



Prabhakaran. M. Melath
Programme Manager-
Tribal Submission , NRLM

LIVELIHOOD IN TRIBAL SECTOR

“No one is an island. All these entities that drive economic development are interconnected in one sense or another”.

INTRODUCTION

The Mission gives priority on the concept of Local Economic Development (LED) – local production, catering to local consumption to increase the economic activity within the local areas for micro enterprise development. In order to facilitate this concept we ensure the involvement of the community and LSGs to analyze the market demand and the development of products and services accordingly. Micro Enterprise promotion and development is one of the significant strategies of Kudumbashree Mission to facilitate economic empowerment of the poor. The Mission developed specific strategies analysing the requirements of enterprises. This constitutes trainings, partial financial support marketing support and hand holding support to the enterprises.

LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

In spite of pursuing rapid economic development for more than five decades India since independence the objective of poverty eradications has not yet been achieved. The prevailing situation of hunger, poverty, and deprivation experienced by many sections of the people show that the development strategy pursued in the post-independence decades has been ineffective. The conceptual core of the development strategy adopted by the economic and political mainstream was based on a combination of the two fundamental principles— viz., macro-economic growth and trickle-down effect. It was also assumed that the benefits of macroeconomic growth would reach the bottom-most sections of the society through the ‘trickledown’ process. The two main routes envisaged for the trickle down processes are (a) ‘chain reaction’ of the economic enterprises/activities and, (b) the state-supported income redistribution program through

specific poverty alleviation and welfare schemes for the poor. In the early seventies, various theoretical and practical limitations of this strategy were realized and recognized. Since then, a “direct-attack” on poverty has been waged through various anti-poverty programs. Though this is part of the state-supported income redistribution program from the late seventies onwards this aspect of attacking poverty directly by better targeting the poor was highlighted. Hence from this period onwards specific anti-poverty programs and schemes are being designed and implemented. However, in spite of the massive expenditure on anti-poverty programs in India, millions of people continue to suffer from hunger, chronic malnutrition, and severe deprivation. Accordingly, poverty is equated with “low income or lack of adequate income” and, it is assumed that, as a consequence of low income, people are not able to buy adequate quantity of goods and services. In other words, it means that the households having low income are not able to afford (to buy) the goods and services that are necessary for fulfilment of basic livelihood needs. This results into “low standard of living”, which is considered as “poverty”.

BACK GROUND

The main employment of all tribes reveals a mixed picture though agricultural labour and employment guarantee scheme dominate as the major sources of employment. Most of the tribal population in Kerala are either wage labourers, agriculture labourers or farmers. Paddy cultivation was a major source of income for all tribes. None land and related employment guarantee scheme non-agricultural labourer, estate labour, govt.-semi-govt. job, private sector job small vendor, agricultural labour income etc may leads the day to day activities of tribal communities. The income they receive from the agriculture produce is mostly sold in the local market and goods for their necessities are purchased with that money. The employment generation in agriculture sector is mostly seasonal in nature. Low educational standards have in-

creased the community's dependence on agriculture as a source of income which can be attributed as an important factor for the backwardness of most of the tribal communities. Most of the tribal population are working as agriculture labourers in the lands which were once occupied by them.

Traditional livelihood practice provide a major income to tribal families. Forest related livelihood activities such as collection of NTFPs, MFPs, handcraft product by using of bamboo and canes etc. Kudumbashree given priority in traditional livelihood practices. Last several years kudumbashree have less focus in livelihood practices due to the completion of inclusion of all tribal families into Kudumbashree NHGs folder.

Sl No	Activity	Achievement
1	No of tribal ME Formed	16
2	No of tribal JLG Formed	46
3	General Orientation Training	12
4	Medicinal plant cultivation technical inputs and training	3

LIVELIHOOD REPORT OF 2016-17

In 2016-17 Kudumbashree initiated livelihood activities for tribal community based on the natural resources and interest. Majority have focussed of small agro related livelihood and its leads to achieve 46 tribal exclusive JLGs under Kudumbashree. It shows the tribal kudumbashree JLGs were interested in livelihood initiative other than the Micro enterprises formation.

