

Kudumbashree to address street dog menace



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Kudumbashree, Kerala's state poverty eradication mission, crossed many milestones in the last 18 years since its inception and resulted in social and economic empowerment of women. Today, more than 41 lakh families are part of Kudumbashree who engage in multiple activities through 2.5 lakh self help groups (SHG).

All the Kudumbashree units together have thrift of Rs.3126 Cr in various banks. Cumulative lending from these thrift crossed Rs.12,000 Cr. In addition to this linkage loan from thrift, members take loan for Joint Liability Groups (for agriculture) and also for setting up micro enterprises.

Till November 2016, there are more than 31,000 micro enterprises set up by Kudumbashree members which result

not only in economic empowerment, but also in local economic development. Agriculture is another economic activity taken up by Kudumbashree members. More than 60,000 joint liability groups have engaged in agriculture, cultivating more than 1 lakh acres of land which includes fallow land and land taken on lease.

In addition to the income generating activities, Kudumbashree always took initiative to address social problems. Asraya scheme envisaged by kudumbashree is one such example to be highlighted. Along with convergence of local self governments, More than 1,50,000 destitute families are identified in Asraya project and all these families are rehabilitated. Starting of BUDS schools and Block Resource Centres for providing education and skill to mentally challenged students was another such social intervention

Dog Menace and Kudumbashree

One of the social problems faced by Kerala in recent years is street dog menace. Since killing of street dogs is banned as per various acts and judgements, the strategy adopted by government is to intensify Animal Birth Control program (ABC). ABC program is aimed at reducing stray dog population density, decrease mating/maternal/pack aggression in stray dogs.

The program involves capture, neutering, and release of stray dogs based on a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for animal birth control programs outlined by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

As per STATE WISE REPORTS on ABC program for October 2016, out of total 941 GramaPanchayats, 837 Panchayats have allocated 13.56 Crores for conducting ABC program but could expend only 89.20 lakhs. The number of registered Dog catchers in the State is only 55. Urban Local Bodies have earmarked 9.35 Crores



for ABC program and have a registered dog handlers strength of 42. It is worth to note that the stray dog population in Kerala as per 2012 census is 2.99 lakhs. It is estimated that the number of stray dogs is approximately 6 lakhs as of now. Thus ABCP requires a dedicated team at community level to perform all the activities associated, for continuity and sustainability of results.

So to address the issue in a timely, systematic, sustainable mode, Community based Block level or Urban Local Body level Management Unit by Kudumbashree Mission is proposed as a Micro Enterprise Unit of the mission.

Responsibility of ABC Micro Enterprise of Kudumbashree Mission shall include management and support to the ABC Programme of the Local bodies under respective area. It shall include capturing or hired capturing of stray dogs from identified area, transportation of dogs captured to the identified institution for A B C Programme, required Pre and Post Operative Care (surgery will be done in identified veterinary hospital by surgeon) for the animals and safe release of the animal back as per law. The activity of the MU will be based on the Standard operating procedure approved by the executive director of Kudumbashree In addition to solving the problem of



Functions and structure of block management unit (MU)

- 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.
- Each of the unit should maintain registers as mandated for the micro enterprises unit under the Kudumbashree. A separate register regarding the details for the dogs captured and sterilized has to be maintained.
- Monthly report on the activity undertaken by the MU has to be submitted to the district mission
- 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.



food for them. Kudumbashree is part of Harithakeralam mission through its agriculture activities, water management and water recharging activities and also through its interventions in waste management. By taking the initiative of forming Block management units for solving the dog menace, Kudumbashree has strengthened its linkage with the mission.

At present, three block management teams (5 persons each) are formed in Ernakulum district and they have started their activity. Cage catching mode is used to capture stray dogs and on day 1, the teams caught 15 stray dogs! It is envisaged that one such team will be formed in all 152 blocks and in all 93 municipality by December 2016 and the units will start their activity immediately.

Stray Dog control requires 3 basic steps viz. Animal Birth control of stray dogs, Waste Management including slaughter offal's and Strict Pet Licensing Protocols

There is a huge gap in the scenario at least for the time, that's tried to be filled by Kudumabshree as an income generating activity for its members to the tune of crores. Kudumbashree will fill the gap of lack of effective field Management Unit at Local self government institutions (LSGI) level to assist LSGI in coordinating the allied functions of ABC program as an approved agency who are eligible for payment for the service from their allotted fund for ABC project. ■

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stray dogs, this will turn to be an income generation activity for kudumbashree women. The income for the micro enterprise will be from the amount earmarked (Rs. 750/- per dog) by local self government for catching of dogs. Also, since the transportation cost for taking the dog to operation theatre/ veterinary hospital is also met by Panchayat, the unit will get a good income from their activity. It will also help Kerala to solve a social problem.

Link with Harithakeralam

Government of Kerala has envisaged Harithakeralam project with a broad aim of providing safe to eat food, for solving the problem of water scarcity by integrated water shed management and to solve the problem of waste management. Stray dog menace is closely related with solid waste management. The heaps of waste mostly non vegetarian in origin, because of our predominantly major non veg population gives much needed