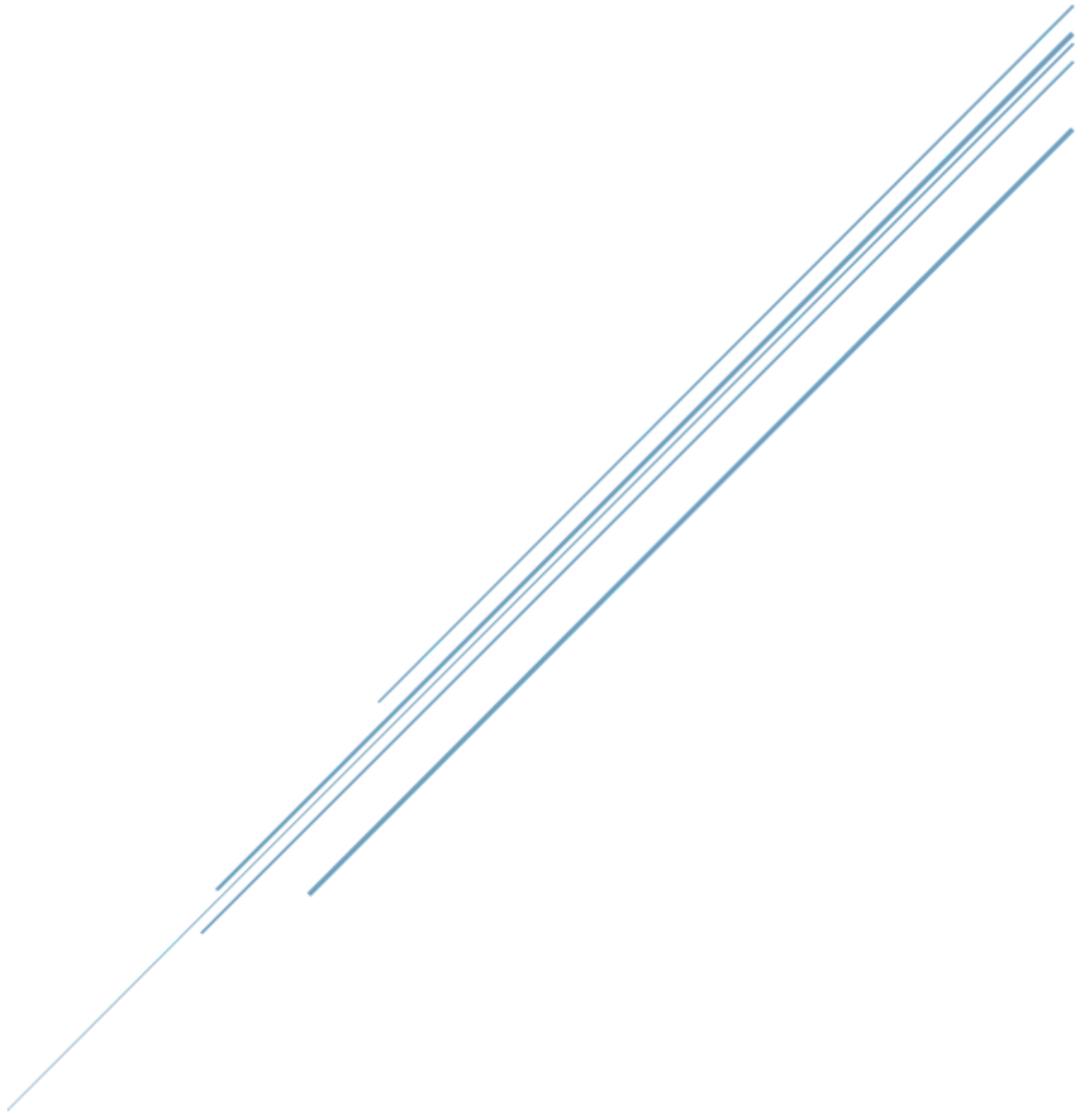


VULNERABILITY MAPPING

Kudumbashree Gender initiative



JJI R S
SAPM(ME)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

This paper has been compiled with view to learn & understand the project named “Vulnerability Mapping” undertaken by Gender Team of Kudumbashree and to know that how well it has brought a change among Kudumshree Members. This paper takes stock of the current context and aims to bring greater clarity to the issues under this thematic area of concern. I took this study with a preoccupied mindset that despite all the efforts, statistics show that globally, women still experience disrespect, disempowerment, and discrimination across all lines of race, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and ability. One cannot help but to wonder why these countless efforts and projects do not appear to have lasting impacts on the various challenges that women face, nor in eradicating gender inequalities. Studies shows that India for the last two decades is investing monumental amount of fund in gender equality, but the result is unacceptably low returns of investment. In 2005, the Indian government instituted a requirement that a substantial portion of the national budget is earmarked as “gender budgeting” to promote gender equality and improve services for women, especially the very poor. In its first year, this amounted to approximately INR 143 billion (US\$ 2 billion). By 2018, the Gender Budget accounted for nearly 5% of the national budget, or over INR 1.2 trillion (US\$ 17.4 billion). However, India’s gender equality score from the WEF Gender Gap Index has only marginally improved, with India receiving a 61.5% gender equality score and ranking 114th out of 134 countries in 2009, while in 2018 only receiving a 66.8% score and ranking a dismal 112th (out of 153 countries).