1. MICRO ENTERPRISES PROGRESS IN TRIBAL AREA (2017-18)

Table 1. Illustrates the present achievement of ME units in tribal sector. Individual units are very less by comparing group enterprises. By comparing general ME units of Kudumbashree it is very less in number and majority of tribal ME units works without any financial liability from banks. Due to lack of bank loan for ME the incentives like interest subsidy and capital subsidy not availed by the units. In Alappuzha a coir unit by tribal 40 women working as a collective model. They have ensure the regular markets also.

Major area of the non-farm ME units are listed below. It shows the tailoring is an acceptable ME units in tribal communities. Tribal women engaged in tailoring and stitching works higher in number.

Major categories	District Covered
Carry bag unit	Wayanad, Idukki,
Tailoring Unit	Idukki, wayanad, Kasaragod, Malappuram, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Kannur
Handicraft	Idukki, wayanad, Palakkad, thrissur
Bamboo product	Palakkad, thrissur, wayanad, idukki
Spices	Idukki, wayanad,
Construction group	Malappuram, Wayanad
Bakery making	Malppuram, Pathanamthitta, Kannur
General Stores	Malappuram, Kottayam, Kannur
Tea stall and café	Malappuram, Kottayam, Palakkad
Soaps and detergents	Pathanamthitta
ABC	Pathanamthitta
Broom Making	Kannur, Wayanad
Fancy shop	Kannur

Table 1

Sl No	Name of District	Individual ME	Group ME	No of members in Groups	Total Families covered	No of ME with Bank loan
1	Trivandrum	0	6	30	30	0
2	Kollam	4	22	0	0	0
3	Pathanamthitta	6	1	5	11	0
4	Alppuzha	0	1	40	40	0
5	Kottayam	1	9	36	37	0
6	Idukki	3	9	62	65	3
7	Erunakulam	5	11	56	61	1
8	Trissur	1	1	7	8	0
9	Palakkad	4	9	42	46	2
10	Malappuram	4	2	10	14	0
11	Kozhikode	0	1	5	5	0
12	Wayanad	5	10	62	67	3
13	Kannur	4	5	27	31	4
14	Kasaragod	2	4	20	22	1

2. JOINT LIABILITY GROUP OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Farming is a traditional livelihood activity of tribal families. They are the expert in agriculture work. Due to the land scarcity tribes have less in own farming activity. They are working as a wage labourer in the land of landlords. As a collective effort kudumbashree shown a different picture as detailed in table.2.

Here tribal women formed 1387 JLGs under kudumbashree on last years and engaged in farming activities. The major crops done by tribal JLGs also shown in the below table. It reveals that in majority of tribal JLGs cultivating tubers and vegetables. It says that, tribes using the traditional forest tubers is a life habit in the present generation. Some of the tribal area have a good potential for farming of ginger, turmeric, medicinal plants, spices on a business model. JLGs become a good practice in tribal sector if it availed an insurance protection from wild animals.

Major cultivation by tribal JLGs

Major Crops	District Name
Banana	Kannur, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam,
Paddy	Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad,
Tubers	Kannur, Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, Wayanad, Malppuram, Palakkad, Kollam, Idukki, Pathanamthita, Ernakulam,
Ginger	Kannur, Wayanad, Kollam
Turmeric	Kasaragod, Kannur, Ernakulam, thrissur
Vegetables	Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad, Malappuram, Kollam, Idukki, Thrissur
Medicinal Plants	Kannur, Thiruvananthapuram, Wayanad
Spices	Thiruvananthapuram, Wayanad, Idukki
Arrowroot	Ernakulam,

