

ABC :Animal Birth Control: Management of Street Dog

A study on
Kudumbashree
Microenterprise:-
**Animal Birth
Control
Designated
Block
Management
Unit of
Kudumbashree**

With the successful track record of implementing many social responsible enterprises, Kudumbashree was selected as the agency to control the menace of Street Dogs

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ABSTRACT

Animal Birth Control (ABC) is a program by which stray dogs are sterilized and vaccinated against rabies with the aim of controlling both dog population size and rabies. Population size and demographics of stray dogs were measured before and after implementation of an ABC program

ABC has been developed by WHO as the only practical solution to control the street dog population and eradicate rabies. In cities where it has been wholeheartedly implemented, dog numbers and bites have reduced and these are now zero rabies zones. Based on this success, GOI has formulated the Dog Rules 2001 which directs that Panchayats/ municipalities work with animal welfare organizations to implement the ABC program. These Rules make it illegal to either kill or remove dogs from any area as it is crucial to the success of the program that dogs remain in their own areas to be systematically covered by the program. The Court too has accepted that sterilization and vaccination of dogs is the only scientific and humane solution and directed all Panchayats/ municipalities to follow it. Killing or removal of dogs from an area has been ruled out because it is counter-productive. Though Kerala Government also implemented ABC program to end menace of stray dogs could not bring in desired result. Thus in the year 2016 GoK brought a comprehensive plan and one of the stakeholders was Kudumbashree. Kudumbashree formed Micro enterprises Group to catch dogs and reach it for sterilization. Though the issue is not fully solved now it is under control

ABC Program in Kerala

A large number of women and children have been attacked by stray dogs in the coastal belts of Kerala. According to a report submitted in the Supreme Court of India, more than 10,000 people were attacked by stray dogs in the year of 2015-16. The stray dog population of Kerala is estimated to be 2.5 lakhs. The growth in the number of free-ranging dogs is because of chicken waste dumped from restaurants all over the state without cleanliness. 5,948 people were bitten by street dogs in Thiruvananthapuram district 2016 and 4,916 people were affected in Palakkad district. The pictures in other districts were also not so glossy.

ABC program as a measure to manage this issue was introduced in Kerala in 2005 itself. Animal Husbandry department and Local Self Government Institutions were implementing this project. The main objectives of the program were to control the street dog population, reduce human-dog conflicts and improve the welfare of street dogs. However, there were field level issue and less number of trained dog catcher in the field and coordination all the activities like catching , keeping them in safe , coordinating with Vets to get the sterilization done , taking care of the dogs after the sterilization for one or two days and leave them in their locality were very cumbersome process . However, in the year 2016, the things got worse as many got injured out of street dog attack . There were mixed feelings of public. A social worker was arrested for killing large number of street dogs. Governmental plans to cull stray dogs have prompted an international campaign to "Boycott Kerala Tourism" in protest. Opponents of the Stray Dog Free movement have argued

that vaccination and spay/neuter campaigns are a more effective and humane method of controlling the stray dog population. At last Government of Kerala has come up with a comprehensive ABC plan to manage the issue within three years.

Historically, dog catching has been relegated as job of lower order, often undertaken by specific groups of people. Placing this activity as economic activity for women was one of the greatest challenges in the implementation. However Kudumbashree was resolute in talking this as a challenge and wanted to put this as challenge in the status of women and work.

Animal Birth Control Designated Block Management Unit of Kudumbashree

.In concurrence with the Government circular no' 4515L/RC3/2014/LSGD dated 27/8/2016 and as per decisions in the conference of District collectors under the chairmanship of Hon. chief Minister of Kerala on 22/9/2016 the Guidelines and standard operating Procedures were issued for formation of Animal Birth Control Designated Block Management Units of Kudumbashree.

District collectors and Jilla panchayaths leads the campaign of ABC program for stray Dog Control Measures and the District Mission coordinators, Kudumbashree will be responsible for the formation and management of ABCD-BMU of Kudumbashree.

Panchayath wise Database on vulnerable geographic areas and wards /ADS for urgent intervention should be provided by the respective Local body to the DMC.

Functions and Structure of ABC Block Management Group

- Each of the unit would be a five member team registered with the LSGI.
- The members of the group must be either a member of Kudumbashree network, or family member.
- The selected persons for the MU should undergo a 3 day training provided by Kudumbashree, on completion of which a certificate would be provided
- Each member should have an identity card issued by the District mission and should wear uniform prescribed by Kudumbashree.
- All the trained MU members are required to get preventive vaccination for Rabies and Tetanus.
- Convergence with Local Government Institutions/Bodies, Animal Husbandry department and Veterinary Hospital has to be ensured.
- Availability of Registered Veterinary Practitioner and suitable provisions for the sterilization at nearby or identified veterinary hospital has to be ensured by each of the unit before starting the functioning of the MU.
- All surgical procedures has to be done by a qualified veterinary doctor, however Pre and Post operative care of the animal can be undertaken by the MU, under the supervision /advise of the veterinary doctor.
- The unit can hire the services of other persons for the capture of dogs; however it must be ensured that the capture of the dogs is undertaken as per the SOP. • Release of the animal after recovery to the same place or as per law.

However GO RT1450/LSGD dt 05.05.2017 was released leading higher fees for catching and undertaking the ABC process for the dogs. This GO

was one of the enabling factors leading to changing the perception of ABC as an economic activity to be undertaken as group enterprises by the women by associating with veterinary doctor.

Progress of ABC Program from 2016-2021

Districts	No. LSGI Earmarked Funds	Number of dogs Caught	Fund Received
Thiruvananthapuram	74	20424	42939200
Pathanamthitta	73	7206	15132600
Alappuzha	78	6765	13198900
Kottayam	77	8389	15184856
Idukki	24	2559	1651616
Ernakulam	131	14541	30305650
Thrissur	85	6603	10591087
Wayanad	9	547	1155000
Total	551	67034	130158909

SUMMARY AND LEARNINGS

Many a time Kudumbashree has proved that it can be a potential tool to address the social issue as it is a ubiquitous network. The major USP is that implementation of any project through Kudumbashree is cost effective, scalable and easy to formulate as the majority of the beneficiaries also fall under its fold.

Moreover as far as ABC program is concerned though challenging it was short term lucrative business idea. But when it is evaluated in terms of a sustainable enterprise model this may not be feasible as any effective full fledged ABC program should be culminated within a span of 3 years and later there will be only filling gaps.

It is seen that alternate business ideas like pet shop , parlors were suggested as a means to sustain the entrepreneurs. But it has not taken a solid shape so far.

It is noticed that Government has so far focused only on street dog and its management. Compulsory rabies vaccination campaign for pet dogs and its coordination can be one area where Kudumbashree Entrepreneurs can be involved with.

Abhay Sankalp is the next logical long-term step in the process of making a peaceful environment for both people and dogs. It aims to provide accurate information to communities, but also works with communities to make humane decisions towards dogs that live in their areas. Our effort has laid the groundwork for meaningful participation from 70 societies, and we hope more will participate during the program.”