

A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

RAMAMANGALAM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY



CDS CHAIRPERSON
Smt. Sheeba Yohannan



Author
JOMON. K. J
State Asst. Program Manager
Kudumbashree State Mission

Ramamangalam Community Development Society

Ramamangalam Grama Panchayat is a Local Self government Institution, located in the Pambakuda block of Muvattupuzha taluk, Ernakulam district in Kerala. The Muvattupuzha River flows along. This agricultural panchayat is a gift from the Muvattupuzha River which flows in a north-westerly direction. The river has a huge impact on the daily life and economy of the people of this place as it protects the country with perpetual fresh water throughout the year. Five of the 13 wards in the panchayat are riverine with a length of 14 km. The area is blessed with fertile riverbanks, long stretches of fields, rubber and coconut hilly areas.

Kudumbashree Community Development Society (CDS) in Ramamangalam Grama panchayath started in 2003. Since then CDS has been involved in the development of Ramamangalam panchayat. Kudumbashree CDS plays a vital role in the social development, women empowerment, income generation and poverty alleviation of this panchayat. This is a model CDS in Ernakulam District.



Ramamangalam Grama Panchayath CDS

Ramamangalam CDS at a Glance

Basic details		
1	Number of NHG	137
2	NHG members	2389
3	Elderly NHG	24
4	Elderly NHG members	317
5	Special NHG	2
6	Special NHG members	21
7	Total thrift (Rs.)	1,02,93,230
8	No. of NHG has bank loan	134
9	Total Bank Loan at present (Rs.)	3,18,50,000
10	NHG Received matching Grant	85
11	Other loans	CMHLS: Rs.53,70,000 RKLS : Rs.3,12,00,000 Muttathe Mulla: Rs.15,00,000

Farm activities		
1	No. of JLGs	157
2	No. of JLG members	628
3	Area under cultivation	365 Acre
4	Crops cultivated	Paddy, Plantain, Tapioca & Vegetables
5	No. of JLG has bank Loans	151
6	Loan amount at present (Rs)	2,61,00,000

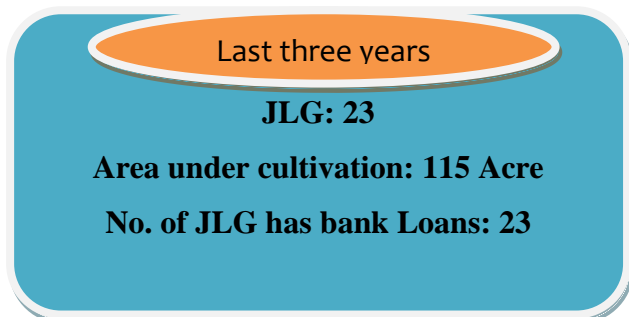
Non-farm activities		
1	Aadu gramam	2 (8 members)
2	Ksheera sagaram	1 (5 members)
3	Backyard poultry units	19 (95 members)
4	No. of Micro enterprises	42
5	No. Members	125
6	Nano Market	2

Social Development		
1	Destitute Free Kerala beneficiary families	137
2	Challenge fund (First installment) (Rs)	13,33,333
3	Challenge fund (First installment) expenditure (Rs)	5,47,389
4	LSGI fund (Rs)	2, 50,000
5	No. of Balasabha	20
6	No. of Balasabha Members	204
9	Gender corner	1
10	Community councillors	1
11	Snehitha calling bell beneficiaries	20

Farm & non-farm livelihood activities

Farming is one of the main sources of livelihood in Ramamangalam. But nowadays, the available cultivable land is keeping on diminishing and the production of agricultural goods face scarcity in villages. Kudumbashree Mission's efforts to spread farming to more areas were taken very seriously by Ramamangalam CDS and formed 23 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) (women farming groups) in last three years and cultivate an area of 115 acre land. Majority of the members are do farming by taking land on lease. The only Bio-Pharmacy in Pampakuda Block is run by a JLG Member. 11 organic farming JLGs are working in this CDS. Jaivika Plant Nursery also started in this CDS.