Sl No	Name of District	No. of tribal JLG	Total No of tribes in JLGs	Tribal JLGs having bank loan
1	Trivandrum	175	700	0
2	Kollam	38	158	10
3	Pathanamthitta	33	145	21
4	Alppuzha	0	0	0
5	Kottayam	56	280	0
6	Idukki	367	1365	76
7	Erunakulam	43	172	3
8	Trissur	5	20	4
9	Palakkad	12	56	2
10	Malappuram	15	74	1
11	Kozhikode	15	141	0
12	Wayanad	310	820	156
13	Kannur	178	579	14
14	Kasaragod	140	542	12
		1387	5052	299

3. MARKETING OF TRIBAL PRODUCT.

One of the main constrains faced by the livelihood unit of tribes was marketing of product. This is due to the direct intervention of outsiders. For an example, forest product collected by the tribes with high quality may sold directly to third party with a less rate. Kudumbashree take special initiative for marketing of tribal product through special fest. These fest and special fairs are an opportunity to introducing of tribal product. A convergence action with the marketing team is very helpful to marketing of tribal product. TRIFED, one of the central agency under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI will be a good hand for selling of tribal product. Table.3 shows the present status of marketing initiative of tribal products and also major products in the district.

Major products	District
Bamboo Craft	Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad, Idukki, Palakkad, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kottayam
Kitchen Vessels made in wood	Idukki, Thiruvananthapuram, Kasaragod, Kottayam
Flower vase	Idukki, Kannur, Thrissur, Kasaragod, Palakkad
Honey	Wayanad, Kannur, Malappuram, Palakkad, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur, Idukki
JLG products	Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad, Idukki, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kottayam
Millets	Palakkad, Wayanad
Broom	Kollam, Kannur
Bag	Wayanad,
NTFP product	Wayanad, Idukki, Palakkad, Pathanamthitta
Coir product	Alappurza

Sl No	Name of District	No of special out let for tribal product	No of product showcased various fest	No of handi-craft product in district	No of cultural team formed
1	Trivandrum	0	22	10	1
2	Kollam	0	0	0	0
3	Pathanamthitta	0	6	4	0
4	Alppuzha	0	2	2	1
5	Kottayam	0	12	2	1
6	Idukki	2	16	12	2
7	Erunakulam	0	8	5	1
8	Trissur	0	18	10	1
9	Palakkad	0	5	3	1
10	Malappuram	0	5	2	1
11	Kozhikode	0	2	0	0
12	Wayanad	0	26	19	2
13	Kannur	0	5	3	1
14	Kasaragod	0	16	12	2
		2	143	84	14

Table 3

TRADITIONAL LIVELIHOOD

Tribes have keeping a traditional practice in their daily life. So it is very necessary to keep their traditional and cultural capabilities through our community structure. Kudumbashree take initiative to the traditional livelihood focus in traditional culture activities, handicraft, traditional farming. Existence of traditional practices in tribal sector by promoting of converged market, Gathering of traditional arts form, Traditional healers get together, NTFP collector's meet, special fests etc may lead handover of this information to the next generation.

SUPPORT REQUIRED FOR TRADITIONAL LIVELIHOOD

The following support is required for the traditional livelihood in tribal sector

1. Training centers and training team in selected handicrafts.
2. Training on enhancing the
3. Support for availing of raw materials from forest

and local for training and livelihood

4. Financial support apart from bank linkage
5. Working capital subsidy from kudumbashree
6. Storage facility for raw materials and finished products
7. Centralised packing and common facility centers
8. Convergence with TRIFED and other marketing agencies
9. Using of kudumbashree marketing chain

Summary

Sustainable livelihoods are supported by political, economic and social policies that enable mutually beneficial relationships to develop among people and the whole community of life. In tribal sector it is a herculean task and need a continuous handholding support. Kudumbashree have a good mechanism and supporting system to promoting of livelihoods in field level also effectively use in tribal sector. Developing a tribal livelihood is a challenging activity for Kudumbashree CDS and it is appreciable if it achieve.