

KUDUMBASHREE CBO ELECTIONS



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A. INTRODUCTION

The State Poverty Eradication Mission - Kudumbashree, launched by the State Government of Kerala with the active support of Government of India and NABARD - aims at eradicating absolute poverty by 10 years under the leadership of Local Self Governments. Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs) are the primary units of the Kudumbashree community organization. The grass root level poor women are organized through Neighbourhood groups, (NHGs) consisting of 10-20 women with 5 functional volunteers – Health and Education Volunteer, Income Generation Volunteer, Infrastructure Volunteer, Secretary and President. These groups are coordinated at the ward level through Area development society (ADS), by federating 10-15 NHGs. The coordinating apex body at LSG level is the Community Development Society (CDS), which is a registered body under Charitable Societies Registration Act.

Kudumbashree is essentially a community network that covers the entire State of Kerala. The NHG members meet once in a week in one of the member's house. In the weekly meetings, they open up their minds. Women who were confined to their own families ventilate their feelings, discuss their problems and make joint effort to find solutions to their grievances with the support of the functional volunteers. This generates a group feeling and supportive attitude which build confidence in these women. Along with this, they practice small savings through thrift which make them economically confident. The community structure is embedded in the local self-government (LSG), but has an autonomous functional character of its own. The Welfare Standing Committee of the LSG is responsible for monitoring and guidance of the community structure as part of its constitutionally mandated role. Evaluation Committee at the local government level is an institutional mechanism that strengthens the convergence.

B. INTRODUCTION OF COMMON BYLAWS IN 2008

The relationship between the Kudumbashree community network and local governments as we see them today has clearly been the result of the common bylaws and the subsequent elections to the CDS introduced in 2008.

Introduction of the bylaws led to the elimination of many gray areas in the relationship between the two entities.

First of all, there were problems relating to the lack of a uniform set of bylaws across local governments. The bylaws that were in existence in many places were in fact contrary to the very spirit of Kudumbashree as a women's agency. For instance, there were bylaws that bestowed the powers to dissolve a CDS

up on the secretary of the Gram Panchayat or the Charge Officer. There were bylaws that offered the CDS committee a permanent nature. Bylaws were mostly unclear on the roles of sub committees and their members. There were bylaws without any clause on punitive actions in case of financial irregularities; there were bylaws that did not have any mention on audit at all.

Second, there was a problem with the very design of ADS. The number of members at the CDS coming up from the ADS level was restricted to nine. This meant that all ADS could not be represented at the CDS. There was also no one-to-one correspondence between a ward and ADS. Third, many bylaws lacked any provision of reservation for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe members in the committees.

With the introduction of the common bylaws and elections in 2008, the relationship between CDS and PRI entered a new era. Uniform bylaws were formulated and introduced through a campaign programme that facilitated organizational learning across the community network. Bylaws were made uniform for rural and urban community networks. Representation was ensured at every level; the system of nine-member committee was done away with in the case of CDS. All ADS were to get representation in CDS. Provisions were made for reservation of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) members in the committees. Membership conditions were redefined to make Kudumbashree a network of all the women who aspire to be its members. Roles of sub committees and members were defined. Accounting guidelines and audit processes were put in place. 'Member Secretary' replaced 'Charge Officer'. Bylaws also made provisions for enabling CDS to function as micro finance institutions and to work in collaboration with cooperative institutions. The bylaws allowed CDS to buy shares of cooperatives. With clear norms for elections prescribed in the bylaws, CDS started evolving into an agency independent of the local government.

C. CBO ELECTIONS - HOW IT WAS CONDUCTED

The year 2008 was an important year for Kudumbashree. The CDS bye law came into existence that year. Along with the bylaw, the proposal for the elections to be conducted to the three tier Kudumbashree structure was decided. Until then each panchayat in Kerala had a different election process and lacked uniformity. With clear cut instructions for the conduct of free, fair and timely elections, the unstructured election process was put to rest. The elections clearly became a more structured process and a serious matter.