In Animal Husbandry Sector this CDS has Started 2 Aadu gramam, 1 Ksheerasagaram and 8 backyard poultry units.





Micro Enterprises

Like all other CDS in Kerala, Ramamangalam also having different type of micro enterprises. Major micro enterprises started in this CDS during the last three years are Beauty parlour, Coconut oil, Cloth bag, Curry powder, Pickle, Snacks, Nano markets, Janakeeya Hotel, Tailoring Unit & Jana seva kendram etc. All the units are running profitable. Training for cake making and umbrella making completed and some new MEs will be set up soon. Haritha karma sena unit also started here, including 26 members.

Last three years

Micro Enterprises: 37

Members: 88

Mammalassery rice



As a part of “SAMRUDHI” campaign to work towards achieving self sustainability in agricultural by making cultivation possible in fallow lands. Farming groups of Kudumbashree Ramamangalam CDS cultivated 24 acre fallow land. Two JLGs of this Kudumbashree CDS set a mark before the whole society with their organic rice cultivated and branded as “MAMMALASSERY RICE”. For the last three years, they have been expanding fallow land cultivation through JLGs. They increased area under cultivation by actively pursuing policy of fallow land cultivation.



Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY)

Through DDUGKY (Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana) Programme, the youth employment scheme of Government of India, being implemented in Kerala through Kudumbashree, 64 youth from Ramamangalam CDS got job training and out of those who completed training 49 candidates had secured job placements in different companies.

Destitute Free Kerala (DFK)

Destitute Free Kerala (DFK) is the programme designed for the sustainable development of the destitute families in Kerala. It envisages the rehabilitation of all destitute families, thereby enabling them to live a dignified life. Destitute Free Kerala is unique in design as that it considers the basic needs of each and every beneficiary family, and family based micro plan is the base of this project. In Ramamangalam CDS the digital survey completed in 2018 and the project with 137 beneficiary families approved by Kudumbashree State Mission. Under this program 4 beneficiary families house renovated with the plan fund received from LSGI. Medical camp conducted for the needy beneficiaries and medical support is being provided to them by CDS. During COvid-19, CDS with the support of Fire & rescue team provided medicines to the needy beneficiaries of DFK. Food kit is regularly distributed to the DFK beneficiaries with the challenge fund given by Kudumbashree. An amount of Rs.1333333/- received as first installment towards this project cost and Rs.547389/- has spent to provide different services to DFK beneficiaries.



Destitute free kerala

Beneficiaries: 137

Challenge fund received: Rs: 13,33,333

LSGI Fund received: Rs.2,50,000

Balasabha activities

Ramamangalam Grama Panchayath is a child friendly place and under the guidance of Kudumbashree CDS, 20 Balasabhas (Children's group) with 204 children are functioning in this CDS. Activities like Bala krishi, Bala Library, Bala Panchayath, skill training, Jagratholsavam, Sasthrolsavam etc. carried out for these children. 'Jagratholsavam' held joining all the students of Balasabha associating with other governmental departments as part of the monsoon disease prevention activities. Implementing such ideas like Balasabha, we mould a socially responsible generation with good physical and mental health.



Gender resource center (GRC) & Snehitha Calling Bell

Gender resource center at Ramamangalam CDS is one of the 10 model GRCs in Ernakulam District. Ramamangalam CDS was selected by the officials from Odisha State Rural Livelihood Mission to study about GRCs.

Snehitha calling bell is an innovative programme which aims to ensure protection and security of individuals who are living alone or at isolated place. The programme started to focus on senior citizens as the crime against people who are living alone has increased in some areas. In this CDS there are 20 beneficiary families in this programme.

