persons. '*Nattuchanda*' established by CDS is

Gramashree, a newspaper magazine is being published by the CDS for the members of its network. That contains news regarding the CDS, panchayat, members of the network, Balasabha members etc. The drawings and art works of the Balasabha members were also published in the magazine. It is published in every 2 months. More than 3000 copies of the magazine is getting circulated

functioning from panchayat premises, which operates on all days. 'Haritha karmasena' employs 15 NHG members in the plastic shredding unit run by CDS. They are also working for green protocol promotion. They have facilities to supply steel plates and glasses for functions and thus stops the people from using paper and plastic plates and glasses which are a threat to the preserving the environment and safeguarding the ecology. Thus they are showing their responsibility towards the protection of the environment and to make the earth a better place to live.

Most satisfying Experience

Mrs. Usha Kumari is serving the CDS as its chairperson for last 2 terms consecutively. According to her being the chairperson of such a body is most satisfying thing for her, besides referring to 2 more factors that has given her an experience of satisfaction. One is that the 'Snehaved' they built for the homeless widow and her 3 children and the other one has been the amount they saved from the 'Muttathe Mulla' programme and the loan taken from the backward community board. Thus making use of the fund generated, they are going to establish a training institution for the members of the NHGs and their family members. From this training institution they will earn more money as fee from the students, she hopes.

Snehaved constructed for Ms. Rema, who is a widow and her 2 daughters and their younger brother. The CDs collected 4 lakh rupees through its network and constructed a house for this land less poor family.



Thus it may well be acclaimed that Palakkad CDS is marching towards to become self-sustainable in the days to come. "It is one of my dreams", as proclaims by the Chairperson. Also she says that 14 women construction groups formed are garnering a greater amount of work from the panchayat. Now they have started constructing culverts and canals.

Feedback

"Equality is the most important thing in the world; men and women must be equal and then

only the society will grow equally and the equilibrium attained" is a belief on which the Chairperson is rallying. Kudumbashree is really doing lots of things towards attaining this. And we should continue doing this as gender programmes.

She is of the opinion that women especially widows needs to get more support. Kudumbashree should have more programmes towards this.

Points of Note/learnings

CDS has attained 100% in their transactional MIS entry though dedicated effort. CDS chairperson herself reviewed the progress on a day to day basis and taken the help of other available resources to complete the efforts.

The panchayat and the CDS are in good terms that are the reason why the CDS is progressing and they are getting as many programmes as relevant and need from the panchayat. The panchayat allotted space to establish a training centre, which is a classic example of good relation prevailing among the LSG and the CDS.

CDS should take up activities to generate income. This CDS has taken loan from Backward Class Development Corporation and generated a profit of over 5 lakhs. Also they have taken loan from the Co-operative bank (under Muttathe Mulla scheme) and made some income to add on the CDSs corpus fund. With these amounts they are planning to establish a training centre for imparting training in Tailoring and Computer courses for the members of their network. This will be a stepping stone towards attaining self-sustainability of the CDS.

5 mantra of success by Mrs. Usha Rani, Chairperson, Palakkad CDS

1. Never give up
2. Be with the needy at the time they are in need
3. Cooperate with everyone
4. Open to positive criticism
5. Learn from own mistakes.

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