As per the Kudumbashree CDS bylaw elections for the Kudumbashree CBOs Executive Committee would be held once in every three years. Guidelines for the conduct of the elections have been framed with the following objectives:

- Conduct elections at appropriate times in three phases, towards constituting executive committees and appointment of office bearers of the community based organisations, as per provisions laid down under section 12 Kudumbashree CDS bylaw.
- Institute a neutral mechanism for conduct of free, fair and transparent elections.
- Evolve a unified procedure for the conduct of elections for Kudumbashree CDS organisations across the state
- Evolve a democratic election process that would ensure the adherence to organisational discipline and norms.

ELECTION PROCEDURE

The CDS Returning Officer should issue an election notification at least 15 days prior to the conduct of first phase of the elections. This notification should contain details such as election rules of CDS three tier organisations, phases, period and relevant portions of the guideline and should reach upto the NHG level.

Since as per CDS bylaw, new executive committee should assume their administrative responsibilities by January 26



at all the three levels, all election proceedings should be completed well within that time.

NHG ELECTION - PHASE 1

In the first phase, election meeting of the Kudumbashree NHG should be held and five member officials elected. Each NHG should themselves decide on the venue, date and time of their election meeting. Only those NHGs that

have received affiliation from the CDS at least 90 days prior to the date of notification would be eligible to participate in the ADS/CDS elections.

The general body of the NHG is constituted by all members of the NHG that have their names registered in the membership register. The Executive Committee has the following positions.

Sl No	Designations	No of Officials
1	President	1
2	Secretary	1
3	Income Generation Volunteer	1
4	Health and Education Volunteer	1
5	Infrastructure development Volunteer	1
Total		5

ADS ELECTION - PHASE 2

In the second phase, ADS election meetings should be held, seven members Executive Committee elected, and the Executive Committee should convene separate meeting to elect the official functionaries. The venue, date and time of each ADS election meeting should be decided by the CDS Returning Officer and communicated to the NHG election officials. The elected members of the NHG should be informed about the venue, date and time of the election meeting of the ADS to which they belong, by the NHG election officer. The elected members should acknowledge receipt of communication regarding ADS election meeting and the same should be recorded in the minute book.

ADS general Body: Executive committee members of all recognized NHGs that come under the purview of the ADS, and that are affiliated to the CDS.

The number of officials of ADS to be elected from its general body is seven. The designations and number of official functionaries, to be elected from among the elected ADS Executive Committee through a special Executive Committee meeting is as below:

Sl No	Designations	No of Officials
1	ADS Chairperson	1
2	ADS Vice Chairperson	1
3	ADSS Secretary	1
	Total	3

CDS ELECTION - PHASE 3

During the third phase, CDS election meeting should be held and the CDS Executive Committee and official functionaries elected. The venue, date and time of the CDS election meeting should be informed to the CDS general body members. At the end of the ADS election meeting, the seven member executive committee of the ADS that become members of the CDS general body

should be informed of the venue, date and time of the CDS election meeting of the CDS that they belong to, by the ADS Election officers. The designated ADS Executive Committee members should acknowledge the receipt of the communication and the same should be recorded in the ADS minute book.

CDS general body: Designated Executive Committee mem-

bers of all ADSs that come within the limits of the CDS.

The total number of members of CDS Executive Committee that need to be elected from the ADS Executive Committee should be equal to the total number of ADSs. During the ADS election meeting, the Executive Committee members

should convene a special meeting for electing a representative to the CDS Executive Committee. The designations and number of official functionaries to be elected from among the elected CDS Executive Committee through a special executive Committee meeting is as below.

Sl No	Designations	No of Officials
1	CDS Chairperson	1
2	CDS Vice Chairperson	1
	Total	2



All election proceedings should be completed by January 25th. The phases of elections should be so designed that there is at least a gap of five days between two adjacent phases.

One position between NHG president/Secretary should be reserved compulsorily for a BPL representative. However in

case of NHGs without BPL representation, both positions may be occupied by APL members. Between the ADS chairperson and secretary, one position should be reserved for a BPL representative of the Executive Committee. Between the CDS chairperson and Vice Chairperson too, one position should be reserved for BPL representative of the Executive Committee. A minimum of 50% representation

of BPL members should be ensured for ADS and CDS executive Committee.

