



Building Material Manufacturing Units



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Hope you all will recall the article about construction groups of Kudumbashree and their achievements in 'Making an Impact - 02'. Building Material Production unit is our yet another innovative enterprise model.

These units make products such as cement bricks (solid block), hollow bricks, door-window frames, interlock tiles, well rings etc which are used for construction. There are three types of Building Material production units. They are units producing cement bricks manually, units having semi automatic production machines and



units with fully mechanized manufacturing systems. There are units that function with the support of Local Self Government Institutions and in convergence with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) programme. There are 134 such units functioning in Kerala under our supervision.

Most of the Kudumbashree manufacturing units produce bricks manually, with a production capacity of approximately 35 bricks a day. When the units are functioning in convergence with the MGNREGS programme, the activity can be considered as semi-skilled labour and the wages under MGNREGS could be provided.

For the semi automatic units, in most of the cases, land and the assistance to buy machinery are provided by the Local Self Government Institutions. They are capable of producing 850 bricks a day. The materials produced by these units (which are functioning in convergence

with MGNREGS and local bodies) are given for house construction of the beneficiaries of LIFE programme at subsidised rates. It is also given for the construction works of the public properties as well.

For securing permanent income for the units formed in block level, Government Order had been issued for making the Community Development Societies (CDSs) of Kudumbashree as vendors for buying the materials for MGNREGS. In this way, materials needed for producing building materials for the production units can be procured without much procedural delay.

We started this concept because there are many opportunities in construction sector. Initiatives in construction sector will help Kudumbashree members to get sustainable income through their enterprises. Our target for next year is setting up one building material production units in each block and municipality of Kerala.