1.2. SIGNIFICANCE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY :

Many of the indicators that comprise gender equality as the fifth SDG are to ensure equal treatment, opportunity to thrive, and the safety and

security of women. The UN states: “Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large” (UN, 2017).

1.3. LIMITATIONS OF CURRENT APPROACHES

Even after immense effort put in the field evidence shows there remain unacceptable social, political, economic, and physical conditions that affect women excessively. For instance, though it seems that in Kerala girl children get the privilege to study and work and far better than elsewhere in the country but it is of no doubt that there are many other discriminations to face with .

The vulnerability of women stems from various issues—many of which affect women on a global scale—including malnutrition, low education levels, early mortality, female feticide, income disparity, and family violence. The 2011 Indian census also reported that only 17% of women in rural India were engaged in gainful employment, and only 50% of Indian women were literate. Data collected from India's National Family Health Surveys (2015–16) have shown a relationship between a woman's level of education and higher rates of poverty, domestic violence and infant mortality (International Institute for Sciences, 2016). Additionally, approximately 87% of pregnant, rural women in India suffer from iron related anaemia, to which 20–40% of maternal deaths are attributed. Further, women continue to have no assured rights regarding inheritance of property, and it is estimated that one in three has no rights over household decisions on spending. To address this geographically “Vulnerability Mapping as a tool used in different geographical areas so that once vulnerabilities in that locations are identified programs may be designed to resolve the same”.

2. VULNERABILITY MAPPING

The complication of existing gender equality or women empowerment program lies in the point that what may work in one location with one

collection of factors may not work in another —women are a part of geographically, socially, culturally, politically and economically distinct communities.. This is compounded by vague frameworks, imprecise indicators, and difficulty taking measurements.

To address the challenges, it will be beneficial to examine the problems and the solutions from another angle. Instead of only identifying an empowerment objective to apply to a specific community, one could identify the unique elements that hinder women's engagement in active participation in that element, as well. This is changing the narrative: What is affecting women negatively—and how can these women move towards an improved state within the context of their own unique circumstances? This approach would allow for context-specific evaluation of factors that contribute to a woman's vulnerability—or vulnerability mapping. If done properly, such a map would be able to capture both the indicators as well as the inherent challenges in the process of empowerment. The overall goal of a vulnerability map is to evaluate a community's major resources and infrastructures and how these resources are distributed. It also deals with understanding what underlying factors are at play. These factors include (but are not limited to): structural factors (race, religion, caste, etc.); life-cycle factors (age, disability, transitions in life such as marriage, motherhood, or adolescence, etc.); conflict and violence factors (personal security, war, criminal activities, etc.); infrastructural factors (government, transportation, corruption, etc.); economic factors (unemployment, non-traditional economies, single-income homes, etc.); and environmental factors (climate change, proximity to water, proximity to disaster prone areas, etc.)

3. VULNERABILITY MAPPING by KUDUMBASHREE

3.1. PROGRAM

With the proposition that Women, children, transgender and other weaker section are always being the worst victim of social vulnerabilities Kudumbashree also tried to do this exercise . Along with vulnerability mapping , Gender focused situational analysis also was

included. Gender Focused situational analysis examines the gender issues that are related to poverty, food security, social stratification, social disorganization, economic issues, public health, public educational system and public sphere.

3.2. OBJECTIVES

- To find out the factors which lead to the vulnerabilities.
- To create awareness on prevention and actions to deal with social vulnerabilities.
- To find out the different dimensions of poverty and its all forms everywhere.
- To find out the social, cultural and economic difficulties faced by women, children and transgender.
- To help the community to identify and determine the issues and problems faced by them.
- To improve the social security measures to address the vulnerabilities.
- To formulate new strategies for the empowerment of vulnerable sessions.
- Formulate new policies to reduce vulnerabilities of disadvantage people.

3.3. METHODOLOGY

Triangular study has been adopted to collect data from the community(In the social sciences, triangulation is often used to indicate that two (or more) methods are used in a study in order to check the results of one and the same subject and is a popular method of study in sociology.).Quantitative methods like Semi structured questionnaire has been developed to collect the data from the

community as well as qualitative methods like focus group discussion and Case studies had been used for the study.