D. ELECTION TRAININGS

All, trainings with regard to the conduct of the elections should be completed before the commencement of the General body meetings of the first phase of the election. The following trainings are mandatory as part of CBO election;

- Kudumbashree District Election Officers training
A district level officer that the District Collector deputed as per provisions included in the CDs byelaw. Kudumbashree state mission will impart one day training for the district level election officers in the month of November/December at State level. The objective of the training will be to give awareness to the district level election officers about Kudumbashree byelaw, election guidelines and conduct of CBO elections etc.

• CDS Returning Officers trainings

CDS RO is an officer designated by the District Collector as per recommendation from the District Election Officer in order to hold responsibility for the conduct of elections of a CDS three tier organisation in its entirety. Kudumbashree district mission and District Election Officers together will conduct one day training for the CDS Returning Officers at district level. Kudumbashree byelaw, CBO election guidelines and conduct of CBO elections etc will be discussed in the training.

• CDS Assistant Returning Officer Training

CDS ARO is an officer from within a CDS operational area, designated by the District Collector as per recommendation from the District Election Officer, in order to assist the CDS Returning Officer in the discharge of his/her responsibilities. Kudumbashree district mission and District Election Officers together will impart the one day training for the CDS Assistant Returning Officers at district level.

- ADS Election Officers Training
ADS Election Officer is an officer deputed by the CDS Returning Officer as an observer of elections to 1 or more ADSs. CDS Returning officer and Assistant Returning Officer would conduct the half day training on Kudumbashree byelaw, CBO election guideline and conduct of election etc at CDS level.

- State level TOT for the Kudumbashree Training Group members
Kudumbashree has its own training group each district and at State level there is a consortium called CTC (Collective of Training Centres) to connect everyone. A state level TOT on Kudumbashree CBO election will be conducted for the selected training group members from each district. State Organisation team will impart training on Kudumbashree byelaw, election guidelines and conduct of CBO election etc. at Regional level. These training group members will provide training to other training group members in their respective district. The training group members at the

district level will provide training to the NHG election presiding members.

• NHG Election Presiding Member Training

NHG Election Presiding Member is a member from within the NHG themselves, who has been chosen and trained to function as an election presiding member for elections to the NHG. The Kudumbashree training group members will be entrusted to impart training to the selected NHG presiding members at CDS level.

E. ELECTION COMPLAINTS AND REDRESSAL

To resolve the issues/complaints with respect to Kudumbashree CBO election, there are provisions in the CBO election guidelines. Complaints with respect to the NHG and ADS elections may be submitted to the CDS returning officer within three days of the completion of NHG and ADS election general body meeting. An appeal may be made to the District Election officer within five days of issue of judgement by the returning officer. The judgement of the District Election officer would be final.

Complaints with respect to CDS election may be submitted to the District Election Officer within five days of the completion of CDS election general body meeting. An appeal may be made to the district collector within five days of issue of judgement by the District Election officer. The judgement of the district collector would be final.

All judgement on complaints or appeals registered should be addressed within seven days of receipt of the same. In those cases where it is deemed necessary to conduct more detailed enquiry, the judgement may be delayed to the extent of a maximum of one month. The district election officer would have the right to annual elections that were found have been conducted against the election rules and guidelines, and order for fresh elections.

F. KUDUMBASHREE CBO ELECTION RESULT 2018

The election in the three tiers of Kudumbashree network was conducted in 2017-18. Election of office bearers of 2.77 lakh NHGs, 19,489 ADSs and to 1,065 CDSs was conducted in a free and fair manner without any untoward incident. All the office bearers assumed the responsibilities and started their work from 26 January 2018 onwards. The district wise status of the Kudumbashree CBO election 2017-2018 is given in annexure 1 to this document.