Ramamangalam CDS in this regards providing free food, clothes and medicine to a Snehitha Calling Bell beneficiary and provided daily income to one beneficiary by providing job in Ramamangalam Service Co-operative Bank. This CDS organized an excursion for Snehitha calling bell beneficiaries.



Special activities

Oppam

Ernakulam District Mission has launched new Venture Called “OPPAM”. Oppam is a Project to Provide Infrastructure Service to Destitute Families. Under this program CDS Collected Money from each NHG Members (Minimum of Rs.10). Under this program Ramamangalam CDS renovated 4 houses.

Swapnakood

Ramamangalam CDS provide safe housing to a destitute family by raising Fund from public and NHG members named “SWAPNAKOOD”. They have collected Rs. 4 Lakh for this purpose.

House for tribal family

Construction of house for a Tribal family was one of other interventions of this CDS in providing infrastructure facilities to the needy. During the training period of Kudumbashree construction group, this CDS has built this house for tribal family.



Flood related activities & Activities to fight COVID -19

CDS participated in various flood related activities. Rs.83789 was collected from Kudumbashree NHG members as flood relief fund and donated to CMDRF. This CDS were able to donate essential items worth Rs.1 lakh to help the landslide area people of Kavalappara, Wayanad District.

During the middle of the March 2020 anticipated possibilities of COVID-19 outbreak caused unexpected situations in the society. Scarcity of life saving resources was one among them. Ramamangalam CDS acted in time and started production of cloth masks, sanitizers and PPE kits. Such products were distributed to various Medical Service Institutions, Govt. offices Residence associations, Pharmacy etc. Medicines to elderly people also supplied. Special activity for elderly community - "Grand Care" Implemented and followed up the activity. Food kit contains 50 kg rice from own brand Mammalassery Rice also distributed to the people who were not able to get food during Covid-19 Lock Down. Food kit for Destitute Free Kerala (DFK) beneficiaries were delivered to their homes. CDS coordinated these activities by starting WhatsApp groups at the NHG, ADS and CDS level.

Food supplied to Destitute, people living in streets, isolated people etc. freely for 38 days from community kitchens. Essential commodities delivered to the home of quarantined people. Psychological support was given to the elderly people during the lock down by CDS community counsellors.





Let's hear from *CDS Chairperson*

I have been a member of Kudumbashree for past 18 years. I have served as NHG President, Secretary, ADS, and CDS Member for two terms. After that I became the CDS Chairperson of Ramamangalam CDS. When I was only a Kudumbashree member, I started my own shop. This led me to self-sufficiency. Later we five women took an abandoned building next to the panchayat building and started a canteen called Kudumbashree Kalavara Hotel. Now it operates as a “Janakeeya Hotel”. Since taking charge as CDS Chairperson on January 26, 2018, I have been able to do well in all the areas assigned to me. Kudumbashree brought me to a leadership quality. I am proud to be able to make many NHG members self-sufficient by providing them my service and wholehearted help. Giving helping hand to so many needy people in the community is really wonderful memories in life. Happiness I received as serving as CDS Chairperson is an asset in my life that comes from knowing and helping others. I am also happy to being able to provide physical and psychological support to a large afflicted section of our society. I am very happy that Ramamangalam CDS has been able to reach new heights through good efforts taken over the last three years. I extend my gratitude to the CDS members and CDS accountant who always worked with me for this cause. I also extend my sincere thanks to the Grama Panchayat elected representatives and officials. Thanks to Kudumbashree for making me who I am today.

***Smt. Sheeba Yohannan
CDS Chairperson
Ramamangalam CDS
Ernakulam***

Conclusion

Ramamangalam CDS has put their all efforts to involve in all Kudumbashree activities. The CDS Chairperson and members have been able to do all the things entrusted to them by Kudumbashree with great enthusiasm. The dedication and involvement of CDS Chairperson and all CDS members highlights and reflects in their all activities. The cooperation, support and assistance given by the Grama Panchayath were helpful to CDS in all their activities.
