

INTERNSHIP REPORT

KUDUMBASHREE

Study and analysis on Social Development Programmes of Kudumbashree in Trivandrum corporation



Submitted to: Kudumbashree State Mission

**Submitted by: Nasih AP
Student, Master Of Social Work**

**Centre For PG Studies In Social Work ,
Calicut Univerity
Sulthanbathery, Wayanad**

nasihnas19@gmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project would not have been possible without the assistance and cooperation of Kudumbashree State office and District Office Trivandrum who provided a platform to understand how our learnings could be incorporated in the working space and for the fruitful discussions and meetings which helped me learn and unlearn a lot of things, the ground reality when it comes to implementing any programmes and the challenges behind it. The excellent and ever approachable support from the organisation also made sure no difficulty was faced during the internship. My sincere thanks to Kudumbashree State Mission's Social Development programme manager Mr. Arun sir and Ast.programme manager Mr. Jomon Sir and Trivandrum District Mission Social Development programme manager Mr.Jazeel Sir who provided the facilities for the completion of the internship.

INTRODUCTION

Kudumbashree is an innovative, women centered state eradication programme, a mission that was launched by the State Government, Govt. of India and NABARD and is functioning since 1998 and 2000 in rural and urban spaces respectively in Kerala. It aims at eradicating absolute poverty within a definite time period under the leadership of local self-governments. Throughout the years one can see the effectiveness of the programme through the increased participation and presence of women in the work space and government led services. The strategy behind its successful commissioning can be traced to the organisation of the poor

into community-based clusters and providing financial support through micro credit services. It is in this regard that I have undertaken this study for my internship period of one month, whereby I attempt to understand more on projects such as Destitute Free Kerala, BUDS School, and Balasabha under Social Development Programmes of Kudumbashree within Trivandrum Corporation CDS 1 Sreekaryam, CDS 3 Thirumala and the role of NHG in these programmes.

METHODOLOGY

This study and analysis was done over a period of one month whereby I worked under the Trivandrum District Social Development Programme Manager and was asked to study about the projects of Destitute Free Kerala, Balasabha and BUDS School under the Corporation CDS 1 Sreekaryam and CDS 3 Thirumala and to monitor the project through field visits.

I was also required to evaluate the project to understand the ground reality about these three projects and report my findings along with suggestions on improvement. I visited thirty listed DFK beneficiary houses, One Balasabha, Two NHG in Sreekaryam CDS, Six NHG in CDS 3 Thirumala and One BUDS school in Mangalapuram. A comprehensive study and analysis were made on the approaches and implementations of these projects.

The following strategies were used to collect the data:

1. Discussion with the coordinators of state office, district office and CDS office.
2. Field visit using semi structured interviews with the DFK beneficiaries, Balasabha childrens, NHG members, BUDS students.
3. Discussion with the CDS and ADS officials.

The methodology was adopted to achieve the following objectives:

1. To understand and assess the ground reality of the

projects.

2. To understand and evaluate the functioning of the DFK project, BUDS School, Balasabha and challenges/ limitations of the project and programmes.

3. To find the problems and grassroots limitations of the projects and to provide clarity suggestions for smooth functioning of the programmes.

1: DESTITUTE FREE KERALA – DFK



**Destitute
Free
Kerala**

In 2003, the Government of Kerala introduced a new project through the State Poverty Eradication Mission (Kudumbashree), catering to the unreachable poorest of poor, called Asraya. In 2017, the Asraya project which had seen many phases along the years was restructured into a more comprehensive one-time program called **Destitute Free Kerala** (Agathirahitha Keralam). The beneficiary families are identified by the Community Development Societies (CDS), the apex body of the three-tier community

organization of Kudumbashree, and later ratified by the Local Self-Government Institutes (LSGIs).

There are four CDS groups functioning within the limits of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation. Out of these, a total of 220 families are covered under Sreekaryam CDS-1. Among them, 30 beneficiary houses in different ADS areas were visited to assess the current status of the scheme.

