



Kudumbashree- MGNREGS Convergence at Kollam

One of the important aims of Kudumbashree Mission is to arrange maximum livelihood opportunities for the NHG members and to help them attain financial stability. We are trying to help Kudumbashree members earn a fixed income through the various livelihood opportunities being implemented through us and also through various convergences. Today, we will explain about an effective convergence activity being implemented in Kollam associating with the MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme). We learnt that many benefits can be obtained through the convergence of Kudumbashree and MGNREGS Programme. It is on identifying the scope of this convergence, our Kollam District team set out on this new activity. In MGNREGS

Programme, special focus is given on asset creation and local development. Rs 3 crores to Rs 5 crores is spent in each Grama Panchayath as part of MGNREGS Programme every year. One third of this can be used for the construction of assets. The district team understood that the cost of the building materials constituted 60 to 70% of the total cost of asset creation. Which means, building materials worth an average of Rs 75 lakhs to Rs 1.5 crores is needed in one Grama Panchayath alone, for MGNREGS.

Usually, the activity of purchase of such building materials is done by the respective panchayats through vendors selected through a tender process. For ensuring the partnership of Kudumbashree in this process, we had given an application to



the State Level Decentralised Planning Coordination Committee. Following that, as per the Government Order (G.O(M.S) No. 110/218/LSGD Thiruvananthapuram dated 13,08.2018), Kudumbashree received the approval to be part of this. As per this order, Panchayats may entrust a vendor through tender or can entrust Kudumbashree CDS for purchase of materials for MGNREGS. This activity (CDS as a vendor for MGNREGS) as implemented at maximum number of CDSs in Kollam and was executed at its best in the state by Kollam district. The details are listed below.

At first, the activity of collecting the building materials and taking the same to the construction sites was implemented by Nedumpana CDS. The CDS had earned Rs 15 lakhs within one and half years. In the first phase, the Gramapanchayath Committee selected Kudumbashree CDS as a vendor for collecting the building materials and for delivering it to the construction sites at affordable rates. Later, the CDS secured GST registration and delivered rock, sand, metal, cement etc needed for the MGNREGS Construction activities to the fixed locations as per need. The private contractors were reluctant to take up the job of delivering building materials to the construction sites for MGNREGS Programmes as it takes time to get the bills passed. So, Nedumpana CDS was able

to make use of this opportunity effectively. The items were bought using their own fund and using internal loan etc available in the CDS. Within one and half years, building materials worth Rs One and Half crores was distributed. Nedumpana CDS had distributed building items for the construction of cement blocks for LIFE Housing Programme, compost pits, soak pits, cattle sheds, soil and water conservation constructions, construction of rural roads etc. 8000 packets of cement, 42,000 cubic feet metal, 37,000 cubic feet M- Sand etc were sold and income of Rs 14,87,000 was secured. Following the success model of Nedumpana CDS, 15 CDSs in Kollam district and 22 construction group members have secured GST registration and have entered into the sales of construction items. Other CDSs have secured Rs 4 lakhs (on an average) as income through this. The construction group members are manufacturing Citizen Information Boards that are fixed as part of the MGNREGS programme.

Appreciations to the Kollam District team who have set a model by taking the upperhand to find a source of livelihood by making convergence possible with a present programme. Also let me appreciate all the Kudumbashree members who are partnering in this and the respective Panchayats and MGNREGS Mission who made this convergence possible.