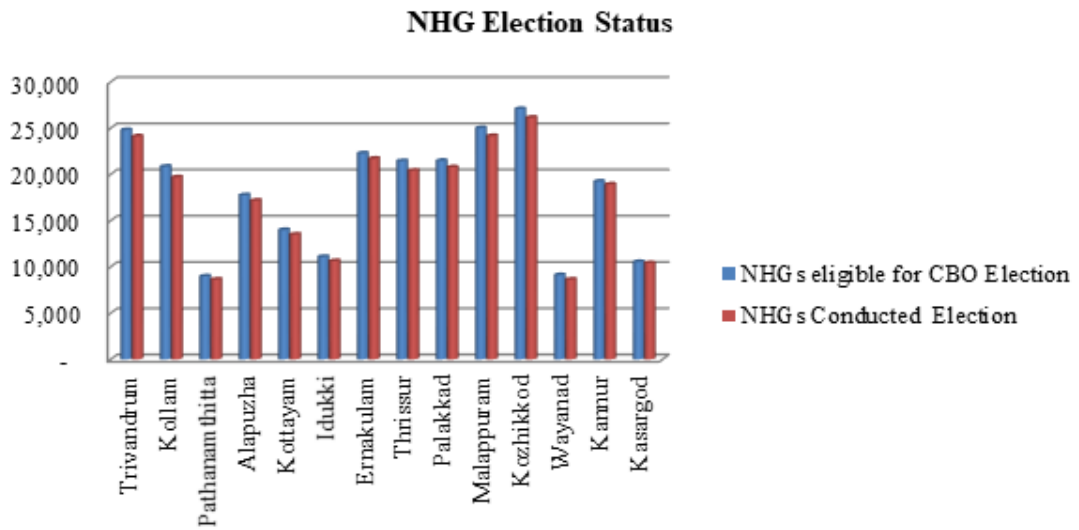


Figure 1: Kudumbashree NHG Election Status 2017-2018

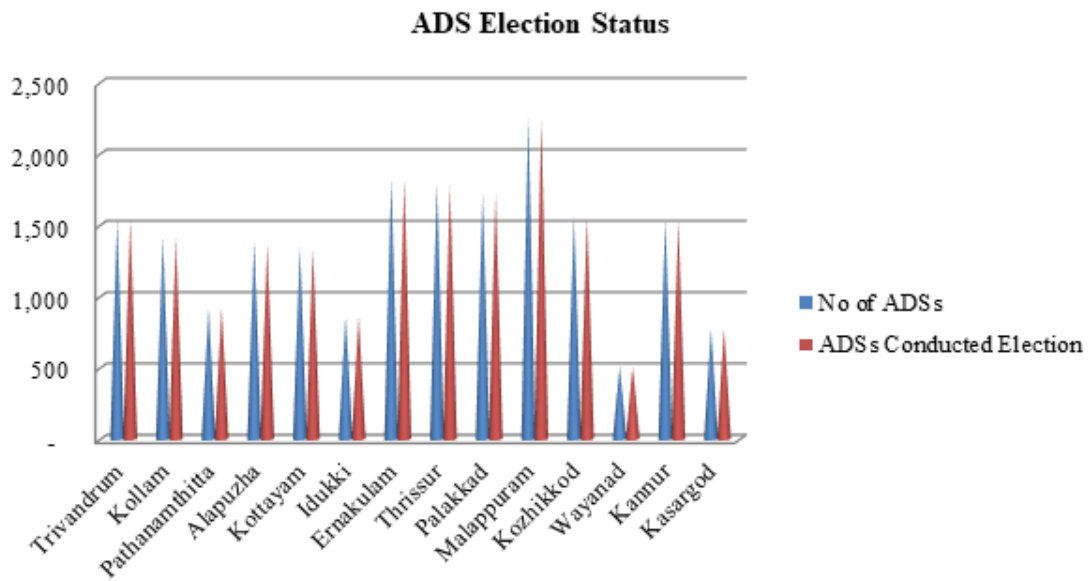


Figure 2: Kudumbashree ADS Election Status 2017-2018

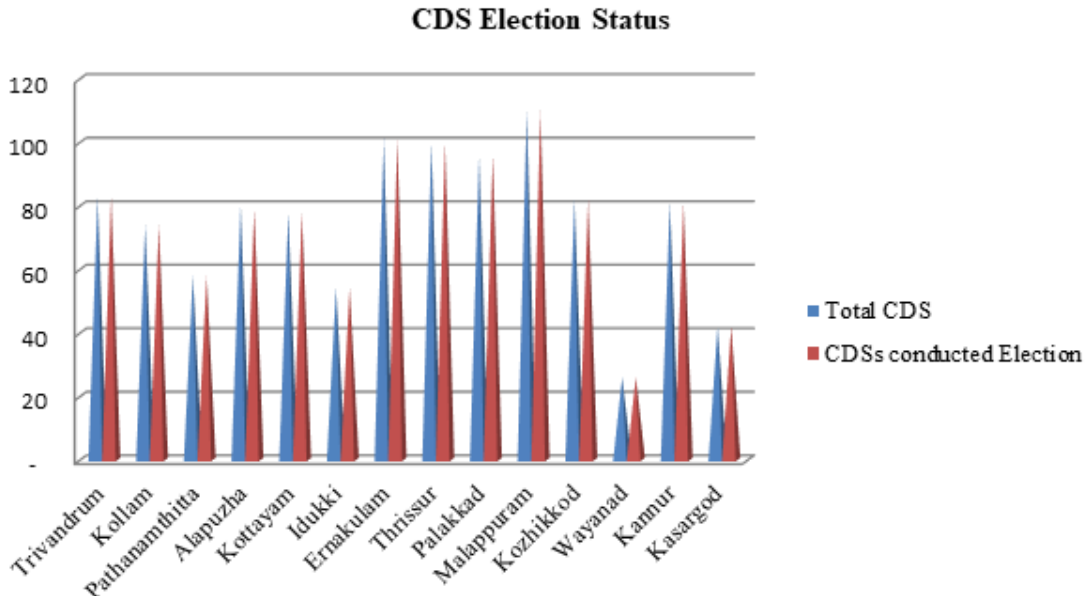


Figure 3: Kudumbashree CDS election Status 2017-2018

G. CONCLUSION AND FUTUTRE PLAN

Being involved in Kudumbashree has brought in significant changes in the way women were perceived in the society. Not only have women been economically empowered but she has also been socially strengthened. Activities are not limited merely to weekly collection of money and internal lending or setting up of micro enterprises. With the involvement in Kudumbashree, complete development of women has been ensured. Right from the weekly discussions of the happenings in the society to the regular trainings and classes has successfully opened up new horizons for women.

Kudumbashree election trainings and process empowered the members to occupy their political space and demand time and space on social platforms. This is truer with women assuming roles of leadership within the NHG units and the structure upwards. The office bearers of the three tiers have now become involved in the entire decision making process of the Panchayath. We see a scenario

wherein they sit along with the Panchayat representatives and pose question, seek clarifications and put forth their suggestions. Assuming roles of leadership within the three tier structure of the Kudumbashree has instilled the confidence and have given them a space which was purely dominated by men till more recently.

Now the new CDS took charge in 26th January 2018, different trainings are planned for the CDS, ADS and NHG office bearer's to bring order to CBO governance. The mission will provide training for all the CDSs within a short span of time. Training will be given on the subjects such as CDS committee process, CDS sub-committee process, convergence with PRIs and other government departments, minutes and register maintenance, soft-skill development, etc. Kudumbashree training group will be carried out this training in all the districts. The modules for training, content, and handbooks will be developed by the training group itself with the help of state mission organisation team. Training groups will conduct training on contract basis with the district missions and the district mission will conduct quality monitoring of the trainings.