DETAILS OF VISITED BENEFICIARIES

Name	Place	Actual Beneficiary/ Not	Food kit availability	Comments
Subadra	Chellamangalam	Need recheck	Available	Bakery making
sandhya	Chellamangalam	Actual	Available	Nil
Jagathamma	Njandoorkonam	Actual	Available	Nil
Oomana	Njandoorkonam	Actual	Available	Nil
Sainaba	Njandoorkonam	Actual	Available	Nil

	konam			
Seenath	Njandoork konam	Actual	Available	Nil
Lalitha	Njandoork konam	Actual	Available	Nil
Indira	Njandoork konam	Actual	Available	Nil
Krishnamm a	Kazhakuta m	Actual	Available	Nil
Gomathi	Kazhakuta m	Actual	Available	Nil
Prasanna	Kazhakuta m	Actual	Available	Nil
Devaki	Kazhakutt am	Actual	Available	Nil
Girish	Manvila	Actual	Available	Nil
Vinod Kumar	Kazhakuta m	Actual	Available	Nil
Mariya	Pattom	Actual	Available	Nil
Shantha	Pattom	Actual	Available	Nil
Rajmma	Pattom	Actual	Available	Nil
Sarala	Patttom	Actual	Available	Nil
Sagar	Pattom	Actual	Available	Nil
Radha	Powdikkon am	Actual	Available	Nil

Madhavi	Powdikkon am	Actual	Available	Nil
Thankamma	Powdikkon am	Actual	Available	Nil
Sairandhri	Powdikkon am	Actual	Available	Nil
Saraswathi	Powdikkon am	Actual	Available	Nil
Ammukutti	Manvila	Actual	Available	Nil
Madhavi	Manvila	Actual	Available	Nil
Girija	Manvila	Actual	Available	Nil
Leela	Manvila	Need recheck	Available	Have income source
Usha	Manvila	Need recheck	Available	Have income source
Sarojini	Manvila	Actual	Available	Nil

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

90% of the families in Sreekaryam CDS, who were included in the Destitute free Kerala scheme were found to be eligible. In the total of 30 homes visited, only a handful were

found to be in need for a review. One of the reasons is that, some people involved in the scheme have the ability to earn a living on their own but need an initial financial support from Kudumbashree and the government.

Most of the members were found to be living alone and suffering from various health problems. The list includes those who live in exiled land under poor living conditions. There are lot of people out there who are eligible but not included in the list. Those who were in the Ashraya scheme were left out when it comes to Destitute Free Kerala scheme because of political influence and various other reasons. Similarly, many ADS members lack accurate understanding of the plans and the nine distress factors of the project. There is also a lack of accurate understanding about the procedures required to add eligible new members to the list. Similarly, the ADS member does not get the travel allowance required to collect the food kit from Supplyco and deliver it to the families. Hence many ADS members are forced to work at their own expense. However, I was convinced that the food kit was being received by the

beneficiaries every month without any fail.

SUGGESTIONS

The project seemed to require some corrections and additions. There is a need to simplify the process of adding new members and thereby ensure addition of more qualified people as is possible. Similarly, ADS members can identify and recruit members only if they are properly informed about the scheme. It was also felt that a Travel Allowance Fund should be included in the scheme to overcome the financial crisis that they are facing over delivering the food kit. CDS should take care to carry out accurate monitoring in every three months. The goal of a poverty-free ward should be implemented in each area with the help of neighbourhood groups. Also, the scheme should be extended to more deserving people by allocating more funds.