Vulnerability mapping was conducted in the following development sectors through the participation of the community like Agriculture and Animal husbandry, Health. Education, Gender development, Water and Sanitation ,Employment, Infrastructure ,Geriatric Care, Institutional development ,Tribal development and Costal development.

3.4. PROCESS

It was conducted in two phases in the state .In the first phase 28 LSGBs (Local Self Government Bodies) has been selected ie. two LSGBs from each district whereas in the second phase the programme was extended to 140 LSGBs like 10 LSGBs from each district.

3.5. SELECTION AND TRAINING OF FACILITATORS

- One facilitator and 2 to 5 Resource persons from each local body who are in the field of gender related programs in Kudumbashree were selected as the facilitators.
- State level convergence meeting for the elected representatives of LSGBs were conducted
- One day training organized for the leaders and elected representatives of LSGBs to disseminate the project details of vulnerability mapping.
- Various activities organized in each CDS to disseminate the idea into the public. Processions, street plays, poster exhibitions, awareness classes were being conducted.
- Community level orientation to pilot the tools – Training of local facilitators
- Secondary data were collected from the government and non-government institutions, public forums, journals and other published documents.
- Collection of Primary data through Ayalsabha: Ayalsabhas are the basic unit of the decentralization process of the LSGBs. A survey form has been prepared to collect data from each ayalsabha.

Facilitator visited the ayalsabha meetings and collected the details of all the people belong to that particular ayalsabha.

- Institution analysis :Institutional analysis has been conducted as a part of data collection. It's an attempt to find the issues related to the public institutions like panchayat office, anganwadi, Revenue offices ,agriculture officers and the other institutions. Data were collected about the staff pattern ,accessibility and availability of the services, infrastructure, female friendly atmosphere, and other amenities were selected for the analysis.
- Community meetings, FGDs, Interviews, Special NHG meetings, Case study collection
- CDS level facilitators were collected primary data from the community meetings, NHG meeting and other meetings organized in the community.
- Focus group Discussions were organized among the homogenous target groups like NREGS group, NHG women, female labours, elected representatives, health workers, teachers, social workers ,activists ,women worked in unorganized sectors, migrant labours, and other vulnerable groups.

3.6. FINDINGS of VULNERABILITY MAPPING

- poverty in all its forms and everywhere, food security issues and agricultural possibilities
- Health status of the community – permanent illness and its after effects, communicable diseases and awareness, Health condition of the community due to any special cause, Mental Health, Reproductive health , Mal nutrition, autism, mentally challenged
- Educational factors – Education status of men & women, opportunities, facilities
- Gender inequalities, Gender Based Violence and empowerment of women and girls –Different types of violence, Issues of single women, adolescents, transgender, political violence
- Water and Sanitation issues

- Issues related to employment – Issues at work place, unemployment, issues of persons who can't go for work and livelihood analysis
- Infrastructure – Critical facility analysis
- Safe and Sustainable human settlement/Rehabilitation/Housing
- Disability and related vulnerabilities
- Vulnerability due to Migration
- Social Issues affecting - Money lending, crime, Alcoholism, child/early marriage
- Climate change and its impact
- Vulnerable situations due to Institutional access and Inclusiveness
- Identify the issues of groups such as unorganized sectors,(Textile, Bamboo workers, street vendors etc)
- Vulnerabilities due to the access of information, technology, services
- Atrocities against women and children in the area and develop prevention strategies

3.7. OUTCOME

The major vulnerabilities found were analysed further reports and projects to address these vulnerabilities were made and submitted to the local self Government. Rs 77 crores was allotted for the projects mentioned in the study report by all 140 LSGI s together during the financial year 2017 - 18.

3.8. SUMMARY AND LEARNINGS

Afterall, we look forward for world where women are able to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied. In this regard Kudumbashree has also done its part. The vulnerability mapping exercise where huge step definitely would have impacted many. However, few suggestions are as follows

- First and foremost All the team in Kudumbashree must know and involve why and how the gender programs are carried out. If this is done for example the study results says that women in particular geographical area have huge debts/ financial crisis other team can pitch into address it.
- Though it says that Local Self Government have sanctioned various projects to address the issues, there is no solid interventions from Kudumbashree's part to address the vulnerabilities mapped in various locations.
- For my understanding Vulnerability was a new approach to understand the laid down issues in the field of gender equality and its outcome will pave way for further programs in Kudumbashree. But now it is understood that it was an eye opener for the local self government institutions
- Findings of Vulnerability mapping may be discussed with Balsabha so that the children in their young age itself will start think and may learn required skill to overcome