കുടുംബശ്രീ സിഡിഎസുകൾക്ക് പുതിയ സാരഥികൾ

രണ്ടു പഞ്ചായത്തുകളിൽ ചെയർപഴ്സൻ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് പിന്നീട്

കൊച്ചി • മൂന്നര ലക്ഷത്തോളം വനിതകൾ പങ്കാളികളായ കുടുംബശ്രീ സിഡിഎസ് ചെയർപഴ്സൻ, വൈസ് ചെയർപഴ്സൻ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് പൂർത്തിയായി. രണ്ടു പഞ്ചായത്തുകളിൽ ചെയർപഴ്സൻ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് പിന്നീട് നടക്കും. അയൽക്കൂട്ടം, വാർഡുതലം, തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ എന്നിങ്ങനെയാണു സിഡിഎസുകളുടെ ഘടന. ഇതിൽ കൊച്ചി നഗരസഭയിൽ മൂന്നും ഏതാനും മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റികളിൽ രണ്ടു റിതവും ബാക്കിയുള്ളവയിൽ ഓരോ സിഡിഎസ്-പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നു. ഇവയുടെ ഓരോ ഘട്ടങ്ങളിലും തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തത്.

ഈ മാസം ആദ്യം ആരംഭിച്ച തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് പ്രക്രിയ രണ്ടിടത്തൊഴികെ ഇന്നലെ പൂർത്തിയായി.

യായി ജില്ലയിൽ 101 സിഡിഎസ് ചെയർപഴ്സൻമാരാണ് ഇതു പ്രകടമായ രാഷ്ട്രീയയില്ലെങ്കിലും പങ്കുതിയിലേറെ സിഡിഎസ് രാഷ്ട്രീയ സഭാവാതിൽ നടന്ന തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിൽ സിഡിഎസ് അനുഭാവങ്ങൾ ജയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ രാഷ്ട്രീയ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിലല്ല കുടുംബശ്രീയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനമെന്നു കൂട്ടുകാരായി ഓരോ ഘട്ടങ്ങളിലും തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ടവർക്ക് മാത്രമേ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിലൂടെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളൂ. ഉദാഹരണമായി ഉൾപ്പെടെ ഏതാനും പഞ്ചായത്തുകളിൽ വോട്ടെടുപ്പിൽ മൂന്നിടത്താണ് വന്നപ്പോൾ നൂറുകിട്ടി ചെയർപ

ഴ്സനെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു. കിഴക്കമ്പലം പഞ്ചായത്തിൽ ഭരണത്തിലുള്ള 5 ന്നി 5 ന്നി യുടെ പിന്തുണയോടെ മത്സരിച്ചയാൾ ചെയർപഴ്സനായി ഇവിടെ 17 വാർഡുകളിലും ഈ സഖ്യത്തിനാണ് മുൻതൂക്കം. ആലുവ ചുറ്റണിക്കര പഞ്ചായത്തിൽ സിഡിഎ പിന്തുണച്ച സ്വയംഭരണത്തിന്റെ മത്സരിച്ച സിഡിഎ മുൻ പഞ്ചായത്ത് അംഗം വിജയിച്ചു.

ജില്ലയിലെ 23,000 അയൽക്കൂട്ടങ്ങളിലേക്കും 1,828 വാർഡുകളിലേക്കും 101 തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണങ്ങളിലേക്കുമുള്ള തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പാണ് പൂർത്തിയായത്. അയൽക്കൂട്ടങ്ങളിൽ പ്രസിഡന്റ്, സെക്രട്ടറി, മൂന്നു വോളന്റിയർമാർ എന്നിവരും വാർഡുതലം കമ്മിറ്റികൾക്കു (എസിഎസ്) ചെയർപഴ്സൻ, വൈസ് ചെയർപഴ്സൻ, സെക്രട്ട

