

Name: **Girija S. Kumar**

Age: **53**

Educational Qualification: **Pre Degree**

Phone: **9744561873**

CDS: **Chunakkara**

Duration of service as CDS Chairperson: **8 years**



Life Changes:

I was born to a middle-class farming family in a small village called Chunakkara, I grew up witnessing the difficulties in my father's life. My marriage with Sreekumar was in my 22 years of age. After marriage, I got the opportunity to live in different states outside Kerala and I understood different ways of life. I came to Kudumbashree in 1999. I still remember the difficulties I had to deal with. In 2000, when I got into official power in Kudumbashree, I developed a neighbourhood with 40 members of various family members. We got it affiliated in the 8th month. I worked as neighbourhood Secretary, ADS Secretary, CDS member, etc., I was Elected as the CDS chairperson in 2010. I was able to interact with a group of people suffering from pain and to reduce poverty to some extent. I am fortunate to have my privilege to be able to participate in social and political activities and sign into a variety of fields. I am proud to have been through Kudumbashree in various places including Delhi. I am happy to start BRC to support the dependent families who are more distressed by being more dependent on their dependents and to start "Asraya" for their well-being. Initiating such centres could be one of the most memorable experiences in my life.

I pledge to stick to Kudumbashree's movement with the conviction that I was able to become a good CDS Chairperson to enhance capacity and to deal with problems, careers and to experience in the field of inquiry.

Challenges Acquired:

In 2010, eleven acres of Fallow land was acquired and agricultural land was taken up. A five-member team started their work with the help of the tractor. On the 120th day after the start of sowing, the field got flooded with excess water which stopped cultivation. We were mentally depressed at this point. But we continued without letting it go. But the cultivated sheets were white. And the water could not be taken off, so we went in a rowing boat and could pick up the paddies then pump them into the shore. One of the strengths of Kudumbashree is that we go the courage to survive this challenge.

Achievements:

The SCA fund was provided for the launch of the first enterprise unit in Chunakara GramaPanchayat. Five women were trained using this and were grouped into women's sewing unit. One of the member's husband was drunk, and she even didn't own a house to herself. We were able to get their livelihood through this initiative of Kudumbashree. Also, each year, it is a special experience that makes it possible for many different activities to be seen and thus bringing in many women to self-sufficiency. Kudumbashree and Local Self Government Institutions are still working well in this venture.