2: BUDS INSTITUTIONS



Kudumbashree initiated the Disability Mainstreaming Program namely, BUDS. To avoid the degeneracy of labeling and stigmatizing the mentally challenged, the school was named as “BUDs”. In 2015 BUDs School was converted to BUDS Rehabilitation Center. The centre focuses on the rehabilitation, training and day-care of these mentally challenged persons.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

There are 25 students studying in 'Snehatheeram' BUDs rehabilitation center located in Mangalapuram grama panchayath, Thiruvananthapuram district. The school is going well with the help of Mangalappuram Grama Panchayat and Kudumbashree. The institution finds mentally challenged ones and bring them to the classes. From my visit I understood that the infrastructure of the school has its limitations which can be overcome to some

extent with proper support. The school is run by a head master, one teacher and two assistants. The school promotes Organic farming and self-employment training for the students. All the 25 children were found to be receiving excellent social and psychological supports from the teachers. Parents agree that it has made a huge difference to them socially and economically.

SUGGESTIONS

With the support of Kudumbashree and panchayat, the school can solve its infrastructure limitations and can build even better buildings. If the building is constructed in accordance with the Barrier Free Environment Criteria, it will be more convenient for students. A Therapy room facility will also aid them with more psychological support. For this, a therapist should be brought to the school twice a week. For ensuring cooperation from the parents, new programmes should be implemented. Kudumbashree should allocate fund to start more BUDs rehabilitation centers and the government should provide proper support to start a BUDs

school in every panchayath.

3: BALASABHA ACTIVITIES



It is a collective attempt of children to ensure their participation in the democratic space at the local Government level and in their community. Small Learning Groups for experimental and systematic learning, opportunities for understanding democratic process, participation in conserving environment, enabling children to unfold the intricacies of collectivisation are the basic focal points of Balasabha.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

When I attended the Balasabha in the Medical College ward (CDS-1 in corporation limit), I was convinced that it is not working well or convened regularly. They didn't even know what a Balasabha is or why a Kudumbasree Balasabha is

formed. Balasabhas are largely inactive in some places, even though there were children with lots of different skills. It was realized that the neighbourhood groups had failed to bring them up. Balasabha as a good platform to develop children's talent, need to be more active.

SUGGESTIONS

Balasabha will become active if it is formed under a neighbourhood group and a neighbourhood member is assigned to look after its activities. Accurate monitoring and follow-ups should be provided by the district and CDS level. The State and District mission should formulate occasional campaign programmes to keep them active. Participation in skill programmes should be ensured from all balasabhas and Leadership training camps be conducted for every Balasabha President and Secretary through CDS and district level. Further, Arts and sports competitions should be conducted regularly at the ward, district and state levels and encouragement given to Balasabhas to conduct different forms of camps, classes and special day activities.

4: NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP VISIT

By visiting 3 Neighbourhood groups included in CDS-3 of corporation, 1 Neighbourhood group included in Sreekaryam CDS-1, I learned about the Destitute Free Kerala project and the role of Neighbourhood groups in it. It was found that these 4 Neighbourhood groups are very active. I also got an opportunity to engage in a conversation with the members and to visit their micro-enterprises. We discussed about the need of more co-operation between Kudumbashree and Neighbourhood groups. It was found that all Neighbourhood groups are helping in the success of Kudumbashree projects.

CONCLUSION

This report covers the activities of Destitute free Kerala, BUDs School and Balasabha which are very important parts

of Kudumbashree. After starting a project, it is important to understand how well it is implemented at the grassroots level and to make sure that its benefits reaches the hands of people who are the targets of that particular project. Therefore, in this study I tried to evaluate the progress of major projects within Thiruvananthapuram Corporation limit, such as Destitute free Kerala, BUDs School and Balasabha.

Efforts have been made to analyze the opinions of neighbourhood members about the projects, it's feasibility, limitations and other issues. By researching more about this I have come up with new proposals. I was also able to learn more about the project through my field visit experience. I hope that this project will help to ensure the proper implementation of a particular social development programme among the common people.

REFERENCES

<https://www.kudumbashree.org/pages/20>

<https://www.kudumbashree.org/pages/85>

<https://www.kudumbashree.org/pages/66>