വിജയം വിമത സ്ഥാനാർഥിക്ക്

ആലുവ • ചുറ്റണിക്കര പഞ്ചായത്തിൽ സിഡിഎസ് അധ്യക്ഷ സ്ഥാനത്തേക്ക് ഒരു പാർട്ടിക്കാർ തമ്മിൽ മത്സരിച്ചപ്പോൾ വിജയം വിമത സ്ഥാനാർഥിക്ക്. സിഡിഎ അംഗം കപൂർ, ബ്രാഞ്ച് കമ്മിറ്റി അംഗം രാജ രാജിയാണ് അധ്യക്ഷ പദമേറ്റെടുത്ത് അമ്പാട്ടുകാവ് ബ്രാഞ്ച് കമ്മിറ്റി അംഗം രാജ അലിയാർ. 18 വോട്ടിൽ 15 എണ്ണവും രാജ രാജി നേടി. മുന്നെണ്ണം രാജ അലിയാർക്കു കിട്ടി. മുൻ പഞ്ചായത്ത് അംഗവും മുൻ സിഡിഎസ് അധ്യക്ഷയുമാണ് രാജ രാജി. സിഡിഎ ഘോഷാൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയും മുൻ പഞ്ചായത്ത് പ്രസിഡന്റുമായ കെ.എ. അലിയാർക്കു മറ്റൊരാളാണ് രാജ അലിയാർ.

നി. താലൂ കൺവീനർമാർ എന്ന അനൗദ്യോഗിക ഘടന. തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ (സിഡിഎസ്) ചെയർപഴ്സനു, വൈസ് ചെയർപഴ്സനു, ഉണ്ട്.

30 വാർഡുകളിൽ കൂടുതലുള്ള തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നിലധികം സിഡിഎസ് സമിതികൾ ഉണ്ട്.

(തിരവേ സമിതികൾ ഇന്നു ചുമതലയേൽക്കും.)

ഉപാധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ

കടമക്കുടി പഞ്ചായത്ത് നാലാമ്കുടി - വിജി രാജ എളക്കുന്നൂർ - സുരി വി.കോടിയൻ പാവുട്ടി നഗരസഭ: ഷയാകുന്ദിണൻ വടക്കക്കര: ബാബു ചിറ്റാറ്റുകര: നസലി. ഏഴിക്കര: ശിരീജ ശ്യാപുത്തൻവേലിക്കര: ശക്തിധരൻ ചേന്ദമംഗലം: ഷാല: ഷാബില സതീശൻ പഞ്ചായത്ത്) ഫിനി ബിനിഷ് പഞ്ചായത്ത്)

Kudumbashree Writeshop

Sl No	District	Active NHGs (as on Dec '17)	Total Members	NHGs eligible for Election 2017-18	NHGs Participated in training	No of NHGs Conducted Election	Total No of Wards in LSG	Total No of ADSs	ADSs Conducted Election	Total Number of CDS	Number of CDSs conducted Election
1	Trivandrum	28,032	4,13,813	24,800	23,863	24,126	1,546	1,546	1,546	83	83
2	Kollam	22,685	3,25,187	20,849	20,163	19,699	1,420	1,419	1,411	74	74
3	Pathanamthitta	9,391	1,45,716	8,983	8,509	8,647	920	920	920	58	58
4	Alapuzha	19,595	2,91,054	17,749	17,367	17,170	1,384	1,368	1,365	80	79
5	Kottayam	14,627	2,13,502	14,005	13,906	13,507	1,344	1,339	1,337	78	78
6	Idukki	11,890	1,49,498	11,087	10,759	10,636	861	861	859	54	54
7	Ernakulam	22,536	3,29,295	22,285	22,126	21,713	1,833	1,828	1,822	101	101
8	Thrissur	22,269	3,39,406	21,447	20,439	20,419	1,794	1,789	1,780	100	100
9	Palakkad	22,713	3,04,182	21,489	21,039	20,784	1,730	1,723	1,723	96	96
10	Malappuram	26,224	4,15,151	25,009	24,619	24,164	2,257	2,247	2,241	110	110
11	Kozhikkod	27,298	4,38,801	27,080	26,535	26,142	1,566	1,566	1,561	82	82
12	Wayanad	9,350	1,15,763	9,116	8,679	8,639	512	512	511	26	26
13	Kannur	19,516	3,09,130	19,240	18,755	18,923	1,545	1,538	1,530	81	81
14	Kasargod	10,738	1,69,887	10,539	10,483	10,415	777	775	774	42	42
	Grand Total	2,66,864	39,60,385	2,53,678	2,47,242	2,44,984	19,489	19,431	19,380	1,065	1,064