



## Cafe Mentors for strengthening catering training



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Details about the opportunities received by Kudumbashree to support canteen units in Bihar and Telngana has already been elaborated in the Making an Impact Article- 66. Also, details regarding 'India Food Court' coordinated by Kudumbashree as a part Ajeevika Mela had been dealt in the Making an Impact Article-67. For providing leadership to these activities in the catering sector, and for providing HR support for such events, we have recently formed a new team of 'Cafe Mentors'!

The 'cafe mentors' were selected from the Neighbourhood



group members having experience in the catering sector. Applications were invited from Kudumbashree members who are providing canteen-catering services and who have interest in extending trainings to others and have a flair for travelling. 19 were selected through a detailed process of selection at district level were designated as 'cafe mentors'. It is planned to make use of the services of the cafe mentors for extending trainings as per the request of other states and also for co-ordinating the functioning of the food courts whenever needed.

In the first phase, 19 members were selected as cafe mentors from different districts during August 2019. They were extended 4 weeks training on 'Food Services Enterprise Administration and Management' at Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (IHMCT), Kovlam, Thiruvananthapuram. The training programme was a combination of classroom and practical sessions led by the experienced faculty of IHMCT. The training session covered essential topics like

catering cycle, menu dynamics and planning, pricing, food service business management, Sales & Customer Management, Inventory Management, Facility Planning, FSSAI, legal services etc.

Now, its the time for the work excellence of the new cafe mentors. The activities of Kudumbashree NRO was spread across India through the activities of Kudumbashree NRO s mentors. Mentors of NRO works in the areas of the convergence activities with the Local Self Government Institutions and also in formation of micro enterprises. Cafe mentors are selected for a new area of catering and food business. We hope that, like our mentors, cafe mentors also may excel in national and international levels. Also we expect them to provide skill and confidence to women entrepreneurs in food business so that they can find sustainable livelihood opportunities of their own to get better income and life.